

# Planet Culture

The slide features a solid blue background. The title "Planet Culture" is centered in a dark blue, serif font. At the bottom, there is a decorative graphic consisting of several overlapping, wavy, light blue shapes that create a sense of movement or a horizon line.

\* Climate change in simple terms is the erosion of the natural world



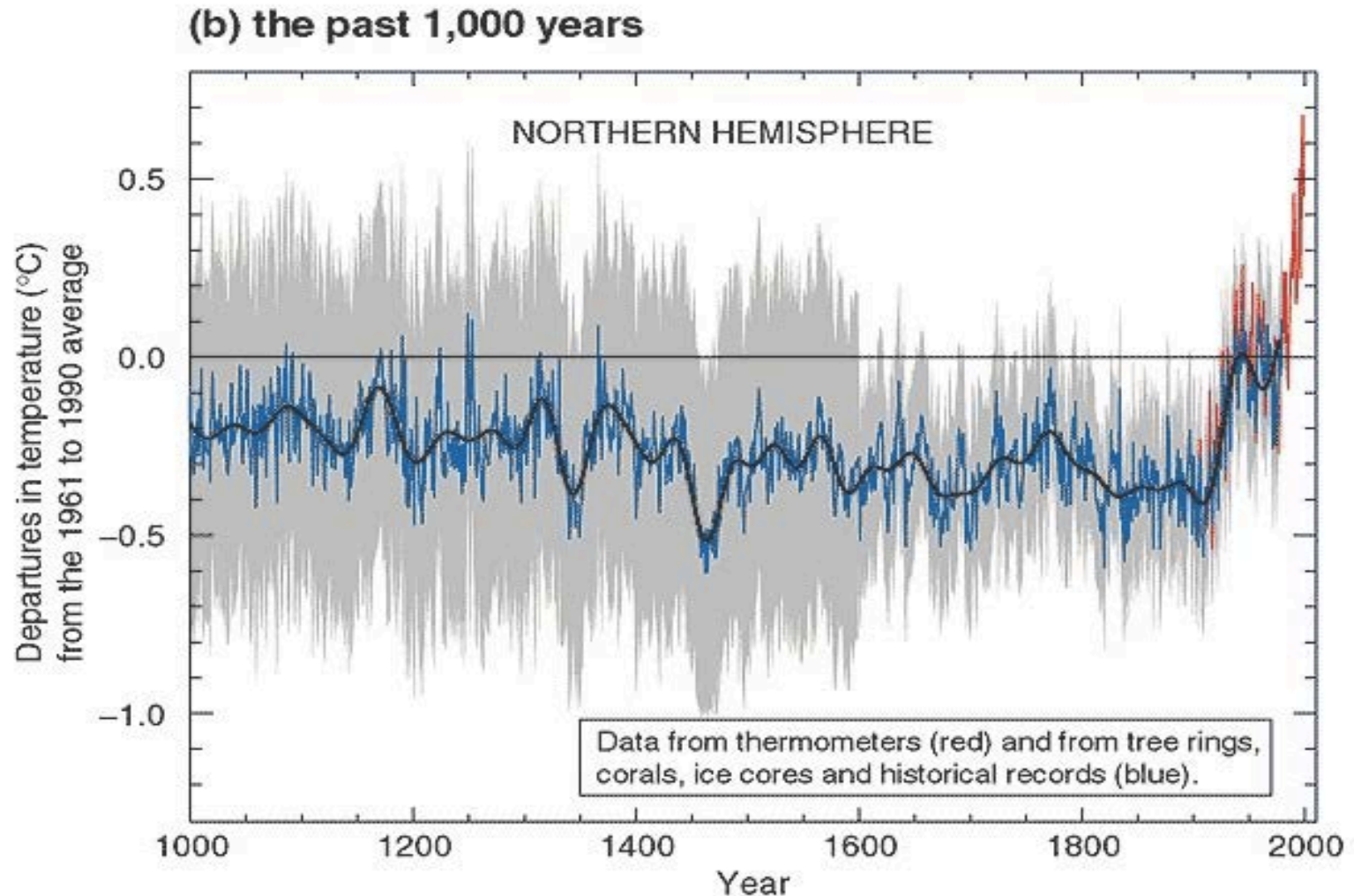


# We are disconnected from nature

Marshal McLuhan (p.3, 1994) stated: “we have acquired the art of carrying out the most dangerous social operations with complete detachment.”



# Climate Change is Terrifying



As the concentration of Carbon Dioxide increases in the atmosphere so to does the pH level of the ocean becomes, which makes it more acidic. When this happens the ecosystem of the ocean is jeopardized.

