

BUILDINGENERGY NYC

Counting the True Cost of Carbon to Make the Case for Deep Energy Retrofits

Michael Hindle (Passive to Positive)

Curated by Amalia Cuadra and Bianca Antonio

Northeast Sustainable Energy Association (NESEA) | October 24, 2024



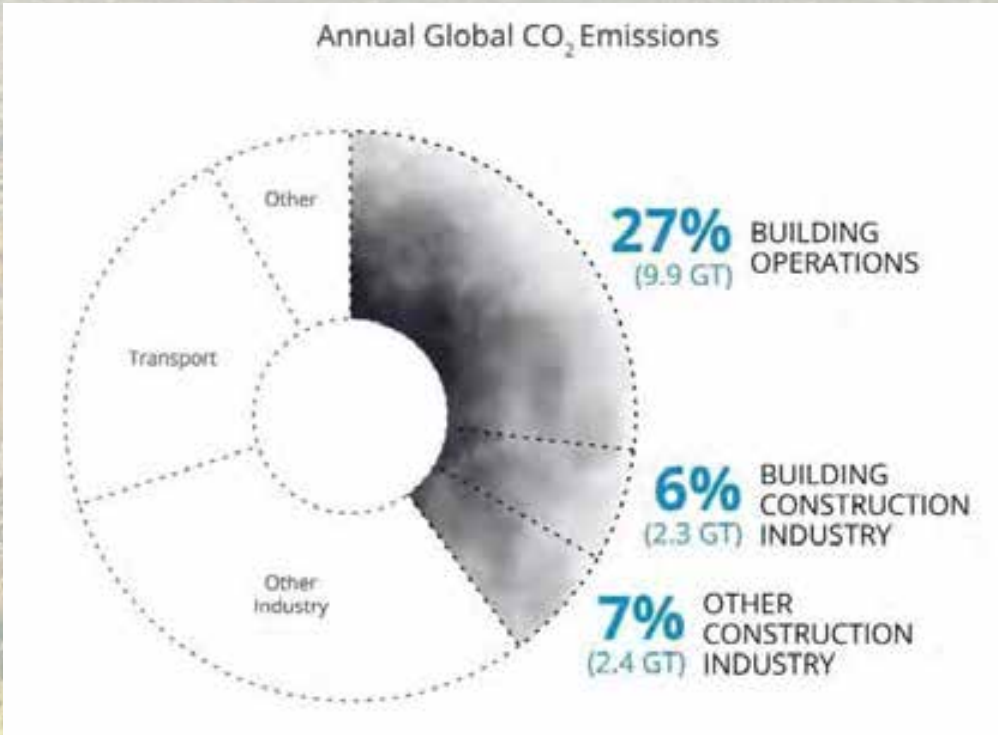
Passive to **POSITIVE**
PASSIVE HOUSE AND LOW IMPACT DESIGN

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michael@passivetopositive.com
240-431-1281

HIGH PERFORMANCE LOW CARBON **PASSIVE HOUSE** NET ZERO **NEW** RETROFIT

DEEP ENERGY RETROFITS ARE NOT OPTIONAL

In 2040, **2/3 of the global building stock** will be buildings that exist today. Without upgrades, they will still be emitting GHGs.



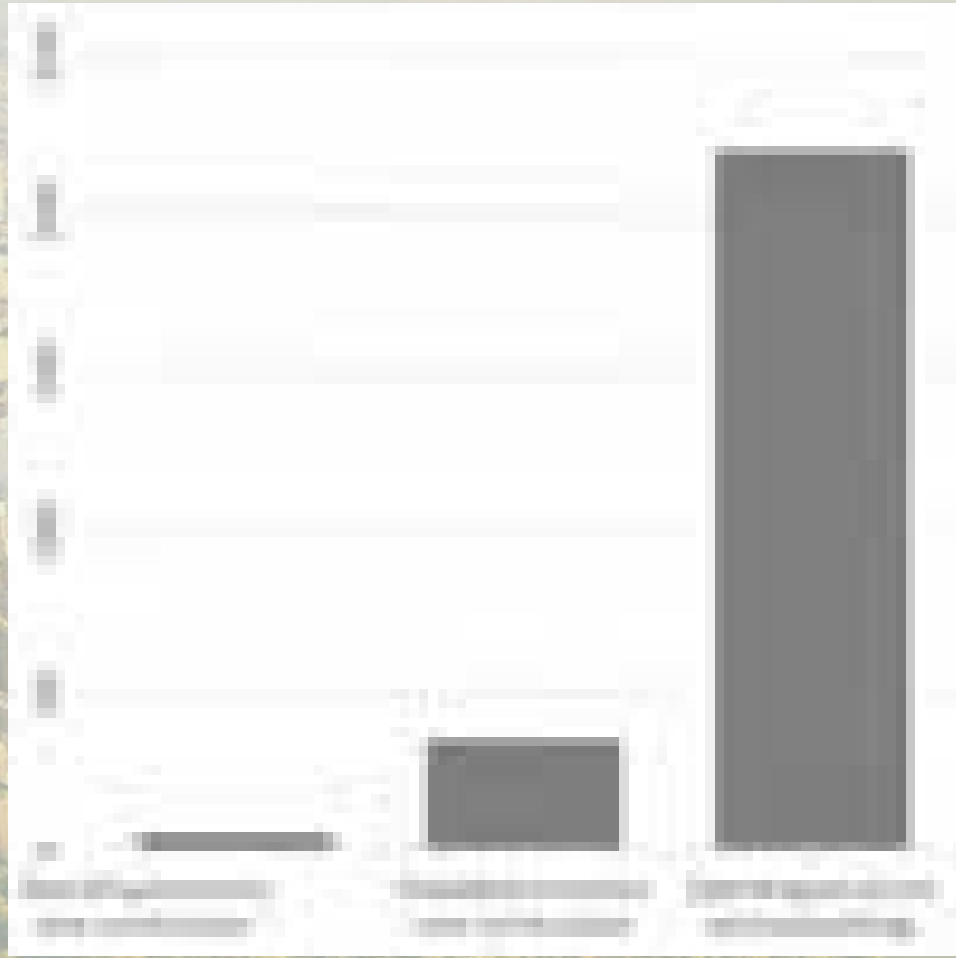
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Data Source: IEA Energy Technology Perspectives 2020, February 2021 Revised Edition

Siegel & Strain Architects

WE CAN NOT BUILD OUR WAY TO LOW CARBON

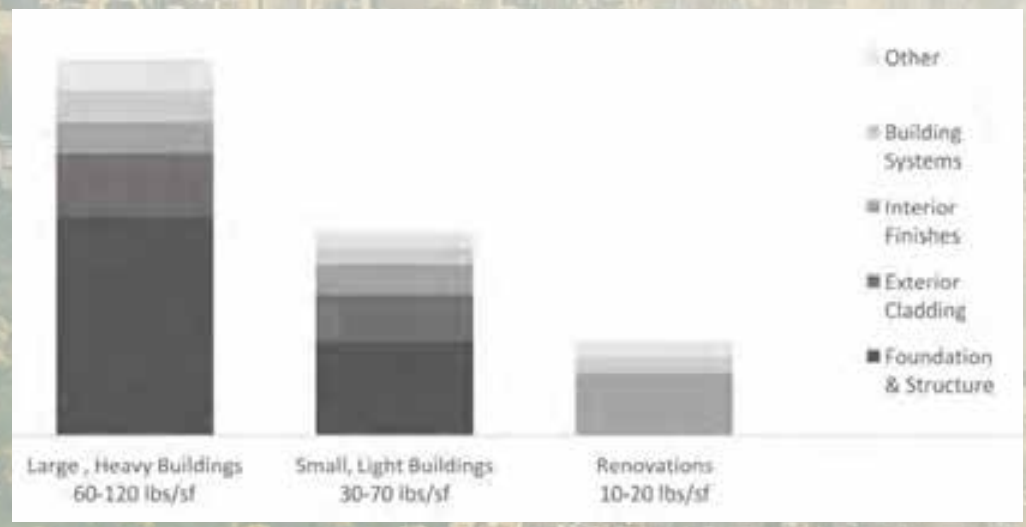
DEEP ENERGY RETROFITS ARE NOT OPTIONAL

OPERATIONAL EMISSIONS SOURCES — millions of tons



Siegel & Strain Architects

EMBODIED CO₂ EMISSIONS BY PROJECT TYPE



Siegel & Strain Architects

WE CAN NOT BUILD OUR WAY TO LOW CARBON

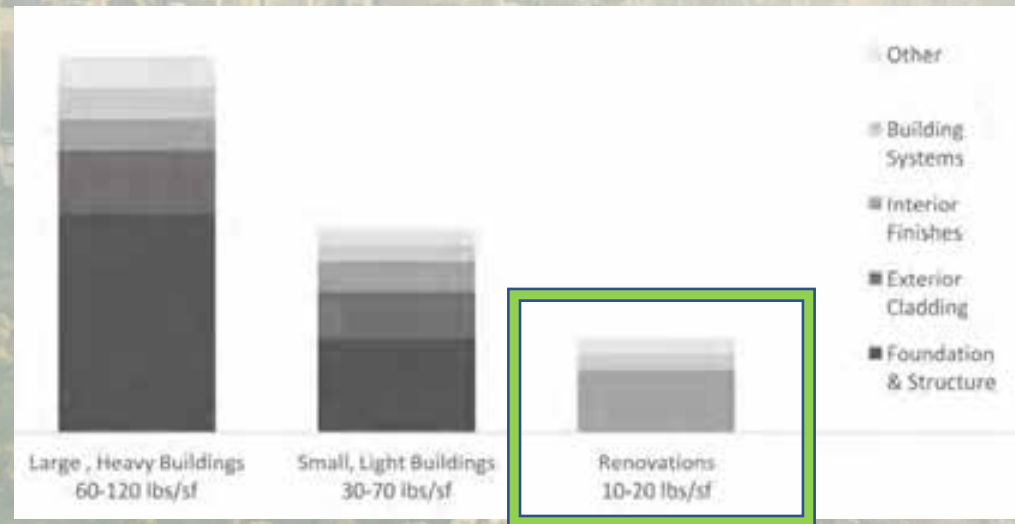
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OPERATIONAL EMISSIONS SOURCES — millions of tons



Siegel & Strain Architects

EMBODIED CO₂ EMISSIONS BY PROJECT TYPE



Siegel & Strain Architects

WE CAN NOT BUILD OUR WAY TO LOW CARBON







A RATIONAL ANALYSIS

The End of Deep Energy Retrofits?

