

Sources and sinks of CO₂

How well do scientists understand the sources and sinks of carbon dioxide? Well, we will soon find out. NASA recently launched a new satellite, the orbiting carbon observatory. For the first time we are seeing a **global picture** of where the sources and sinks of carbon dioxide are. In this figure, the hotspots are in yellow and red. Yes you see a hot spot in China, but you also see hot spots in the southern hemisphere over land, and also some hot spots in the ocean. Once we have several years of data to examine, I suspect that there are some **surprises** in store in terms of our understanding of carbon dioxide sources and sinks.