Lessons learned from abroad

Corinne Le Quéré

Royal Society Research Professor, University of East Anglia, UK Member, UK Committee on Climate Change (since 2016)

Chair, France Haut conseil pour le climat



Some context on responding to climate change

One incredible person



Extinction Rebellion



Friday school strike for climate & beyond



Famous people urging for action

but global CO₂ emissions still rising

(before COVID-19)

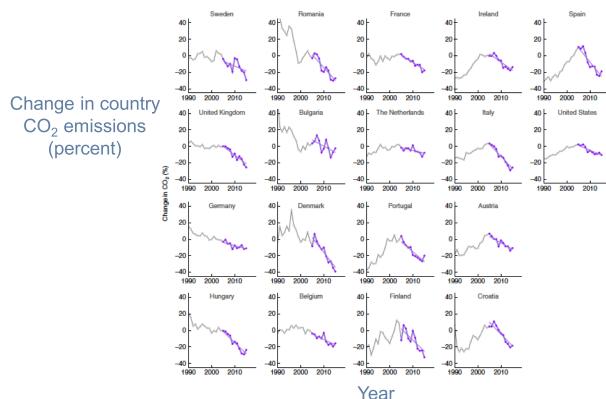
37 Gt/y 1% per year 2010-2019

37 billion tonnes CO₂ in 2019

3% per year 2000-2009

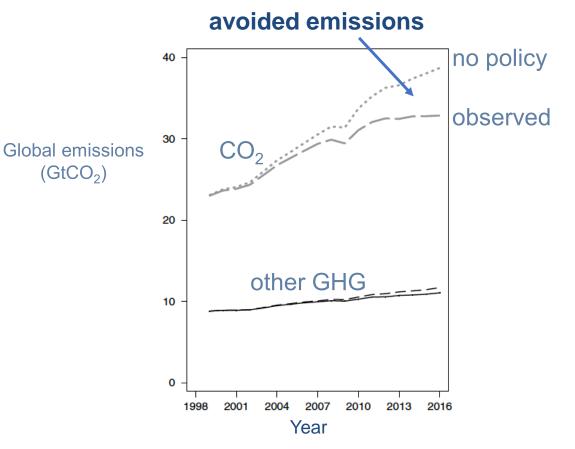
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National climate policies work, but we need more of them





- 1) Use less energy
- 2) Renewables replace fossils
- 3) Lots of policy



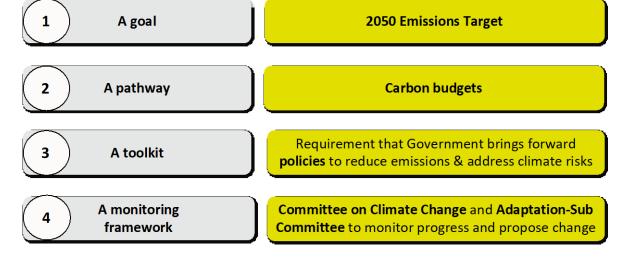
Effectiveness of climate policy:

- 1) 1,800 climate policy worldwide
- 2) all countries at least 1 policy
- 3) 5.9 GtCO₂/yr avoided (mostly CO₂)

The UK Climate Change Act 2008



The Climate Change Act 2008



Effective national climate policy framework have:

- A comprehensive framework law to coordinate and advance climate action
- Clear duties and responsibilities
- Multi-year targets (carbon budgets) set well in advance help to define a clear path
- A strong independent body to monitor progress

"10 years of the UK Climate change Act", by Sam Fankhauser et al. (2018) https://www.lse.ac.uk/granthaminstitute/publication/10-years-climate-change-act/



Composition of the CCC



Lord Deben



Baroness Brown



Professor Piers Forster



Professor Keith Bell



Professor Nick Chater



Professor Corinne Le Quéré



Paul Johnson



Dr Rebecca Heaton

Plus ~25 full-time secretariat annual budget of £3.5mi (\$CA 6mi) funded by the UK government