Learn why one design-build remodeling firm stopped doing these types of renovations in favor of other efficiency improvements and upgrades.

By Rachel White | Issue 314 - April/May 2023



Wednesday Keynote — Why We Stopped Doing Deep Energy Retrofits

After completing many Deep Energy Retrofit projects (DERs) in the late 2000s/early 2010s here in Massachusetts, our residential design-build remodeling company's approach to energy retrofit work has shifted towards lighter envelope improvements and a greater focus on getting homes off of an air-seal-fault fast consumption. While the DER approach was successful in substantially reducing energy consumption, among other improvements, it often came at a high cost both in terms of up-front investment and the embodied carbon impact of the work itself. In this presentation we will make the case for our current, more moderate approach to energy retrofit work, how we got here, and why we don't expect to be super-insulating many existing homes going forward.

REGISTER

PROGRAM

Past Conferences

BuildingEnergy Matter 2024



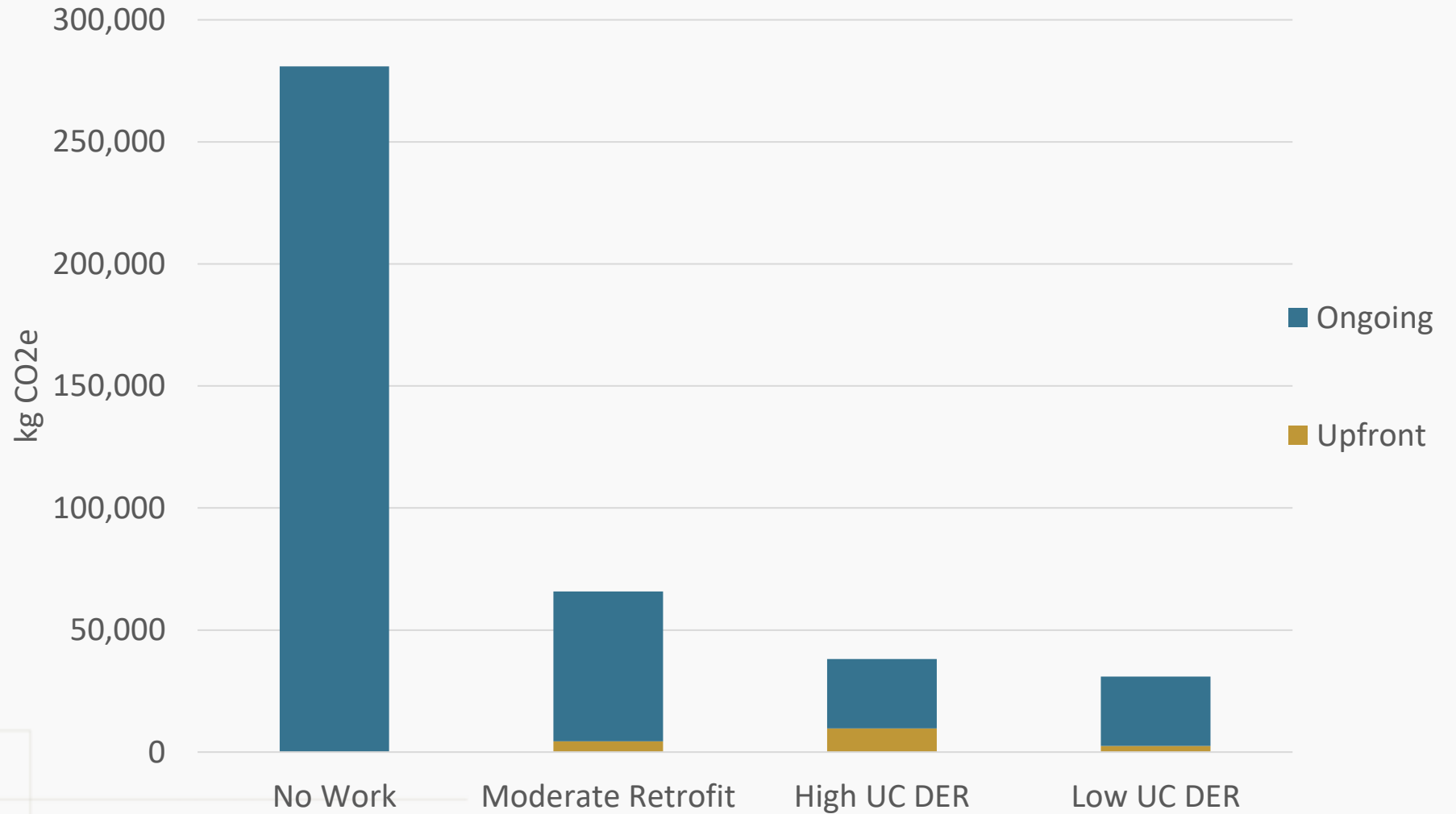
CEO
Rachel White



PROJECT MANAGER & PERFORMANCE MANAGER
Brendan Kavanagh



Carbon Emissions 2020-2050*

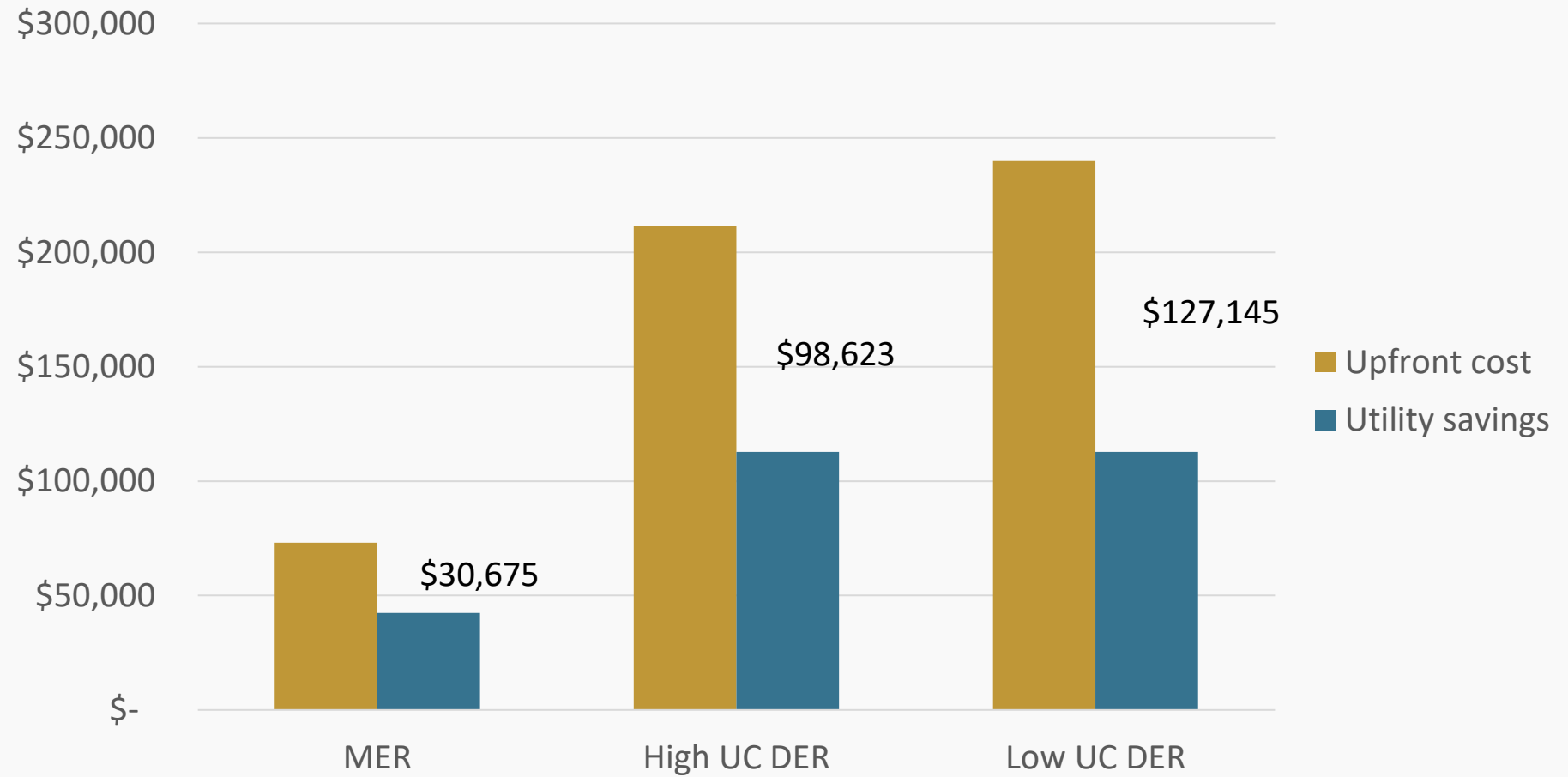


*DER operating emissions updated



**BYGG
MEISTER**
DESIGN | BUILD

Net Costs 2020-2050





**BYGG
MEISTER**
DESIGN | BUILD

Deep energy retrofits are not (currently) a cost-effective decarbonization strategy for single-family homes. For now, we think all-electric moderate retrofits are where Byggmeister can have the most impact, but if experience or data indicate otherwise, we stand ready to pivot.

BE23 KEYNOTE CONCLUSION

RESPONSE TO THE NESEA BE BOSTON 2023 WEDNESDAY KEYNOTE, "WHY WE STOPPED DOING DEEP ENERGY RETROFITS"



Michael Hindle



WE ARE TOLD WE CANNOT AFFORD TO DO THIS



AND YET THIS COST EFFECTIVE



A ONE-WAY TRIP

IT'S COST EFFECTIVENESS TO DO THIS



EXTRACTIVE, LINEAR ECONOMICS - A ONE-WAY TRIP

AND WHAT ABOUT THE COST EFFECTIVENESS OF THIS

ABANDONED POPULATIONS, SINKING IN WASTE



Child Waste picker in Malaysia:JP Getty Images

The west and rich populations export all negative externalities

OBSCENE, SPECULATIVE, ECONOMICS FOR BILLIONAIRES IS COST EFFECTIVE



OPULENCE ONLY FOR A FEW

AND OF COURSE , OUR FAVORITE - MILITARISM

IRAQ WAR COST \$ 1.3 TRILLION TO THE US ALONE





Image credit: Oregon Public Broadcasting

A photograph showing the aftermath of a disaster, likely a wildfire. The scene is filled with charred and twisted metal, debris, and the skeletal remains of structures. In the background, a large greenhouse structure stands amidst the wreckage. A dark-colored car is partially visible on the right side. The overall atmosphere is one of devastation and loss.

