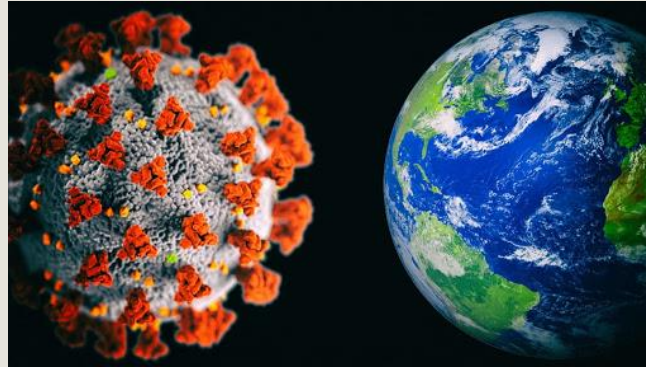


Melissa Lazenby



The two crises: The pandemic and global warming

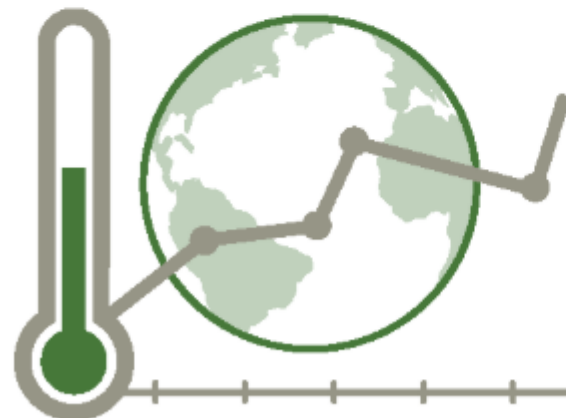
Department of Geography
University of Sussex



SDG 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

BEFORE COVID-19

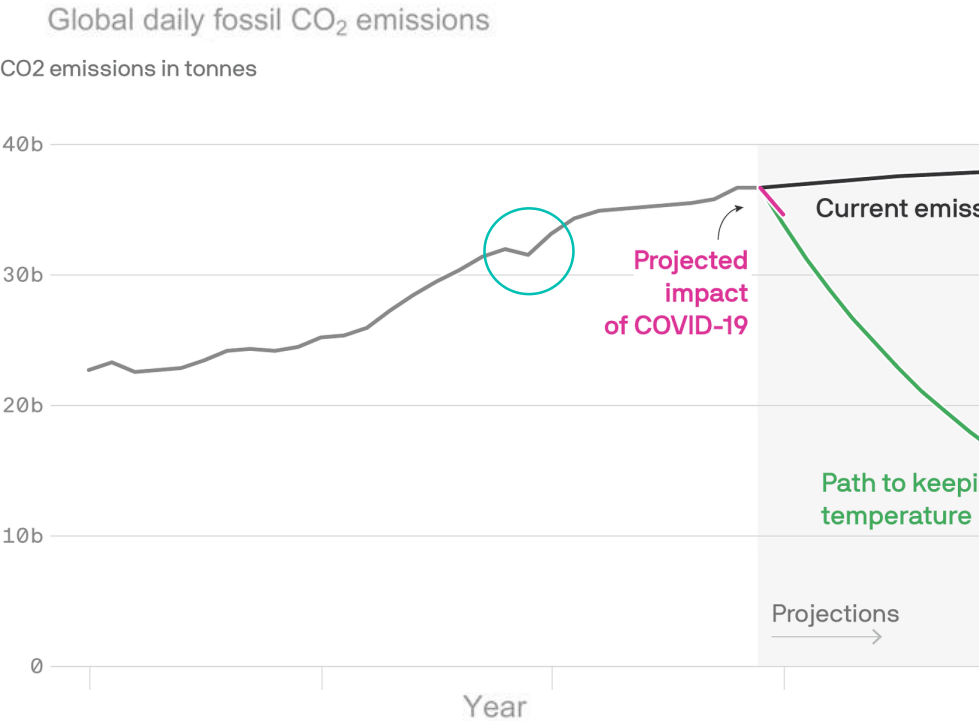
GLOBAL COMMUNITY SHIES AWAY FROM COMMITMENTS REQUIRED TO REVERSE **THE CLIMATE CRISIS**



