universität freiburg

Know your footprint
- and how to go on

Valerie Lang
On behalf of the Know-your-footprint team
Naman Kumar Bhalla, Simran Gurdasani, Pardis Niknejadi, VL

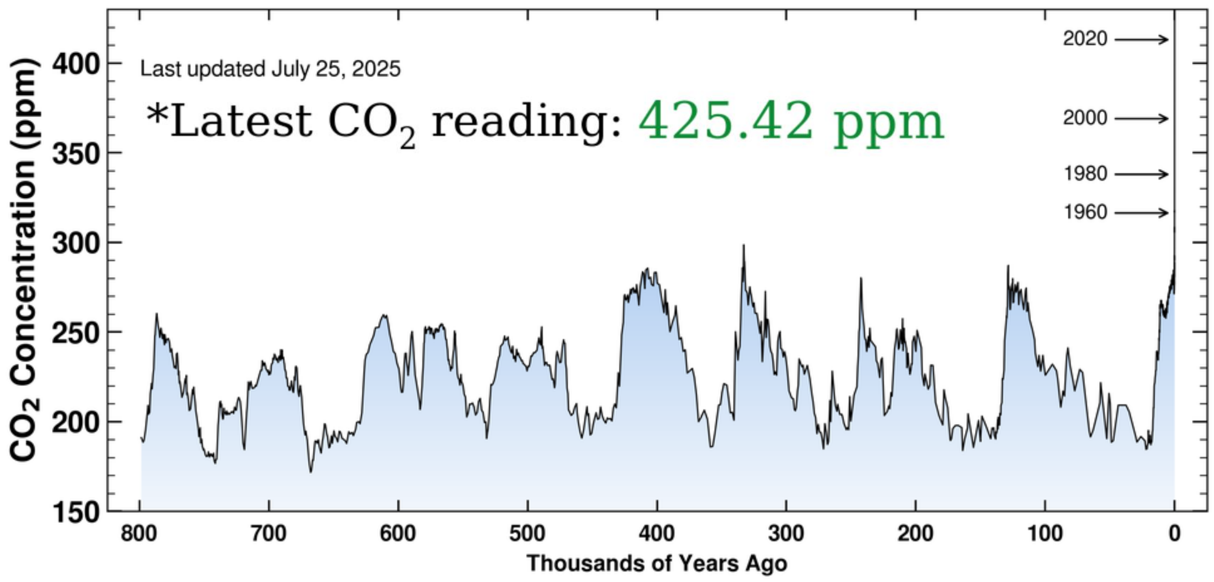
Workshop: Shaping the Digital Future of ErUM Research: Sustainability & Ethics
30 July 2025

Foto von Tim Huyghe auf Unsplash

Climate crisis – unfolding before our eyes

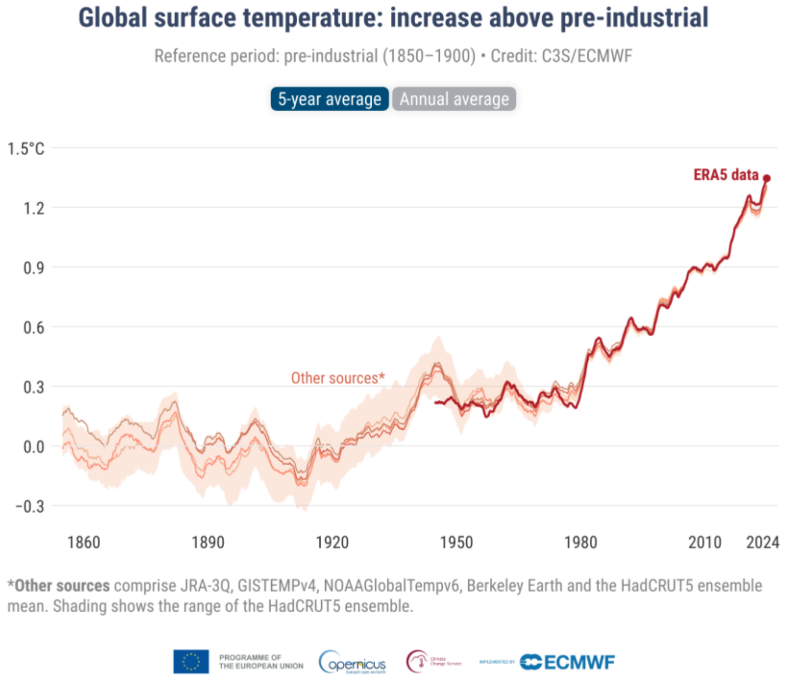
Known since 1896 (129 years ago): CO_2 level in atmosphere impacts ground temperature

- Keeling curve: Measurements at Mauna Loa Observatory combined with ice cores from Antarctica



https://keelingcurve.ucsd.edu

- Temperature data from the Copernicus Earth Observation programme



https://climate.copernicus.eu/climate-indicators/temperature

→ Sharp increase of CO_2 level and global surface temperature → Causal relation, not just correlation!

Climate crisis – Cost of lives: Just some cases this month

Flood in Texas – 4 July 2025

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/July_2025_Central_Texas_floods

- → Girls summer camp: Camp Mystic in special flood hazard area
- → More than 136 fatalities

Fires in Turkey, Greece and Cyprus – End of July 2025 (ongoing)

https://www.tagesschau.de/ausland/europa/waldbraende-griechenland-zypern-102.html
https://www.tagesschau.de/ausland/waldbraende-tuerkei-zypern-tote-100.html

- → Temperature record of 50.5˚C in Silopi
- → At least 12 people died in the fires in Turkey and Cyprus

Train accident in Baden-Württemberg – Sunday, 27 July 2025

https://www.nytimes.com/2025/07/27/world/europe/train-derailment-accident-germany.html

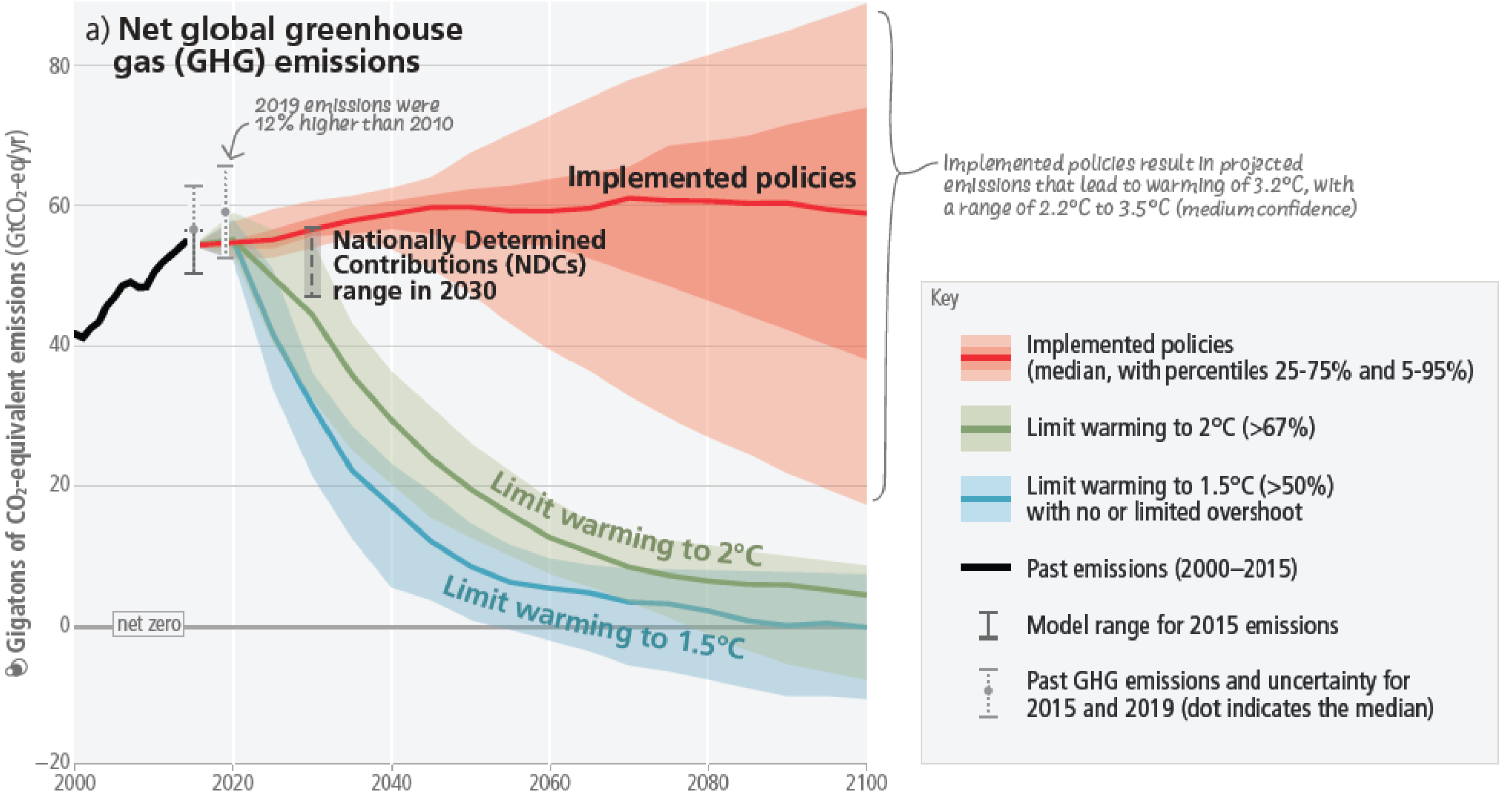
- → Cause: Mud slide due to heavy rain
- → At least 3 people killed

→ What to do? → Combat climate change!

Scenarios for climate change

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

- Factoring (lack of) mitigation actions, policies, etc.



https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/syr/downloads/report/IPCC_AR6_SYR_SPM.pdf

→ Currently implemented policies lead to warming of 3.2˚C

→ Pathways to 1.5˚C (2.0˚C) require rapid and deep yearly emissions reductions!

→ Why? **Cumulative CO_2 emissions count**

Know your footprint! → Calculate professional emissions

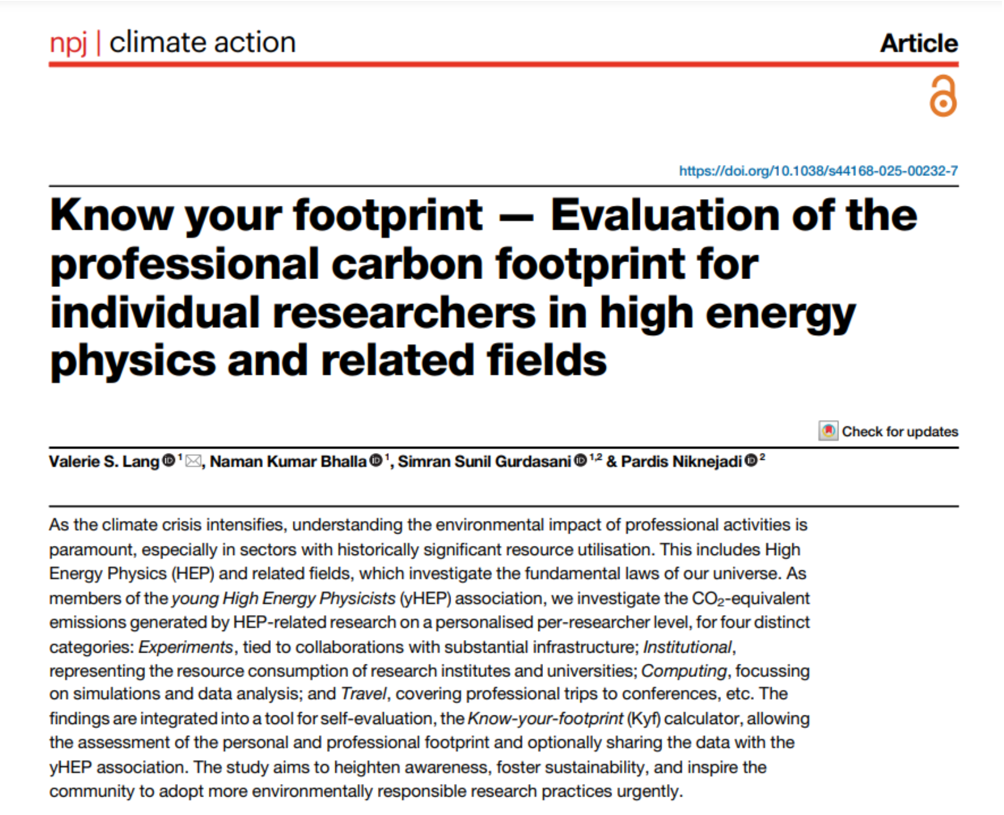
High Energy Physics (HEP) and related fields contribute to CO_2 emissions

- Estimate professional emissions in four categories:
  - Experiment
  - Institute
  - Computing
  - Travel

→ Investigate each category‘s impact
→ Configurable per individual researcher, i.e. your individual research situation!

→ Basis of the Know your footprint (Kyf) calculator
https://www.nature.com/articles/s44168-025-00232-7
https://arxiv.org/abs/2403.03308

Note: Unfortunately, CERN discontinued limesurvey which was used as basis for the calculator – moving to different platform still to be decided



npj | climate action

Article

https://doi.org/10.1038/s44168-025-00232-7

Know your footprint — Evaluation of the professional carbon footprint for individual researchers in high energy physics and related fields

Check for updates

Valerie S. Lang[1], Naman Kumar Bhalla[1], Simran Sunil Gurdasani[1,2] & Pardis Niknejadi[2]

As the climate crisis intensifies, understanding the environmental impact of professional activities is paramount, especially in sectors with historically significant resource utilisation. This includes High Energy Physics (HEP) and related fields, which investigate the fundamental laws of our universe. As members of the *young High Energy Physicists* (yHEP) association, we investigate the CO_2-equivalent emissions generated by HEP-related research on a personalised per-researcher level, for four distinct categories: *Experiments*, tied to collaborations with substantial infrastructure; *Institutional*, representing the resource consumption of research institutes and universities; *Computing*, focussing on simulations and data analysis; and *Travel*, covering professional trips to conferences, etc. The findings are integrated into a tool for self-evaluation, the *Know-your-footprint* (Kyf) calculator, allowing the assessment of the personal and professional footprint and optionally sharing the data with the yHEP association. The study aims to heighten awareness, foster sustainability, and inspire the community to adopt more environmentally responsible research practices urgently.

Example category: Experiment

Distinguish the following options

- Large LHC experiment
- Small LHC experiment

} Based on CERN environmental report(s) and LHCb Upgrade II TDR

- Small HEP experiment → Based on DESY electricity consumption
- Astrophysics experiment → Based on ESO annual report

Definition of per-researcher footprint per year

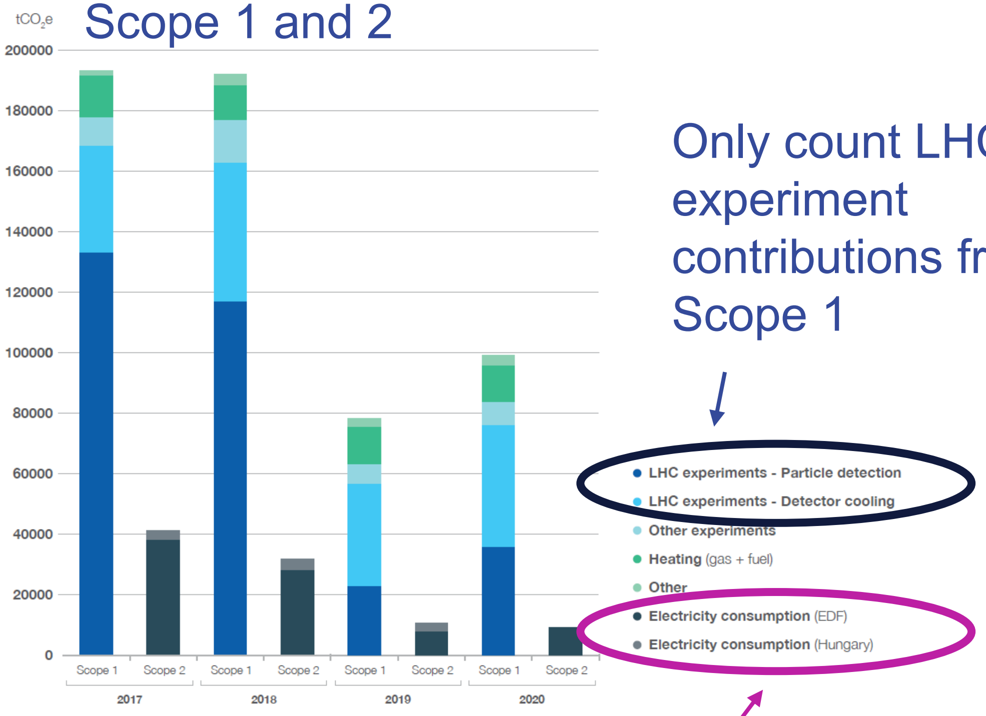
- (Total annual emissions from experiment) / (Number of experiment members)
  - Experiment members = collaboration members or users (and operators)
  - No consideration of indirect benefits for “the industry“ or “the public“
    → Too vague and leads to responsibility diffusion
  - Responsibility for emissions by researchers who design, build, operate detectors, and analyze their data

