

Twitter: @KevinClimate

Hope from despair:
*transforming delusion into
action on climate change*

MANCHESTER
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Let's start with the sheer scale of our failure

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*...consider the UK,
a self-avowed 'climate-progressive' nation*

Clair ridge – *phase 2*

first oil Nov. 2018

planned emissions:

a quarter of a billion tonnes of CO₂



North
Atlantic

Announced 1

Glengorm
discovery

Inverness

Aberd

Newcastle

100
100 n

Guardian graphic. Source: Total

North
Atlantic

Inverness

Glengorm
discovery

planned emissions:

100 million tonnes of CO₂

Aberdeen

Edinburgh

Newcastle

100 km
100 miles

Guardian graphic. Source: Total

A man in a grey suit and purple tie is bowing his head in the House of Commons. Other people in suits are visible in the background.

#NEWS

Even the UK's Committee on Climate Change, see aviation
use up *~40% of the UK's fair carbon budget*

**HEATHROW AIRPORT EXPANSION IS
ANNOUNCED IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS**

... but isn't the UK showing leadership?



"In 2017 emissions were 42% below 1990 levels, provisional 2018 figures are 44% below."





UK plc. emissions virtually unchanged since 1990

Include aviation & shipping, imports & exports

- just a 10% fall since 1990
- average 0.4% p.a. reduction

What does the IPCC tell us about Paris?



ipcc

INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON climate change

CLIMATE CHANGE 2014

Synthesis Report



... it is **carbon budgets**, not long-term targets, that link with **temperature rise**



SYNTHESIS REPORT OF THE
FIFTH ASSESSMENT REPORT OF THE
INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON CLIMATE CHANGE



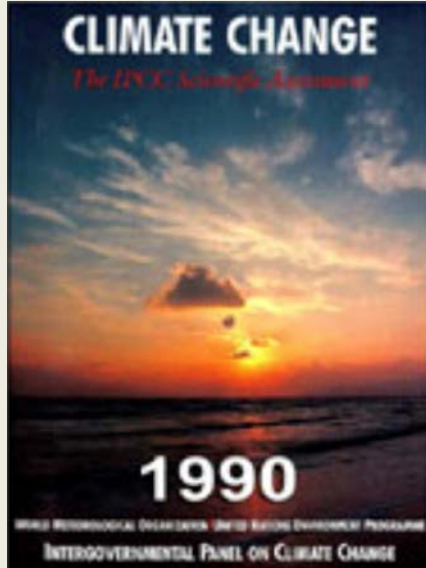
Based on the IPCC's latest report ...

- To meet the Paris “*pursue ... 1.5 °C*” to “*well below 2 °C*” commitment
- From **2020** the global carbon budget (*energy-only*) is **~650GtCO₂** (*to 2100 & beyond*)
- In 2018 global CO₂ emissions (from energy) were **~37GtCO₂**
- i.e. under **18 years** of current emissions

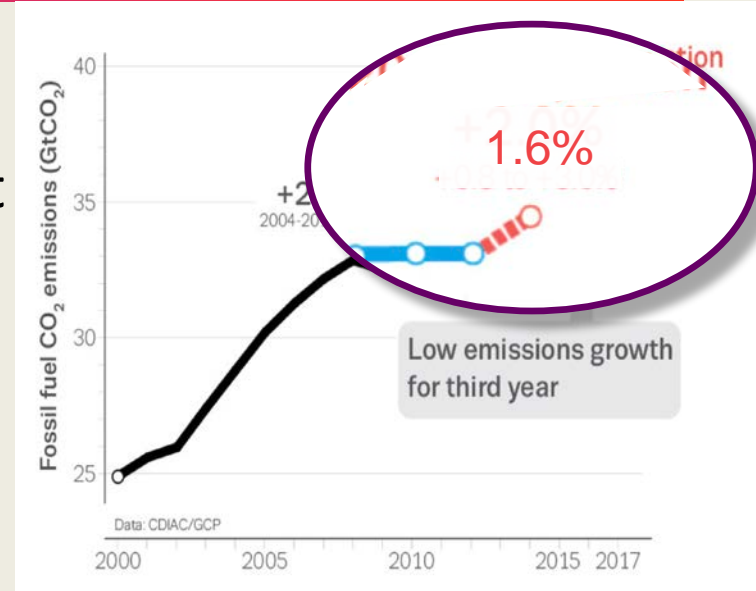
So where to
from here?



