WHAT IS CARBON? WHY SHOULD WE BE WORRIED?

1. Carbon is naturally around us. Our air naturally contains different gases, including carbon dioxide. Carbon dioxide is made up of carbon and oxygen. Carbon dioxide is a natural gas that is found in the air.

2. The greenhouse effect supports life on earth by keeping warmth from the sun. The sun’s energy is absorbed by the earth’s atmosphere, which is made up of different gases, including carbon dioxide. Carbon dioxide helps to keep the earth’s temperature warm enough for life to exist.

3. Human activities increase the amount of carbon in the air. When we burn fossil fuels, such as coal, oil, and gas, we release carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. This increases the amount of carbon dioxide in the air and contributes to the greenhouse effect.

4. Increased carbon in the air puts the greenhouse effect into overdrive, changing the climate. When too much carbon dioxide is present in the air, it can lead to changes in temperature, precipitation, and other elements of the climate system.

5. What does this mean? Rising temperatures, changing rainfall and seasons, and more crop failures are just a few of the effects of increased carbon dioxide. These changes can have significant impacts on people, animals, and the environment.