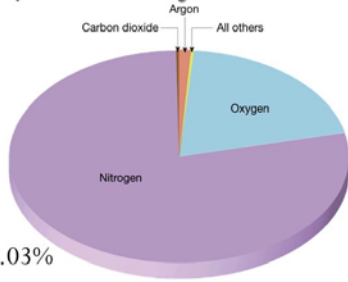


Earth's Atmosphere Today

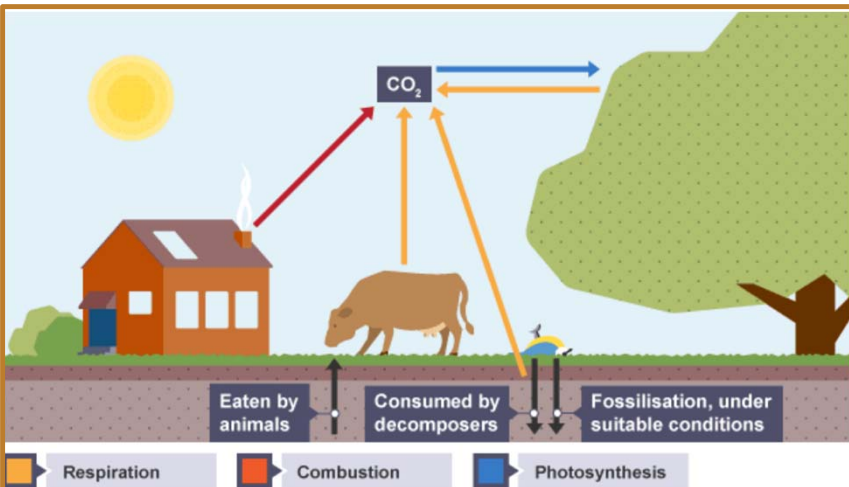
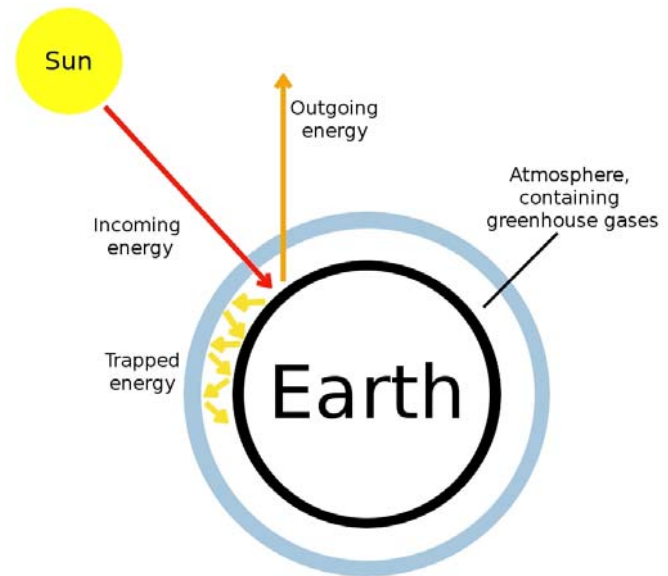
- 78% Nitrogen
- 21% Oxygen
- 1% Other
 - Argon 0.93%
 - Carbon Dioxide 0.03%
 - Water Vapor 0.03%
 - Trace Gases 0.01%



Key words

Carbon sink	Areas of vegetation, the ocean or the soil, which absorb and store carbon.
Fossil fuels	Remains of dead organisms that are burned as fuels, releasing carbon dioxide.
Global warming	The gradual increase in surface temperature of the Earth.
Greenhouse effect	When energy from the sun is transferred to the thermal energy store of gases in Earth's atmosphere.

Greenhouse effect on global warming.
The more Carbon dioxide (CO₂) and methane (CH₄) the more energy is trapped.



The carbon cycle

Carbon is being continually recycled on Earth. The processes that release carbon dioxide to the atmosphere include:

- combustion of fossil fuels
- respiration by plants and animals
- Carbon dioxide is taken in from the atmosphere by plants so that they can carry out photosynthesis