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# Navigating Climate Information for Effective Policy-Making Congressional Climate Camp

Wednesday, January 29, 2025

## About EESI





#### **Non-partisan Educational Resources for Policymakers**

A bipartisan Congressional caucus founded EESI in 1984 to provide non-partisan information on environmental, energy, and climate policies

#### Direct Assistance for Equitable and Inclusive Financing Program

In addition to a full portfolio of federal policy work, EESI provides direct assistance to utilities to develop "on-bill financing" programs

### Commitment to Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice

We recognize that systemic barriers impede fair environmental, energy, and climate policies and limit the full participation of Black, Indigenous, people of color, and legacy and frontline communities in decision-making

#### Sustainable Solutions

Our mission is to advance science-based solutions for climate change, energy, and environmental challenges in order to achieve our vision of a sustainable, resilient, and equitable world

## Policymaker Education



Live, in-person and online public briefings, archived webcasts, and written summaries

#### **Climate Change Solutions**

Bi-weekly newsletter with everything policymakers and concerned citizens need to know, including a legislation and hearings tracker

#### **Fact Sheets and Issue Briefs**

Timely, objective coverage of environmental, clean energy, and climate change topics

### Social Media (@EESIOnline)

Active engagement on Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, and YouTube











Upcoming Briefings



## **Congressional Climate Camp**

Navigating Climate Information for Effective Policy-Making Today!

Understanding the Budget and Appropriations Process Thursday, February 13, 3-4:30 PM

The Process and Path Forward for a Bipartisan Surface Transportation Bill Thursday, March 13, 2025, 3-4:30 PM

Signup for our *Climate Change Solutions* newsletter here: <u>eesi.org/signup</u> Briefing RSVP here: eesi.org/2025climatecamps



# What did you think of the briefing?

## Please take 2 minutes to let us know at: www.eesi.org/survey

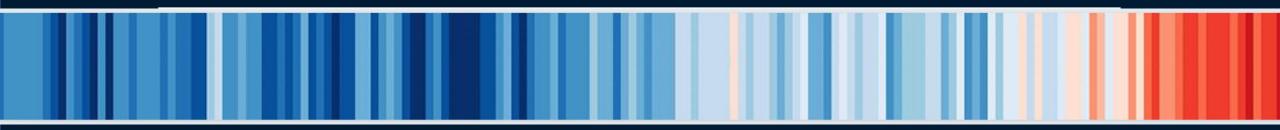
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Wednesday, January 29, 2025

# Our Changing Climate

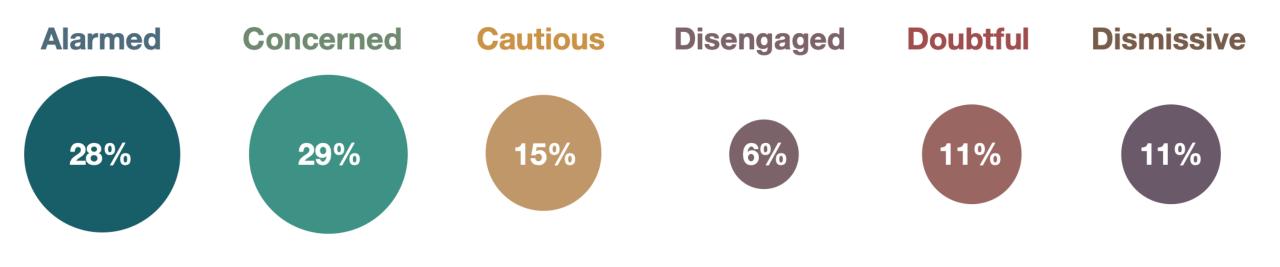




# CLIMATE CO CENTRAL

# Science made clear, Climate made local.





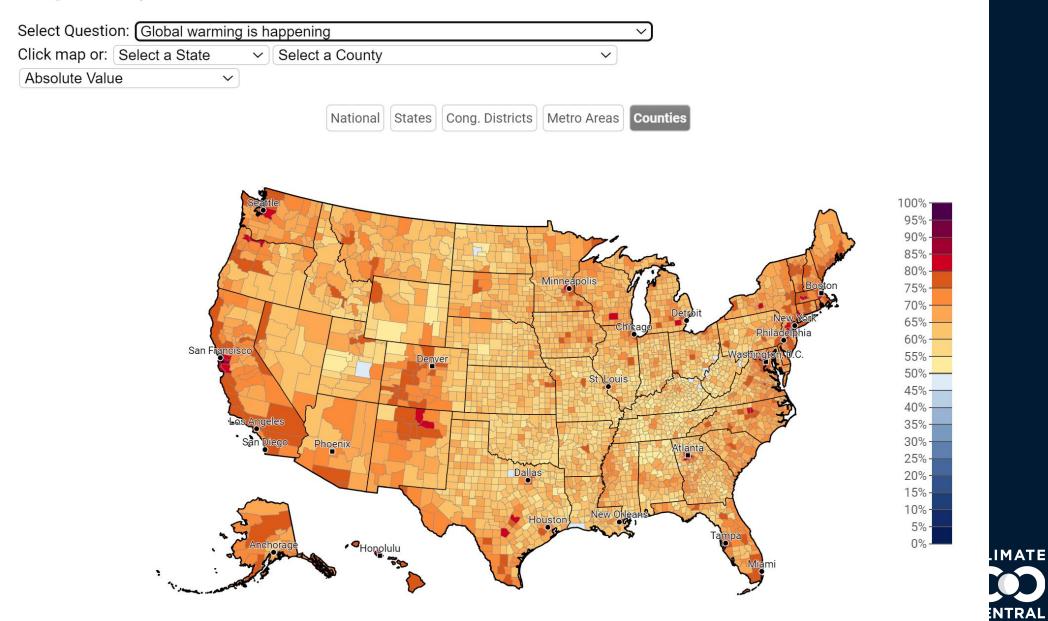
### Highest Belief in Global Warming Most Concerned Most Motivated

Global Warming's Six Americas, Fall 2023 Base: 1,033 U.S. adults

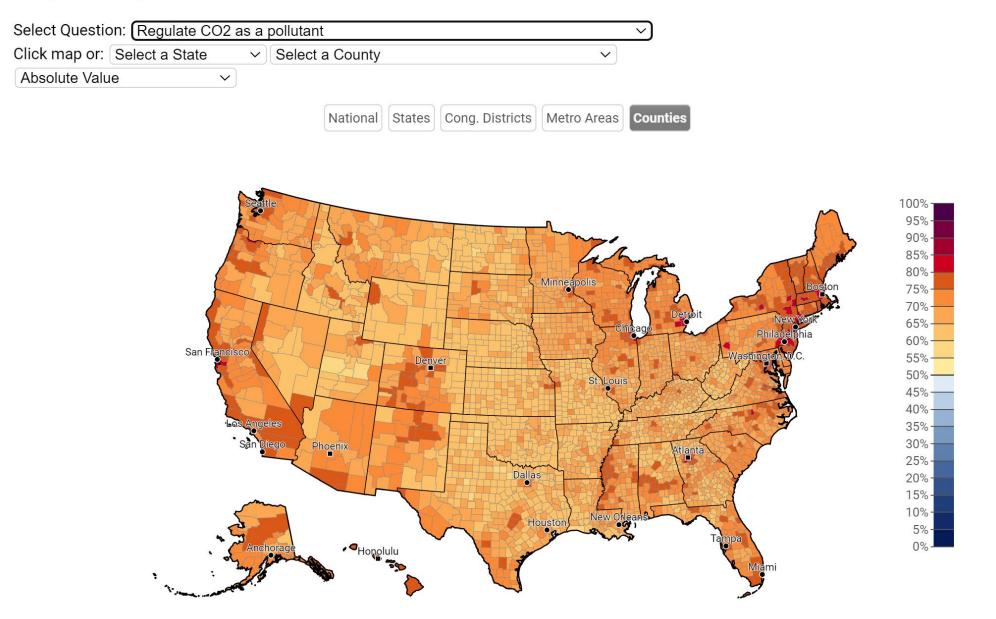
*Source:* Yale Program on Climate Change Communication; George Mason University Center for Climate Change Communication Lowest Belief in Global Warming Least Concerned Least Motivated



# Estimated % of adults who think global warming is happening (nat'l avg. 72%), 2023



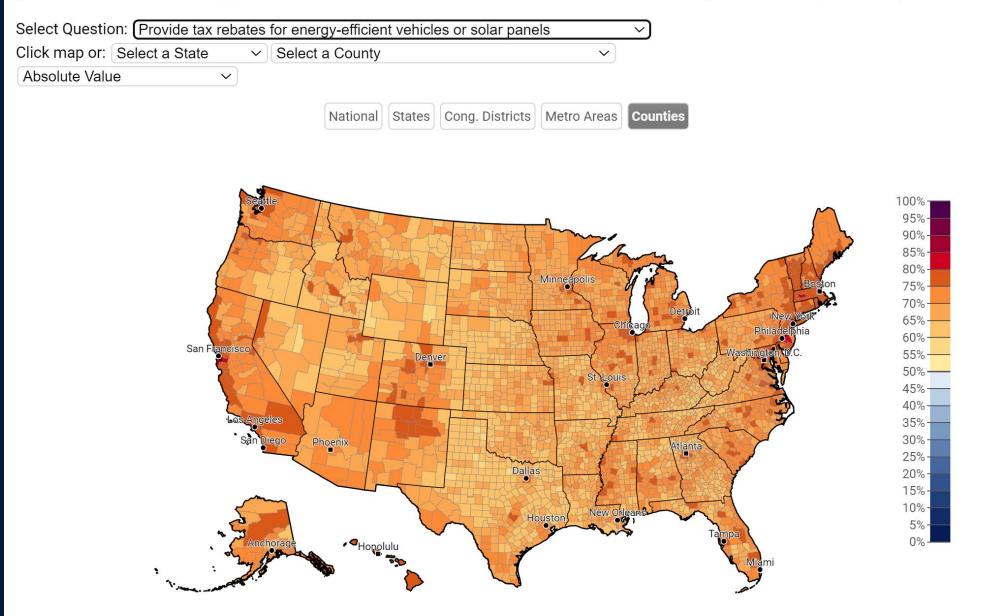
# Estimated % of adults who support regulating CO2 as a pollutant (nat'l avg. 74%), 2023



