

# Does Brexit blur a low carbon future?

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# Brexit options

- ❑ **Bad/Hard Brexit:** adversarial divorce proceedings
  - ❑ cut from Parliament/ECJ jurisdiction, research funding etc.
  - ❑ coming under WTO rules = export tariffs
  - ❑ no free movement of labour/employment rights
- ❑ **Not so bad:** (Norway = EEA or Switzerland = EFTA)
  - ❑ some curtailment freedom of movement
  - ❑ mostly transpose all new SEM legislation/employment rights
  - ❑ no political say
- ❑ **No Brexit** = no triggering Article 50
  - ❑ representative not direct democracy
  - ❑ free movement of labour across EU
  - ❑ freedom of trade across EU

# 'No change' on combatting climate change?

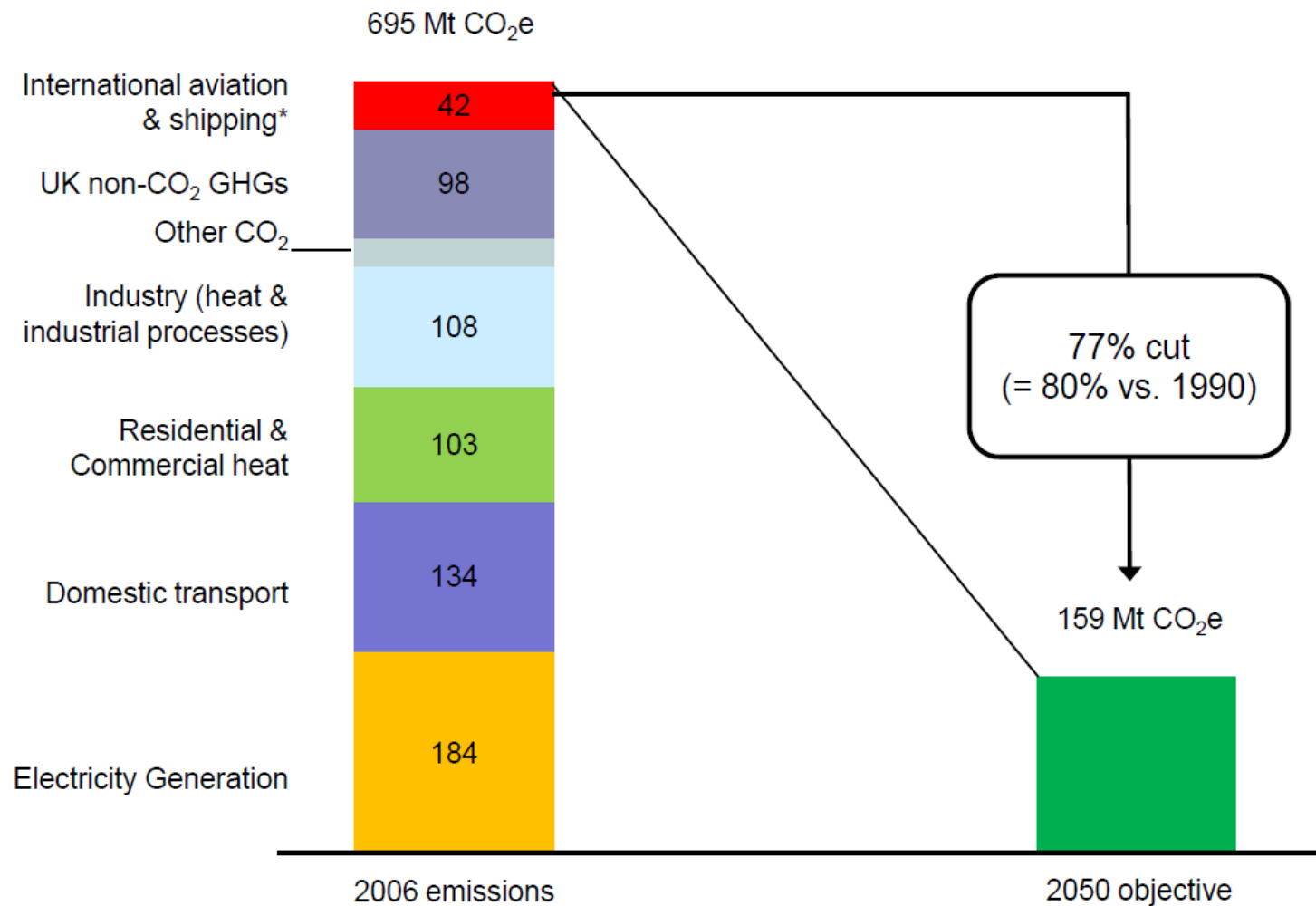
- Broad cross-party support for action to tackle climate change
- Government agreement with Committee's carbon budget recommendation means first Labour, then Conservative-Liberal Democrat, and now Conservative Governments have backed the framework created by the Climate Change Act 2008
- Department of Energy and Climate Change to be merged into new Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy