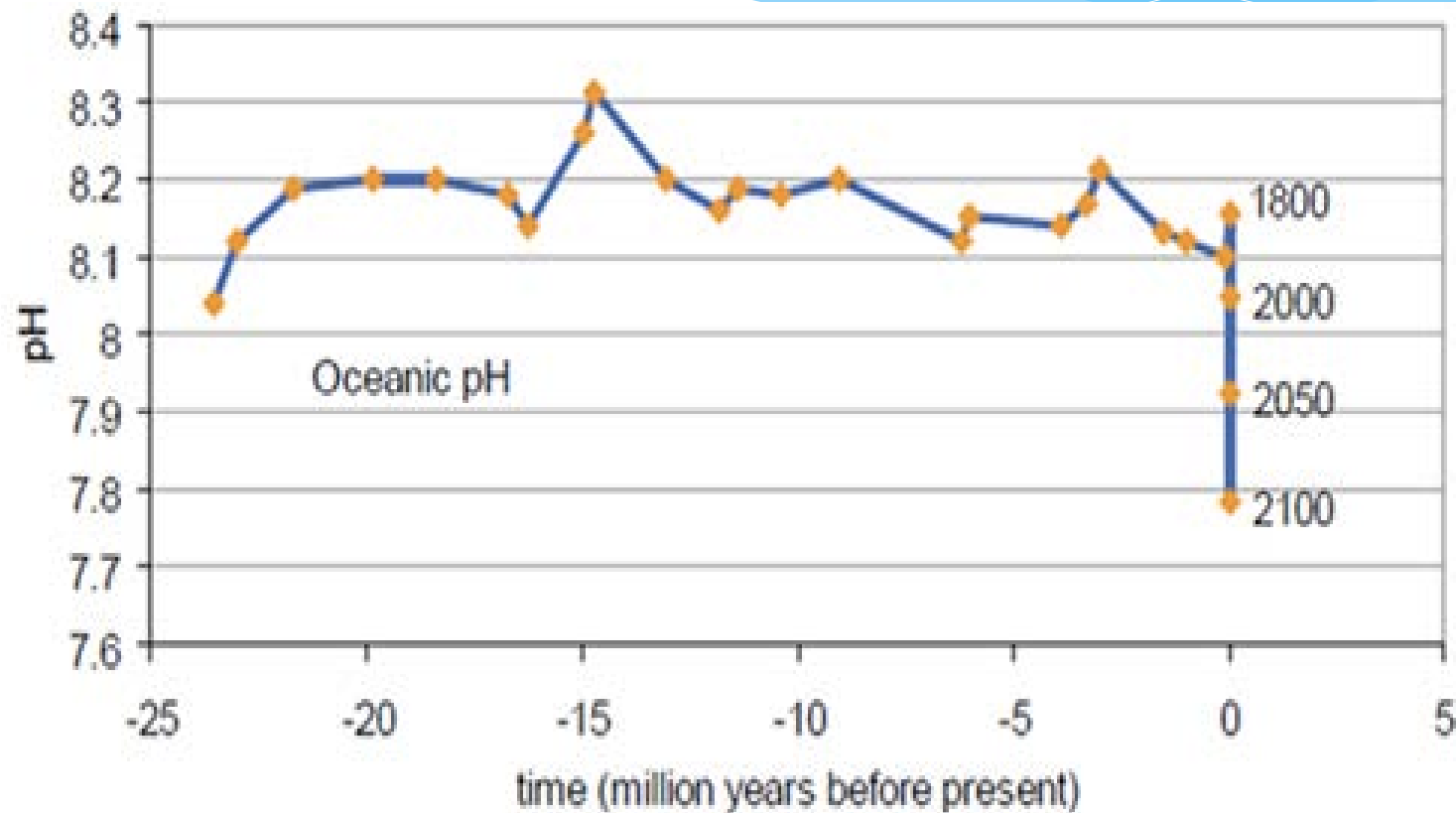
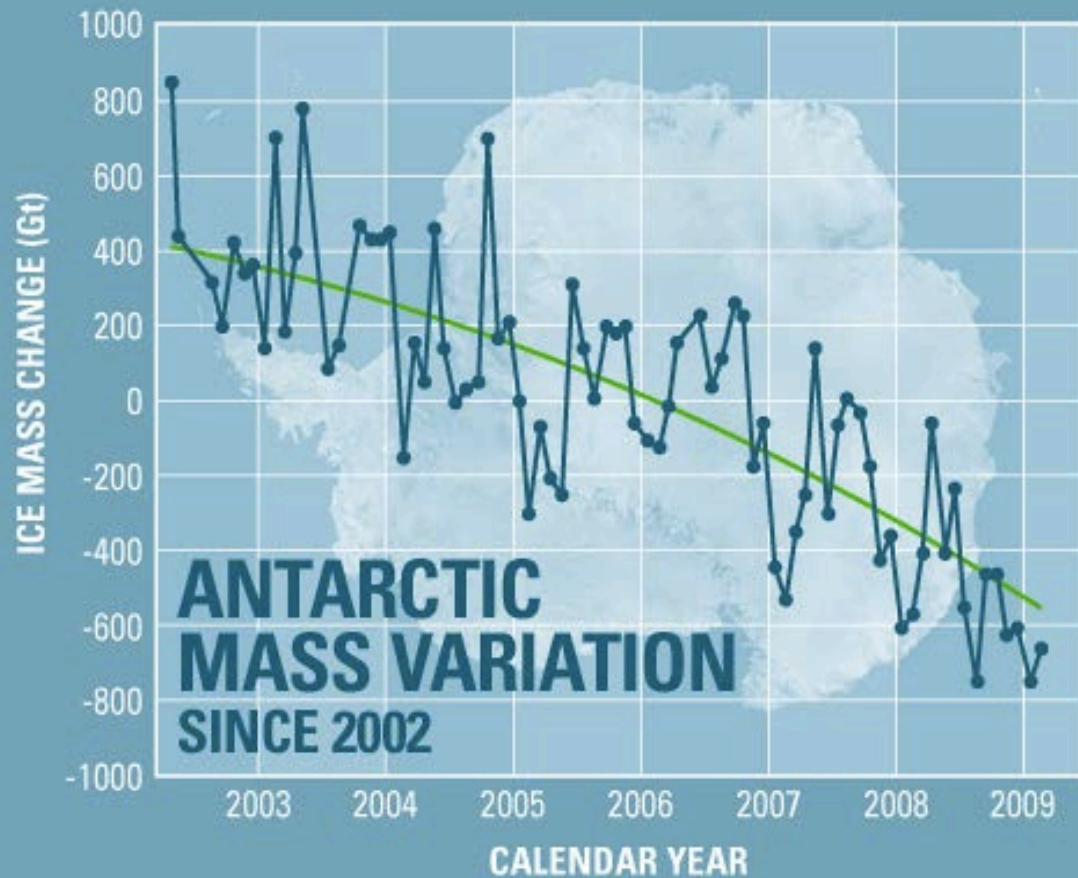