Footprint of CERN

Emissions classified into three categories by CERN environmental reports

- Scope 1
  - Direct emissions from detectors, heating, etc.
- Scope 2
  - Indirect emissions, primarily from electricity consumption
- Scope 3 → Considered only for Institute footprint
  - Indirect emissions from other sources, e.g. travel, commute, waste, catering, procurement

Scope 1 and 2



Only count LHC experiment contributions from Scope 1

Subtract CERN sites contributions from Scope 2

→ Dominant contribution at CERN: Gases used in particle detection and cooling

Footprint of large and small LHC experiments

Split CERN emissions into large and small LHC experiments

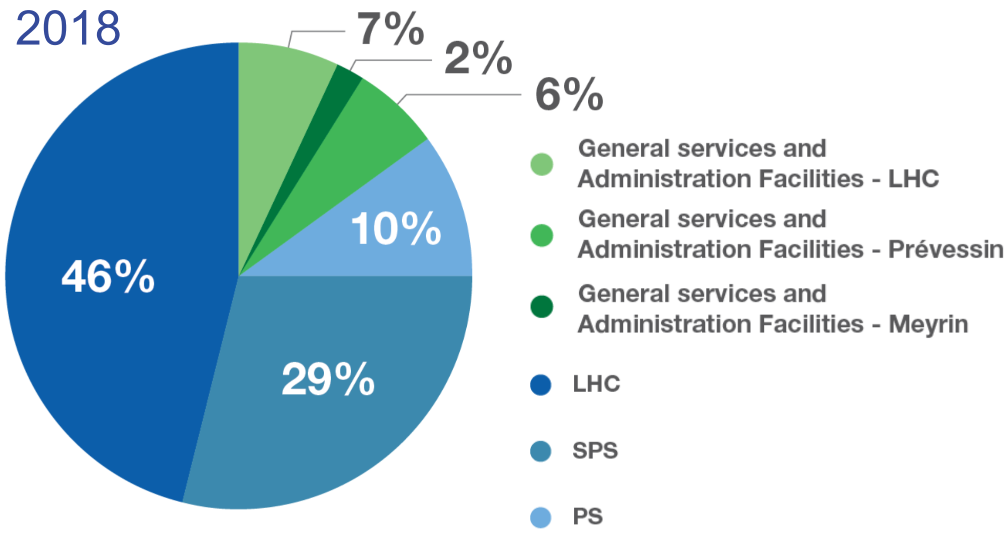
- For scope 1: LHCb Scope 1 emissions in 2022 specified in Upgrade II Technical Design report
  - Assume ALICE ≈ LHCb → Small LHC experiment: $S1_{Small}$
  - Assume ATLAS ≈ CMS → Large LHC experiment: $S1_{Large}$

$$\rightarrow S1_{Large} = \frac{S1_{All} - 2 \cdot S1_{Small}}{2}$$

- For scope 2:
  - Largest consumer: LHC → Followed by pre-accelerators
    → Needed by all four experiments → Share equally
    → Subtract CERN-site contributions before

$$\rightarrow S2_{Large} = S2_{Small} = \frac{S2_{All}}{4}$$

Scope 2: Electrical power distribution 2018



- Annual emissions: Average running years (2017, 2018, 2022) and shutdown years (2019-2021) separately
  - Assume typical operation pattern of last years: 4 years running + 3 years shutdown → Get average

Footprint of large and small LHC experiments (II)

Emissions [tCO_2e] per experiment

- Separately for Run, Shutdown (SD) and average years

	Phase	Scope 1	Scope 2	Total
Small	Run	2244	16 206	18 450
	SD	1030	8796	9826
	Overall	-	-	14 754
Large	Run	78 332	16 206	94 538
	SD	35 962	8796	44 758
	Overall	-	-	73 204

→ Small experiment dominated by Scope 2 emissions, i.e. electricity (probably largely for LHC)
→ Large experiment dominated by Scope 1 emissions, i.e. gases with high global warming potential lost to the atmosphere (detector leaks!)

Emissions per collaboration member

- Assume equal share among collaboration members

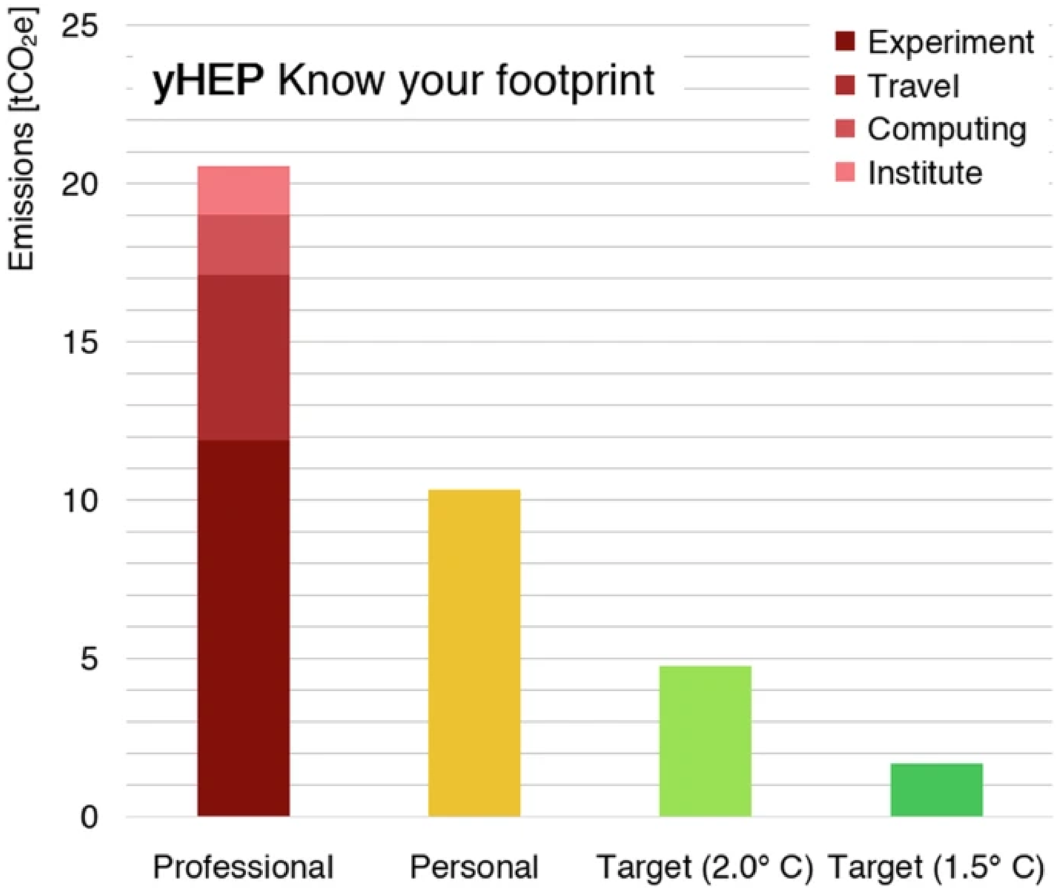
	Experiment	Members	Mean	Emissions
Small	ALICE	1968	1684	8.76 tCO_2e
	LHCb	1400		
Large	CMS	6288	6144	11.91 tCO_2e
	ATLAS	6000		

→ Slightly more (less) for large (small) LHC experiments compared to private footprint in Germany (~10tCO_2e)

Professional footprint of benchmark researcher

Assume early-career researcher in Germany: Doctoral student

- Working on one of the large LHC experiments
- Employed by university with conventional electricity
- Medium computing level with conventional electricity
- Annual travel: Two 1-week trips by train in Germany, one 1-week flight travel in Europe, 1 2-week cross-continental travel (e.g. for summer school)

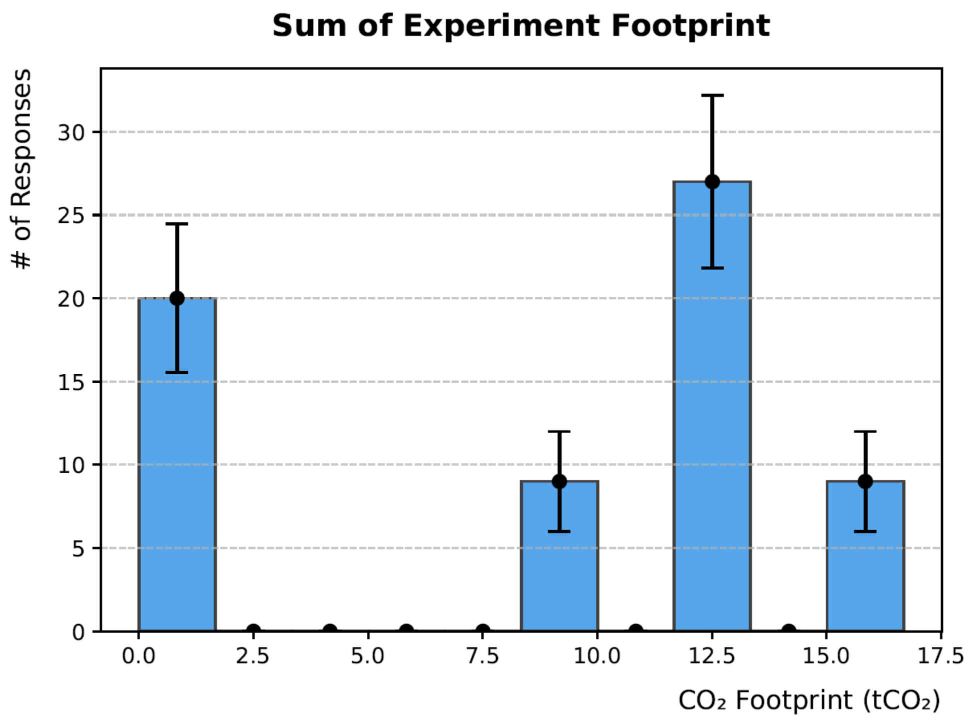


→ Professional footprint exceeds:
- Private footprint by factor of ~2
- Targets for mitigating climate crisis to 1.5˚C (2.0˚C) warming by factor of ~12 (~4)

How representative is it?

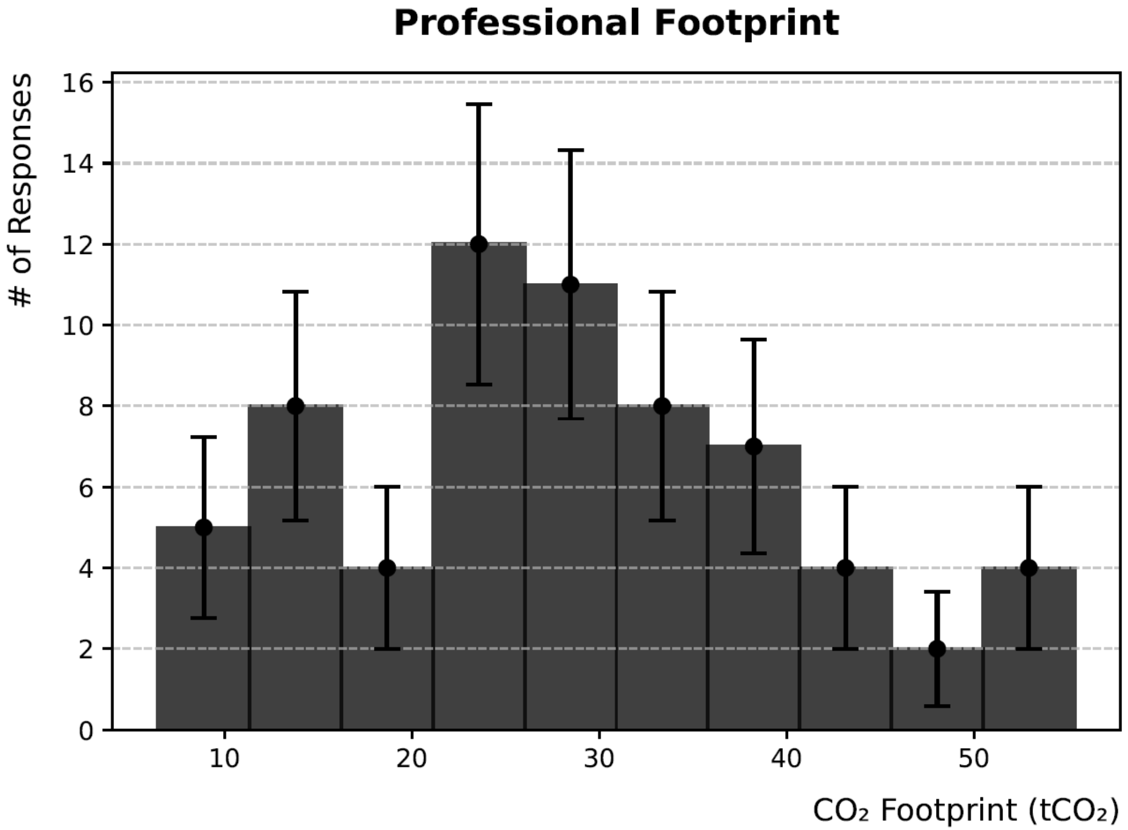
68 submitted responses until 12 Feb 2025

- Accumulation at particular values given still limited options, e.g. for experiment



Note: Error bars = sqrt(N)

Total sums



→ Benchmark researcher below average among submitted responses

→ Note: Not necessarily a representative sample

How to continue? - PEARLS

PEARLS = Precision in Energy-aware AI Research for Low-carbon Solutions

- Measure and improve carbon footprint and uncertainties of neural networks and large language models
  - Test and apply in ATLAS analysis and *Improve your footprint* AI → Build on *Know your footprint* 2.0
- *Improve your footprint* AI → Provide personalized action suggestions and support for carbon reductions
  - Implement carbon footprint estimates and optimization
  - Implement uncertainty handling and minimize hallucinations
- Dedicated research and work needed, i.e. person power, i.e. funding
  - Consortium of DESY (Hamburg+Zeuthen) and University of Freiburg
  - Led only by junior researchers (P. Niknejadi for DESY, myself for Freiburg)
  - Application in January for ErUM-Data funding → Funding notification still pending (as I learned: this is a good thing!)

PEARLS place holder logo

Summary

Climate crisis in progress and intensifying every year

- Mechanism of CO_2 concentration and ground temperature increase known since more than 100 years
  - Currently heading towards 3.2˚C temperature increase → Targeted action for mitigation urgently needed!

High Energy Physics (HEP) and related areas contribute to global emissions

- *Know your footprint* calculator for individual researcher emissions and paper released last year
- 4 categories: Experiment, institute, computing, travel
  - Experiment footprint for large (small) LHC experiments: ~12 (9) tCO_2e/year
  - Early-career benchmark researcher: Professional footprint = factor of ~12 (~4) larger than targets for mitigating climate crisis to 1.5˚C (2.0˚C) warming → In comparison to statistics: Below average!
- PEARLS project to improve footprint of AI applications and support climate action
  - Funding decision in ErUM-Data still pending (luckily)

→ Might not be able to prevent 1.5˚C warming (reached ~now), but can slow process to allow for adaptation
→ Every gram of CO_2 not emitted counts!

Your plan for climate action

What is your idea for climate action which you think you can implement?

- Can range form: “Figure out my footprint“ to “Fix gas leaks in ATLAS detector“ (keep it short)

Find best practices in other field and try whether they work in Physics.

Include sustainability aspects / discussions in all workshops / schools

Make SUSFECIT successful and having a real impact

Rethink cooling

Take the bike more often

More meetings via Zoom if distance is great, use footprint to get more aware of own impact

Make air travel contingent on minimum travel distance

If aging of environmental gas is an issue in RPCs, can you just replace regularly?

https://www.vote.ac/?id=valerie.lang@physik.uni-freiburg.de

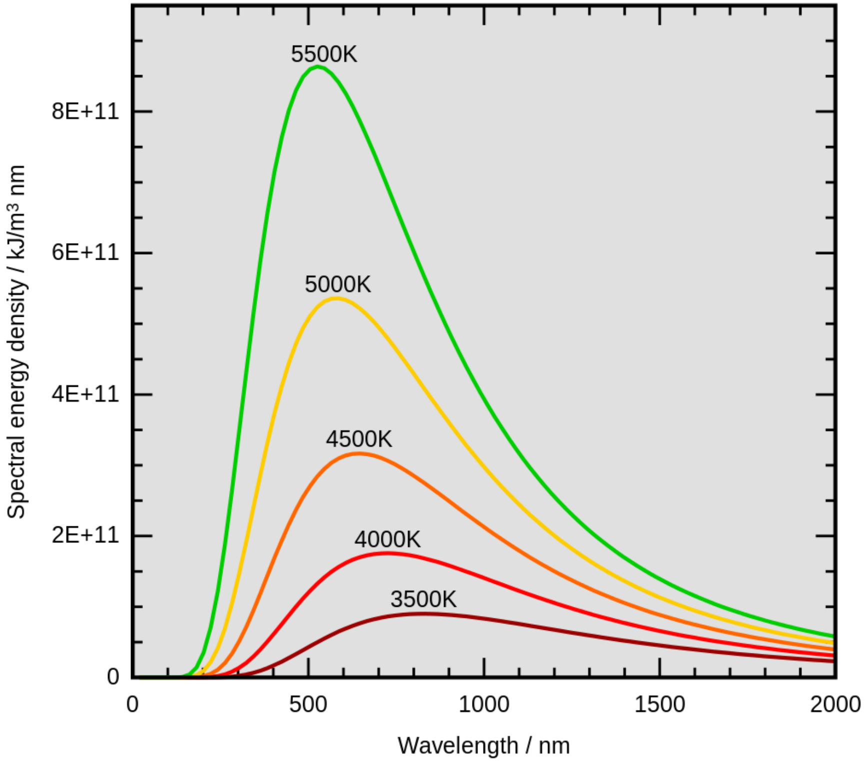
ID = valerie.lang@physik.uni-freiburg.de
9 Posts / Poll closed

Thanks for your attention – Questions?

