

Illustrating Climate Data

Background

Scientists have been studying and collecting information about our planet for thousands of years. Using that data, we can see how our planet's climate is changing - and what's causing it.

Inspired by artist Jill Pelto, we can use real scientific data to create unique pieces of art to create emotional connections.

Supplies

- Drawing supplies: paper, crayons, colored pencils, markers, water colors, etc.
- Printed climate data graphs. See below for example graphs, or make your own! You can find sources for downloadable climate data in the Resources box.
- A space to draw and reflect. Find a friend or family member to share your project with!

Guiding Questions

- What emotions do you feel when looking at climate data?
- What does the data mean for ourselves, our ecosystems, and our world?
- How can art help create action?

Illustrating Climate Data

Instructions

- Choose one of the climate data graphs below (or create your own using climate data!).
- What does the graph show? For example, one graph might show how much the ocean has risen each year in your area.
- How could you communicate the meaning of this data using art? Look at the shape of graph: can you imagine a landscape? A city? What colors or shapes will help portray what this graph means?
- Use whatever art materials you have to create a unique piece of art. Remember: there is no "right" answer! Use your art to share how the data makes you feel, what it means for your community, etc.!
- Once you have finished your piece of art, create an Artist's Statement. This statement will describe what you made and why. Be sure to title your piece and sign it, too!
- Share your art with friends and family. Put it up on your fridge, on a community bulletin board, or even on social media. See if you can inspire your community to talk about climate change.

Resources

- Explore over 150 years of climate data in your region from NOAA and the National Weather Service. Search for "NWS NOWData" or "NOAA Tides and Currents" to find public databases.
- Explore current weather conditions on Rainsford Island through the Stone Living Lab monitoring station on the SLL homepage.
- Read more about artist Jill Pelto at her website: jillpelto.com

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Use Boston-area climate data to create climate art!

What emotions do you feel when looking at this data?

What does the data mean for ourselves, our ecosystems, and our world?

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Frequently Asked Questions

What is causing the climate to change?

- Greenhouse gases trap heat from the sun in our atmosphere, causing the air and the ocean to warm. Another consequence of this effect is the melting of ancient glaciers, which are crucial to regulating sea level and temperature rise.

What do art and climate change have to do with each other?

- Art has always been a form of expression and storytelling, but also a tool for change. Climate change is already affecting people globally. From an increase in extreme weather events, to droughts, to heat waves. Through art we can process change, imagine new futures for ourselves, tell our stories, express emotion, and foster community.

How should I contribute to this community art project?

