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The Recycling Times



HADCO Group's Recycling Division Monthly E-Newsletter



Image Credit: [Insider](#)

Feeling the Heat? How Climate Change is Affecting Trinidad and Tobago

Have you noticed the heat over the past few months? It's not just you... Trinidad and Tobago is becoming noticeably hotter. The [Meteorological Office](#) warns of warmer-than-average temperatures during the 2023 dry season for the months of April to June. The MET Office reported a high of 36.3 degrees Celsius on April 16 2023, however, [AccuWeather readings for Port of Spain](#) state it can feel more like anywhere from 38-40 degrees Celsius. It's safe to say we are burning up in the Caribbean sun!

All of this is not happenstance - it is directly linked to climate change and its effects on small island states such as ours. The United Nations' body for assessing the science related to climate change, called the [IPCC \(Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change\)](#) notes in a 2022 report that "islands are increasingly affected by increases in temperature, the growing impacts of tropical cyclones, storm surges, droughts, changing precipitation patterns, sea level rise, coral bleaching and invasive species."

In this month's Recycling Times, we will briefly touch on how global warming is affecting Trinidad and Tobago, and how manufacturers, businesses, and eco-conscious citizens alike can play their part to reduce our carbon footprint.

"GLOBAL WARMING AFFECTS EVERYONE, ESPECIALLY SMALL CARIBBEAN NATIONS. HADCO'S RECYCLING DIVISION OFFERS A SUITE OF COLLECTION SERVICES TO HELP MITIGATE AND LOWER OUR COUNTRY'S CARBON FOOTPRINT."

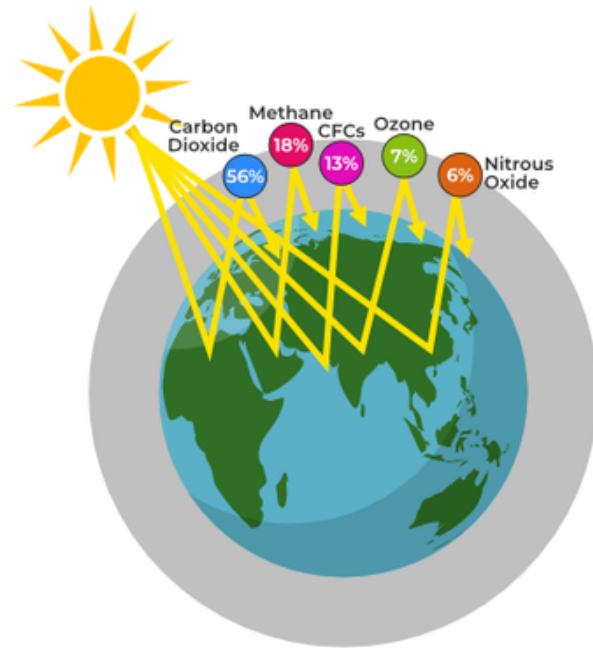
Kevin Whiteman -
Managing Director,
Recycling Division,
HADCO Group



Greenhouse Gases and Global Warming

What are 'greenhouse gases?'

When gases such as carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), nitrous oxide (N₂O), and others, are emitted into the air, they act like a blanket around the earth, allowing sunlight to pass through but trapping a portion of the heat energy, hence the 'greenhouse' comparison. Greenhouse gases play a significant role in global warming by trapping heat in the earth's atmosphere and creating noticeably hotter temperatures.



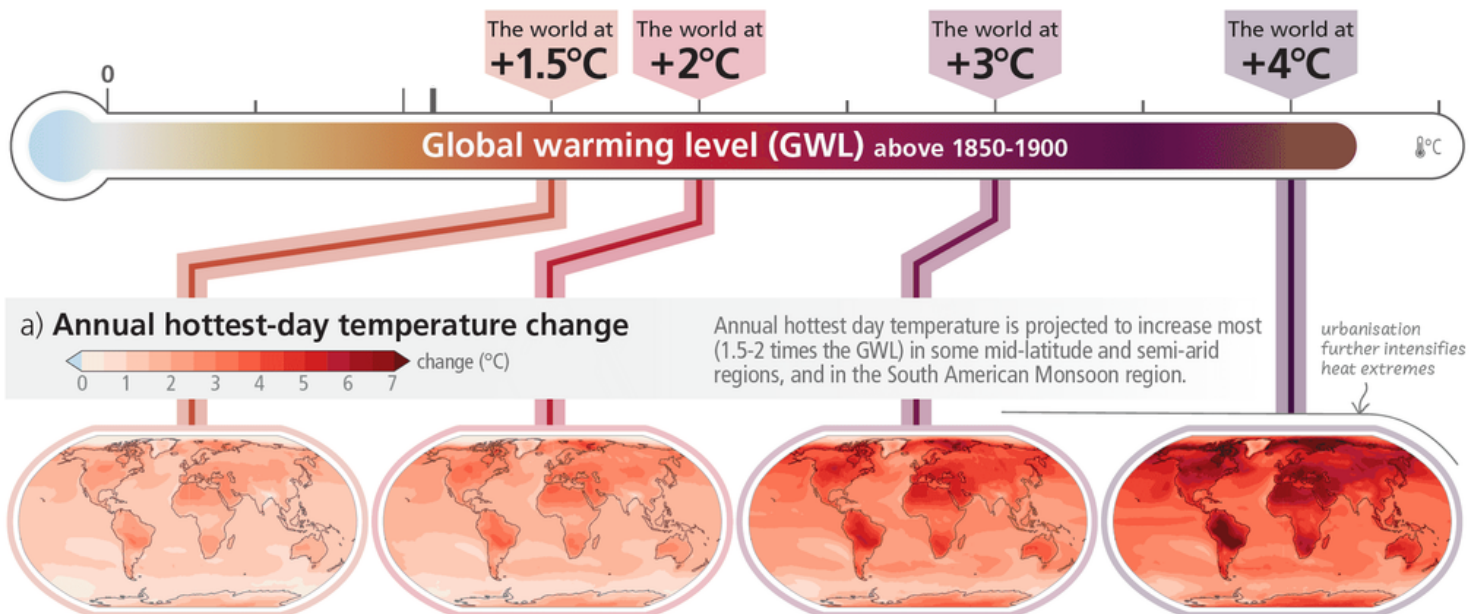
Simplistic illustration showcasing greenhouse gas molecules trapping heat in the earth's atmosphere
Image Credit: [Geeksforgeeks](https://www.geeksforgeeks.org/)

