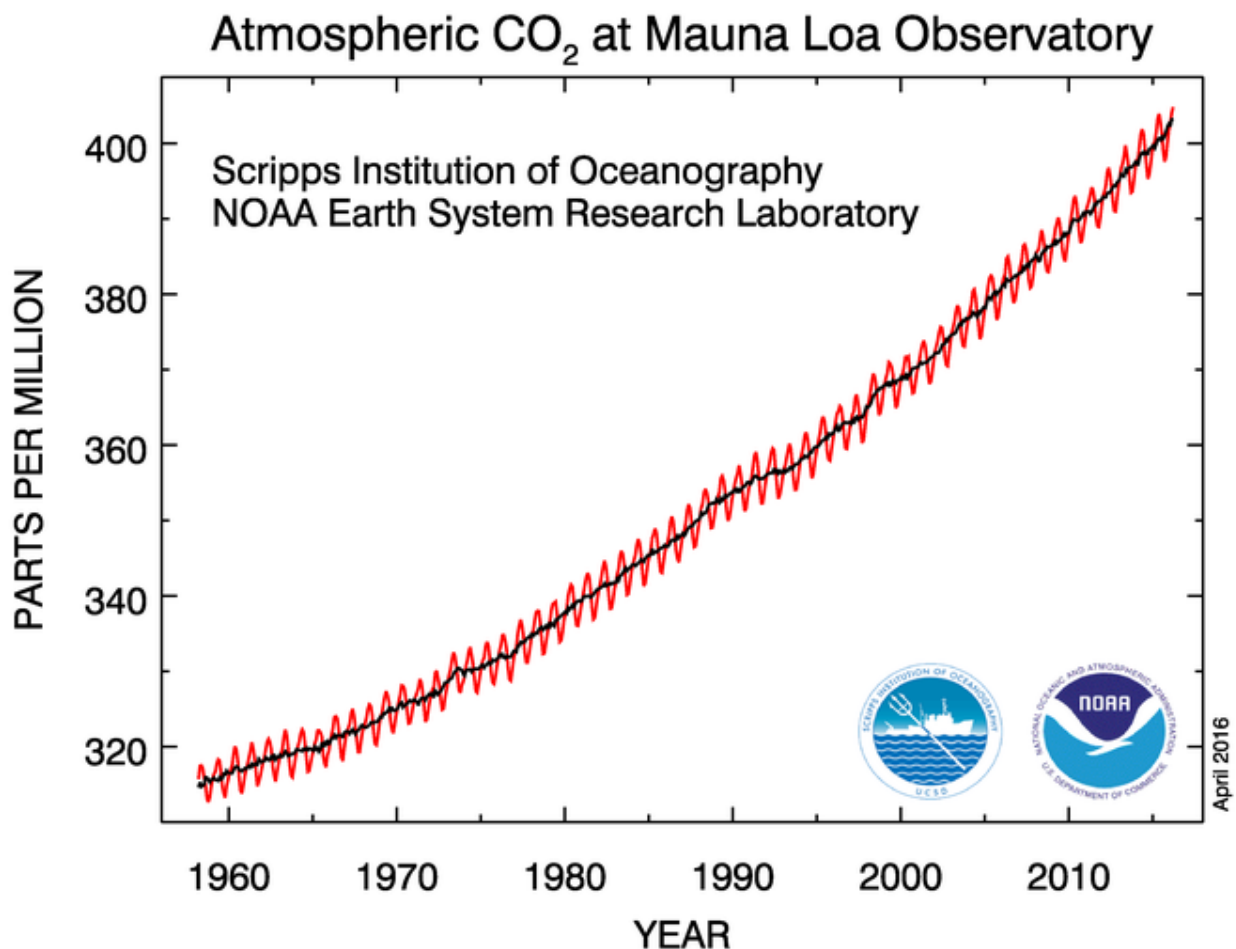


## Multiple Immediate Benefits of Emissions Mitigation

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We have known for a long time that climate forcing by carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) depends primarily on cumulative emissions. In addition we have observed that the rate of CO<sub>2</sub> increase has been at a record high during the last decade driven by emissions that are also at a record high. Projections of future climate forcing span a large range, but the main variable is cumulative emissions from fossil fuel burning. The 21<sup>st</sup> Conference Of Parties meeting in December 2015 in Paris correctly put a strong emphasis on the urgency of emissions mitigation. Fortunately, there are many socio-economic benefits to aggressive mitigation strategies. A few will be discussed. At the same time we have to figure out how to run an improved economic system that does not require never-ending growth, which destroys the ecosystems we depend on, while providing food, shelter, jobs, health care, and education for all.



**Figure 1.** The continually increasing Mauna Loa CO<sub>2</sub> curve.