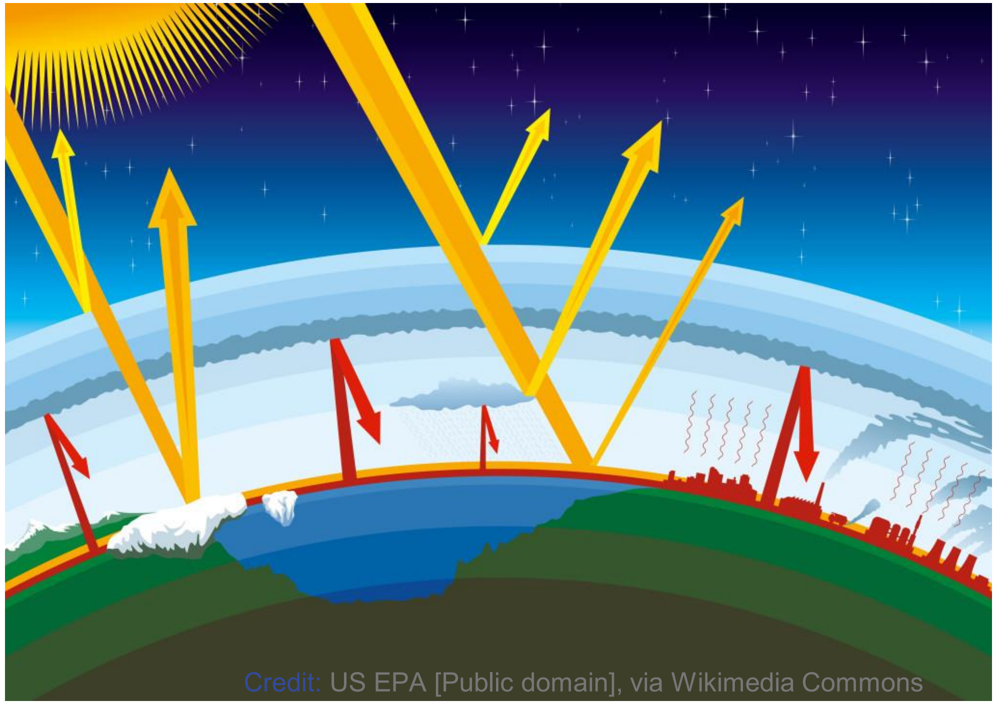
The basics: Green house effect

Black body radiation of the sun and Earth

- Sun at 6000°C, Earth at 15°C → Sun radiates in the visible, Earth radiates in the infra-red



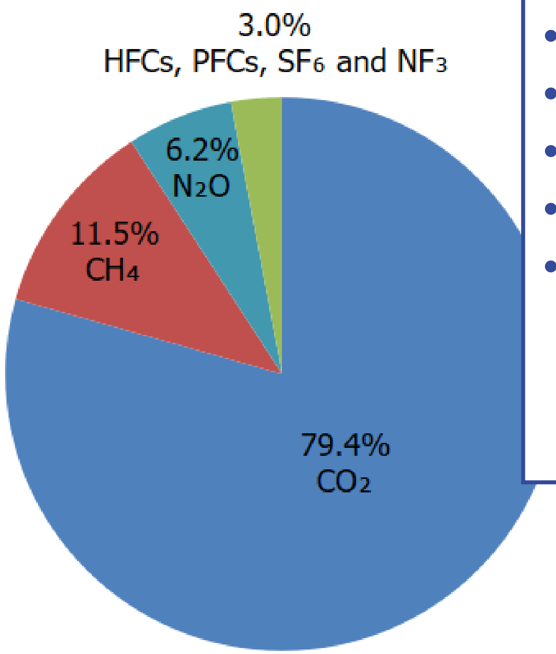
Credit: By 4C - Own work based on JPG version Curva Planck TT.jpg, CC BY-SA 3.0, https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=1017820



→ If atmosphere did not re-absorb Earth's emissions, surface temperature on Earth around -18˚C!

The basics: Green house effect

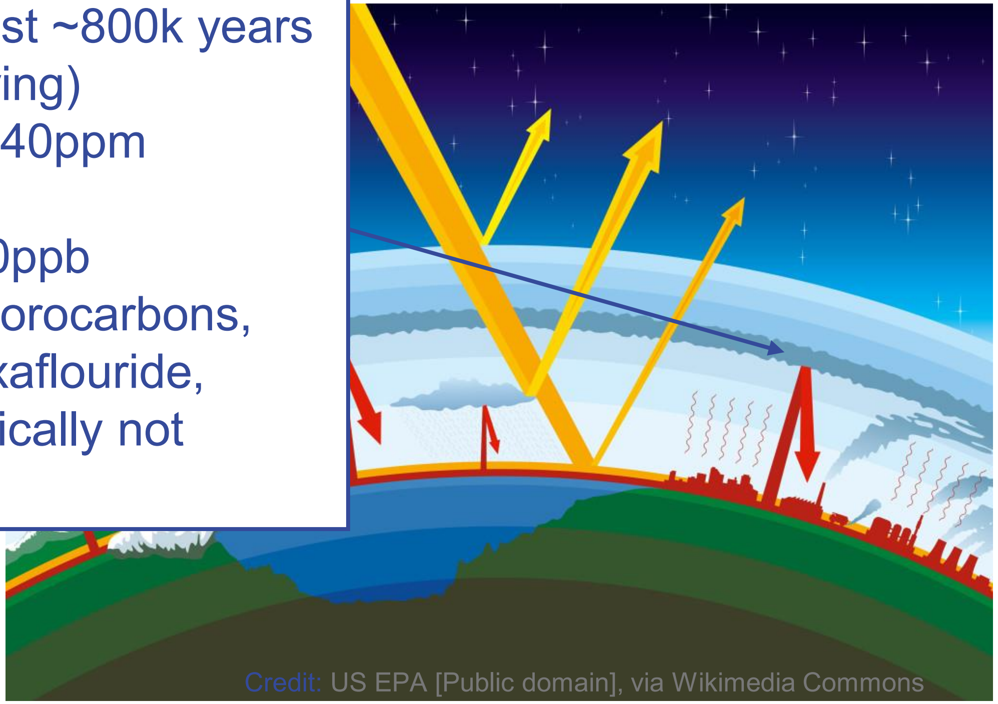
Re-absorption done by greenhouse gases



Main greenhouse gases

→ Historic concentrations in last ~800k years

- Water vapour (strongly varying)
- Carbon dioxide (CO_2) → ~240ppm
- Methane (CH_4) → ~500ppb
- Nitrous oxide (N_2O) → ~250ppb
- Fluorinated gases: Hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, sulfur hexaflouride, nitrogen trifluoride → Historically not existing



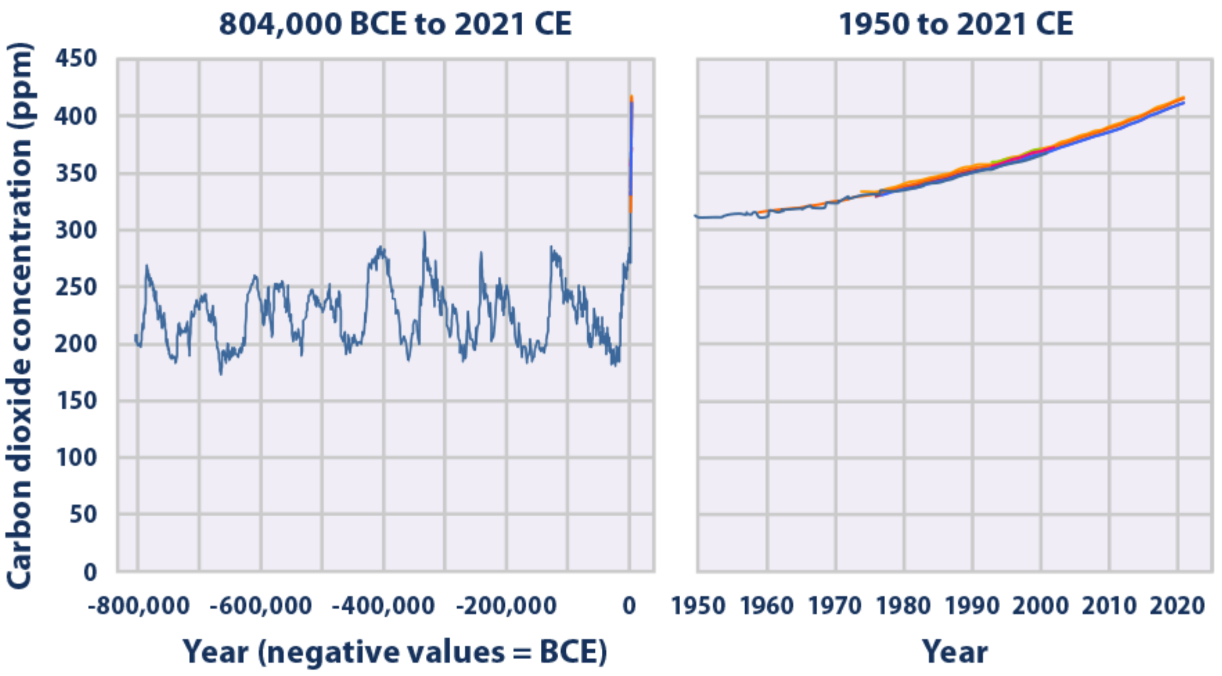
Credit: US EPA [Public domain], via Wikimedia Commons

https://www.epa.gov/ghgemissions/overview-greenhouse-gases

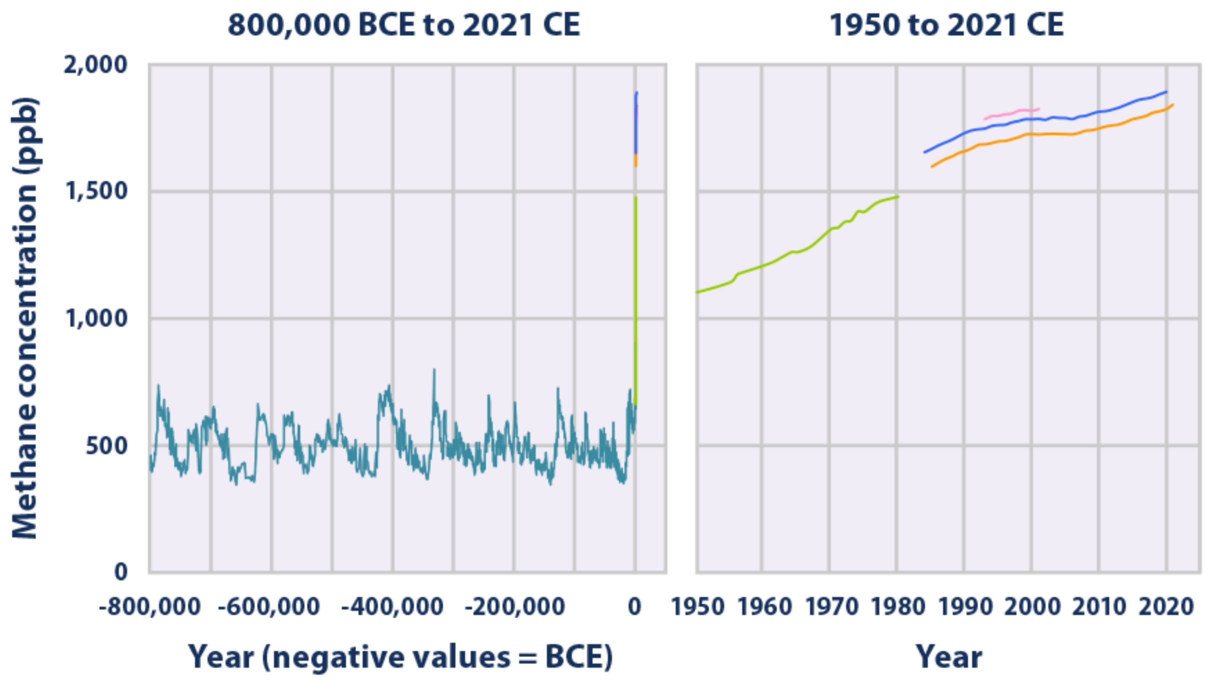
Historic contributions (pre-industrial age) read off from figures from: https://www.epa.gov/climate-indicators/climate-change-indicators-atmospheric-concentrations-greenhouse-gases

Greenhouse gases

CO2



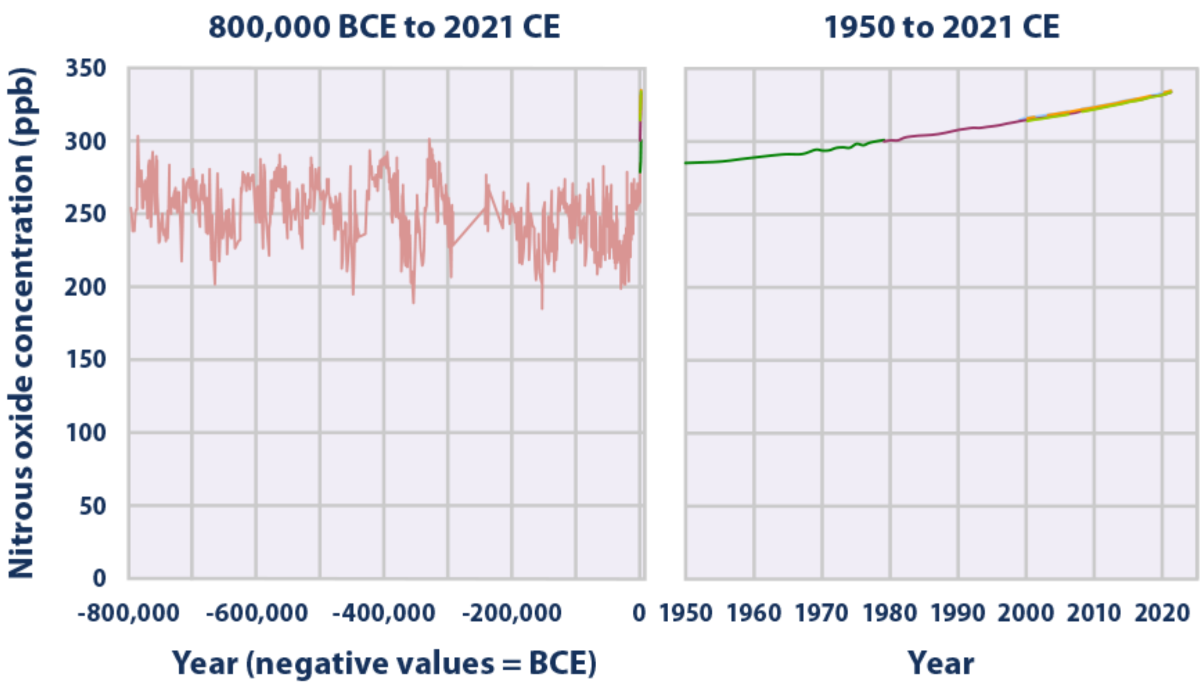
Methane



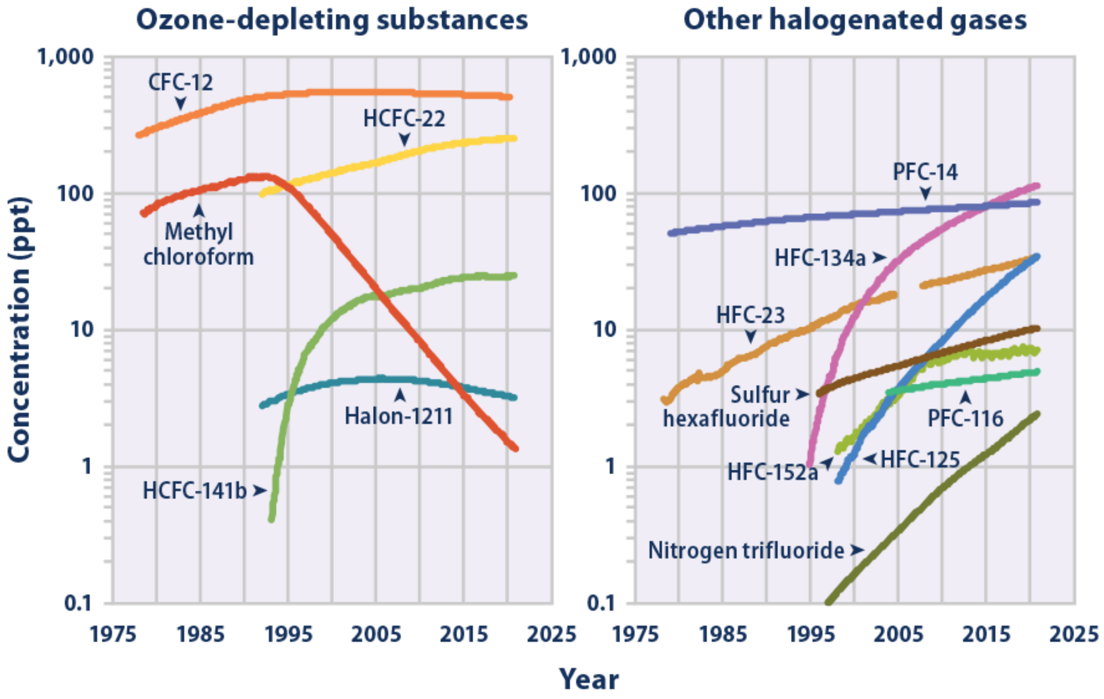
https://www.epa.gov/climate-indicators/climate-change-indicators-atmospheric-concentrations-greenhouse-gases