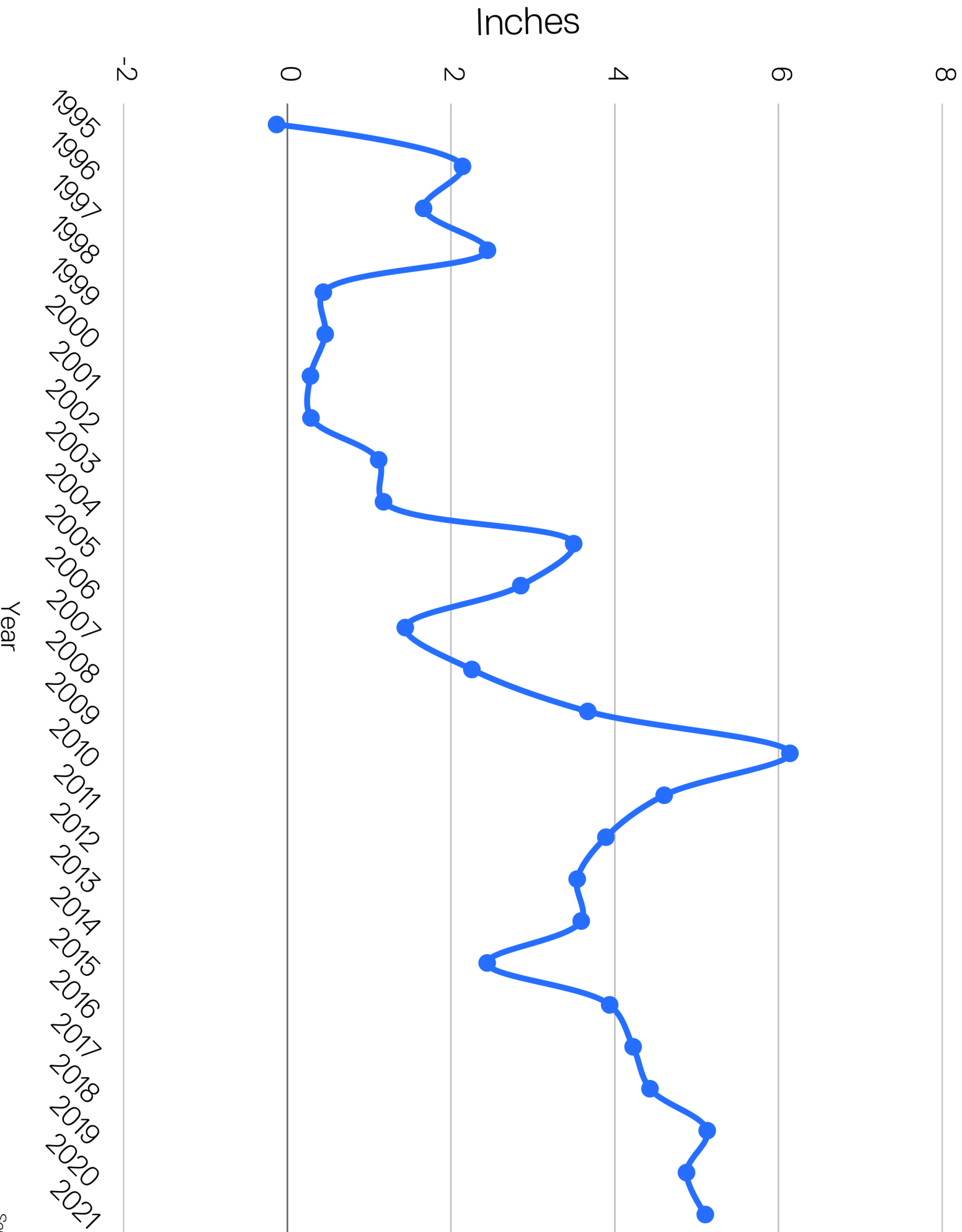
- There are no wrong answers here. Your art is your art, and whatever come to mind and heart for you is what should guide your creative process. But here are some ways you might spark inspiration:
 - Notice the extremes of each individual peak and valley on the graph.
 - Think about the pattern or overall trend that these individual waves create.
 - Choose a point on the graph and imagine what it looks like in the real world.

