

With their mark on Earth, humans may name era too

October 14 2014, by Seth Borenstein



This handout image provided by NASA, taken in 2012, shows citylights worldwide. People are changing Earth so much with global warming and other pollution that many scientists are turning to a new way to describe the time we live in. They're calling it the Anthropocene _ the age of humans. Most non-experts don't realize it, but science calls the time we live in the Holocene, Greek for "entirely recent." The Holocene started nearly 12,000 years ago. But the way humans and their industries are altering the planet, especially its climate, have caused an increasing number of scientists to use the word Anthropocene to better describe when and where we are. (AP Photo/NASA)

(AP)—People are changing Earth so much, warming and polluting it, that many scientists are turning to a new way to describe the time we live

in. They're calling it the Anthropocene (AN'-thruh-poh-seen)—the age of humans.

Though most non-experts don't realize it, science calls the past 12,000 years the Holocene, Greek for "entirely recent." But the way humans and their industries are altering the planet, especially its climate, has caused an increasing number of [scientists](#) to use the word "Anthropocene."

More than 500 scientific studies have been published this year referring to the current time period as the Anthropocene.

On Friday the Anthropocene Working Group ramps up its efforts to change the era's name with a meeting at a Berlin museum.

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