Greenhouse gases

Nitrous Oxide



Halogenated Gases

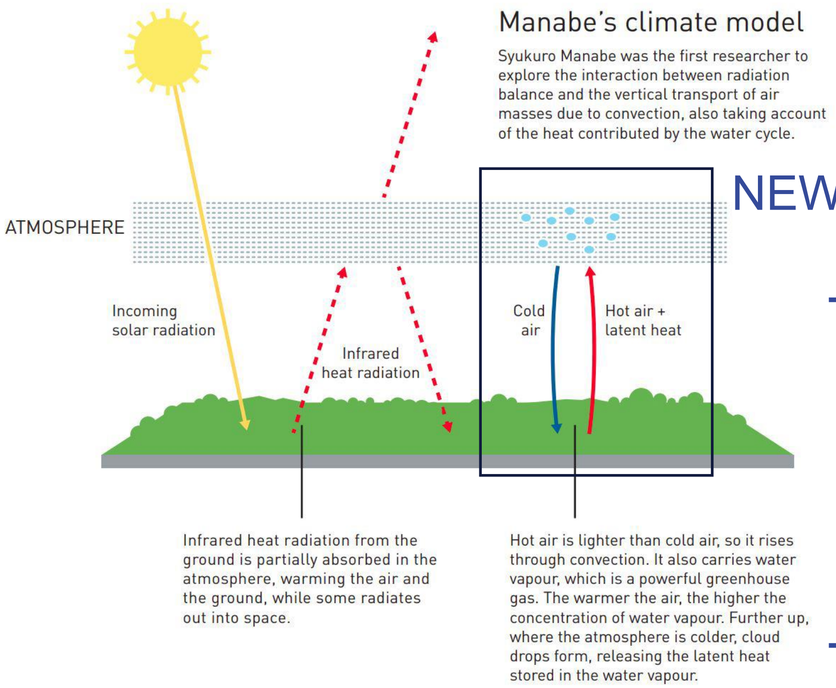


https://www.epa.gov/climate-indicators/climate-change-indicators-atmospheric-concentrations-greenhouse-gases

Improving the predictions of Earth's surface temperature

Nobel prize 2021 - *"for groundbreaking contributions to our understanding of complex physical systems"*

- 1967: Syukuro Manabe: Adding convection and latent heat

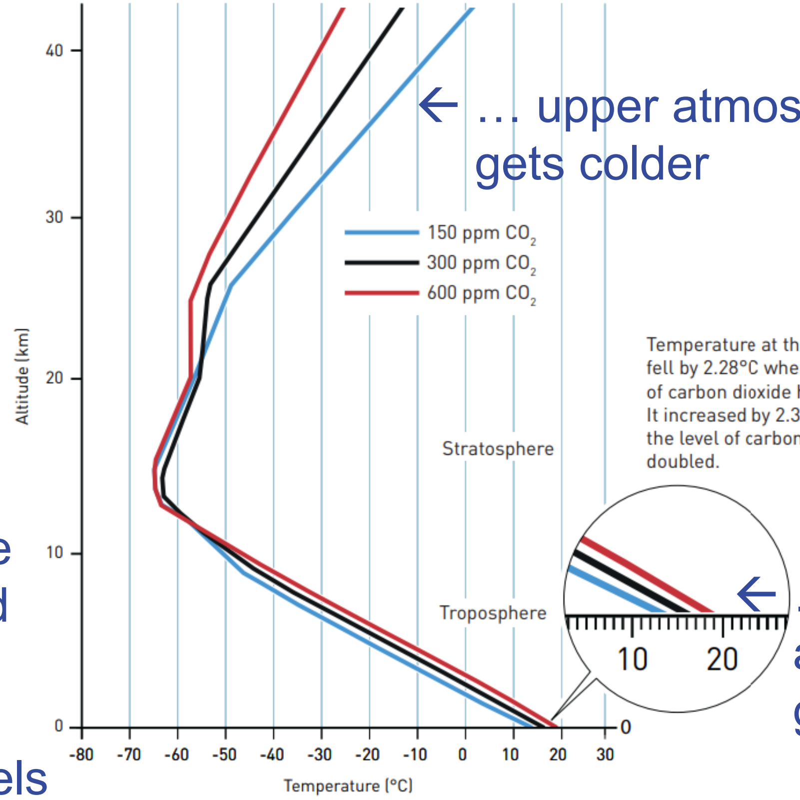


https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/physics/2021/popular-information/

→ If the cause for warming was increased solar radiation, the entire atmosphere should have warmed up

→ Hence, cause is increased CO_2 levels

With higher CO_2 levels …



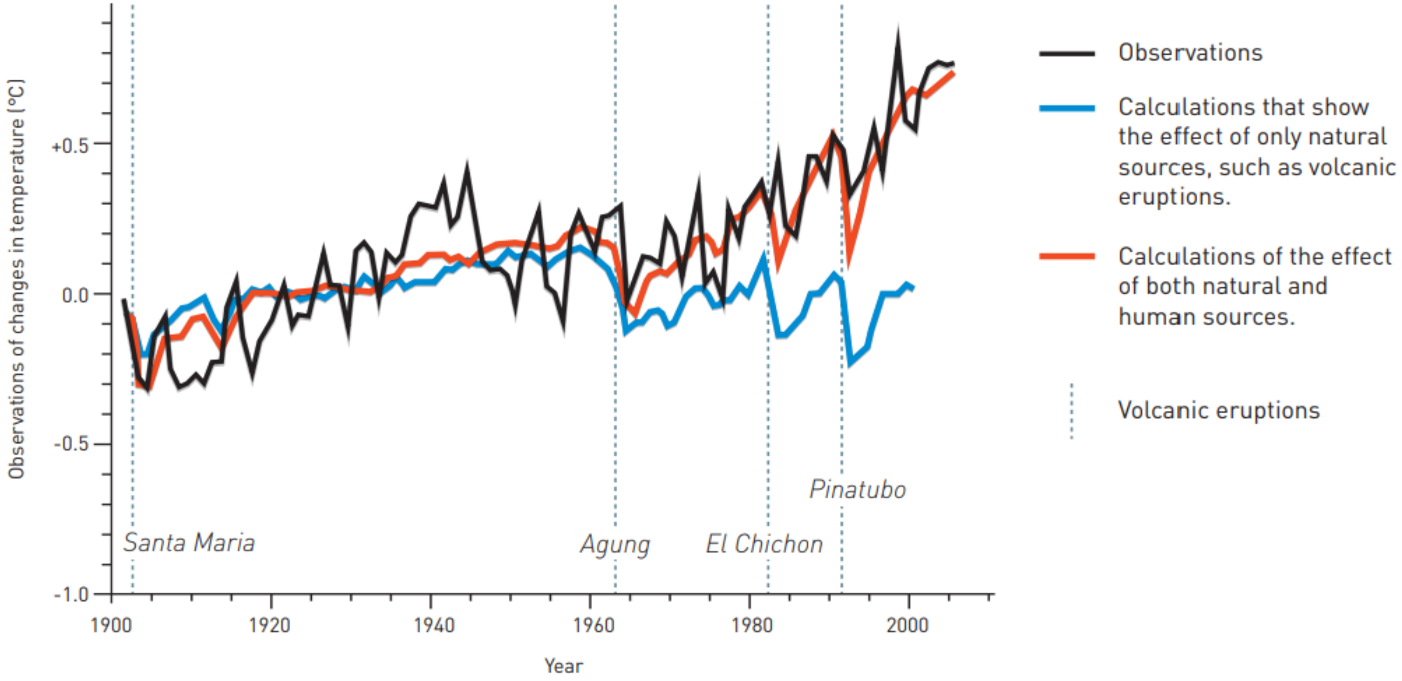
← … upper atmosphere gets colder

← … lower atmosphere gets warmer

Improving the predictions of Earth‘s surface temperature

Nobel prize 2021 - *”for groundbreaking contributions to our understanding of complex physical systems”*

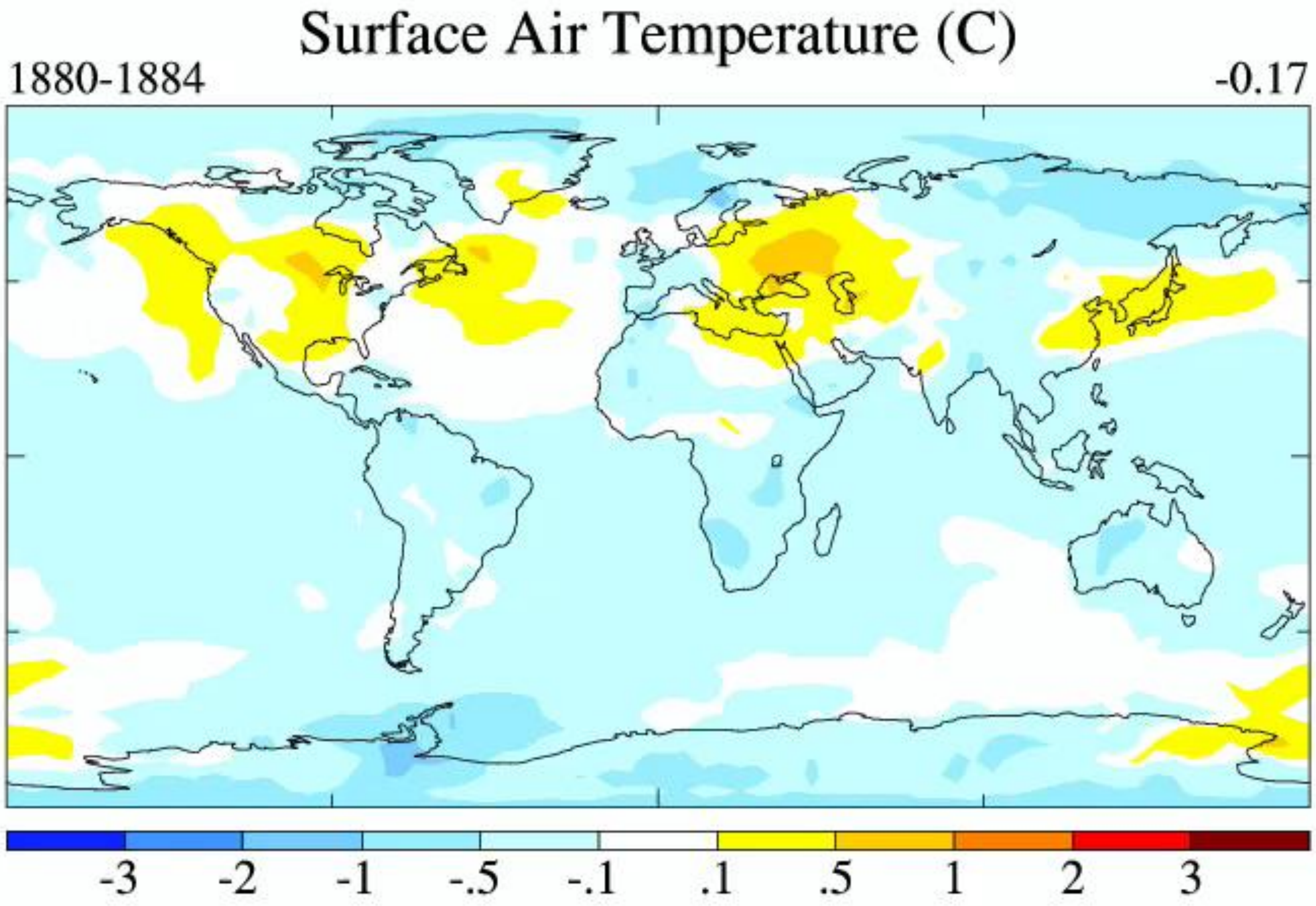
- Around 1980: Klaus Hasselmann: Building a stochastic climate model
  - How to make reliable climate predictions, while weather forecasts are notoriously imprecise in the long-term?
  - Treatment of weather as rapidly changing noise
  - Human impact separated out by properties of noise and signals → Unique fingerprints
    → Solar radiation
    → Volcanic particles
    → Levels of greenhouse gases
    → Human impact



https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/physics/2021/popular-information/

Climate simulation

In 2007



https://data.giss.nasa.gov/modelE/sc07/

Status of climate change

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

- Comprehensive reports on the state of climate change, its impacts and risks, as well as mitigation strategies
  → Latest: Sixth Assment report (AR6)
  - Working Group I – The Physical Science Basis → Released Aug 2021
  - Working Group II – Impacts, Adaption and Vulnerability → Released Feb 2022
  - Working Group III – Mitigation of Climate Change → Released April 2022
  - Synthesis Report → Released March 2023

WMO UNEP

Nobel
2007 PEACE PRIZE
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→ From the Summary for Policy Makers of the Synthesis Report:

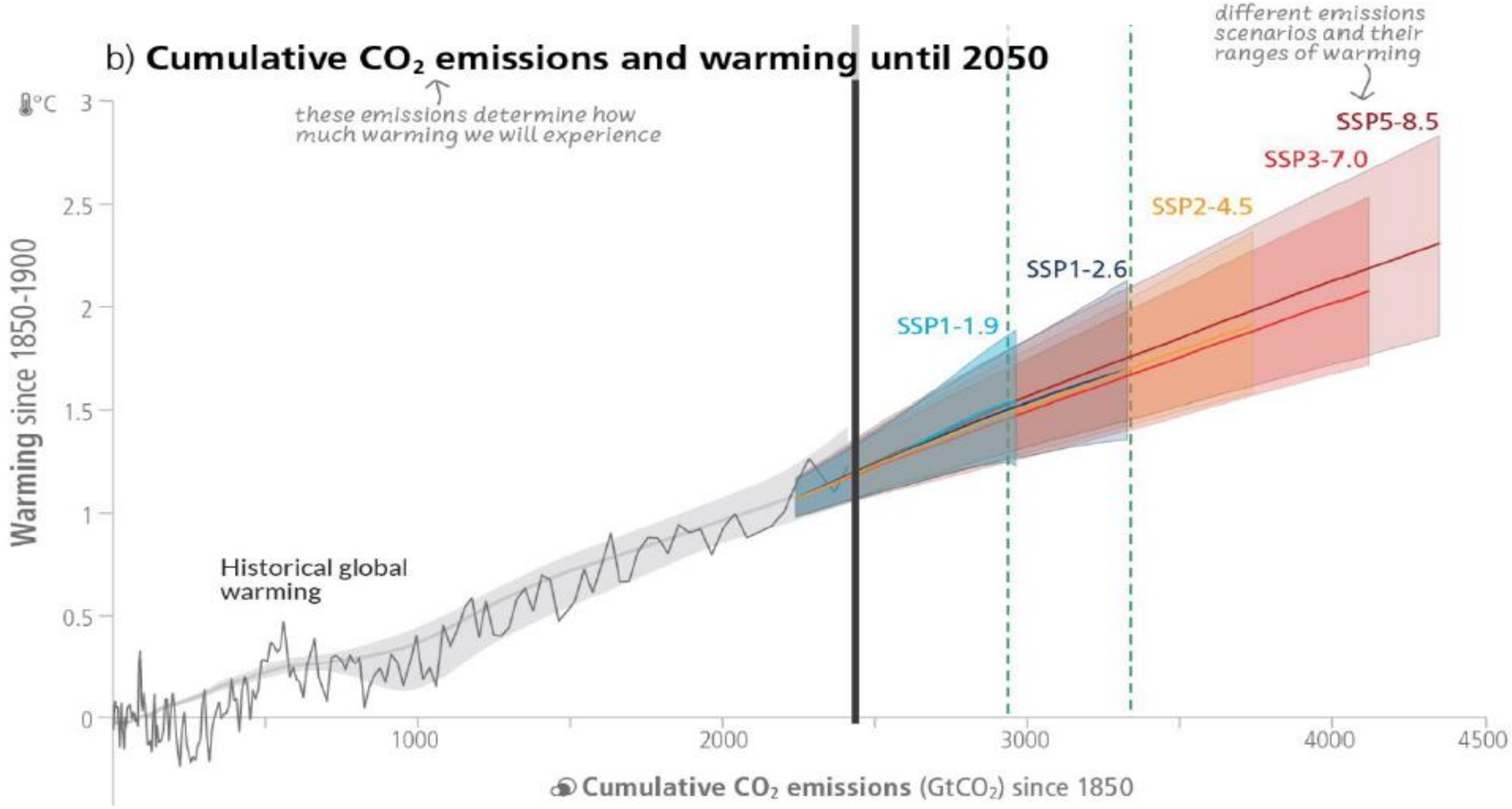
A.1 **Human activities, principally through emissions of greenhouse gases, have unequivocally caused global warming, with global surface temperature reaching 1.1°C above 1850-1900 in 2011-2020. Global greenhouse gas emissions have continued to increase, with unequal historical and ongoing contributions arising from unsustainable energy use, land use and land-use change, lifestyles and patterns of consumption and production across regions, between and within countries, and among individuals (*high confidence*). {*2.1, Figure 2.1, Figure 2.2*}**

https://www.ipcc.ch/reports/

https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/syr/downloads/report/IPCC_AR6_SYR_SPM.pdf

