

Working towards a greener DESP

Generated a group of adults to take part in an interesting activity.

# We help to save sight & we do a great job! What else can we do?

- \* Look at what we do in clinics
- \* Look at why we do it
- \* Consider if we can do anything differently that may make a positive difference

# Why do we do it?

- \* To aim for zero risk screening
- \* Hygiene and infection control
- \* Because we have not considered alternatives

# Plastic is great!!!

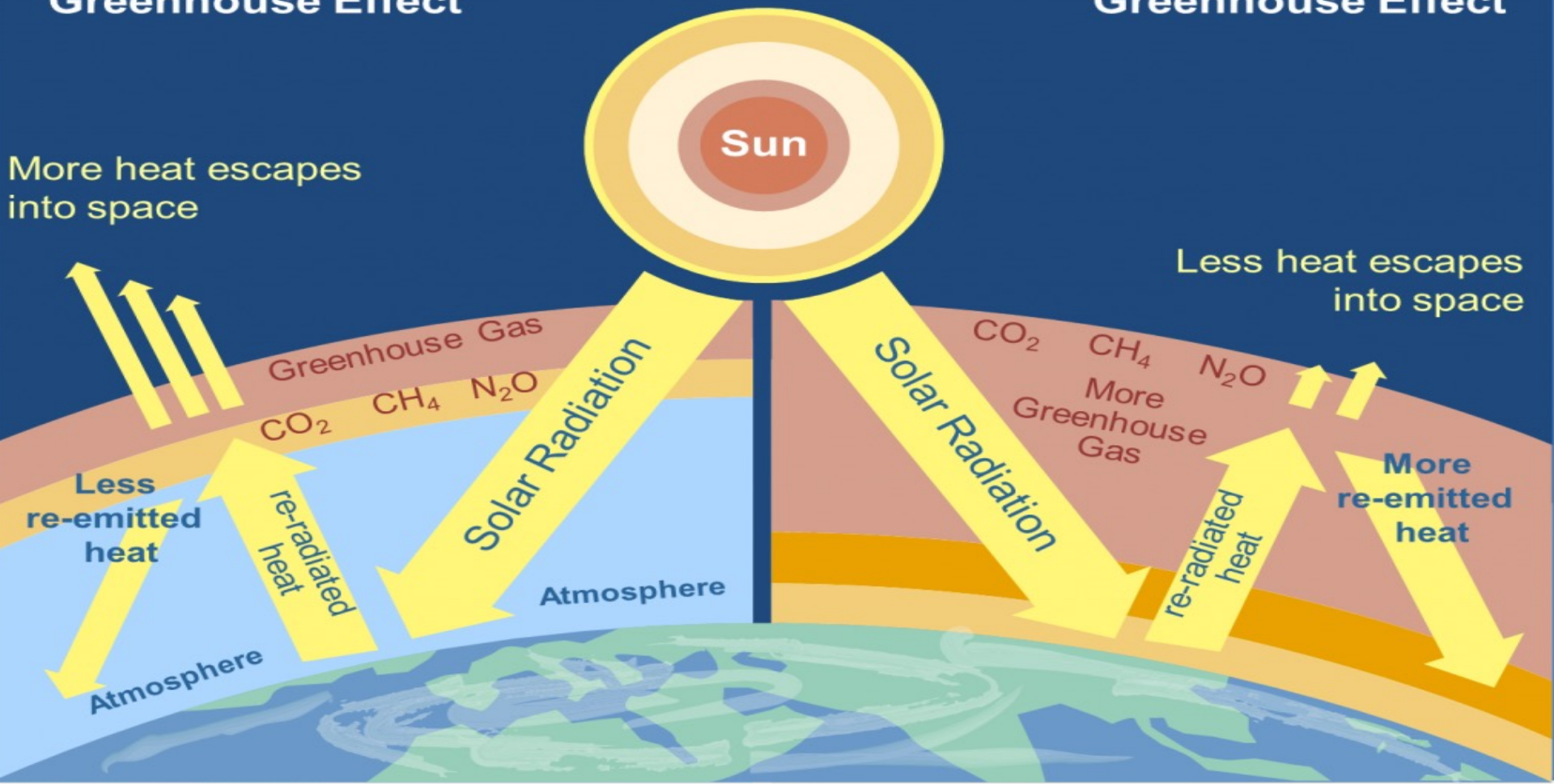
- \* Cheap, capable of being made into any conceivable shape, strong and durable, plastic is something of a wonder material
- \* Convenient in wipes for cleaning equipment
- \* Zero risk of infection using single use minims