Humility as a starting point for hope & action



- 1990: first IPCC report
- 2018: CO₂ 67% >1990
- ...still rising in 2018
- ...up by around 1.6%



29 years of abject failure in terms of reducing total emissions

Thus far ... *litany of technocratic fraud*

- Partial accounting ... announced as world leading success
- Offsetting (& CDM) ... paying a poor person to diet for us
- Afforestation ... plant a tree, expand an airport
- Speculative 'negative emission technologies' (NETs) ... at huge planetary scale
- Geo-engineering ... a sticking plaster on gangrene

... we have not seriously tried to cut our CO₂!

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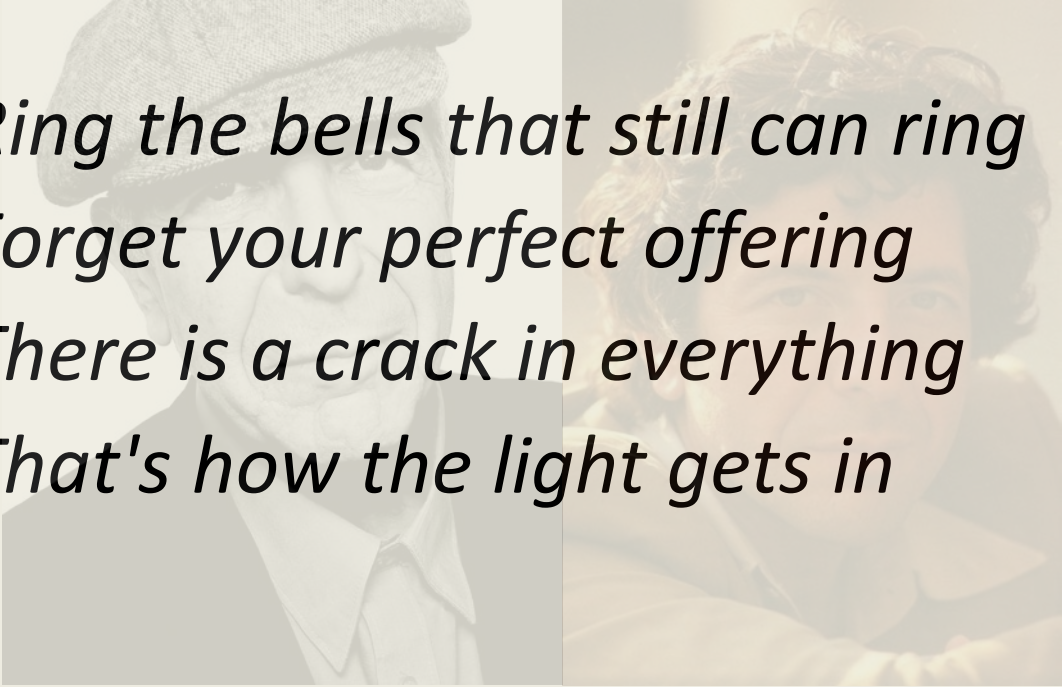
... failure writ large

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Leonard Cohen

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*Ring the bells that still can ring
Forget your perfect offering
There is a crack in everything
That's how the light gets in*

Leonard Cohen

Ring the bells that still can ring ...

