



Committee on
Climate Change

Independent advice to government
on building a low-carbon economy
and preparing for climate change

**Conference on Opportunity for a
Climate Change Act in Portugal
26 February 2019**

Case study: the UK's Climate Change Act

Adrian Gault
Chief Economist, CCC



Background: campaign for the Climate Change Act



Friends of the Earth



Friends of the Earth Big Ask campaign

- Launched 2005
- Many NGOs came together as part of Stop Climate Chaos coalition
- Business increasingly supportive, recognising certainty benefits

Stern Review, October 2006

- Key message – costs of stabilising climate significant, but manageable; delay dangerous and more costly

Political response

- September 2006 David Cameron shared platform with FoE to call for a Climate Change Bill
- October 2006 David Miliband signals Govt will introduce legislation
- 26th November 2008 – Climate Change Bill passes into law



The Climate Change Act (2008) – driving change



The Climate Change Act 2008

1	A goal	2050 Emissions Target - at least an 80% reduction in emissions on 1990 levels
2	A pathway	Carbon Budgets
3	A toolkit	Requirement that Government brings forward policies to reduce emissions & address climate risks
4	A monitoring framework	Committee on Climate Change to monitor progress and suggest changes

CCC appointed to recommend targets and monitor progress



Lord Deben



Baroness
Brown



Professor Piers
Forster



Paul Johnson



Professor
Nick Chater



Professor
Corinne Le
Quéré

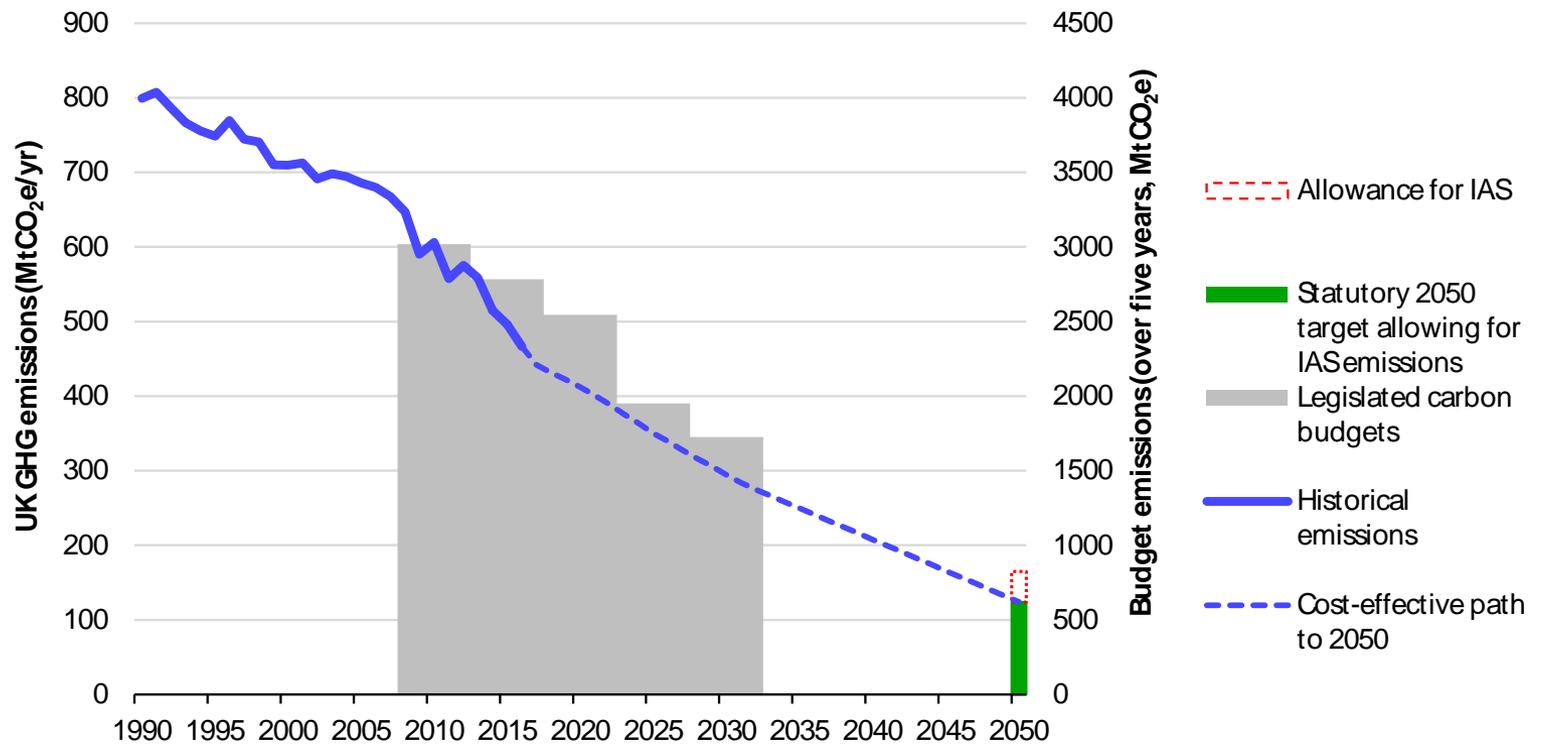


Dr Rebecca
Heaton

Supported by full-time
Secretariat (around 30 FTE) and
research/consultancy budget

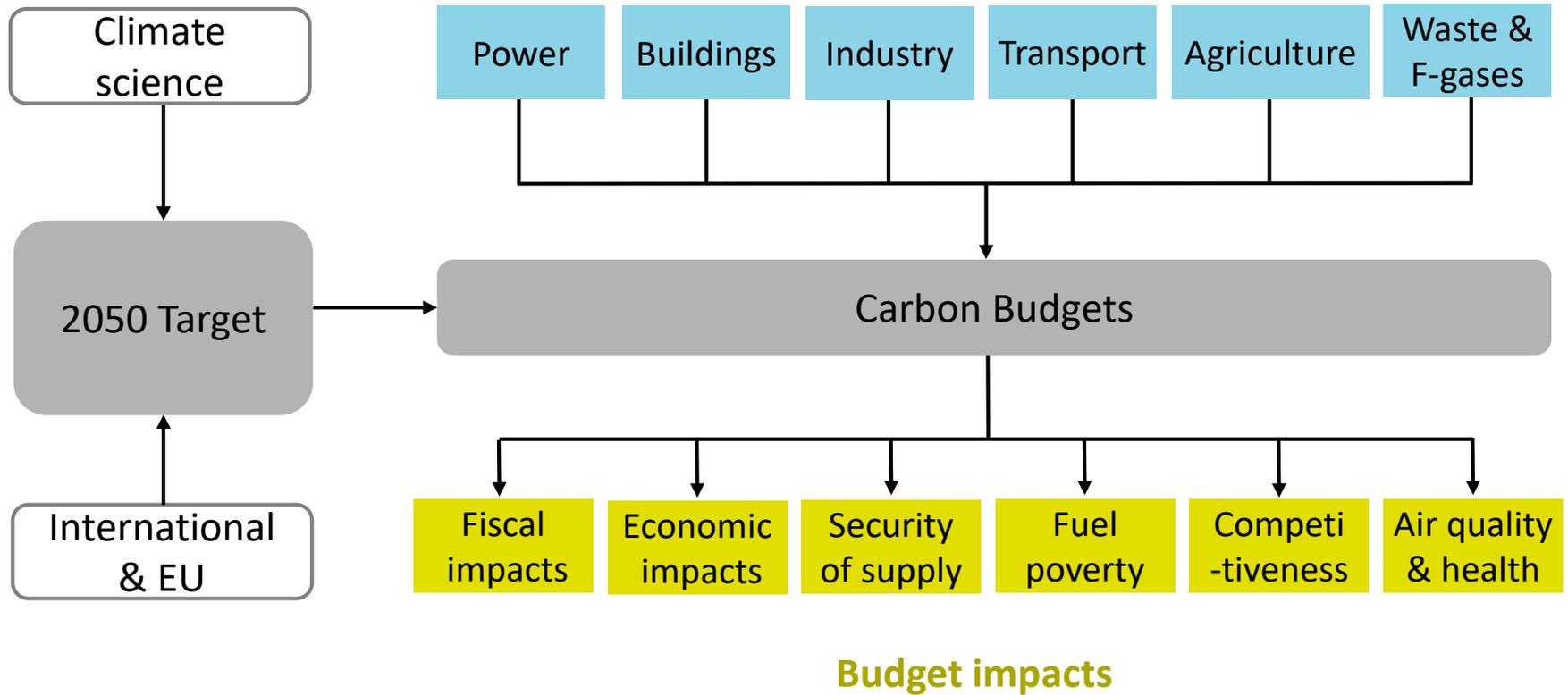
Carbon budgets are stepping stones to the 2050 target

