



# Climate Adaptation Plan for the Navajo Nation

**Navajo Nation Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Climate Change Program**

"CLIMATE ACTION FOR DINETAH"

# Key Terms

## **Adaptation**

Taking action to prepare for and adjust to both the current and future effects of climate change

## **Weather**

The state of the atmosphere and what you see and feel on a daily basis

## **Climate**

The average pattern of weather conditions over a long period of time

## **Climate Change**

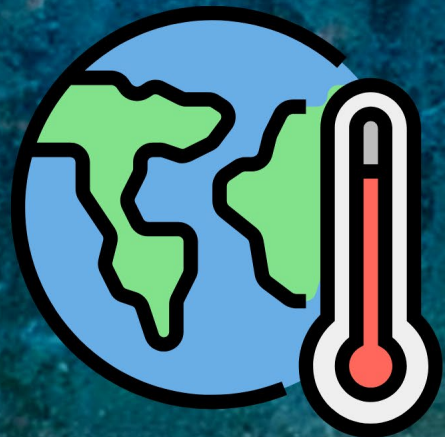
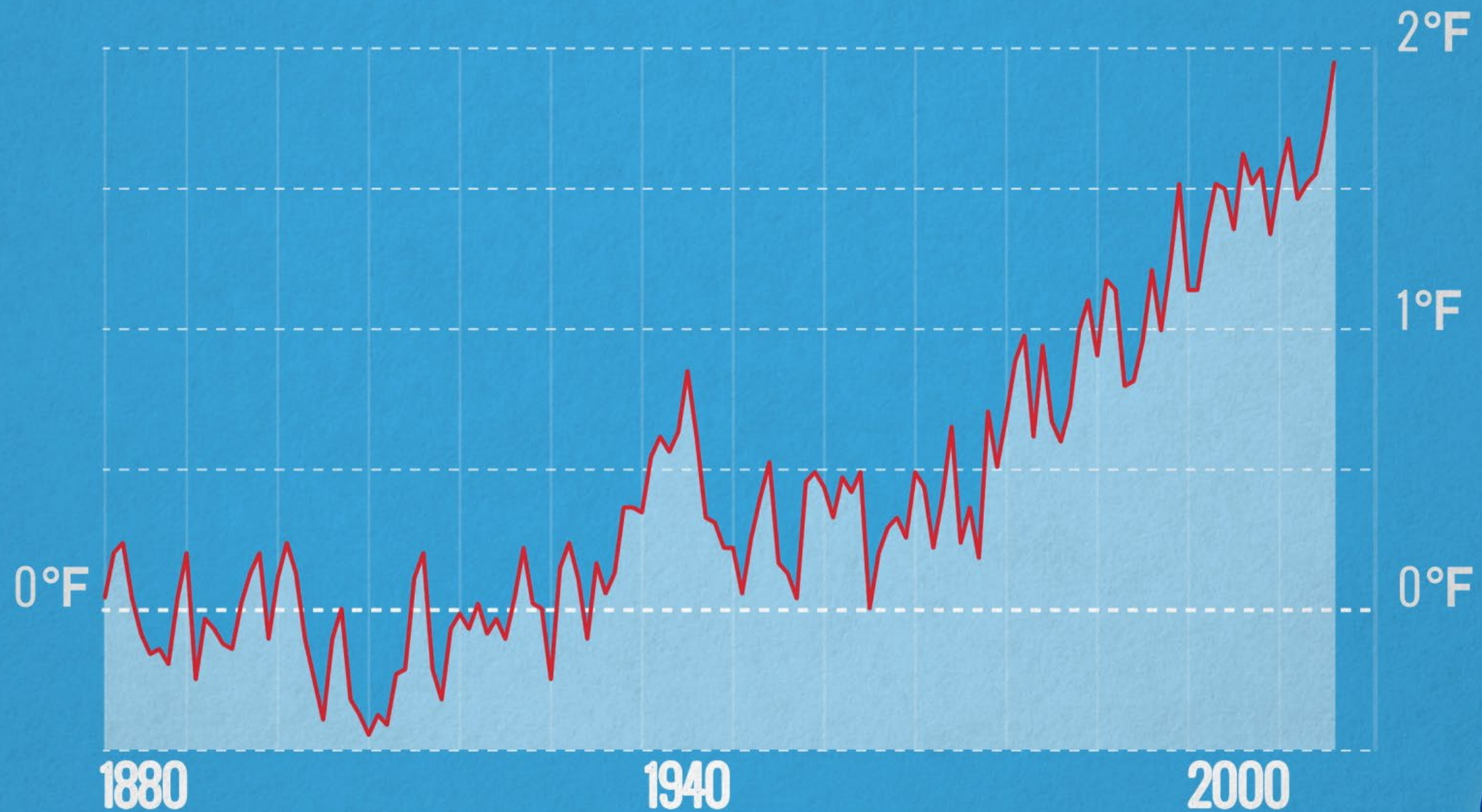
The long term change in the average weather patterns

