



Energy
Transitions
Commission

State of the climate debate in early 2025

*ETC Commissioners Meeting
20th March 2025*

Agenda

2025 and the rising challenge to Net Zero

COP29 Key reflections and plans for COP30

Growth of disinformation in the climate space

How the ETC plans to counter these growing challenges



Agenda

2025 and the rising challenge to Net Zero

COP29 Key reflections and plans for COP30

Growth of disinformation in the climate space

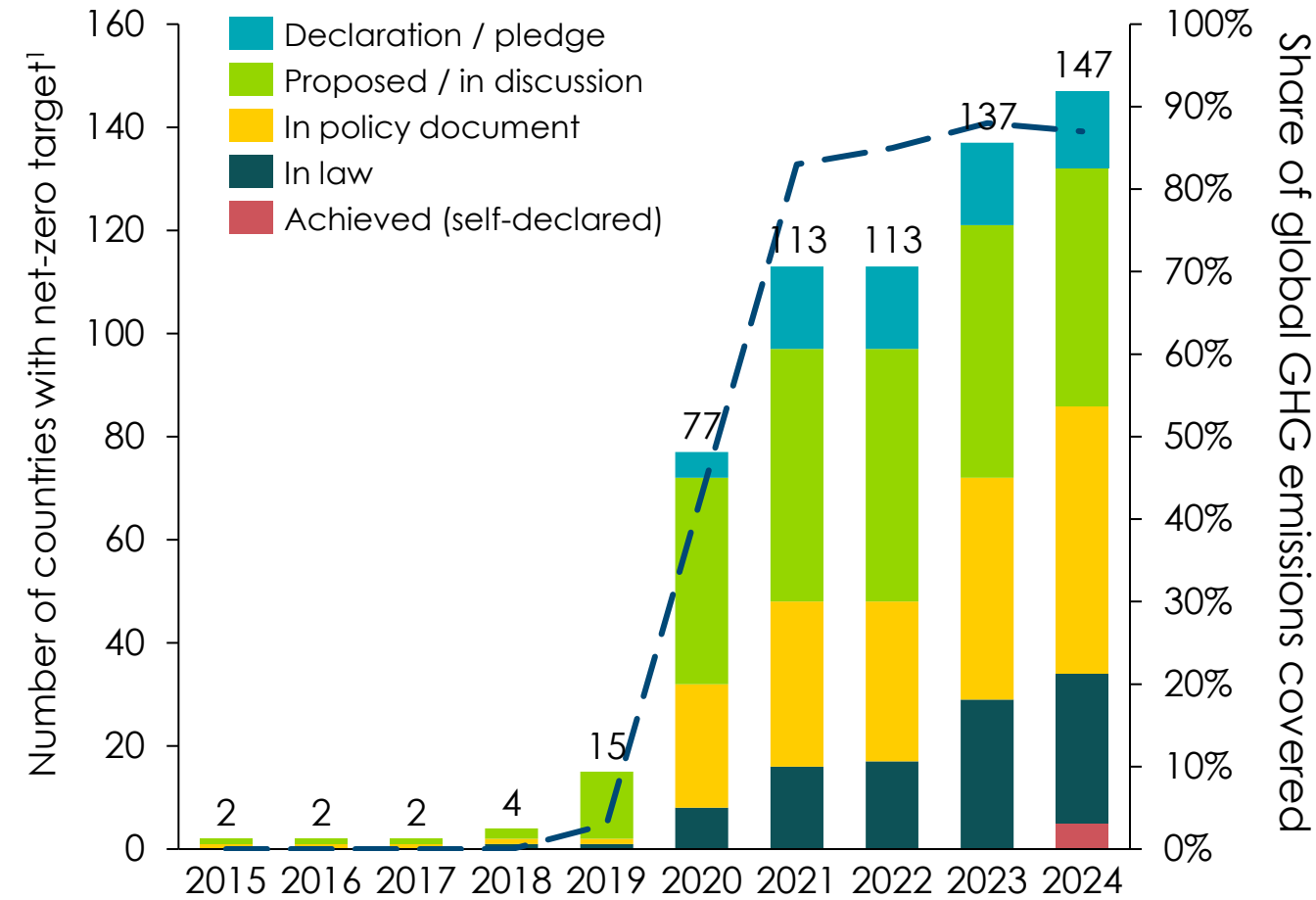
How the ETC plans to counter these growing challenges



Until 2024 significant progress was being made in net zero commitments

A growing number of countries are committed to net-zero

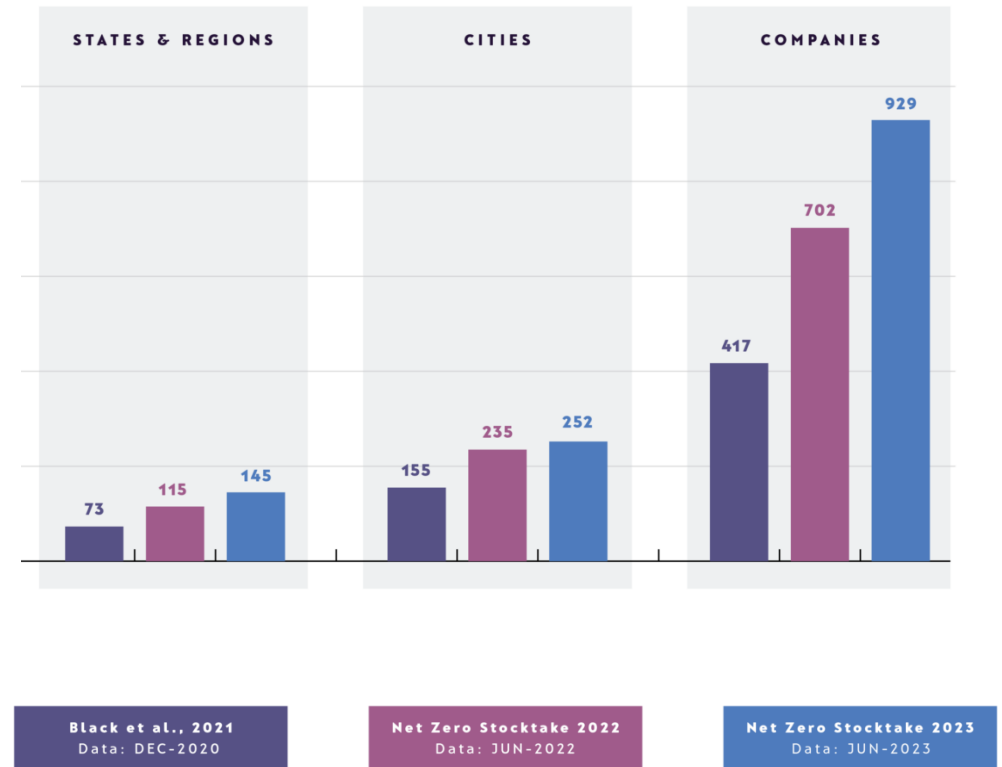
2015-2024



Note: Figures for 2023 estimated.
Source: Data from Net Zero Tracker (zerotracker.net) accessed on 13/02/2025

