

## A short glossary on global warming

<b>Antarctica:</b>	continental land mass at the South Pole
<b>anthropogenic:</b>	made/caused by humans
<b>atmosphere:</b>	the gaseous mass enveloping the Earth
<b>the Arctic:</b>	the North Pole
<b>Arctic shrinkage:</b>	the decrease in Arctic sea ice and the melting of the Greenland Ice Sheet
<b>carbon dioxide:</b>	Kohlendioxid (CO <sub>2</sub> )
<b>climate:</b>	variations of weather in a region over a long time
<b>deforestation:</b>	the change of forested land to non-forest uses, usually seen as a cause of global warming
<b>desertification:</b>	the transformation of habitable/arable land to desert
<b>emission:</b>	a release of substance(s) (e.g. greenhouse gases) into the Earth's atmosphere
<b>fossil fuels:</b>	oil, coal, gas
<b>global warming:</b>	the warming of the average temperature on Earth as observed in the last decades
<b>global warming controversy:</b>	the political and scientific discussions surrounding the theories of global warming
<b>Gulf Stream:</b>	an Atlantic current which brings relatively warm water to Europe, thus warming and moderating the continental climate
<b>IPCC:</b>	the 'International Panel on Climate Change', an inter-governmental body set up to investigate the causes and effects of global warming
<b>ice age:</b>	a period of time in which the average temperature on Earth is reduced and results in a massive expansion of the continental and polar ice sheets
<b>ice core analysis:</b>	Ice cores are core samples from ice sheets that are very old. Typically they are removed from Antarctica or Greenland ice. The composition of these cores (trapped air bubbles, sometimes thousands of years old) enables us to give precise data on the Earth's climate in former times.
<b>Kyoto Protocol:</b>	an international agreement adopted in 1997 which sets binding targets for CO <sub>2</sub> emissions of developed countries
<b>Medieval Warm Period:</b>	a period of warm climate from roughly 950 till 1250 AD
<b>methane:</b>	a powerful greenhouse gas, Methan (CH <sub>4</sub> )
<b>nitrous oxide:</b>	Distickstoffoxid, Lachgas (N <sub>2</sub> O), a powerful greenhouse gas
<b>precipitation:</b>	rain, snow, hail or any other form of moisture that falls to earth
<b>renewable energy:</b>	energy obtained from sources such as wind, solar and biomass
<b>solar energy:</b>	solar radiation that reaches the Earth
<b>weather:</b>	the short state (hourly, daily) of the atmosphere – not the same as climate