Carbon budgets and the cost-effective path to the 2050 target



Strong evidence-based underpinning...

Sectors: scenarios, costs, required policy

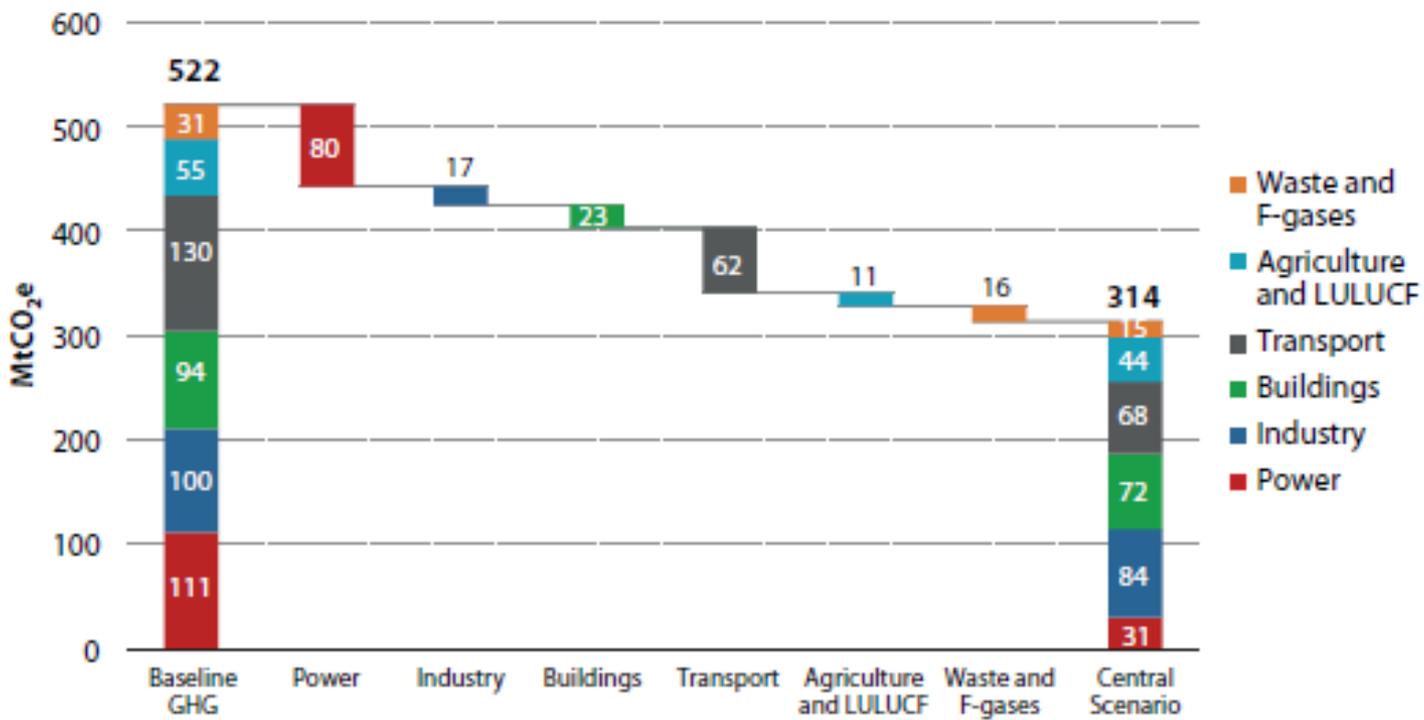


How do we go about developing our advice? For the 5th carbon budget we drew on a wide range of evidence