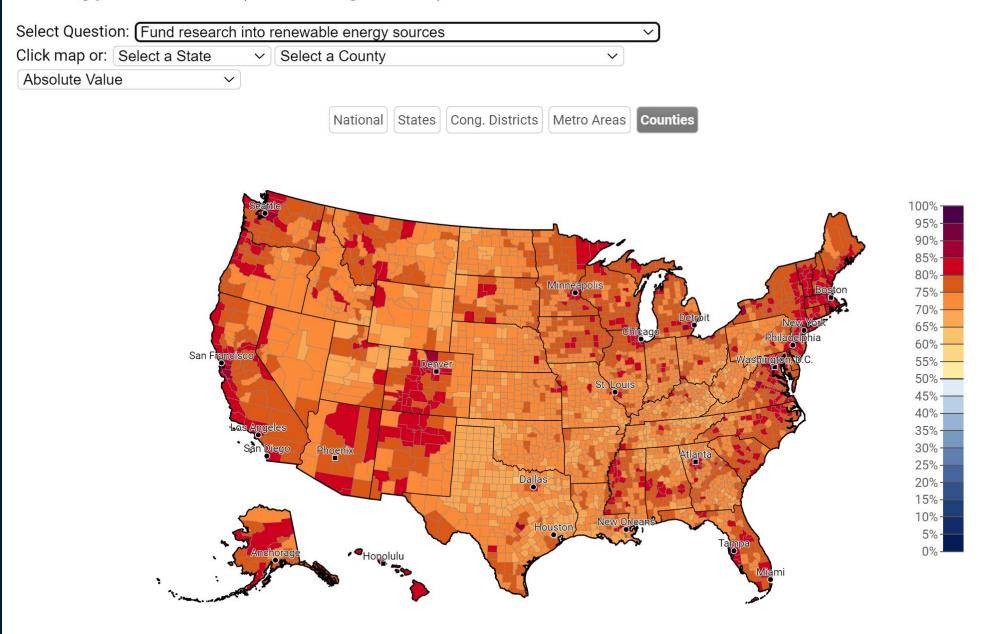
MATE

NTRAL

# Estimated % of adults who support tax rebates for people who purchase energy-efficient vehicles or solar panels (nat'l avg. 74%), 2023



# Estimated % of adults who support funding research into renewable energy sources (nat'l avg. 79%), 2023



# How We Know Why It Matters



# How We Know Why It Matters



## **The Greenhouse Effect**

Energy from the sun warms Earth

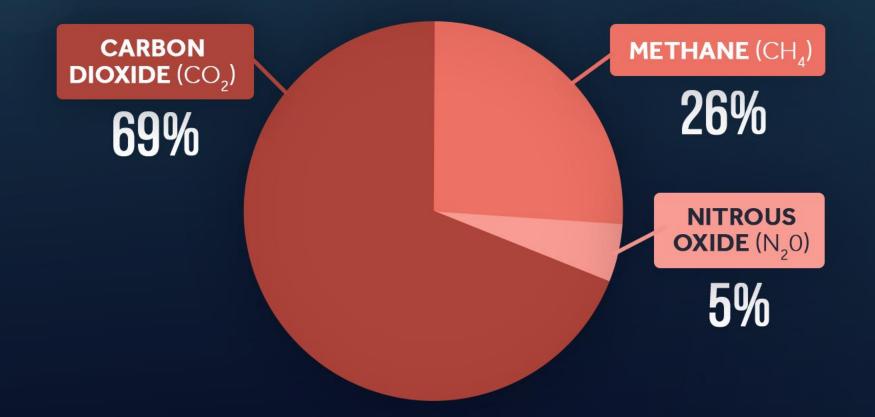
Some escapes back into space

Some is held by greenhouse gases in the atmosphere

CI

Earth is about 60°F. Without the atmosphere it would be 0°F.

# WARMING FROM MAIN GREENHOUSE GASES

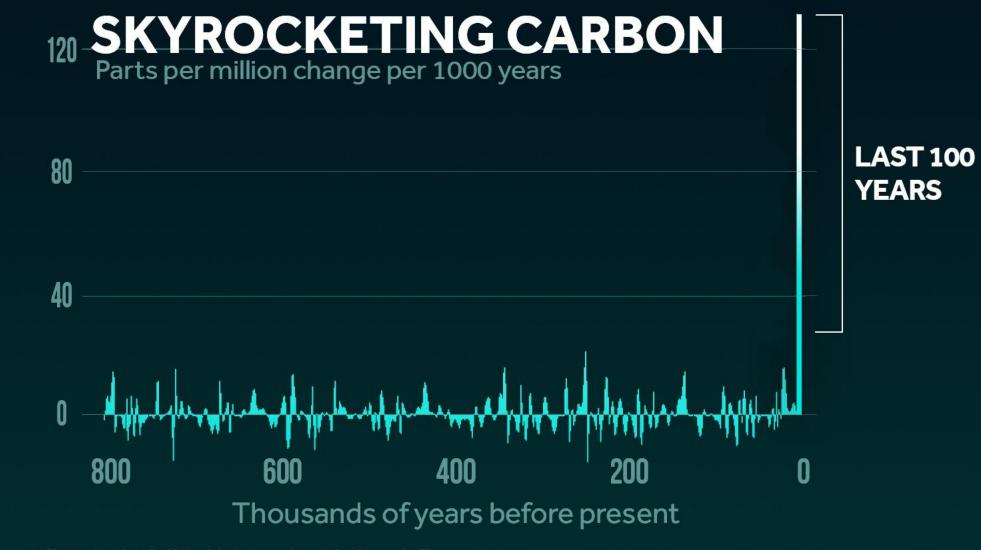


CO2, CH4, and N2O are key human-driven GHGs widely regulated by the UNFCCC. Source: Jones et al. (2023)





Changes in carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere during the past 1 million years. Source: Bereiter et al. (2015), Brook (2020), NOAA ESRL. Additional interpolation developed by Climate Central.



Changes in carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere during the past 1 million years. Source: Bereiter et al. (2015), Brook (2020), NOAA ESRL. Additional interpolation developed by Climate Central.