Passive house
standards

CCS on
cement

Retro-fit
existing bldgs

Fee & Dividend
carbon tax

Solar on 'all'
new builds

Frequent flyer
levy

Less meat &
dairy

Car-free cities

No airport
expansion

E-bikes
subsidies

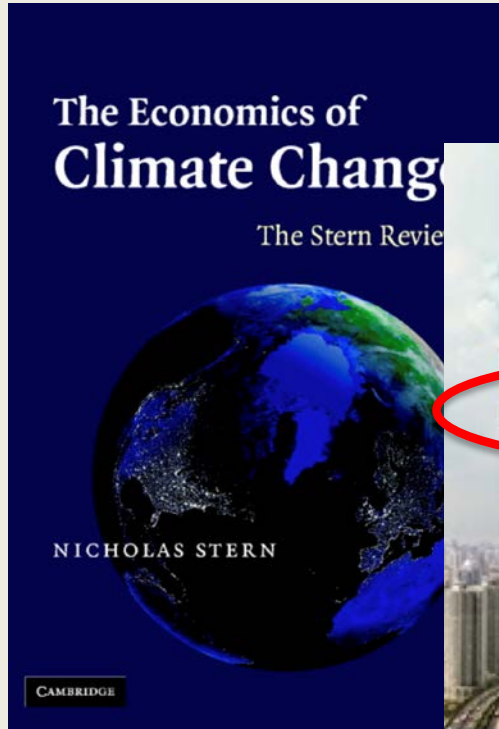
Low-CO₂
electricity

No second
homes

Max car
CO₂/km

Electrification

Forget your perfect offering



- Colonialism
- Buck-passing
- Greenwash-BAU

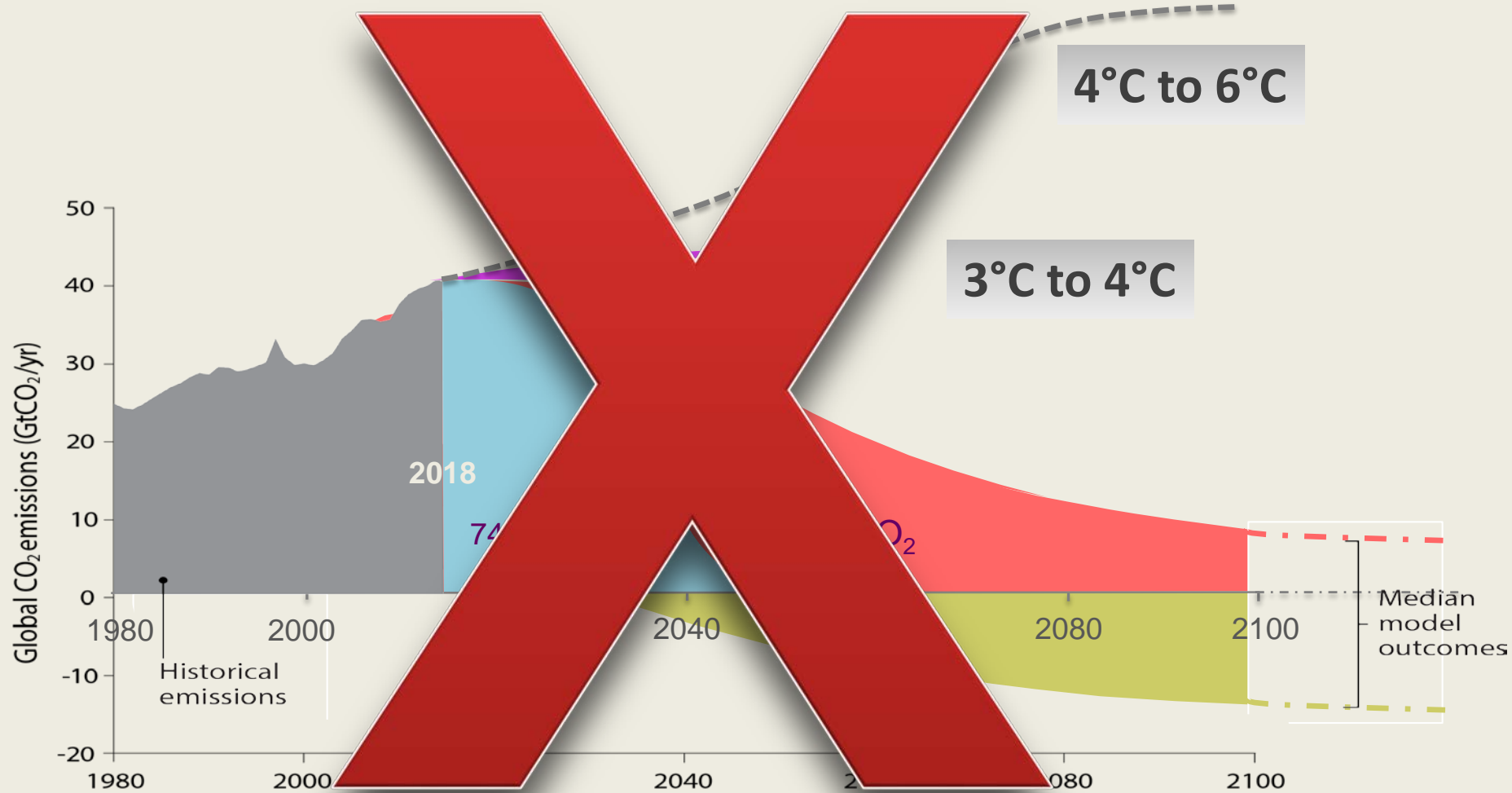
So, without generational buck-passing,
what's the UK's fair contribution to Paris?