Figure 1. Past and contemporary variability of marine pH. Future predictions are model derived values based on IPCC mean scenarios (from Turley *et al*, 2006. Cambridge University Press, 8, 65-70).



# Massive Ice Melt



# Unfortunate facts

\*Carbon dioxide is rising at such a rate that it is too fast for evolution to allow for many species to adapt (Eggleton, 2013).

The increase of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is 200 times quicker.

\*The level of Carbon Dioxide in the atmosphere was 280ppm in prior to the industrial revolution. Today the concentration of Carbon Dioxide in the atmosphere is 405 parts per million, which is 45% higher (Environment Hamilton, 2017).

\*2016 was the hottest year on record and 16 of the last 17 years have been the hottest in recorded history (Environment Hamilton, 2017) .

The West Antarctic Glacier is melting at an “unstoppable ”. NASA scientist says that this will come with a sea level rise of 3-4 meters that will displace tens of millions of people (Klein, p. 14, 2015)

# Can We Overcome Climate Change?

Not having a good relationship with nature and climate change being a very discomfoting issue to talk about it is a major reason why most people do not take individual action taken to address climate change.

Dr. Thomas Homer Dixon states in his book *The Upside of Down* (2010) that if we are to overcome climate change we have to reduce our individual carbon footprint by 90% .

However, what many of us do not realize that climate change does not have to be a begrudging journey of self sacrifice and lower our quality of life. Rather there is exciting opportunity that climate change presents for us.



Opportunity can reframe how we look at climate change



# Permaculture

Graham Bell definition of permaculture is:

Permaculture is the conscious design and maintenance of agriculturally productive systems which have the diversity, stability, and resilience of natural ecosystems. It is the harmonious integration of the landscape with people providing their food, energy, shelter and other material and non-material needs in a sustainable way

But, permaculture is more than this, as it is individuals working with nature to help improve its condition. Through this not only are they connecting with nature but they are making change that provides them with nutritious local produce.