A growing number of entities set net-zero targets

2021-2023

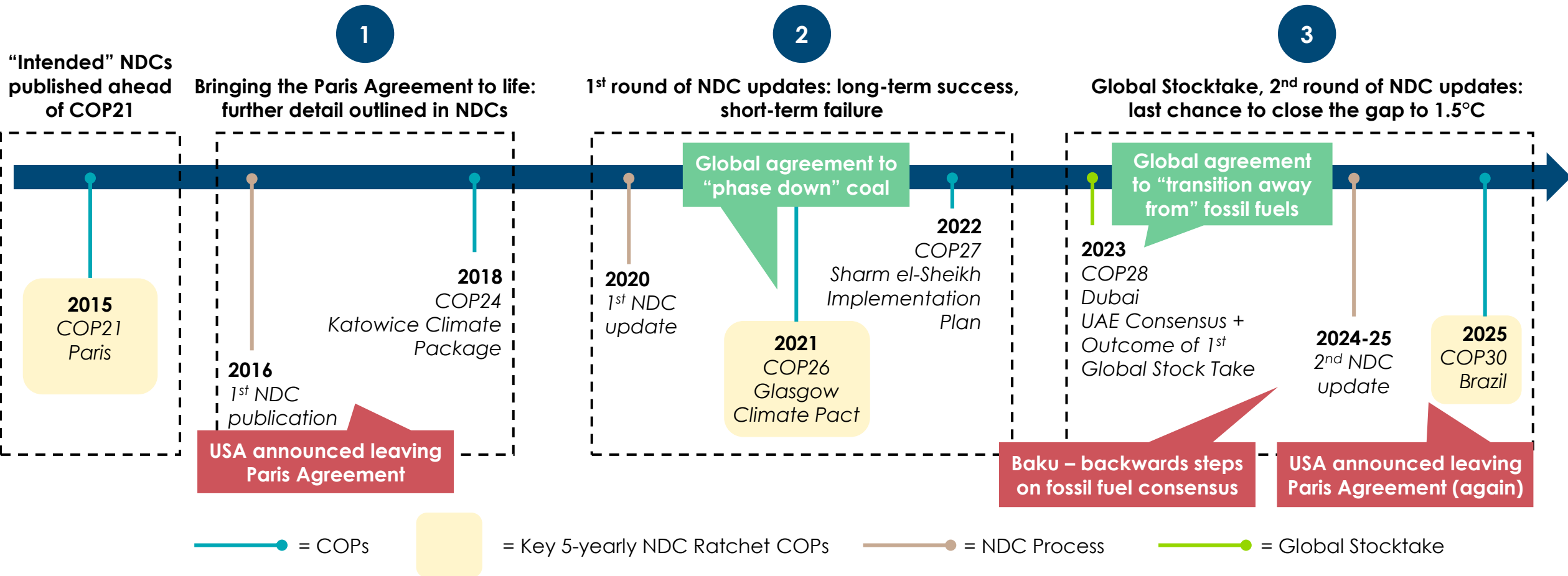


Source: Net Zero Climate (Accessed 2025); Global Net Zero Progress

Recent COPs, up to COP28 have been a driver of positive change

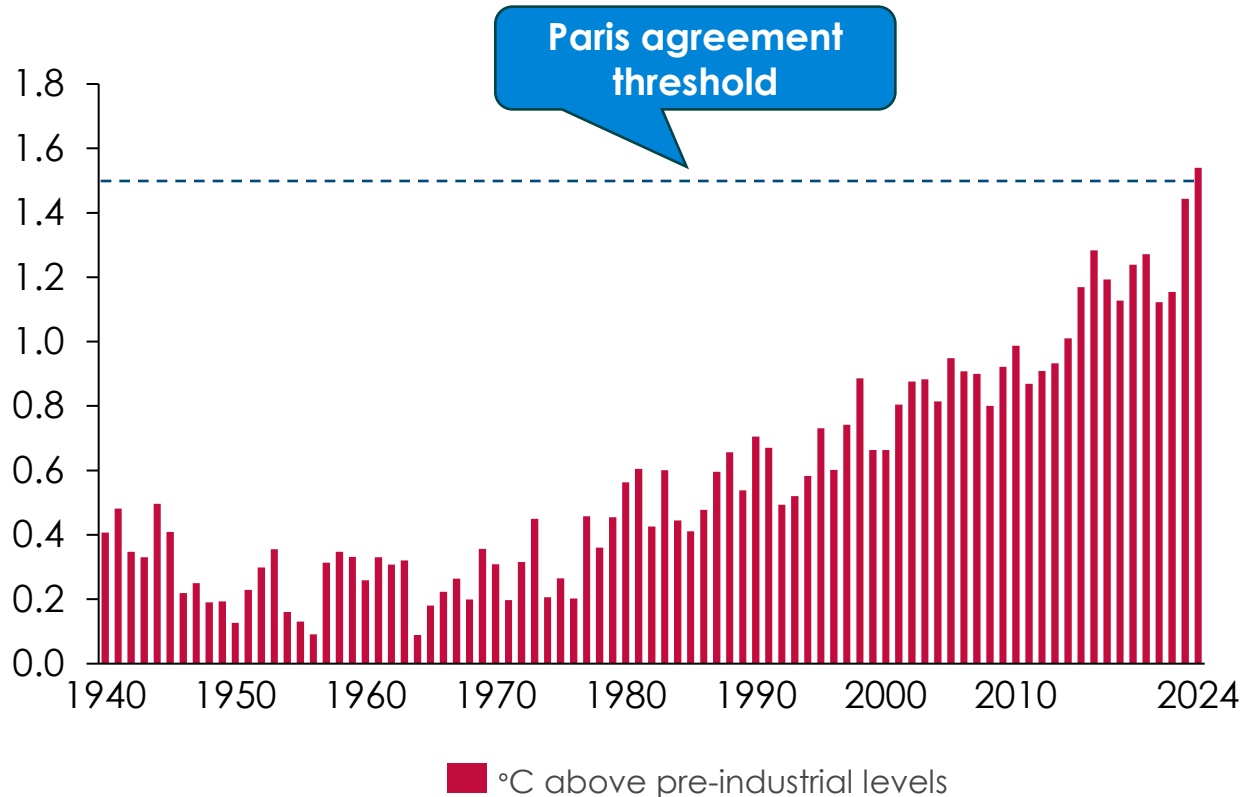
Timeline of UNFCCC Conferences of the Parties (COPs)

2015-2025



However, 2024 saw the Paris agreement threshold breached for the first time, accompanied with many catastrophic weather events

Global surface air temperature anomalies with reference to pre-industrial period (1850-1900)



Catastrophic weather events continue to occur

*** BBC

More than 200 killed in Valencia floods as torrential rain hits another Spain region

The Guardian

Greek officials evacuate residents as wildfire moves 'like lightning' | Greece

Sky News

California firefighters battling wildfire sweeping exclusive Los Angeles hillside dotted with celebrity homes

Mongabay

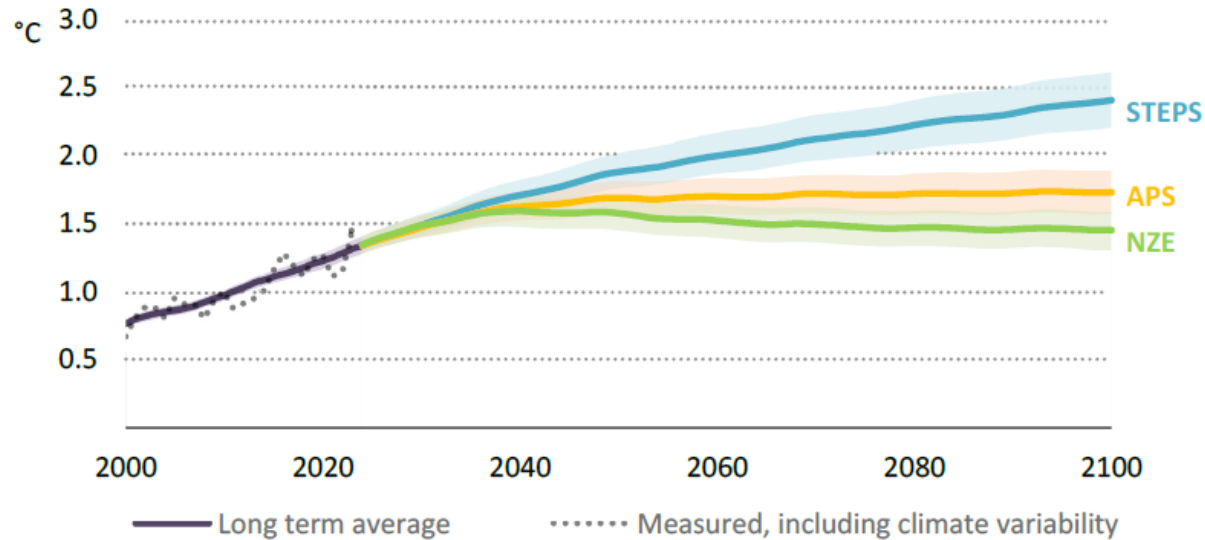
At least 11,500 deaths linked to extreme weather in 2024



The latest IEA stated policies estimate of future temperature increase was +2.4°C, before election of Trump

Global average temperature rise including natural variability

Degrees centigrade above pre-industrial levels (1850-1900)



IEA. CC BY 4.0.

