

South Bucks



# Is Net Zero Dead?

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SBU3A Science Group 6 March 2025

# Is Net Zero Dead?

- Where are we on climate change?
- Should we bother?
- What should we do?

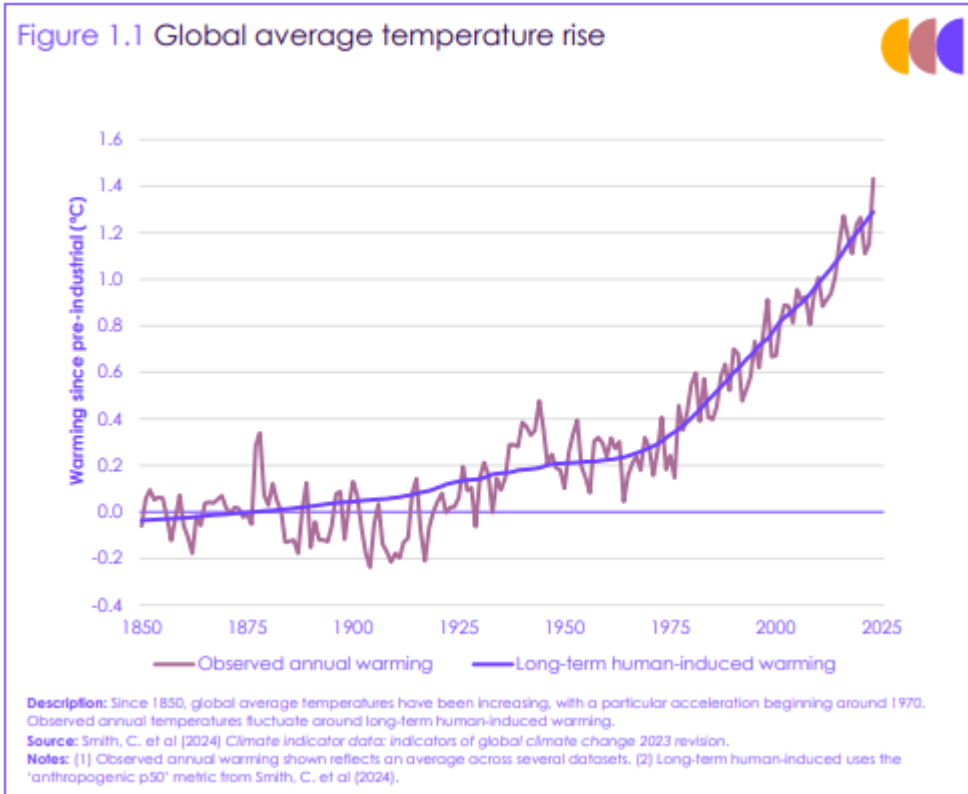
February 2025

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## The Seventh Carbon Budget