# Why Permaculture

We need to believe that we as individuals can make change. Permaculture provides the opportunity not only see change but to be participating in this transforming and preconfiguring a future society that respects nature.

We many not be able to feel the effects of climate change, but we can be exposed to experience nature every single day. The lacking interaction we have with climate change can be replaced by engaging with nature, by engaging with nature we can realize the importance of climate change.

# Establishing a Belief that we can make change





# Making change by people participating in it



# Participation can segue way into finding meaning in relationships

“60-80% of our impact on the planet comes from house hold consumption” (Environment Hamiltion, 2017).

We need to move away from material goods and non essentials and find fulfillment in the everyday things around us, like food, nature and people.





The American Geo-physical Union (AGU) sees that there is a direct correlation between the values of selfishness, greedy and individualism that neo-liberal culture has fostered and people's having anti-environmental views and that climate change is irreversible (Klein, 2015).

Psychologist Tim Kasser declares that “people prioritize values and goals such as achievement, money, power, status and image, they tend to hold more negative attitudes towards the environment, are less likely to engage in positive environmental behaviors and are more likely to use natural resources unsustainably (Kline, p. 60, 2015).

In other words our culture is predicated on teaching us that we are against nature, rather than being part of nature.



**Permanent:** to live sustainably on the planet indefinitely

**Agriculture:** the practice of farming

-If we are to address climate change we need to build a relationship with nature and each other. This that shows the importance of the planet and can help us build a personal relationships that we derive meaning from.

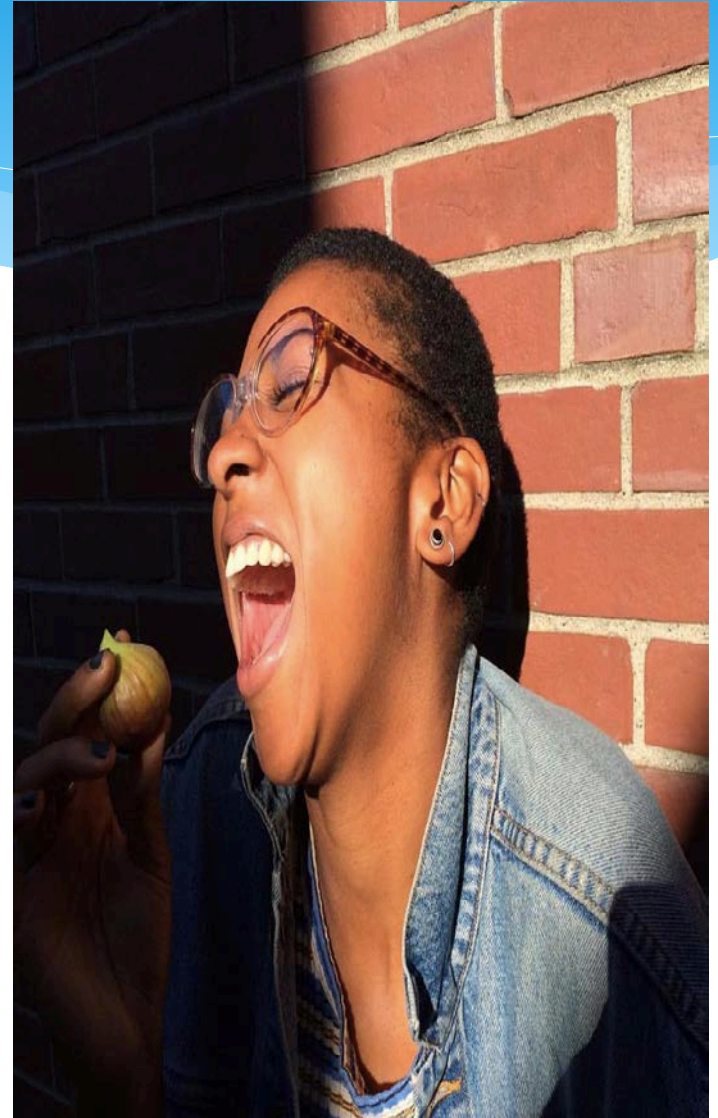
### **Permaculture's guiding principles**

- Earth Care
- People Care
- Share Surplus.

Food is a great way to gain people's interest because we are so connected to it, as it is a social context we are in daily and we are comfortable to talk about food. This is where we can use the popularity of local food to loop them into making change.



**“To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow”- Audrey Hepburn**





# Bring Permaculture to McMaster

The best way to bring about change is to actually do it and provide the outlet to others