## **Global Warming**

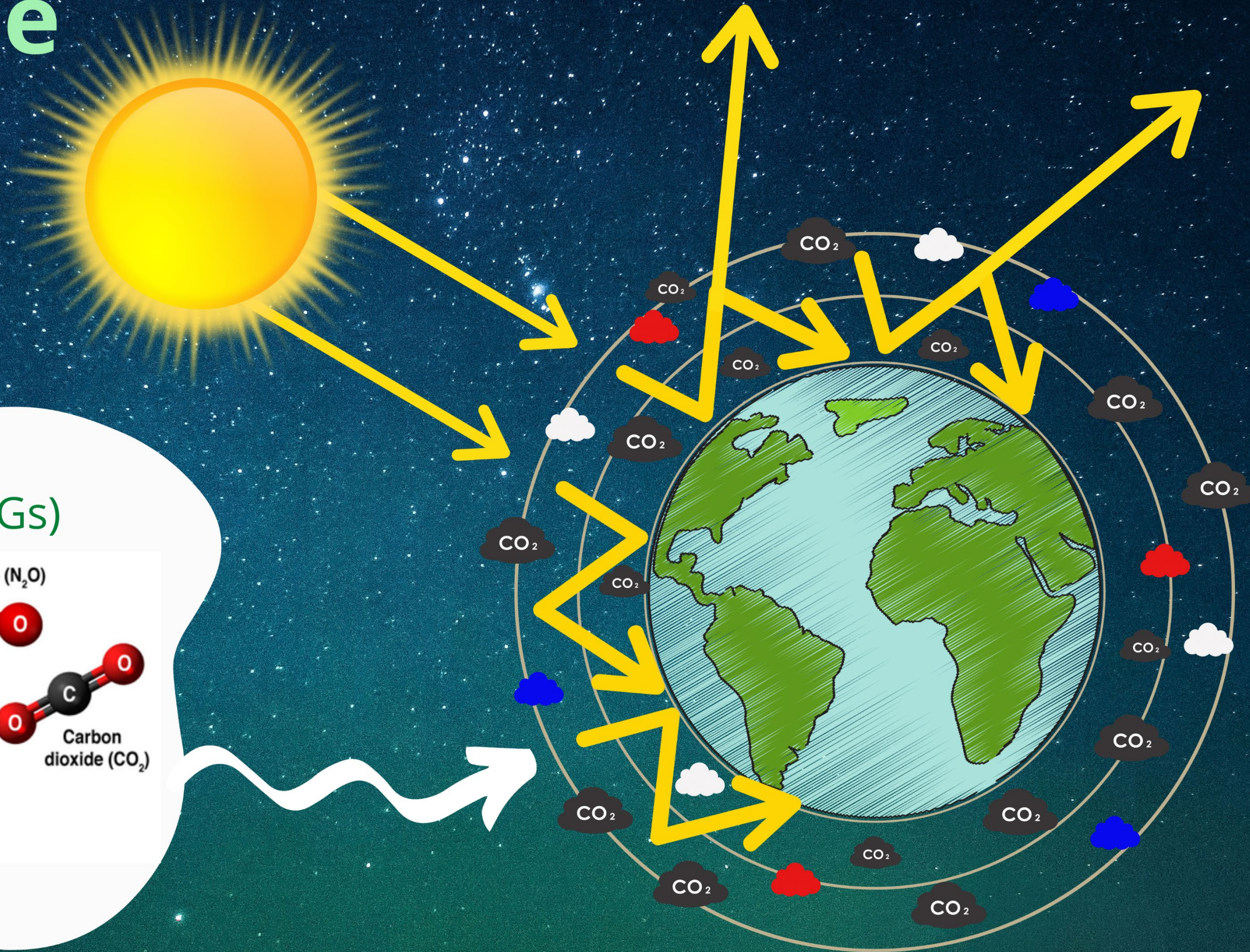
The increase in Earth's average temperature over a long period of time

