



# ZERO WEST

A collaboration to accelerate  
the transition to a zero-carbon society  
in the West of England

[zerowest.org](http://zerowest.org)

@ZeroWestCIC

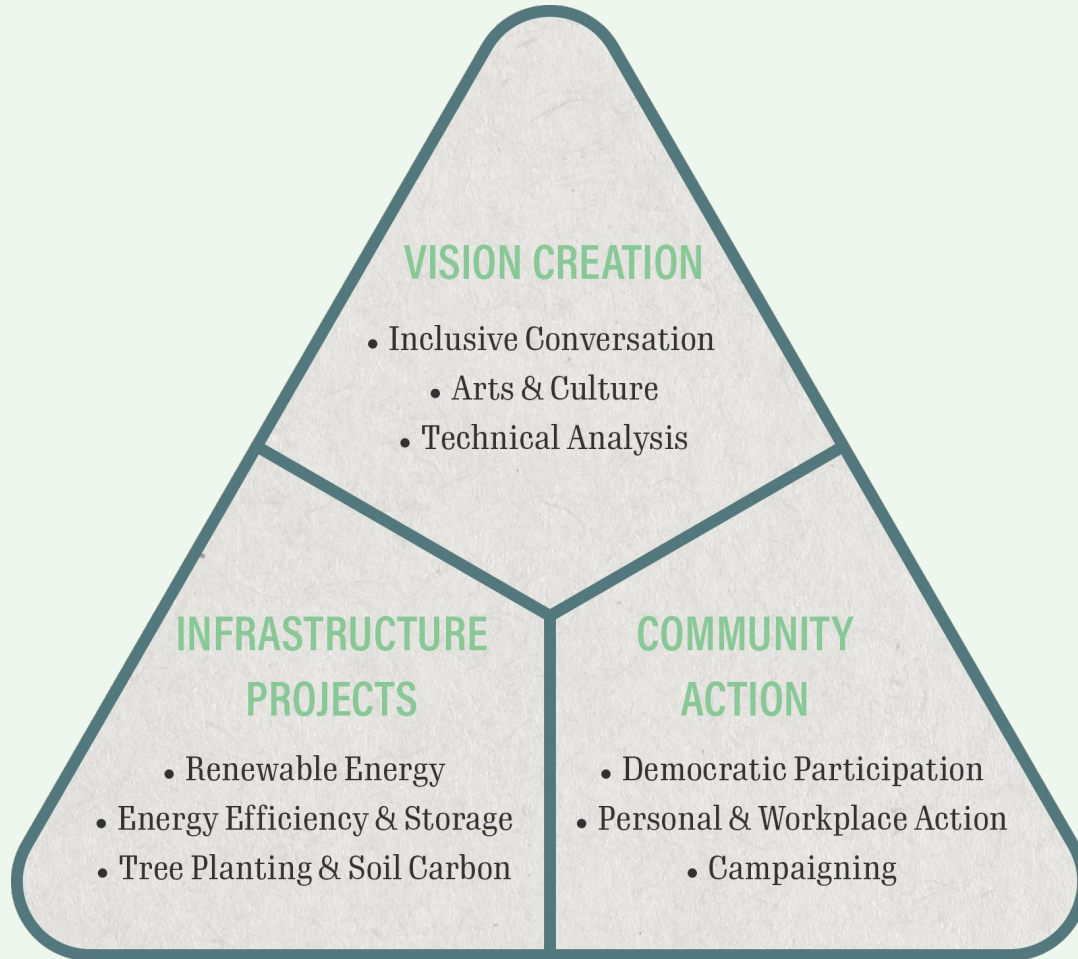
# Zero West CIC

Zero West's purpose is "to work in an inclusive and collaborative way to achieve a West of England that is **zero carbon, zero waste, prosperous, and fair.**"