- Transition from stated policies (STEPS) to announced pledges (APS) **not occurring**
- Latest STEPS temperature +2.4°C and has **not come down in recent years**
- **The world is heading for more warming**

In the STEPS, the temperature rise reaches 2.4 °C in 2100; in the APS it reaches 1.7 °C, and in the NZE scenario it peaks below 1.6 °C and then falls to below 1.5 °C in 2100

Notes: Solid line is median warming; shaded area is 33-67% confidence interval. Temperature rise above pre-industrial levels is the combined land and marine near-surface annual temperature compared with the 1850-1900 average.

Source: International Energy Agency (2024), *World Energy Outlook 2024*.

The climate debate is highly **politicised and polarised** as we move from ambition to action. **Disinformation remains rife and fuels the anti-net-zero narrative and back-tracking on commitments.**

Trump vows to leave Paris climate agreement and 'drill, baby, drill'



German minister threatens 'indefinite driving bans' on weekends **POLITICO**

New Zealand to push through law to reverse ban on oil and gas exploration  Reuters

Japan Must Curb Clean Power Reliance, Warns Leadership Candidate

Bloomberg UK



Trump elected in November 2024 – wider climate consensus challenged

US rolling back climate initiatives

- **Pulled out of Paris Agreement** (again)
- **Paused renewables permitting; Green New Deal investments/subsidies**
- **“National Energy Emergency” > Lifted freeze on LNG permitting**
- **Pullback from aid, including climate aid and JET-Ps**
- **Republican senators criticise ‘woke capital’ & challenge IEA**

Climate coalitions/ambition unravelling

- **GFANZ** (Glasgow Financial Alliance for Net Zero)
 - Restructure: dropped requirement to be Paris aligned & publish targets and progress; new CEO-led focus on mobilising capital in EMDCs
 - Over 700 members in 2024, members leaving sub-alliances (i.e. NZBA)
- **NZBA** (Net Zero Banking Alliance – over 140 members in 2025)
 - 11 banks have left: 6 largest U.S. banks, 4 Canadian & 1 Australian
 - Upcoming vote on commitment to 1.5°C
- **NZAMI** (Net Zero Asset Managers Initiative – 325 signatories as of Jan '24)
 - Major companies have left e.g., Blackrock in 2025, Vanguard in 2022
 - Suspended activities to track signatory implementation and reporting in January 25
- **Oil and gas companies revising transition targets**

Additional factors

- **Erosion of trust in media** contributes to heightened risk of disinformation
- **Musk’s** takeover of X
- **Zuckerberg’s** removal of Meta fact-checking



Where are we now in Europe – signals are uncertain



Launch of simplification plan & competitiveness compass; climate initiatives (e.g., Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive & Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive) under review

- Continued commitment to **phaseout new ICE vehicles by 2035 & full implementation of ETS2**
- However, there have been some setbacks...
 - Vehicles running on carbon-neutral e-fuels likely exempt from ICE ban
 - Sep 2024 - Several member **states failed to transpose necessary legislation for ETS2 into national law**
 - Mar 2025 – **EU leaders discussing raising €800bn plan to rearm Europe**, likely cut into climate finance



- **Clean power grid:** 50% from clean sources in 2024
- **Coal phase out planned:** 2025 targeted
- **Fossil expansion targeted:** Meloni seeking to be Europe's southern "gas hub"



- **Ambitious targets:** Clean power by 2030
- **Potential rollbacks:** Aid budget cut in favour of defence; cuts to GB Energy considered. Opposition party now anti-Net Zero.



CDU/CSU close to forming coalition with SPD.
Committed to net zero by 2045 but:

- May abolish **Buildings Energy Act** and **dilute ban on combustion engines, but keep 'green' in infra fund**
- Likely to maintain **coal phaseout date** of **2038**



- Government committed to net zero with **very clean grid** (68% nuclear, 12% wind and solar)
- **Rising opposition from RN** which aim to **exit European energy rules** that "set prices and weaken French competitiveness".

In sum: Europe still committed to net zero, but pushback on pace prevalent. Transition progress speed is at risk, with large space for ETC to influence.



Climate cooperation needed amidst geopolitical uncertainty

Climate change

FINANCIAL TIMES

China, Europe and UK should form climate coalition apart from US, energy expert says

Lord Adair Turner advocates for 'pull together' of rest of the world to accelerate shift to green energy

A role for India in South-South climate cooperation

India can position itself as a leader in the global transition to a low carbon pathway, through transparent processes and equitable partnerships



- **China noting its climate finance provision at COP 29** – the US withdrawal may compound this effect.



- **The CBAM effect? China's carbon price reached a high of almost \$15/tonne in 2024. India also introducing carbon pricing.**

- **India added ~30 GW of renewable capacity in 2024 (total now 210 GW)**
- **However, India dismayed by "COP29 outcome on climate finance in Baku"; a lowball NDC may be put forward**



An agenda for UK-China climate cooperation

Why joint action can and should transcend political challenges



European Union

Baltic states leave Russian power grid in closer EU integration

The Guardian



- **Indonesia govt. committed to coal exit – but US withdrawing from Just Energy Transition Partnerships (JET-Ps)**
- **JET-P also affects Vietnam, Senegal, South Africa.**
- **US-Aid withdrawals and other aid cuts likely to affect wider transition.**

Wider rollbacks on climate may occur in countries hosting 2025 elections

 The Western Producer

Carney wins Liberal leadership, vows to repeal 'divisive' carbon tax

OTTAWA (Reuters) - Former governor of the Bank of Canada Mark Carney claimed a landslide victory on Sunday to lead the Liberal Party and...

2 days ago



 UNSW Sydney

The Australia-Pacific bid to host UN climate talks in 2026 is in limbo. What now?

Australia and Pacific nations won't know until June next year if they're hosting the COP31 climate talks. But with tens of thousands of...

26 Nov 2024



- **Mark Carney elected as new Canadian PM ahead of pre-November election** – Liberal Party polling stronger against the more anti-climate Conservative Party following Trump's claims to make Canada the "51st US State", set to be a close race
- **Plans to remove the consumer carbon tax** – and replace it with incentives for "greener choices" such as energy efficient homes



- **Australian elections to take place before May 2025** – polls leaning towards governing Labour party losing majority, with less pro-climate Liberal and National coalition front runners
- **Australia may pull out of bid to host COP31** – if the Coalition party are elected Australia may pass up opportunity in which case Türkiye likely to host



Potential new global order: US Petrostate vs Chinese Electrostade

USA – the dominant petrostate?



- **Expanding oil and gas production** past record levels
- **Largest exporter of gas**, 4th highest oil exporter
- **Rolling back renewable support**
- **Disbanded USAID** & continuous **threats to invade allies**

VS

China – the emerging Electrostade?



- **Expanding renewable production** past record levels
- **Largest exporter of green tech** & moving into **new markets** (offshore wind in Europe)
- **2024 coal imports hit record high**
- **China emissions plateaued in 12 months to Feb 2025** (could this finally be peak Chinese emissions?)



