

**From:** [PSC Public Comment](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Public Comments for Case: 2025-00045 - Kentucky Utilities Company , Louisville Gas and Electric Company  
**Date:** Wednesday, August 6, 2025 9:00:00 AM

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Case No. 2025-00045

Thank you for your comments on the application of Kentucky Utilities Company, Louisville Gas and Electric Company. Your comments in the above-referenced matter have been received and will be placed into the case file for the Commission's consideration. Please cite the case number in this matter, 2025-00045 in any further correspondence. The documents in this case are available at [View Case Filings for: 2025-00045 \(ky.gov\)](#).

Thank you for your interest in this matter.

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**From:** KY Public Service Commission Public Comments <psc.comment@ky.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 5, 2025 2:40 PM  
**To:** PSC Public Comment <PSC.Comment@ky.gov>  
**Subject:** Public Comments for Case: 2025-00045 - Kentucky Utilities Company , Louisville Gas and Electric Company

Public Comments for Case 2025-00045 submitted by [REDACTED] on  
Tuesday, August 5, 2025 at 2:40 PM

-----  
Name: Maya

Address: [REDACTED]

City: Louisville

State: KY

Zip Code: 40241

Phone number where you can be reached: [REDACTED]

Home phone: [REDACTED]

Comments: In its capacity growth projections, the applicant has not considered public opposition to data center growth, as evidenced by the cancellation of recent data center proposals in Oldham County, and growing opposition to a data center proposal in Metro Louisville. This project will negatively impact citizens in the region both physically and economically.

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**From:** [PSC Public Comment](#)  
**To:** [Kentuckians ForEnergyDemocracy](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Public Comment Case #2025-00045  
**Date:** Wednesday, August 6, 2025 8:59:00 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Case No. 2025-00045

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Thank you for your interest in this matter.

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**From:** Kentuckians ForEnergyDemocracy [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 5, 2025 9:52 AM  
**To:** PSC Public Comment <PSC.Comment@ky.gov>  
**Subject:** Public Comment Case #2025-00045

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Hi!

Here is a public comment on case #2025-00045 on behalf of Kentuckians for Energy Democracy. Thank you!

Cara Cooper  
Coordinator, Kentuckians for Energy Democracy





# KENTUCKIANS for Energy Democracy

Case #2025-00045

Kentuckians for Energy Democracy is a statewide coalition of organizations working across a variety of issues including affordable housing, families and children, the environment, climate, poverty, and economic development.

In this CPCN, the companies are asking Kentuckians to foot the bill for \$3.7 billion in new infrastructure buildout for data centers that do not yet exist, do not yet have tenants, and may never exist. If these data centers do not materialize, or pull out like the Oldham County data center, Kentuckians are left with the bill. Kentuckians need electric utilities which prioritize affordable energy, energy efficiency, distributed generation, and grid resiliency. Unfortunately, the existing business model is oftentimes at odds with those needs. That is why we rely on the Public Service Commission to ensure that our utilities are headed in the right direction and making the choices that are best for customers and our energy system both now and in the long-term.

Kentuckians already face sky-rocketing energy costs, inequitable access to energy, polluting and aging fossil fuel infrastructure, and climate-induced extreme weather, all harming our communities and straining our outdated systems. **Kentucky's families and small businesses can't afford to foot the bill for new investments to serve extractive industries that bring actual harm to local communities despite promises of economic development.** One needs to look no further than Virginia to see the potential impacts of [Unconstrained Demand](#) brought by regulatory and policy failures:

## IMPACTS ON ELECTRIC BILLS

- Dominion Energy projects that residential electric bills will rise from an average of \$142.77 today to \$315.25 by 2039—primarily due to the data center sector's growing energy needs.

- Virginians are subsidizing the world's internet, cloud services and artificial intelligence applications and paying for the infrastructure and energy that serve global corporations while reaping few local benefits.
- Across PJM territory, 62% of all planned transmission projects before 2031 service data centers, costing \$2.4 billion, a burden that will fall on ratepayers' monthly electric bills.

## IMPACTS ON WATER

- A single large data center can consume 5 million gallons of water per day, enough to supply 50,000 people, impacting local water sources and often operating without disclosing its consumption, highlighting the industry's ongoing lack of transparency.
- Loudoun County's data centers alone used over 1 billion gallons of water in 2023.
- Across Virginia, data centers consumed over 2.1 billion gallons of water in 2023.

## DEMAND FOR ENERGY

- More than half of all U.S. data center energy consumption occurs in Virginia.
- If unconstrained growth continues, energy demand will be well over 60 GW of power for data centers, the equivalent to 68 massive coal plants.

The landscape keeps changing under our feet as clean energy investments are now cheaper, more resilient, and create more local jobs than new fossil fuel plants that are almost certain to become stranded assets. The good news is that rooftop solar, energy efficiency programs, and virtual power plants can still offer a low-cost transition to the energy systems that we all need.

That's why we are staunchly opposed to costly and risky investments in the technologies of the past, to serve large loads that do not and may not ever exist, and that Kentuckians certainly didn't ask for. Instead, our utility companies should be proposing investments that will lower bills for customers and bolster community resiliency in the face of increased extreme weather events.

When asked during the companies' recent IRP hearing (2024-00326), "without data center growth, it would not only make no sense to build generation, it would make sense to potentially retire some existing generation?" Lonnie Bellar (Executive Vice President of Engineering, Construction and Generation for PPL) replied, "I would definitely agree with your first part."

Kentucky statute requires the PSC to apply the *fair, just, and reasonable standard* when making decisions. But our current fossil-fuel-based energy system has resulted in human and financial costs that are neither fair, just, nor reasonable. **When the need for new generation**

**investments are not clearly proven, and alternative investments are available that lower energy bills and reduce costly harm, then further investment in fossil fuels is not acceptable.**

**For these reasons, we ask the PSC to:**

- 1) Deny the companies' request to build new gas generation plants.
- 2) Require the companies to fully and fairly evaluate cheaper, cleaner, and more resilient options for meeting future power needs, including Demand-Side Management and Energy Efficiency programs, Virtual Power Plants, rooftop and community solar programs, and battery storage programs.
- 3) Require the companies to file a large load tariff that incorporates best practices to protect ratepayers from paying for investments that serve proposed loads that may not materialize at all, and that don't serve their electricity needs directly; and to protect ratepayers from the expenses of businesses that might fail before the investments can be recovered. Require such a large load tariff arrangement to be completed before the companies can apply for a CPCN for such speculative investments.
- 4) Require utilities to go back to the drawing board with their DSM/EE programs, as the proposed programs do not meet Kentucky's needs for energy conservation or the needs of low and moderate income rate payers, and do not fully leverage the important role of DSM/EE in meeting capacity needs and supporting grid reliability.
- 5) Require the companies to study whether they can serve customers more affordably and reliably by joining PJM or another ISO
- 6) Require public hearings in Frankfort and in local communities that will be affected by the proposed investments.

**Below, we provide further rationale and evidence in support of our requests.**

### **1. Kentuckians Need Informed, Transparent, Multi-Stakeholder Decision Making**

Meaningful public engagement and public representation is essential to the PSC realizing its duty to protect the public interest. Decisions should be informed by public input, public context, and the best available data and industry practices. Transparency should be ensured between the public, utility companies, and the commission.

Unfortunately, the pathway to this CPCN was far from transparent.

In their 2021 IRP filing, the companies claimed that **new gas generation was not cost-effective, yet released an RFP for new gas generation anyway** - before that IRP hearing was even adjudicated. They then failed to offer DSM programs in a timely and effective manner, choosing

to instead file their DSM plan at the same time they filed their CPCN for two new gas generation plants. This is the opposite of how the process is supposed to work, especially considering that the express purpose for DSM programs is to OFFSET the need for investments in new generation assets.

Years later, the companies are showing even less respect for the public engagement process. This time, they tried to shortchange the IRP process by arguing that the PSC should not hold a hearing for their IRP, even going so far as to argue that they did not have the legal authority to do so. The companies then chose not to update their DSM filing at all, and go straight for another CPCN. This shows a blatant and flagrant disregard for public engagement and the needs of their ratepayers, not to mention the PSC itself. Kentuckians both need and deserve better.

