

## Ocean 38,000 Pg

This graphic represents the global carbon cycle. Carbon "pools" are where carbon is stored in the system. Their labels are in petagrammes (Pg= $10^{15}$ g). Arrows represent "fluxes", which indicate how carbon moves around the

system. They are labelled in Pg per year. The visible size of each piece of paper is in proportion to the pool size. Some very small fluxes are not shown. The Earth's crust contains a further 100,000,000 Pg of carbon.

The net effect is a small accumulation of carbon in the atmosphere in the form of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>). Even small increases in  $CO_2$  in the atmosphere can increase the amount of solar (heat) energy that is accumulated by the atmosphere.

Why use paper for the visualisation? Paper is

made from wood pulp or other plant fibre. About half the weight of paper is carbon. This carbon used to be in the atmosphere as CO<sub>2</sub> until the plants absorbed it through photosynthesis.

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