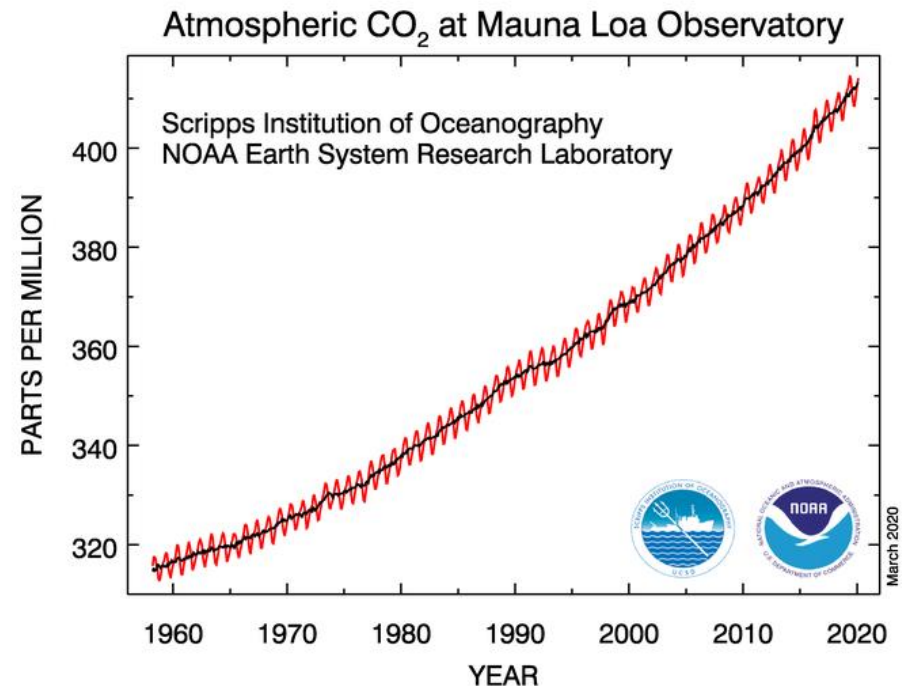
2019 WAS THE
**SECOND WARMEST YEAR
ON RECORD**

GLOBAL TEMPERATURES
ARE PROJECTED TO RISE
BY **UP TO 3.2°C BY 2100**

During COVID: Drop in GHG emissions but no significant decrease in concentrations



Source: Le Quéré et al. Nature Climate Change (2020); Global Carbon Project



Globally emissions decreased on average by **17%** during the peak of lockdown (April)
For the entire year (2020) globally Le Quéré suggests a decrease between **4-7%**
For comparison during the 2008/9 financial crash emissions dropped by 1.4% but then went up by 5% in 2010.
Growth Rate of GHGs estimated **+2.4ppm** as opposed to a predicted **+2.8ppm** for 2020

COVID led to new international drop in emissions that influenced SDG13

UN Secretary-General proposed 6 climate positive actions:

1. Green transition: Investments must accelerate the decarbonization of all aspects of our economy.
2. Green jobs and sustainable and inclusive growth
3. Green economy: making societies and people more resilient through a transition that is fair to all and leaves no one behind.
4. Invest in sustainable solutions: fossil fuel subsidies must end and polluters must pay for their pollution.
5. Confront all climate risks
6. Cooperation – no country can succeed alone.

COVID-19 IMPLICATIONS



COVID-19 MAY RESULT IN A
**6% DROP IN GREENHOUSE
GAS EMISSIONS** FOR 2020

STILL SHORT OF **7.6% ANNUAL
REDUCTION** REQUIRED TO LIMIT
GLOBAL WARMING TO **1.5°C**

Lessons learned from COVID-19 and can we apply those to Climate Change?

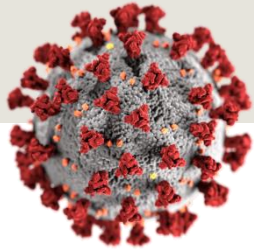
Drop in emissions due to COVID-19 lockdowns won't last and have been rising. As we rebuild, we have a **unique opportunity** to make the structural changes required to hit net-zero targets

History shows that CO₂ levels typically resume their climb quickly as normal economic activity rebounds.

If there is any benefit of COVID-19 in terms of slowing the pace of climate change, it could be the changing of people's **travel and work habits** in ways that lead to sustained reductions in fossil fuel use.



Differences between COVID-19 and Climate Change?



COVID-19:

Covid-19 response been underpinned by science.

Measures to control COVID been determined by health scientists & accepted by politicians who have translated them into unprecedented drastic policies.

Therefore, the public has readily accepted these measures because they are understood to be **scientifically** grounded rather than **politically** driven.

Climate Change:

In climate change, the climate science produced by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change IPCC (on the basis of a massive body of research), the WMO, the UN Environment and numerous national and regional organizations is **contested** and **ignored** by policy and decision makers.



Lessons from Covid-19: Science can in fact be translated into urgent policy decisions if there is sufficient political will

COVID-19 is the quiz, climate change is the final exam!

ADVICE:

LISTEN TO THE SCIENTISTS!

Scientific ignorance can be fatal.

New research of daily or monthly emissions can hold nations more accountable towards a green recovery

The world-wide COVID-19 lockdowns are **proof** that humanity can change policies and act quickly on a global scale.

Collectively, we can and **NEED** to do so again to help us address climate change

Failure to do so will be catastrophic

