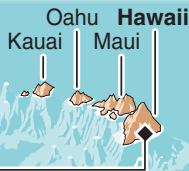


# 50 years of continuous CO<sub>2</sub> measurement

The longest continuous measurement of atmospheric carbon dioxide – still ongoing – began in November 1957 at the Mauna Loa Observatory in Hawaii, inspired by a growing awareness among scientists that the burning of fossil fuels had the potential to alter the climate



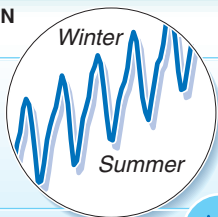
Observatory located at 3,350m altitude to gain access to clean, particle-free air – no suitable site found in continental U.S.



CO<sub>2</sub> parts per million

## ATMOSPHERIC CARBON DIOXIDE LEVELS

**Keeling Curve** – named after Dr Charles “Dave” Keeling, scientist who initiated project at age 29



Distinctive saw-tooth slope shows CO<sub>2</sub> levels rising and falling with seasons

CO<sub>2</sub> level rising by 350

0.53% or two ppm per year since 1958

Monitoring organisation: Scripps Institution of Oceanography

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

325

1960

1970

1980

1990

2000