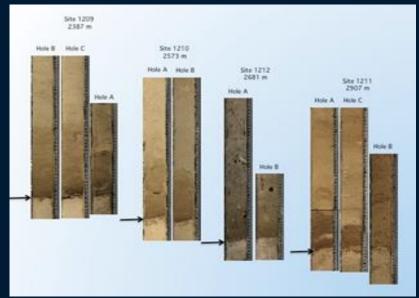
# **Reconstructing Past Climates**



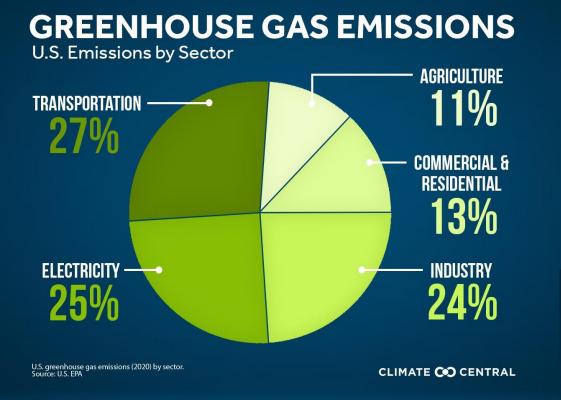






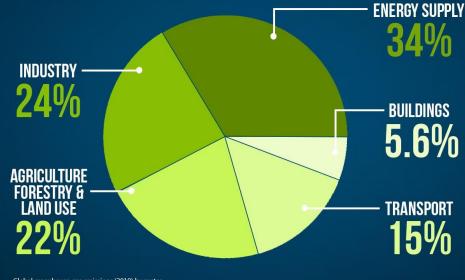




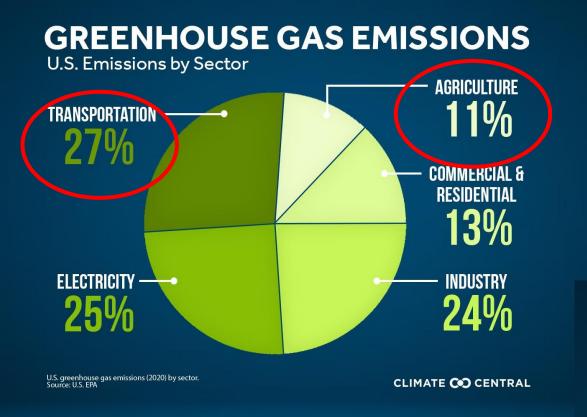


### **GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS**

Global Emissions by Sector

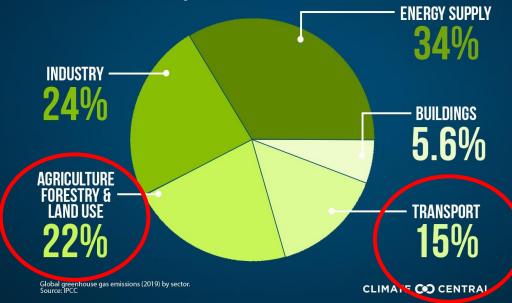


Global greenhouse gas emissions (2019) by sector. Source: IPCC



### **GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS**

Global Emissions by Sector

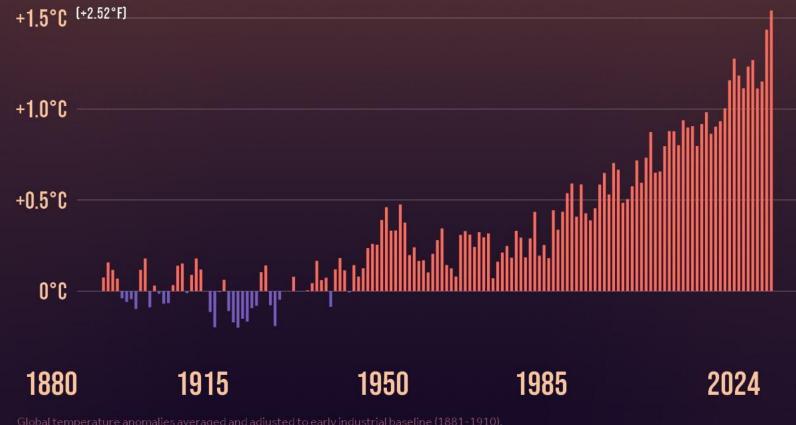


# How We Know Why It Matters



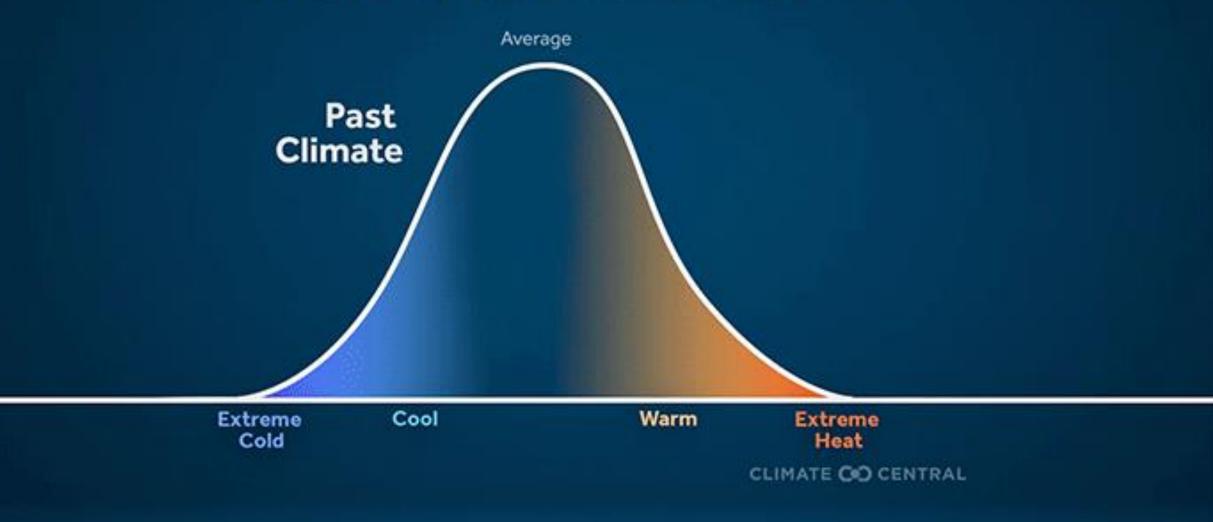
# **GLOBAL TEMPERATURE**

Departure from 1881-1910 average

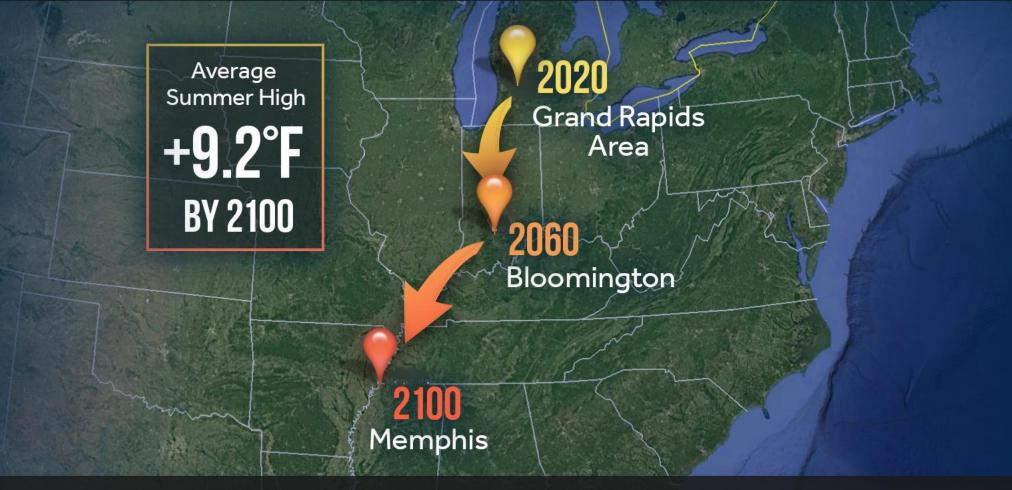


Global temperature anomalies averaged and adjusted to early industrial baseline (1881-1910). Data as of 1/10/2025. Source: NASA GISS & NOAA NCEI

## SMALL CHANGE IN AVERAGE BIG CHANGE IN EXTREMES



## WHERE YOUR SUMMER IS HEADED



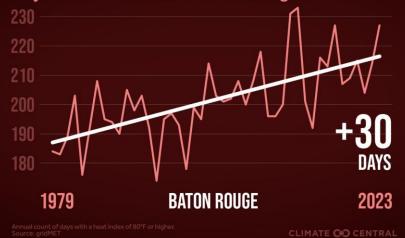
Current temperatures: ERA5, European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts, accessed 6/15/2022 CMIP6 multi-model ensemble dataset based on current emissions trends (SSP3)



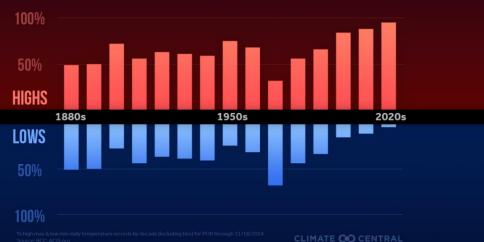


## **MORE RISKY HUMID HEAT**

Days with heat index of 80°F or higher



#### HOUSTON **RECORDS SET BY DECADE**



LESS EXTREME COLD Lowest Temperature Each Year

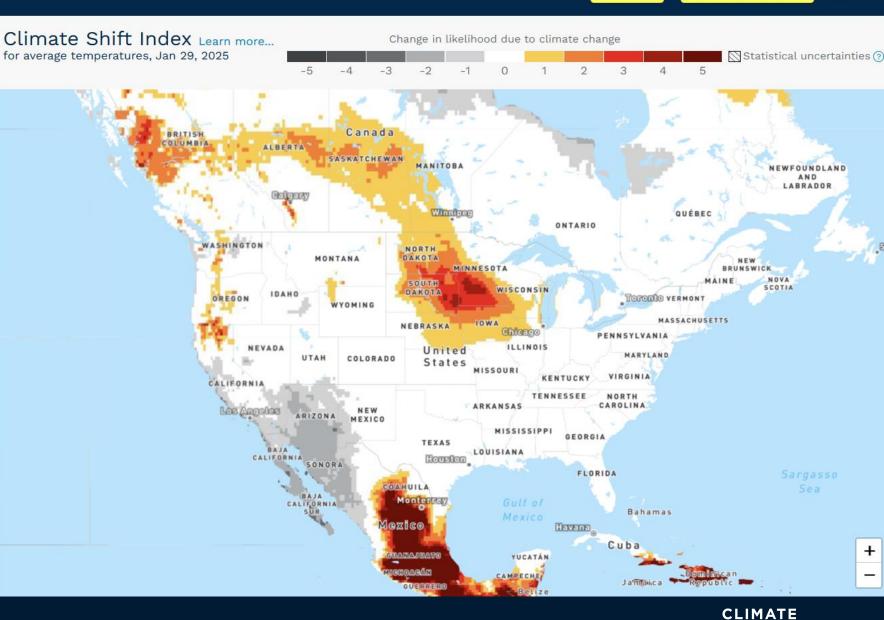


### CLIMATE CO CENTRAL

Explore our new CSI: Ocean map  $\rightarrow$ 

### Climate Shift Index<sup>®</sup> Global Map





## https://www.climatecentral.org/climate-shift-index

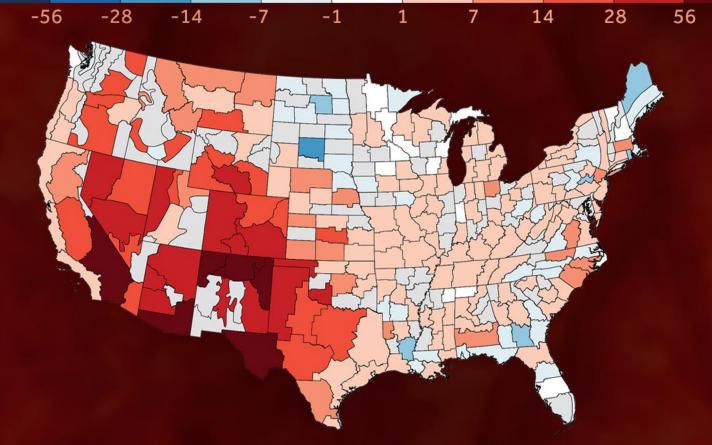
Screenshot Map 🛃

CENTRAL

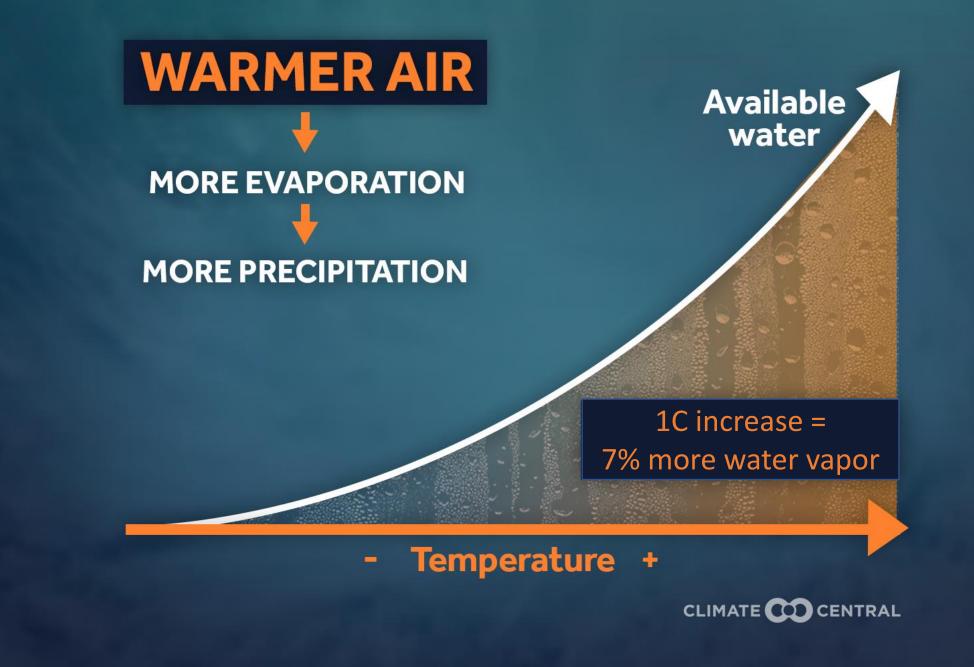
Share [1]