**Building a low-carbon economy –  
the UK's contribution to tackling climate change**



Committee on Climate Change  
December 2008

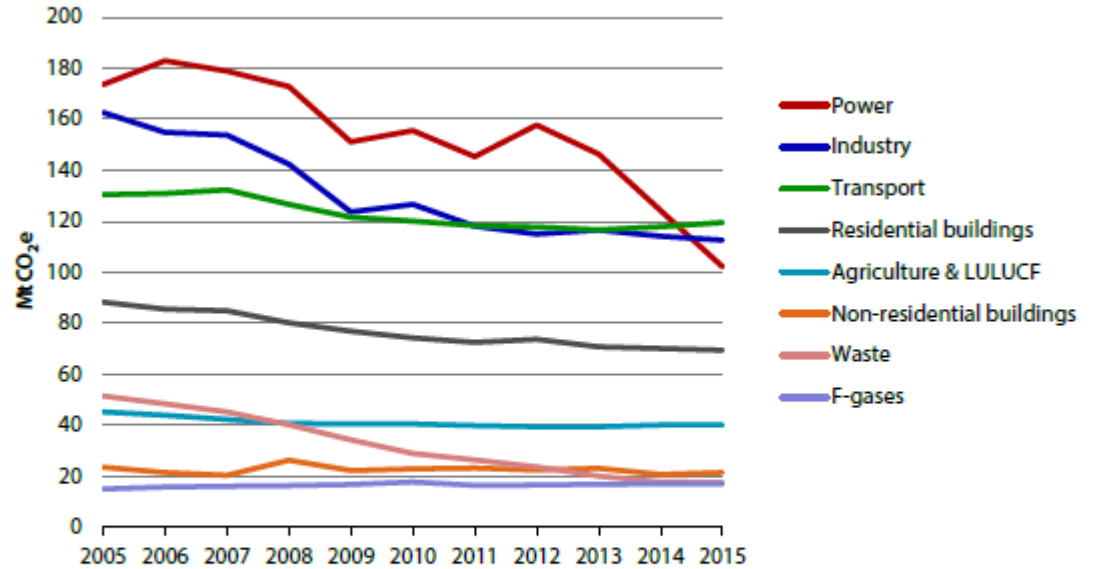
## (ii) Appropriate UK contribution (cont.): the scale of the challenge



\* bunker fuels basis

# The present UK climate mitigation context

Figure 1. Progress reducing emissions since 2012 has been almost entirely due to the power sector



Source: DECC (2016) *Provisional GHG statistics for 2015*; DECC (2016) *Final GHG statistics for 1990-2014*; CCC analysis.