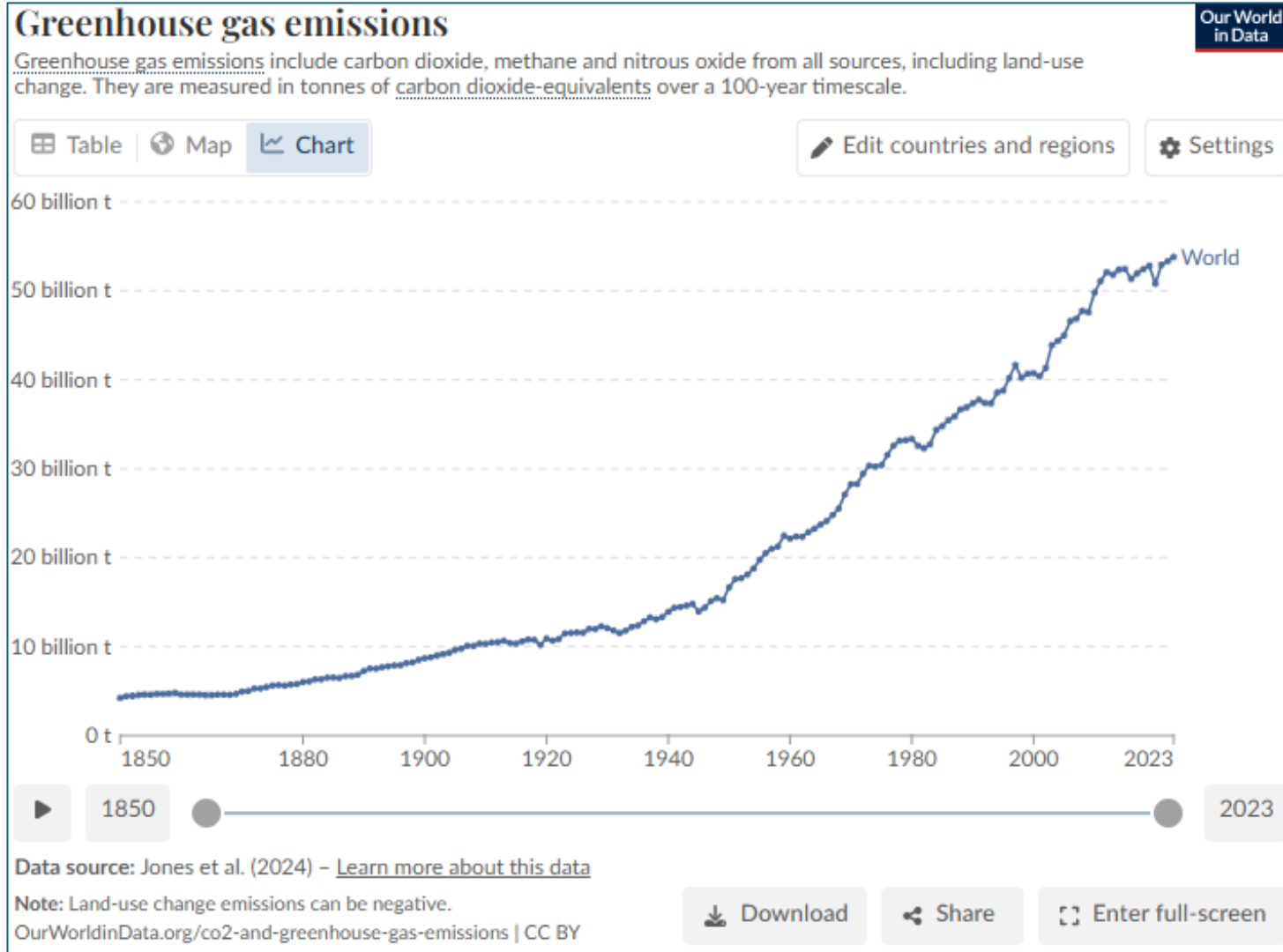
Advice for the UK Government

# Where are we on climate change?








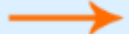











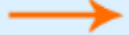



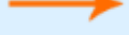



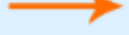



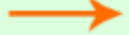


- New yellow ice warning issued for north west England and Wales
- New snow and ice warnings issued
- Bristol Airport suspends all flights due to bad weather
- A46 remains closed due to flooding

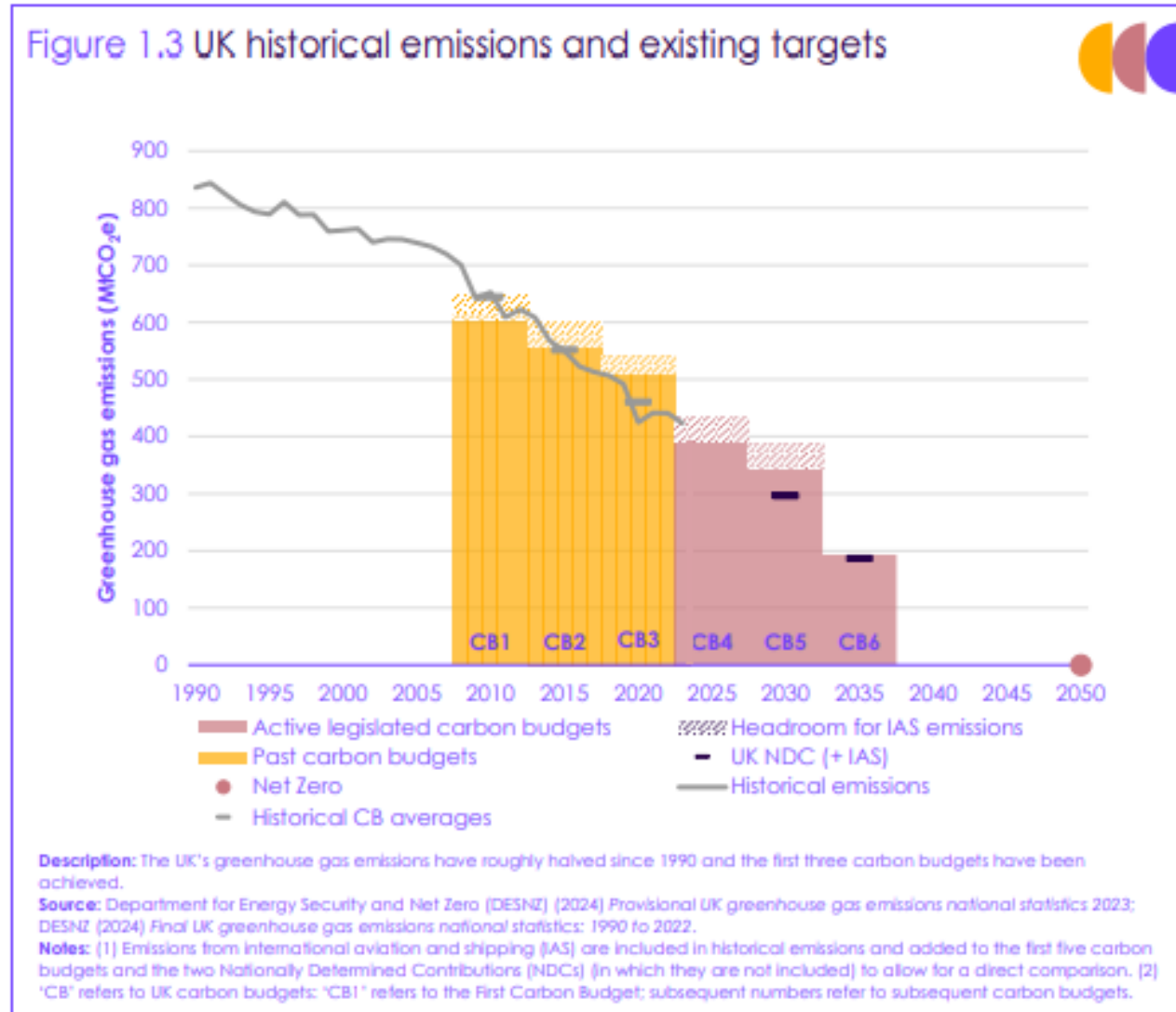
# Where are we on global emissions?