***Failure to fully involve the public in the CPCN process is not fair, just or reasonable.***

### **1. Kentuckians Can't Afford Another Risky Investment**

Kentuckians are already struggling to pay their electricity bills and face high energy burdens across the state. According to the most recent [Powerless in the US Report](#), disconnections for non-payment exploded by 228% in the first ten months of 2022, as contrasted by a national average increase of 29%. Kentucky is one of the top ten states with the most utility shut offs (with KU/LGE being one of the worst offenders in the country). Since July of 2021, LG&E has disconnected more than 121,000 electric customers and 3,400 gas customers for nonpayment. Some of these households were disconnected for arrearages as low as \$75.

Building two \$2.68+ billion gas plants will be a risky investment for Kentuckians already struggling to make ends meet. Throughout the 40-year life of this gas plant and beyond, rate-payers would be at risk of footing an expensive bill for volatile natural gas prices and future regulatory costs. Plus, given impacts of the Inflation Reduction Act, declining cost of renewables, and future carbon, methane, and environmental compliance costs, gas will have a high potential to become a stranded asset.

***Asking Kentucky rate-payers to make a risky investment is not fair, just or reasonable.***

### **2. Gas Infrastructure Puts Kentuckians' Health and Safety at Risk**

Climate changing greenhouse gasses ([Kentucky's energy supply is one of the most carbon intensive in the country](#)), and co-pollutants from fossil fuels, endanger our health, environment,

agriculture, safety and economy through pollution and extreme weather<sup>1 2</sup>. [Kentucky's state ranking for impact on the environment is the worst in the US](#). These threats [disproportionately impact low-income communities and communities of color](#), as well as the health of energy workers and people living near energy facilities.

Along with threats from pollutants, gas plants and the infrastructure necessary to operate them are a direct threat to workers and communities living and working near these facilities. The proposed Campground Road data center is intended to be located in the Rubbertown neighborhood in Louisville - one of the most air-polluted neighborhoods in Louisville due to surrounding industrial operations. Rubbertown, a predominantly BIPOC community, also has the highest rates of energy insecurity in the county. **Unfortunately, Kentuckians are all too familiar with the direct threats to safety caused by fossil fuel infrastructure like gas pipelines.** [In 2019, a regional gas pipeline ruptured and exploded in Lincoln County, killing one Kentuckian and injuring others in the area](#). Along with these deadly consequences, the explosion also [displaced local residents and destroyed the nearby community](#).

**These impacts are expensive.** [Climate impacts and pollution increase food, health care, and insurance costs, and lead to housing loss and costly recovery from extreme weather events](#). Kentucky's severe [storms in 2021 were estimated to cost between two and five billion dollars](#), and [floods in 2022 were estimated to cost between 500M and one Billion dollars](#) and [those values may only reflect the cost of housing recovery](#). ([The top 3 years for extreme weather events since 1880, as measured by damage costs, occurred in 2020, 2021, 2022](#)). Utilities themselves will be paying, and passing along, recovery costs.

***Building harmful, possibly deadly energy infrastructure is not fair, just or reasonable.***

### **3. It's Time to Invest in Kentuckians**

Energy efficiency of our homes and other buildings is essential to energy affordability and reducing emissions. Plus, [investments in distributed energy resources, demand-side management, and energy efficiency programs have the potential to lower high capacity needs](#) that lead to gas plant proposals. Our utilities should be at the forefront of creating innovative DER and DSM programs that could lower customer bills, make homes more comfortable, and avoid the need for new generation.

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<sup>1</sup> EPA Climate Change Indicators- Weather and Climate  
<https://www.epa.gov/climate-indicators/weather-climate>

<sup>2</sup> Association of Extreme Heat With All-Cause Mortality in the Contiguous US, 2008-2017  
[https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamanetworkopen/fullarticle/2792389?utm\\_campaign=articlePDF&utm\\_medium=articlePDFlink&utm\\_source=articlePDF&utm\\_content=jamanetworkopen.2022.12957](https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamanetworkopen/fullarticle/2792389?utm_campaign=articlePDF&utm_medium=articlePDFlink&utm_source=articlePDF&utm_content=jamanetworkopen.2022.12957)

Kentucky ranks near the bottom in state and utility policies and programs that support energy efficiency; [we rank 44<sup>th</sup> among states in residential energy efficiency program savings as a percentage of sales](#), and in state wide percent of revenues spent on energy efficiency programs; we also fail in programs that adequately support efficiency for low income customers<sup>3 4 5</sup>.

Kentucky lacks policies that support adopting innovation and recent developments in grid operation, including community solar, solar leasing, and virtual power plants, which makes it harder for renters and other communities to access lower bills through clean energy. KU/LGE's "solar share" program is prohibitively expensive for many, and their method used to calculate credit for energy fed to the grid ("instantaneous netting") significantly limits the affordability of rooftop solar. The companies' lack of innovation and customer empowerment is costing Kentuckians money every day. "The net cost to the utility of providing resource adequacy from a VPP is only roughly 40% to 60% of the cost of alternative options... When accounting for additional societal benefits, the VPP is the only resource with the potential to provide resource adequacy at negative net cost."<sup>6</sup>

***Failure to fully and equitably embrace these solutions is not fair, just or reasonable.***

In conclusion, we urge the PSC to consider the average Kentuckian. An average Kentuckian making minimum wage, \$7.25 an hour, would have to work 19.5 hours to pay for one typical LG&E energy bill - on top of child care, food, medicine, and housing. If this CPCN is approved, this Kentuckian will have to carry the burden of additional rate increases and pollution from gas plants to serve data centers that do not yet exist. We urge you to think of your neighbors who are struggling to pay their electric bills, who may soon no longer have access to LIHEAP funds. We ask that you request that the companies consider ratepayer protections, demand side management, virtual power plants, and other methods before saddling hardworking Kentuckians with a \$3.7 Billion bill for data centers that do not exist and are purely speculative. Saddling hardworking Kentuckians with a \$3.7 Billion bill for data center growth that is only speculative is not fair, just or reasonable

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<sup>3</sup> Electric Utility Performance; A State By State Data Review  
<https://www.citizensutilityboard.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Electric-Utility-Performance-Report-Second-Edition-final.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> Pathways to Healthy, Affordable, Decarbonized Housing; A State Scorecard  
<https://www.aceee.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/h2201.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> Kentucky Factsheet; How Energy Efficiency Can Help Low Income Households  
<https://www.aceee.org/sites/default/files/pdf/fact-sheet/ses-kentucky-100917.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> Real Reliability: The Value of Virtual Power  
[https://www.brattle.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Real-Reliability-The-Value-of-Virtual-Power\\_5.3.2023.pdf](https://www.brattle.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Real-Reliability-The-Value-of-Virtual-Power_5.3.2023.pdf)



**From:** [PSC Public Comment](#)  
**To:** [Claire Oyler](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Case Number 2025-00045  
**Date:** Wednesday, August 6, 2025 8:59:00 AM

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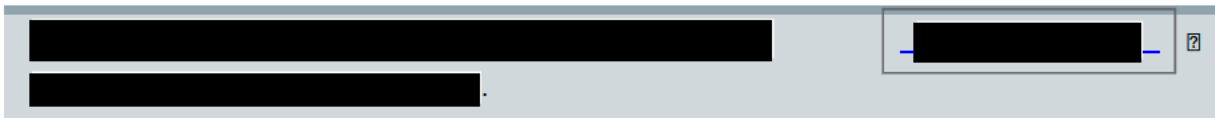
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Thank you for your interest in this matter.

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**From:** Claire Oyler [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 5, 2025 9:22 AM  
**To:** PSC Public Comment <PSC.Comment@ky.gov>  
**Subject:** Case Number 2025-00045



Hello,

My name is Claire Oyler and I live in Lexington, KY. I am writing to submit public comments for case number 2025-00045. I work for the Kentucky Division for Air Quality, but the following comments are my own and do not reflect the opinions of my employer.

As an environmental scientist working in air quality, I have major concerns about the proposed natural gas constructions and even bigger concerns about opening the door for data centers in the Commonwealth. Data centers are known to contribute large amount of NOx pollution to the areas they call home. Currently the region is NOx limited when it comes to the formation of ozone, a criteria air pollutant. Adding significant sources of NOx to the area will only exacerbate problems in areas like Louisville and Northern Kentucky and potentially cause new problems to arise.

In addition, I am a consumer of power for the proposing company and am staunchly against the introduction of data centers on the power grid. The data centers will raise our electricity rates and cause uncertainty in times of greatest need. If the area were to accept these data centers and their pollutant causing EGUs, our rates should be subsidized at the data centers expense. If they want to make their home in the Ohio Valley, they need to compensate residents for all the harms that they will bring along with them.