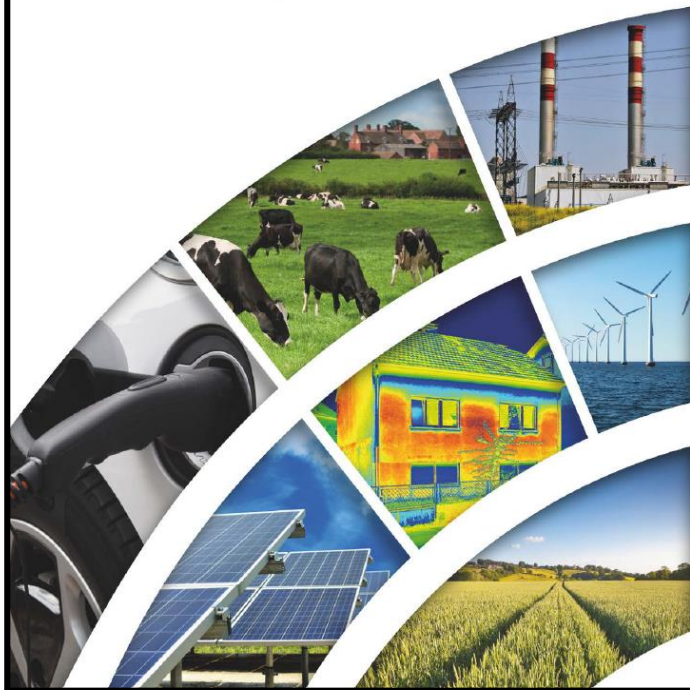
Notes: Chart shows temperature-adjusted emissions in power, residential and non-residential buildings. This smooths out the large changes in heating emissions between years with mild and cold winters to give a clearer impression of genuine progress.



## Meeting Carbon Budgets – 2016 Progress Report to Parliament

Committee on Climate Change  
June 2016

Executive Summary





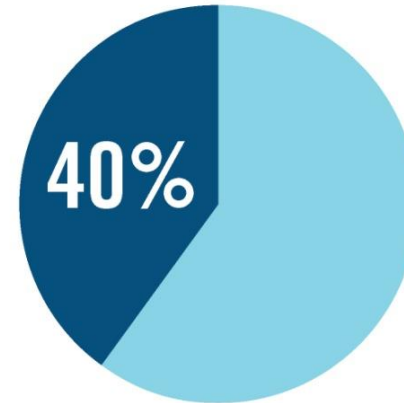


# The Fifth Carbon Budget

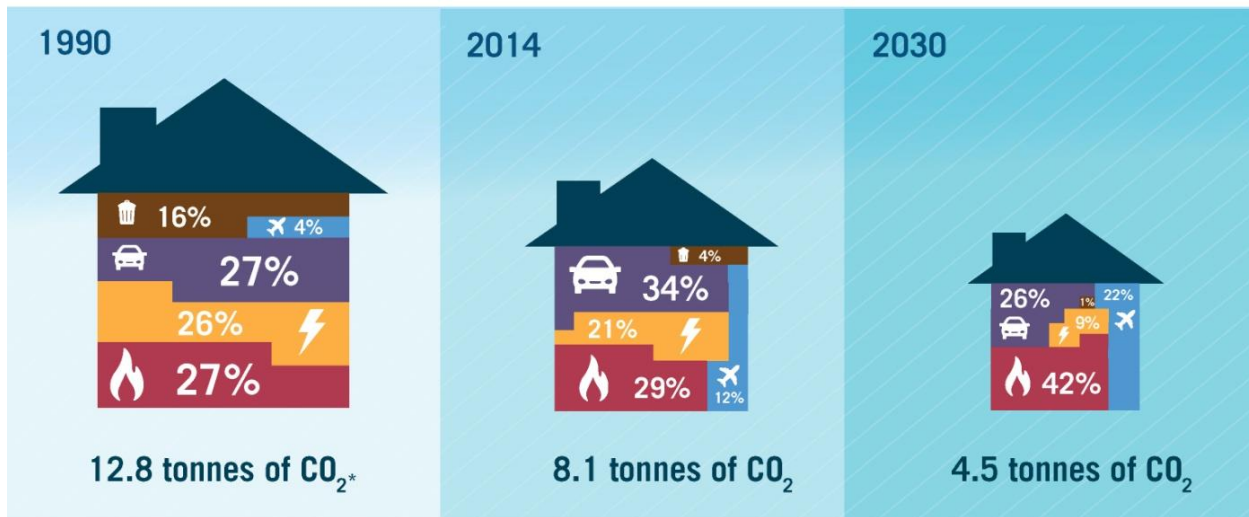
How every household can help reduce the UK's carbon footprint

**40% of UK emissions come from households.**

This means our homes have an important part to play in meeting the 2030 emissions reductions in the Fifth Carbon Budget.