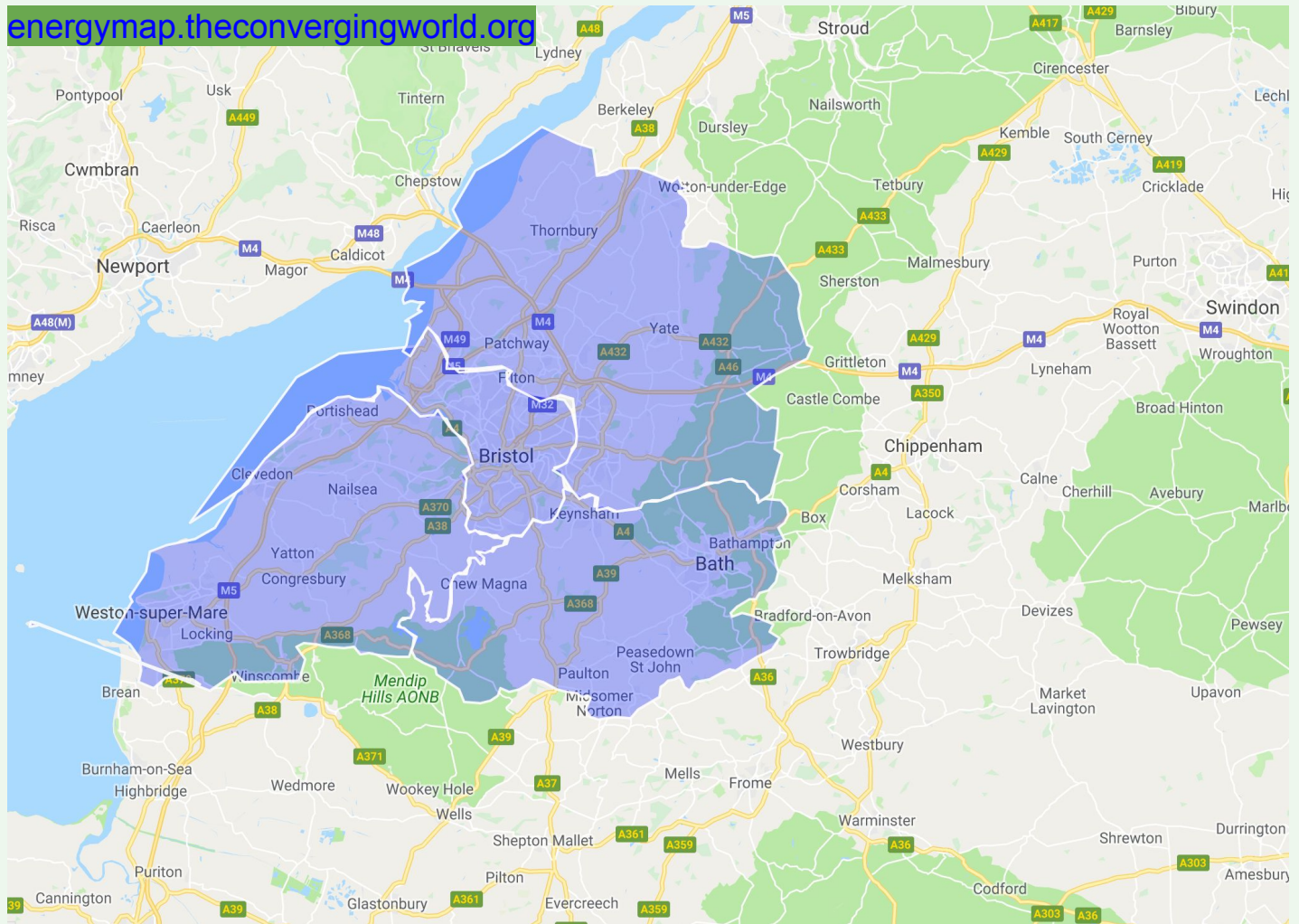
Individual and organisational members

Connecting across sectors - we need to do this together.