# GLOBAL WARMING

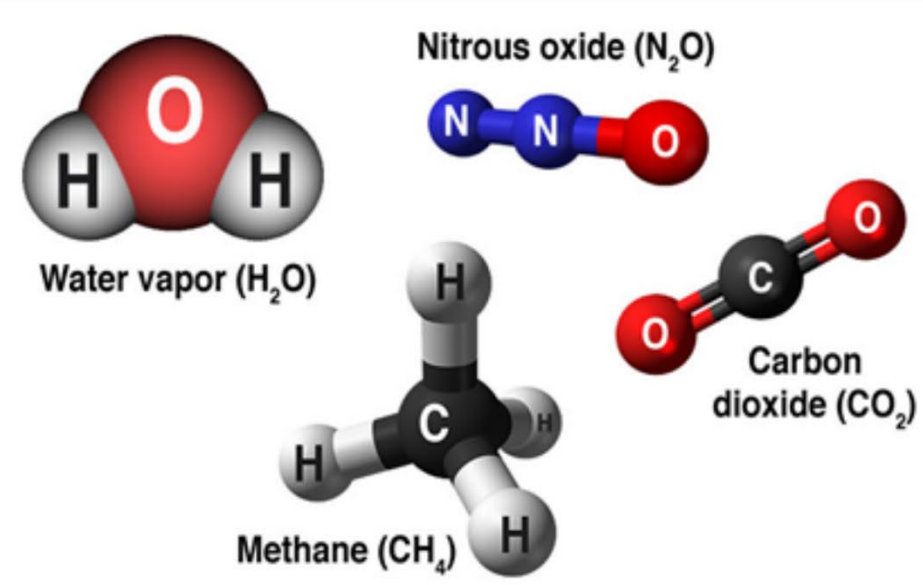
ANNUAL GLOBAL TEMPERATURE CHANGE



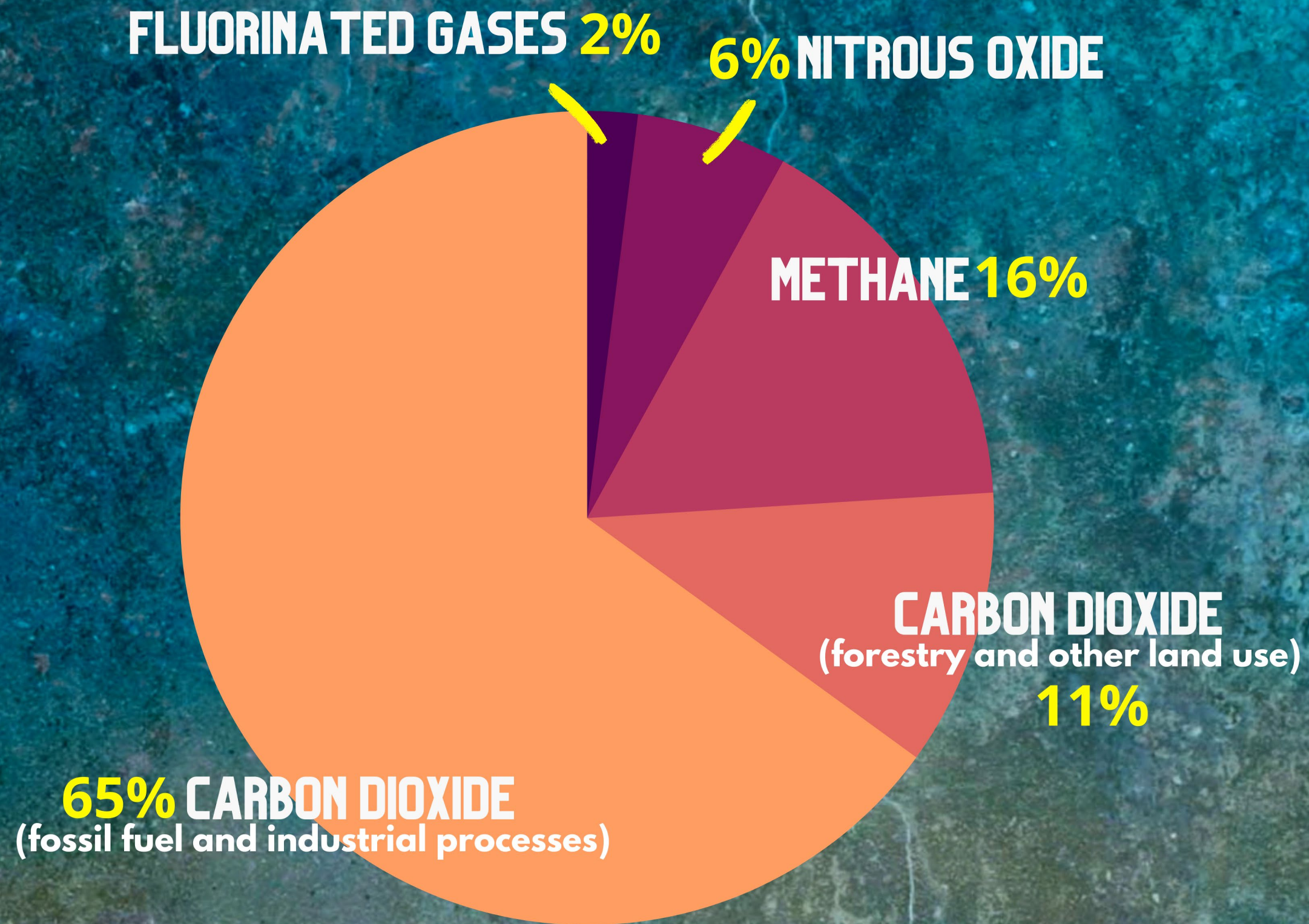
# Greenhouse Effect



## Greenhouse Gases (GHGs)



# Global GHGs: Atmosphere



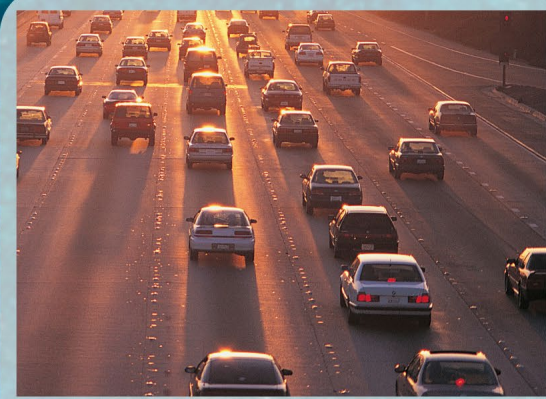
# Global GHG Emissions: Economic Sector



**6%**  
**Buildings**



**10%**  
**Other Energy**



**14%**  
**Transportation**



**21%**  
**Industry**



**24%**  
**Agriculture,  
Forestry,  
& Other Land Use**



**25%**  
**Electricity and  
Heat Production**

What is happening in our community?