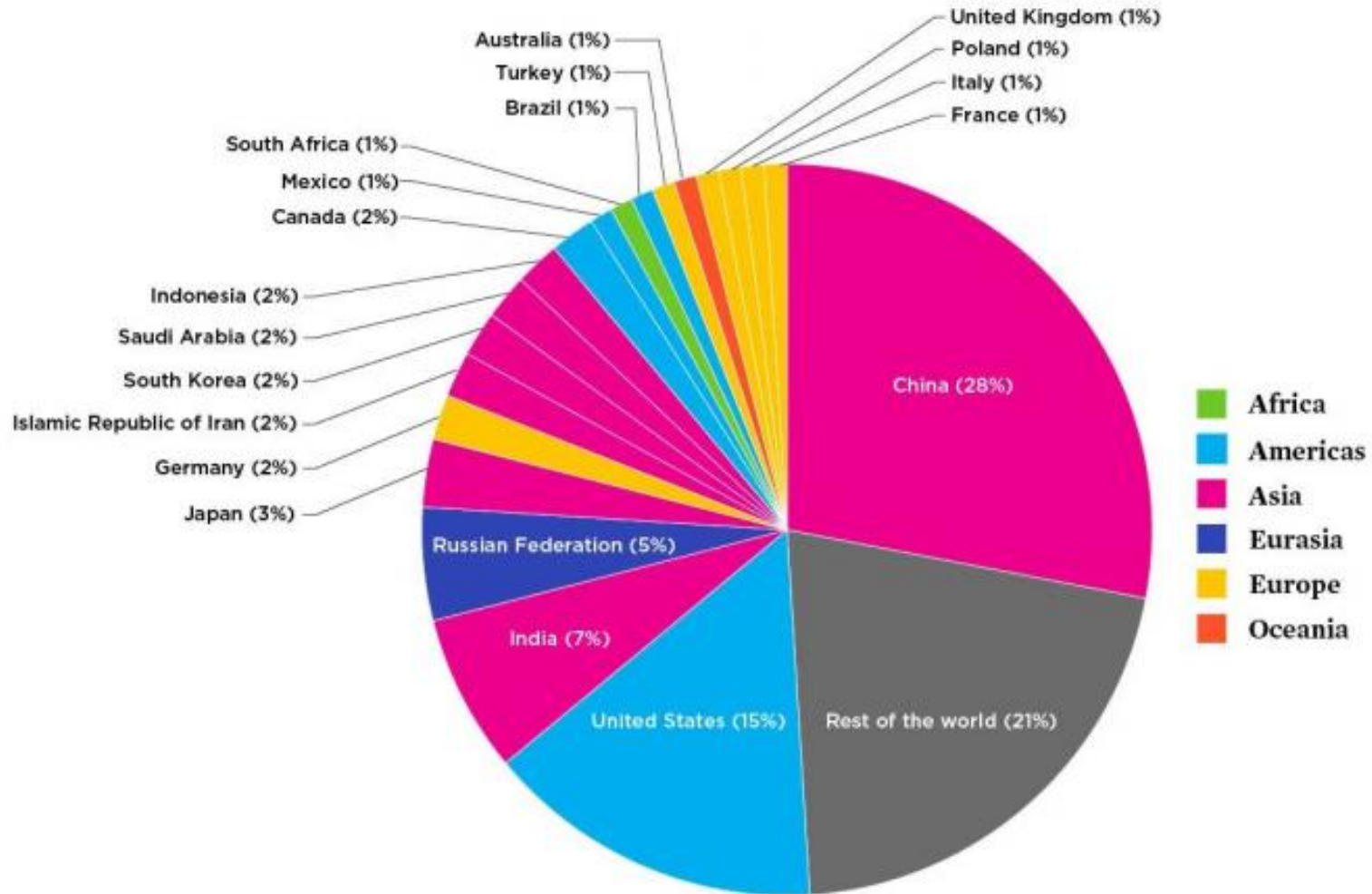
# Where are we on global emissions recently?

