

• What are the implications?



### **Potential Climate Change Impacts**



# IPCC AR6 Report 2021

- Warning is "Code Red" for humanity
- Climate change is already affecting every region across the globe
- Causing droughts and more intense heatwaves
- Target of limiting global warming to i.5 ° C (Paris agreement 2016) will be breached in two decades
- Rise in sea levels of >2m by end of 21<sup>st</sup> C cannot be ruled out
- "Once-in-a-century" coastal flooding evens could happen every year in many costal areas by 2100
- Arctic could be practically free of summer sea ice by September at least one year before 2050
- Sea level rise caused by climate change is irreversible and will continue for centuries
- It is unequivocal that humans are warming the atmosphere, land and oceans

### How the world is projected to warm by 2100 Past and projected emissions in gigatonnes of carbon dioxide



Source: Climate Action Tracker





#### What will happen To UK if sea levels rise 7m:





#### **Global Warming Vulnerable Tipping Points**

Committed global warming (>2°C) commits most, most likely past tipping Thawing permafrost is emitting CO2, methane & nitrous oxide

- Cryosphere Entities
- Circulation Patterns
- Biosphere Components















Over the past few decades, the increasing meltwater yield from glaciers has led to the formation of <u>thousands of new lakes</u> high in the Himalaya

(University of St Andrews)



# Basic Questions (8)

• What actions can we take?

# **Opportunities to reduce net emissions**

#### **POWER GENERATION:**

- Biofuels (interim)
- Fracked gas (interim)
- Wind
- Solar (incl. from space stations)
- Hydro
- Nuclear (national, local SMRs)
- Nuclear fusion (eg ITER, Tokamak)
- Waves
- Tidal
- Geothermal
- Earth's hot rocks
- Earth's magnetic field
- Earth's radioactivity

#### HOMES:

- Improved Insulation
- Solar/Battery
- Heat pumps (air, ground)
- Mine water district heating
- Hydrogen ROAD TRANSPORT:
- Hybrid (interim)
- Electric/Battery
- Hydrogen
- Biofuels (interim), eFuels

#### SHIPPING:

- Wind
- Solar/Battery
- Nuclear
- Hydrogen

#### AIR TRANSPORT:

- Solar/Battery
- eFuels
- Hydrogen

#### AGRICULTURE:

- More mixed, less intensive Vertical arable "fields"
- Hydroponics
- Aeroponics
- Reforestation

#### **OTHER:**

- Carbon Offset (interim)
- Carbon Capture & Storage
- Improved storage (battery, salt silos etc)
- More plant-based diets
- City forests
- Seeding clouds
- Robotic mirror drones

# How can we live with Climate Change?

- Walking, cycling & public transport
- Coastal forests, floating villages
- Flood defences, selective abandonment
- Reinforcing/diverting infrastructure (roads, railways, bridges, networks)
- Fire-adapted forests & communities
- Selective insurance to incentivise change in land & building use
- Reflective roofs, roof gardens, vertical gardens
- Sandwiched flooring
- Shading, shutters & blinds; reflective, triple glazed windows
- Heat-absorbent, non-melting surfaces for roads & pathways
- Retain lawns in favour of concrete or tarmac
- Heat & drought-tolerant plants, irrigation, composting, garden ponds
- Breeding heat-tolerant farm animals
- Man-made meat
- Sustainable communities



"reducing waste is the no.1 thing We can all do"









### Sustainable Settlements





#### Rugeley power station site

- Smart city framework
- Learning & innovation
- Smart mobility

### Basic Questions (9)

- How is UK doing?
- What are the
  - consequential risks?



### UK Greenhouse Gas Emissions vs GDP



UK Electricity Generation: Low-carbon vs Fossil Fuels (% of total)



Source: Carbon Brief analysis of data from Electric Insights and the Department for Business Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS).

# Progress required to UK achieve net-zero target by 2050



### Will UK continue to achieve its targets?

#### According to BBC Fact-check Oct 01 2021:

- Power Generation
- Cars, buses, trains & bikes
- Flights & shipping
- Heating & buildings
- Food
- Trees
- Hydrogen
- Carbon capture & storage
- Industry

- decision outstanding to close gas-fired power stations by 2035 if not capturing carbon
- scrappage scheme for non-electric cars awaited, behind schedule on charging infrastructure
- strategy awaited to freeze demand for flights and cut emissions from other modes of transport
- strategy awaited on improving insulation and installing heat pumps
- strategy awaited on diet and reducing agricultural emissions
- behind schedule on tree-planting, especially in England
- production currently in infancy, rapid & significant scale-up planned
- technology still emerging and expensive, projects being planned
- ambitious plans to cut emissions

but unclear how this will avoid shifting more production outside UK

# What can we do? (IPCC ARS Report 2021)

- Eat less beef, lamb & pork
- Set room thermostats no higher than 19°C & water no higher than 55° C
- Minimise flying, esp. long-haul
- Make your next car an electric one
- Improve homes with draught-proofing & extra insulation
- Choose LED light bulbs & high-efficiency appliances
- Consider switching to a low-carbon heating system such as a heat pump
- Install smart energy meters to manage their use
- Use peat-free compost
- Share rather than buy items such as power tools that you use infrequently

### **CONSEQUENTIAL RISKS**



- Undermining UK productivity, competitiveness, prosperity
- Overdependency on electricity
- Failure of "delinquent" nations (eg China, India, Brazil, Australia) to act quickly enough to make a difference
- Potential for Conflict uncontrolled emissions (above), polar shipping lanes, fishing grounds, mineral resources
- Migration

# Summary

- Climate Change is happening, driven by Global Warming
- Caused by:
  - 1. Milancovitch effect
  - 2. Post-industrial human activity
  - 3. Population growth.
- Causing current & future damage to:
  - 1. The natural environment
  - 2. Human activities.
- Only Governments and major organisations can really influence this
- We can play our part, every little helps
- We won't burn, we won't drown, but we will have to adapt.