# **CHANGE IN FIRE WEATHER DAYS**

Change in annual hot, dry, windy days, 1973-2023

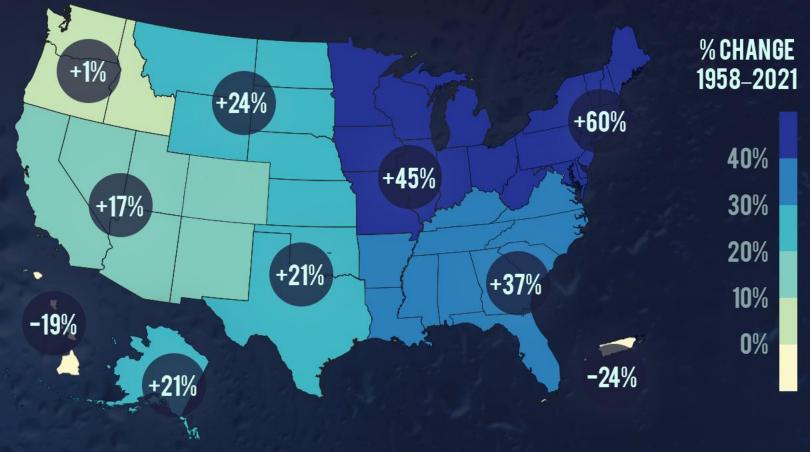


Change in average annual days (1973-2023) at/above fire weather thresholds in at least two hourly observations per day. Source: NOAA/NCEI Local Climatological Data (LCD)



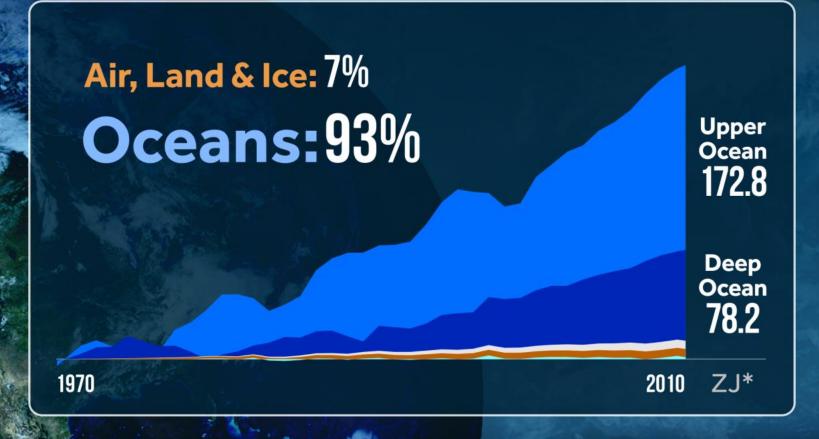
# HEAVIER DOWNPOURS

Change in precipitation on heaviest 1% of days



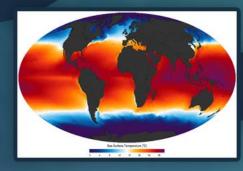
Change in total precipitation falling on the heaviest 1% of days, 1958–2021. Source: USGCRP, 2023: Fifth National Climate Assessment.

## Where's the Heat? Earth's Accumulated Energy



Accumulated Heat Energy Measured in Zettajoules Source: Climate Change 2013: The Physical Science Basis (IPCC) Chapter 3

## HURRICANES & CLIMATE CHANGE What we know



### Warmer water = more fuel

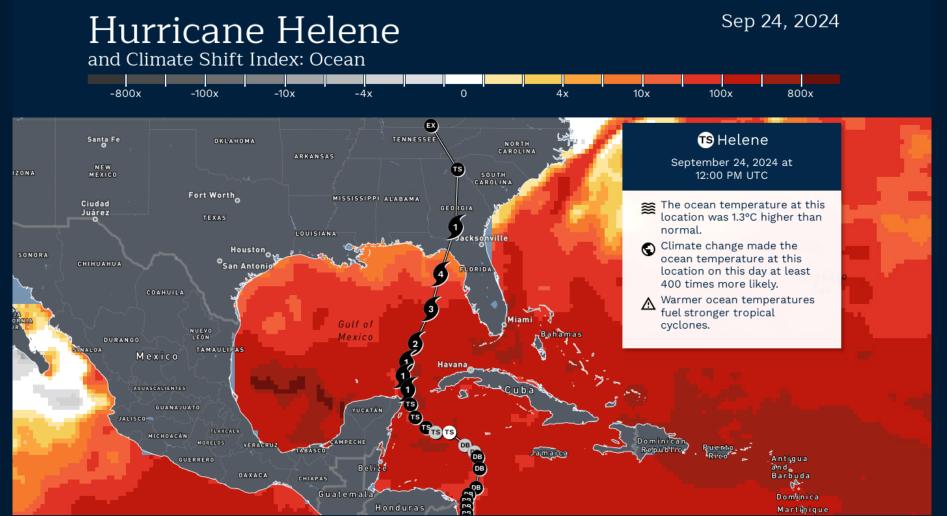
**Heavier rain** 





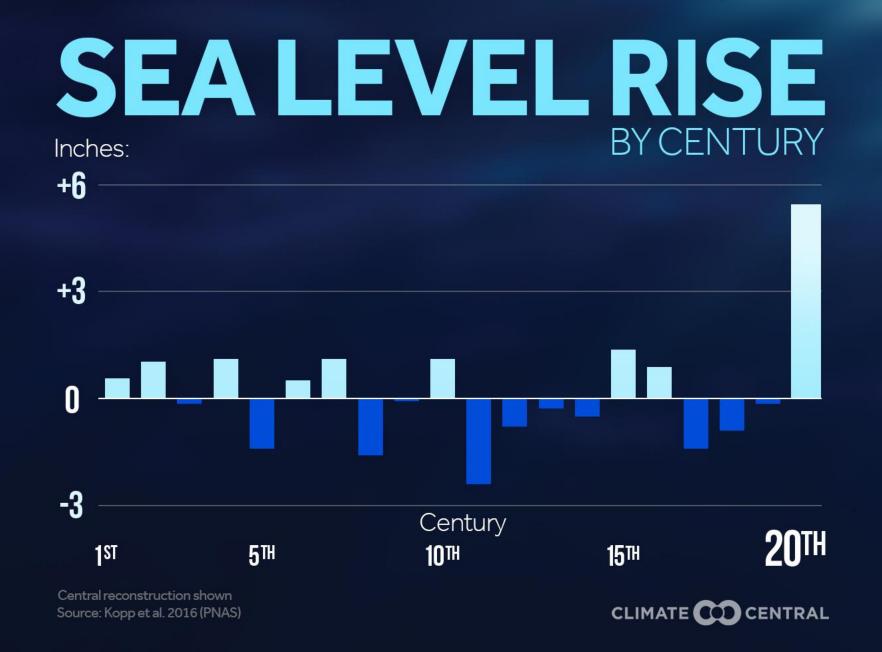
Higher storm surge from rising sea levels CLIMATE CO CENTRAL

# Helene: record warm water 300-500x more likely because of climate change



Tropical cyclone track data from National Hurricane Center. Icons indicate position of **CLIMATE CO CENTRAL** 

CLIMATE



# Surging Seas

# Sealevel.climatecentral.org

CLIMATE CENTRAL

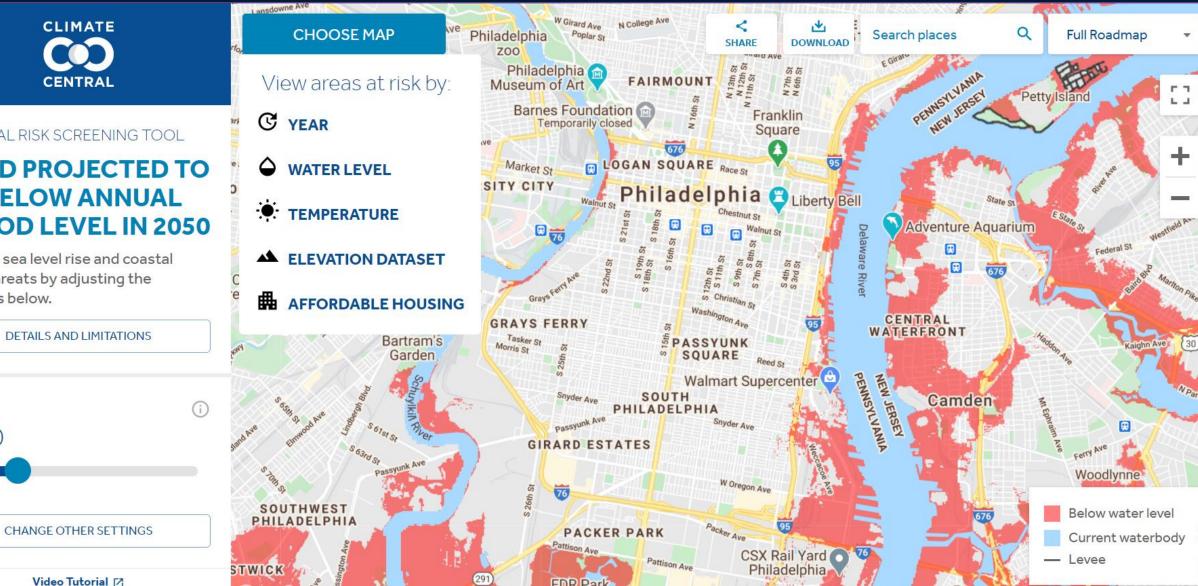
#### COASTAL RISK SCREENING TOOL

### LAND PROJECTED TO **BE BELOW ANNUAL FLOOD LEVEL IN 2050**

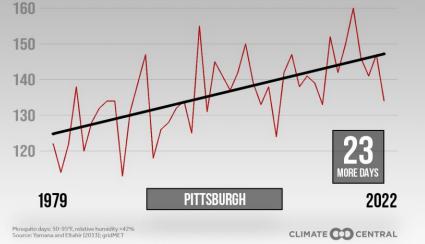
Explore sea level rise and coastal flood threats by adjusting the controls below.

