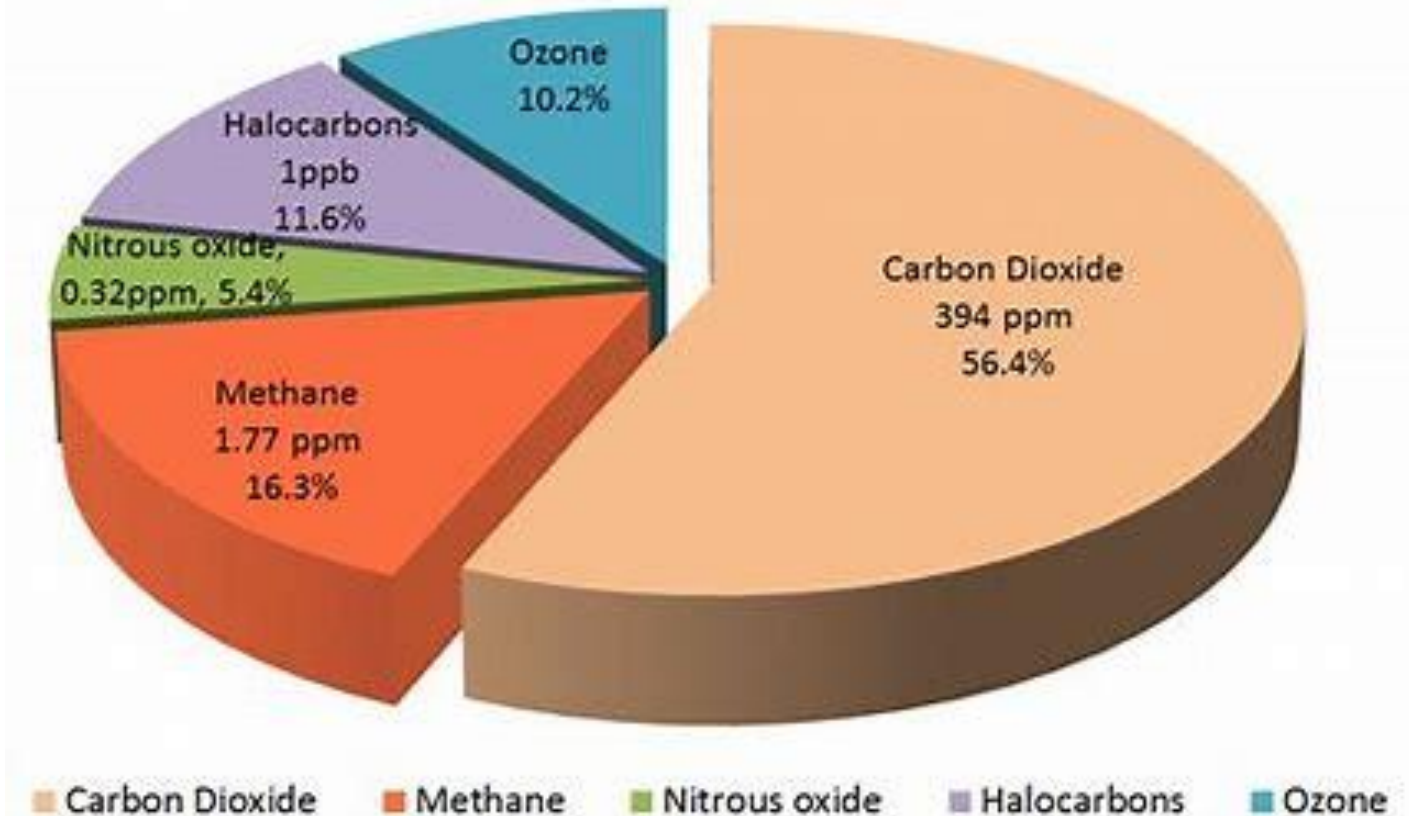




GREENHOUSE GAS EFFECT

WHAT ARE GREENHOUSE GASES

- Greenhouse gases are gases that are very efficient (good) at keeping the infrared heat radiated by the Earth in our atmosphere.



THE MAIN GREENHOUSE GASES

- **Carbon dioxide (CO₂)**: Carbon dioxide enters the atmosphere through burning fossil fuels (coal, natural gas, and oil), solid waste, trees and wood products, and also as a result of certain chemical reactions (e.g., manufacture of cement). Carbon dioxide is removed from the atmosphere (or "sequestered") when it is absorbed by plants as part of the biological carbon cycle.
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THE MAIN GREENHOUSE GASES

- **Water Vapor:** Water vapor is found throughout our atmosphere as a gas after evaporating from oceans and earth's surface. Water is very good at holding heat which can increase the atmospheric temperatures. Unfortunately as the temperatures rise the amount of water vapor in the air increases also.

THE MAIN GREENHOUSE GASES

- **Methane (CH₄)**: Methane is emitted during the production and transport of coal, natural gas, and oil. Methane emissions also result from livestock and other agricultural practices and by the decay of organic waste in municipal solid waste landfills.



THE MAIN GREENHOUSE GASES

- Nitrous oxide (N₂O): Nitrous oxide is emitted during agricultural and industrial activities, as well as during combustion of fossil fuels and solid waste.
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THE MAIN GREENHOUSE GASES

- Fluorinated gases: Hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, sulfur hexafluoride, and nitrogen trifluoride are synthetic, powerful greenhouse gas.