



# Land use and Climate

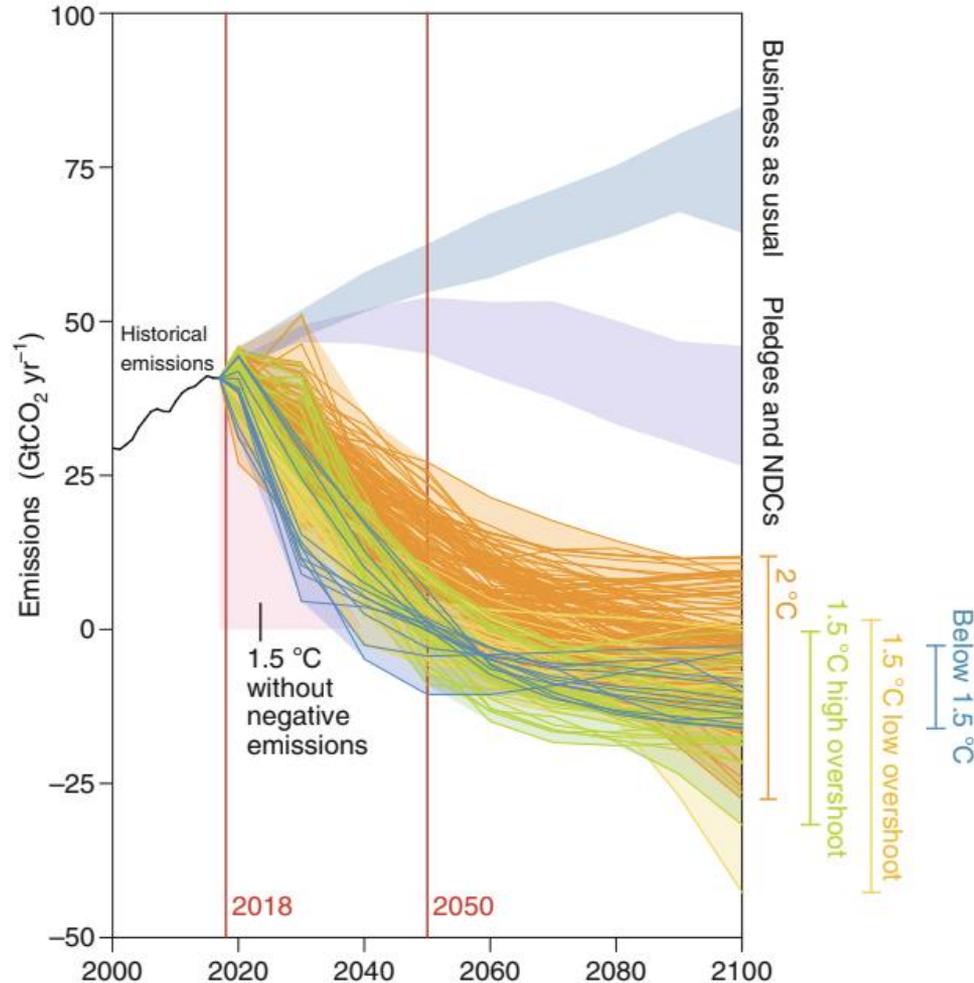
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Michael Obersteiner

Director ECI | Oxford University

**Achieving net Zero: The Role of Land, Tuesday 28 February 2020**

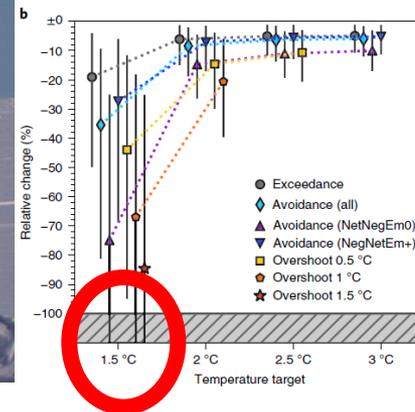
# BAU, Pledges and Climate target



- Countries are not ambitious enough
- Timing of Zero Net depends on
  - Climate target
  - Degree of Over-/Undershooting emissions
  - Earth system

**Fig. 1 | Global net anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> emission pathways in BAU, 2 °C and 1.5 °C model scenarios.** The 2 °C (132 model runs, orange lines), 1.5