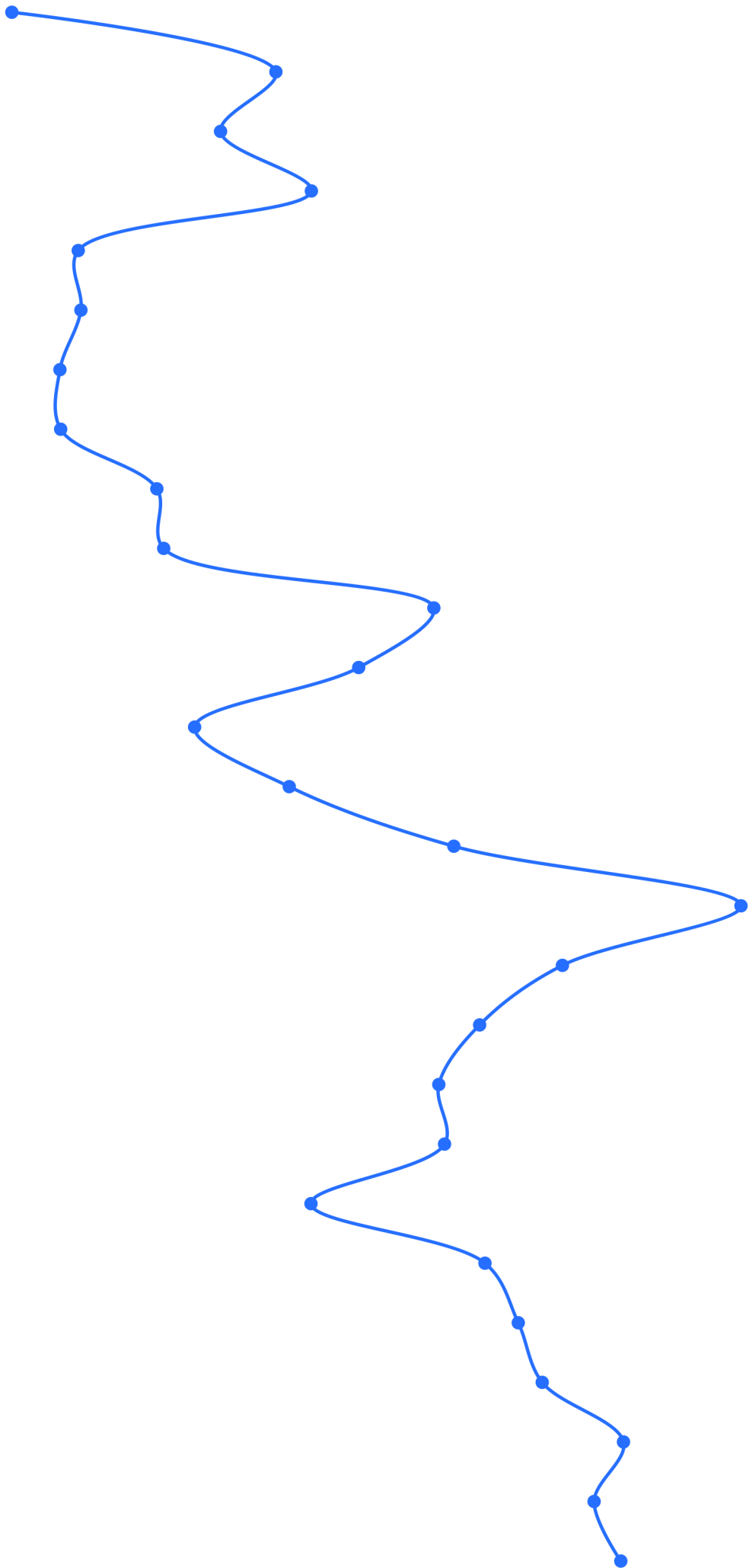
How can I learn more and help build resilience against warming atmosphere and oceans?

Scan the QR code to visit our website, and subscribe to our newsletter to stay updated on ways to get involved with our research and programs.



Boston Sea Level Rise





Sea Level Rise in Boston Harbor

The ocean around Boston is rising because of climate change. Greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide trap heat on Earth, which is melting frozen glaciers at the north and south poles. The frozen ice turns into liquid water, adding more and more water to our oceans!