	2023 vs 1990	2023 vs 2005	2023 vs 2022
 Power Industry	 <b>+96%</b>	 <b>+36%</b>	 <b>+2%</b>
 Industrial Combustion and Processes	 <b>+91%</b>	 <b>+41%</b>	 <b>+2%</b>
 Buildings	 <b>+1%</b>	 <b>+3%</b>	 <b>+1%</b>
 Transport	 <b>+78%</b>	 <b>+26%</b>	 <b>+4%</b>
 Fuel Exploitation	 <b>+48%</b>	 <b>+23%</b>	 <b>+2%</b>
 Agriculture	 <b>+20%</b>	 <b>+15%</b>	 <b>0%</b>
 Waste	 <b>+56%</b>	 <b>+37%</b>	 <b>+2%</b>
 All sectors	 <b>+62%</b>	 <b>+28%</b>	 <b>+2%</b>

# Where are we on UK emissions recently?

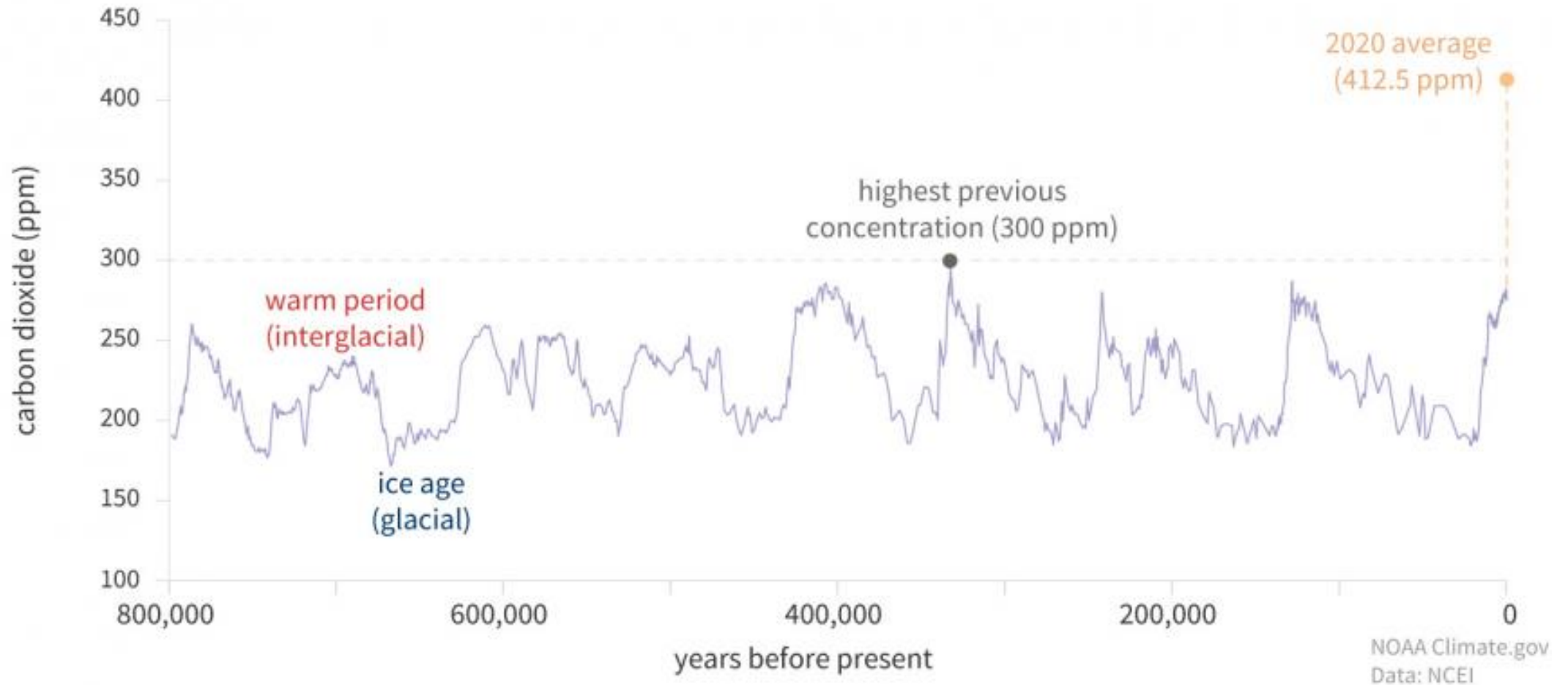


# Should we bother?



# Is it part of a natural cycle?

## CARBON DIOXIDE OVER 800,000 YEARS



# Isn't everyone else giving up?



UK NEWS

## ‘Climate Emergency’ driven by faulty models and fake news

**SCIENCE** and the scientific method is a wonderful way of objectively testing theories and discovering facts about the real world. I should know as I did my PhD in Physical Chemistry. Facts have emerged which dismiss the distant scary futures predicted by climate models. The scariest scenarios are based on RCP8.5 (representative concentration