“It is just not cost-effective”

Energy is cheap, construction is dear.

*In a system predicated on
cheap fossil fuels . . .*

and that intentionally externalizes impacts,

*any cost effectiveness evaluation that attempts to
internalize externalities is a forgone conclusion.*

A photograph showing the aftermath of a disaster, likely a wildfire. The scene is filled with charred and destroyed structures, including a house with a partially collapsed roof and a large, empty metal frame structure. Debris is scattered everywhere, including a rusted metal chair and a broken table. The overall atmosphere is one of devastation and loss. A semi-transparent dark box is overlaid on the center of the image, containing the text "WHAT DOES IT COST . . . IF WE FAIL?".

WHAT DOES IT COST . . . IF WE FAIL?

A photograph showing the aftermath of a disaster, likely a wildfire. The scene is filled with charred debris, twisted metal, and the skeletal remains of structures. In the background, a person is visible amidst the wreckage. A semi-transparent dark brown rectangular box is overlaid on the center of the image, containing white text. The overall lighting is a hazy, yellowish-orange, suggesting smoke or fire in the distance.

PLEASE, SOMEONE, DEFINE
COST EFFECTIVE
(MEANINGFULLY !!!)



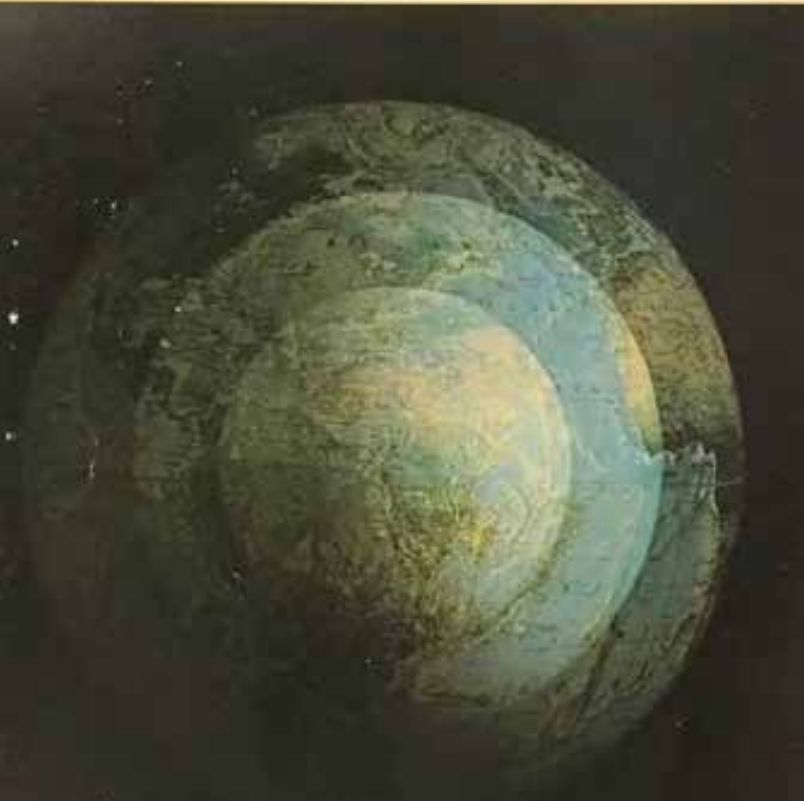
BUT I AM NOT SEING IT

WHY?

SIGNET • 451-W5767 • \$1.50

THE LIMITS TO GROWTH

The headline-making report on the imminent global disaster facing humanity—and what we can do about it before time runs out. "One of the most important documents of our age!" —Anthony Lewis, *The New York Times*



DONELLA H. MEADOWS/DENNIS L. MEADOWS
JØRGEN RANDERS/WILLIAM W. BEHRENS III

PSA A POTOMAC ASSOCIATES BOOK

575 x 1.0

SYSTEMS THINKING



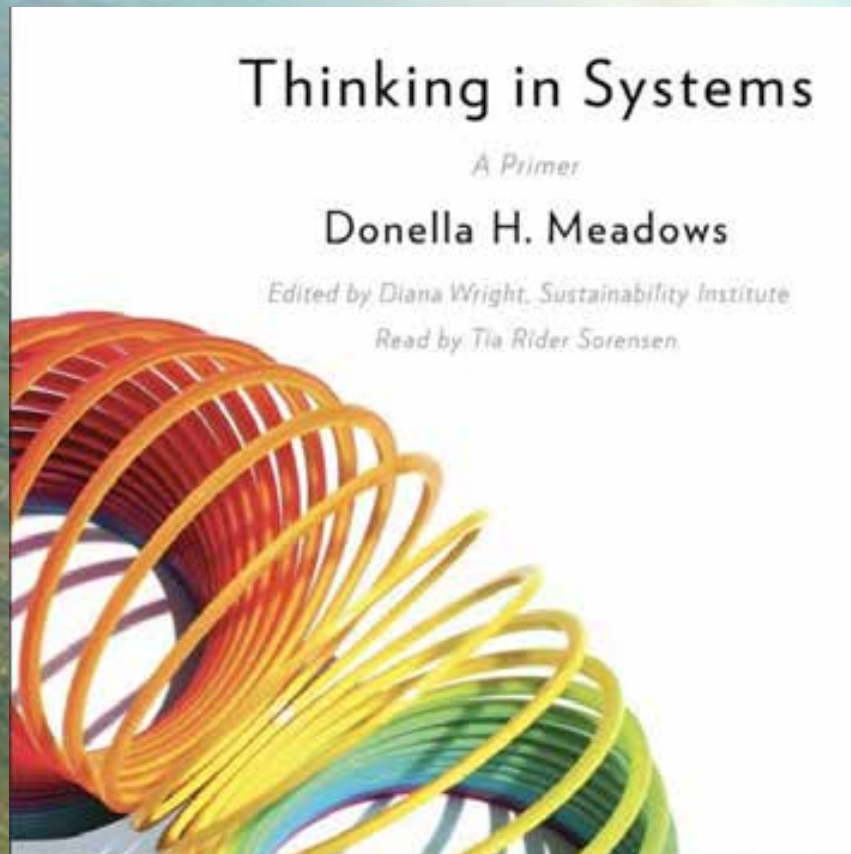
WHAT DYNAMICS MAKE SYSTEMS RESISTANT ?



SYSTEMIC INERTIA

THE SYSTEM SETS THE RULES . . .
THE SYSTEM DECIDES WHAT HAS VALUE





FEEDBACK LOOPS

REINFORCING

BALANCING OR RESTRAINING

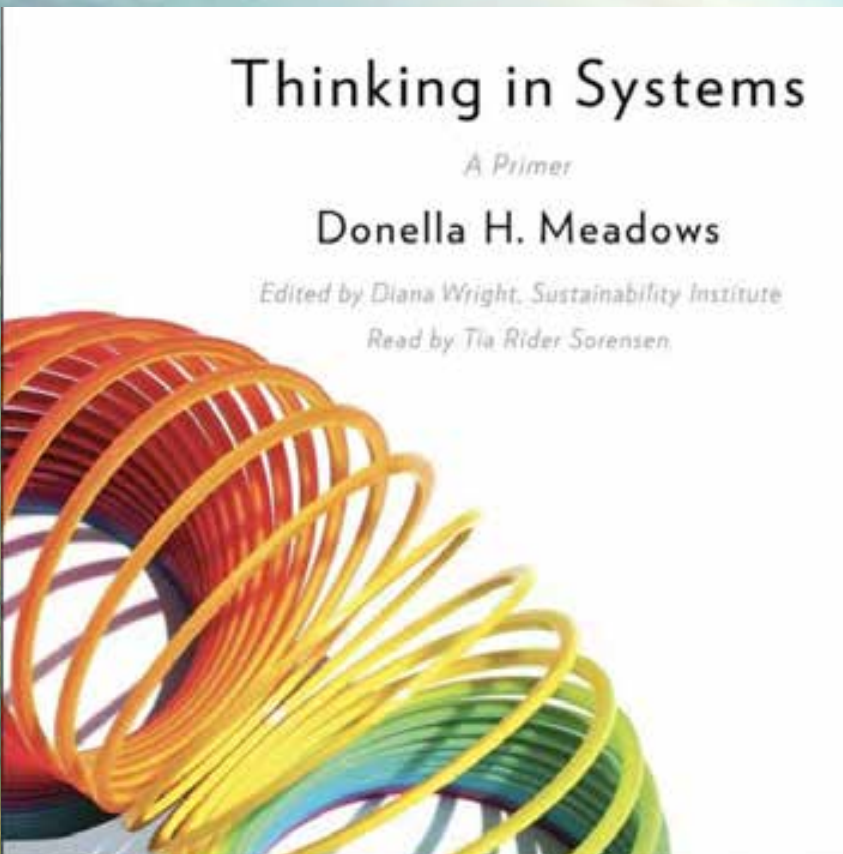
REINFORCING OR RESTRAINING FEEDBACK LOOPS



Desertification exacerbates the drought in California's central valley

Market signal demands higher yield/acre → intensive mono-crop commodity production → tilling causes soil erosion → less organic matter in soil → higher use of fertilizer and pesticide + more irrigation → depletion of soil biome + less nutrients + moisture retained in soil → less robust plants → circle back to higher use of fertilizer, pesticide use + irrigation = runaway, self reinforcing feedback loop. We have lost 50% of the soil on planet earth in the last 150 years.

BOUNDED RATIONALITY



Most actors are behaving rationally within the confines of a defined set of boundaries with access to certain (limited) information, even if their behaviors seem irrational or are cumulatively destructive when viewed from a larger context.