Energy and Land Systems  
for Climate Adaptation  
*in the West of England and the UK*



# Methodology

1. Estimate renewable potential for WoE region
  - a. Roof & Ground Solar
  - b. Onshore & Offshore Wind
  - c. Hydro
  - d. Biomass and Energy from Waste (EfW)
  - e. Anaerobic Digestion (AD)
2. Estimate existing renewables in WoE region
3. Parameterise Pathfinder Model by Wales & West Utilities

# Scope

- Pathfinder includes:
  - Electricity - domestic, commercial, industrial
  - Gas - domestic, small commercial, electricity generation
- Pathfinder baseline calculates 3.8 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>/person
- UK figures: 5.5 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>/person (DUKES 2019)
- Difference is industrial gas and transport (major contributor)
- Per capita consumption is 10-15 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub> per person
- *A quarter to a half of emissions for which we are responsible?*

# Potential Renewables

- Solar (roof) - 4kW on 25% of roofs
- Solar (ground) - **0.5% land area**
- Hydro - Environment Agency methodology
- Wind (onshore) - Regen SW methodology (2010) - **3% land area**
- Wind (offshore) - share of national capacity contracted by 2030
- Biomass - 20% agricultural land - **14% land area**
- EfW - 2030 projected recycling rates
- AD - 10x current capacity



# Existing Renewables

- What renewables do we have where is not a simple question!
- Data we use:
  - Feed In Tariff data from OFGEM
  - Renewable Energy Planning Database
- Thanks to Sheffield Solar Group
  - <https://www.solar.sheffield.ac.uk/>
- Notes on project status:
  - Biomass and EfW - operational or planned projects only
  - Solar, wind and hydro - projects may have been abandoned

# Results

| Capacity (MW)     | S Glos | Bristol | B&NES | N Somerset | TOTAL | EXISTING |
|-------------------|--------|---------|-------|------------|-------|----------|
| Solar PV (roof)   | 137    | 260     | 108   | 125        | 631   | 101      |
| Solar PV (ground) | 248    | 55      | 176   | 187        | 666   | 188      |
| Hydro             | 0      | 1       | 4     | 0          | 5     | 0        |
| Onshore Wind      | 167    | 0       | 114   | 132        | 412   | 65       |
| Offshore Wind     |        |         |       |            | 782   | 155      |
| Biomass           | 16     | 0       | 10    | 11         | 37    | 0        |
| EfW               | 12     | 17      | 9     | 10         | 49    | 102      |
| AD                |        |         |       |            | 170   | 17       |