**by Dr MICHAEL SIMPSON PhD**

to generate output with no physical meaning for any potential incarnation in the distant future. It is like running a cash flow forecast for a business over the next 80 or 100 years and setting your corporate strategy based on that. Many things can happen in 80 or 100 years and if there is no physical mechanism related to carbon dioxide and the climate then it simply won't happen. The models are wrong

[www.scienceandpublicpolicy.org](http://www.scienceandpublicpolicy.org) looking critically at the data and coming to broadly similar conclusions in their publications. The data and evidence tell us that there is no climate emergency.

500 scientists have written to the United Nations explaining this (<https://climate.org/world-climate-declaration>), again declaring that there is no climate emergency. Some 90 Italian scientists wrote in similar vein to the Italian government yet the 'Climate

dioxide emissions by all political parties? The bulk of the population do not believe in a 'Climate Emergency' and many scientists have said there is no emergency. Farmers in my area are even less convinced since carbon dioxide is the fundamental basis of the entire food supply chain and most arable farms will have net negative emissions (i.e. they will absorb carbon dioxide to make our food).

The highly expensive remedies for this non-existent emergency

enough to generate electricity we could be facing serious problems with power cuts. The so-called 'Smart Meters' can be used to turn off your electricity supply when there is insufficient energy generated to maintain frequency and voltage on the grid. He also noted that in the winter and summer in the UK the wind often does not blow strongly enough to generate energy for weeks at a time and solar panels generate little or no energy in winter and none in the dark.

So what we now see is the perfect storm of political lying and fake news. The politicians are hardly qualified to speak of anything to do with science and most politicians have no clue about energy generation. Worse is that government now does not have access to impartial experts as it closed the Central Electricity Generating Board (CEGB) research centres in the early 1990s and ended the slow death of the CEGB in 2001

daily: they just aren't sure which direction the fist will come from." Mr Trump's promise of fresh tariffs came as Sir Keir Starmer, the British

being pursued by the White House at this stage." [Ambrose Evans-Pritchard - Page 71](#)

**Charming man** Johnny Marr from The Smiths, with a Gibson '84 Les Paul Standard with Bigsby, inspired by his cherry red guitar from 1984, at the Gibson Garage, London.

respond to the Planning Inspectorate's recommendations, which focus on aircraft noise and the impact of expansion on public transport.

## Funding bias against fossil fuel industry must end, HSBC insists

By Chris Price

HSBC has said banks need to stop penalising clients with large carbon footprints amid a wider backlash against green finance.

social and governance (ESG) focused investing has led to big banks restricting funding for the fossil fuel industry in a way that has increased costs for oil and gas companies and limited their ability to develop new projects.

critics say. The situation could be made worse by any major shifts at the geopolitical level that could force the world's top economies to seek out alternative supplies of energy, like the shake-up that occurred following Russia's inva-

**\$1.5bn**  
Costs that HSBC chief executive Georges Elhedery is attempting to cut

some of its net zero climate targets because it was proving harder to reduce emissions than anticipated. The bank had originally intended to slash emission reduction targets from its supply chain by 2030, but has now

zeros. The FTSE 100 company said it would increase its oil and gas investment to \$10bn a year as part of a net zero "reset" that involves the company slashing spending on renewables. However, Aviva yesterday doubled