Source: The Guardian (2024), *How the US became the world's biggest fossil fuel state*; Reuters (2025); *China's coal imports hit record high in 2024*; Carbon Brief (2025);
Analysis: *Record surge of clean energy in 2024 halts China's CO2 rise*

Cutting methane emissions is fastest way to slow climate change in near term, as methane has 80* the warming potential of CO₂ over 20-years

Cost-effective technologies exist to cut nearly half of anthropogenic methane emissions from the energy production, waste and agricultural sectors. These include:

- 1. Oil and gas sector improvements:** Implementing leak detection & repair, reducing routine flaring & venting
- 2. Plugging abandoned wells:** Sealing orphaned oil and gas wells that continuously leak methane
- 3. Landfill methane capture:** Installing gas collection systems at landfills for energy production or flaring
- 4. Rice cultivation changes:** Improved fertiliser management and adopting water management practices
- 5. Livestock management:** Implementing feed additives & dietary changes, improving manure management



Note: Reductions equivalent to at least 150 MtCH₄ compared to 2030 baseline.
Source: IGSD (2023) *IGSD Methane Primer 2022*

Agenda

2025 and the rising challenge to Net Zero

COP29 Key reflections and plans for COP30

Growth of disinformation in the climate space

How the ETC plans to counter these growing challenges



COP 29 aimed to be a “Finance COP” but ended with severe lack of clarity



ETC's key requirements for the NCQG:

- 1. Clarity on types of finance flows** required and what is covered by NCQG. Including:
 - I. Largely private investment to support mitigation efforts
 - II. Concessional and debt-free finance to support adaptation and loss & damage
- 2. Strong focus on very large-scale financial flows** required to support mitigation and adaptation in middle- and low-income countries
- 3. Expansion of definition of contributing countries** to include at least China and high-income oil and gas producers (i.e. Saudi, UAE, Qatar)
- 4. Strong support for new sources of funds** to support climate

Two unclear statements gavelled through:

“7. Calls on all actors to work together to enable the scaling up of financing to developing country Parties for climate action from **all public and private sources to at least USD 1.3 trillion per year by 2035;**”

“8. [...] with developed country Parties taking the lead, of **at least USD 300 billion per year by 2035** for developing country Parties for climate action:

(a) From a wide variety of sources, public and private, bilateral and multilateral, including alternative sources;

Loss and damage – operationalised outside of NCQG but pledges still fall short

Adaptation – very little progress made. No clear measurement indicators were agreed.

+ The US has since pulled out of the Paris Agreement and pulled all funding to the Green Climate Fund, which is central to the NCQG

Other COP29 outcomes: lack of substantial progress

Grids and storage pledge – official recognition of need, but lacking detail on how

- **Commitment to deploying 1,500 GW of energy storage by 2030** – a 6-fold increase from 2022
- Commitment to add or refurbish 25 million km of grids by 2030 → although **target will need to accelerate** to meet IEA's projections of 65 million km by 2040
- **Lacking in detail** on how these targets will be met (e.g., no formal investment target)

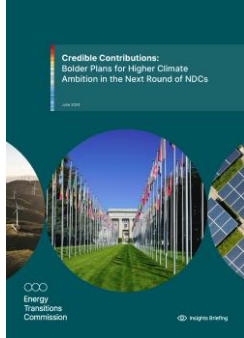
Article 6 – operationalised but challenges remain

- After a decade of negotiations, Article 6 was operationalised, **allowing countries to transfer carbon credits** to meet NDCs
- **Weak consequences** for “inconsistencies”
- Messy compromise on the registry to track trade in credits – “dual layer” international + national system

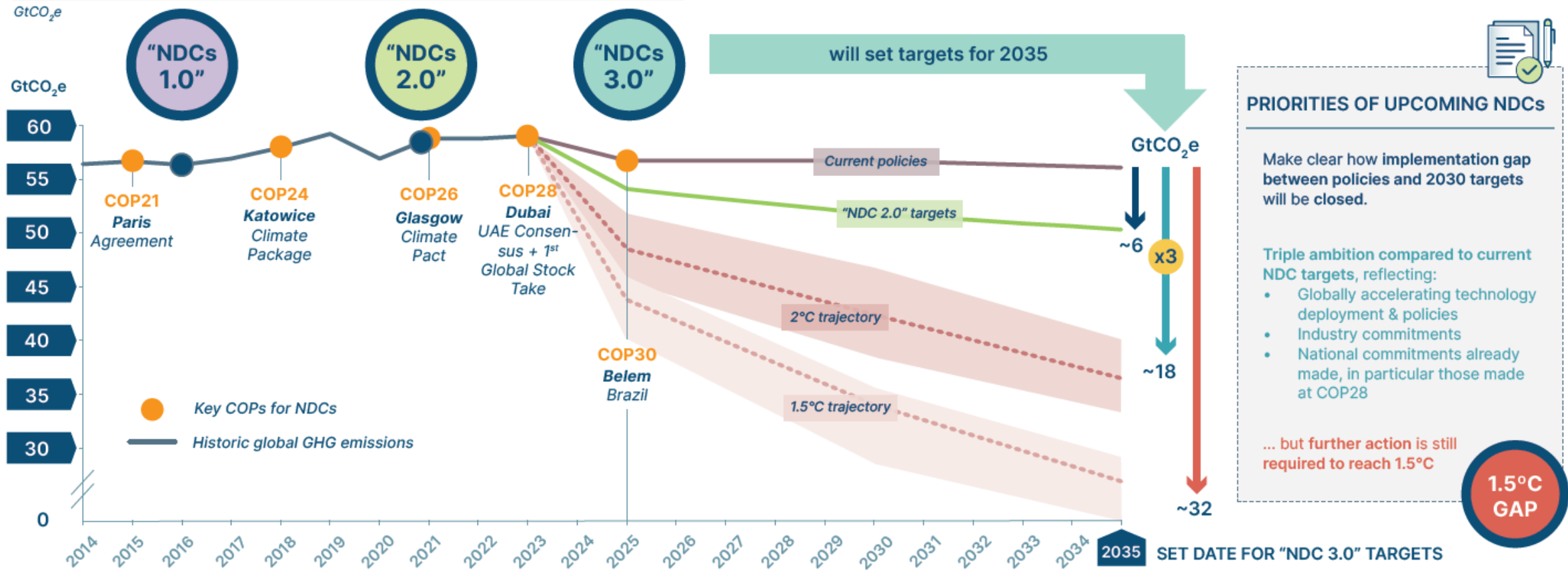
No further commitment/reinforcement of reduction in fossil fuels



NDCs must be much more ambitious to put the world on track for 2°C



HISTORY AND PROJECTIONS OF NDCs AND GLOBAL GHG EMISSIONS



Source: ETC (2024), Credible Contributions: Bolder Plans for Higher Climate Ambition in the Next Round of NDCs

The road to Belém, COP30



In March, COP30 president **André Aranha Corrêa do Lago** confirmed official agenda, including:

1. **Global “mutirão” against climate change:** collective and urgent action required
2. **NDCs 3.0:** Delivery of new ratchet of national climate targets
3. **Climate Adaptation:** Develop a collective vision and prioritisation for adaptation based on NDCs and National Adaptation Plans, advancing the “Baku Adaptation Road Map”
4. **Climate and Nature Finance:** Commitment to “Baku to Belem Roadmap” to unleash 1.3 trillion dollars per year as set out in the NCQG. Address gaps by through evolution of MDBs and International Finance Institutions which “structurally support enhanced, ambitious action”
5. **Deforestation and Forest Protection:** Shift from traditional approaches to investment-driven solutions, with the **Tropical Forest Forever Facility (TFFF)** as a flagship initiative.