To limit warming to a 1.5-2°C rise ...

...We need to understand:

the science & maths of climate change



... it's all about pies ...

To meet the Paris 1.5-2°C commitment ...

we have a
global carbon pie
... to be split
equitably
amongst all nations



We estimate a Paris-compliant budget for the UK of:

~3 to 3.8 billion tonnes of CO₂

... for 2020 to 2100 & beyond ^{1,2}

i.e. under **9 years** of current emissions*

¹includes aviation & shipping; ²excludes imports & exports

translating budgets to mitigation rates



Headline mitigation for the UK

- Need to reduce CO₂ at **10-13% p.a.** starting now
- Over **30%** by end of **2022**, & **70%** by **2030** (*cf. with today*)
- **~fully** decarbonised **energy** by around **2035-40**

i.e. immediate & profound system change

Are there
any early signs
of deep system
change?



Politicians

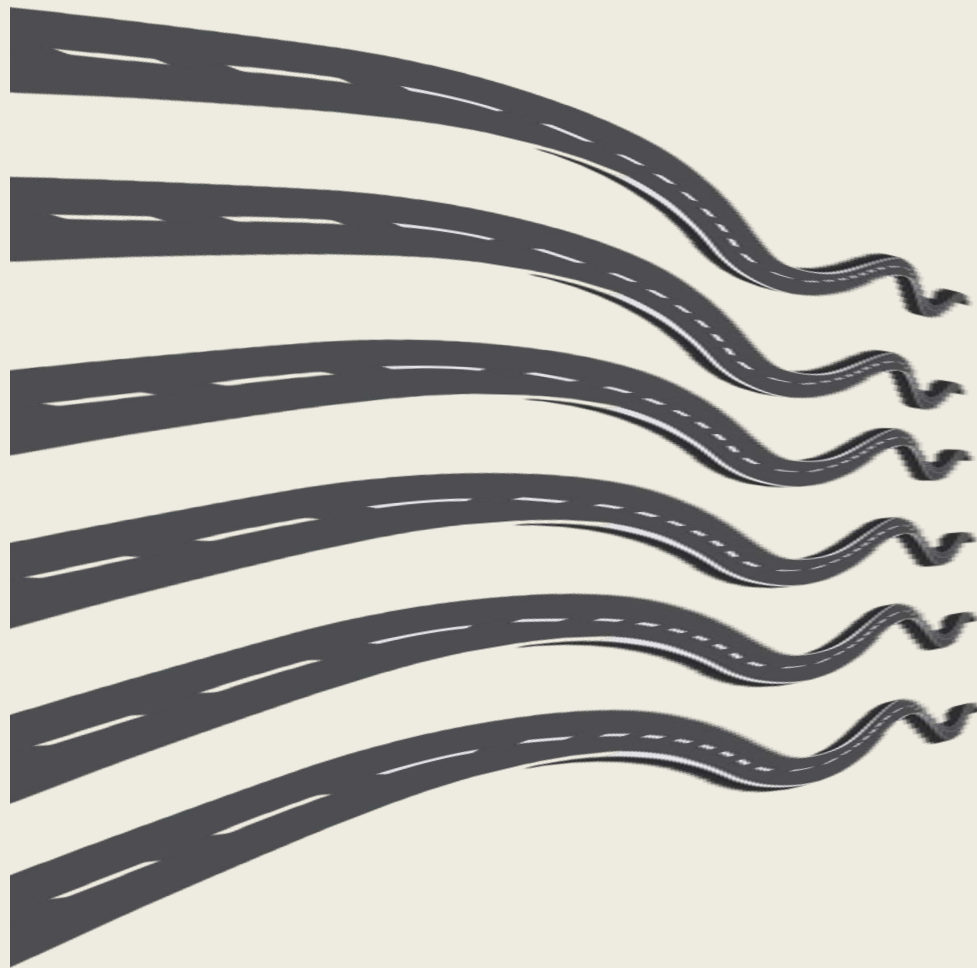
Scientists

Academics

Businesses

Journalists

Civil society



Hell in a
Handcart

Is there Light
in Despair?



There is a crack in everything



Post-2008 – “cracks” in the fabric?

Banking crisis – *QE resources quickly mobilised as markets fail to self regulate*

Social Media – *usurping the media barons' stranglehold*

Brexit & Trump – *the establishment being questioned and rejected by a ‘new’ constituency*

Arab Spring – *emergent people power*

Plummeting price of renewables – *& they continue to fall*

Raising concern of health impacts of fossil fuels – *even IMF engaged in fossil-fuel bashing*