# What should we do?

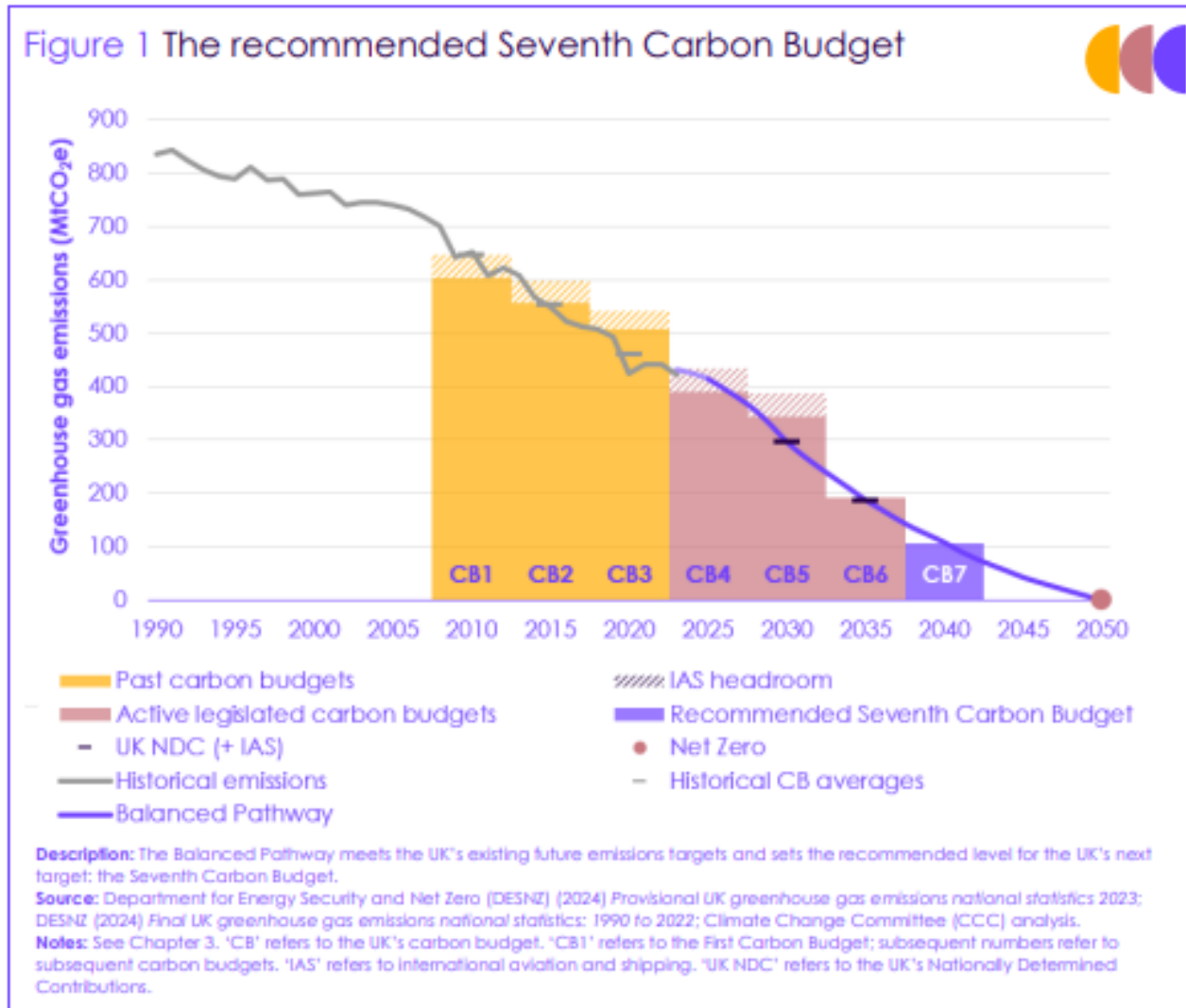
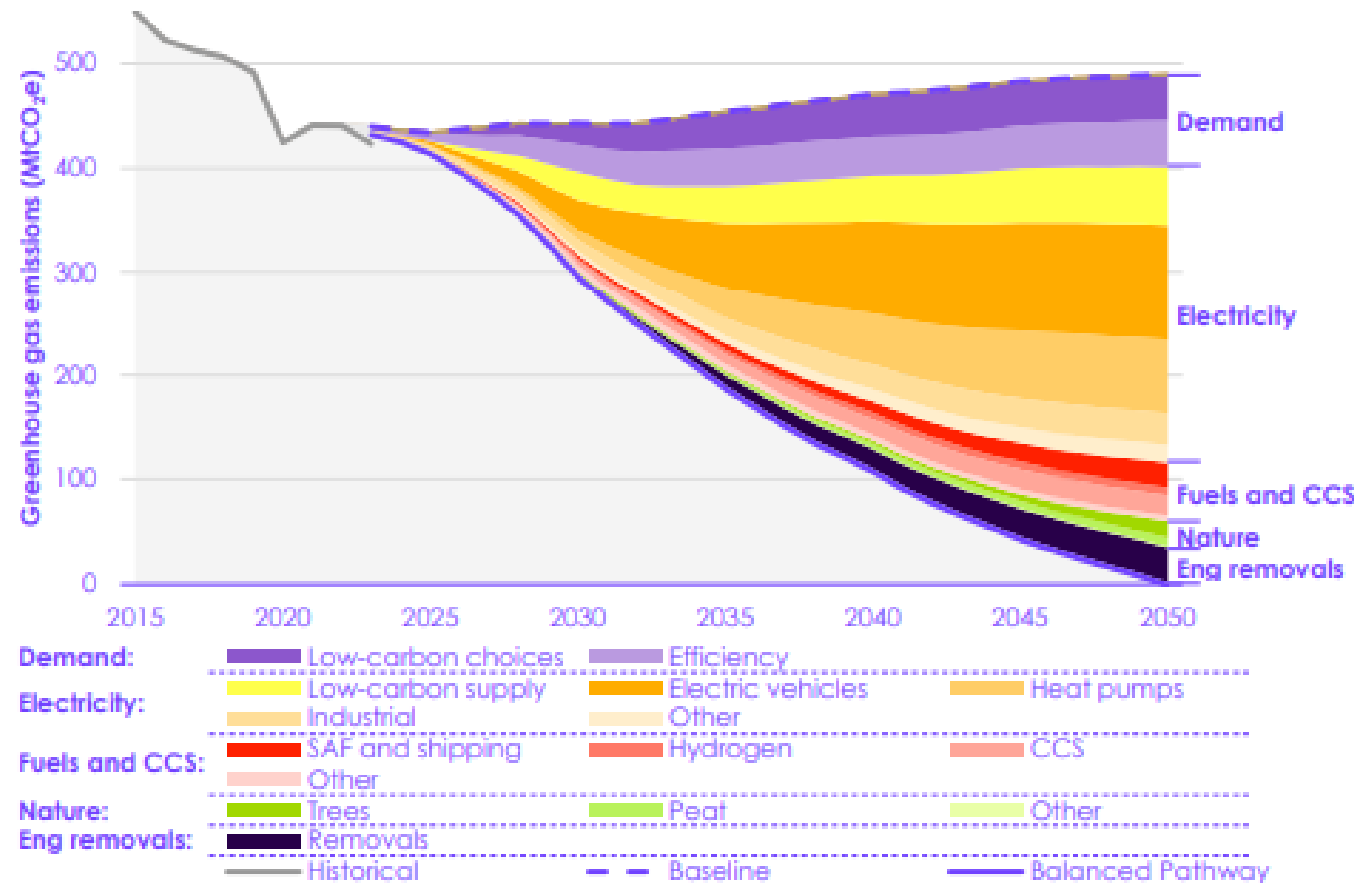