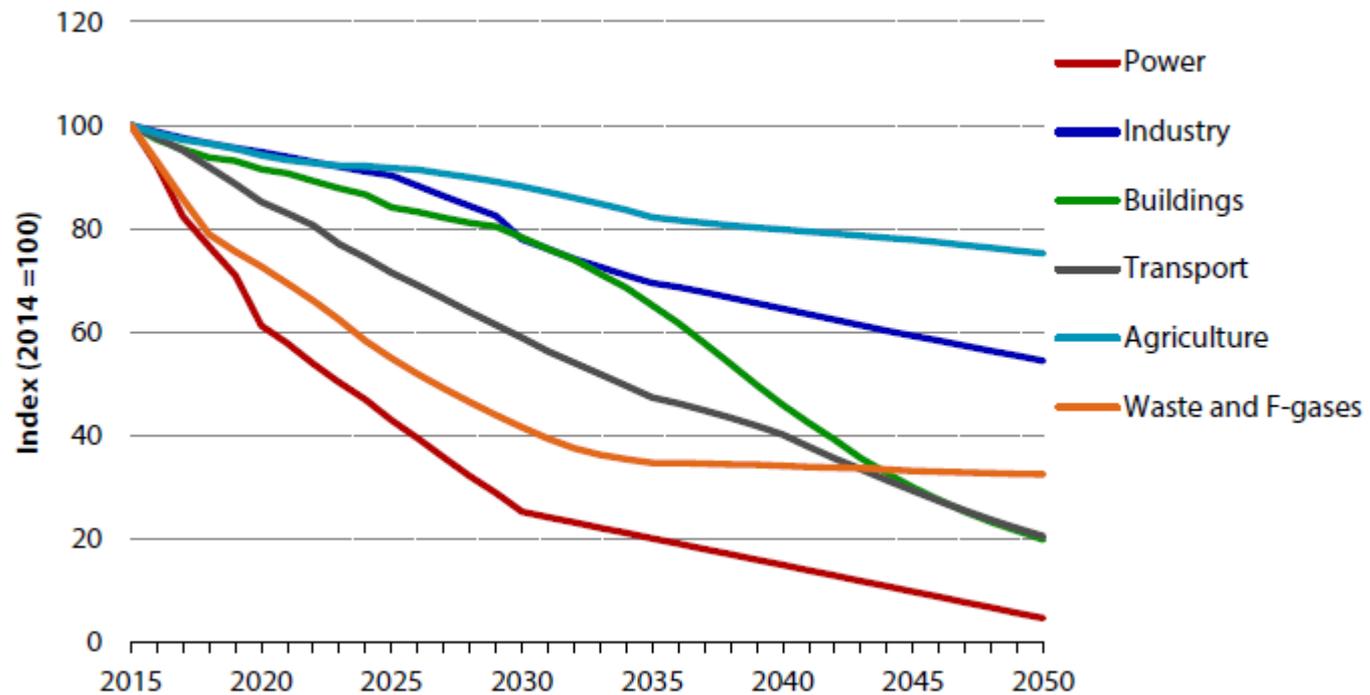
We build up our estimates of cost-effective abatement, sector by sector, 2030

Figure 3.6: Abatement in the Central Scenario (total emissions, 2030)



Whilst the overall path looks broadly on a straight-line to 2050, the pace of reduction varies by sector

Figure 1.14: Central scenario emissions paths to 2050



The Paris Agreement describes a higher level of global ambition than formed the basis of the UK 80% reduction target

- The UK 2050 target was derived as a contribution to a global emissions path aimed at keeping global average temperature rise to around 2°C above pre-industrial levels
- The Paris Agreement:
 - Aims to limit warming to “well below” 2°C and to pursue efforts to limit it to 1.5°C
 - Sets a target for net zero global emissions in the 2nd half of this century
- Following the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) special report on impacts at 1.5°C, the **Government has now asked us to advise on the implications of the Paris Agreement for the UK’s long-term targets**

Thank you!

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