Agenda

2025 and the rising challenge to Net Zero

COP29 Key reflections and plans for COP30

Growth of disinformation in the climate space

How the ETC plans to counter these growing challenges



Without broader political buy-in the transition is starting to falter

2015-2022 → **Rising acceptance** of technical and economic feasibility



2023-Present → **Increasing pushback** on political support



Mis- and disinformation used to lower priority of fighting climate change

“Vested interests have generated rhetoric and misinformation that **undermines climate science and disregards risk and urgency**. Resultant public misperception of climate risks and polarised public support for climate actions is **delaying urgent adaptation planning and implementation**” – IPCC Sixth Assessment Report

The What: coordinated actors stalling transition

1. **Denialism** – Undermines the existence or impacts of climate change
2. **Delayism** – Misrepresents scientific data
3. **Greenwashing** – Falsely promotes ‘solutions’ that are ineffective/counterproductive

The Who: four sets of key actors, driven by growth in platform/profits

- Carbon economy:
 - **State actors**
 - **Certain unhelpful fossil fuel lobbyists**
- Attention economy:
 - **Outrage merchants**
 - **Far-right movements**

The How: attack from all angles

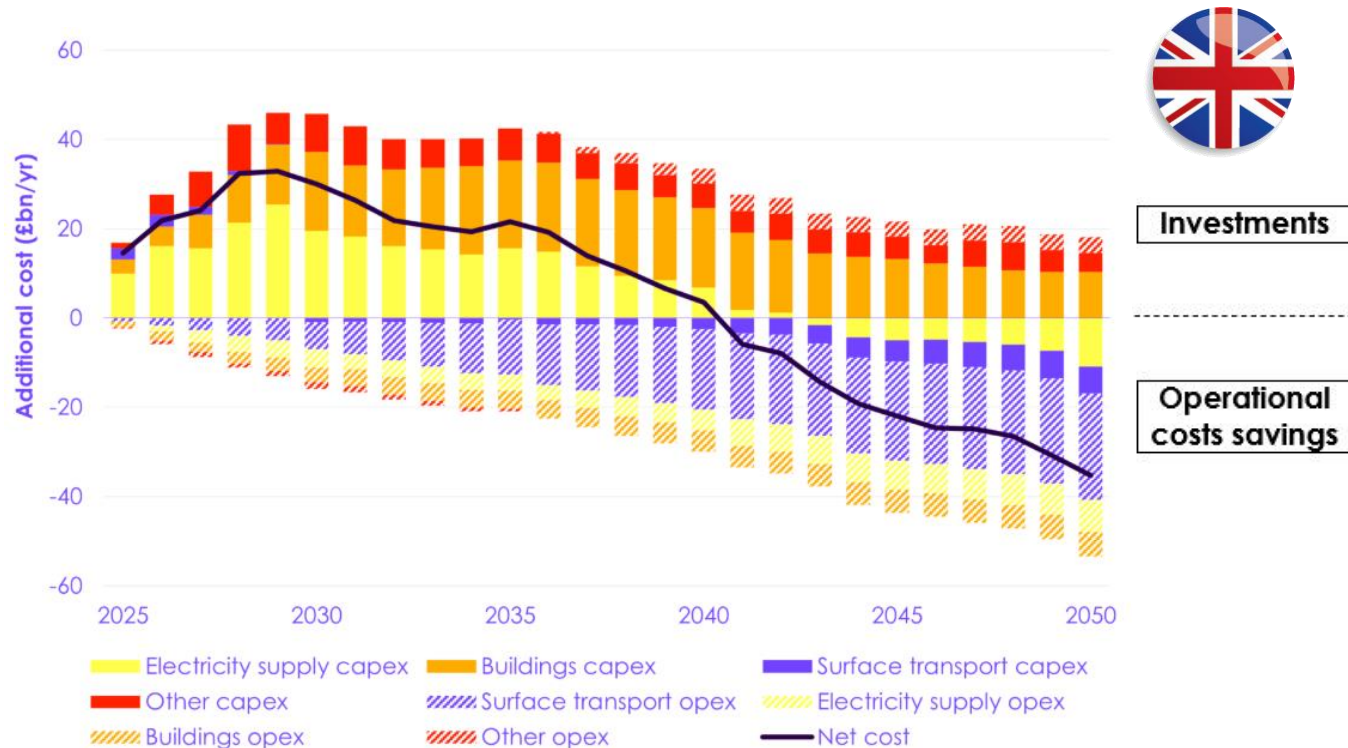
- ✓ Non-traditional gatekeepers
- ✓ Harassment of climate scientists
- ✓ False dramatized policies created to drum up anger against ‘woke climate lobby’



In some cases, arguments for action have overstated green benefits which allows disinformation to flourish

Capital and investment costs and savings, net zero pathway

Billion GBP per year, nominal 2023 prices, UK



Green new deal narrative overstated?

- Well paid green jobs
- Lower bills now
- Reduced price volatility

While benefits accrue in long-term, **near-term investments outweigh cost savings**

The critical reason for the energy transition is that the **costs of inaction are massive**

Question:

- Have we understated short-term monetary costs?
- Have we understated the long-term impacts of inaction?

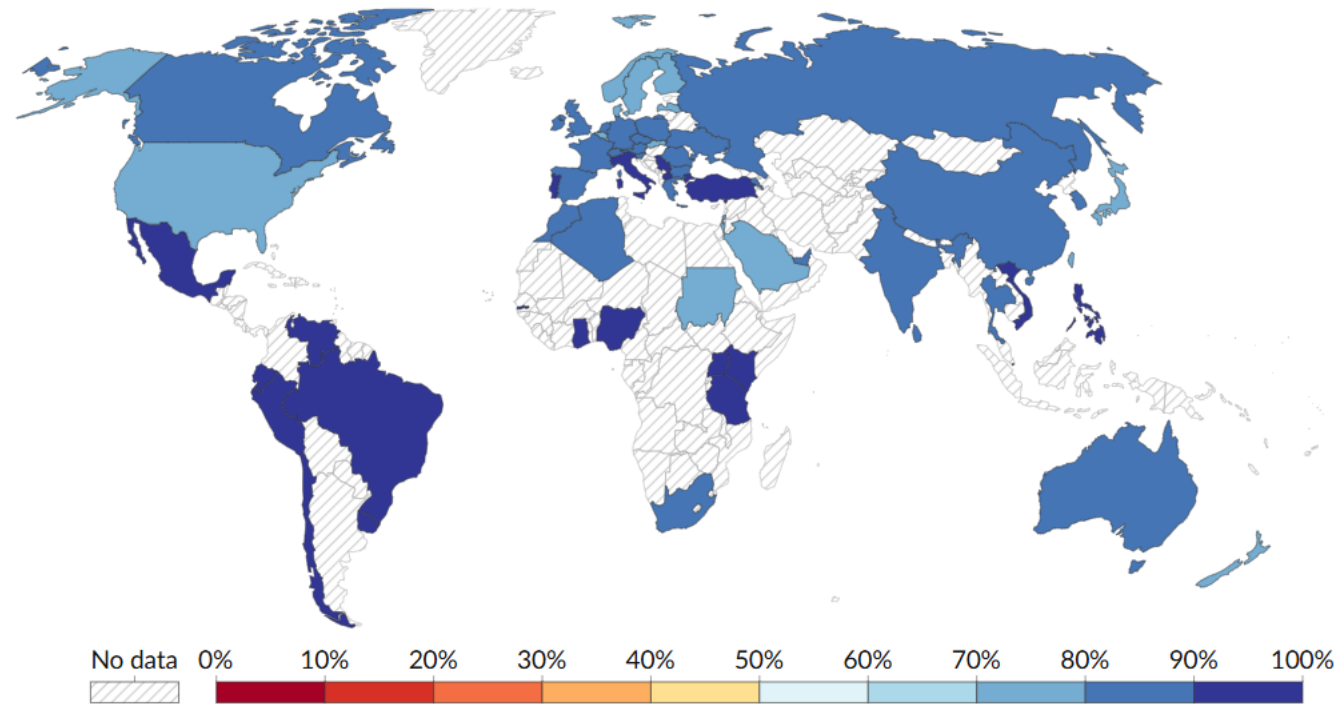
Source: CCC (2020), *Seventh Carbon Budget*

Notes: In year costs 2023 prices. Relative to a baseline of no further decarbonisation action. Other includes fuel supply, aviation, shipping, agriculture, land use, industry, waste, engineered removals and F-gases. Costs of capital excluded.