The role of the CCC

Recommend targets

Statutory advice on 2050 target & carbon budgets

Track progress

Towards targets & in key indicators to meet them

Adaptation

Advice on National Adaptation Programme

Independent & evidencebased

- Technical experts, not interest groups
- Own research budget

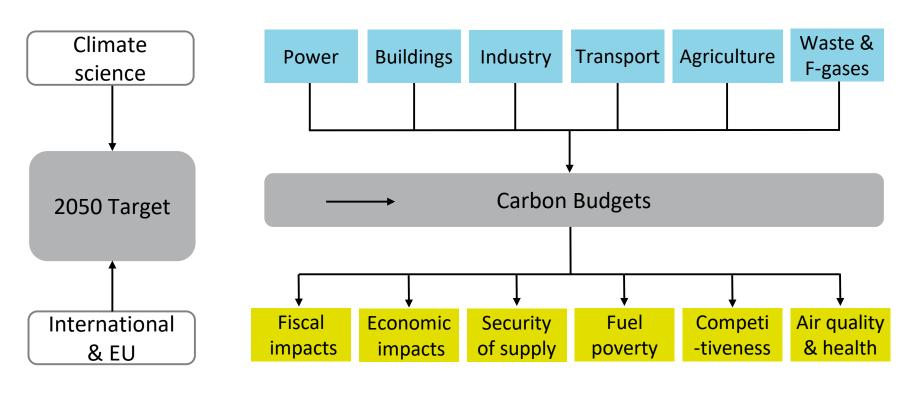
Transparent and open

- Reports & analysis made public
- Engage NGOs, business, academics, experts



5-year carbon budgets are evidence-based and take into account a range of factors across the economy