# Modelling I

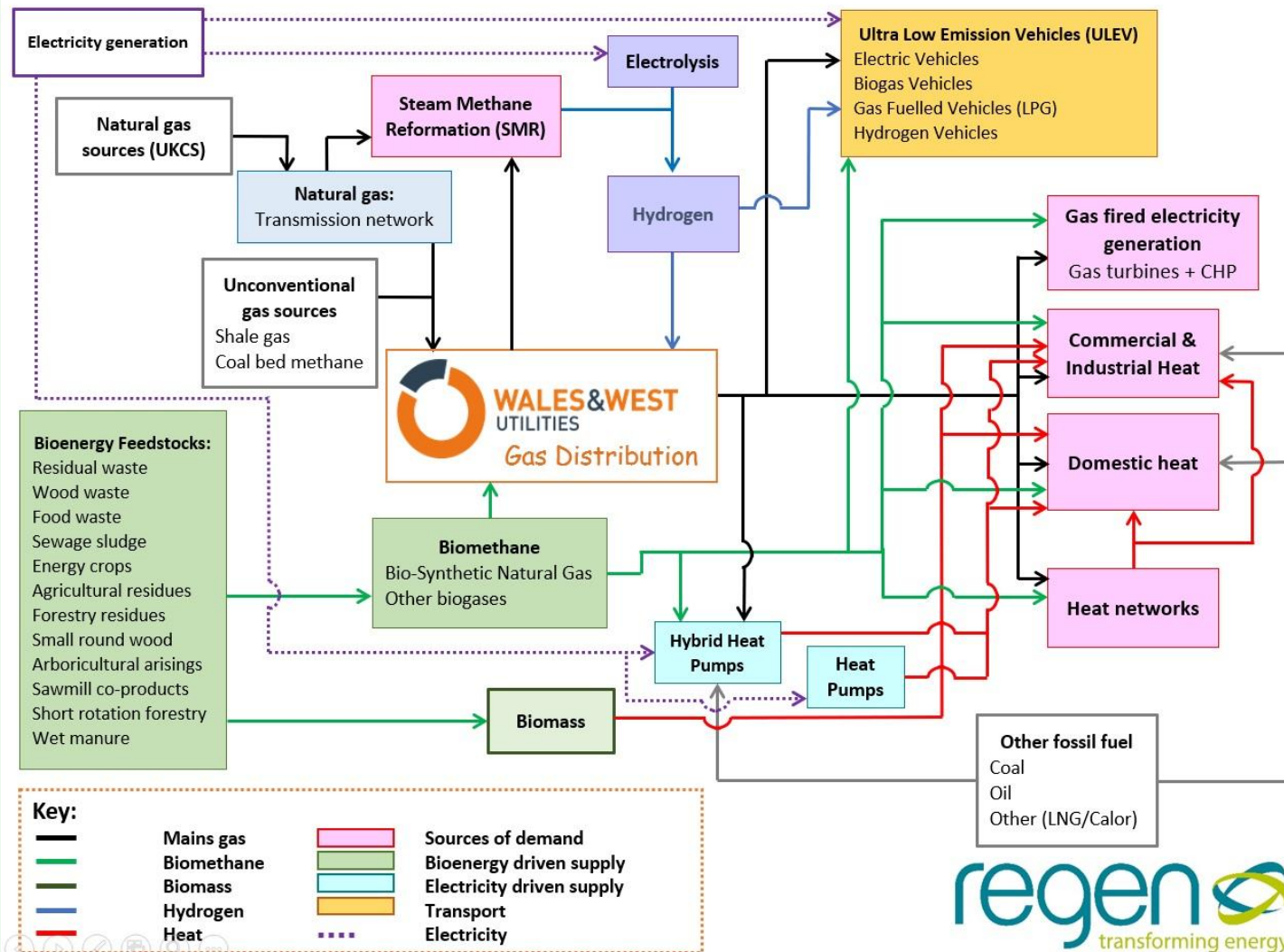
- Model
  - Pathfinder by Wales & West Utilities
  - Hourly supply and demand matcher with historical data
- Baseline
  - National figures, reduced proportionally by population for the WoE
- Scenario
  - No fossil fuels or nuclear
  - Reduce demand by  $\frac{1}{3}$
  - Ambitious local solar and wind, share of planned offshore wind
  - Current EfW, no biomass, share of national hydro
  - One electric car per household (current: ~1.4 cars/household)
  - Batteries accompanying rooftop solar
  - Heat pumps & green gas from increased AD
  - Excess renewables used to generate hydrogen

# Modelling II

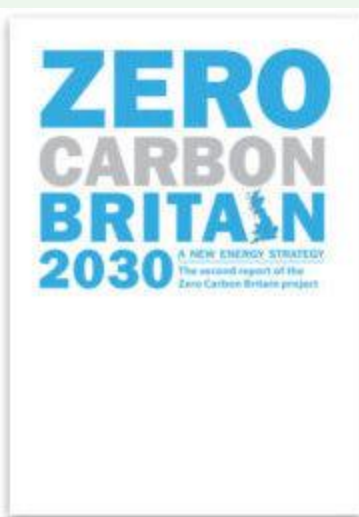
- How much renewable energy is this?
  - ~1.5x the generation capacity
  - Overall electricity demand in baseline and scenario is similar
- And what do we do with it?
  - With 80% heat pump (and 20% direct electric) heating:
    - Rely on ~500GWh interconnector import
    - With 500MW+ H<sub>2</sub> generation, store ~500GWh H<sub>2</sub> with zero export
    - Minimal fossil gas/CO<sub>2</sub> emissions
  - And by being smart:
    - With smart heat pumps, and smart electric vehicles...
    - We can reduce interconnector dependence by a factor of 10
    - Though occasional reliance remains high
- The West of England can achieve zero carbon