That's how the light gets in



That's how the light gets in



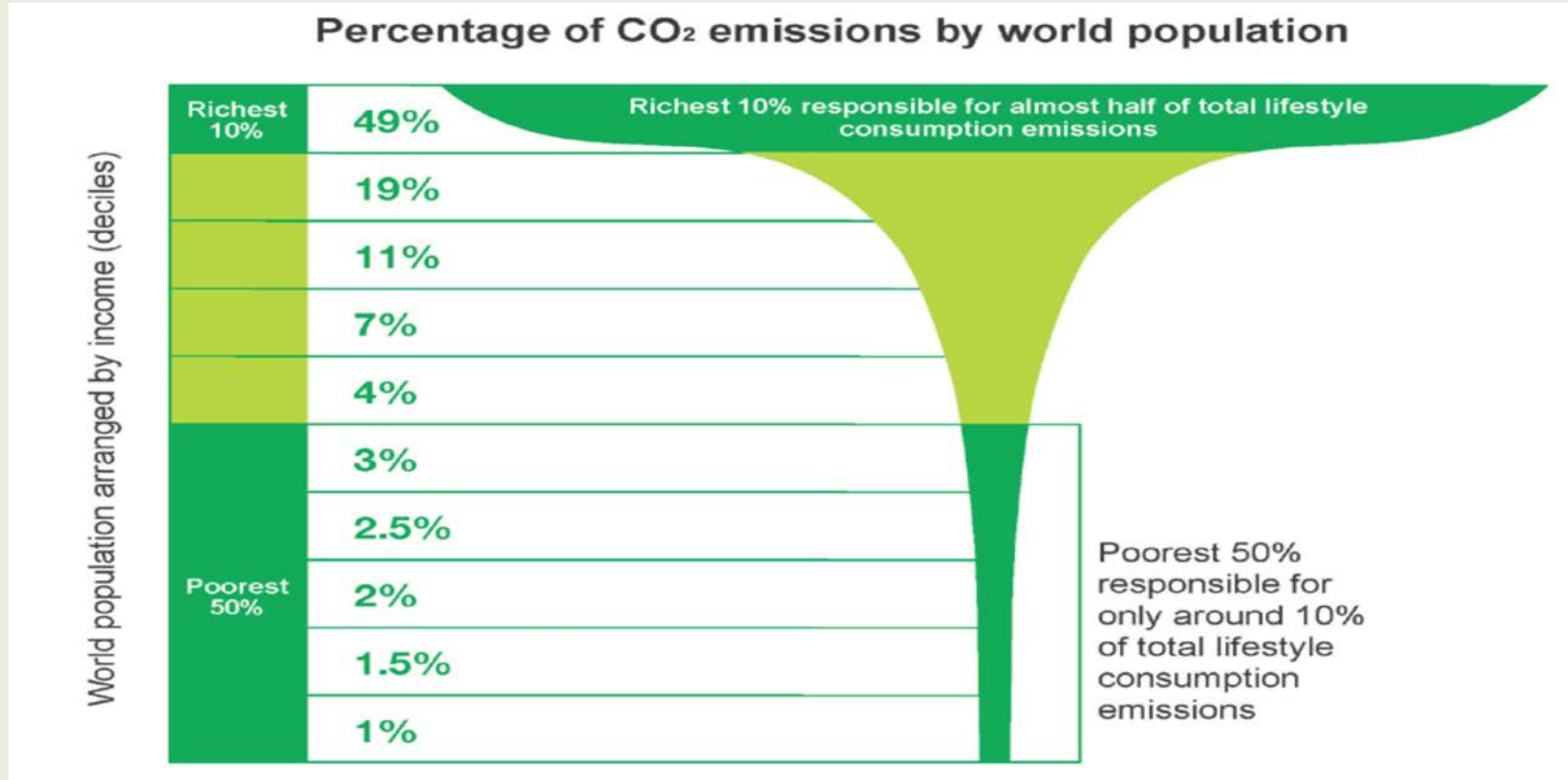
Real action to deliver Paris



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Paris + IPCC = Equity

CO₂ is highly skewed towards the 'few'?



Global income deciles & associated lifecycle consumption emissions

CO₂ is highly skewed towards the 'few'?

50% of CO₂ from 10% of the population

70% from 20%

... but does this really matter?

thought experiment

Imagine ...

- 1) Climate change was considered a serious (existential?) threat
- 2) Regulations force top 10% to cut their CO₂ footprint to the EU mean
- 3) The other 90% make no reductions

= 1/3 cut in global CO₂

An unavoidable 3 phase strategy to deliver Paris

1) Immediate & near term:

Profound changes in the energy **behaviors & practices** of high-energy users.

2) Near to medium term:

Very stringent **energy efficiency** standards on all major end-use equipment

3) Medium to longer term:

Marshall-style construction of zero-CO₂ energy **supply** & major electrification

An unavoidable 3 phase strategy to deliver Paris

1) Immediate & near term:

Profound changes in the energy **behaviors & practices** of high-energy users.

2) Near to medium term:

Very stringent **energy efficiency** standards on a **labour & resources** *furnishing the relative luxuries of the hi-emitters*

3) Medium to longer term:

Marshall-style construction of zero-CO₂ energy **supply** & major electrification

A flavour of this shift in labour/resource allocation

From:

- Large houses, holiday homes, second homes
- Prestige cars; SUVs; Multiple car ownership
- Highly mobile lives; Frequent fliers; Business/First class travel
- High levels of consumer goods

To:

Rapid transformation from fossil fuel to zero-CO₂ infrastructure

We urgently need new narratives on ...

- what constitutes **growth, progress, development**?
- reframing **values** and rewarding **success** (if at all)?
- alternative relationships with **time**?
- genuinely embedding **Intra/Inter equity**
- & a deeper appreciation of the **more-than-human** world

To conclude:



Climate change has become system change

As Einstein(?) noted:

... insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting a different result.

Thus far we have chosen to pass on to our own children the consequences of 30 years of such insanity.

But perhaps in 2019 times are changing ?

Ring the bells that still can ring

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Thanks for listening



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The scale of action required if the UK is to deliver on its commitments enshrined in the Paris Agreement

... all starting January 2020, if not before!