YEAR

2050





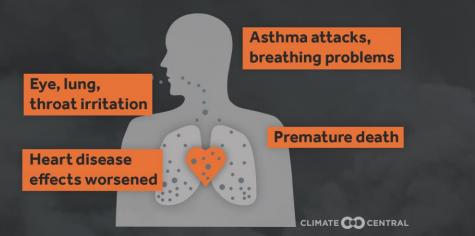


### MORE CO2 MEANS BIGGER, MORE AGGRESSIVE DOISONIUM 78.1mg 40.9mg 15mg 1950 TOAY 2040-2050 2060-2070

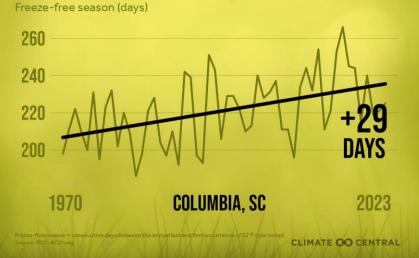
#### Average per plant in Ziska (2007) lab study

CLIMATE CO CENTRAL

### WILDFIRE POLLUTION HARMS HEALTH Fine particle (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) effects

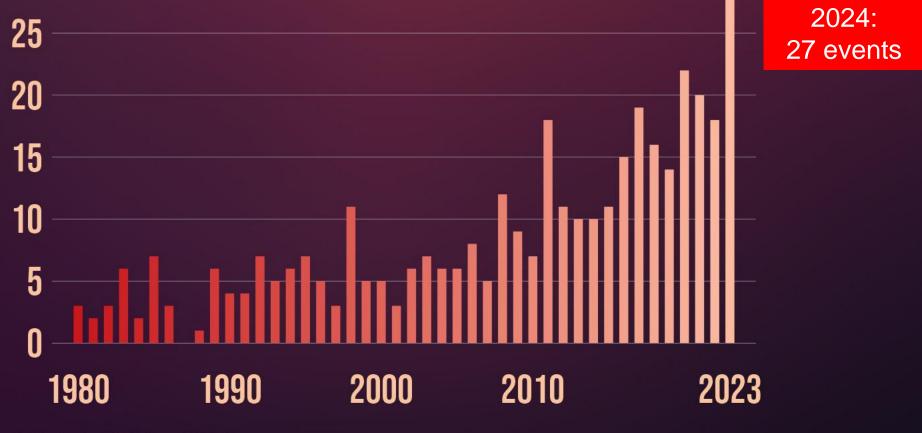


#### LONGER GROWING SEASON = LONGER ALLERGY SEASON



# **U.S. BILLION-DOLLAR DISASTERS**

Annual number of events

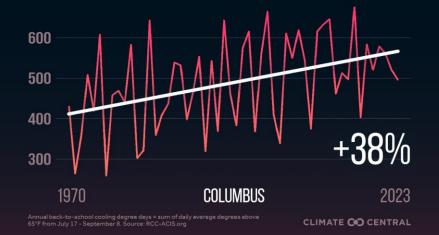


No disasters in 1987. Data as of 1/9/2024. Source: NOAA/NCEI

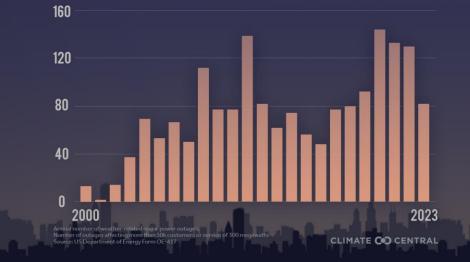
CLIMATE CO CENTRAL



Annual cooling degree days (July 17 - September 8)



### WEATHER-RELATED MAJOR U.S. POWER OUTAGES



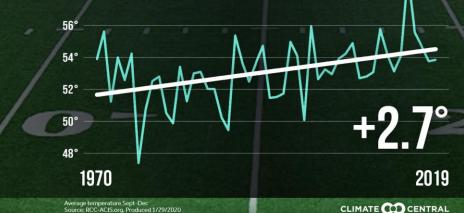
### WING BRF



Climate Change is Impacting the Key Elements in Beer



-



Average temperature Sept-Dec Source: RCC-ACIS.org. Produced 1/29/2020

Weather • Food–Land and Sea • Water Health • Economy • Racial & Social Equity Infrastructure–Buildings, Roads • Energy • Transportation Coastal Flooding, Changing Oceans • Shifting Ecosystems Shifting Seasons • National Security • Migration • Tourism Sports, Recreation - Ways of Life





# Our Future is Our Choice

Resources



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### Content 697 Graphics 972 Tools 15

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Climate Shift Index Alert • November 18, 2024

# CLIMATE

### Analysis: Climate Change-Driven Ocean Warming Intensifies Record November Typhoon Activity in the Western Pacific

For the first time on record, four named tropical systems were simultaneously active in the Western Pacific Ocean in November: Typhoon Yinxing, Typhoon Toraji, Super Typhoon Usagi, and Super Typhoon Man-Yi. Man-Yi was the strongest and most influenced by ocean temperatures boosted by climate change.



#### Climate Matters • November 13, 2024

#### 2024 Winter Package

Winters have warmed by 4°F on average across 235 U.S. cities since 1970. Warmer, shorter winters have lingering effects on health, water supplies, and agriculture throughout the year.



Climate Matters • November 5, 2024

COP29: Global Climate Conference

COP29, the global climate conference, starts



Partnership Journalism • November 5, 2024

Drought, record warmth fuel historic wildfire risk in

https://www.climatecentral.org/climate-matters

# WEATHERPOWER

Create a graphic forecasting daily wind or solar electricity generation in your media market.

#### For a state graphic, select a state.

For a local graphic, first select a state, then click button for media market, county, or congressional district.

Missouri			
🔿 State	O Media market	O County	O Congressional district
St. Louis	, MO		,

# WeatherPower.climatecentral.org





### Customize and download a production-ready forecast graphic:

#### **Choose graphic**

○ Wind ○ Solar

V

V

#### Choose background

- Wind/solar image
- ⊖ Black
- Transparent

#### 🗹 Include title

Download Graphic

#### Choose Days (columns)

- (up to 3)
- Yesterday
- 🗹 Today
- Tomorrow
- Saturday
  Sunday
- □ Monday

- Car Miles
  - Trees Planted
  - Smartphones Charged

Power Index (0-10 scale)

CO2 Avoided (tons)

(up to 3 per graphic)

Electricity Generated (mwh)

Equivalent Homes Powered (locally)
 Home Energy Savings (solar only)

Equivalent Homes Powered (regionally; wind only)

**Choose Equivalencies (rows)** • What do these mean?

# Thank you!

# Sign up for Climate Matters: climatecentral.org/climate-matters

bplacky@climatecentral.org



# The state of climate action

Anand Patwardhan School of Public Policy University of Maryland, College Park Email: <u>apat@umd.edu</u>

EESI Briefing, January 29 2025

# Outline

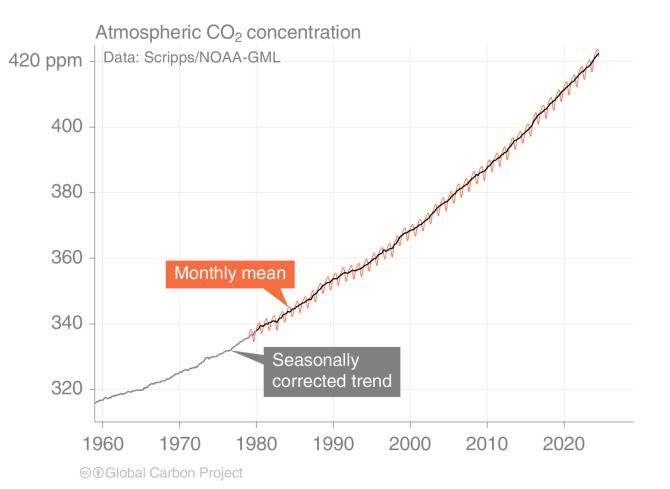
- Emissions
- Mitigation
- Adaptation
- Finance
- Key take-aways



- Global Carbon Project
- UNFCCC Global Stocktake <u>synthesis report</u> of the Technical Dialogue
- IPCC AR6
- UNEP <u>Emissions Gap Report</u>
- UNEP Adaptation Gap Report
- <u>CPI State of Climate Finance</u>
- <u>Climate Action Tracker</u>



The global CO<sub>2</sub> concentration increased from ~277 ppm in 1750 to 422.5 ppm in 2024 (up 52%)

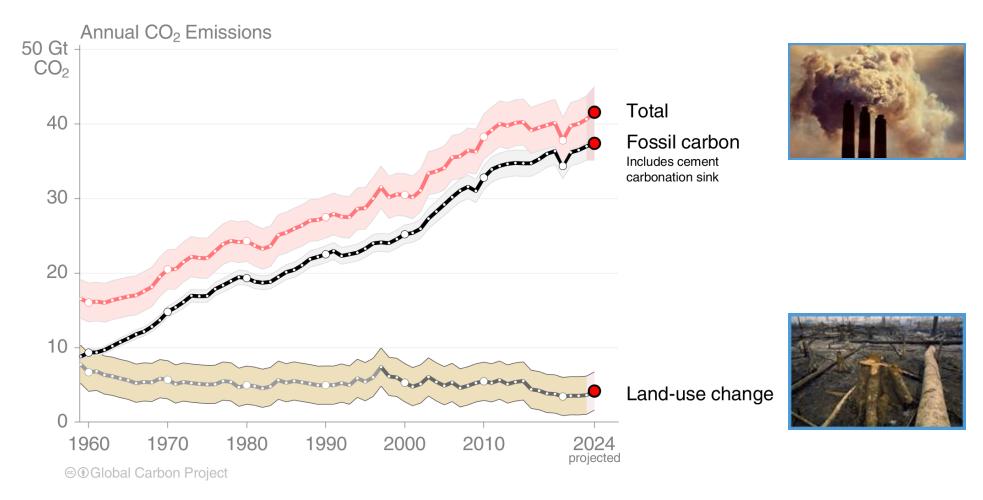


Globally averaged surface atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentration. Data from: NOAA-GML after 1980; the Scripps Institution of Oceanography before 1980