## The path from 1990 to 2030

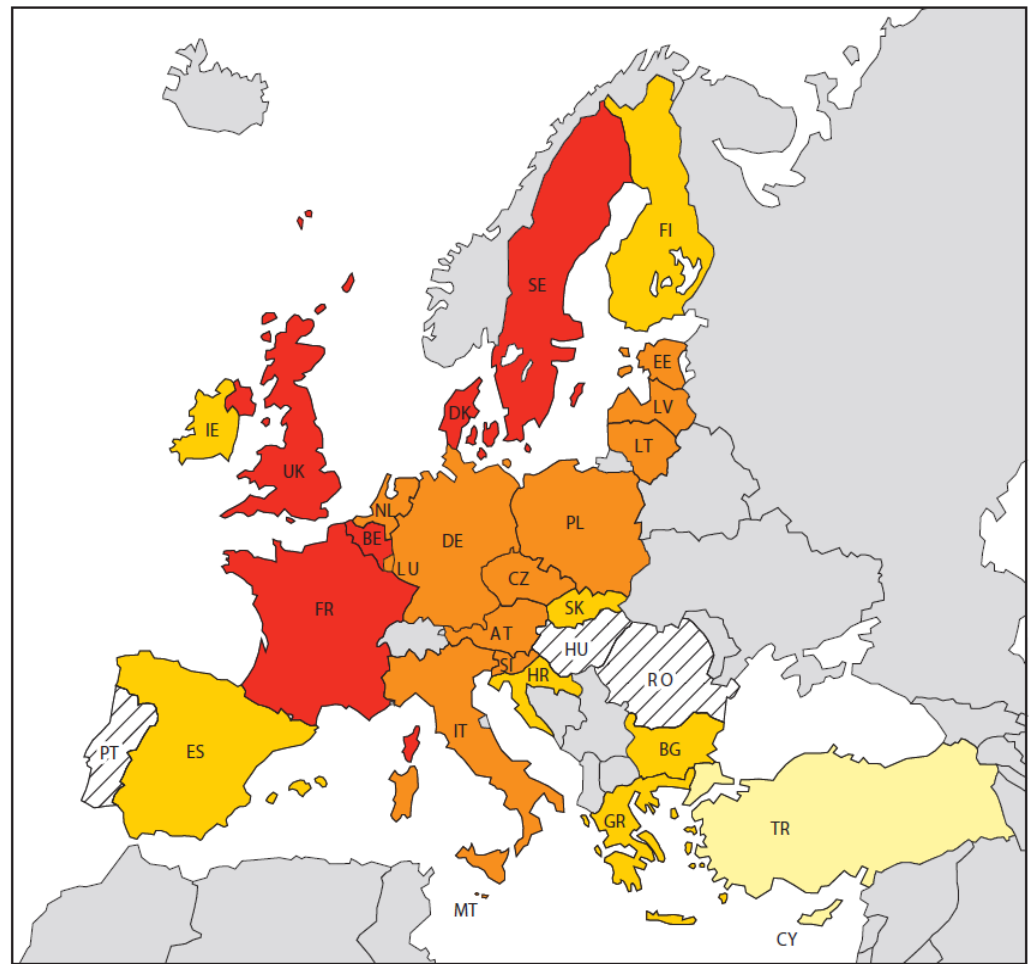


- Heating
- Electricity
- Transport
- Waste
- Aviation

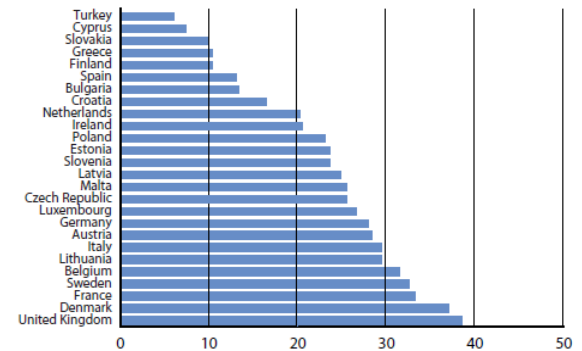
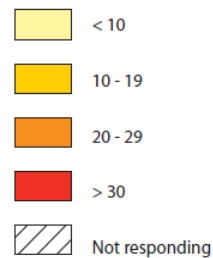
The average UK home's carbon footprint has reduced by **4.7 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> since 1990**. A further reduction of **3.6 tonnes** by **2030** will help keep us on track to the 80% UK-wide reduction in emissions by 2050 required to tackle dangerous climate change.

\*The CO<sub>2</sub> figures are tonnes of 'CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent' because they include other greenhouse gases, e.g. methane.

EU dwellings  
built before  
1945 generally  
“Hard to Heat”



Dwellings built before 1945 (%)



Not responding : Hungary Portugal Romania

# Transition pathways to low carbon economy (Hampton 2015)

- **Market-based**: e.g. carbon-pricing, assumptions that skill shortages met by increased demand, labour as commodity, high control and specialisation, lengthy value chain → more of same
- **Ecological modernization**: e.g. retraining, assumptions of proactive investment, ‘just transition’, labour as restricted agent → possible with local authority/ trade union involvement and political will
- **Radical transformation**: integrated and regulated energy supply, built on labour potential, broad occupational capacity, high qualifications, labour/trade unions as active agents → needs change in political approach/system



# An example of what can be done – is this possible still with Brexit?

Social housing (91) scheme combining:

- Green technologies & traditional building techniques
- Direct labour and all different trades working together
- Apprentice training at Leeds College
- Own (90 strong) repair and maintenance team
- Trade union initiative and involvement (UCATT)



# The need for radical transformation if Wakefield to be general model

- **Decline in construction apprenticeships** in England completions 16,890 2009/10 → 8,030 2013/4
- **Increase in full-time college construction training** though overall entrants declining: 47,188 2005 → 14,121 2015