The company wishes to stabilize the grid with natural gas combustion turbines, only exacerbating climate change and the severe weather that is only becoming more common in

Kentucky. How many Kentuckians have to face life-altering, or life-ending, climate disasters before our public service workers and elected officials truly stand up for us? Climate change and air pollution know no boundaries and will affect everyone in our beautiful state.

Lastly, the public commenting process on the Public Service Commission website is not user friendly and is hard to navigate. Without journalists detailing how to issue public comment I would not have been able to submit. The webpage must be reworked and made more accessible to the citizens that it serves.

Thank you,

Claire Oyler

**From:** [PSC Public Comment](#)  
**To:** [Kathy Wallace](#)  
**Subject:** RE: comment on paying for data centers  
**Date:** Wednesday, August 6, 2025 8:59:00 AM

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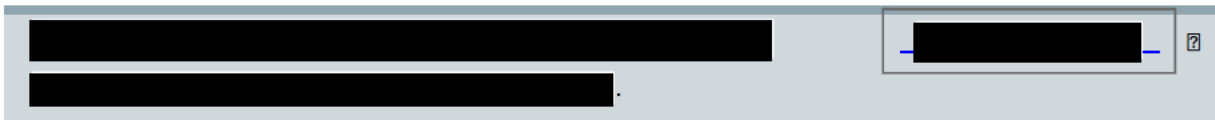
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**From:** Kathy Wallace [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 5, 2025 9:13 AM  
**To:** PSC Public Comment <PSC.Comment@ky.gov>  
**Subject:** comment on paying for data centers



To whom it may concern:

As and LG&E customer, living in **Louisville, KY,**  
(**Kathy Wallace,** [REDACTED]. )

I OBJECT having to pay the cost of two new gas powered facilities and keeping an old power plant just to support the POSSIBILITY of new data centers.

**Case #2025-00045**

These data centers, and also LGE, need to be using renewable energy sources to power them, if they are indeed needed.

I do not want to pay for the use of more fossil fuels that indeed harm our environment. We know better, and we should dedicate our purposes to support cleaning up our environment, not to making more profits for the already wealthy.

Thank you for considering my views.

Kathy Wallace

From: [PSC Public Comment](#)  
To: [Julie Ashton](#)  
Subject: RE: #2025-00045 Sources 1  
Date: Wednesday, August 6, 2025 8:58:00 AM

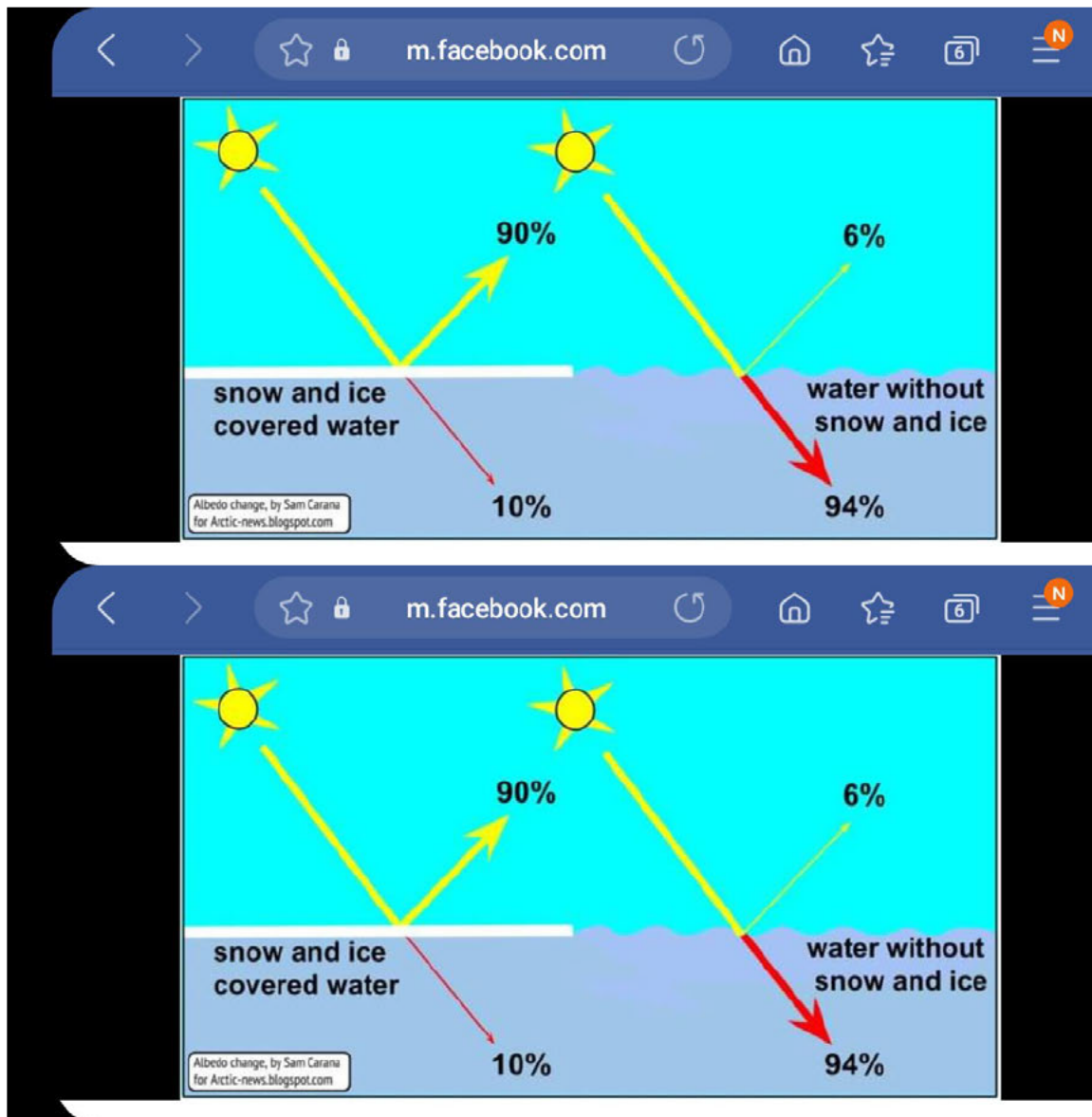
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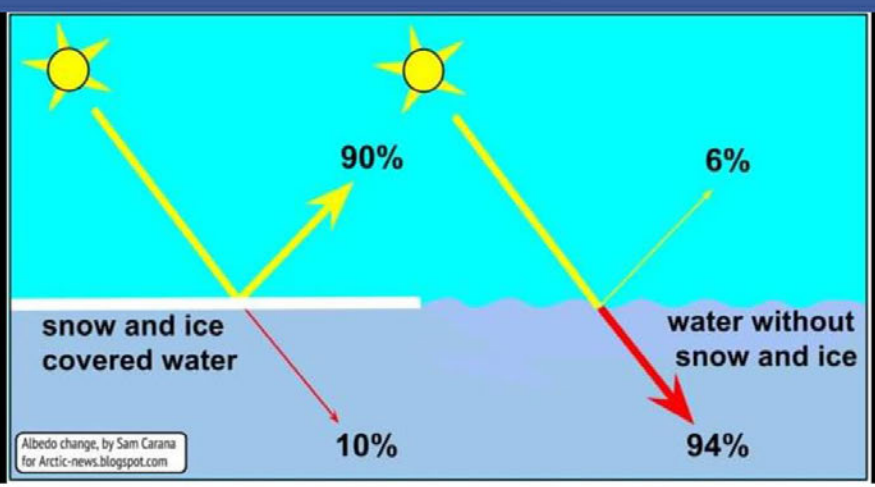
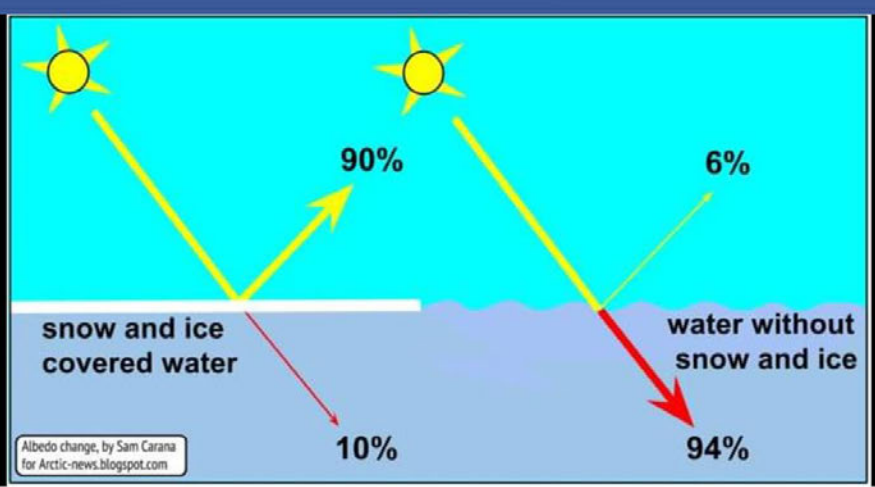
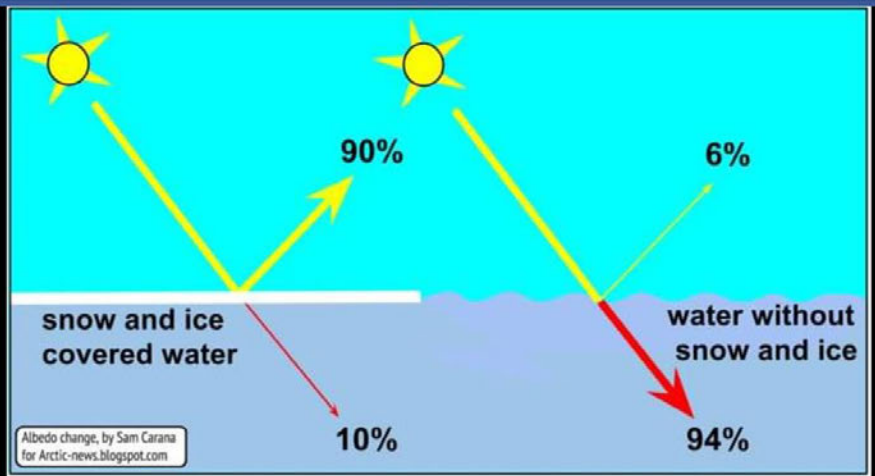
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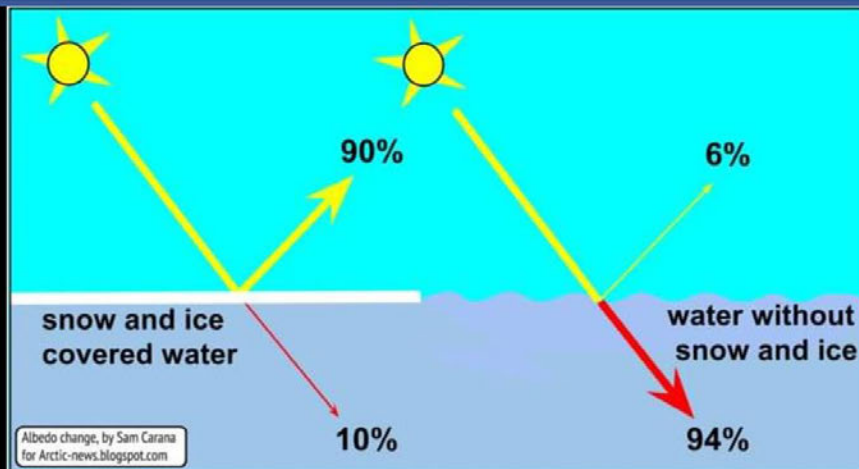
Thank you for your interest in this matter.