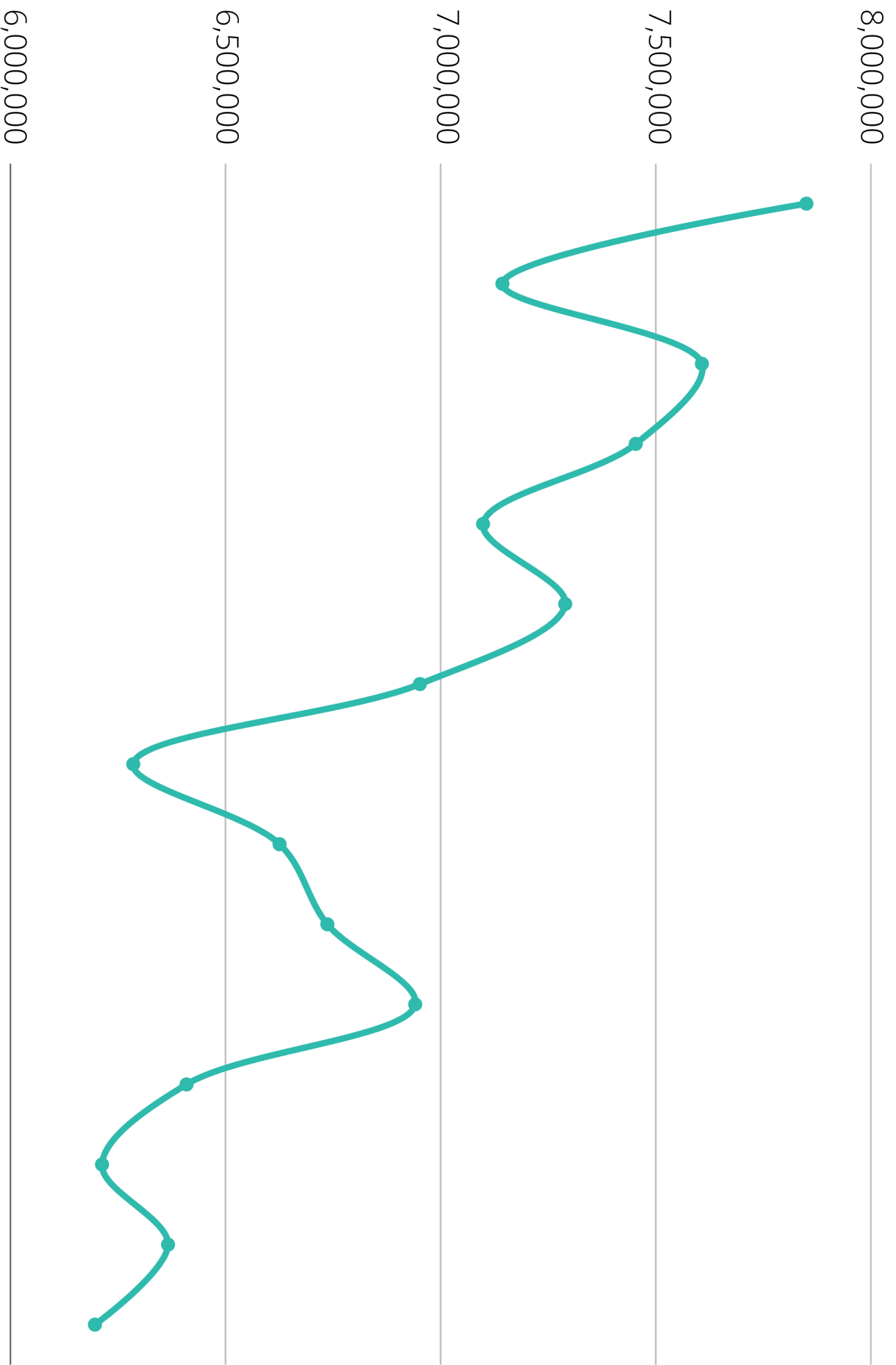
Do this activity at home!

Create art at home using this graph with your own materials! Talk to friends, families, and neighbors about climate change. What emotions do you feel when looking at this data? What does the data mean for ourselves, our ecosystems, and our world? How can art help create action?

Find out more about climate change, create more art from climate data, and check out other education activities by visiting our website at [stonelivinglab.org/education!](http://stonelivinglab.org/education/)

