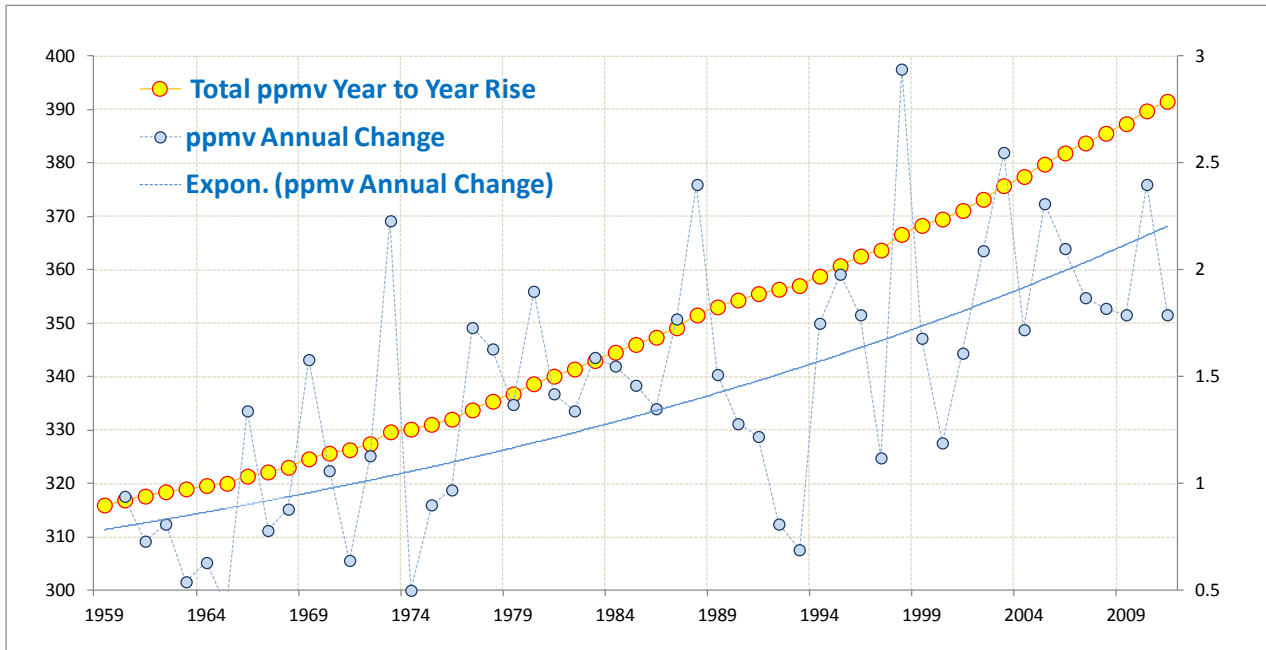


ATMOSPHERIC CO₂ RISE IS ACCELERATING

The data plotted here show the rising atmospheric concentration of CO₂ [1959-2011] measured in 'ppmv' or 'parts per million by volume'. The yellow circles show the famous 'Keeling Curve'. They are from observations made at the Mauna Loa Observatory. At a current value of 392.5 ppmv and an average annual increase now of nearly 2.5 ppmv a year, it is clear that we will pass the 400 ppmv value in three to four years.



The data plotted again below show the rising atmospheric concentration of CO₂ [1959-2011] only this time converted to 'Gt C' or 'giga [billions] of tonnes of carbon'. The standard conversion rate is 2.13 Gt C is equal to one ppmv CO₂. Doing this conversion makes it easier to compare emissions with concentrations. Over 50 years, the average annual increase in concentrations has more than doubled from around 2 Gt C in 1960 to 4.5 in 2011. During the same period, the average annual CO₂ emissions output has more than quadrupled from around 2 Gt C in 1960 to around 9 Gt C in 2011.