# The Future of Energy

- We need significantly more renewables
- We need significant demand reduction
- We also need...
  - Electric vehicles including fleet utilisation
  - Heat pumps & domestic batteries
  - Biomethane & hydrogen generation and storage
  - Conversion of hydrogen to synthetic gas & liquid fuels
  - Reforestation and regenerative agriculture
- We shouldn't need:
  - Fossil fuels & nuclear
  - Old growth forests for biomass
  - Carbon capture & steam reformation



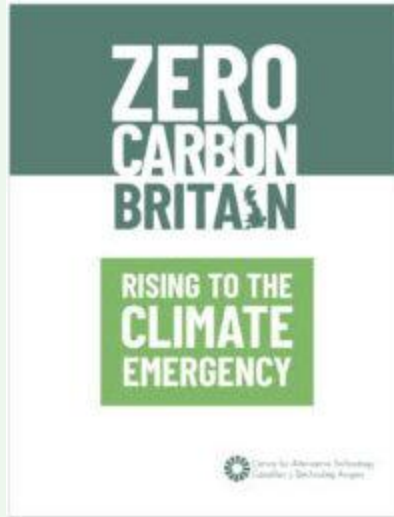
# Reports by the Centre for Alternative Technology [cat.org.uk](http://cat.org.uk)