Cumulative emissions

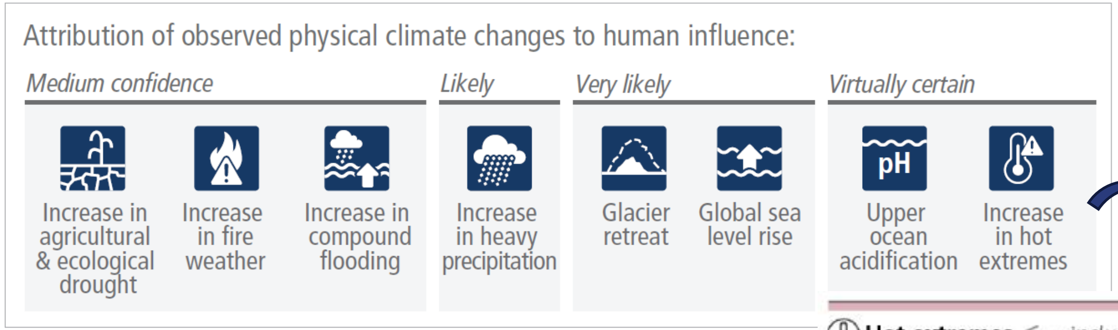
For different scenarios

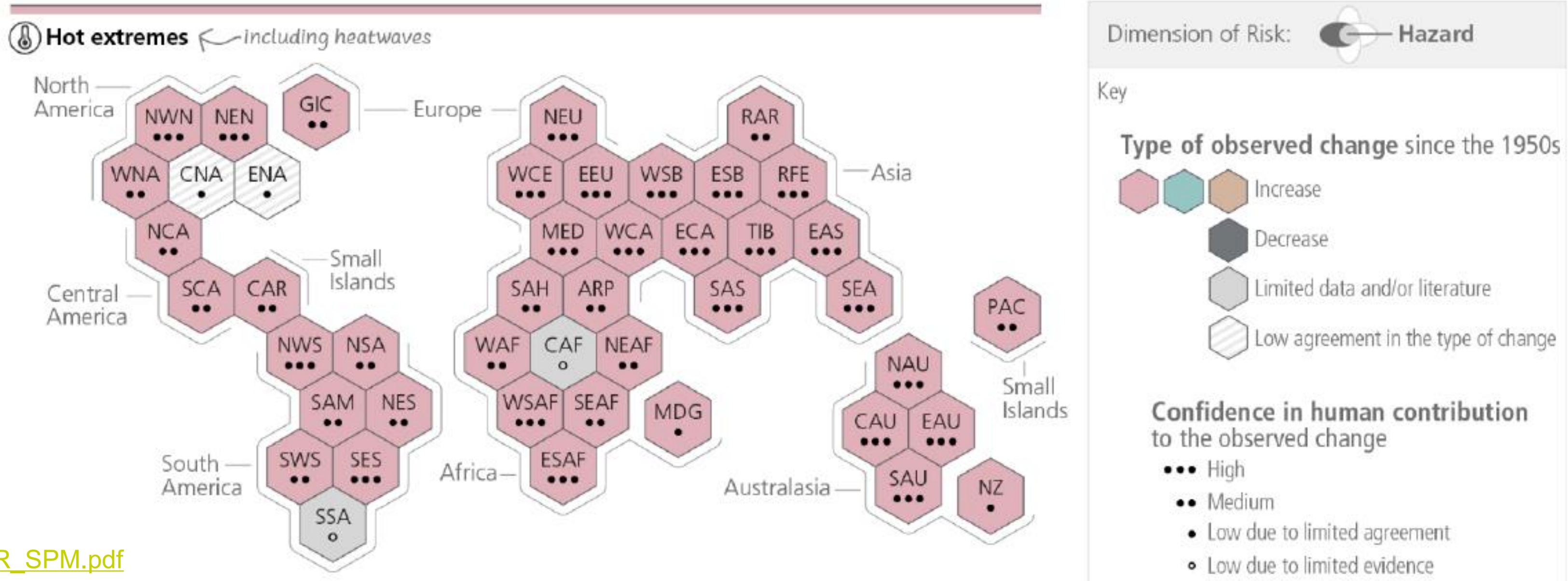


https://report.ipcc.ch/ar6syr/pdf/IPCC_AR6_SYR_LongerReport.pdf

Impacts attributed to human influence

Driven by changes in multiple physical climate conditions





→ Increase in hot extremes well established almost everywhere in the world to result from human influence

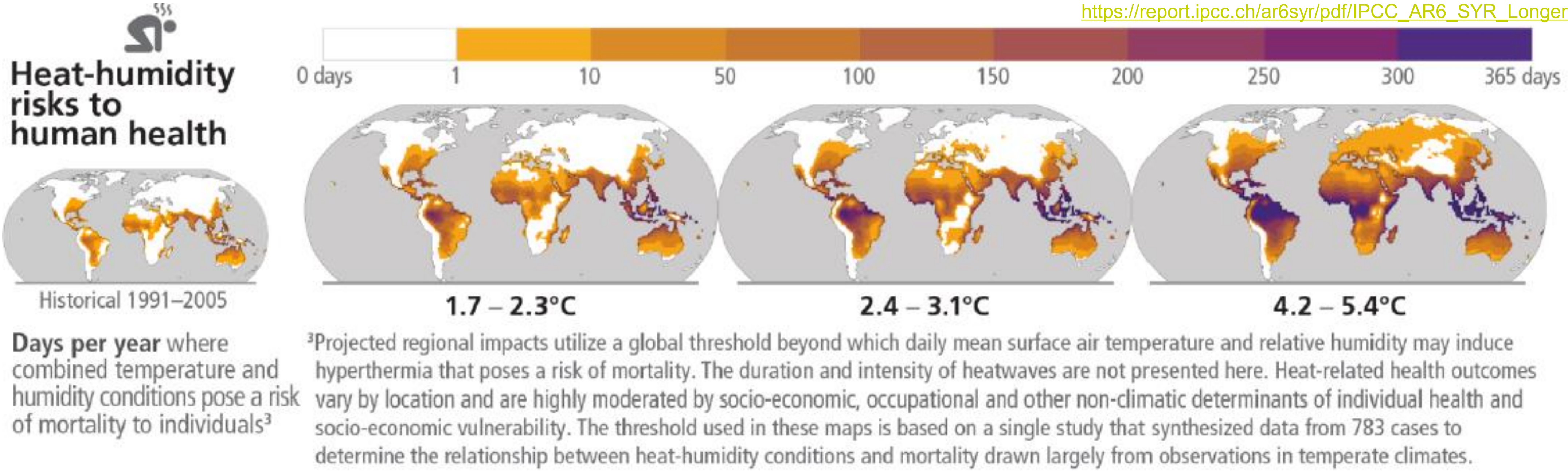
https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/syr/downloads/report/IPCC_AR6_SYR_SPM.pdf
https://report.ipcc.ch/ar6syr/pdf/IPCC_AR6_SYR_LongerReport.pdf

Why is > 2.0˚C temperature increase a bad idea?

With warming of 3.2˚C:

- ~100% biodiversity losses in large areas near equator
- Large parts of the Earth become ~uninhabitable due to risk of hyperthermia

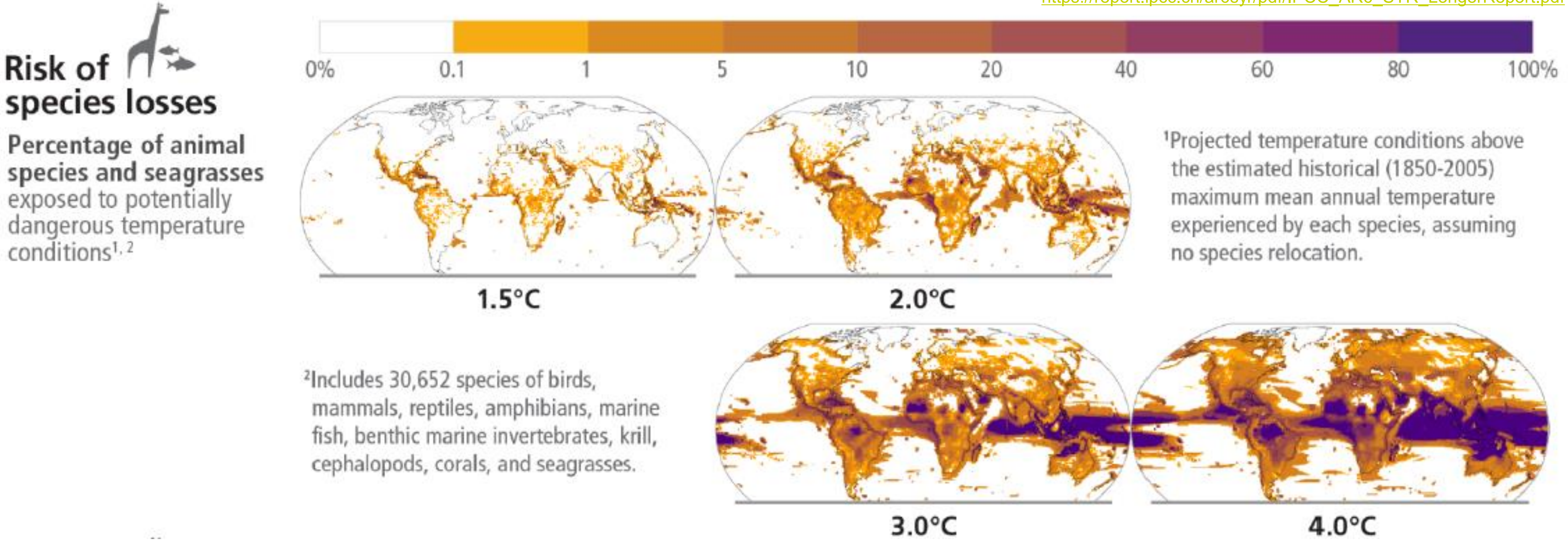
https://report.ipcc.ch/ar6syr/pdf/IPCC_AR6_SYR_LongerReport.pdf



→ Hyperthermia = Failure of human heat-regulating mechanisms – deadly if not treated quickly

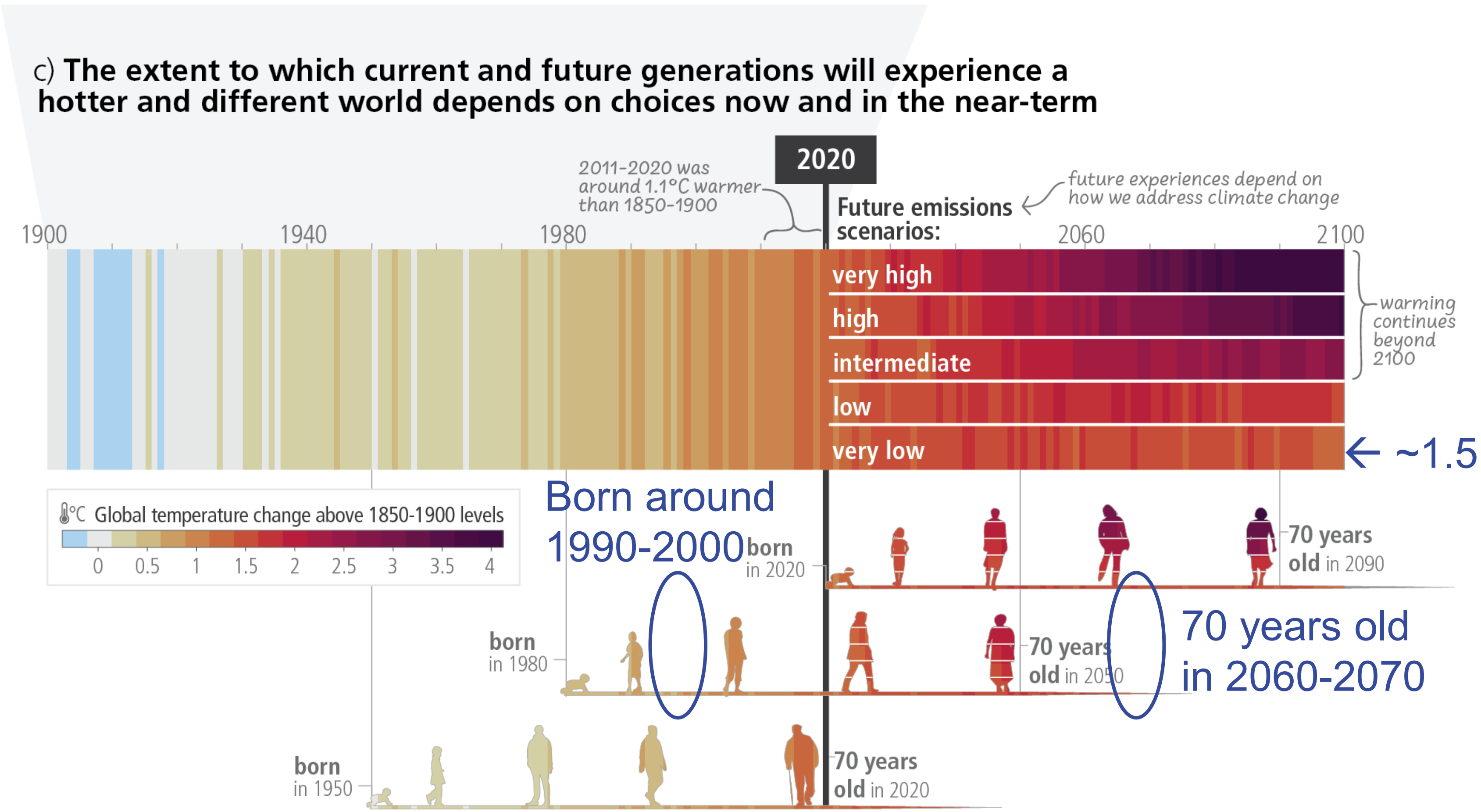
Risk of species losses

https://report.ipcc.ch/ar6syr/pdf/IPCC_AR6_SYR_LongerReport.pdf



Generations affected by climate change

Considering the different scenarios



← ~1.5˚C increase only

Born around 1990-2000

70 years old in 2060-2070

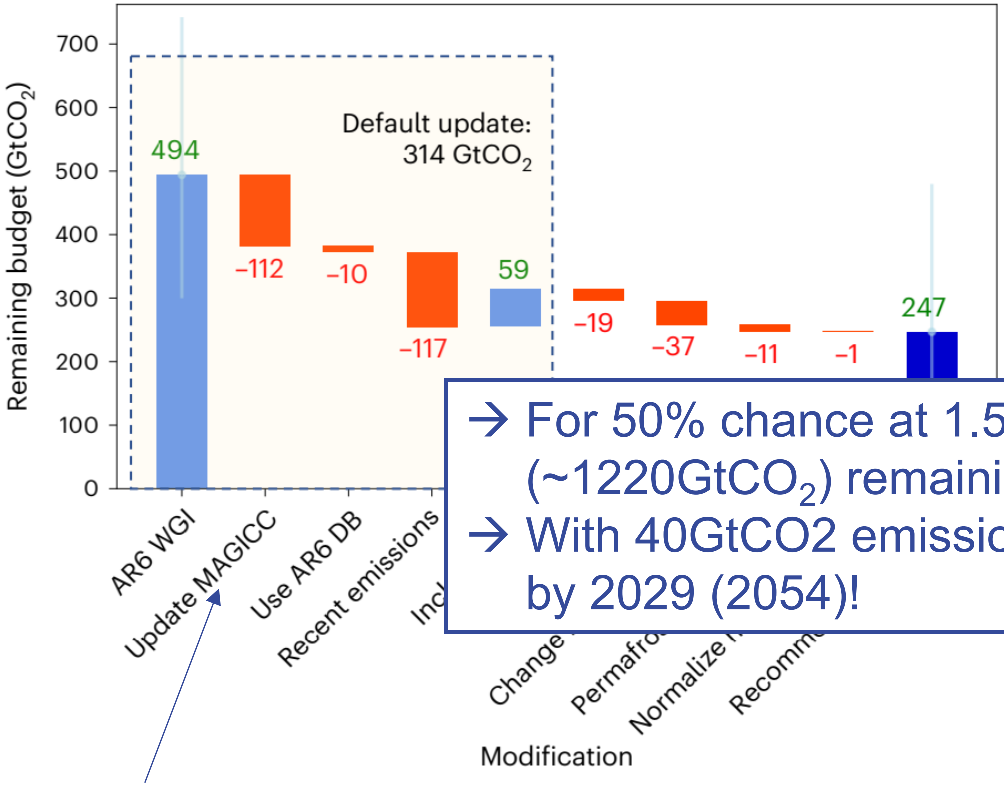
→ Majority of today's audience will live to see the consequences of our actions

https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/syr/downloads/report/IPCC_AR6_SYR_SPM.pdf