- **Emphasis on bolt-on skills/short training courses**, fragmentation of certification & awarding bodies + private training providers
- **Fragmentation** of construction employment (nearly half self-employed and/or agency labour) and firms (94% under 14 employees)
- **Reliance on migrant workers**, poaching other country VET systems
- **Employer disengagement** though employer-based system
- **Collapse Green Deal** due to non-compliance with Code of Practice of c350 firms, lack of progress, market-based short-term nature of training and narrow qualifications

# The way forward: is it impeded by Brexit?

- **Labour and trade unions** key to transforming VET and labour process (strengthened by European trade union dialogue and collaboration)
- **Less extensive subcontracting chain and direct employment** essential for integrated teamworking (requires EU employment rights/trade union dialogue/CDM regs)
- **Well qualified workforce** essential for meeting targets (depends on free movement of labour)
- **Extensive initial and continuing VET programme** needed to enhance knowledge and know-how for energy literacy, overcome serious skill shortages, and improve productivity (assisted by European social dialogue, VET cooperation, and Europe-wide research)
- **Transition to low carbon** through largescale retrofit programme (needs European collaboration)

# Challenges with Brexit

- **European research & innovation** support –immediate impact on consortium building, absence of clear UK support model
- **Industrial policy** – politically very weakly articulated – pendulum between non-intervention and top down ‘grand projects’
- **Policy capacity for sustainability and green economy reduced by austerity** – cities
- **Brexit long term diversion** from other policy concerns
- **Governing party divided** over sustainability and climate change - future trajectory uncertain
- **Climate/business relationship vulnerable** - Economy and Industrial Strategy Committee does not mention climate change
- **Unlikely to offer interesting opportunities** for relevant UK national policy innovation
- **Threat to employment rights, health and safety**, trade union intervention and collaboration