Despite misinformation, the global majority still believe in climate change

Share of people who believe in climate change and think it's a serious threat to humanity

Average score of beliefs on climate change on a scale of 0 to 100, 2023



Notes: Survey data across 60,000 participants from 63 countries. The four questions asked were: Whether action was necessary to avoid a global catastrophe? Are humans causing climate change? Is it a serious threat to humanity? Is it a global emergency?

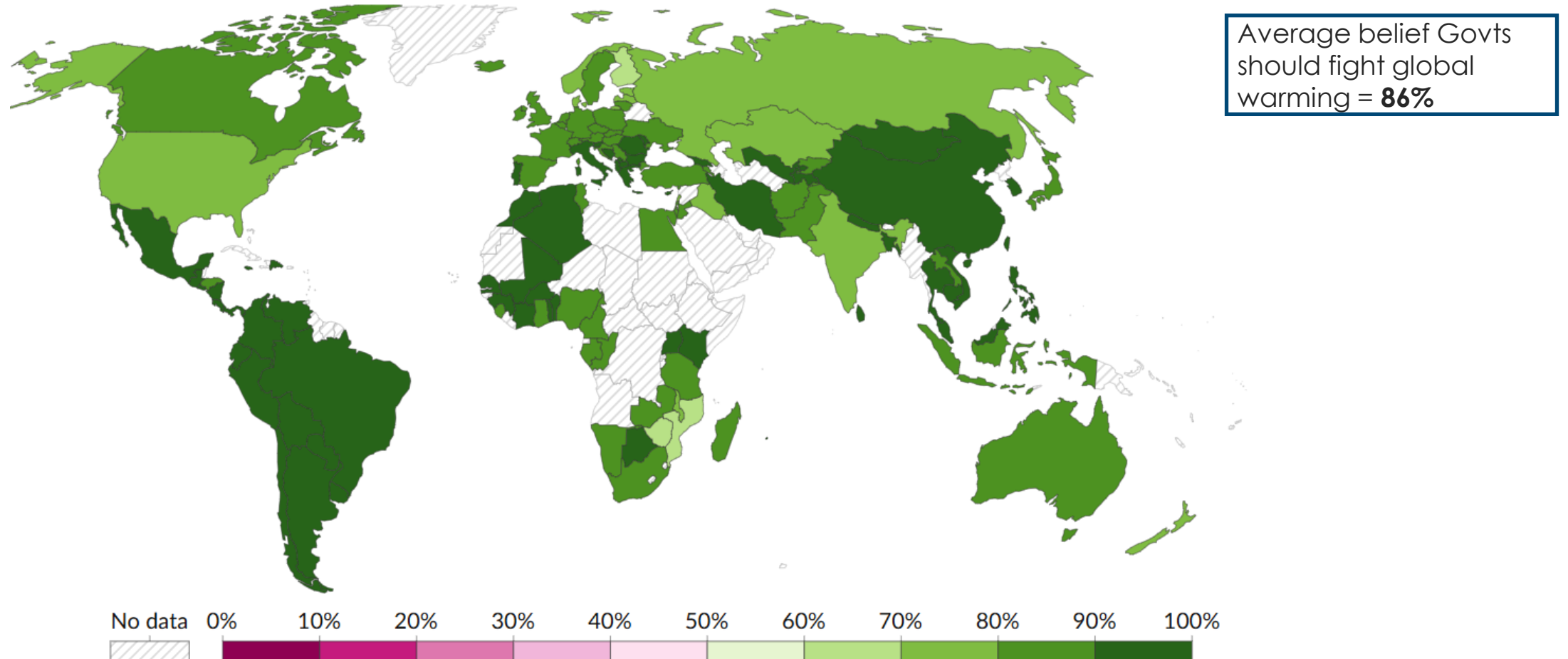
Source: Vlasceanu et al. (2024), *Addressing climate change with behavioural science: A global intervention tournament in 63 countries.*



Most people also believe their government should do more to fight it

Share of people who say their government should do more to tackle climate change

Average score from 0 to 100 to "Do you think the national government should do more to fight global warming, 2024"



Note: Survey data across 130,000 participants from 125 countries. Source: Andre et al. (2024), *Globally representative evidence on the actual and perceived support for climate action*. Additional studies: Pew Research Centre (2023), *How Americans View Future Harms From Climate Change in Their Community and Around the U.S.*; Stanford (2024), *American public opinion on global warming*; Yale (2023), *Global Warming's Six Americas, December 2022*; Ipsos Mori (2023), *A new world disorder? Navigating a polycrisis*; Ipsos Mori (2023), *One in four Britons think climate change is out of control*; Edelman (2023), *Edelman Trust Barometer 2023*.