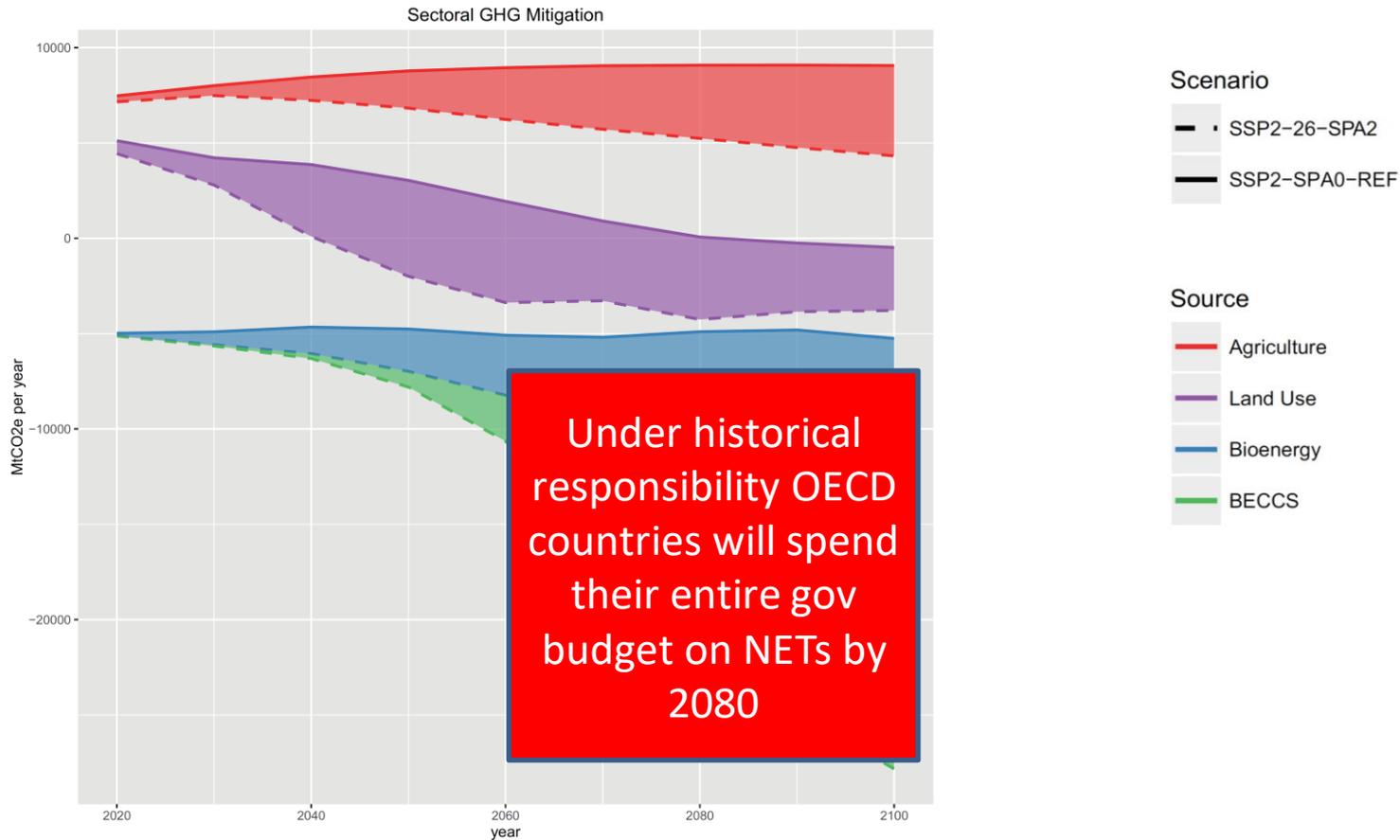
# Emissions from thawing permafrost



*Accounting for additional emissions from permafrost there is a 5% chance that the remaining carbon budget for 1.5C is zero – today!*