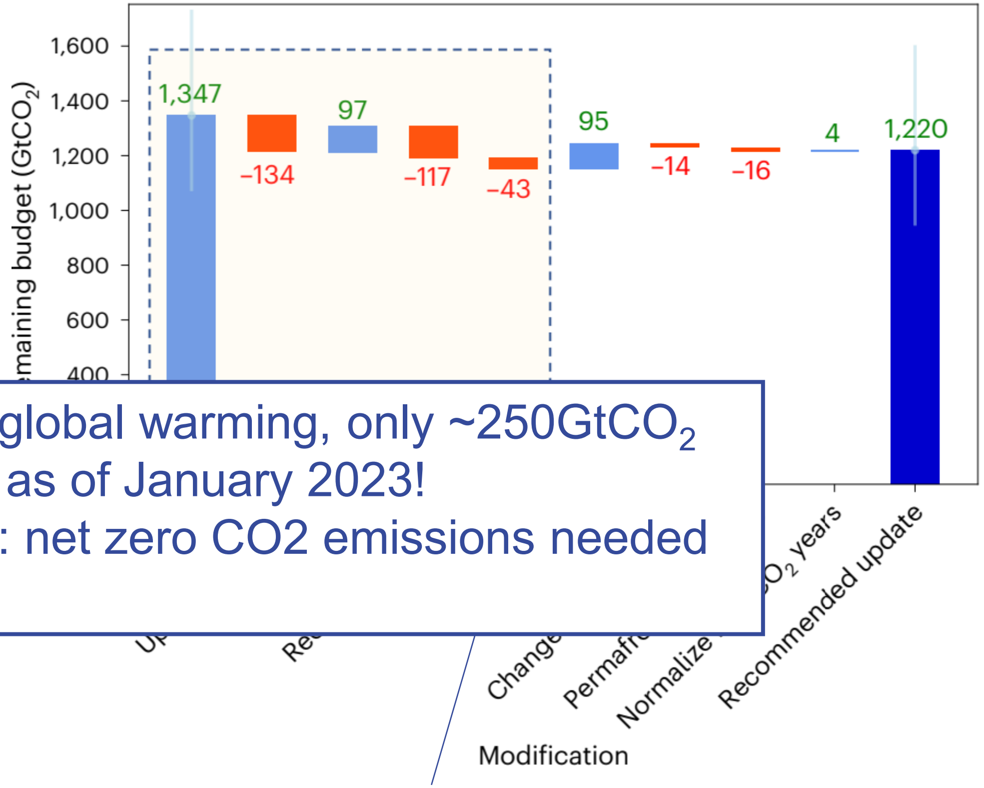
Study of remaining carbon budget newer than IPPC report

Lamboll et. Al., Nature Climate Change 2023

For 1.5˚C increase max



For 2.0˚C increase max



→ For 50% chance at 1.5˚C (2.0˚C) global warming, only ~250$GtCO_2$ (~1220$GtCO_2$) remaining budget, as of January 2023!

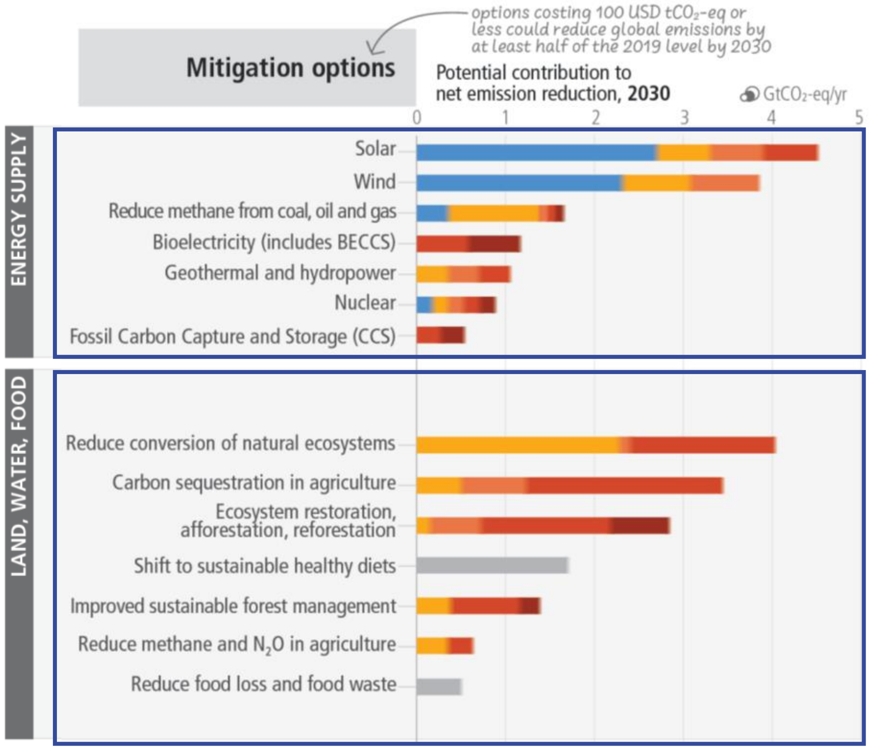
→ With 40GtCO2 emissions in 2022: net zero CO2 emissions needed by 2029 (2054)!

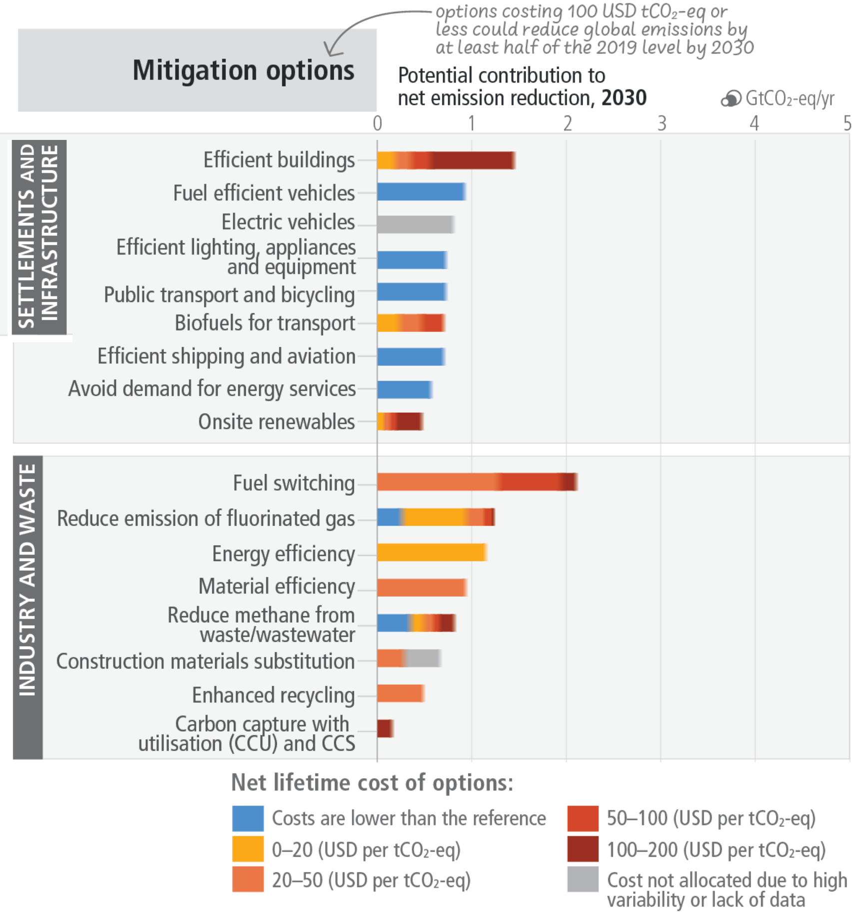
Reduced complexity climate model for non-CO_2 emissions

Additional simple climate model calibrated for use in the latest IPCC report

IPCC report: Mitigation potentials

Cost estimates of different mitigation options





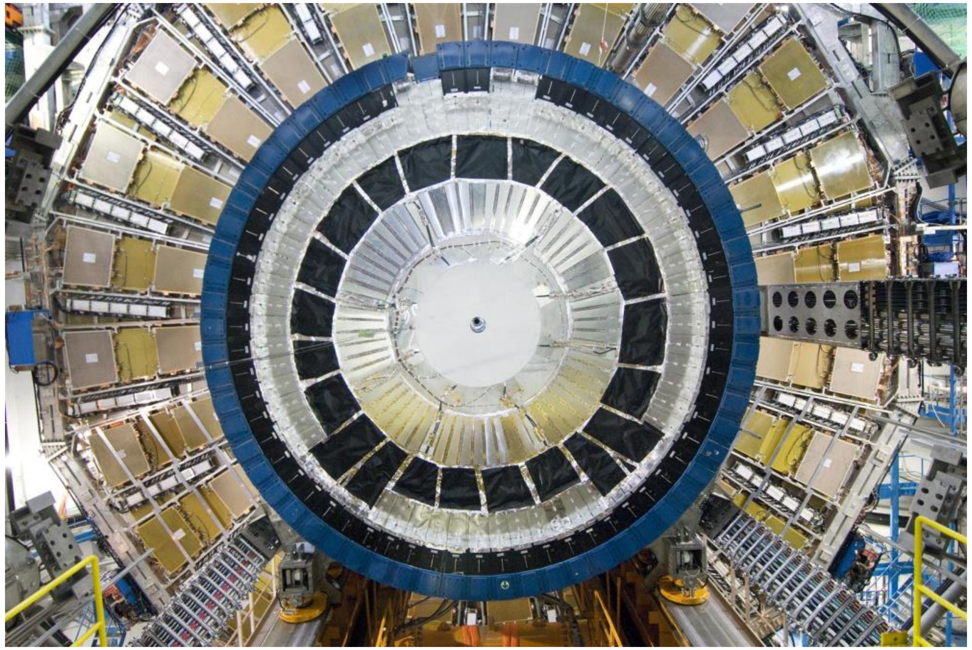
→ Energy and food production with large impacts

→ Take a closer look at these two next

https://report.ipcc.ch/ar6syr/pdf/IPCC_AR6_SYR_LongerReport.pdf

Why is it relevant to High Energy Physics & related fields?

High Energy Physics (HEP) and related fields contribute to CO_2 emissions



- Build large detector systems and infrastructures
  - Cause emissions from various sources
    → See environmental reports e.g. by CERN
- But: How much per researcher? → **Know your footprint!**
  - Idea: Estimate per-researcher carbon footprint
    → Put into context with private and target footprints
  - Personal identification of high-emission areas which need urgent adressing and raise awareness
  - Provide personal reference for gauging carbon emission numbers

→ If we want to maintain ~liveable conditions on Earth, ALL areas of research, politics, culture, industry, etc. need to contribute to emissions reductions → This includes HEP!

Gas emissions as main driver of CERN CO_2 footprint

Global warming potential (GWP) of gas

- How much energy will be absorbed by 1t of the gas in 100 (500) years compared to 1t of CO_2?

Gases used at CERN

- Have significant GWPs > 1000 or even 10000

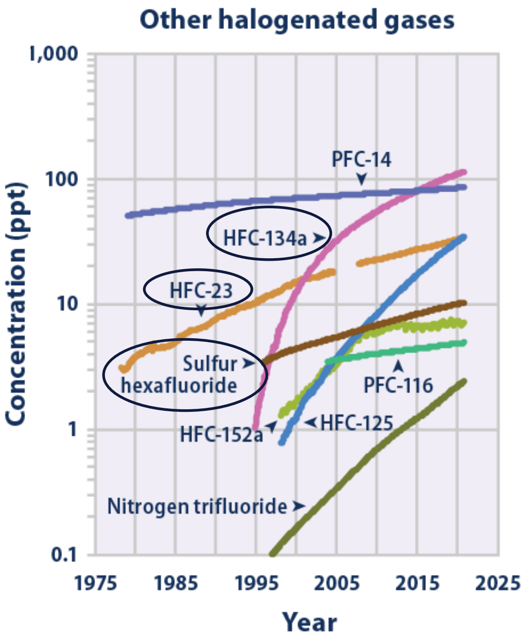
GROUP	GASES	tCO_2e 2019	tCO_2e 2020
PFC	CF_4, C_2F_6, C_3F_8, C_4F_{10}, C_6F_{14}	43277	45678
HFC	CHF_3 (HFC-23), $C_2H_2F_4$ (HFC-134a), HFC-404a, HFC-407c, HFC-410a, HFC R-422D, HFC-507	17540	34899
Other F-gases	SF_6, NOVEC, R1234ze	3840	5377
CO_2	CO_2	13512	13046
TOTAL SCOPE 1		78169	98997

GWPs (100 years) (*)	GWPs (500 years) (*)
7390, 12200, 8830, 8860, 9300	11200, 18200, 12500, 12500, 13300
14800, 1430	12000, 435
22800	32600
1	

Note: C_4H_{10} = Butane: GWP(100years) = 4.0 (*)

→ Already very small leaks have a major impact

(*) https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/2018/02/ar4-wg1-chapter2-1.pdf

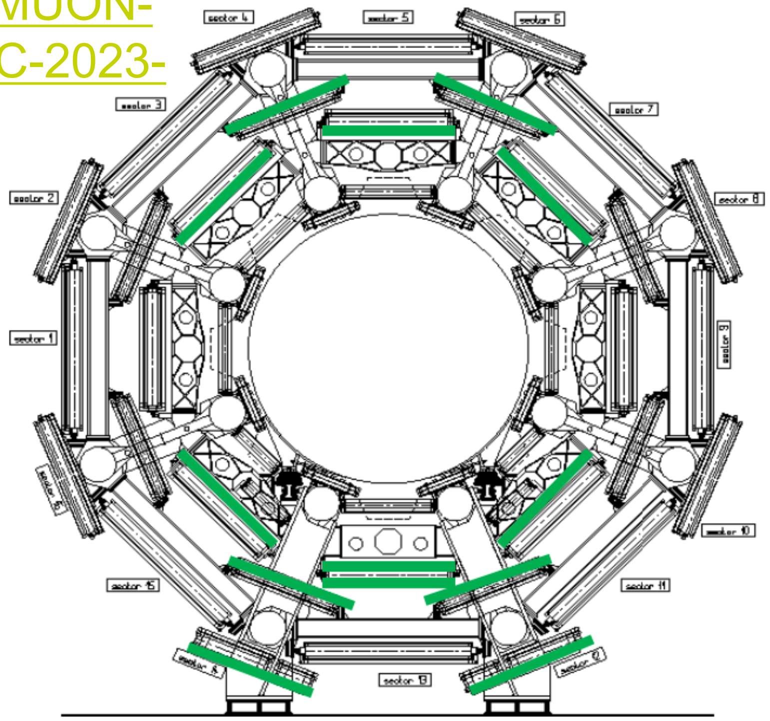


→ Circled gases are also used at CERN

https://www.epa.gov/climate-indicators/climate-change-indicators-atmospheric-concentrations-greenhouse-gases

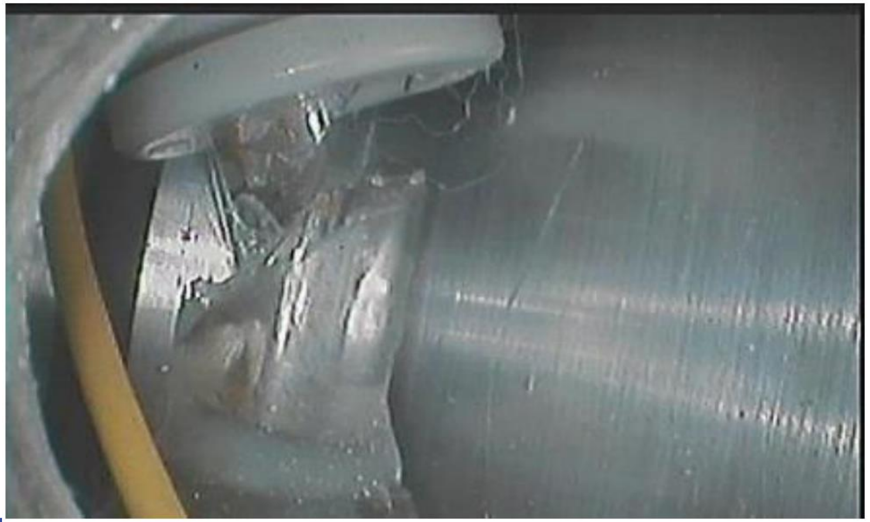
Hands-on: Fixing leaks in ATLAS

ATL-MUON-PROC-2023-001



Gas leaks in the ATLAS muon system

- Plastic connectors of the gas flow lines to the Resistive Plate Chambers (RPCs) → Tend to develop leaks
- 8000 potentially leaky connection points in ATLAS RPCs → Often difficult to reach → Break faster than can be repaired
- Gas mixture in RPCs: $C_2H_2F_4$+iso-C_4H_{10}+SF_6 → GWP ~ 1400 → Studies with replacing gas mixture not trivial!
  - 1l of RPC mixture ~ 5-6kg CO_2-eq. (*) → Loss of ~1000l/h → If constant throughout the year: ~44k-53k tCO_2-eq./year emissions → ~20-23% of 2018 emissions by CERN (own estimate)
- Campaign in ATLAS with new repair technique and teams of volunteers to fix leaks during end-of-year shutdowns
  - First test campaign early 2023: Reduction of RPC losses by 23%!
  - Needs follow-up in further shutdowns

