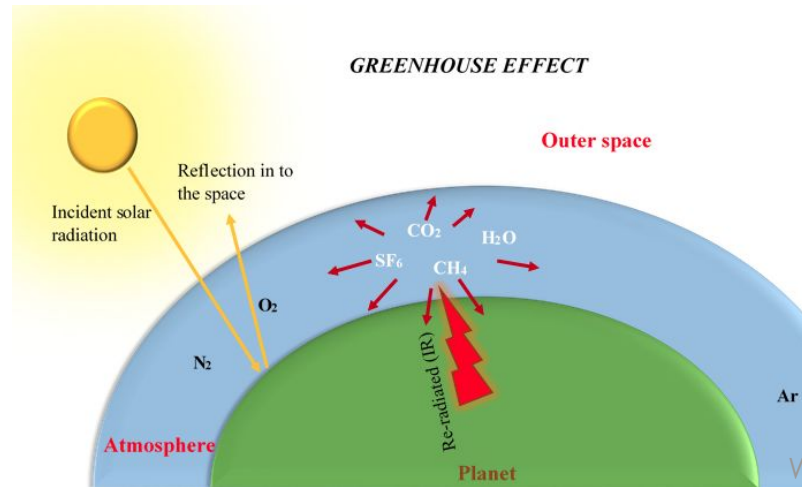


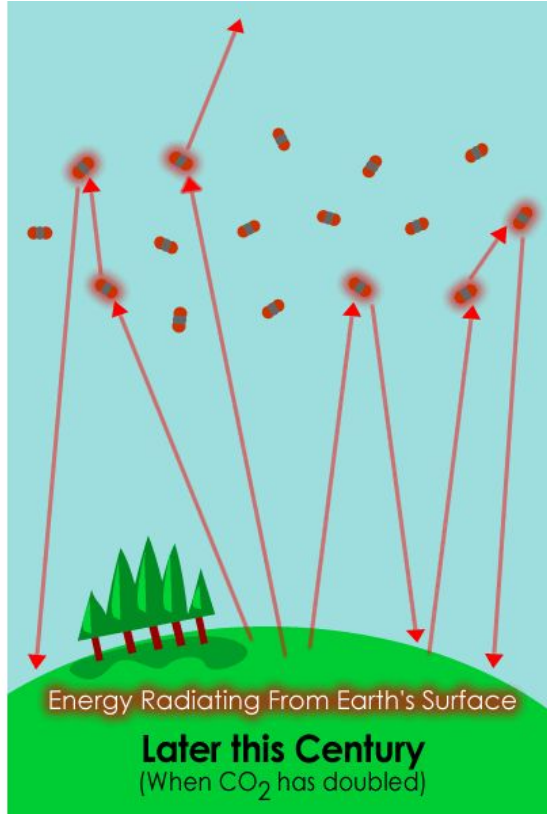
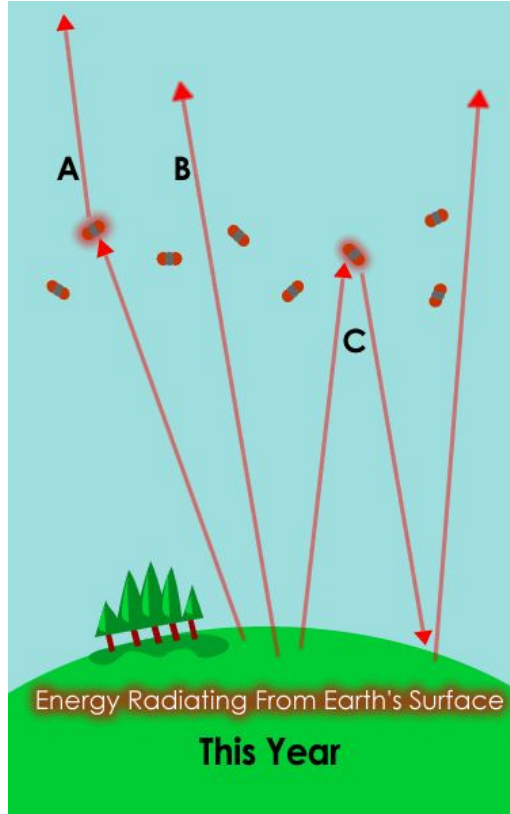
Energy from the Sun that makes its way to Earth can have **trouble finding its way back out** to space. The greenhouse effect causes some of this energy to be waylaid in the atmosphere, absorbed and released by greenhouse gases.

Without the greenhouse effect, [Earth's temperature would be below freezing](#). It is, in part, a natural process. However, Earth's **greenhouse effect is getting stronger as we add greenhouse gases to the atmosphere**. That is warming the climate of our planet.

More Greenhouse Gases = A Warmer Earth



The Earth's surface, warmed by the Sun, radiates heat into the atmosphere. Some heat is absorbed by greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide and then radiated to space (A). Some heat makes its way to space directly (B). Some heat is absorbed by greenhouse gases and then radiated back towards the Earth's surface (C).



With more carbon dioxide in the atmosphere later this Century, more heat will be stopped by greenhouse gases, warming the planet.

(Image: L.S.Gardiner/UCAR)