Sectors: scenarios, costs, required policy



Budget impacts

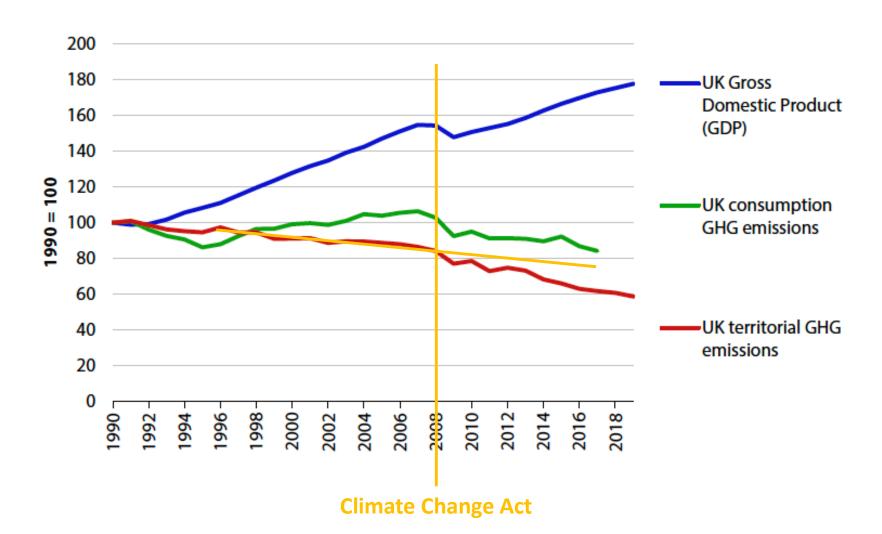


Example – The 5th carbon budget advice



Decrease in emissions accelerated since the CC Act 2008

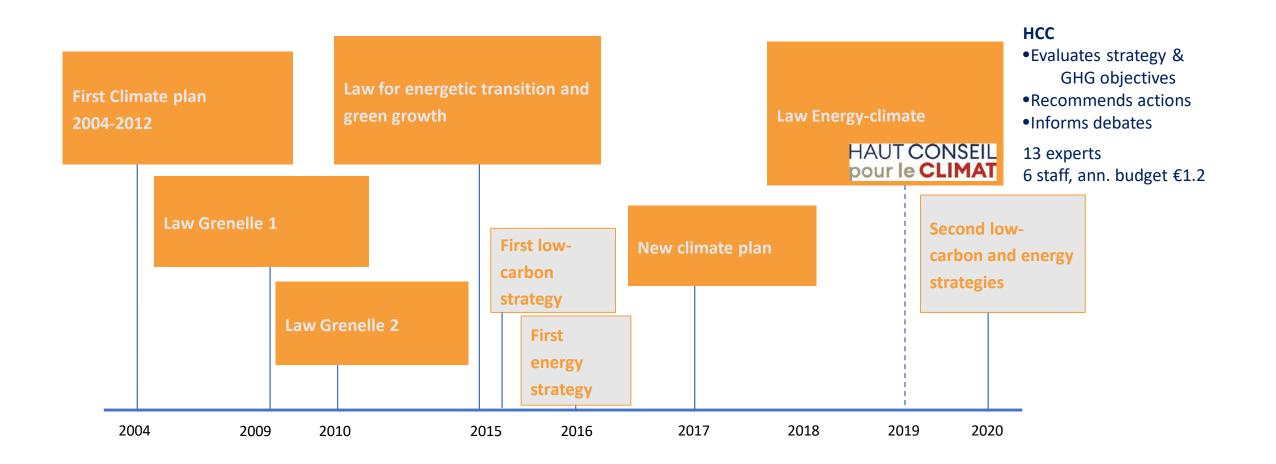
UK GHG emissions have fallen 40% since 1990 while the economy has grown



Led by the power sector, through:

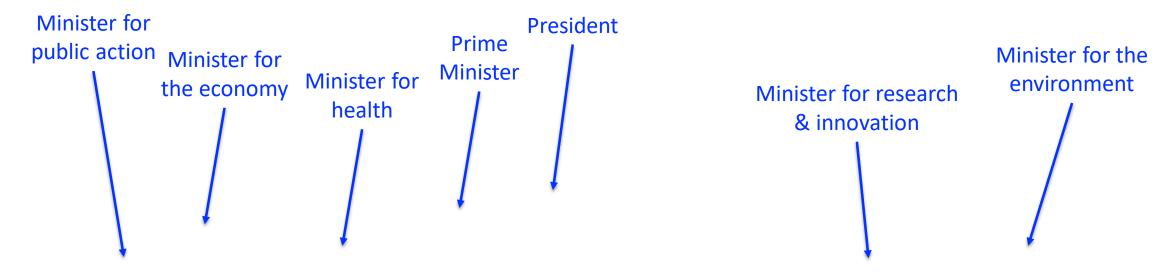
- •a clear direction
- •a stable, predictable carbon price
- •investable market instruments
- product standards
- •enabling measures

French climate policy is bottom up and very rich



The role of national policies

French climate policy carried (more and more) by the central government









Some (more) context on responding to climate change

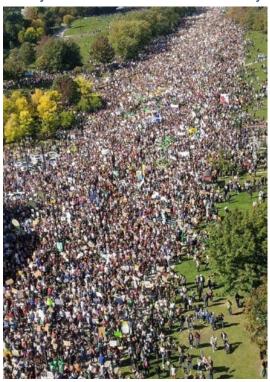
One incredible person



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Famous people urging for action

France: protests over rise in carbon tax Equador: protests over fuel subsidies removal



Photo: Jean-François Monier/AFP/Getty Images



Netherlands: protests over farming 'blame'



Photo: Vincent Jannink/AFP/Getty Images



London commuters attack XR over disruptions



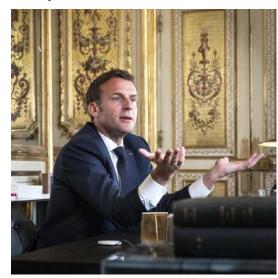
Declarations by world leaders this year

"Put the Green Deal at the heart" says EC President von der Leyen



Source: EC - Audiovisual Service

"It is time to think the unthinkable" says French President Macron



Source: Financial Times @ Magali Delporte

What next

COVID-19 recovery plans to fit within climate limits

Higher country commitments → Paris Agreement

A solid decade of implementation

It's time for a "green revolution", says Chinese President Xi Jinping



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