- A moratorium on all new fossil fuel development
- An immediate phase-out of all fossil fuel production, to be complete by 2030-35
 - *with detailed policies of a just transition for those working in the industries*
- A rapidly rising frequent flier levy to immediately slash how often the 'frequent fliers' fly
- No airport expansion
- No expansion of the road network
- The rapid move to car-free (including EVs) cities and towns
- A minimum emission standard on all new cars (*max 100gCO₂/km & tightening at 8-10% each year*)
- A tight emission standard on all power stations (*a fleet level for all suppliers of 250gCO₂/kWh, reducing at 8-10% each year*)
- A minimum & very stringent efficiency standard for all rented properties/homes
- All new houses and buildings to be passive-house standard and include onsite renewables
- A *fair* carbon tax (fee & dividend) or personal carbon allowance
- Major subsidies for E-bikes (paid from the Frequent Flier levy?)
- Stop all fossil fuel advertising
- Devolve responsibilities and powers to regions & cities to help deliver culturally-appropriate policies

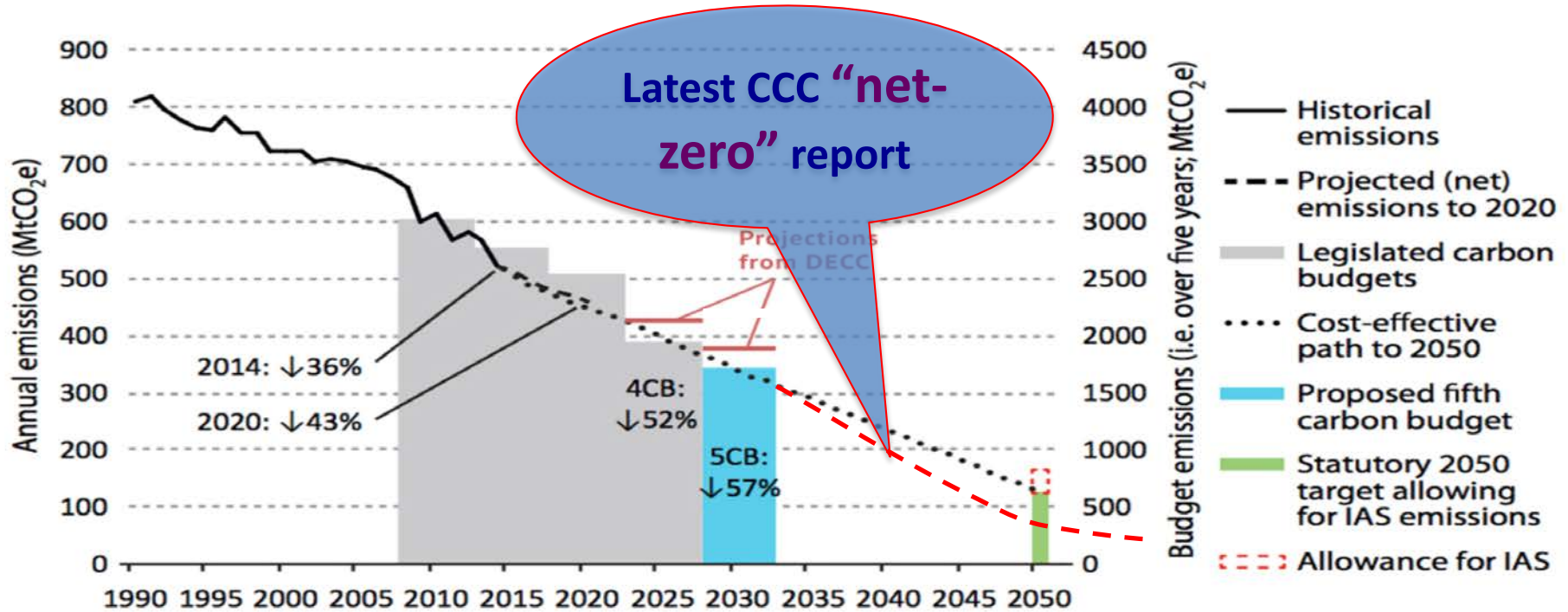
So ... *what can we do?*

- 1) Identify our big carbon impacts & try hard to reduce them
... but importantly talk about why & how we're doing this
- 2) Engage with our university, place of work, local council, etc.
... make our arguments & suggest what they could do
- 3) Email our MP (cc. the relevant minister) about our concerns
... ask them why their actions do not meet their commitments
(& lend them support when they're doing the 'right' thing)