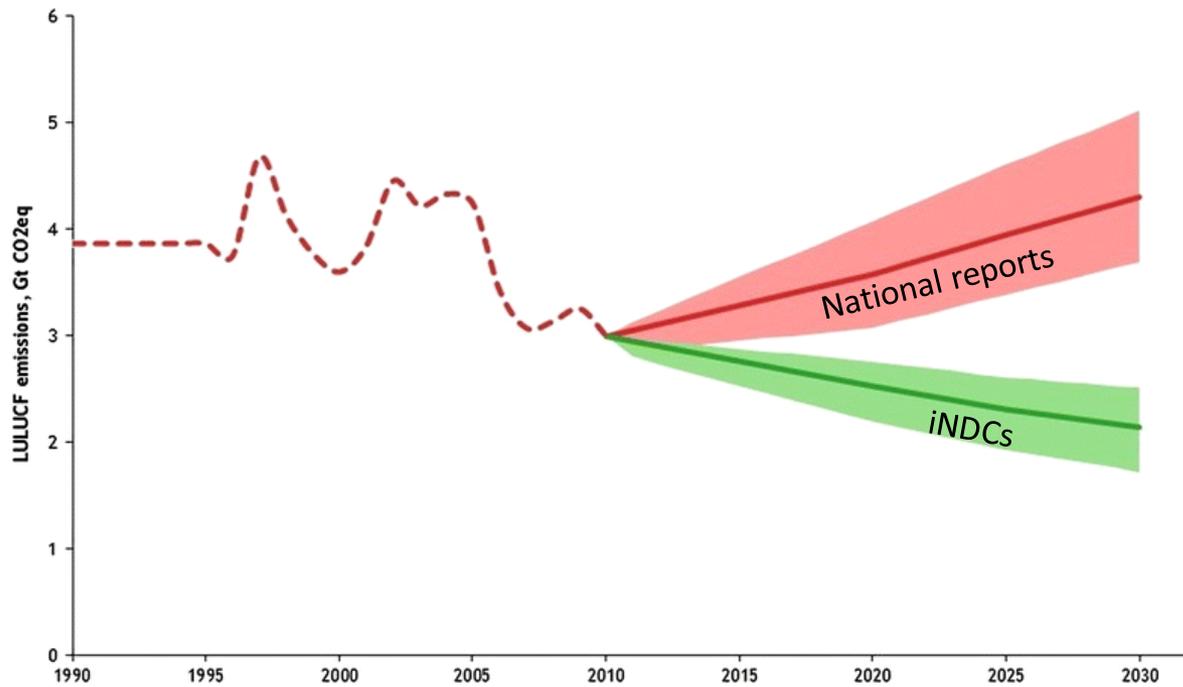
# Land use sectors contribution to mitigate for 2°C

## *The Great Carbon Undershoot*



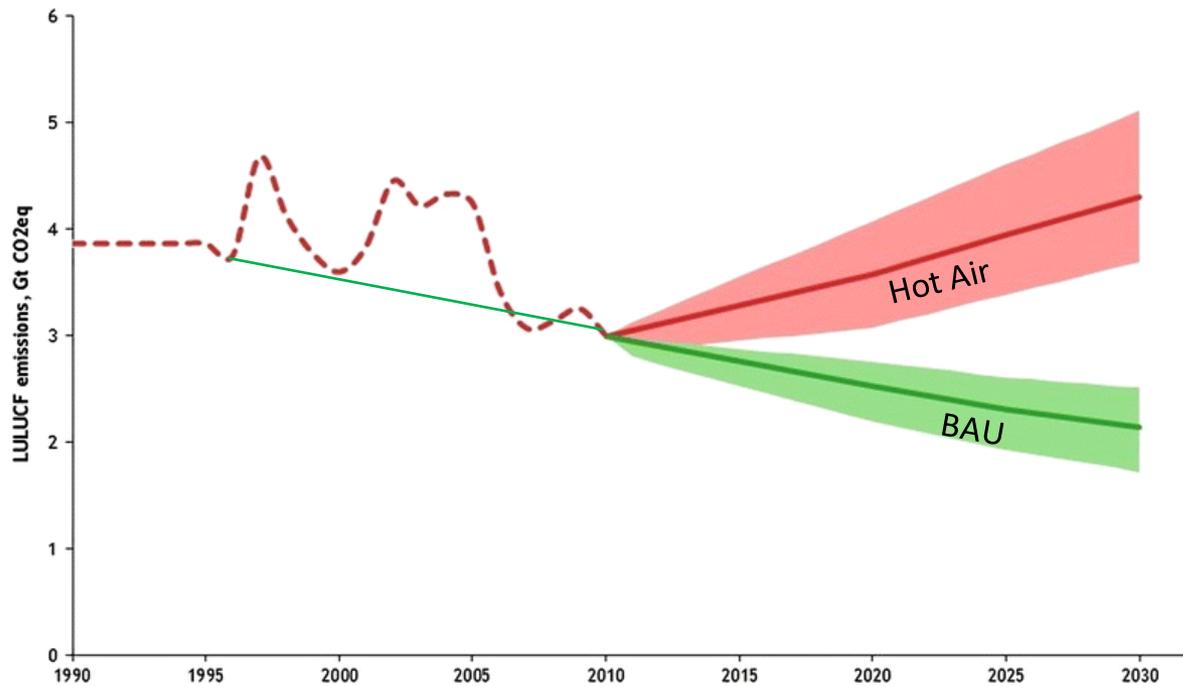
Are countries doing their homework in the land use sector?