From: Julie Ashton  
Sent: Monday, August 4, 2025 8:47 PM  
To: PSC Public Comment <[PSC.Comment@ky.gov](mailto:PSC.Comment@ky.gov)>  
Subject: Fw: #2025-00045 Sources 1

----- Forwarded Message -----  
From: Julie Ashton  
To: [PSC.Comment@ky.gov](mailto:PSC.Comment@ky.gov) <[PSC.Comment@ky.gov](mailto:PSC.Comment@ky.gov)>  
Sent: Monday, August 4, 2025 at 08:33:19 PM EDT  
Subject: #2025-00045 Sources 1







### Greenland

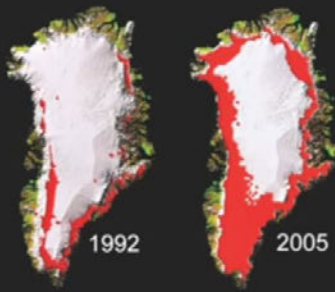


### Greenland

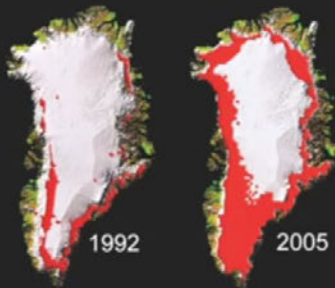




## Greenland



## Greenland



## Greenland



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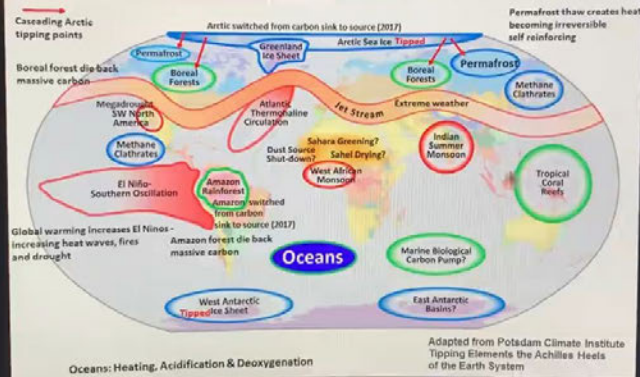


## Greenland



## Global Warming Vulnerable Tipping Points

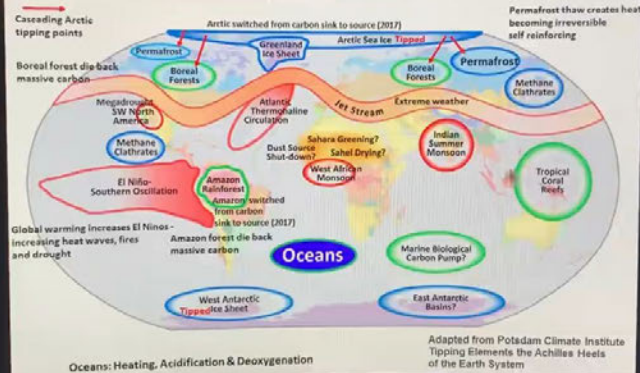
Committed global warming (>2°C) commits most, most likely past tipping  
Thawing permafrost is emitting CO<sub>2</sub>, methane & nitrous oxide