OBVIOUSLY INSANE AND YET EVERY BEHAVIOR WAS ENTIRELY "RATIONAL"



JUNE 9, 2015 | 19 MIN READ

Use It or Lose It Laws Worsen Western U.S. Water Woes

ProPublica's "Killing the Colorado" series examines a 139-year-old water law that pushes ranchers to use as much water as they possibly can, even during a drought

BY ABRAHM LUSTGARTEN & PROPUBLICA



BOUNDED RATIONALITY

A CLEAR-CUT YIELDS A HIGH, SHORT-TERM YIELD OF ONE COMMODITY FOR SHAREHOLDERS, BUT DECIMATES THE ECOSYSTEM

INDIGENOUSLY MANAGED FORESTS LIMIT SHORT TERM YIELD, INCREASE YIELDS YEAR ON YEAR AND REMAIN HEALTHY

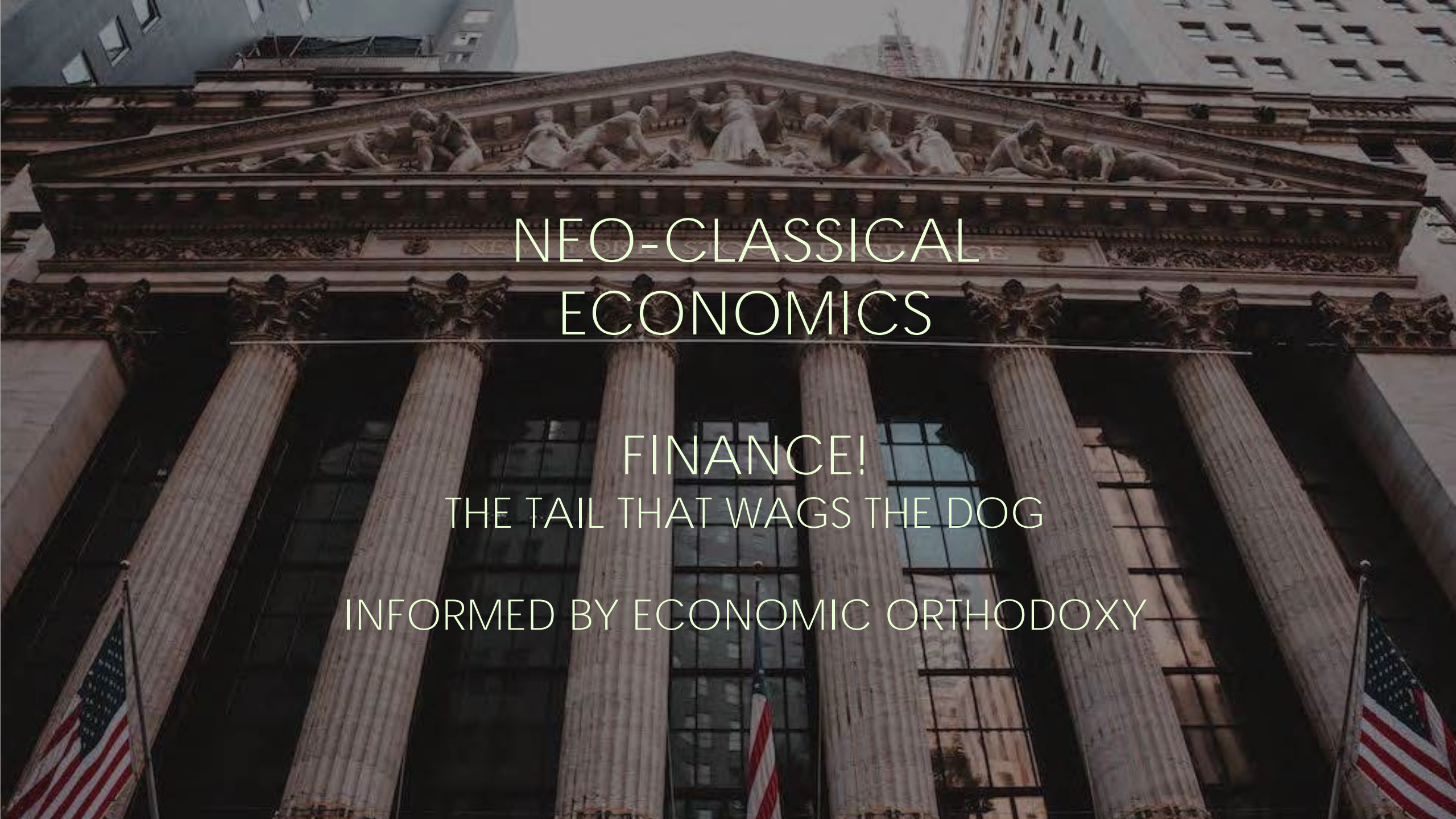


BOUNDED RATIONALITY

IF PUBLICLY TRADED TIMBER COMPANY HAS THE IMMEDIATE PRESSURE TO MAXIMIZE EARNINGS

A CLEAR-CUT YIELDS A HIGH, SHORT-TERM YIELD OF ONE COMMODITY FOR SHAREHOLDERS, BUT DECIMATES THE ECOSYSTEM



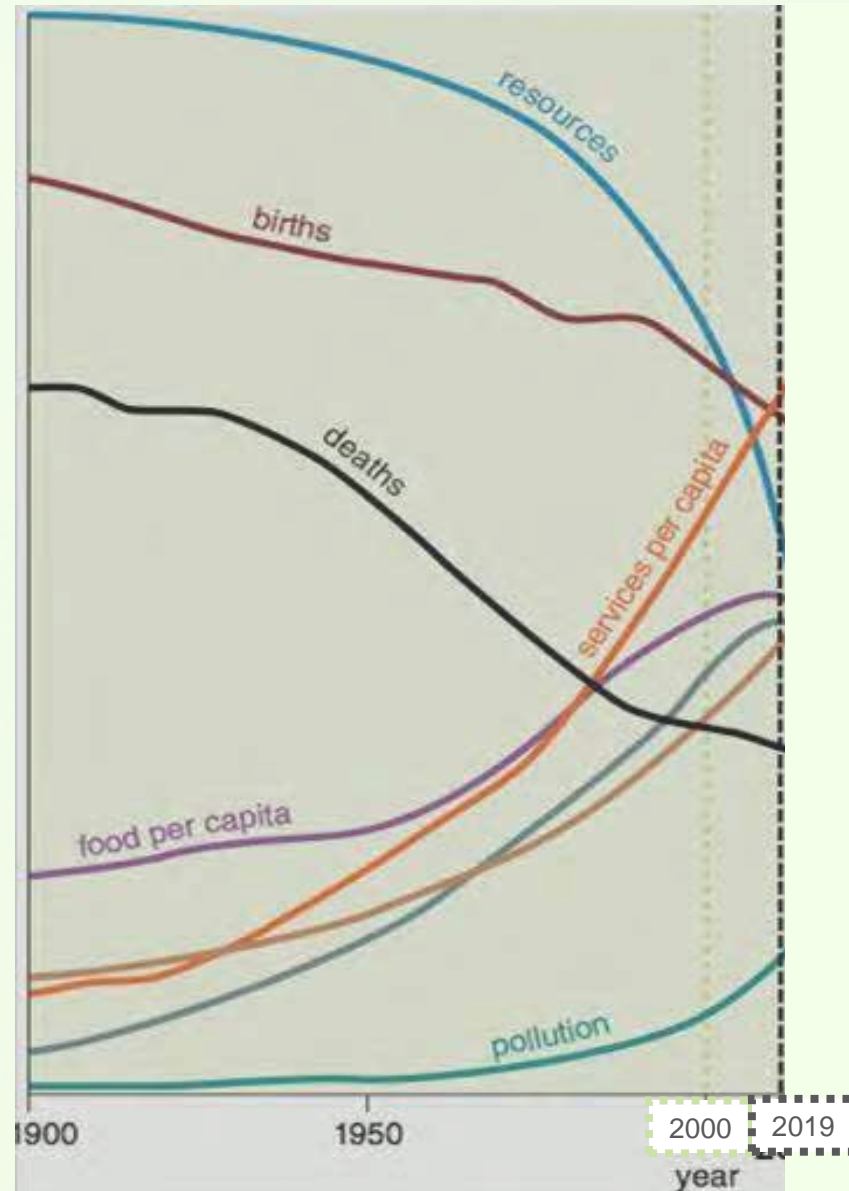


NEO-CLASSICAL
ECONOMICS

FINANCE!
THE TAIL THAT WAGS THE DOG
INFORMED BY ECONOMIC ORTHODOXY

THE PREVAILING PARADIGM OF GROWTH

NEO-CLASSICAL
ECONOMISTS'
ABSURD
CONFIRMATION
BIAS



I ONLY CONSIDER THE
COST TO ME

FIRST COST IS
PARAMOUNT

(VERY) SHORT TIME
HORIZON

IF IT IS NOT ON MY PRO-
FORMA IT MUST NOT EXIST

EXTERNALIZE LIABILITIES

WON'T THE MARKETS FIGURE IT OUT?

The efficient-market hypothesis (EMH) is a hypothesis in financial economics that states that asset prices reflect all available information.

This is obviously absurd!

BLINDNESS OF THE MARKETS

The efficient-market hypothesis (EMH) is a hypothesis in financial economics that states that asset prices reflect all available information.

Markets live in denial of limits. They are essentially blind to non-linear impacts, and work on incomplete information with numerous distortions and delays of feedback.

Paraphrased from “Limits to Growth”