# Emissions from land



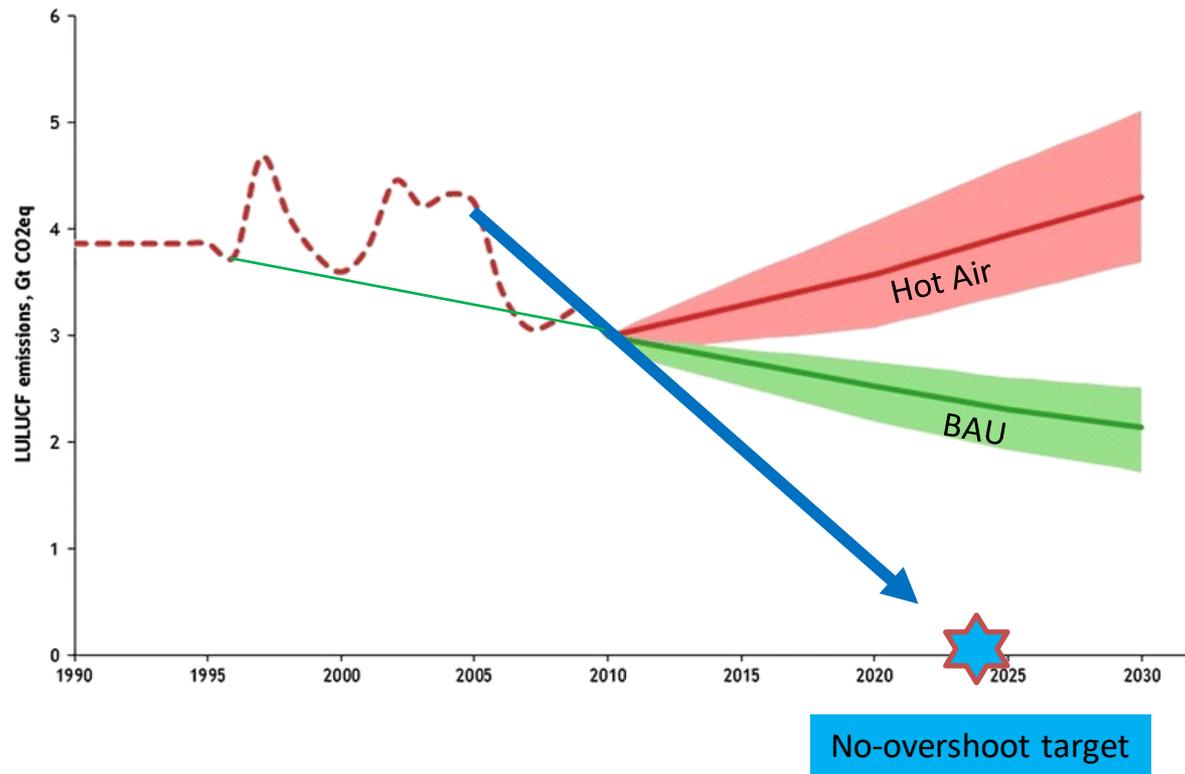
Source: Forsell et al. 2016

# Emissions from land



Source: Forsell et al. 2016

# Emissions from land



Source: Forsell et al. 2016, Obersteiner et al. 2018

*The Food, Agriculture, Biodiversity,  
Land Use and Energy Pathways  
(FABLE) Consortium*

**Pathways to Sustainable  
Land-Use and Food  
Systems**



*The Food, Agriculture, Biodiversity,  
Land Use and Energy Pathways  
(FABLE) Consortium*

