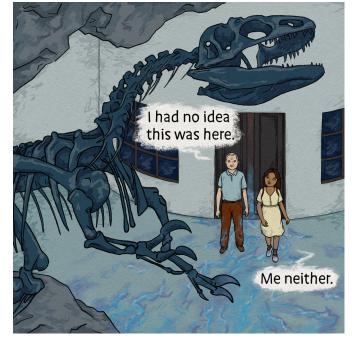
THE EXTINCTION ROOM

Sayra Begum

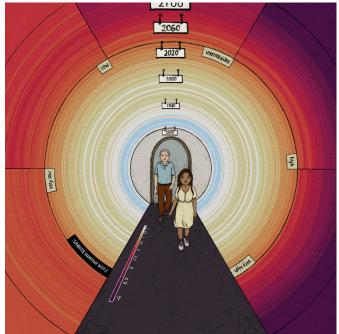












What Does Net Zero Mean?

It means that we reduce the amount of greenhouse gases produced to as close to zero as possible and balance the remaining amount by removing it from the atmosphere.

Why is Net Zero Important?

Our global average temperature is now 1.2° higher than it was in the pre-industrial era.

We are already feeling the negative impacts of climate change. These impacts increase with every fraction of a degree of warming, and if average global temperatures increase beyond 1.5°C these impacts will become more and more severe.















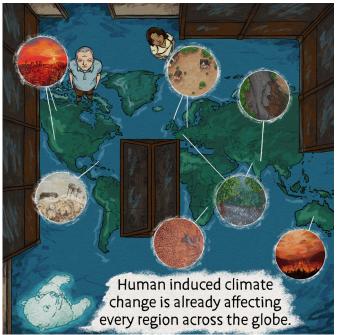






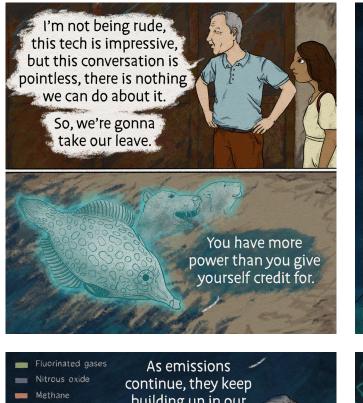






Globally, we have felt warmer days and nights.

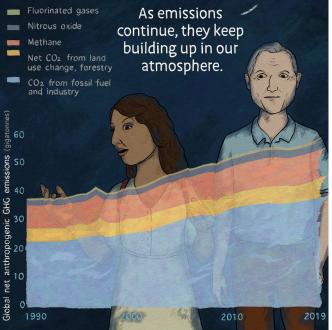
2015 to 2022 have been the eight warmest years on record, but the first week of July 2023 was the Earth's hottest to date. We are seeing more and more weather-related disasters that are claiming lives and livelihoods.



Scientists in the nineteenth century had already begun to understand that higher carbon dioxide levels would lead to a warmer planet.

The current high levels of CO₂ in the atmosphere are unprecedented in the past million years.

To the formation of the



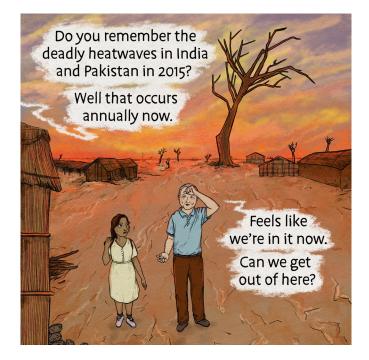
The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is responsible for assessing the science. They have mapped out lots of different future emissions pathways. On this path we manage to limit warming to 1.5°C. To get here, we roughly halved our emissions by 2030, reached net zero CO₂ around 2050, and net zero for all greenhouse gases about 20 years later.

Ok, we also started cutting emissions immediately, but slower than before, and only reached net zero CO₂ around 2080. This led to a 2°c future in 2100.

In a 2°c world, 420 million more people are exposed to extreme heatwaves now than in a 1.5°c future. And we have 61 million more people exposed to severe drought in urban areas.

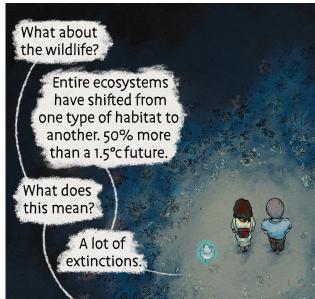






Even just halfway through the century, there are millions more people exposed to water scarcity. But the extreme weather also brings with it very heavy rainfalls with devastating impacts.

F





The world failed to put policies in place to act on climate change, so emissions kept climbing until the 2080s. Net zero is a distant dream.

Mass mortalities.

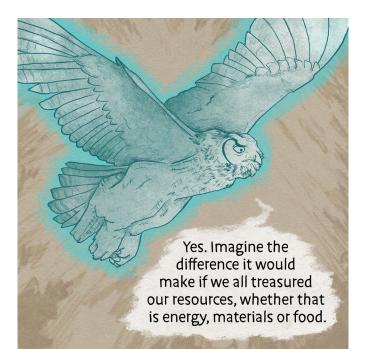
Half of plant and animal species are gone.

Our rainforests, kelp forests and tropical coral reefs are dust.

> Can we get out of here, it's unbearable!







I've heard people go on about recycling, not wasting food and stuff... and not buying junk that only lasts for one day. Does that actually make any difference?



And then there is the bigger picture stuff. Hold your leaders to account. Campaign for more green spaces. Campaign to phase out fossil fuels and switch our reliance to renewable energy.

Make sure your leaders stick to and strengthen their long-term pledges to reach net zero CO₂ emissions by the mid-21st century.





CONSTRAIN



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Page 2, panel 2 graphic inspired by: Ed Hawkins, National Centre for Atmospheric Science, University of Reading, showyourstripes.info

Page 6, panel 2 graphic: The relentless rise of carbon dioxide, climate.nasa.org

Page 6, panel 3 graphic: IPCC, Climate Change 2022, Mitigation of Climate Change, Summary for Policymakers