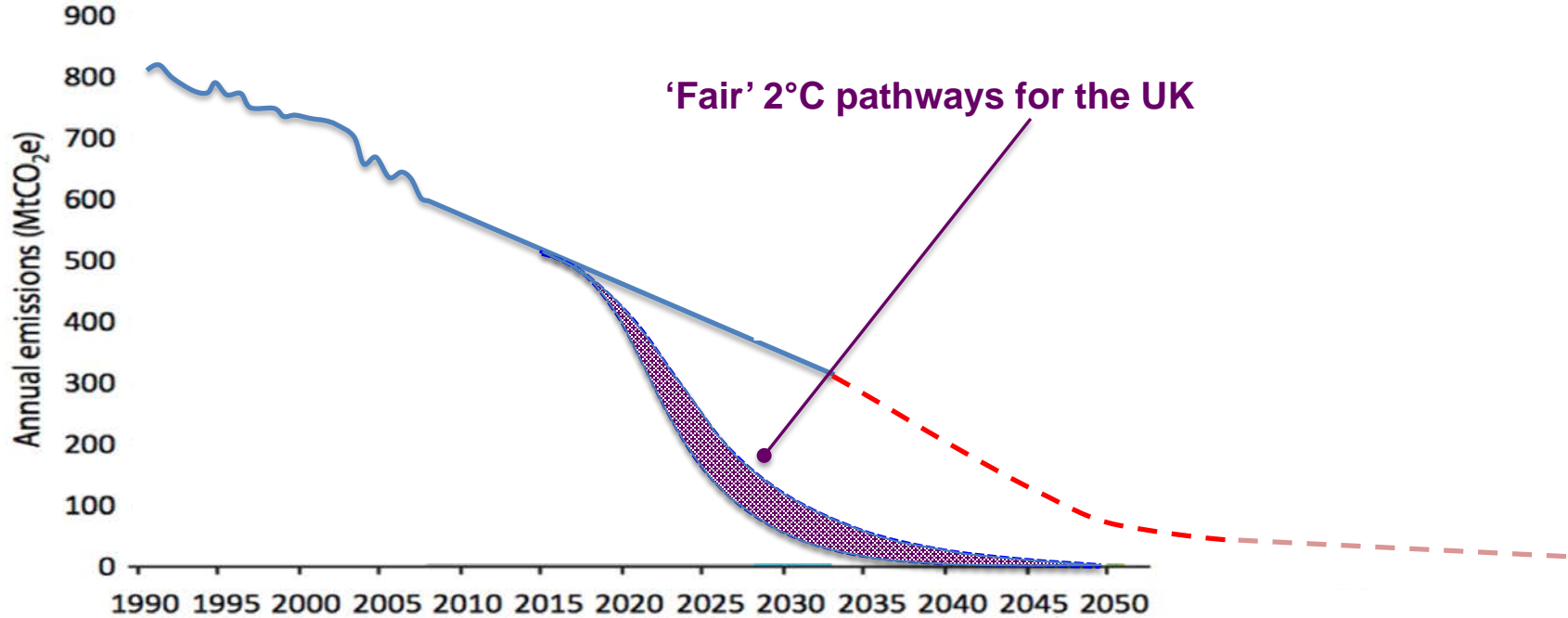
Compare that with the **CCC's Net-Zero** analysis ...



Compare that with the CCC's Net-Zero analysis ...



Compare that with the CCC's Net-Zero analysis ...



Compare that with the **CCC's Net-Zero** analysis ...

