

Could genetically engineered plants save us from global warming?

Atmospheric carbon dioxide levels are rising, triggering global climate change, [scientists agree](#). Researchers have been searching for ways to scrub some of this damaging gas from the atmosphere....

"We actually have taken our inspiration from nature itself," says Tobias Erb, a biochemist at the Max Planck Institute....

Plants and other photosynthesizing organisms can turn carbon dioxide into biomass. And now Dr. Erb and his team have [built a synthetic pathway](#) to do that more efficiently – at least in a test tube, and perhaps someday in plants or other organisms. Their results are published in [a paper](#) published ... in the journal Science.

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...[T]oday, photosynthesizing organisms convert [just 25 percent](#) of humans' carbon emissions into biomass each year...

Part of the problem is that the plant enzyme involved in carbon dioxide fixation, as the process is called, is actually a very slow catalyst. So that's why Erb and his team decided to build their own.

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...Erb and his team created their pathway for carbon dioxide fixation using 17 different enzymes taken from 9 different organisms.... And when they had fit all the puzzle pieces together, the resulting system was much speedier at fixing carbon dioxide – at least in a test tube.

The GLP aggregated and excerpted this blog/article to reflect the diversity of news, opinion and analysis. Read full, original post: [Could mutant plants save us from global warming?](#)