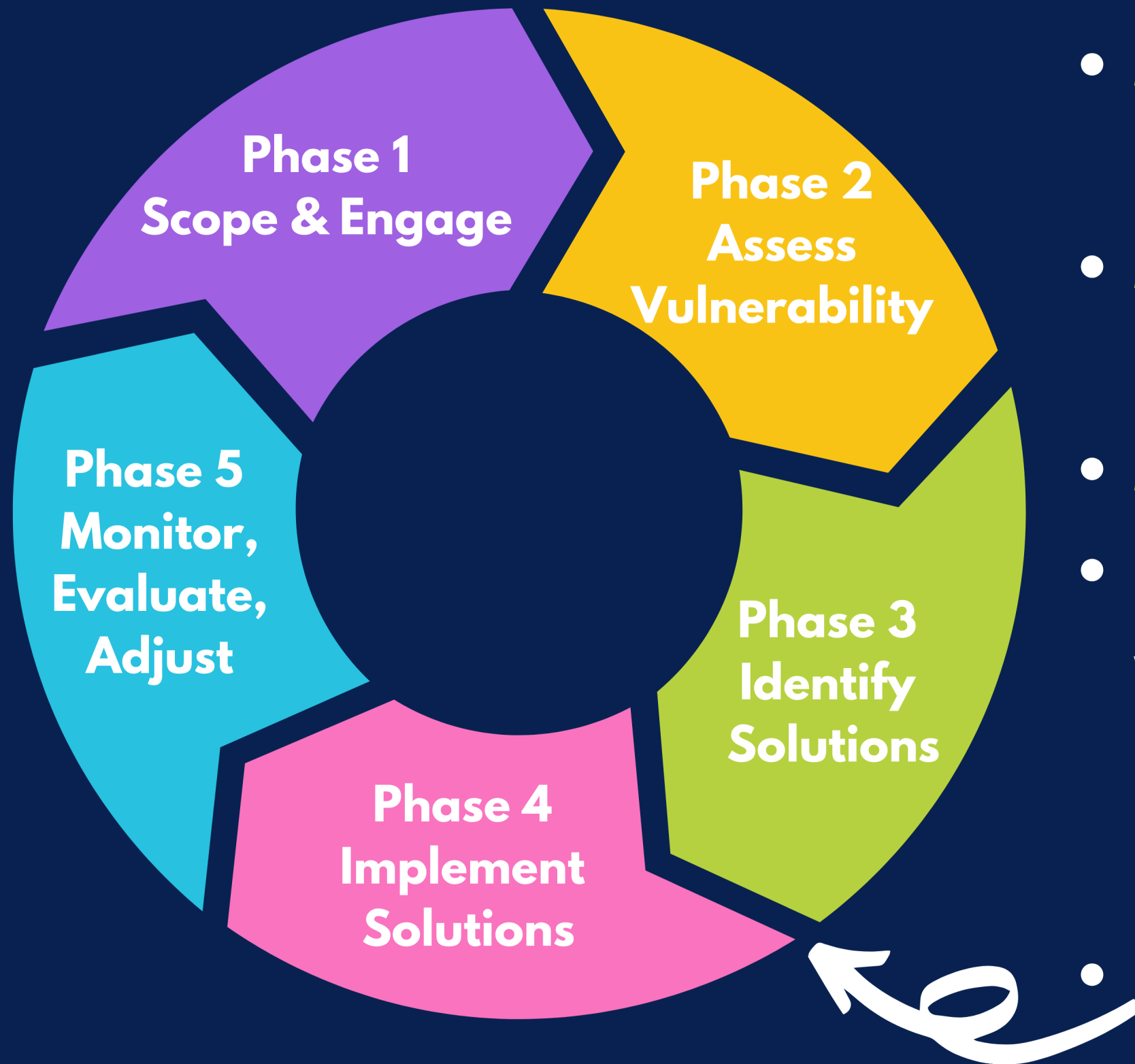
# Climate Change on the Navajo Nation





# Climate Change on the Navajo Nation

# Developing the Climate Adaptation Plan for the Navajo Nation: Nitsahakees



- **2016** BIA Tribal Resiliency Grant for Tribal Adaptation and Capacity Building
- **2017** NNDFW began the Climate Change Program
- **2018** A workshop was held for the NNDNR
- **50** Community leaders attending 1 of 2 workshops in March 2018, to create a prioritized list of natural resource concerns on the Navajo Nation
- **5-Phase Process from ITEP of NAU**