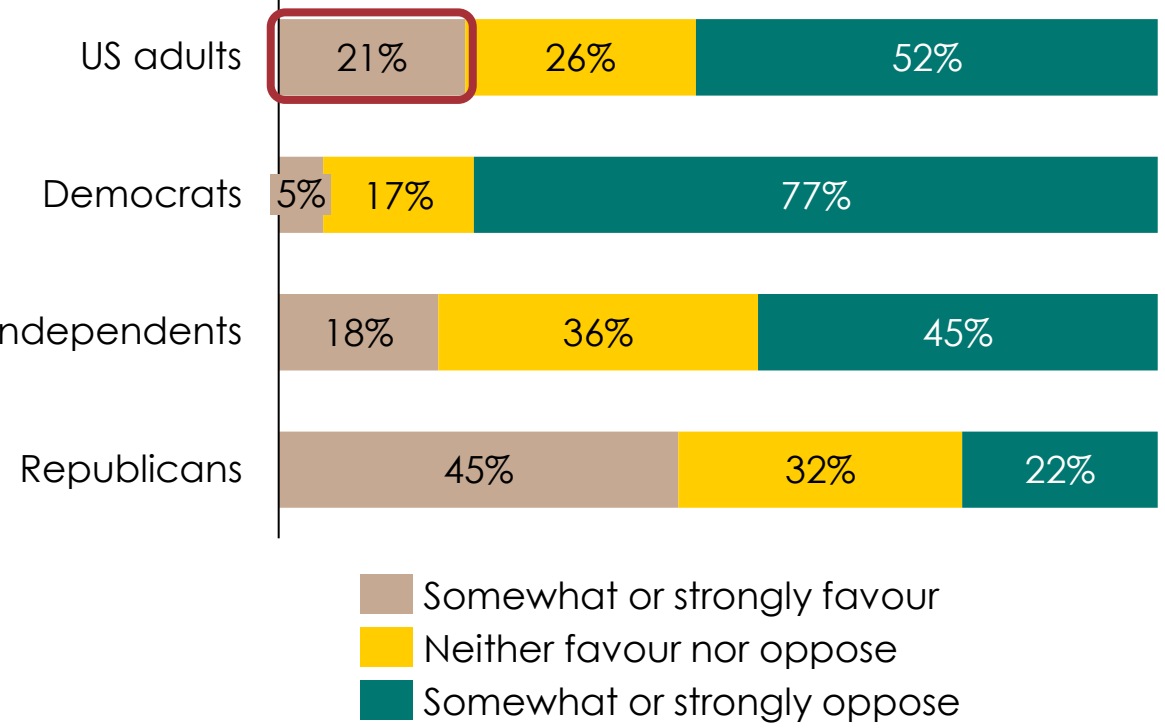


Small proportion of voters have outsized influence

Over half US adults oppose leaving Paris treaty

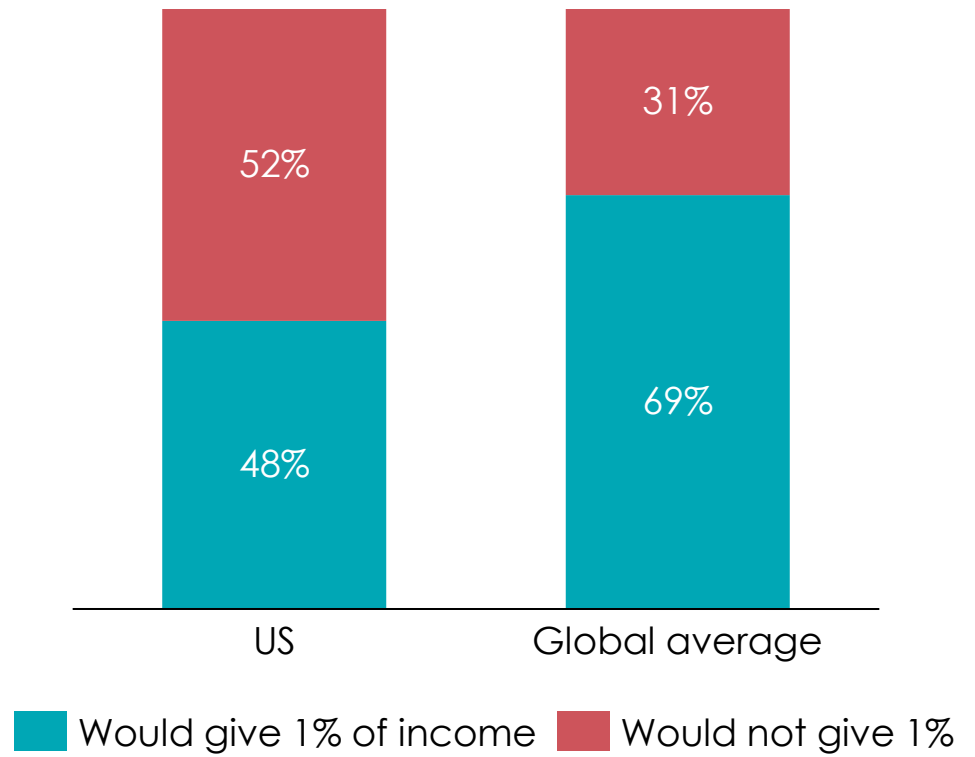
Percent who would ___ withdrawing from Paris Agreement, Jan 2025

Only **21%** of US adults wanted to leave the treaty!



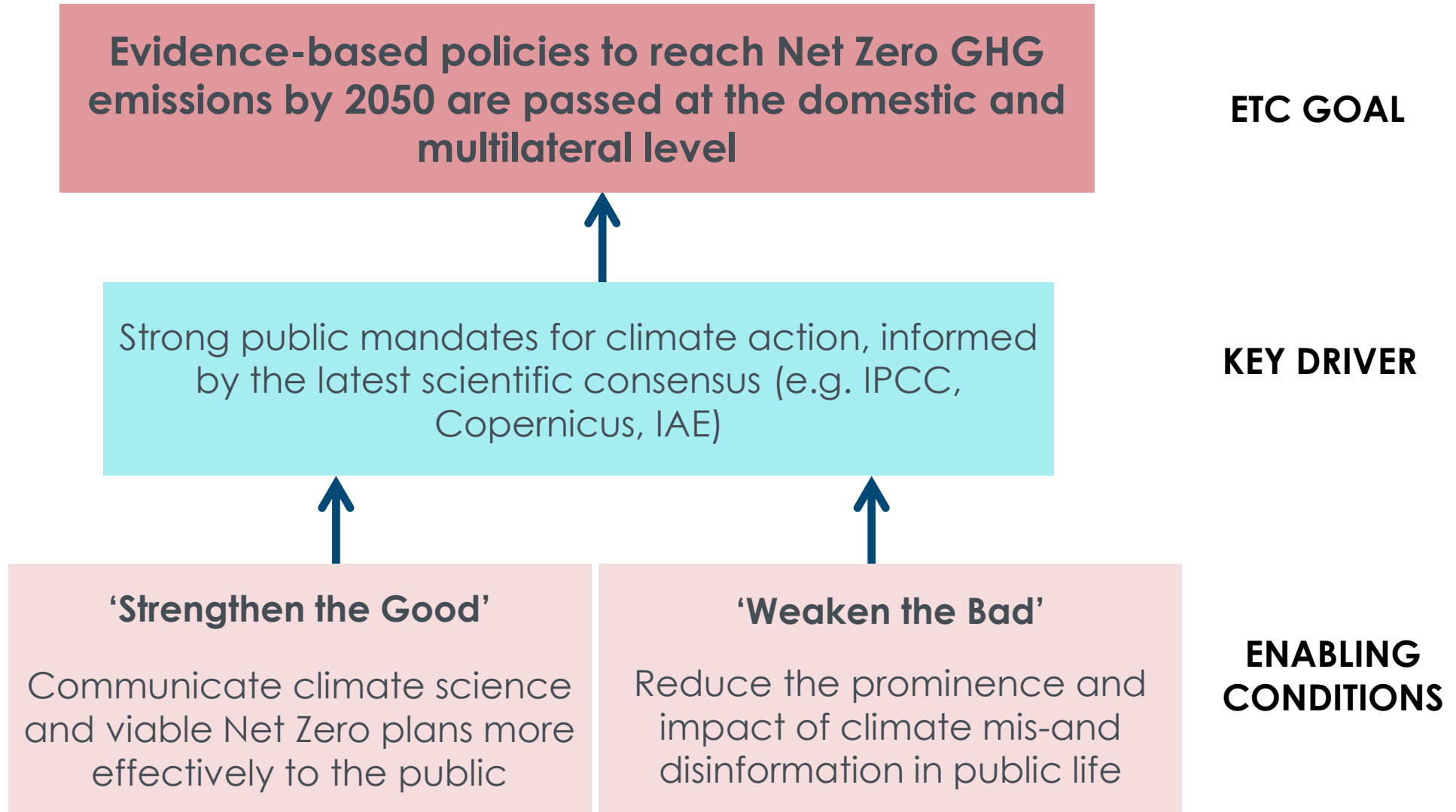
US less willing to pay than global average

People who would give 1% of income to tackle climate change, 2024



Note: US results based on interviews with 1,150 US adults conducted Jan 9-13 2025. Margin of error is +/- 3.9 percentage points for full sample. Global survey data across 130,000 participants from 125 countries. Source: The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research; Andre et al. (2024), *Globally representative evidence on the actual and perceived support for climate action*

ETC can drive greater change by fostering more action



Agenda

2025 and the rising challenge to Net Zero

COP29 Key reflections and plans for COP30

Growth of disinformation in the climate space

How the ETC plans to counter these growing challenges



ETC successfully laid out the energy transition globally and built credibility

Phase 1

2018-2020

Establishing the feasibility of Net Zero



From 80% decarbonisation to 100% = Net Zero

Demonstrated that clean energy (incl. hydrogen) can decarbonise the last 20% of emissions, with manageable costs

Phase 2

2020-2023

Describing the path to achieve Net Zero



The clean energy system will be dominated by **electrification**, with supplementary roles for bio, H2, CCUS and CDR

Full detail on the required technologies, shape of the system, what needs to happen to scale up, costs, and implications for policymakers and businesses

Phase 3

2023-

Implementation bottlenecks



Permitting, grids, supply chains, resources

Insights briefings and Solutions Toolkits for policymakers, developers, business and civil society

Selected achievements

- ✓ Net-zero by mid-century now the accepted goal.
- ✓ Visions for role of clean electricity consistently increasing.
- ✓ Pathways for the hard-to-abate sectors now clear, projects taking off.