Source: NOAA-GML; Scripps Institution of Oceanography; Friedlingstein et al 2024; Global Carbon Project 2024

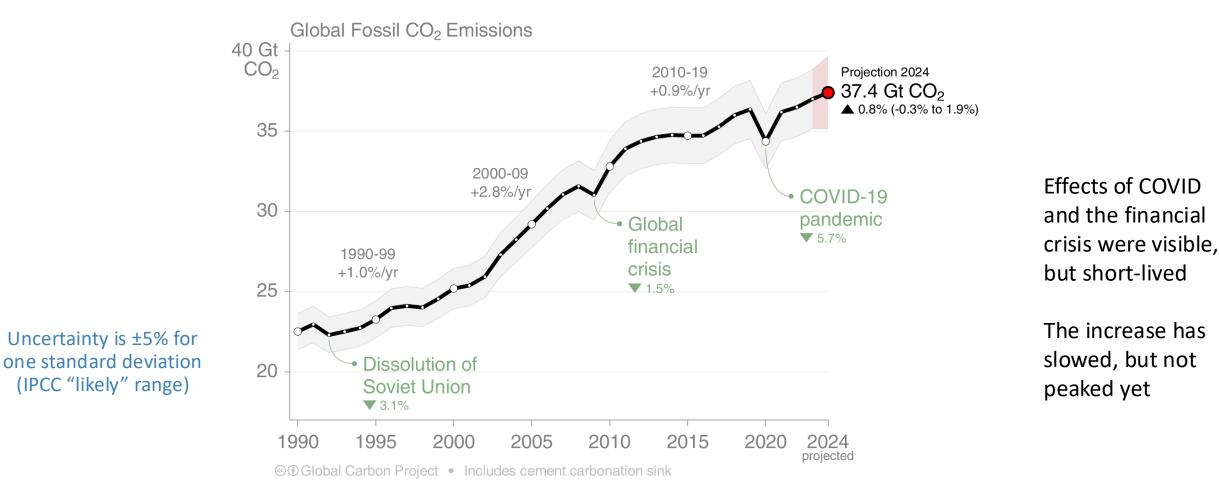


Total global emissions, projected to reach 41.6 ± 3.2 GtCO<sub>2</sub> in 2024, 51% over 1990 Percentage land-use change: 42% in 1960, 10% averaged 2014–2023



Land-use change estimates from four bookkeeping models, using fire-based variability from 1997 Source: <u>Friedlingstein et al 2024</u>; <u>Global Carbon Project 2024</u>

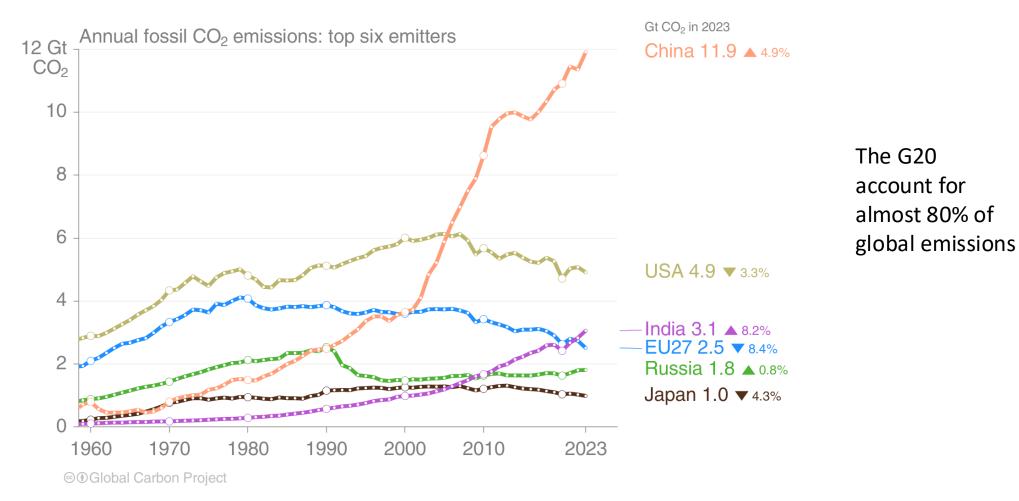
### Global fossil CO<sub>2</sub> emissions: 37.0 ± 2 GtCO<sub>2</sub> in 2023, 66% over 1990 • Projection for 2024: 37.4 ± 2 GtCO<sub>2</sub>, 0.8% [-0.3% to +1.9%] higher than 2023



The 2024 projection is based on preliminary data and modelling. The global total includes a cement carbonation sink of 0.8 GtCO<sub>2</sub>. Source: <u>Friedlingstein et al 2024</u>; <u>Global Carbon Project 2024</u>



The top six emitters in 2023 covered 68% of global emissions China 32%, United States 13%, India 8%, EU 7%, Russia 5%, and Japan 3%

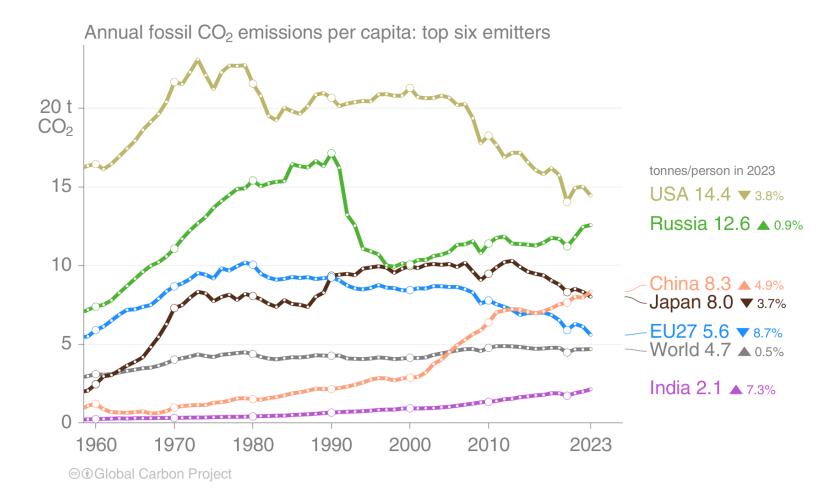


International aviation and maritime shipping (bunker fuels) contributed 3.0% of global emissions in 2023. Source: <u>Friedlingstein et al 2024</u>; <u>Global Carbon Project 2024</u>



### **Top emitters: Fossil CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per capita to 2023**

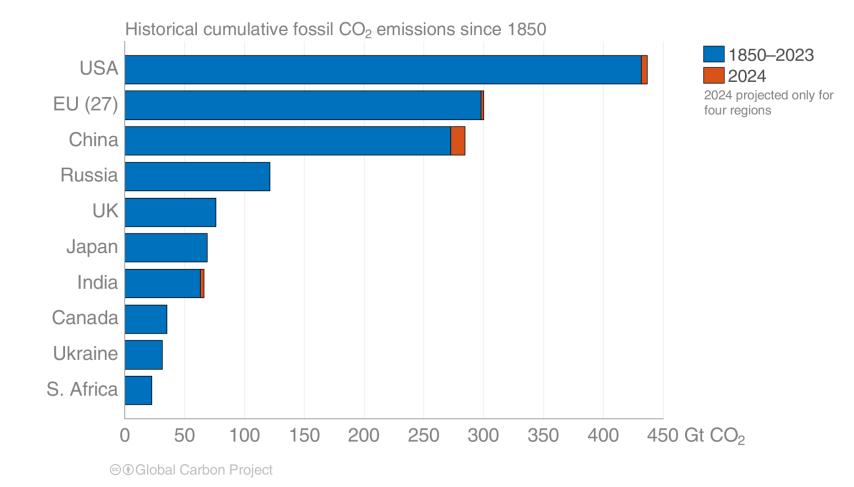
### Countries have a broad range of per capita emissions reflecting their national circumstances



International aviation and maritime shipping (bunker fuels) contributed 3.0% of global emissions in 2023. Source: Friedlingstein et al 2024; Global Carbon Project 2024



### The USA and EU have the highest accumulated fossil CO<sub>2</sub> emissions since 1850, but China is a close third.



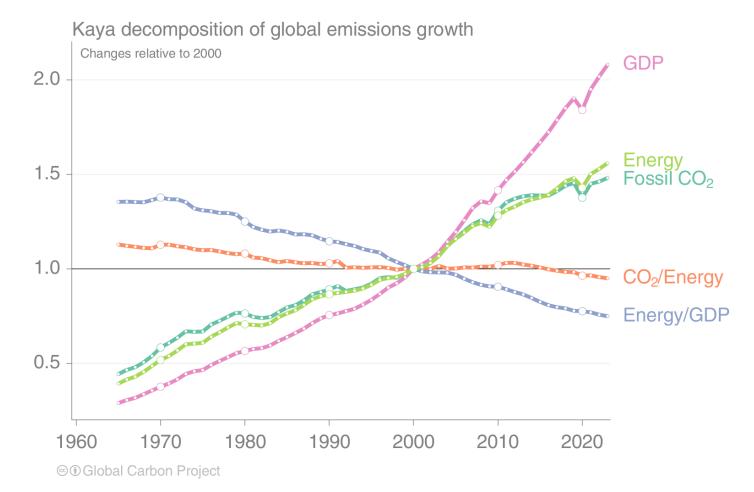
Calculated using territorial emissions. Source: <u>Friedlingstein et al 2024</u>; <u>Global Carbon Project 2024</u>

### Historical trends in emission drivers: GDP, Energy demand, Energy supply

Relative decoupling of economic growth from CO<sub>2</sub> emissions is happening, and has been on-going for a while – driven mostly by improved energy intensity (Energy/GDP) and, recently, carbon intensity of energy (CO<sub>2</sub>/Energy)