# **AG Elected Leader's Priority List**

**1. Water**

**2. Feral Horses**

**3. Communication**

**4. Enforcement/Compliance**

**5. Pollution, Air Quality, & Illegal Dumping**

**6. Grazing Management**

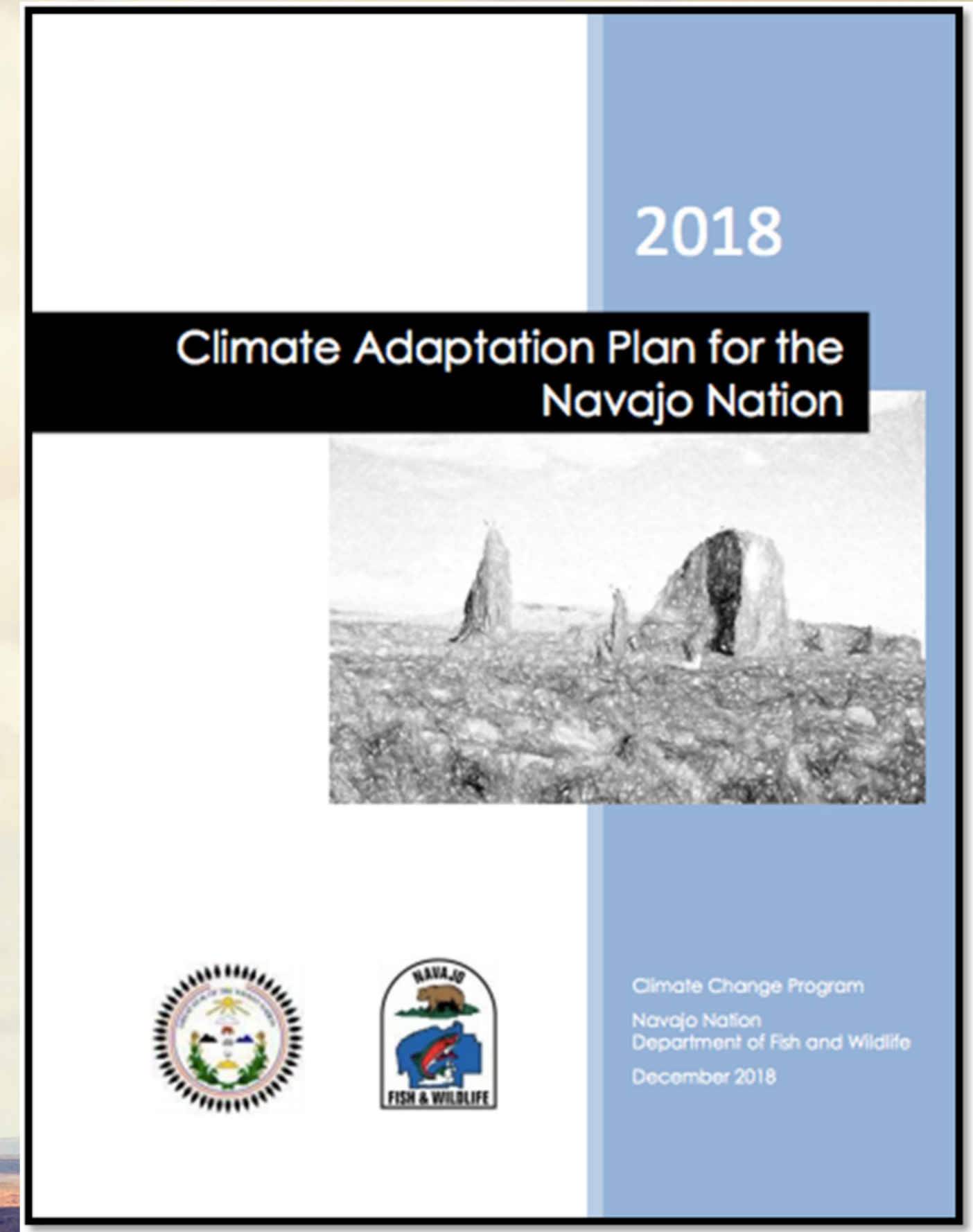


# Nahat'ah: The Plan

- 42-page booklet that was published in 2018
- 2019 the plan was approved by the Resources Committee and Development of the Navajo Nation Council
- 1st step to implementing this plan is educating the communities across the Navajo Nation

## Contributors:

The NN Climate Change Team, NNDFW & NNDWR  
Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals, NAU  
NN Division of Natural Resources  
NN Department of Agriculture



# Priority Point 1: Water

**Vulnerabilities:** Outdated water regulations (home and farm). Poor communication with Navajo and non-Navajo entities, and lack of expert opinions on using water efficiently.

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## GOALS:

To adjudicate water rights

To recycle water

To protect, preserve, and restore watershed and the headwaters

To provide reliable water supply (maintain a current water level)

To have clean water

To ensure high quality water for all users

To provide education outreach

To secure funding for local communities for natural resource management

To obtain more water statistics/data



# Priority Point 2: Feral Horses

**Vulnerabilities:** Lack of proper equipment, unknown process for facilitating a round-up, lack of government support for horse round-up

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## GOALS:



To improve the Navajo Nation's ability to effectively enforce livestock management regulations

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To address the need for an informed Navajo Nation citizenry by developing livestock management education programs to inform communities about the need for sustainable management, the environmental impacts from unmanaged horses, and to introduce curriculum programs to elementary schools