2025 Comms Programme: From Evidence Based to Hearts and Minds

Pillar 1: Amplify

To expand the evidence-base:
helping to win ongoing debates

- **Broadening ETC presence, focusing on:**
 - Tier 1 media and non-English international media.
 - Social media
 - Key sectoral and regional events.
- **Direct engagements** through:
 - Targeted outreach campaigns
 - ETC Matters newsletter

Pillar 2: Repeat

To inform and explain: dispelling myths, correcting misinformation, and explaining and re-explaining complex ideas

- **Through shorter, more digestible forms, e.g.**
 - Op-eds & blogs
 - Events
 - Podcasts & You Tube
 - Infographics
 - Short explainers
 - Digital (videos) and social campaigns

“Good stories make us think and feel. They stick in our mind and help us remember ideas and concepts” – The Storytelling Edge

Pillar 3: Extend

To educate and convince:
audiences previously unaware or unconvinced

- **Through audience specific** tailored content
 - Wider-reaching podcasts
 - Digital story-telling
 - Social media
- Build on **existing collaborations** (Global Optimism, GSCC) & **move outside our comfort zone** (new audiences)
- **Direct outreach** with high impact interest groups (Youth, faith, culture & sport) e.g. Count Us In

This year has an evolved approach to reach wider audiences

Direct Outreach

- For example: universities, climate youth groups, green faith groups, business schools, political/green parties

Erasmus
University
Rotterdam



Keele
UNIVERSITY



Global Climate Innovation Coalition



Increased collaboration with key groups

- Greater role for distribution of insights through partnerships:

Climate Action 

MISSION 2025

WE MEAN
BUSINESS
COALITION 



Energy & Climate
INTELLIGENCE UNIT



Global
Strategic
Communications
Council GSCC

Greater focus on new media

- Going further to embrace new audiences for broader appeal (via podcasts and YouTube)

Current audiences (safe)



New middle ground



Entirely new audiences
(higher risk)



What is different – Q1 2025

**Social media influencers:
Hero programme**



ETC briefing 8 “influencers” across the world to seed key insights from our reports

**Extending audience
and international
reach**



ETC briefing youth and faith groups and building presence in geographies where we have limited visibility

**Expanded
storytelling**



ETC adapting messaging to focus on human element, including telling everyday costs and benefits story



What we are making work harder – Q1 2025

- **Data & visuals:**

- Working with data/visual editors to tell a more interactive story e.g. The Guardian
- Driving engagement via visuals and personal approach e.g. DSF Ladder

- **Comms partnerships:**

- GSCC – Clean energy driven economic growth (Australia)
- WMBC – Fossil fuel demand taskforce campaign
- ECIU – Combatting disinformation
- Climate Action Coalitions – International Clean Power & Built Environment taskforces

- **Member comms collaborations:**

- Arup, WRI and Iberdrola - Buildings
- Kiko Ventures – “Art of the Possible” LCAW event



Success in driving engagement via visuals and personal approach – over 60,000 impressions from Short-duration Flexibility ladder

Short-duration Flexibility Ladder

Demand side flexibility is the ability to shift the consumption of electricity at peak times. As renewables rapidly scale up, integrating more demand-side flexibility will be crucial to balancing the grid and maximising the use of clean electricity. It can help households and businesses lower energy bills and reduce strain on the grid - unlocking a more resilient energy system for all.

Energy Transitions Commission

	Demand-side flexibility (DSF) solutions			Other solutions
	Shedding <small>the ability to reduce electricity use for a short time period and typically on short notice</small>	Shifting <small>the ability to change the timing of electricity use</small>	Distributed Storage <small>the ability to store excess energy (e.g., electricity, heat) during low-demand periods and release it during peak demand</small>	
A Virtually free solutions	Home smart systems (actions either combined or separate) Dynamic temperature adjustment (heat pump/AC)	Pre-heating/cooling in well insulated homes Smart appliances	EV battery swapping Hot water storage	Existing interconnectors
B Low-cost, easy-to-implement solutions	Commercial building management systems Lighting sensors	Centralised, dynamic HVAC systems Crypto mining	Industrial heat battery-boilers e.g (heat storage) Distributed energy storage (e.g. batteries)	Existing flexible hydro Grid scale lithium-ion batteries
C Moderate-cost solutions	Timing "batch" production processes (e.g., paper, food); flexible aluminium electrolysis	Shifting data centre demand ¹ Flexible industrial maintenance	Residential Vehicle to Grid (V2G)	Other storage ² New interconnectors
D High-potential but capital-intensive solutions	Running H2 electrolysers flexibly	Flexible manufacturing (continuous) processes (e.g., chemicals)	EV smart charging (street, fast charging)	
E High-cost, high-barrier solutions	Strategic industry shutdowns	Rolling blackouts		
F Expensive, low-priority solutions				
G Undesirable				

High Priority
Low cost, low barriers, high efficiency, potential for automation

Low Priority/Undesirable
High cost, high barriers

Note: This DSF ladder infographic is published under CC-BY 4.0 and the ladder concept has been adapted from Michael Liebreich/Liebreich Associates, Clean Hydrogen Ladder, Version 5.0, 2023. Original Concept credit: Adrian Hiel, Energy Cities.
¹Non-critical data processes, such as AI training, can be postponed or shifted to low-demand periods without real-time constraints. Flexibility also exists when companies run computing centres across different countries / regions to allow load shifts over geographies.
²Medium-duration storage (including pumped hydro) is less competitive for short-duration balancing than batteries, driven by the higher round-trip efficiency of batteries.

Elena Pravettoni • 1st
Head of Analysis at Energy Transitions Commi...
4d •

✕

As renewables rapidly scale up, how can we balance and optimise power systems and maximise the use of clean electricity?

Demand side flexibility - the ability to shift consumption of electricity at peak times - is essential, helping to lower energy bills and deliver benefits for the grid.

Excited to share a new infographic the [Energy Transitions Commission](#) team and I have been developing over the past weeks as part of our ongoing power systems transformation work.

Our Demand Side Flexibility Ladder, adapted from [Michael Liebreich](#)'s Clean Hydrogen ...more

👍👏👤 267

32 comments · 17 reposts

❤️ Love
💬 Comment
🔄 Repost
➦ Send

Engagement highlights

- **Michael Liebreich** “This is great... to understand that there are smarter and dumber solutions, and to get the discussion focused.”
- **Likes from across the world at senior levels, including:**
 - Head of UK Clean Power Taskforce
 - Chair of UK Government’s Energy Digitalisation Taskforce
 - Executive Director of Australian Net Zero Commission



Where should ETC place our focus?

Current focus:

Denialism

- 1) Combatting denialism – demonstrate climate change is real and a threat**
- + Denialism is rising, if people don't believe there will be strong resistance to change
- Less than 15% of people don't believe, many entrenched, limited gains, high pushback

Limited

Salience

- 2) Ensuring salience – move energy transition up voter's agenda**
- + Energy transition often not top priority, costs discounted, benefits seem unattainable
- Hard to make people more focused without being overly 'Doomer'

Limited

Education

- 3) Providing education – climate conscious voters to recognise effective policy**
- + Many "green" parties don't have effective policies (nuke closure, onerous P&P)
- Highly localised issue, may require many resources and partners on the ground

Medium

Economic Impacts

- 4) Explaining economic impacts – illustrate aggregate costs and distributional effects**
- + Many unaware of wider picture (cost curves, scaling benefits, access to tech)
- Competing citizen priorities (increased cost of living and low income growth)

High

Progress

- 5) Outlining progress – explaining where positive progress is being made**
- + ETC's traditional expertise, can counter adverse narratives by sharing good stories wider
- Positive progress often discounted, not as popular with media as negative stories

High