GLOBAL

CARBON project



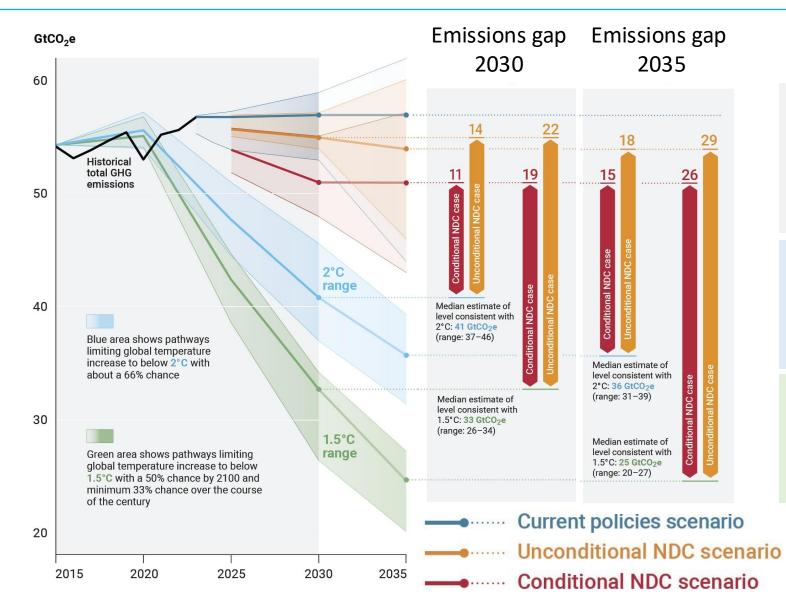
GDP: Gross Domestic Product (economic activity) Source: <u>Friedlingstein et al 2024</u>; <u>Global Carbon Project 2024</u>

### **Conclusions of the Global Stocktake Technical Dialogue with regard to Mitigation**

- 1. Global emissions are not in line with modelled global mitigation pathways consistent with the temperature goal of the Paris Agreement, and there is a rapidly narrowing window to raise ambition and implement existing commitments in order to limit warming to 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels.
- 2. Much more ambition in action and support is needed in implementing domestic mitigation measures and setting more ambitious targets in NDCs to realize existing and emerging opportunities across contexts, in order to reduce global GHG emissions by 43 per cent by 2030 and further by 60 per cent by 2035 compared with 2019 levels and reach net zero CO2 emissions by 2050 globally.
- 3. Achieving net zero CO2 and GHG emissions requires systems transformations across all sectors and contexts, including scaling up renewable energy while phasing out all unabated fossil fuels, ending deforestation, reducing non-CO2 emissions and implementing both supply- and demand-side measures.
- 4. Just transitions can support more robust and equitable mitigation outcomes, with tailored approaches addressing different contexts.
- 5. Economic diversification is a key strategy to address the impacts of response measures, with various options that can be applied in different contexts.



## There is a large gap in ambition for reducing emissions

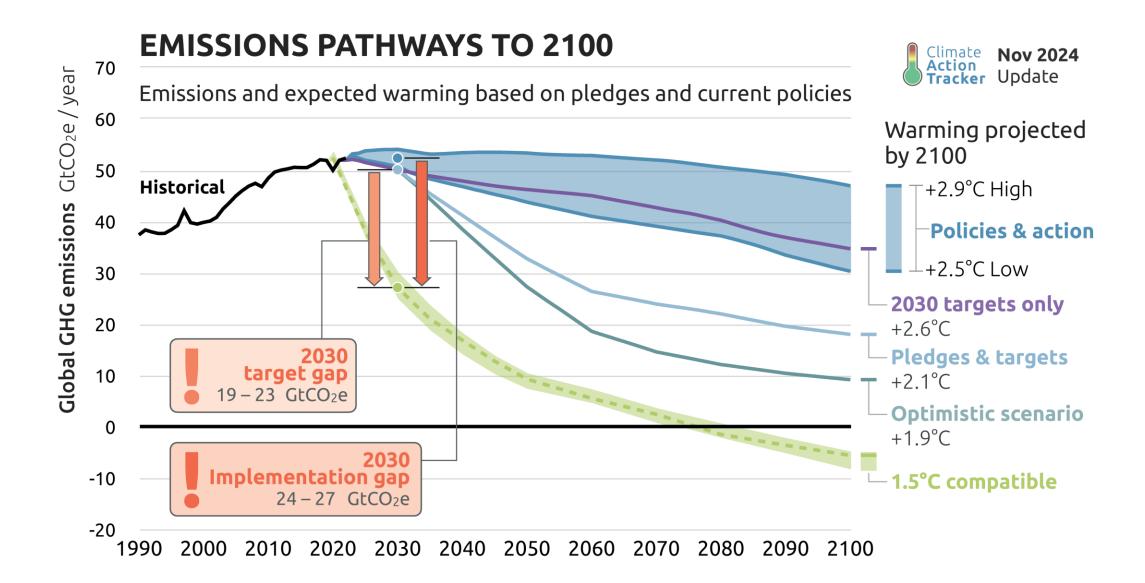


**Unconditional** and **conditional** NDCs reduce 2030 emissions by 4% and 10% respectively, relative to 2019 levels

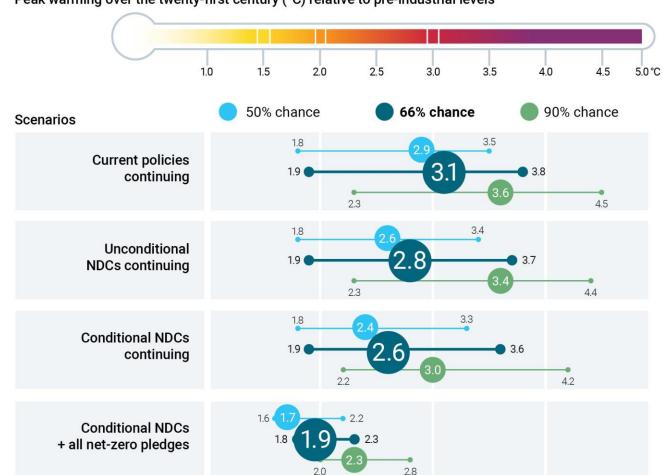
Reductions required to align with 2°C pathways: 2030: 28% 2035: 37%

Reductions required to align with 1.5°C pathways: 2030: 42% 2035: 57%





## Immediate action matters for temperature projections

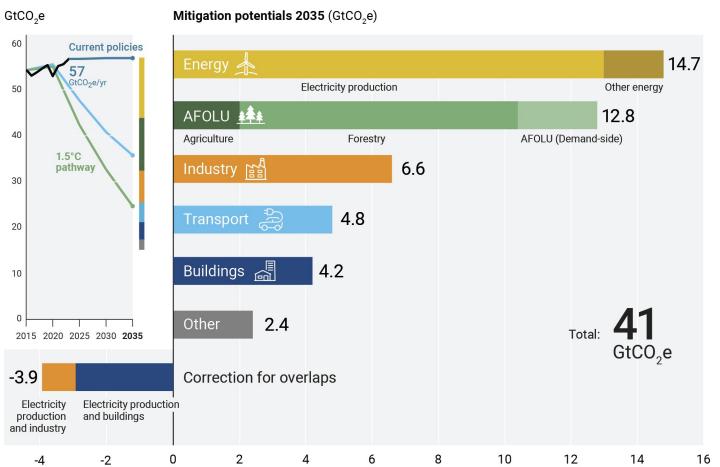


Peak warming over the twenty-first century (°C) relative to pre-industrial levels

- Temperature projections based on the conditional NDC scenario are 0.5°C lower than those based on existing policies
- Only under the most optimistic scenario do temperature projections get closer to the Paris Agreement goal



# It is technically feasible to bridge the emissions gap

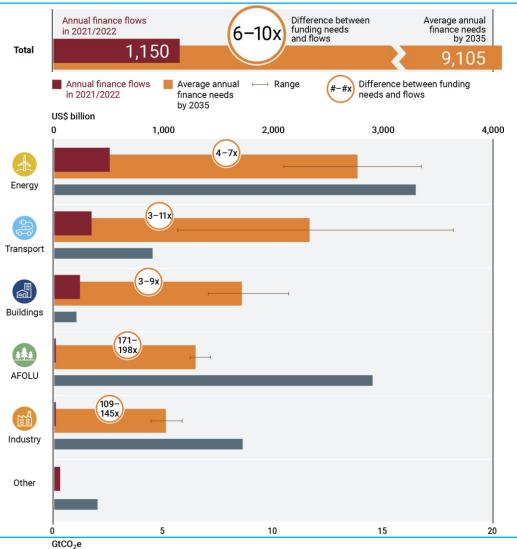


- Total mitigation potential about twice what is required for 2°C-alignment and about 30% above 1.5°Calignment requirements for 2030 and 2035
- Options in wind, solar PV and forestry alone account for about half the potential
- Demand-side and efficiency measures, and electrification and fuel switching in buildings, transport and industry sectors important
- Realizing the potentials requires overcoming persisting challenges and massively boosting policies, support and finance

Note: techno-economic mitigation potential at costs  $<US$200/tCO_2e$ Half of the total potential available at costs  $<US$20/tCO_2e$ 



# At least a sixfold increase in investment required for 1.5°C alignment



- Large differences between funding needs and flows across sectors and geographies
- A shift in investment patterns, directing international funding towards emerging market and developing economies (EMDEs) outside of China is essential.
- Next NDCs: EMDEs can detail the means of implementation needed, including international support and finance to achieve ambitious NDC targets for 2035



Mitigation potential by 2035 (GtCO<sub>2</sub>e)