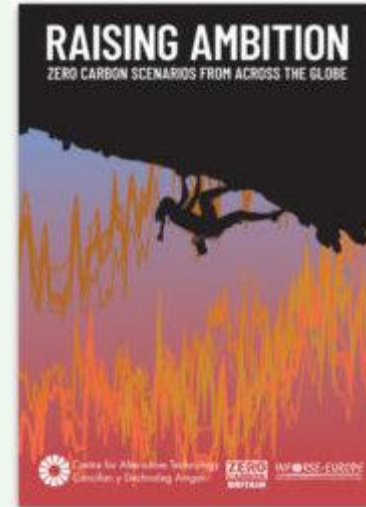
2010



2014



2019



2018



2017

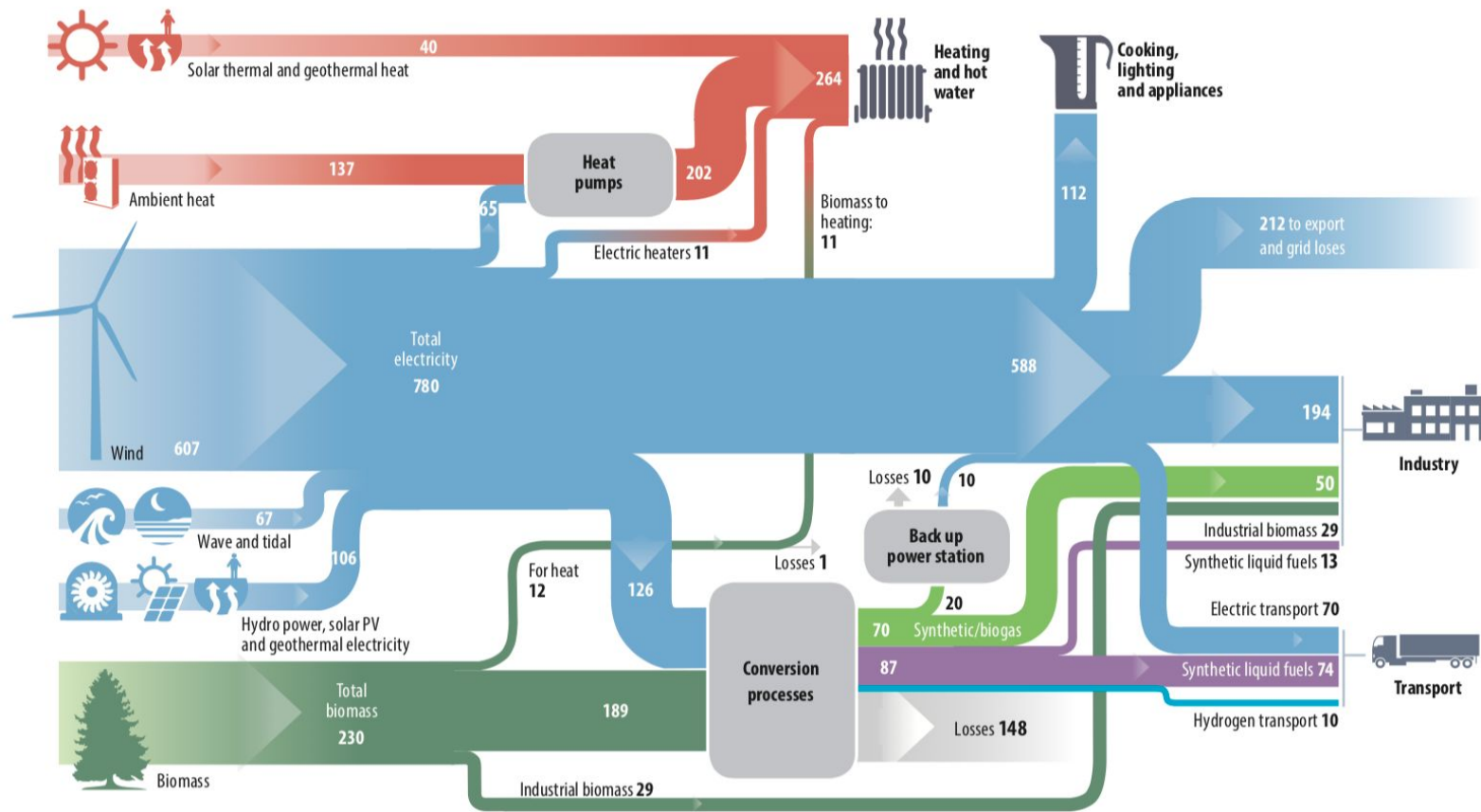
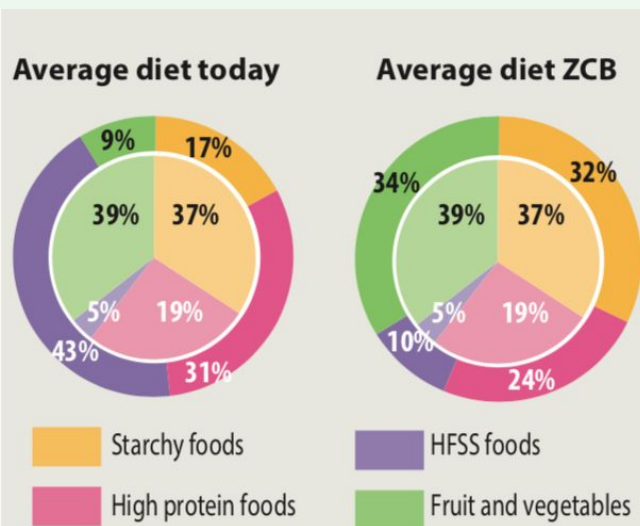
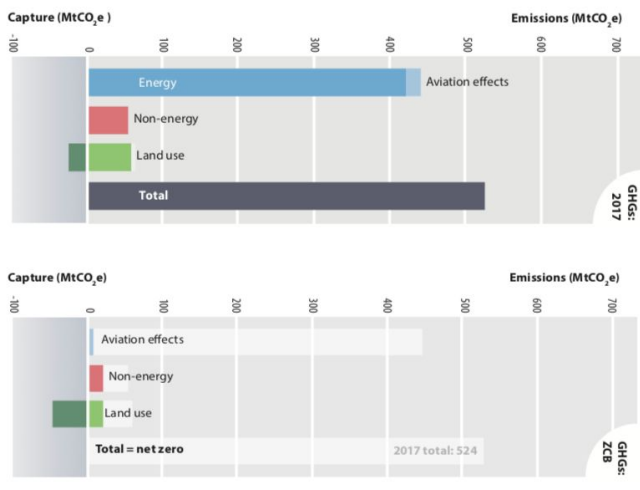