# What role does plastic play in climate change

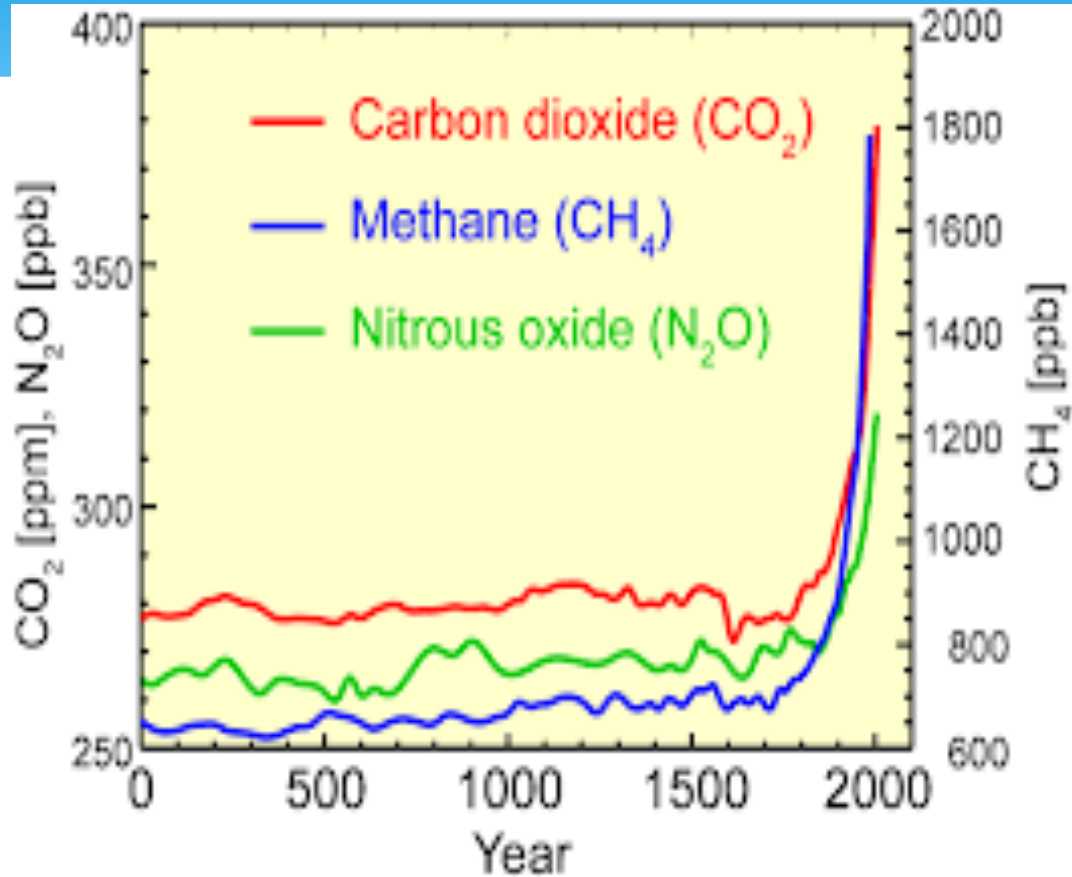
- \* Fossil fuel extraction
- \* Fossil fuel transportation
- \* Plastic refining
- \* Plastic waste
  - \* incineration into air
  - \* into the sea / landfill
- \* Global climate change