Figure 3.5 Sources of abatement in the Balanced Pathway



**Description:** The Seventh Carbon Budget is delivered through five key routes: electricity, low-carbon fuels and CCS, nature, engineered removals, and demand. The largest share of emissions reduction is from switch from fossil fuels to electric technologies powered using low-carbon electricity.

**Source:** CCC analysis.

**Notes:** (1) 'Electric vehicles' includes electrification of cars, vans, motorcycles, buses, and HGVs. 'Heat pumps' includes heat pumps for heating or hot water in residential, public, and commercial buildings (including those used in communal heating and heat networks). 'Industrial electrification' covers all electricity use in industry, including for heating, machinery, and other industrial processes. 'Low-carbon supply' shows the abatement from decarbonising electricity generation. All of these are enabled by improvements to the grid. (2) 'CCS' covers the abatement due to the direct use of CCS to capture CO<sub>2</sub> from emitting processes outside the electricity system - it is also used, alongside hydrogen, to enable long-term storable, dispatchable power in the electricity supply sector and to underpin engineered removals. (3) 'Eng removals' refers to engineered removals. 'SAF' refers to sustainable aviation fuel.

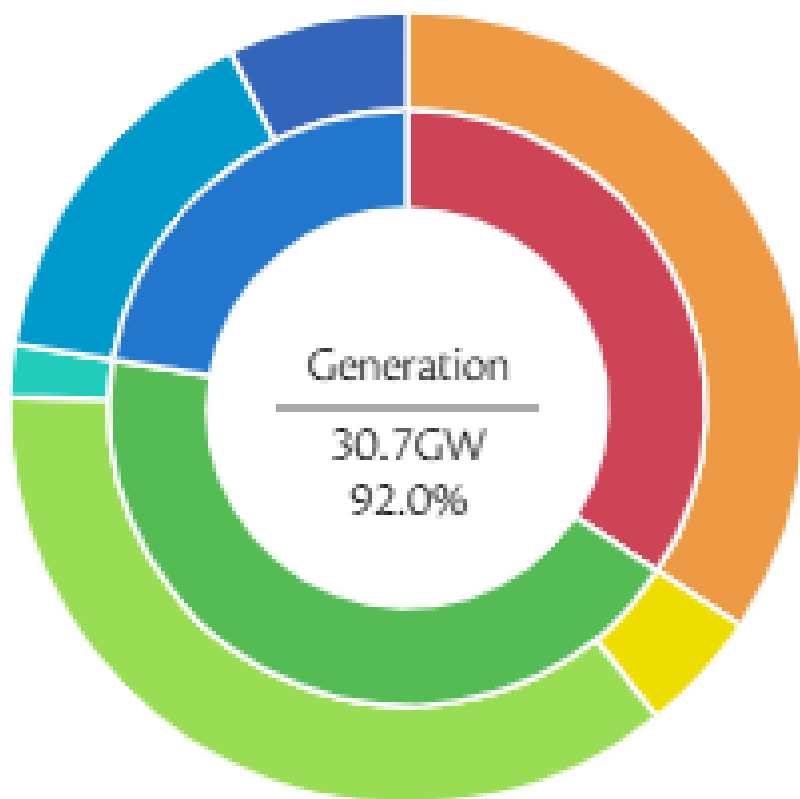
# Low carbon choices (9%)