BLINDNESS OF THE MARKETS + LAYERED LIMITS



BLINDNESS OF THE MARKETS + LAYERED LIMITS



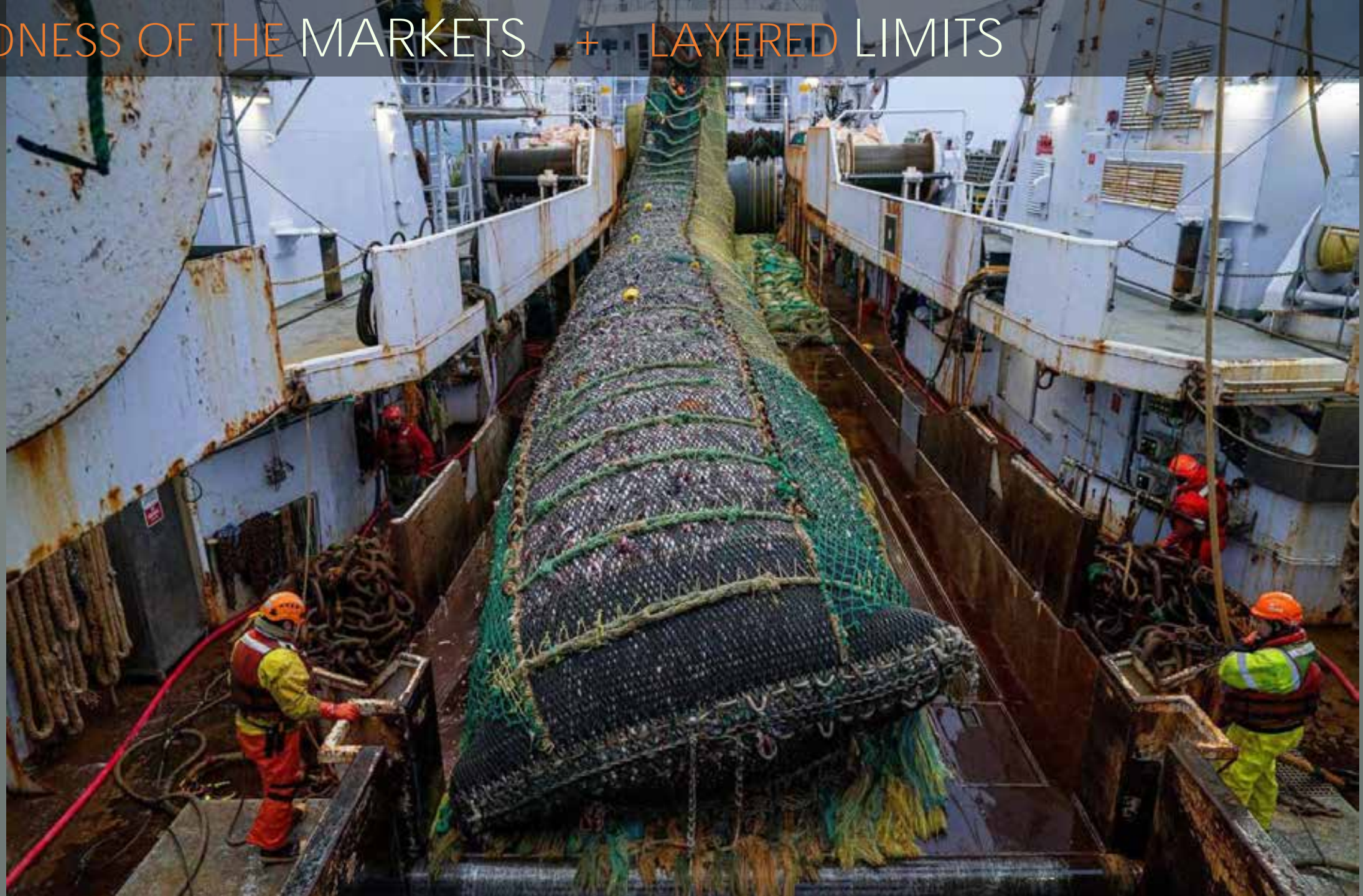
BLINDNESS OF THE MARKETS + LAYERED LIMITS



BLINDNESS OF THE MARKETS + LAYERED LIMITS



BLINDNESS OF THE MARKETS + LAYERED LIMITS



THE ULTIMATE BOUNDED RATIONALITY

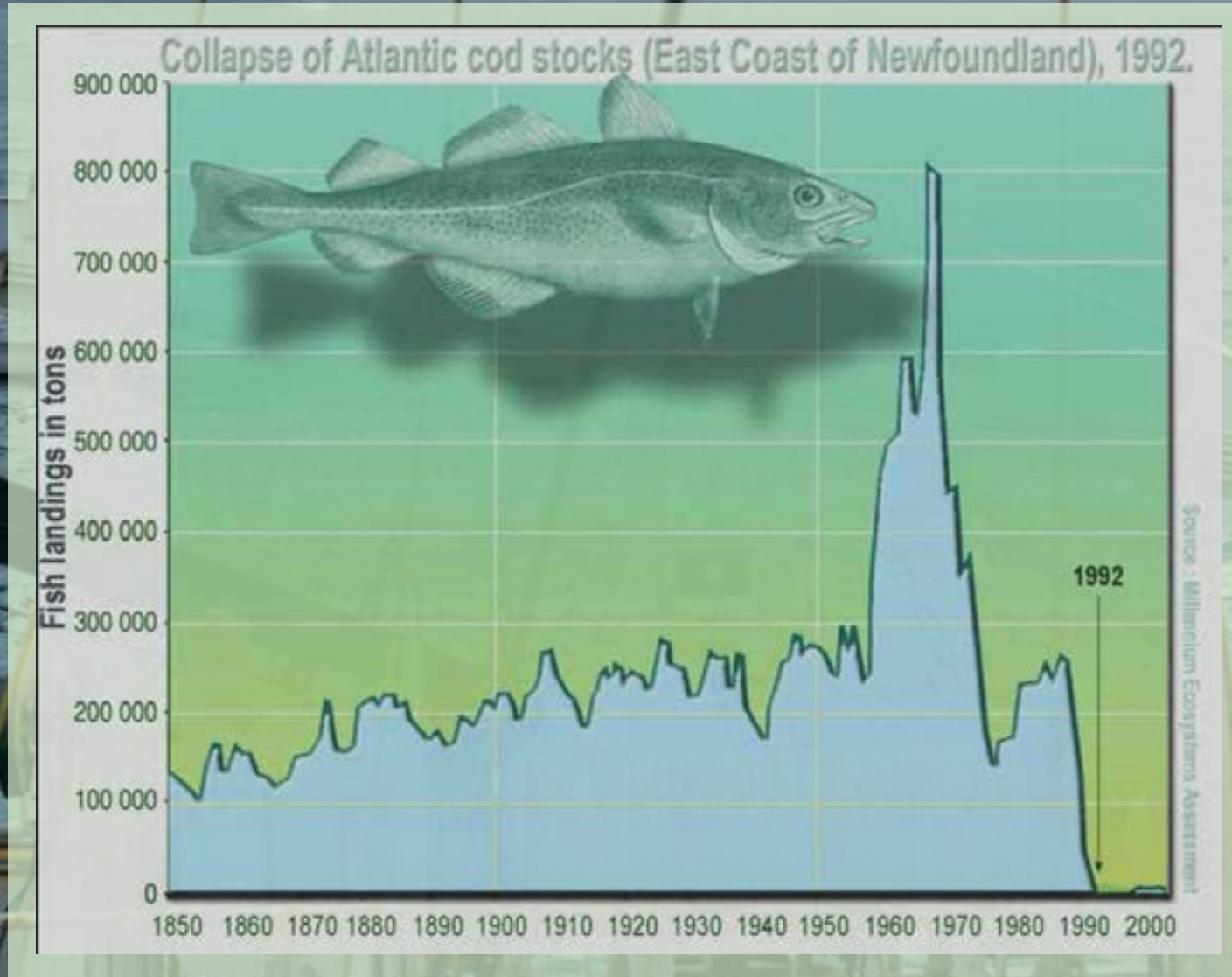


PERPETUAL **GROWTH**

WHAT'S NOT TO **LOVE?**

Most actors are behaving rationally within the confines of a defined set of boundaries with access to certain (limited) information, even if their behaviors seem irrational or are cumulatively destructive when viewed from a larger context.

If markets recognize limits, they tend to invest MORE in extraction and accelerate decline of the resource, leading to collapse!