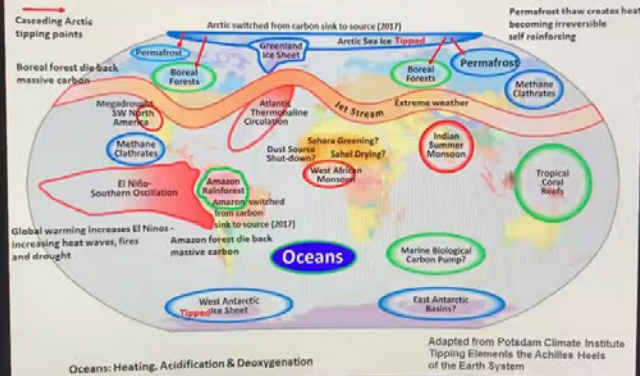
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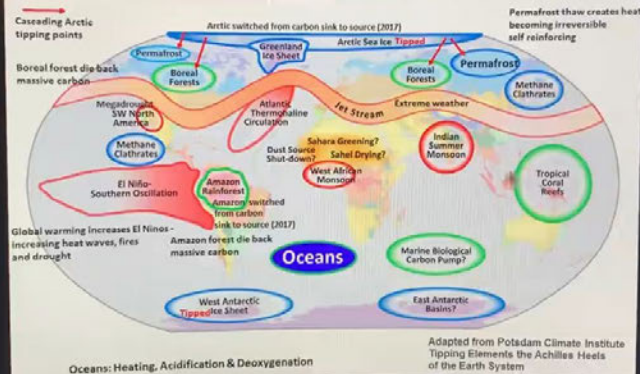
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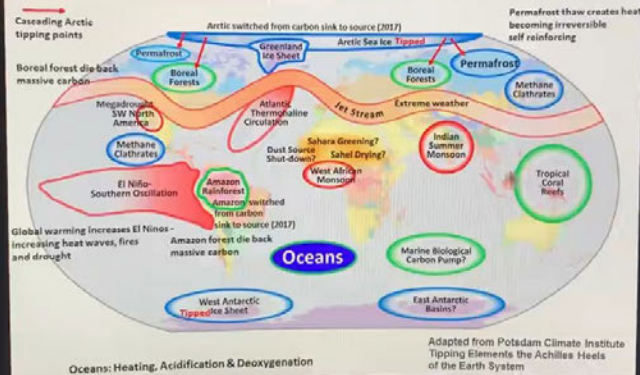
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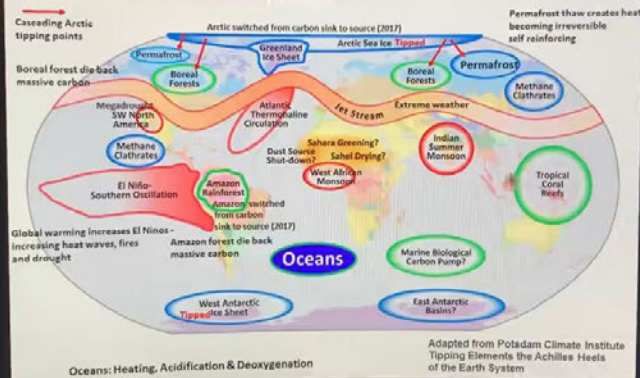
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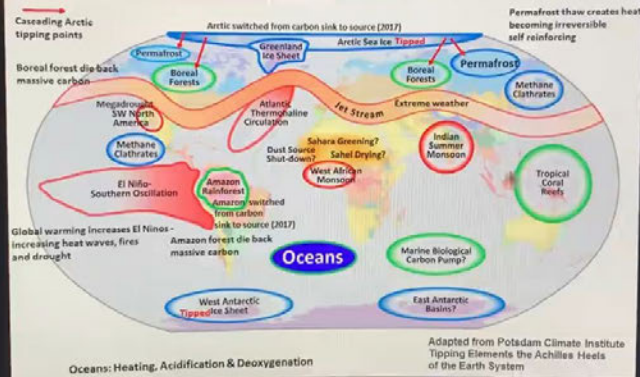
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## Global Warming Vulnerable Tipping Points

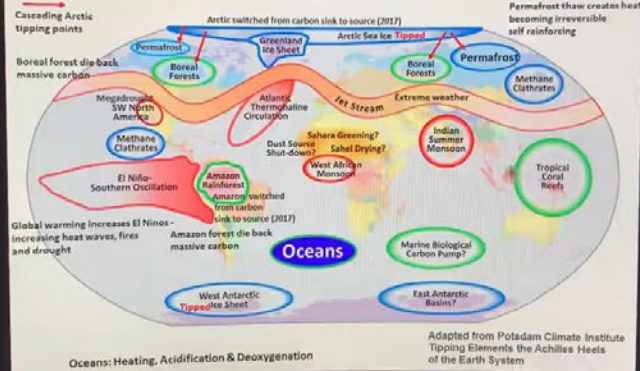
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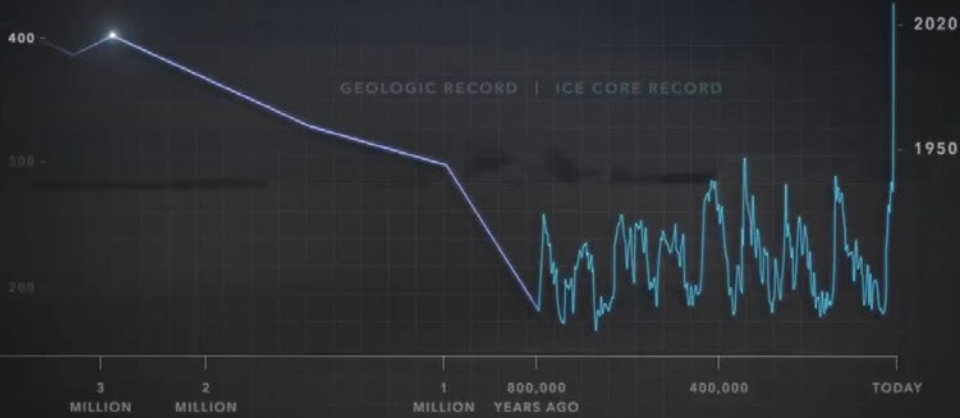
# Global Warming Vulnerable Tipping Points

Committed global warming (>2°C) commits most, most likely past tipping  
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- Cryosphere Entities
- Circulation Patterns
- Biosphere Components



## HISTORY OF ATMOSPHERIC CO2 (PPM)



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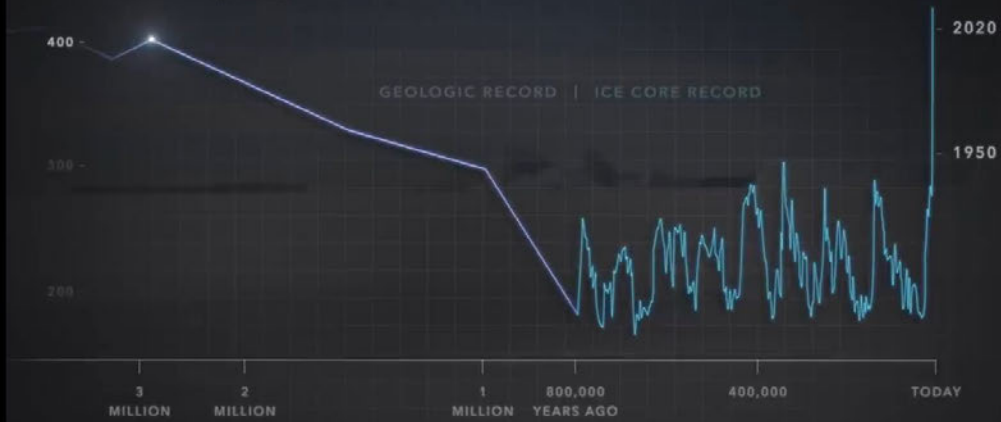




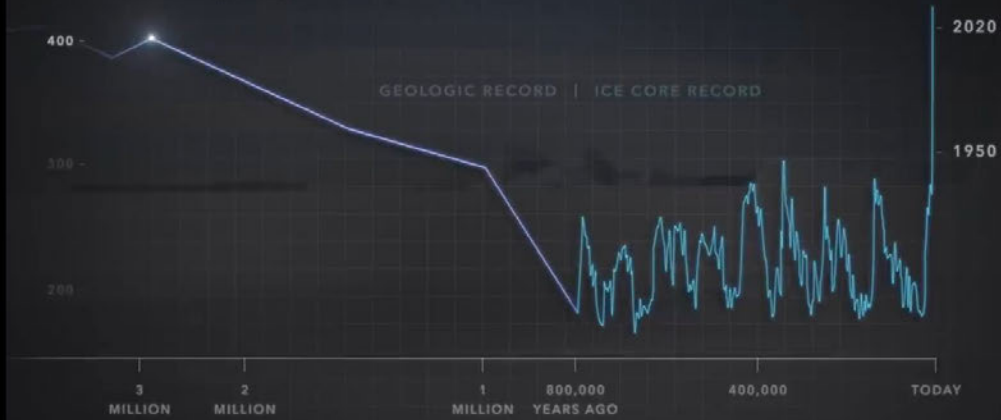
### HISTORY OF ATMOSPHERIC CO<sub>2</sub> (PPM)