# Electricity supply (11%)



# UK Generation Mix (w/e 1 March 2025)



Generation by source

Coal	0.00GW	0.0%
Gas	10.51GW	31.5%
Solar	1.53GW	4.6%
Wind	11.13GW	33.4%
Hydroelectric	0.65GW	2.0%
Nuclear	4.65GW	13.9%
Biomass	2.25GW	6.7%

# Electric vehicles (23%)



# Heat pumps (14%)



# Industry (6%)



# Nature (5%)

ORE ▾ The Daily Telegraph 28 Feb 2025

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Comment 2

The war against farmers will get much worse, thanks to net zero

JILL KIRBY



# Engineered Removals (7%)

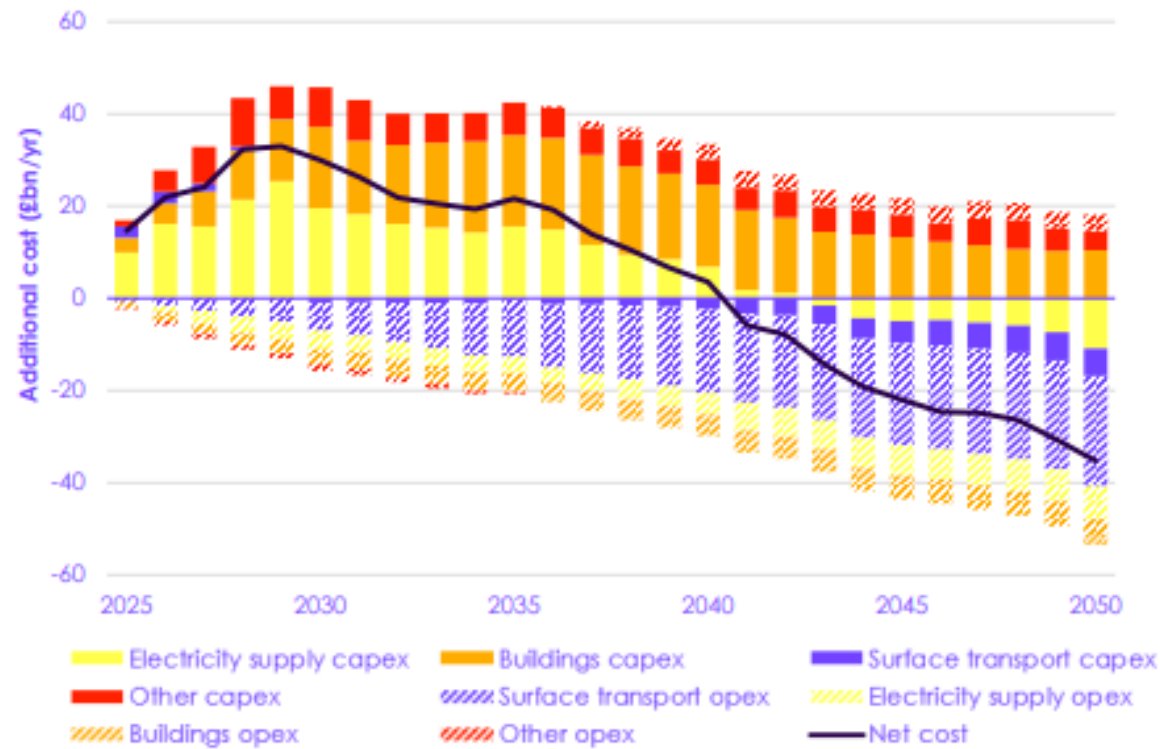


# Individual Carbon Budgets

- 423 MtCO<sub>2</sub>e divided by 70 million population = 6 tCO<sub>2</sub>e per person
- An electric car's carbon footprint would be 1 tCO<sub>2</sub>e less per year
- Short haul return flight is 0.4 tCO<sub>2</sub>e per person, long haul 1 tCO<sub>2</sub>e
- Not eating meat = 1.5 tCO<sub>2</sub>e per person
- Solar panels = 0.9 tCO<sub>2</sub>e per house
- Heat pumps = 1.4 tCO<sub>2</sub>e per house
- Recycling = 0.7 tCO<sub>2</sub>e per house

# Will it add to the cost of living?

Figure 4 Additional capital expenditure and operating costs in the Balanced Pathway, compared to the baseline



**Description:** Additional costs in the Balanced Pathway are front-loaded, peaking in 2029. Investment costs are offset by operating savings in later years, with the pathway becoming a net cost saving overall in 2041.

**Source:** CCC analysis.

**Notes:** See Chapter 4. 'Capex' is additional capital expenditure and 'opex' is additional operating expenditure. Both are relative to a baseline of no further decarbonisation action.

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