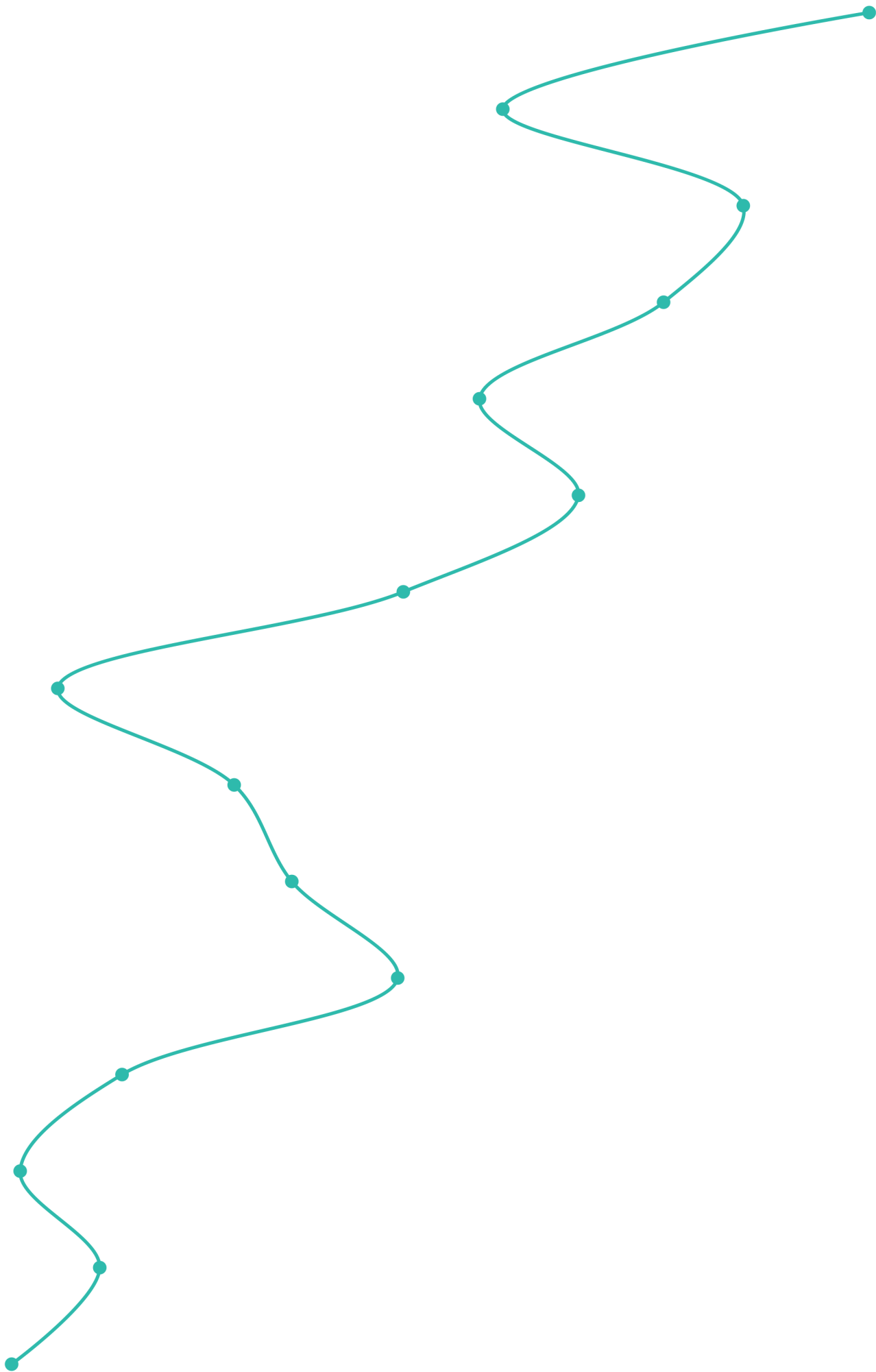
Boston's Annual Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Metric Tons



