

# **CLIMATE CHANGE**

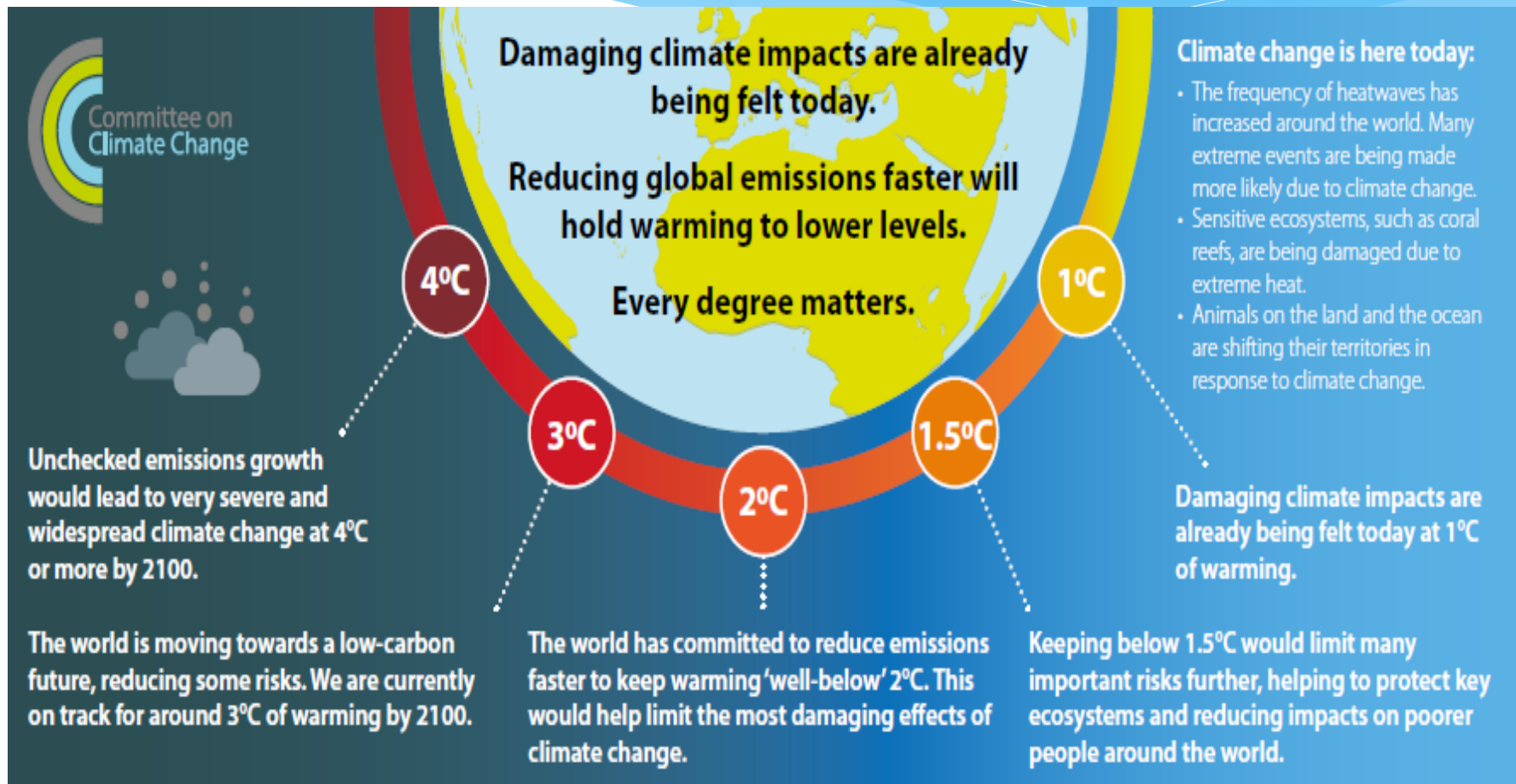
## **What can local councils do?**

**Janette Ackroyd, Climate Emergency  
Officer, East Sussex County Council**

# What I will cover

1. Why does climate change matter?
2. What do we all need to do?
3. What's being done already?
4. What can local authorities do?
5. What next?

# Why does climate change matter?



# Benefits from Taking Action

## 1) Greater prosperity:

- \* **Cost of action** c1-2% of UK GDP < Cost of Inaction 5% GDP
- \* **Low carbon/environmental sector** = £30 billion contribution to the UK economy in 2015, 430,000 largely high value jobs & grew by 23% between 2010-15
- \* **East Sussex low env sector** = 500 businesses, 9,300 staff and £1.2 billion of sales.
- \* **Business Energy Efficiency** by 20% by 2030 could save £6bn & cut 22MtCO<sub>2</sub>e

## 2) Improved health:

- \* **Air quality:** most measures that reduce greenhouse gases also reduce air pollution
- \* **Winter deaths:** c 1/3 of 34,300 national excess winter deaths due to a cold home
- \* **Diet:** eating less intensively-reared red meat would cut emissions by up to 17% and reduce the incidence of type-2 diabetes, stroke and certain types of cancer.
- \* **Exercise:** investing in walking and cycling = a cost-benefit ratio of between 2:1 to 10:1

## 3) Greater energy security:

- \* energy efficiency & UK generated renewables reduce reliance on imported oil and gas from politically volatile regions.

