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# Good News Department

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## Scientists Warm To Greener Earth

(NAPSA)—Many Americans may be glad to hear what a number of distinguished agronomists, researchers and other experts have to say: we're on our way to a better and more productive world.

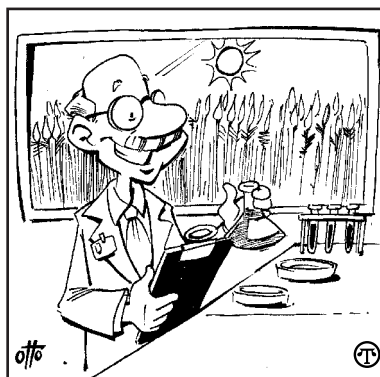
Why? Because of the increase in carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) levels in the atmosphere.

Higher CO<sub>2</sub>, the experts explain, stimulates faster growth in trees and other plants, improves water-use efficiency in growing things and can increase the yields of almost every important crop on earth.

Carbon dioxide is considered the major building block of life. Plants extract it from the atmosphere during photosynthesis and transform it into the food we need to survive. As a by-product of those processes, oxygen is released. Humans and animals get the carbon we need from the plants we eat. The oxygen we breathe oxidizes the carbon in our systems, and we exhale CO<sub>2</sub>.

CO<sub>2</sub> is also produced through fossil fuel combustion: An internal combustion engine, coal-fired power plant or natural gas turbine uses carbon stored in a fossil fuel (such as coal, which is ancient plant life) and burns (oxidizes) it—releasing energy and emitting CO<sub>2</sub>.

The increasing concentration of CO<sub>2</sub> in our atmosphere is due in part to such human activity,



**As more CO<sub>2</sub> warms the climate, many experts advise, the better off we'll be.**

although geologic processes—such as volcanos—still play a dominant role. Humans have been harnessing the energy unleashed by the oxidation of carbon for a very long time, and more and more of us have been doing so. We are, however, becoming increasingly efficient and innovative in the techniques we use to harness this energy.

You can learn more about CO<sub>2</sub> and what it may mean for the future from the experts at the Greening Earth Society, a not-for-profit, grass roots organization of people who believe humans are a part of nature, not apart from nature. It can be found online at [www.greeningearthsociety.org](http://www.greeningearthsociety.org) or you can call 800-529-4503.