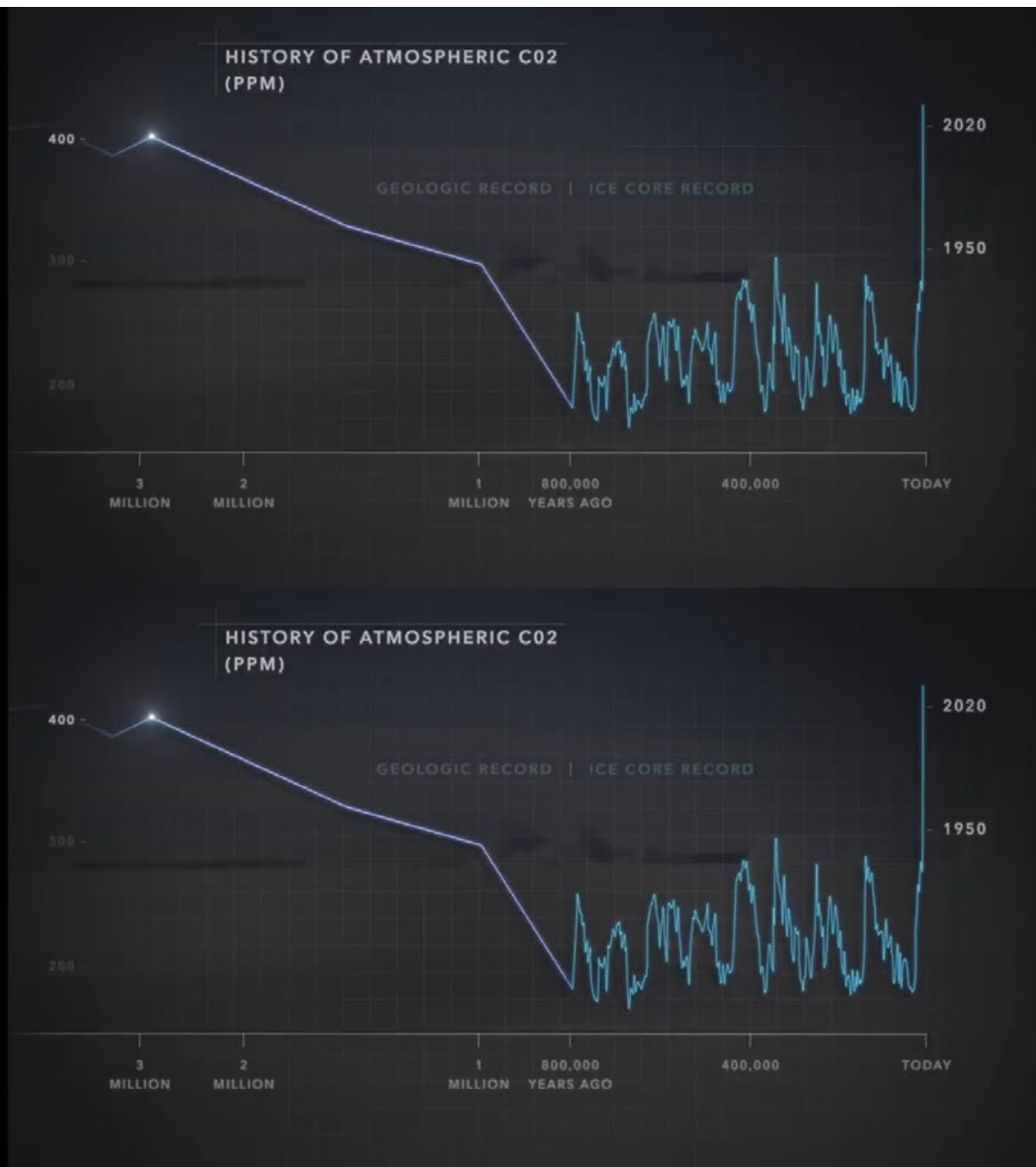


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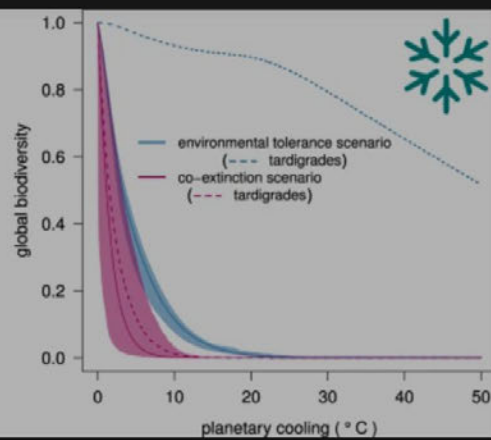
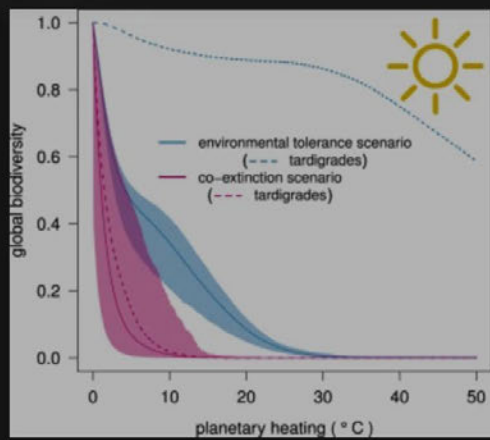
### HISTORY OF ATMOSPHERIC CO<sub>2</sub> (PPM)