The primary greenhouse gas responsible for most of the warming effects is carbon dioxide (CO₂), released through activities such as burning fossil fuels (coal, oil, and natural gas), deforestation, and industrial processes. The second and third biggest offenders are methane (CH₄) and nitrous oxide (N₂O) which are released through agricultural practices, livestock farming, landfills, and certain industrial activities.

The challenge with reducing greenhouse gases is that fossil fuels remain an essential energy resource, and it becomes very complicated to phase them out without the proper implementation and transition to renewable energy alternatives.

How Global Warming Affects Trinidad and Tobago

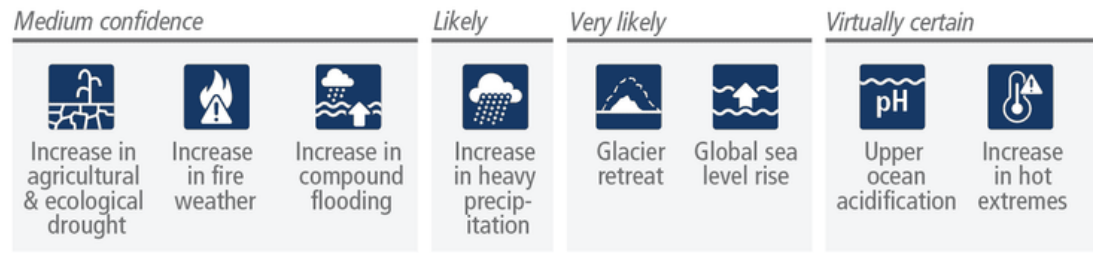
Whilst global warming has dire effects all around the world, the [IPCC](https://www.ipcc.ch/) has done extensive research and model mapping with experts in the field to extrapolate what the future could be like, should we not curb our carbon footprint.



Model map of predicted temperature increases due to carbon emissions and global warming

As you can see, the temperature is only predicted to increase. Other related side-effects specifically affecting small island nation states such as Trinidad and Tobago are also expected to increase.

Attribution of observed physical climate changes to human influence:



List of predicted detrimental side-effects of global warming

Image Credit: [IPCC](#)

The Good News

We are not prophets of doom and gloom - there is hope. Through a mixture of awareness, activism, government policy and regulation, there can be a smooth transition to renewable energy sources and practices that lower carbon emissions.

HADCO's Recycling Division is committed to doing what we can to provide recycling collection services to help manufacturers, businesses, and eco-conscious citizens lower Trinidad and Tobago's collective carbon emissions. Through our recycling companies Ecoimpact and New Age Recycling, we have collected over six million kilograms of waste materials in 2022 alone!

Ecoimpact reduces Trinidad and Tobago's carbon footprint by collecting the nation's Waste Vegetable Oil (WVO) from local restaurants and households, which would usually be discarded in kitchen sinks, leading to clogged drains and waterways, and polluting the water table.







The collected WVO undergoes a series of rigorous and precise filtration processes before being packaged and shipped to international biodiesel manufacturers to be used as a renewable fuel source for motor vehicles.

Also in Ecoimpact's portfolio of services is an end-of-life tyre recycling facility, set to launch later this year. Through a series of shredding and grinding processes, the end-of-life tyres are processed for export to be used to manufacture recycled rubber and steel wire-based products.

Through our end-of-life tyre recycling facility, we can mitigate the environmental and health risks to the population and the ozone layer, due to the indiscriminate burning of tyres and dumping in landfills and residential areas.

New Age Recycling reduces Trinidad and Tobago's carbon footprint by providing collection solutions for a host of recyclable materials such as wastepaper, cardboard, aluminium cans, glass, Tetra Pak, and PET plastics. The collected materials are exported to international recycling plants to be turned into new items.

List of Items collected by HADCO's Recycling Division

	Waste Vegetable Cooking Oil
	End-of-Life Tyres
	Wastepaper
	Cardboard
	Plastics
	Glass

Get Involved!

Together we can combat global warming by playing our part to reduce our country's carbon footprint! If you are a manufacturer, business, or eco-conscious citizen you can take advantage of our complimentary collection services!

Please feel free to reach out to us at the contact numbers below.

For sorted plastics (PET and HDPE), glass, Tetra Pak, aluminium cans, wastepaper, and cardboard inquiries, please contact New Age Recycling at (868) 290-2970 / 2975 or visit www.newagerecyclingtt.com.

For inquiries about waste vegetable oil (WVO), used lead-acid batteries and used tyres, please contact Ecoimpact Company Limited at (868) 633-3609 or visit www.ecoimpacttt.com.



Do not forget to stay hydrated in the heat to prevent dehydration and heat stroke

Image Credit: [Unsplash](https://unsplash.com)

For more information on our Recycling Division
visit us at www.hadcoltd.com/divisions/recycling