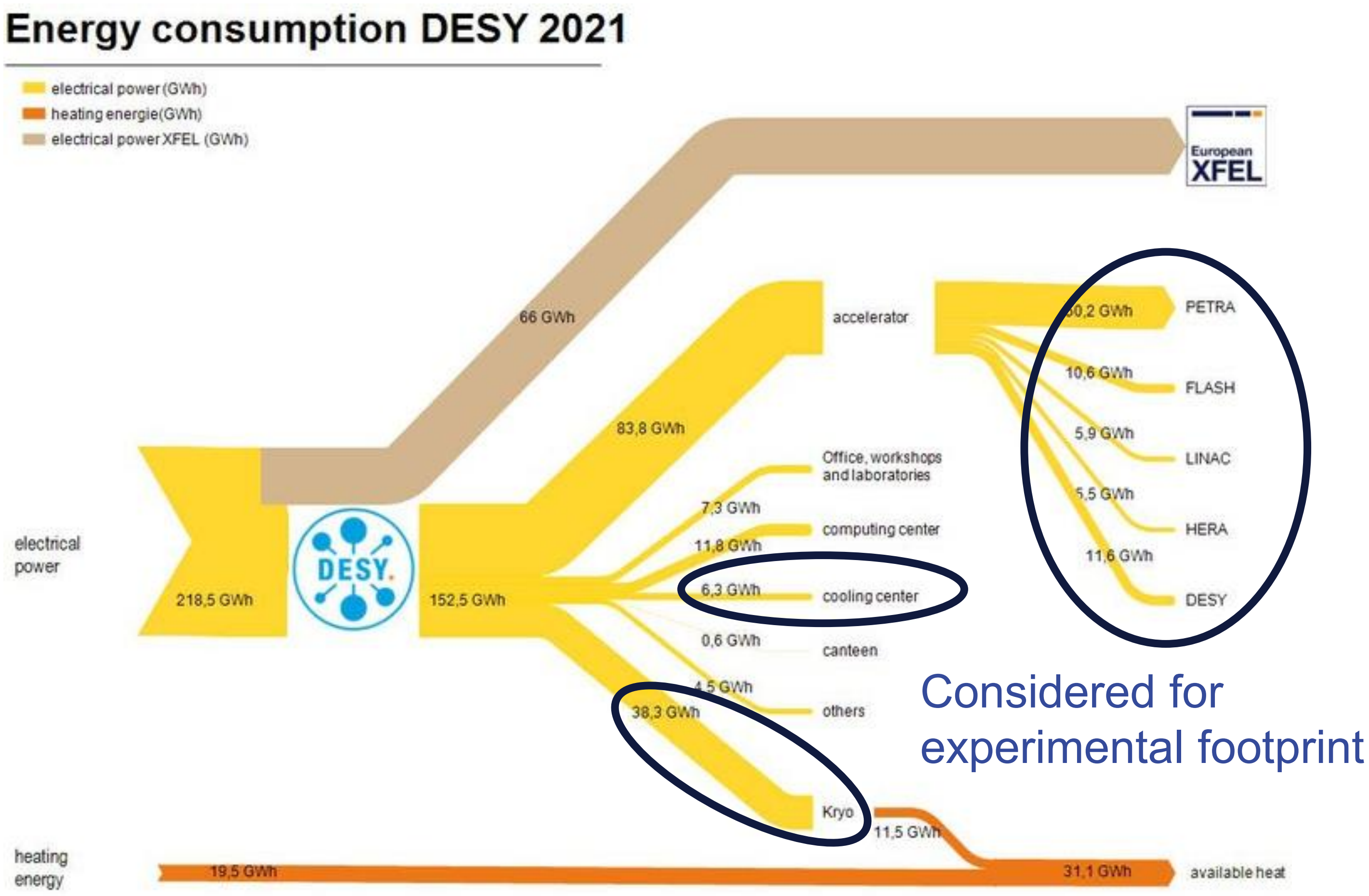


(*) Based on main component: $C_2F_2F_4$ → Conversion of l to kg → Convert to CO2-eq. by multiplying with GWP for HFC-134(a)

Footprint of a small HEP experiment

Estimate based on DESY electricity consumption

- Data from 2021: 128.3GWh annually
- Convert to tCO_2e → 2 options:
  - Green electricity
    → Assume 100% photo-voltaic (PV) based production → 35 gCO_2e/kWh
  - German electricity mix in 2023
    → Includes >40% from wind, solar and water power → 416 gCO_2e/kWh
    (for comparison: gas: 572 gCO_2e/kWh, coal: 1167 gCO_2e/kWh)



→ With 3000 guest scientists + 200 operators: 1.40 tCO_2e (16.68 tCO_2e) with green (conventional) electricity

Institute or research centre footprint

Distinguish the options

- University (with green or conventional electricity)
  → Based on University of Freiburg report
  (skip Leibniz University Hannover today)
- Research centre
  → Based on CERN environmental report(s)

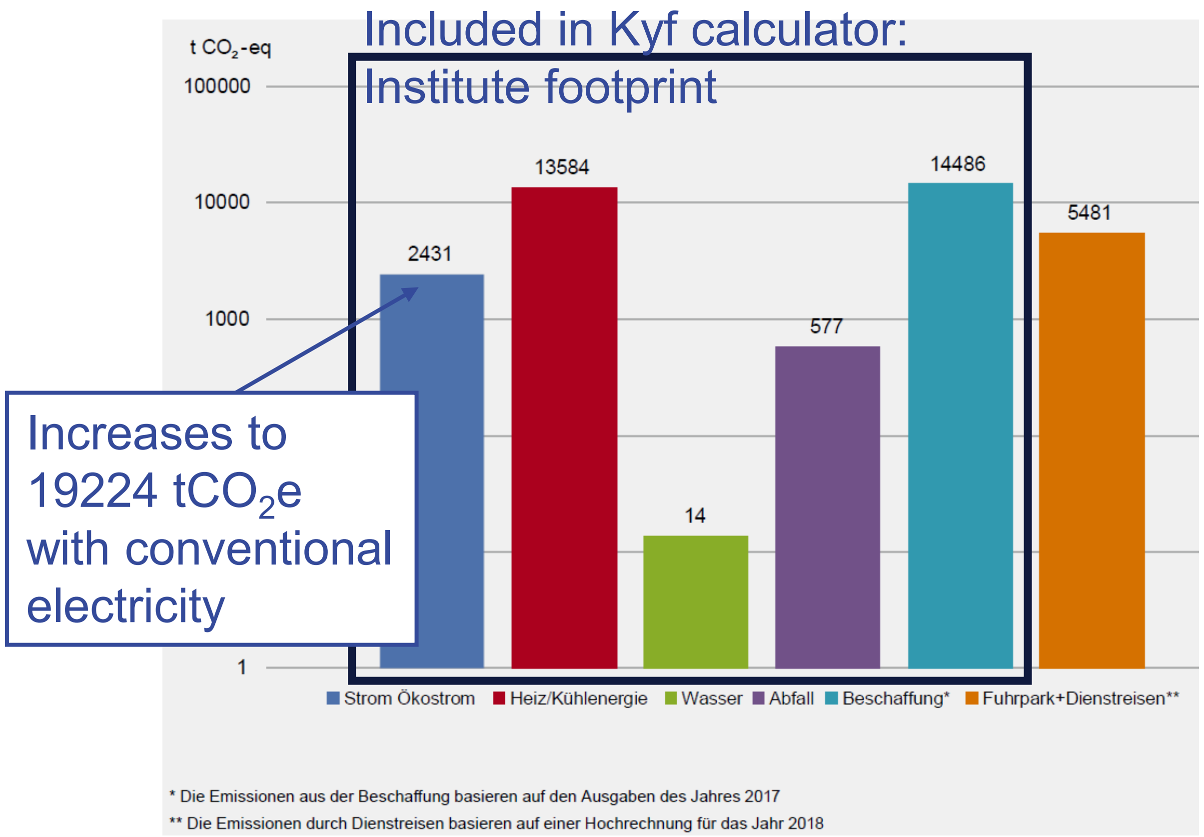
Definition of per-researcher footprint per year

- (Total institute emissions) / (Effective number of institute members)
  - One representative year outside of COVID-19 pandemic: 2019 for University of Freiburg, 2022 for CERN
- University of Freiburg as default university footprint
  - Omission of procurement information by Leibniz University Hannover
  - Decent agreement in overlapping categories between both universities

Footprint of a university - Freiburg

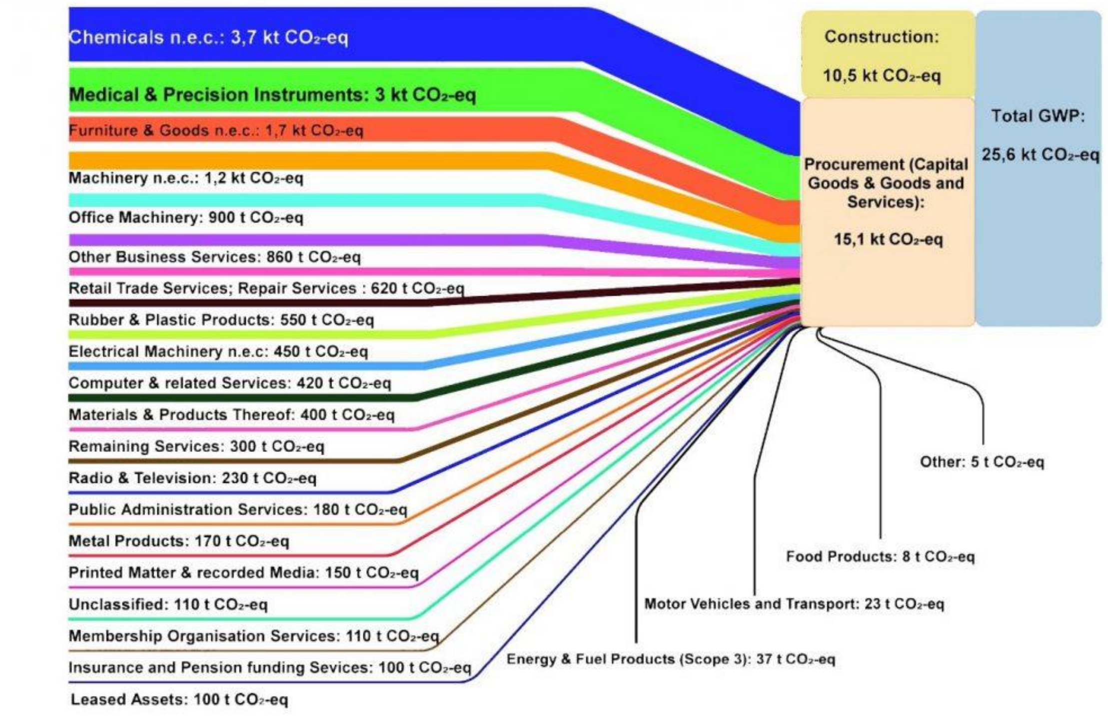
Emissions with green electricity

- Exclude emissions from travel here



Procurement → Dominating contributor

- Based on procurement data from 2017



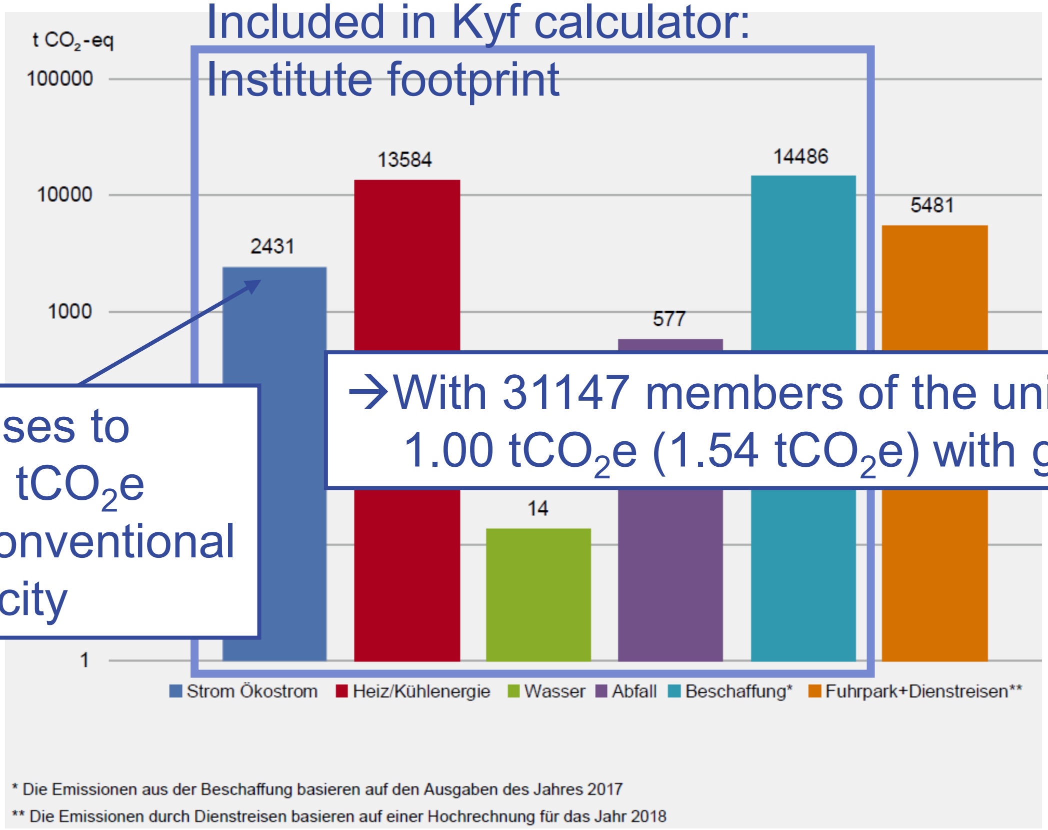
→ Many categories → Challenging to address
→ Demand management + green procurement!

Footprint of a university - Freiburg

Emissions with green electricity

- Exclude emissions from travel here

Included in Kyf calculator:
Institute footprint

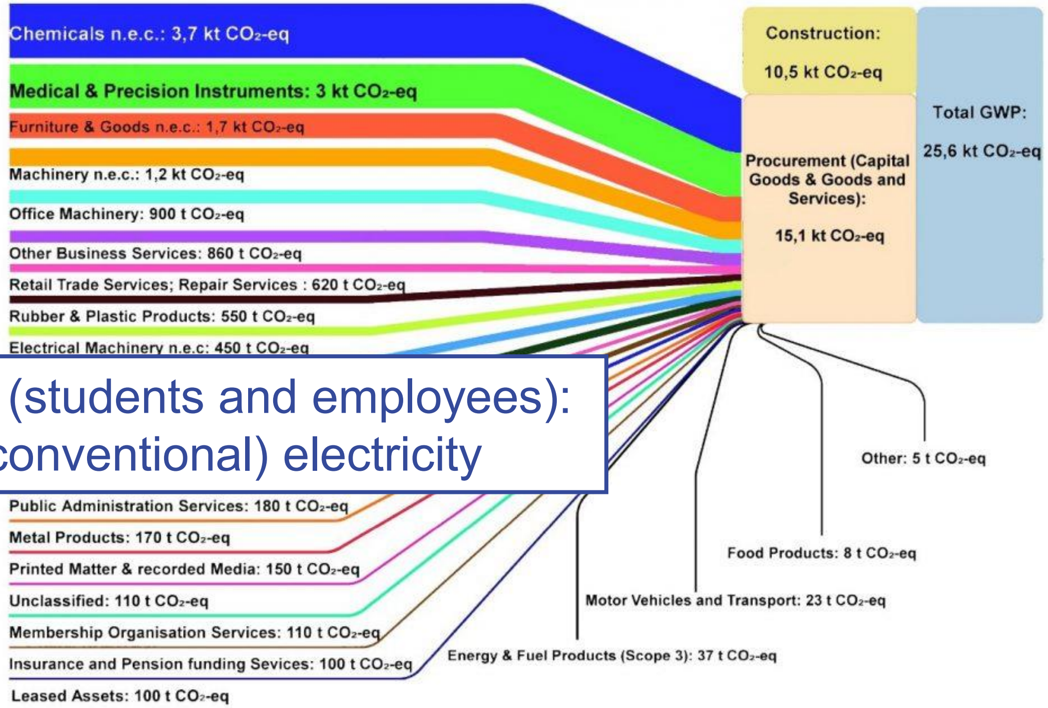


Increases to 19224 tCO_2e with conventional electricity

→With 31147 members of the university (students and employees):
1.00 tCO_2e (1.54 tCO_2e) with green (conventional) electricity

Procurement → Dominating contributor

- Based on procurement data from 2017

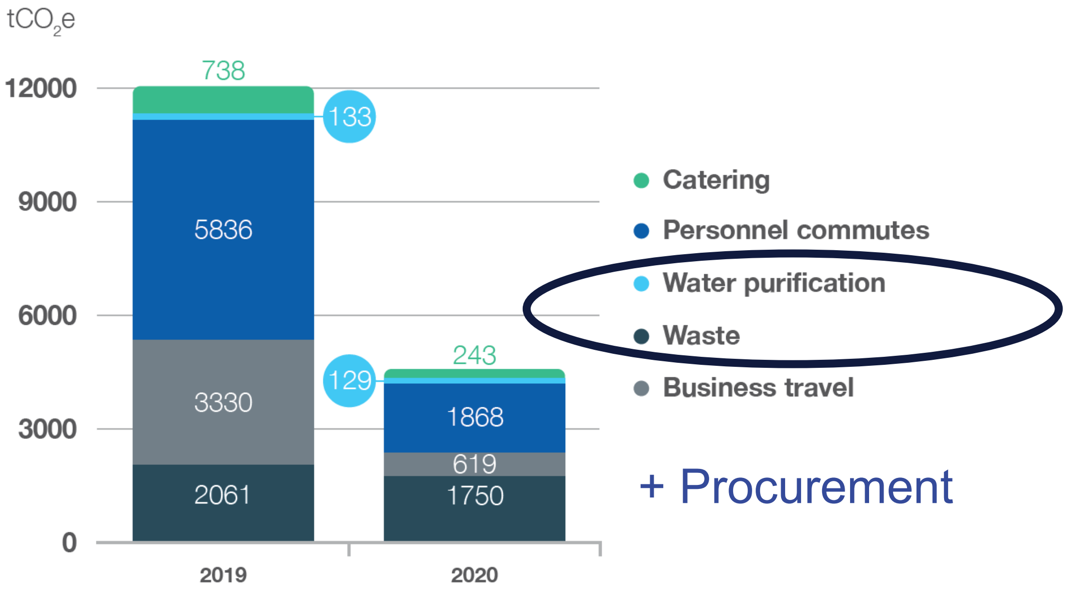


→ Many categories → Challenging to address
→ Demand management + green procurement!