Year

Source: City of Boston



Boston's Annual Greenhouse Gas Emissions

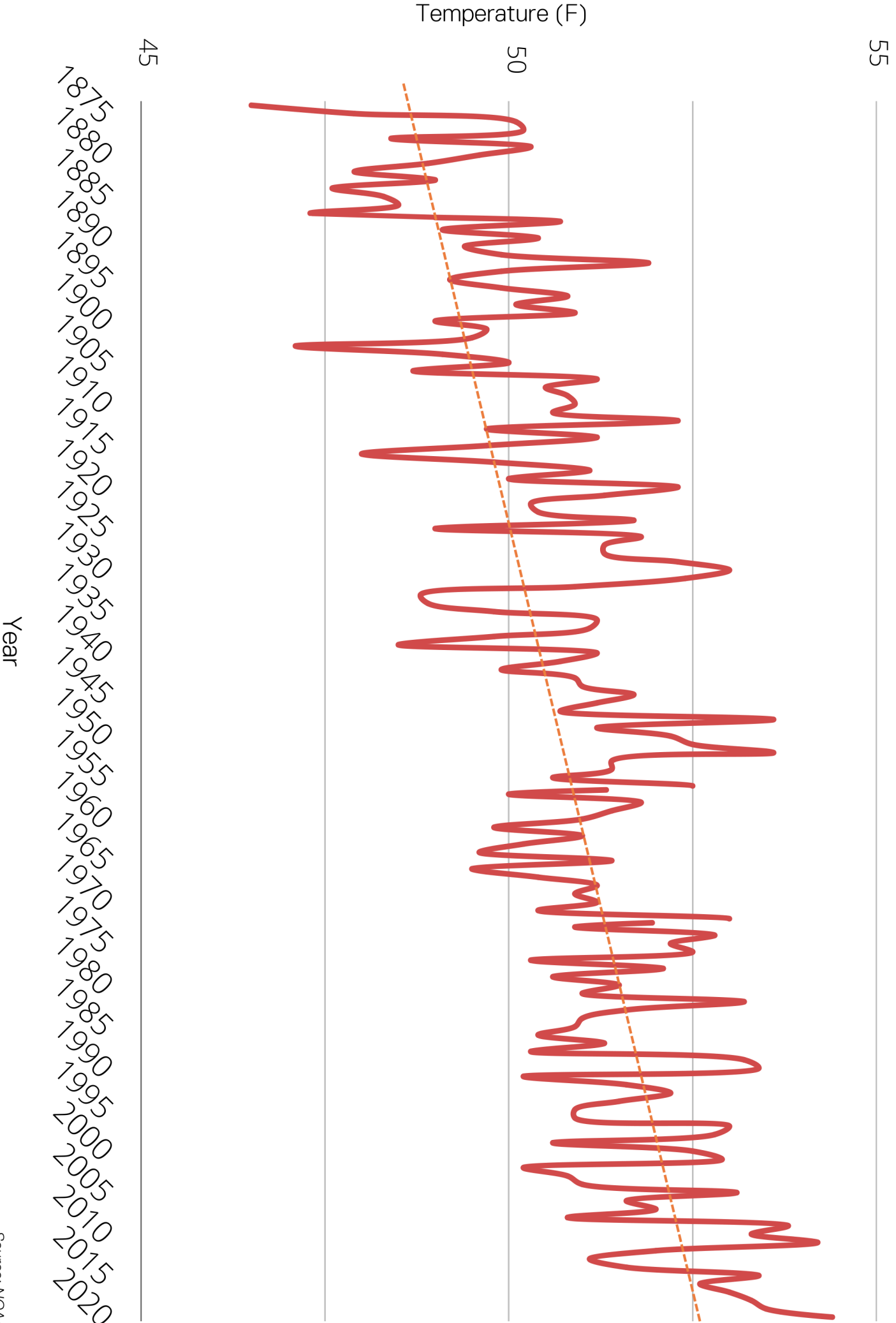
Greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide and methane come from cars, factories, electricity, and agriculture. Over the past 100 years, the amount of gases in the atmosphere has gone up exponentially. To slow down climate change, we need produce far fewer greenhouse gases