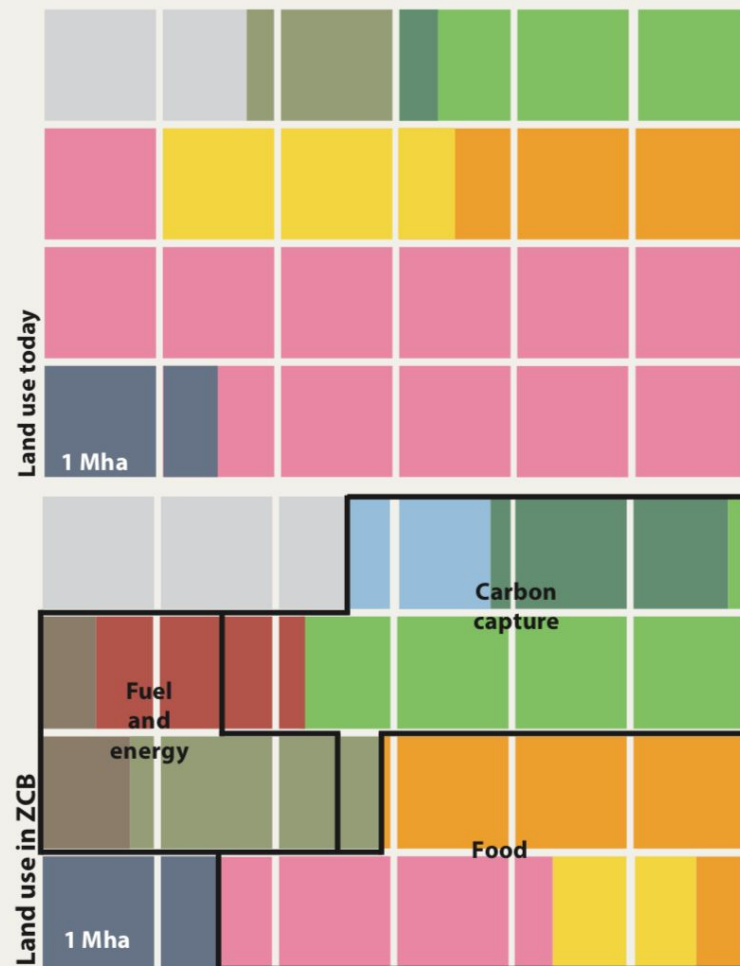
Figure 3.18: Energy flows in our scenario – from supply to demand. Numbers used here are rounded up or down to the nearest TWh and so inputs and outputs may not add up exactly.





- Unmanaged/conserved
- Restored peatland
- Unharvested forest
- Harvested forest
- Mixed grasses
- Short rotation forestry (SRF)
- Short rotation coppice (SRC)
- Food for us
- Food for livestock
- Grassland for livestock
- Urban

Approximate land use today and in Zero Carbon Britain in million hectares (Mha). Areas dedicated to providing food, biomass for fuel and energy, plus carbon capture are shown for the Zero Carbon Britain scenario.



# Land use in the West of England

- WoE is 71% agricultural land and 6% forestry
- New forestry: 400 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>/hectare/50 years (Woodland Trust)
- Reforesting WoE: ~1 million tonnes CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration/year
  - <https://www.avonneedstrees.org.uk/>
- Regenerative agriculture: 60-120 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>/hectare
  - <https://www.drawdown.org/solutions/food/regenerative-agriculture>
- Regenerative agriculture in the WoE: 6-12 million tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>

# Key Messages

- No doubt as to technical feasibility of achieving zero carbon
- The transition required is extremely complex
- It is also occurring *piecemeal* and against *fundamental* blockers
- The financial cost will be high
- We must now reduce emissions *and* sequester carbon (no offsetting)
- We must reduce emissions *beyond* our responsibility
- In these sectors: **heat & power / transport / food & stuff**
- Why does it matter?