Footprint of a research centre – CERN

From the CERN environmental reports

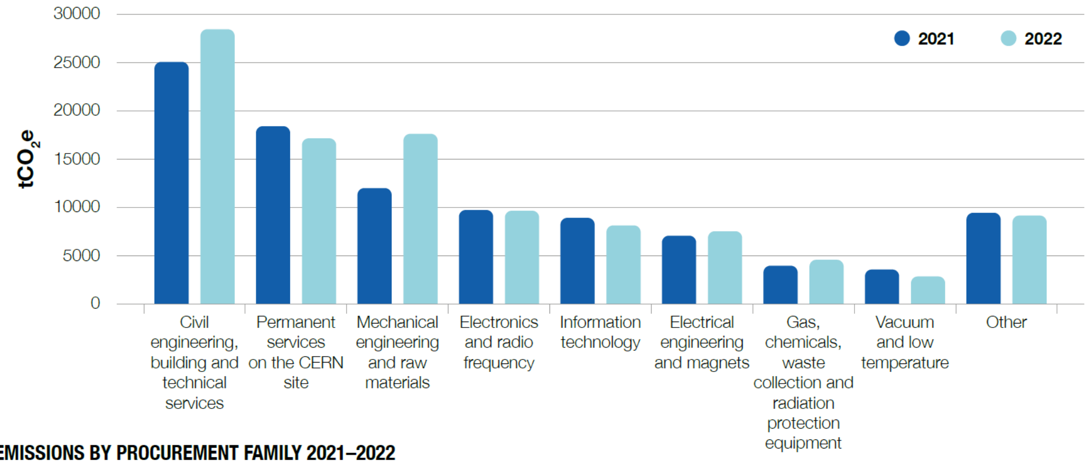
- Heating + Other category from scope 1
- 5% of electricity, i.e. scope 2
- Scope 3
  - Excluding commute, travel, and catering



+ Procurement

Procurement contribution = huge!

- Procurement emissions: 104 974 tCO2e in 2022!
  - Corresponds to ~57% of total scope 1 emissions in same year
  - Contributions for construction of future infra-structure, etc. included → Cannot be clearly separated → Maintain fully under institute



EMISSIONS BY PROCUREMENT FAMILY 2021–2022

"Other" includes: office supplies, furniture, transport, handling and vehicles; centralised expenses and codes for internal use; particle and photon detectors; health, safety and environment; optics and photonics.

Footprint of a research centre – CERN (II)

Total institute emissions

Category	Emissions [tCO_2e]
Electricity	3158
Heating (gas+fuel) + Other	11 250
Water purification	176
Waste	1875
Procurement	104 974
Total	121 433
Total without Procurement	16 459

Effective CERN population

- At any time during the year:
  - Fraction of CERN users at CERN, using electricity, heating, water, etc.
  - Consider together with CERN personell, i.e. staff and CERN fellows

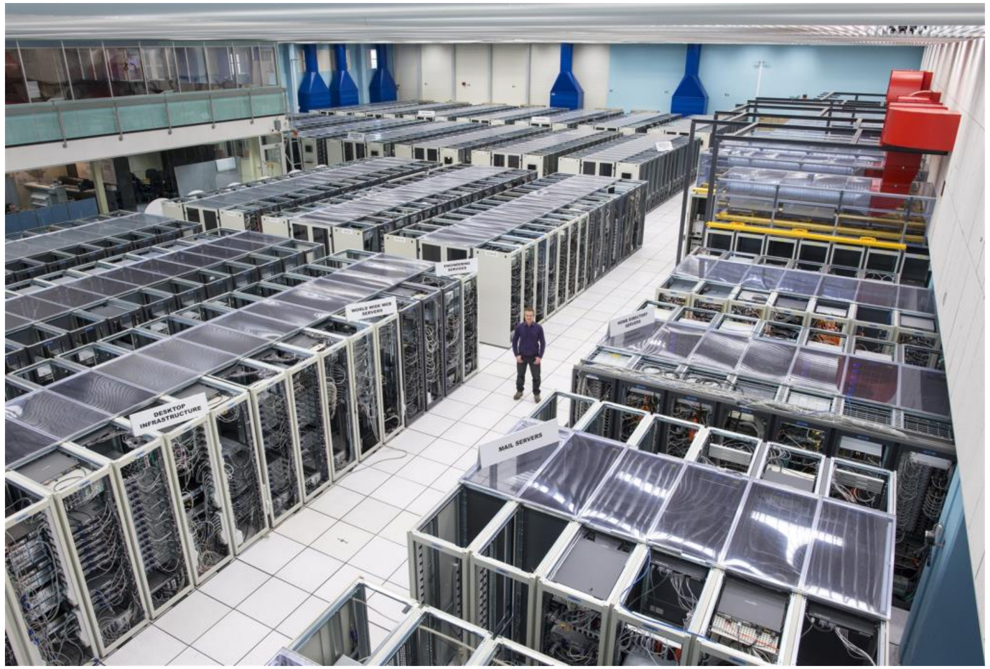
→ Effective CERN population: 7295

→ Per-researcher footprint:
16.65 tCO_2e (2.26 tCO_2e) including (excluding) procurement
→ With procurement, artificially increased, due to impossibility of procurement split-up
→ Needs update, once more refined data available

→ To CERN's credit:
Environmentally Responsible Procurement Policy, effective from 1 January 2024 – April 2024 CERN news
→ Hopefully, procurement footprint will reduce over the next years

Computing footprint

Focus on High Performance Computing (HPC)



- Specify individual‘s computing workloads in core hours
- Distinguish between CPU and GPU usage
  → Choice of CPU or GPU due to computational task
  - Several possibilities to tune configuration
  - Assume optimal core utilization
- Possibility to add footprint of large external (commercial) data storage resources
- Personal computers, small institute clusters, etc. not included
  → Assumed to be covered by personal or institute electricity bills and procurement → Thus included in personal or institute footprint
- Four benchmark scenarios for easy use available

Computing footprint (II)

Calculation of computing footprint

$$Total\ [tCO_2e] = f_{PUE} \cdot f_{overh} \cdot n_{WPC} \cdot f_{conv}$$

- With:
  - f_{PUE} = HPC's Power Usage Effectiveness (PUE)
    → Default: 1.5 (Global average) → New CERN computing centre target: 1.1 (Feb 2024 CERN news)
  - f_{overh} = Overhead factor for power consumption when computing cores are idle
    → Default: 1.17 (Hawk supercomputer idle time at the HPC Stuttgart)
  - n_{WPC} = Workload Power Consumption (WPC)

    $$n_{WPC} = p_{CPU-core} \cdot l_{core-h,CPU} + p_{GPU} \cdot l_{h,GPU}$$

    $p_{CPU-core/GPU}$ = Power consumption in kW for each CPU core/GPU
    → Default: 7.25W (CPU - from the DESY Maxwell cluster with AMD EPYC 75F3 CPU cores),
    250W (GPU - median of range, reported on a forum of NVIDIA GPU users)
    $l_{core-h,CPU/h,GPU}$ = CPU workload measured in core hours/ GPU usage hours → User input
  - f_{conv} = Conversion factor from kWh to gCO_2e → Both, green and conventional (default) electricity possible

Computing footprint (III)

Four benchmark scenarios

- Low usage
  - PhD student with several jobs per week → Average of 4000 CPU core-h/month
- Medium usage
  - Doctoral student or post-doctoral researcher, strongly involved in data analysis → Based on top five ranked users at the Uni-Freiburg HPC: Black-Forest Grid (BFG)
    → Average of 30 000 CPU core-h/month
- High usage
  - Accelerator scientist, studying accelerator performance with particle tracking codes and semi particle in-cell (PIC) codes → With code optimized for GPUs: 2500 GPU h/month (≈ 80 000 CPU core-h/month)
- Extremely high usage
  - Researcher running PIC simulations or high-resolution imaging analysis → 8000 GPU h/month (≈ 300 000 CPU core-h/month)

With conventional electricity

Scenario	Annual footprint [tCO_2e]
Low	0.25
Medium	1.91
High	5.48
Extremely high	17.52

Travel

Consider only business travel → Private travel included in private footprint

- Travel important in international research environment:
  - For personal connections at in-person meetings
  - For building research networks, collaborations
  - Etc.

  → Most notably missed during COVID-19 pandemic
- BUT: Travel creates CO_2 emissions
  - Which travel is essential and which is not?
  - Re-evaluate how travel is performed:
    → Longer travel times with non-air based travel
    = longer-duration stays preferrable
    → Constraints from teaching, family, etc. = non-trivial


Foto von detait auf Unsplash

- Possibility for detailed calculations of business trip emissions in Kyf calculation OR benchmark trips

Travel (II)

Based on information from the German UBA

- German numbers for hotel and venue assumed to be valid internationally

Source of Emission	Emission Factor	
Long-distance Buses	0.031	$kgCO_2e/km$
Long-distance Trains	0.031	$kgCO_2e/km$
Personal Car	0.17	$kgCO_2e/km$
Flights within Europe	130	$kgCO_2e/h$
Transcontinental Flights	170	$kgCO_2e/h$
Hotel room	12	$kgCO_2e/night$
Event venue	0.19	$kgCO_2e/day$

Benchmark	Situation	Emissions [tCO_2e]
Travel within Germany	5-day trip by trains from Freiburg to Hamburg	0.1
	Same but by plane (1.5h flight/direction)	0.5
Travel within Europe	5-day trip by plane from Freiburg to Thessaloniki (2.5h flight/direction)	0.7
Travel across continents	2-week trip by plane from Freiburg to Seoul (12h flight/direction)	4.3

→ In particular, cross-continental flights contribute significantly
→ CO_2 compensation for flights possible to indicate in Kyf calculator

Details on travel

Long-distance buses vs. Long-distance trains

Source of Emission	Emission Factor	
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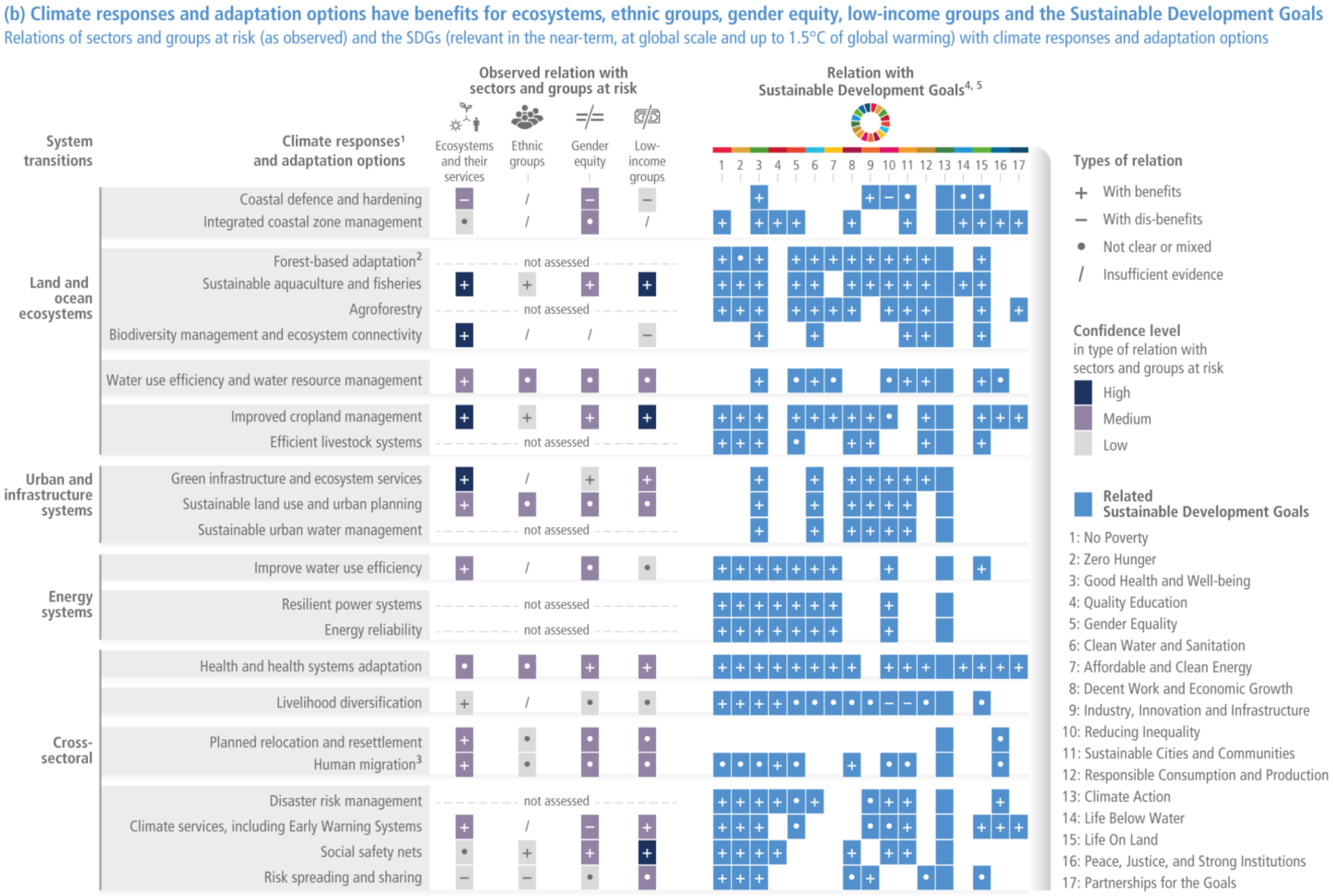
Flights within Europe	130	$kgCO_2e/h$
Transcontinental Flights	170	$kgCO_2e/h$
Hotel room	12	$kgCO_2e/night$
Event venue	0.19	$kgCO_2e/day$

→ Why the same emission factor?

- By chance! → For UBA numbers from 2022 (https://www.umweltbundesamt.de/themen/verkehr/emissionsdaten)
  - Tank-to-wheel (TTW) for buses much higher than for trains, i.e. running a bus has higher emissions than a train
  - Compensated by well-to-tank (WTT) for trains and infrastructure, i.e. the extraction of the fuel (using German conventional electricity mix) + the building of the infrastructure (rails, etc.) more costly for trains than for buses

Relation to SDGs



Footnotes: [1] The term response is used here instead of adaptation because some responses, such as retreat, may or may not be considered to be adaptation. [2] Including sustainable forest management, forest conservation and restoration, reforestation and afforestation. [3] Migration, when voluntary, safe and orderly, allows reduction of risks to climatic and non-climatic stressors. [4] The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are integrated and indivisible, and efforts to achieve any goal in isolation may trigger synergies or trade-offs with other SDGs. [5] Relevant in the near-term, at global scale and up to 1.5°C of global warming.

What barriers exist for getting involved?

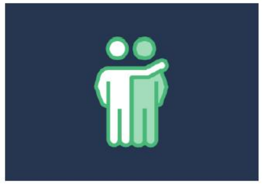
Pyschological barriers to climate action

Source: Presentation by Prof. Brosch, at CERN and the environment workshop, Oct 2022

Example: Moral barrier
→ Broad categories of morality

Avoiding harm

Fairness



Loyalty

Respecting authority

Purity

→ Most often addressed by climate crisis communication
→ Leaves out a huge part of the population

Left-leaning ⟷ Right-leaning
Political spectrum

→ Need to adjust messaging to include entire population!

HL-LHC operation schedule

Start of HL-LHC with Run 4