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To improve interest in Navajo horse adoption programs by forming effective partnerships and conducting educational outreach

# Priority Point 3: **Communication**

**Vulnerabilities:** Time frames for paperwork to be finalized, inconsistent information with other departments, misinterpretation of the Navajo Language and non-speakers, not passing down information to new personnel

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## **GOALS:**

To insure safety and wellbeing of the community during climatic change and establish a long-term plan

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Inform and direct the community to follow standard protocol, upgrade a strong communication network within the community, and create partnerships with emergency management

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To develop a strong interdepartmental communication strategy and improve communication with a chain of command





# Priority Point 4: Enforcement & Compliance

**Vulnerabilities:** Community leaders taking on responsibility because the lack of enforcement and assistance from other depts. The community leaders are left to enforce the regulations in their communities and are sometimes left to deal with repercussions from the permit holders.

## GOALS:



To secure long-term funding

To have adequate resources

To provide educational outreach

To have a court system that is familiar with natural resource laws and regulations

Finding harmony between being culturally sensitive and following the laws and regulations

To provide and protect against threats for enforcement

Mandate all department and officials to comply with the grazing management booklet

# Priority Point 5: Pollution, Air Quality, & Illegal Dumping

**Vulnerabilities:** Implementing new recycle centers and provide mobile centers for rural communities, education outreach for these centers and how to take advantage of them, to have these centers assessed and created to EPA standards to eliminate contamination.