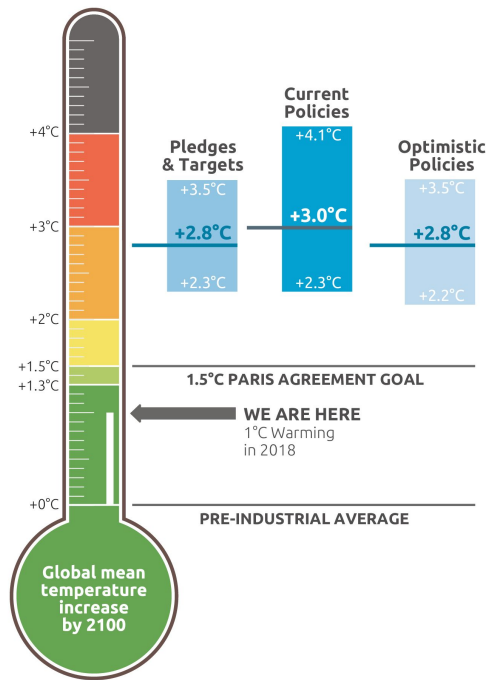
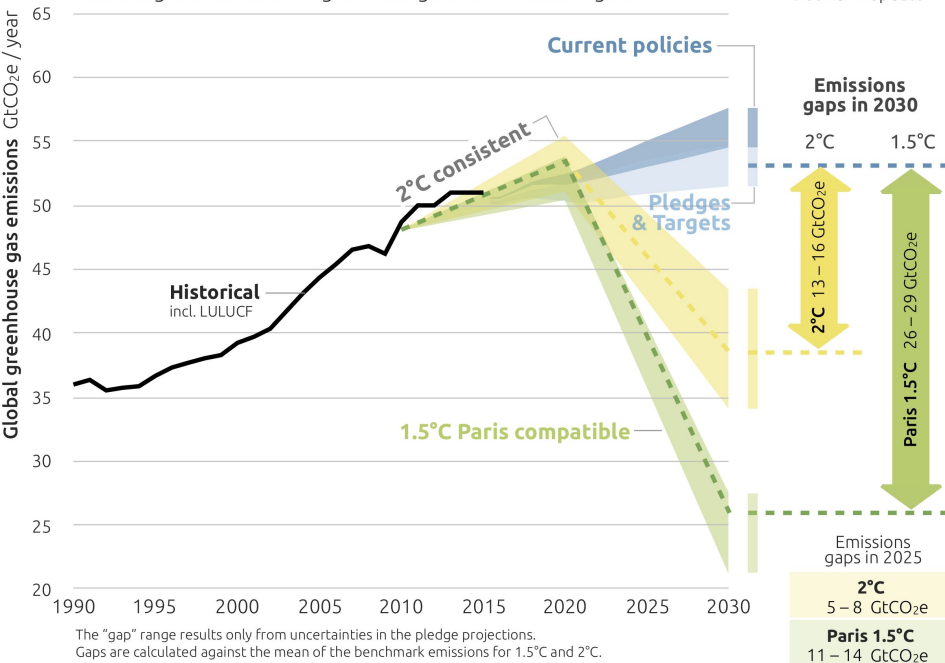
*We have less than ten years of carbon budget for a  $\frac{2}{3}$  chance of remaining below 1.5 degrees*

## 2030 EMISSIONS GAPS

CAT projections and resulting emissions gaps in meeting the 1.5°C Paris Agreement goal vs 2°C Cancún goal



Dec 2019 update



CAT warming projections  
Global temperature increase by 2100

December 2019 Update

*Zero Carbon means every person and organisation doing everything in their power to reduce emissions now*