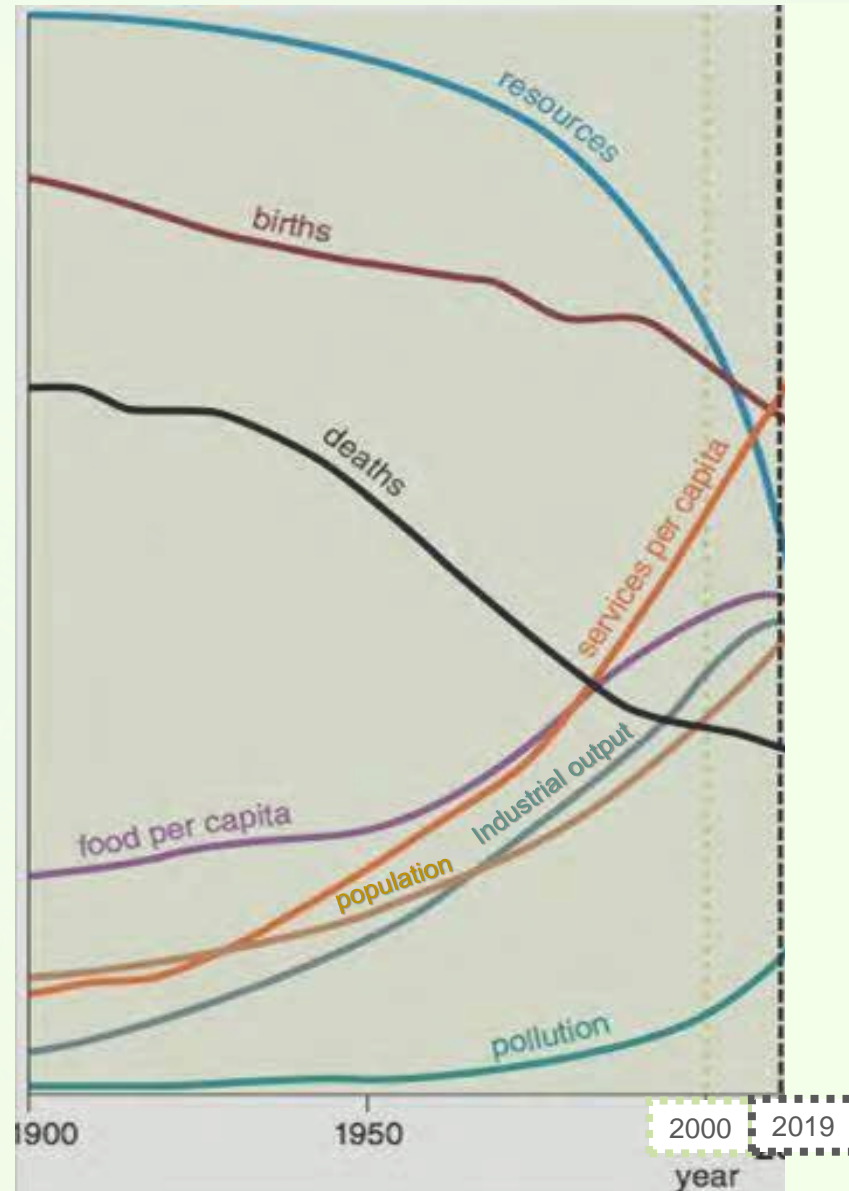


SYSTEMS ANALYSIS BOUNDARIES



THE PREVAILING PARADIGM OF GROWTH

NEO-CLASSICAL
ECONOMISTS'
ABSURD
CONFIRMATION
BIAS



I ONLY CONSIDER THE
COST TO ME

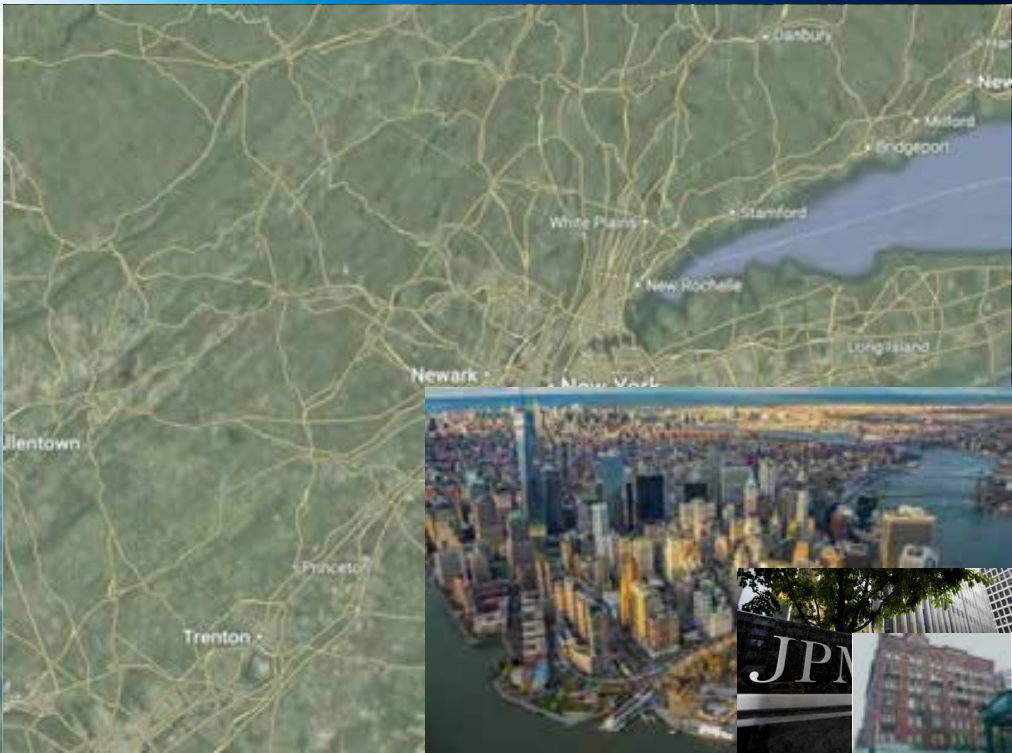
FIRST COST IS
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(VERY) SHORT TIME
HORIZON

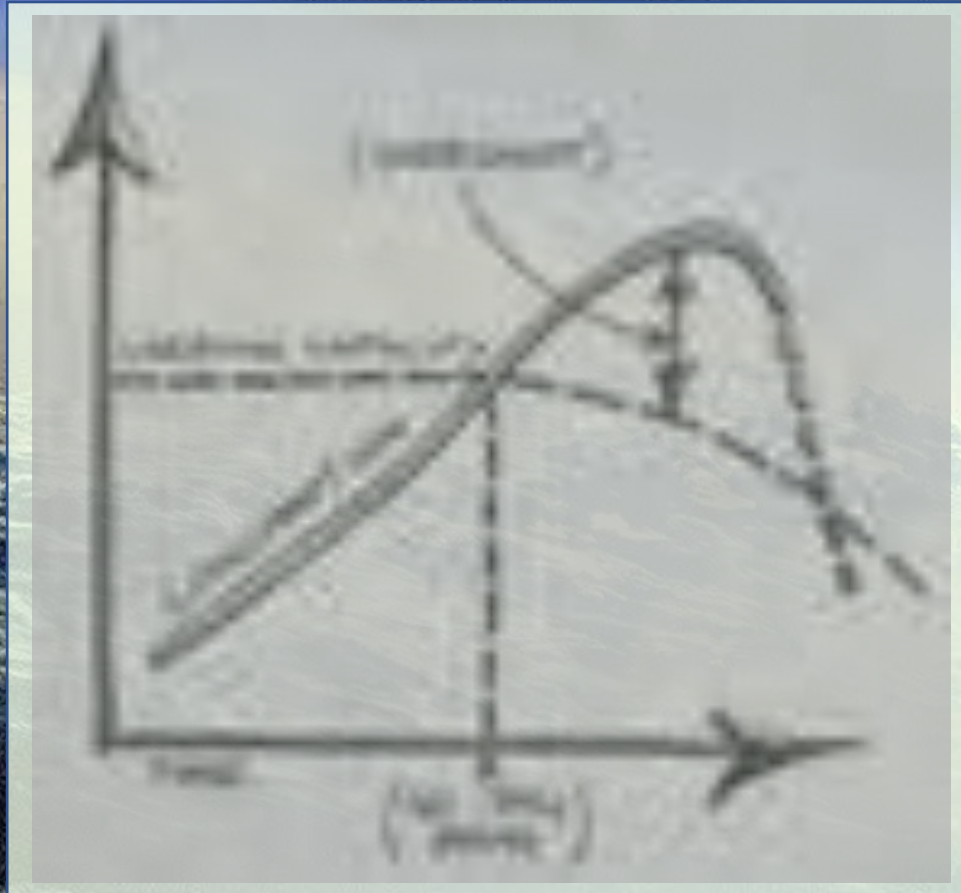
IF IT IS NOT ON MY PRO-
FORMA IT MUST NOT EXIST

EXTERNALIZE LIABILITIES

CHANGE YOUR SYSTEMS ANALYSIS BOUNDARIES

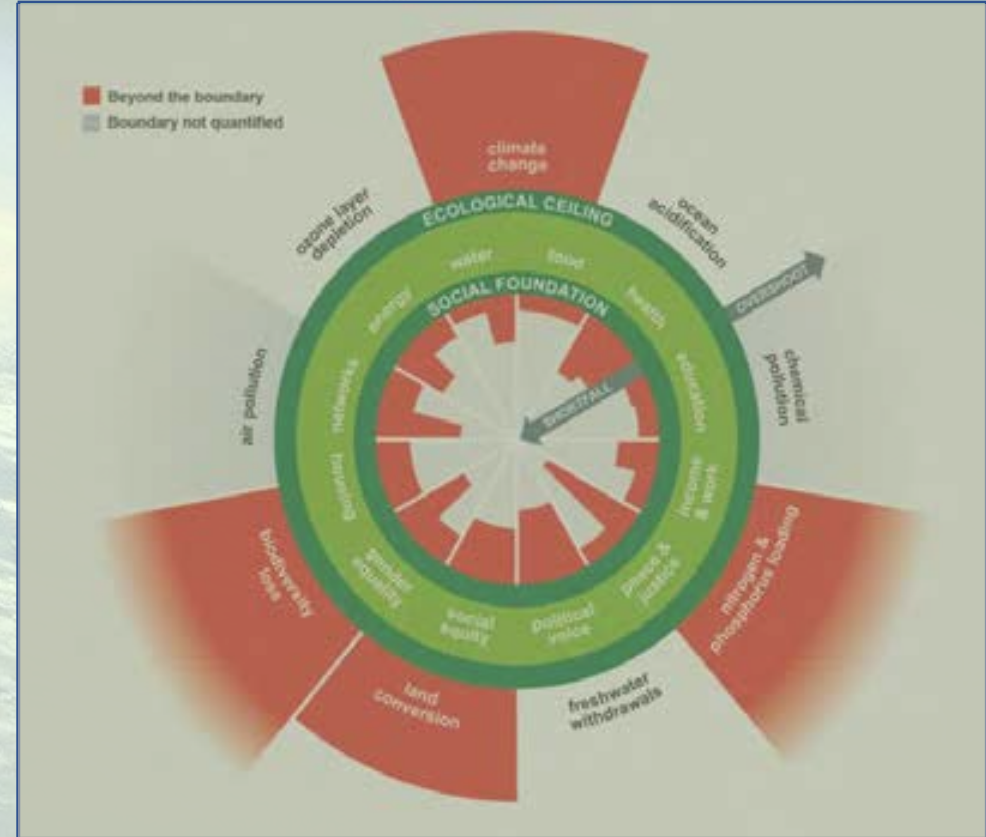
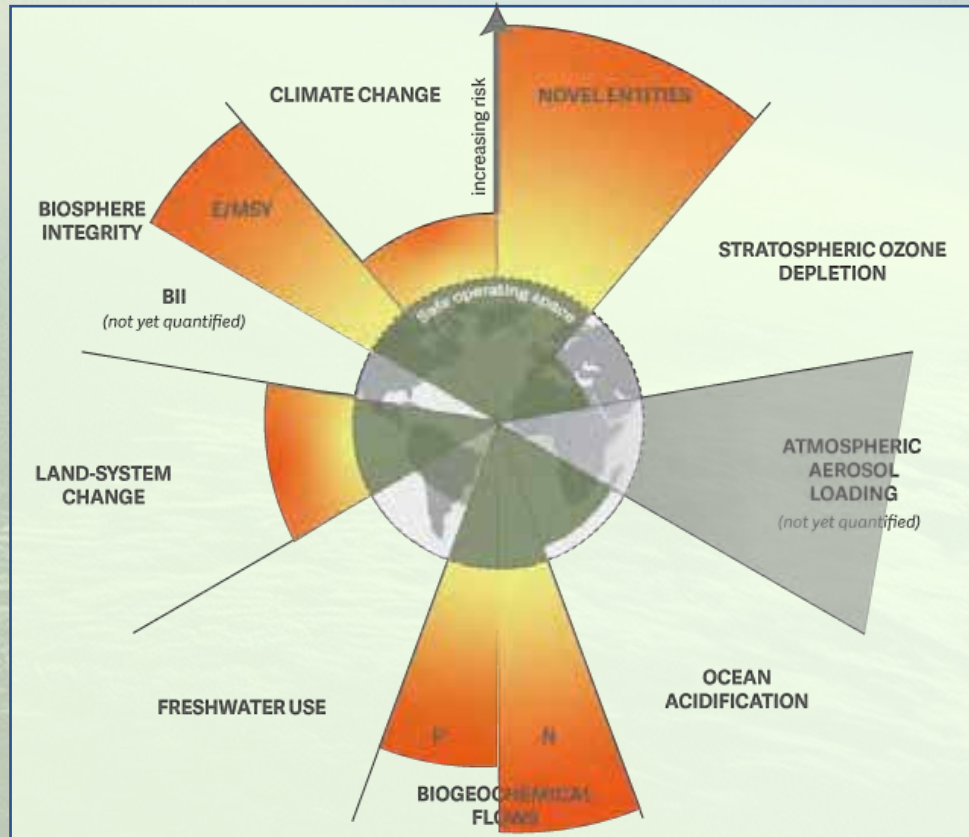


WE NEED THREE PLANETS



FROM "OUR ECOLOGICAL FOOTPRINT" BY MATHIS WACKERNAGEL + WILLIAM REES, 1962

WE NEED THREE PLANETS



OVERSHOOT IS REALITY : WHAT IS OUR FUTURE?