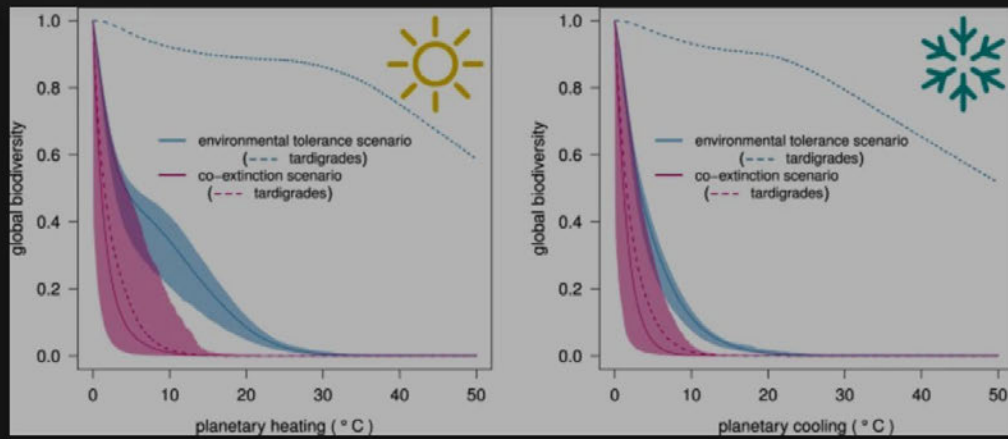
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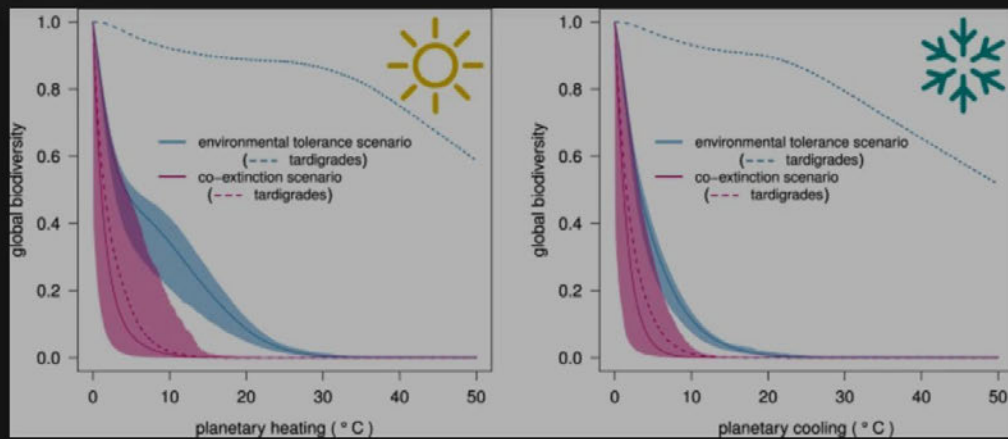
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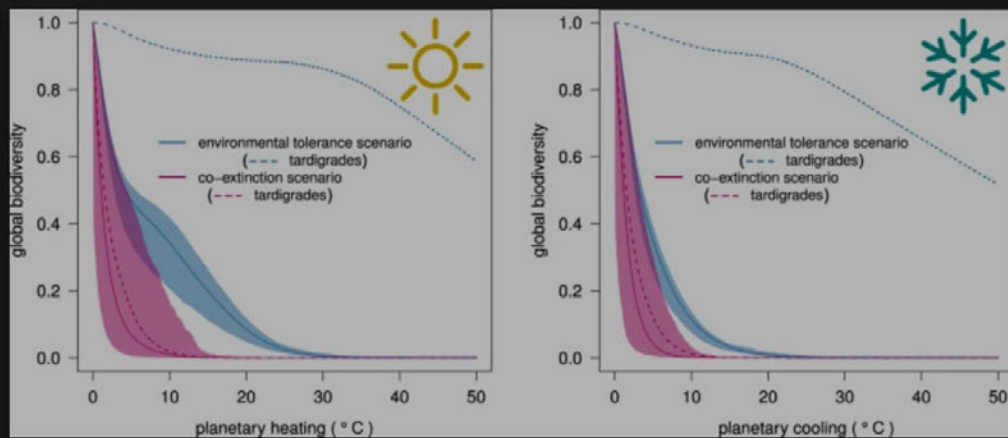
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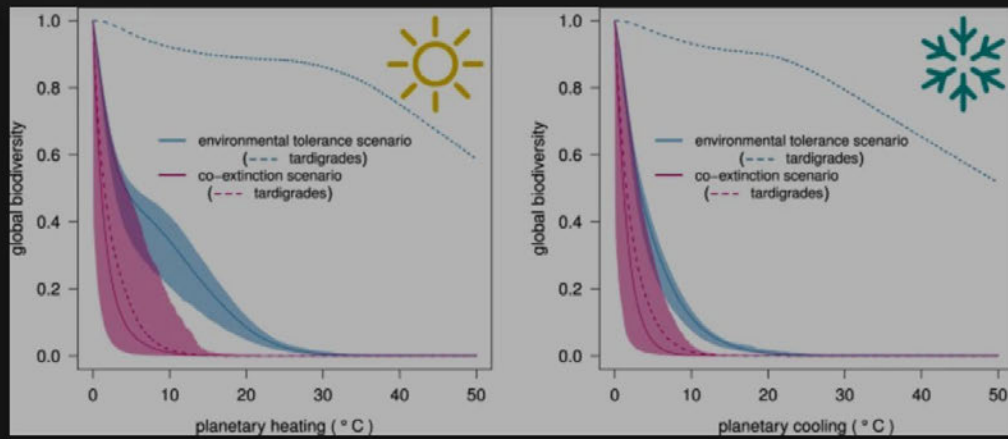
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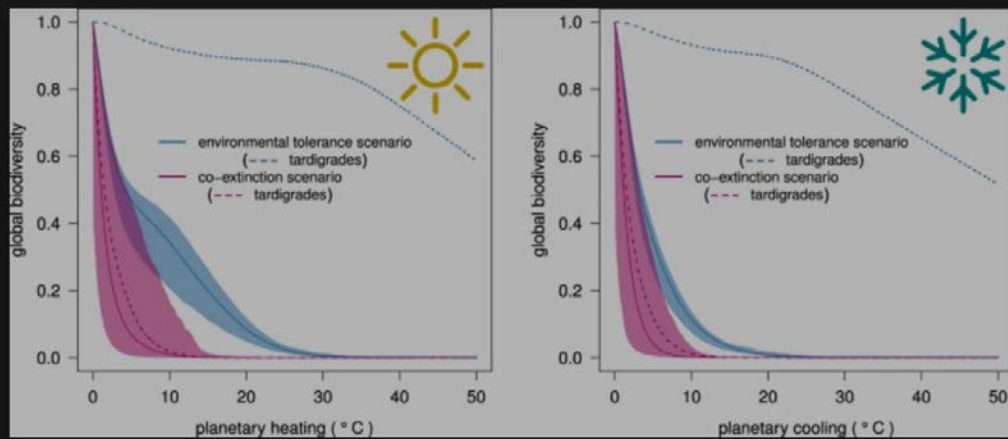
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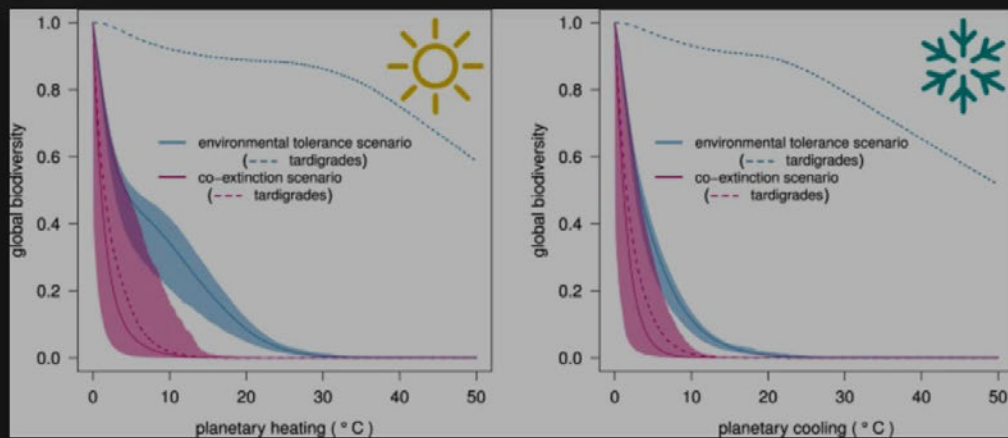
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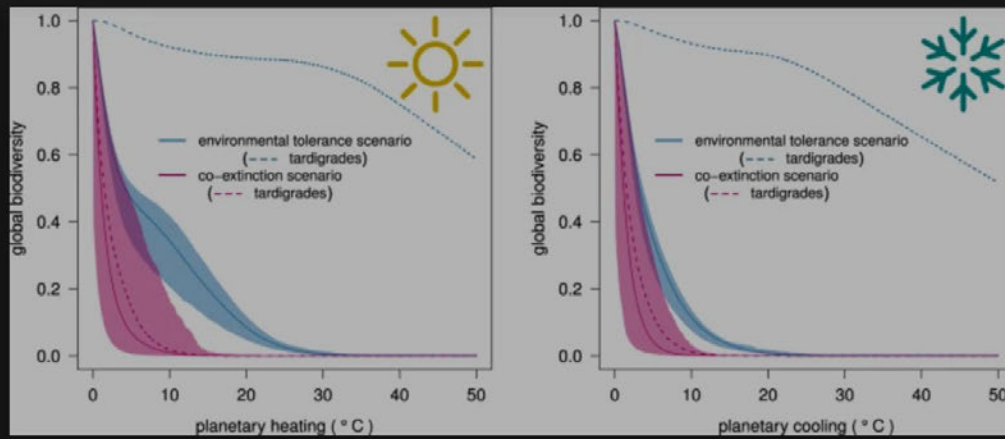
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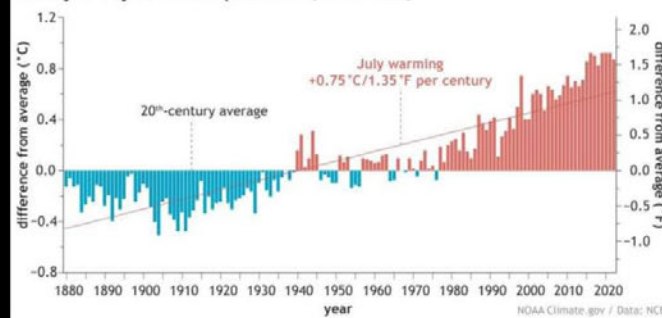
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Timeline photos

History of July Global Temperatures (1880-2022)

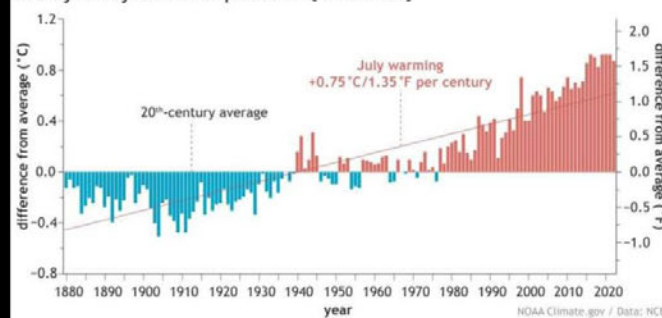


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Timeline photos

History of July Global Temperatures (1880-2022)



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**From:** [PSC Public Comment](#)  
**To:** [Julie Ashton](#)  
**Subject:** RE: #2025-00045 Sources 2  
**Date:** Wednesday, August 6, 2025 8:58:00 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.emz](#)  
[image002.png](#)

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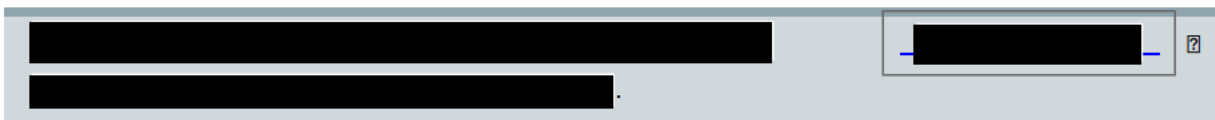
Case No. 2025-00045

Thank you for your comments on the application of Kentucky Utilities Company, Louisville Gas and Electric Company. Your comments in the above-referenced matter have been received and will be placed into the case file for the Commission's consideration. Please cite the case number in this matter, 2025-00045 in any further correspondence. The documents in this case are available at [View Case Filings for: 2025-00045 \(ky.gov\)](#).