# Natural Greenhouse Effect

# Human Enhanced Greenhouse Effect

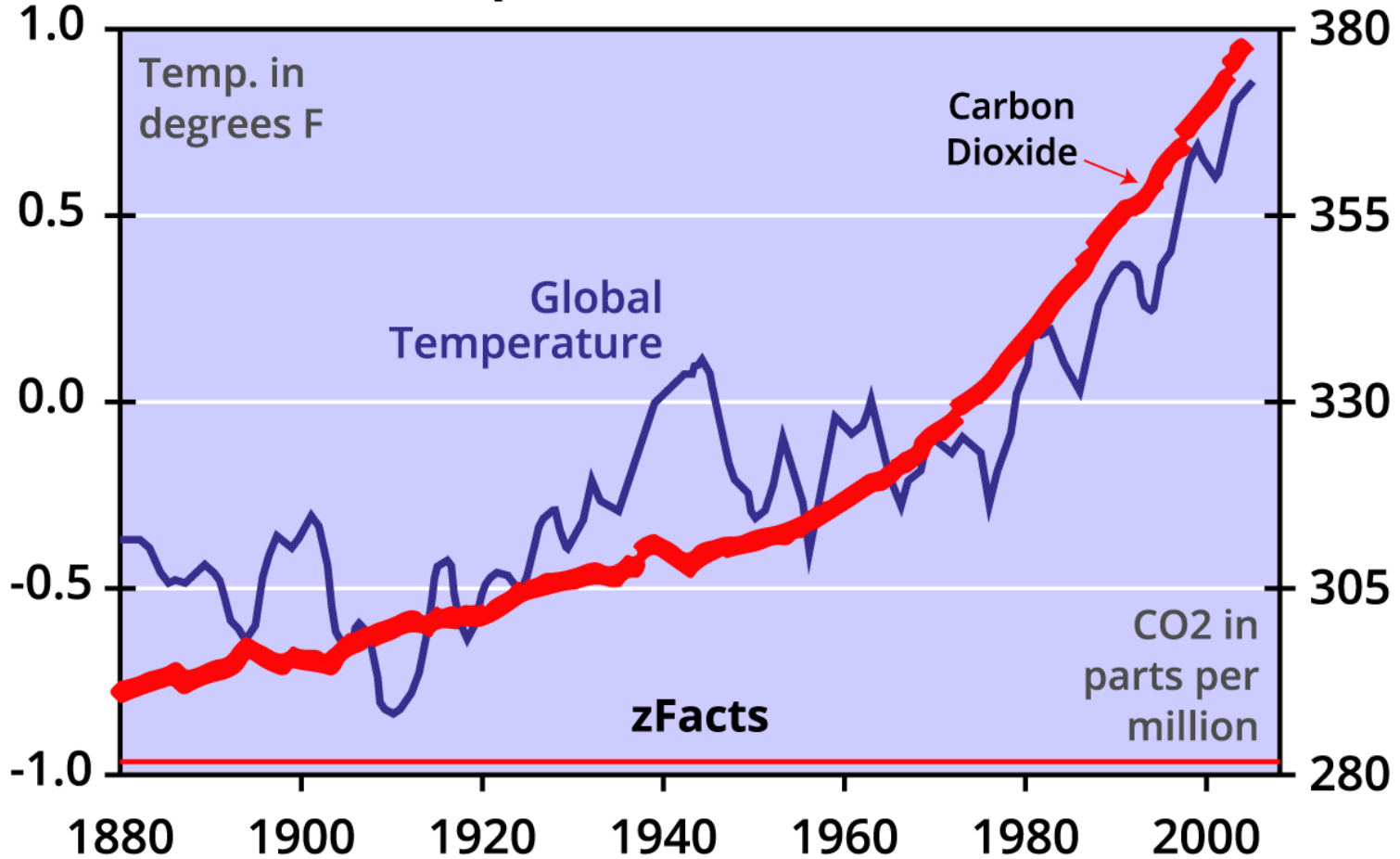


# Change in Greenhouse Gases





# Global Temperature and Carbon Dioxide



# How does DESP impact climate change?

- \* Ninety percent of **wet wipes** on the market are produced from plastic textiles **made** of polyester or polypropylene
- \* Wipes enclosed in a plastic container
- \* All thrown away not recycled

# Cont.

- \* UK Eligible population is 4,000,000
- \* No of wipes used excl. recalls = 8,000,000 /year
- \* No of plastic containers used = 60,000 /year

# Tropicamide Drops

- \* Annually in the UK, we are looking at more than 4 million plastic minims disposed off every year

Issues:

1. plastic waste of single use minims
2. cost



How can WE save the planet?

# What can we do to reduce single use plastic in DESP?

- \* Look into finding alternatives to:
  - \* minimis use.....
    - 1/ Use minimis for multiple patients-
    - 2/ Don't use drops-
    - 3/ find alternative ways to instil tropicamide
    - 4/non mydriatic cameras
  - \* cleaning of equipment
    - \* 1/ use biodegradable wipes.
    - \* 2/ Reuse plastic containers
  - \* the paper trail
    - \* 1/ Reduce printing of clinic lists
    - \* 2/ email/text appointments and results

	TROPICAMIDE 1% MINIMS DROPS	TROPICAMIDE 1% BOTTLES
Size per unit	0.5ml 20 units per box	5 ml
No of patients screened per unit	1 patient per unit but enough tropicamide for 6 patients	30 patients in 1 clinic screened
Weight of plastic per unit	1.2g	7g plus 3 g per nozzle
Weight of plastic used per 1000 patients	1200g	Clinics of 30 patients = 333g
Cost/1000patients	£748.00	£267 plus £237 for spray nozzles = £504
Savings made/1000 patients	-	£244
Savings per million patients	-	£244,000

# Hurdles for change

- \* 1/ Need evidence for efficacy
- \* 2/ need evidence for no/acceptable infection risk
- \* 3/Need ophthalmological buy in
- \* 4/ Need pharmaceutical buy in- licencing and manufacturing





TAKES TIME - DO WE HAVE  
TIME???????

# Thought of the day

- \* Do we settle for the world as it is or do we work for the world as it should be?

# And to end.....





















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THEIR MOTTO:  
TO SAVE A LIFE IS TO  
TO SAVE ALL OF  
HUMANITY

THE  
WHITE  
HELMETS

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A little too close to home!













Thank you for your attention

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\* Sources:

- \* [Plasticseurope.org](https://plasticseurope.org)
- \* [Guardian online](https://www.theguardian.com)
- \* [Wwf.org.uk](https://www.worldwildlife.org)
- \* [BJGP](https://www.bjgp.org)
- \* Pictures from [unsplash.com](https://unsplash.com); [pixabay.com](https://pixabay.com); [google.com](https://google.com); [nasa.org](https://nasa.org)