FOUR CONCEIVABLE OUTCOMES

138 World3: The Dynamics of Growth in a Finite World

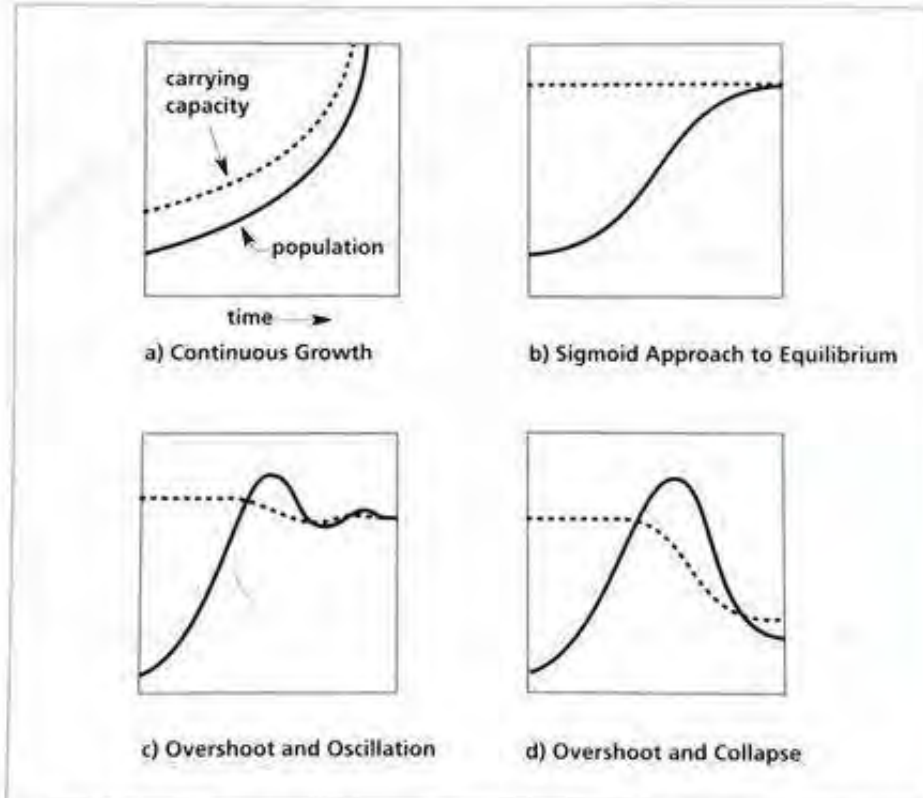


FIGURE 4-3 Possible Modes of Approach of a Population to Its Carrying Capacity
The central question addressed by the World3 model is: Which of these behavior modes is likely to be the result as the human population and economy approach the global carrying capacity?

a) Pure fantasy

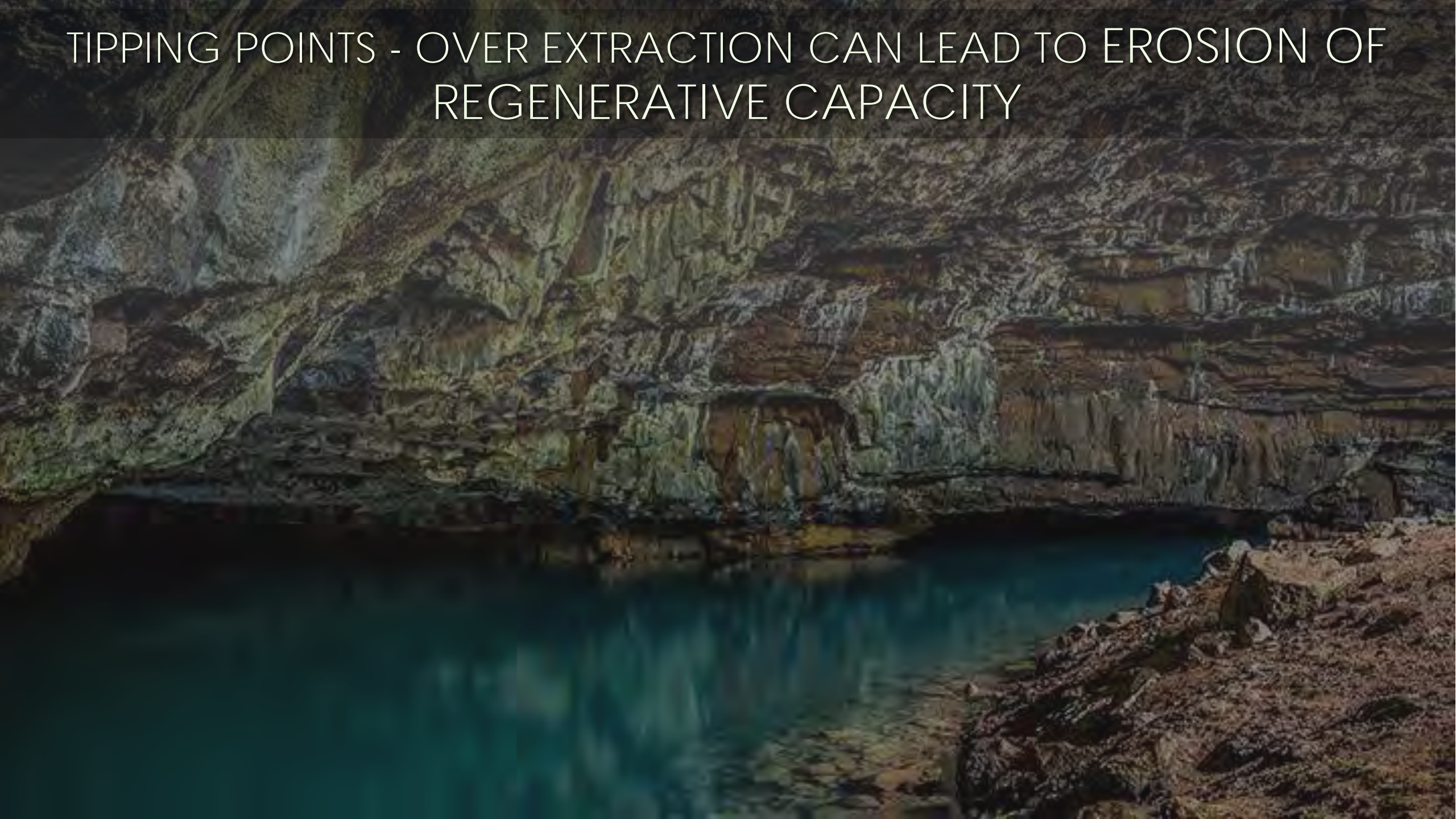
b) Too late

c) The *ONLY* available path

d) Our current trajectory

Recent Past: 1961-2079

TIPPING POINTS - OVER EXTRACTION CAN LEAD TO EROSION OF REGENERATIVE CAPACITY



FORMERLY RENEWABLE RESOURCES

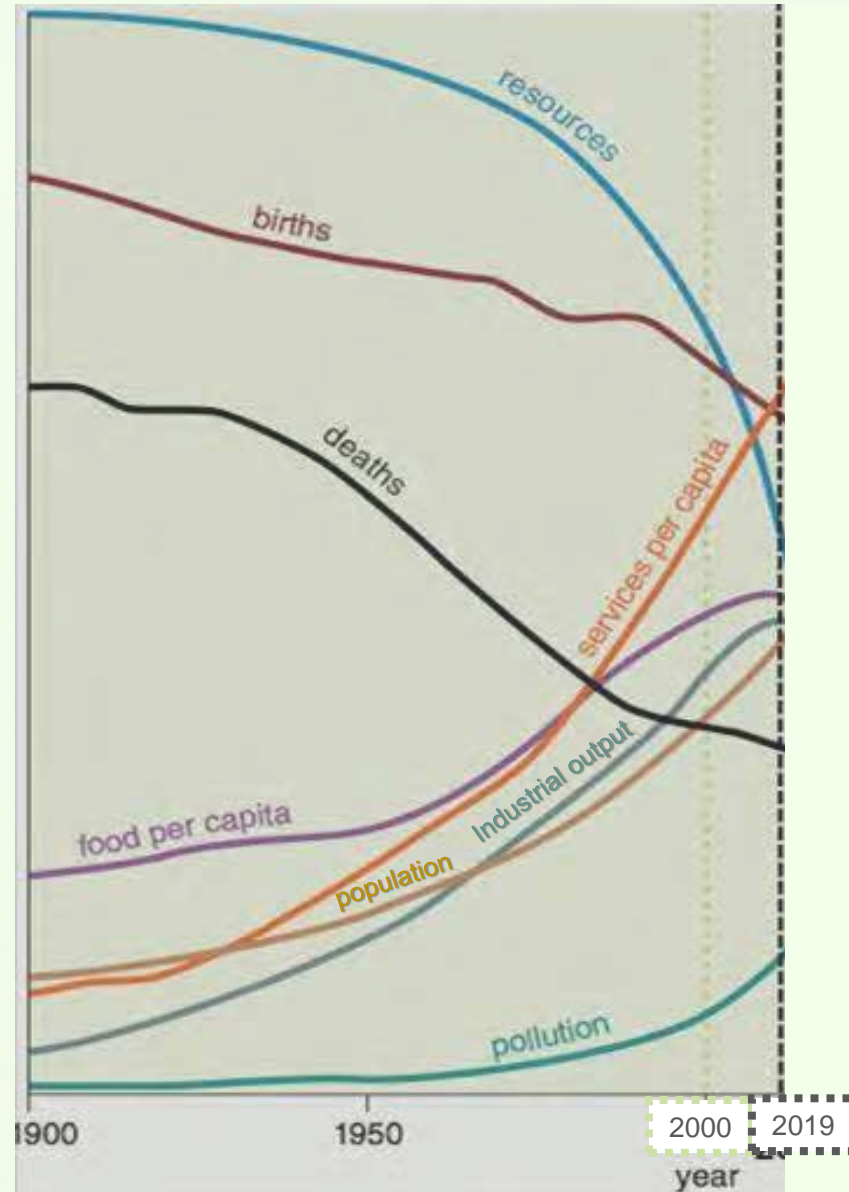
EROSION OF REGENERATIVE CAPACITY



ALL HAVE REGENERATION RATES - SOME ARE ERODABLE
MAY BE GONE FOREVER (FOR HUMAN TIMESCALE)