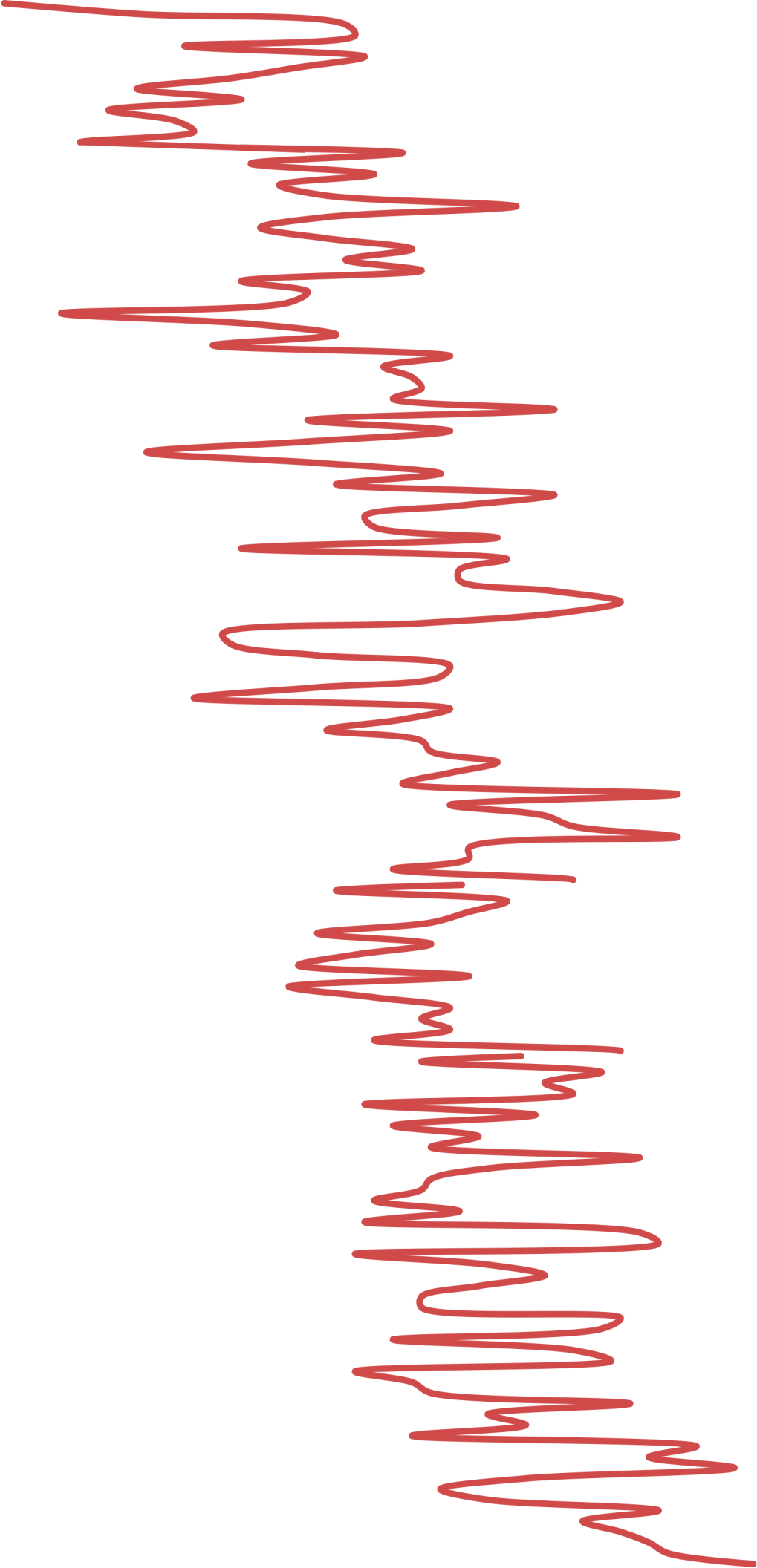
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Boston's Annual Average Temperature





Boston's Annual Average Temperature

The average temperature around the world is increasing because greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide trap heat on Earth. Warming temperatures are causing hotter summers, stronger storms, and rising oceans, and threaten plants, animals, and humans alike.

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