**FABLE in the UK**



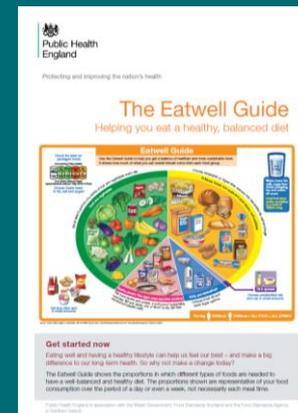
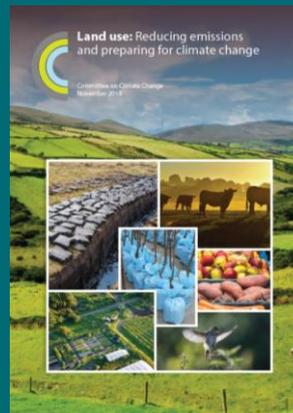
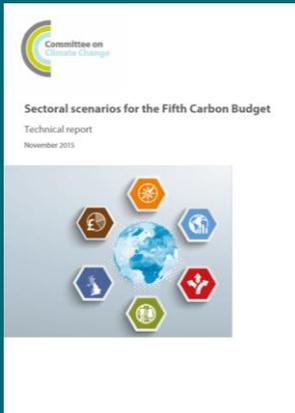
Environmental Change Institute



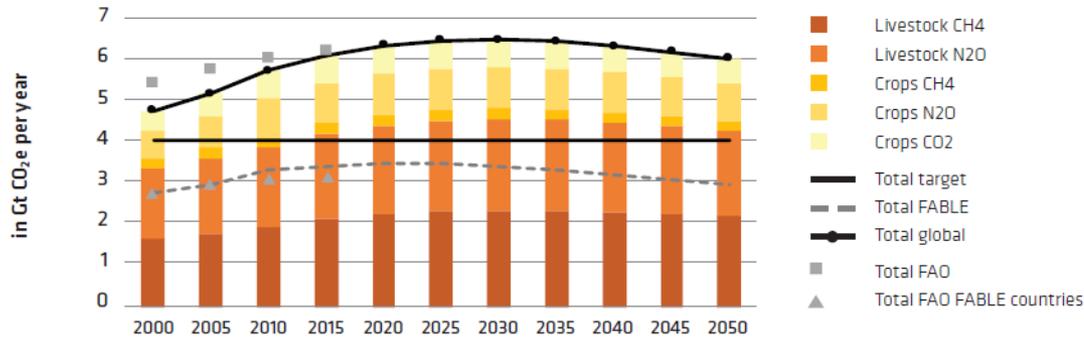
# UK climate pathways

## UK pathways based on:

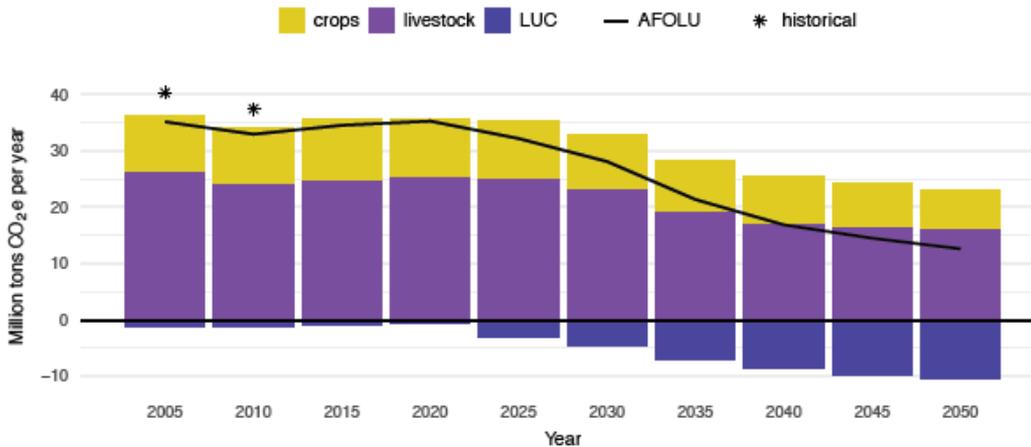
- [5<sup>th</sup> carbon budget set by the UK Committee on Climate Change \(CCC\)](#)
- Royal Society's report on "[Greenhouse gas removal](#)"
- CCC report on "[Land use: Reducing emissions and preparing for climate change](#)"
- Healthy diets based on governmental guidelines ([the Eatwell Guide](#)) and the [EAT-Lancet Commission Report](#)



# Target: GHG emissions reduction from agriculture



✓ **Global target** of GHG emissions from agriculture < 4 GtCO<sub>2</sub>e yr<sup>-1</sup> by 2050 is not met



✓ **UK target** of net zero GHG emissions by 2050 is not met

# Conclusion

- A global Zero Net target by 2050 sounds ambitious, but appears key to hedge Earth system risks
- Nature based solutions require systemic transformation of the food and land use system
- Countries are not up to the challenge
  - Glasgow should not become a lost opportunity