Thank you for your interest in this matter.

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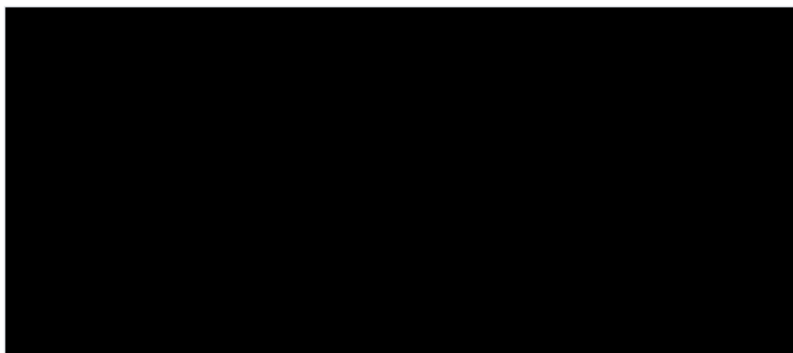
**From:** Julie Ashton [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 4, 2025 8:47 PM  
**To:** PSC Public Comment <PSC.Comment@ky.gov>  
**Subject:** Fw: #2025-00045 Sources 2



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**From:** Julie Ashton [REDACTED]  
**To:** psc.comments@ky.gov <psc.comments@ky.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 4, 2025 at 08:42:17 PM EDT  
**Subject:** #2025-00045 Sources 2

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**A thirsty Earth is making droughts more severe**

A warming atmosphere will soaking up moisture faster than it can be

replaced by rising precipitation rates, exac...

[https://www.nature.com/articles/s41467-025-59386-x?fbclid=IwY2xjawLSmqtleHRuA2FibQlXMQABHgAmaT8CYCeU8ABBO3Tykp\\_TPNpLAKGL-wSS08L9eUtGESlvpbWiHeOJnpJK\\_aem\\_aUMVaGGd5ouJdarnDf-dXA](https://www.nature.com/articles/s41467-025-59386-x?fbclid=IwY2xjawLSmqtleHRuA2FibQlXMQABHgAmaT8CYCeU8ABBO3Tykp_TPNpLAKGL-wSS08L9eUtGESlvpbWiHeOJnpJK_aem_aUMVaGGd5ouJdarnDf-dXA)

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[https://www.pnas.org/doi/10.1073/pnas.1910114117?fbclid=IwY2xjawlauuVleHRuA2FibQlXMQABHf0FBcSZXqtW7sSPFmAw55Q7XKWSFu5\\_FkaiUq6Al3Gr6pndr6eLeMOvtg\\_aem\\_h4K6bsFDYyaZf2Y9Sa149w](https://www.pnas.org/doi/10.1073/pnas.1910114117?fbclid=IwY2xjawlauuVleHRuA2FibQlXMQABHf0FBcSZXqtW7sSPFmAw55Q7XKWSFu5_FkaiUq6Al3Gr6pndr6eLeMOvtg_aem_h4K6bsFDYyaZf2Y9Sa149w)

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- <https://phys.org/news/2024-07-ecosystems-threatened-declining-groundwater.htm>

**From:** [PSC Public Comment](#)  
**To:** [Julie Ashton](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Case #2025-00045  
**Date:** Wednesday, August 6, 2025 8:58:00 AM

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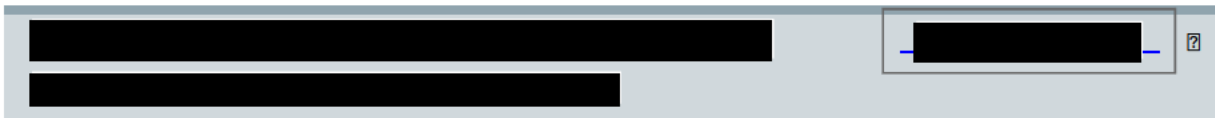
Case No. 2025-00045

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Thank you for your interest in this matter.

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**From:** Julie Ashton [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 4, 2025 8:22 PM  
**To:** PSC Public Comment <PSC.Comment@ky.gov>  
**Subject:** Fw: Case #2025-00045



----- Forwarded Message -----

**From:** julielashton [REDACTED] >  
**To:** "[psc.meeting@ky.gov](mailto:psc.meeting@ky.gov)" <[psc.meeting@ky.gov](mailto:psc.meeting@ky.gov)>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 4, 2025 at 01:03:04 PM EDT  
**Subject:** Case #2025-00045

Dear Sir / Madame,

I am an LG&E customer writing to ask you to deny the their speculative request for two new power plants.  
If built, these plants will not be operating long. Global industrial civilization and the biosphere are both in the process of collapse. There is no point to do this now. We need to preserve what life we can with what little time we have left.

\*Our financial system is a ponzi scheme and we now have more debt than can be paid back. Economists have been predicting financial collapse is imminent. Wages have not kept up with inflation, nor will they. Globally, manufacturing is down. Human population reproduction is also in decline in many major economies.

\*The easiest and cheapest oil to extract is mainly gone, hence fracking, Canadian tar sands, and Arctic exploration. The return on investment is in decline. It will reach a point that it is not worth the money and energy to extract and this will affect the entire economy, resulting in less manufacturing and supply chain issues.

\*We have lost 70% of insects and wild animals in the past 55 years and there is no reason to believe this trend will not continue.

\*Our soil, water, air, and food are now contaminated with microplastics and nanoplastics that cross the blood brain barrier, causing neurological, endocrine, and reproductive issues in humans and wildlife.

\*Industrial agriculture continues to spray crops with pesticides, herbicides, and fungicides despite knowing these chemicals are toxic to pollinators and the rest of life.

\*The temperature of the planet has increased 1.7 degrees Celsius since 1850. Continuing business as usual, we will reach a 2 degrees Celsius rise by 2035. Extreme weather events (think fires, floods, and heatwaves) will increase threefold. Every one degree increase in temperature adds 7% more moisture to the atmosphere, making storms more powerful, and increasing humidity, which leads to lethal wet bulb temperatures. We are on track to reach a 3 degree rise by 2056 which will kill most life on the planet as many species will be unable to adapt so quickly to such extreme heat. Co-extinctions will result, and humans will not be able to survive without the plants and pollinators they depend on.

\*Meanwhile, our oceans are dying. Oceans have absorbed 93% of the heat we have generated. Google an "Ocean Heat Content" graph and notice how the oceans stopped being able to sequester heat to depth around 1995. That was the tipping point for the planet. The oceans are rapidly warming and acidifying (due to carbon dioxide absorption). There has been a marine heatwave going on for several months in the Pacific Ocean, killing much of ocean life. But our corporate controlled media doesn't want you to know about that. The warmer ocean's are killing coral reefs, causing giant toxic algae blooms that kill life, disrupting ecosystems, and are causing tremendous ice loss in the Arctic Circle and at Greenland. The warmer temperatures are causing permafrost to melt, which is causing the release of methane hydrates. Methane is 80 times more potent than carbon dioxide. There is a 50 gigaton methane bomb that can go off any time along the Arctic shelf. Most climate scientists believe we are on track for a "blue ocean event" (meaning less than one million square kilometers total Arctic sea ice) by 2035. This will leave the planet with much less white snow and ice to reflect heat, resulting in more heat being absorbed by the ocean, which will quickly raise the temperature of the planet to conditions lethal for life. Furthermore, we have disrupted the jet stream, resulting in longer heatwaves and more extreme rain events.

\*We are depleting our aquifers in the western half of the country. This half is also experiencing aridification, which is a long term condition expected to last centuries. It will become increasingly hard to grow food, and presently, most of our vegetables are grown there.

In summary, we have poisoned and trashed our planet to the point that we've assured our own demise in roughly three decades. Please don't accelerate the problem by approving new power plants now. I will send links to my sources in a separate email.

Julie Ashton

[REDACTED]

Louisville, Kentucky 40219

[REDACTED]

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