# What do we need to do in East Sussex?

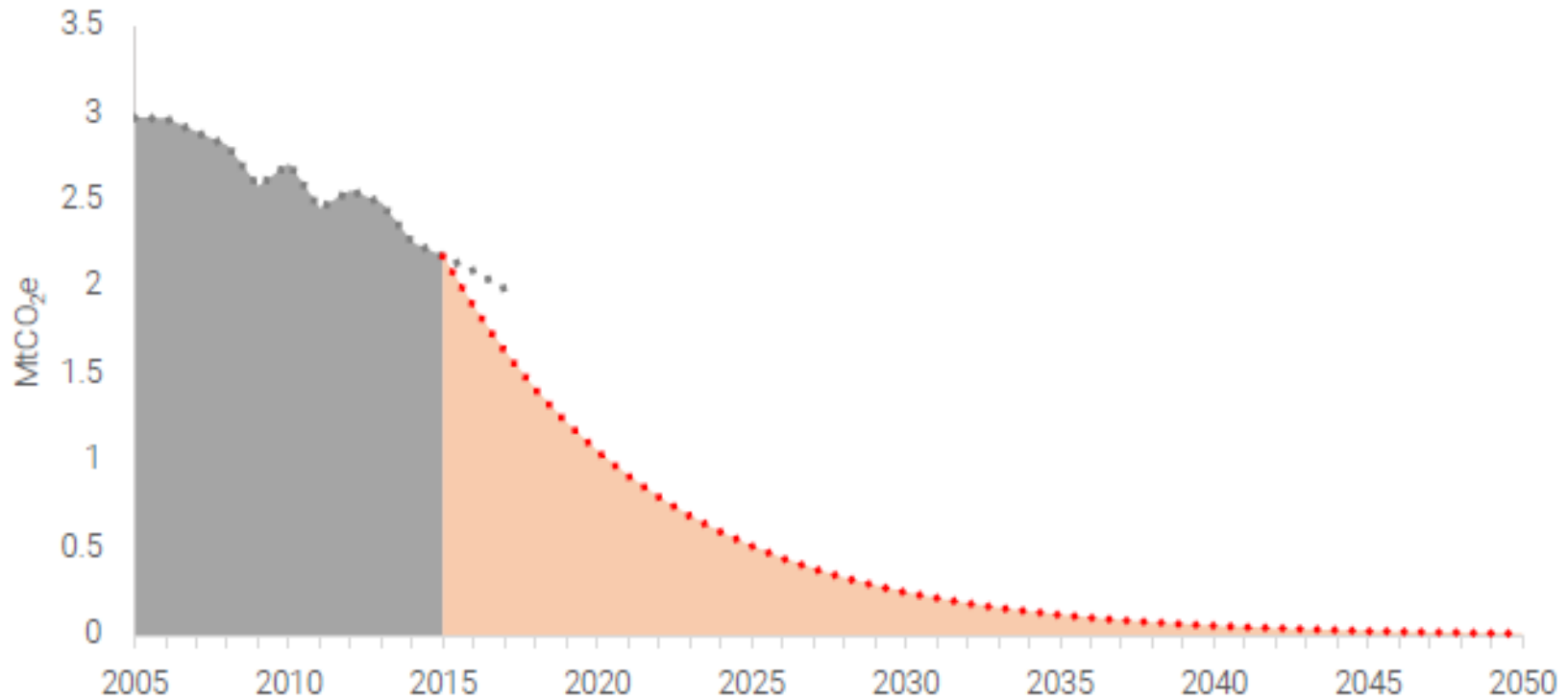


Figure 2: Visual representation of the annual 13.3% reduction rate needed to adhere to East Sussex's Tyndall Centre carbon budget, in red, modelled to 2050.

# What's being done already?



East Sussex  
Environment Board

## East Sussex Environment Strategy 2020

'At pace & at scale'



# What can local authorities do?

## Local authorities have 3 main influences



### LEAD

In our own operations



### ENABLE

a low carbon region with our programmes, policies and decisions



### INSPIRE

Business and residents to take climate action themselves

**UNDERPINNED BY A STRONG STRATEGY**

# Lead



- Property strategies & standards
- Green memoranda with landlords
- Energy management & retrofit
- Renewables & Energy procurement



- Avoidance – by VC / skype
- Promoting low carbon travel choices for staff
- Fleet strategy



