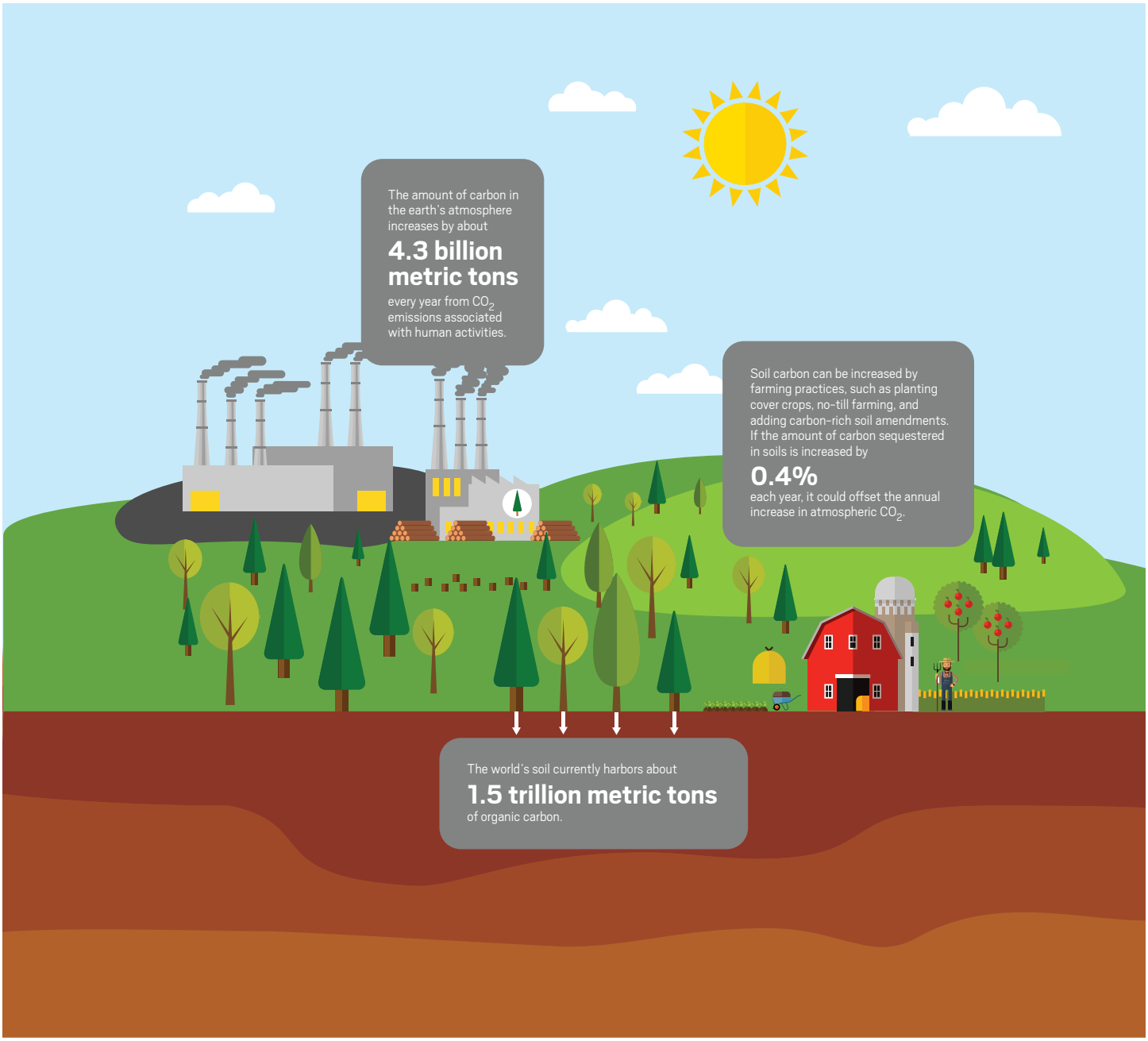
The amount of carbon in the earth's atmosphere increases by about
4.3 billion metric tons
every year from CO_2 emissions associated with human activities.
Soil carbon can be increased by farming practices, such as planting cover crops, no-till farming, and adding carbon-rich soil amendments. If the amount of carbon sequestered in soils is increased by
0.4%
each year, it could offset the annual increase in atmospheric CO_2.
The world's soil currently harbors about
1.5 trillion metric tons
of organic carbon.