## GOALS:



Create re-usable energy to establish new sources on the NN

Establish landfill centers to reduce pollution on the NN

To develop a policy to reduce and eliminate trash burning

Establish ed programs on the effects of pollution, air quality, and illegal dumping

To have land and water free of toxic waste

For NN to comply with environmental standards

Implement Carbon Tax on the NN

To control carbon emissions

Mandate laws of transport of hazardous and toxic materials on the NN

To establish air space initiative to prevent contamination across large areas while in air transport

To establish natural gas lines and minimize the usage of more harmful emissions

Protect the NN from future fracking and chemical injection activities to prevent pollution to our land and water resources

# Priority Point 6: Grazing Management

**Vulnerabilities:** Containing the feral horse population, lack of community involvement and education on new grazing techniques, community leaders receive physical and verbal backlash from community members

## GOALS:

Educate the youth, elders, and our fellow peers about grazing management topics such as rules and regulations, soil sciences, pasture rotation, disease prevention

Establish separation of power among NPL, ARMA, New Lands, NN and Fed. Gov.

To improve the NNs overall vegetation health

Have the ability to protect and provide adequate forage for both wildlife and endangered species on the range

Establish relationships with outside non-profit natural resource organizations and/or cost-sharing programs

Complete all existing fencing projects on the NN

To develop a chemical disposal policy

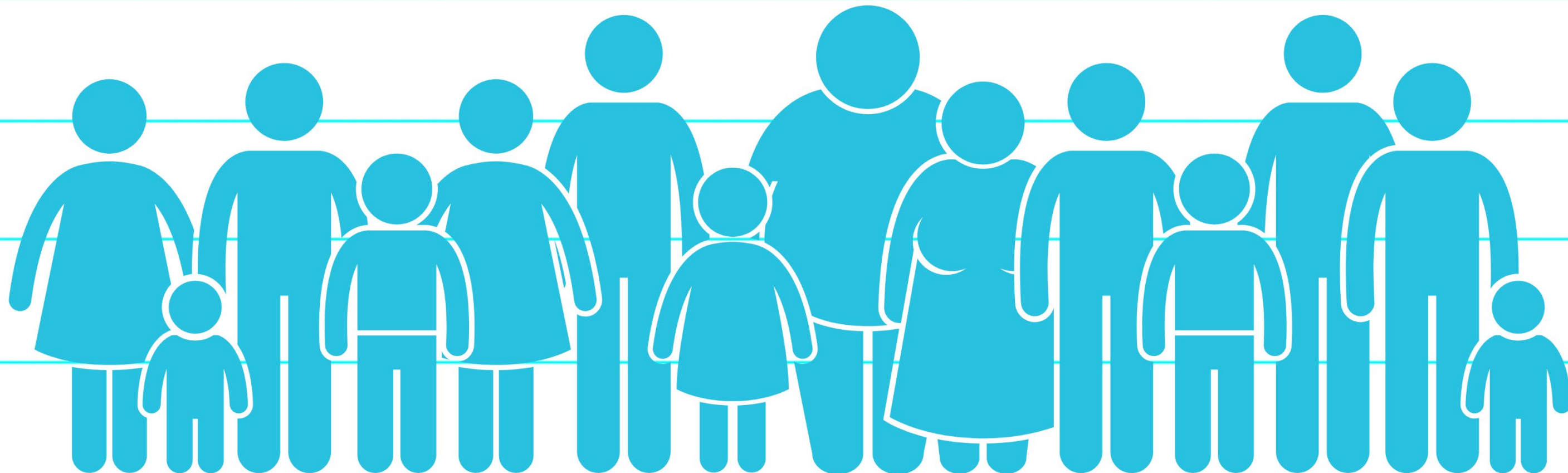
To eliminate invasive species

Revisit the Rangeland Improvement Act of 2014 and amend Title III



# Community Implementation (Iina)

- Participation from everyone is the key to the success of this plan
- Communities taking action to accomplish goals will greatly help
- Community leaders will determine which goals will be complete first
- This plan is a living document



# What can you do in your community to start helping today?



Recycle



Carpool



Conserve Water



Conserve Electricity

Plant Trees



Support Local

Farmers



Adapt



Educate





**THANK YOU...**  
**ANY QUESTIONS?**



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