- Low energy streetlights
- Managing lighting levels

**Buying decisions**



# Enable

**Enabling a zero carbon, resilient region is probably councils' largest opportunity**

## Mobility

- 100% ready for electric vehicles
- Safe networks for active travel
- Clean public transport fleets

## Waste

- Avoiding landfill
- Promoting reuse and recycling

## Low carbon development

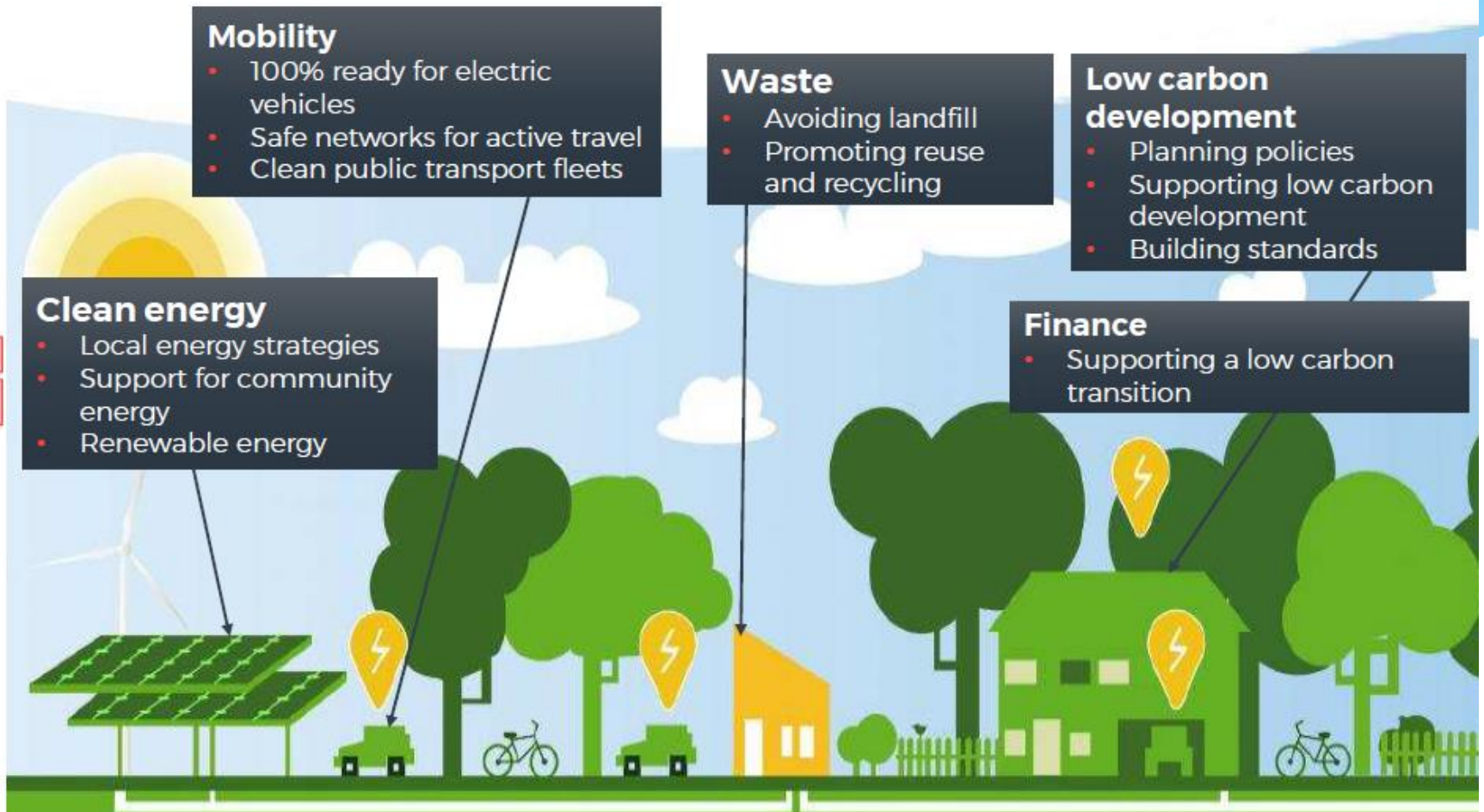
- Planning policies
- Supporting low carbon development
- Building standards

## Clean energy

- Local energy strategies
- Support for community energy
- Renewable energy

## Finance

- Supporting a low carbon transition



# Inspire



## Influencing all to play their part

### Brand

- Use low carbon & resilience as a regional differentiator

### Economic development

- Local jobs to reduce commuting
- Local Industrial Strategies
- Supporting business transition
- Promoting flexible working

### Education

- Integrated into the curriculum
- Promoting climate awareness
- Promoting active travel

### Quality of life

- Linking low carbon with clean air, health and happiness

### Influence & Leadership

- Use Members' influence to encourage others to take action

# What next?

1. Success depends on us working together.
2. We need to have common messages.
3. Priorities:
  - Develop a common road map to net zero.
  - Develop a pipeline of carbon projects.