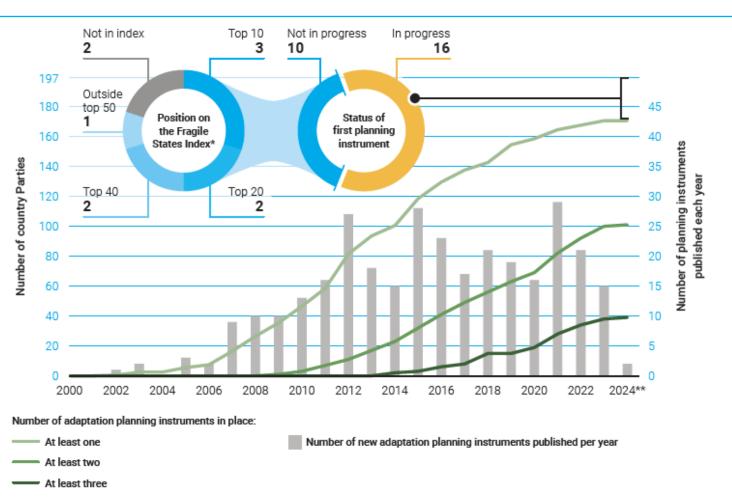
Only US\$0.9 trillion to US\$2.1 trillion annually would be incremental, manageable within the US\$110 trillion global economy

### **Conclusions of the Global Stocktake Technical Dialogue with regard to Adaptation**

- As climate change threatens all countries, communities and people around the world, increased adaptation action as well as enhanced efforts to avert, minimize and address loss and damage are urgently needed to reduce and respond to increasing impacts, particularly for those who are least prepared for change and least able to recover from disasters.
- 2. Collectively, there is increasing ambition in plans and commitments for adaptation action and support, but most observed adaptation efforts are fragmented, incremental, sector-specific and unequally distributed across regions.
- 3. When adaptation is informed and driven by local contexts, populations and priorities, both the adequacy and the effectiveness of adaptation action and support are enhanced, and this can also promote transformational adaptation.
- 4. Averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage requires urgent action across climate and development policies to manage risks comprehensively and provide support to impacted communities.
- Support for adaptation and funding arrangements for averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage need to be rapidly scaled up from expanded and innovative sources, and financial flows need to be made consistent with climate-resilient development to meet urgent and increasing needs.



### Countries are undertaking national adaptation planning

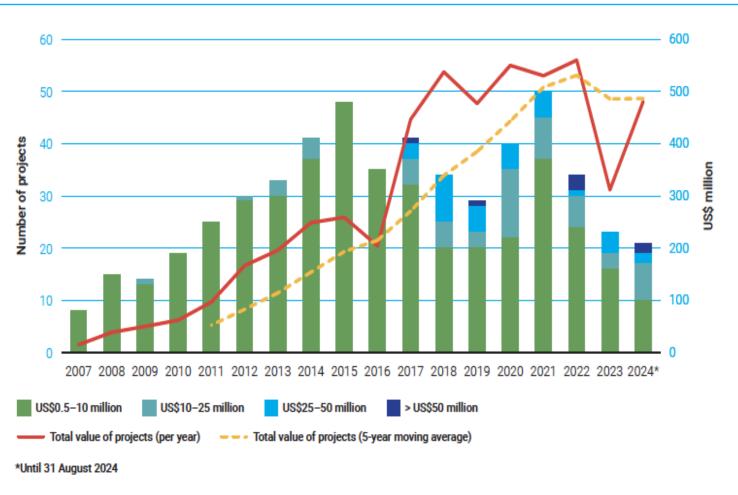


- 87% of countries have at least 1 national adaptation planning instrument.
- 50% countries have 2 or more national-level instruments.
- Reaching some countries without a national planning instrument will be hard.
- Potential effectiveness of adaptation planning is mixed.
- Alignment of NAPs and NDCs needs to be improved.

environment programme

\*Average position between 2020 and 2024 \*\*Until 5 August 2024

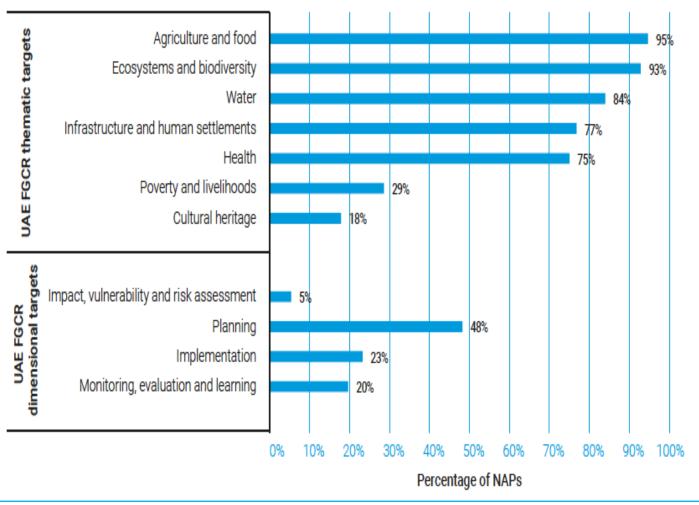
### Countries must ramp up implementation to prepare for mounting climate impacts



- Adaptation actions largely on upward trend.
- Pace of implementation is slow.
- 50% of analysed projects rated not satisfactory/ likely unsustainable.
- Implementation of NAPs hampered by barriers.
- Adequacy and effectiveness of national adaptation response is insufficient.



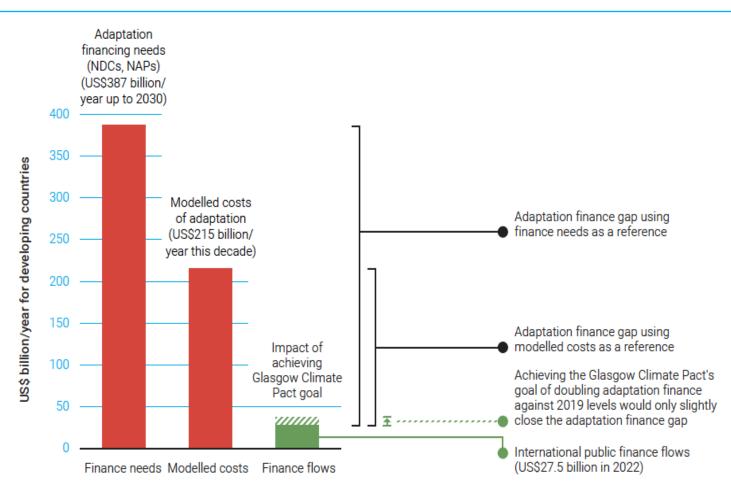
# Increase adaptation efforts to reach 2030 targets of the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience (FGCR)



- UAE FGCR meant to track progress towards GGA.
- NAPs reference at least one thematic target and 1/3 refer to elements of dimensional targets.
- Information about future impacts, vulnerabilities and risks is uneven and needs to improve.
- Reaching global coverage of four dimensional targets by 2030 will require increased efforts.



### There is an enormous adaptation finance gap



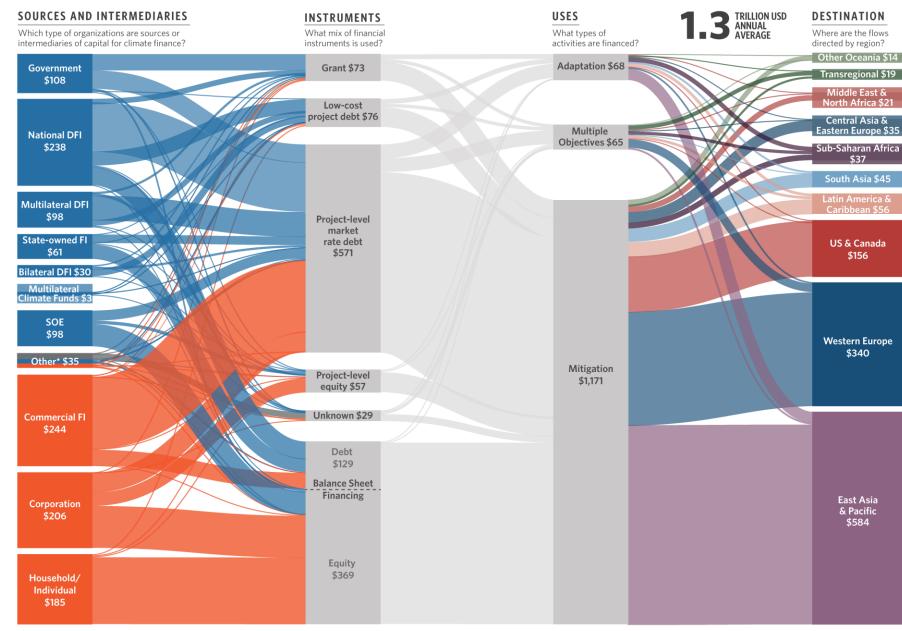
- International public adaptation finance to developing countries reached \$28bn in 2022.
- Progress towards Glasgow Climate Pact to at least double 2019 finance flows by 2025.
- Adaptation finance gap estimated at \$187-359 bn per year.
- Reaching Glasgow Climate Pact goal would only reduce gap by about 5%.
- Adaptation finance gap important in context of the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) for climate finance



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### LANDSCAPE OF CLIMATE FINANCE IN 2021/2022

Global climate finance flows along their life cycle in 2021 and 2022. Values are averages of two years' data to smooth out fluctuations, in USD billions



### Most climate finance is:

1) Private

CLIMATE POLICY INITIATIVE

- 2) For mitigation and not adaptation
- 3) From and for developed countries and large emerging economies
- Loans (or equity) and not grants

PRIVATE PUBLIC "Oth

"Other" public sources include export credit agencies and unknown public funds "Other" private sources include institutional investors, funds, and unknown

Source: Climate Policy Initiative

# Key take-aways

- The global clean energy transition is well underway (and has been for a while); but is not fast enough
- Cumulative emissions matter not just the net-zero year, but the peaking year and the rate of decline thereafter
  - Avoiding emissions better than removal CO<sub>2</sub> removal is costly, risky and limited
- Achieving "well below 2 C" (the Paris Agreement target) is unlikely at current levels of ambition and action; likely warming is in the range of ~2.5 – 2.7 C
  - There is both an "ambition" gap (what countries pledge to do in their NDCs) and an "action" gap (what is actually achieved with regard to emissions)
- Adaptation & resilience are critical, but still lack attention and effort
  - Large opportunity cost of inaction and benefits of anticipatory action
- There is a large finance gap for both mitigation and adaptation