THE PREVAILING PARADIGM OF GROWTH

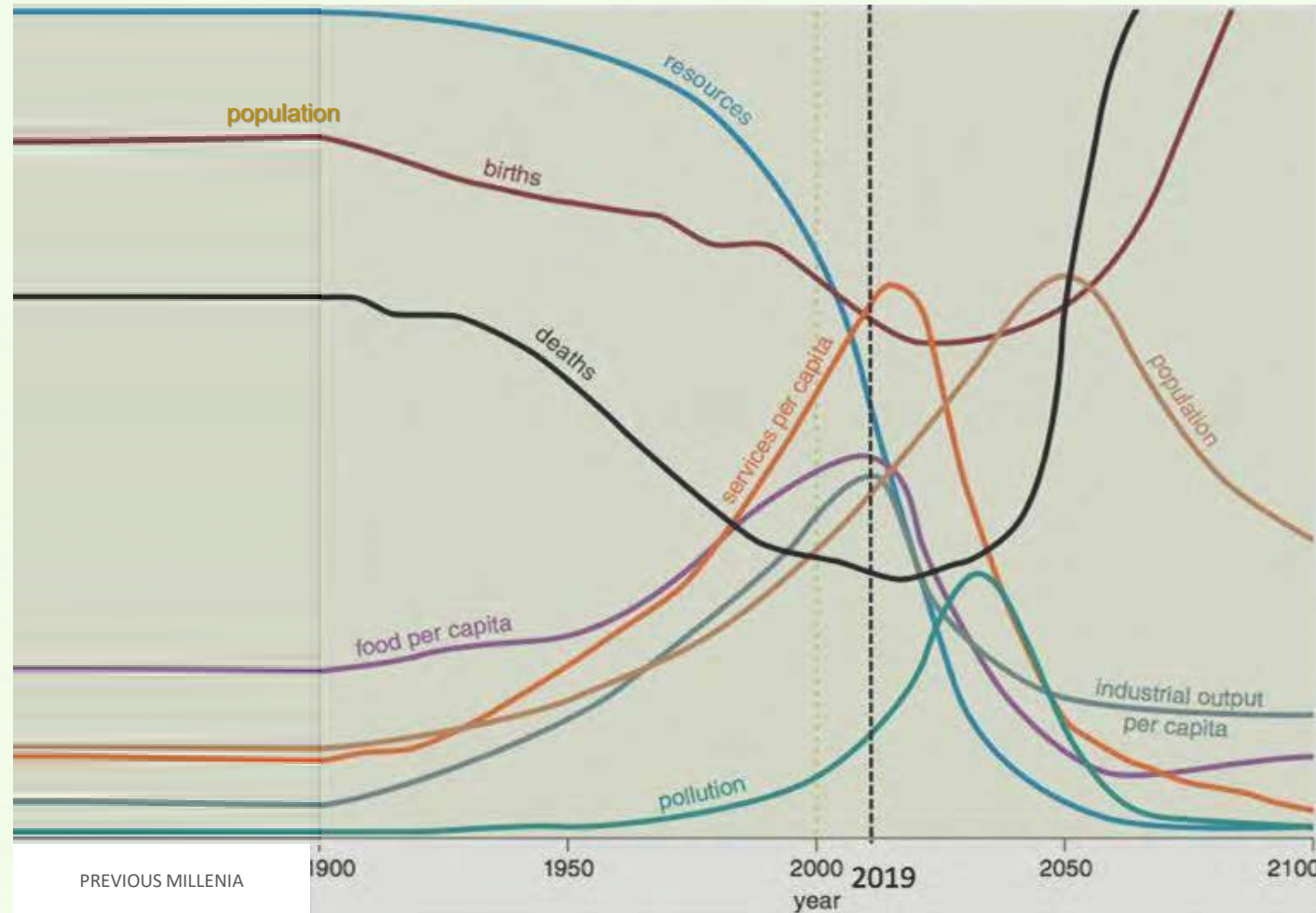
NEO-CLASSICAL
ECONOMISTS'
ABSURD
CONFIRMATION
BIAS



PERPETUAL **GROWTH**

WHAT'S NOT TO **LOVE?**

THE NON-DELUSIONAL VIEW



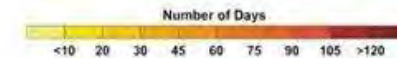
EXPONENTIAL, NON-LINEAR VARIABLES

DELAYED FEEDBACK

DESTRUCTION OF RESOURCES AND EROSION OF RENEWABILITY

LAYERED LIMITS

OVERSHOOT AND COLLAPSE



temperature map images: U.S. Global Change Research Program

ECONOMIC ORTHODOXY



I ONLY CONSIDER THE
COST **TO ME**

FIRST COST IS
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(VERY) SHORT TIME
HORIZON

IF IT IS NOT ON MY PRO-
FORMA **IT MUST NOT EXIST**

EXTERNALIZE LIABILITIES

WE ARE BEING COST BENEFITED TO DEATH

A photograph showing the aftermath of a fire, with a semi-transparent text box overlaid. The scene is filled with charred debris, including a destroyed house, a metal frame, and a damaged vehicle. The text reads:

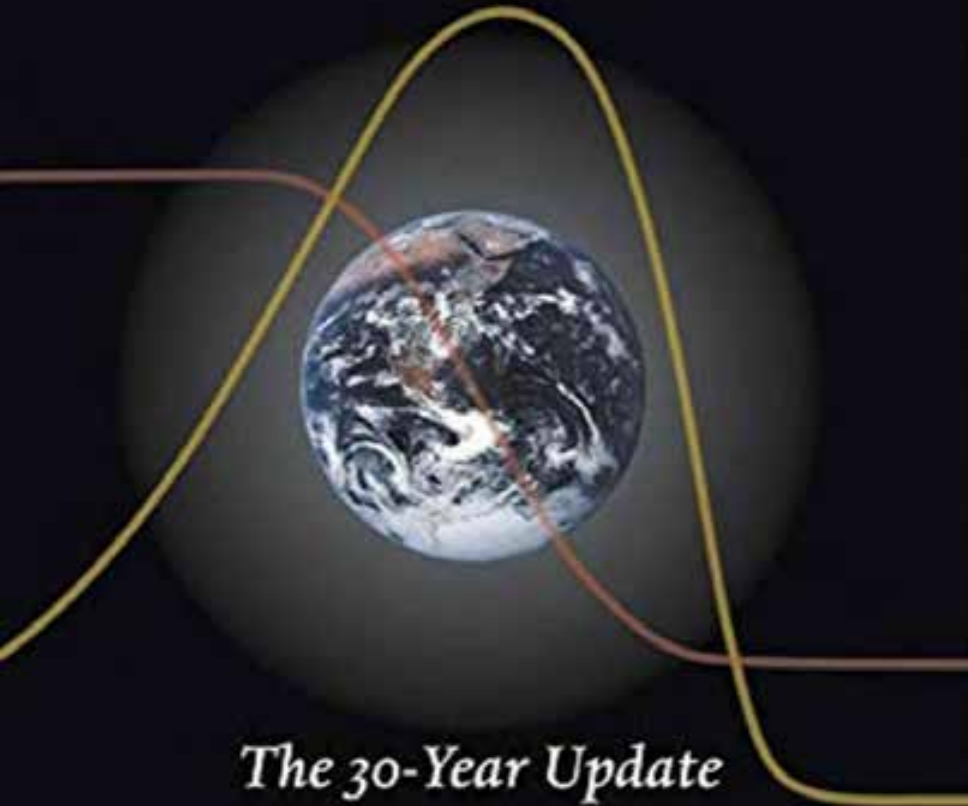
WHAT DOES IT COST . . . IF WE FAIL?

SO, I SAY

LONG LIVE THE DER



LIMITS TO GROWTH



The 30-Year Update

DONELLA MEADOWS | JORGEN RANDERS | DENNIS MEADOWS

SYSTEMIC THINKING

SYSTEMIC ACTION

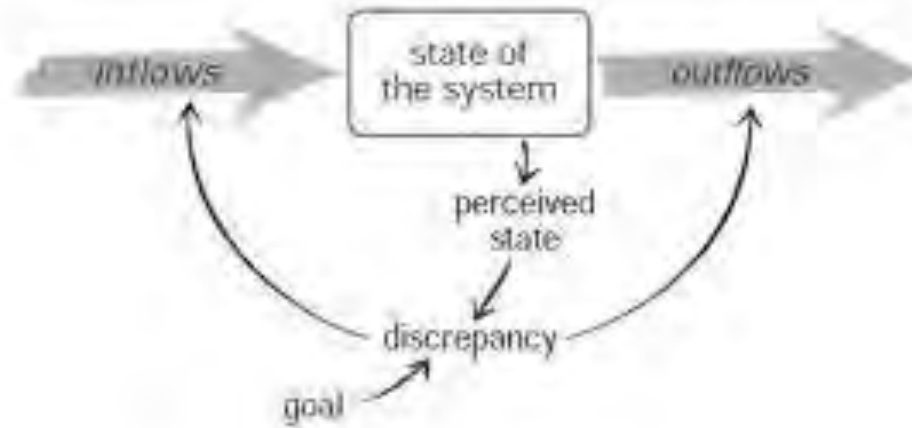


HOW DO WE GAIN PURCHASE WITHIN THE SYSTEM?

WHAT IS THE GOAL?

REINFORCING OR RESTRAINING FEEDBACK LOOPS

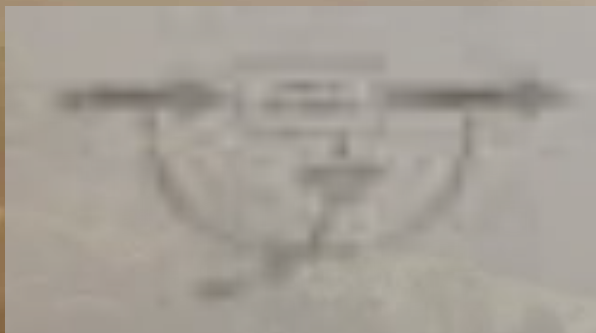
WHAT IS THE MARKET SIGNAL?



Desertification exacerbates the drought in California's central valley

Market signal demands higher yield/acre → intensive mono-crop commodity production → tilling causes soil erosion → less organic matter in soil → higher use of fertilizer and pesticide + more irrigation → depletion of soil biome + less nutrients + moisture retained in soil → less robust plants → circle back to higher use of fertilizer, pesticide use + irrigation = runaway, self reinforcing feedback loop. We have lost 50% of the soil on planet earth in the last 150 years.

WHAT IF WE PROVIDE A DIFFERENT MARKET SIGNAL?



**REGEN
NETWORK**

Platform for a Thriving Planet

Science Team Deep Dive

1/22/2021

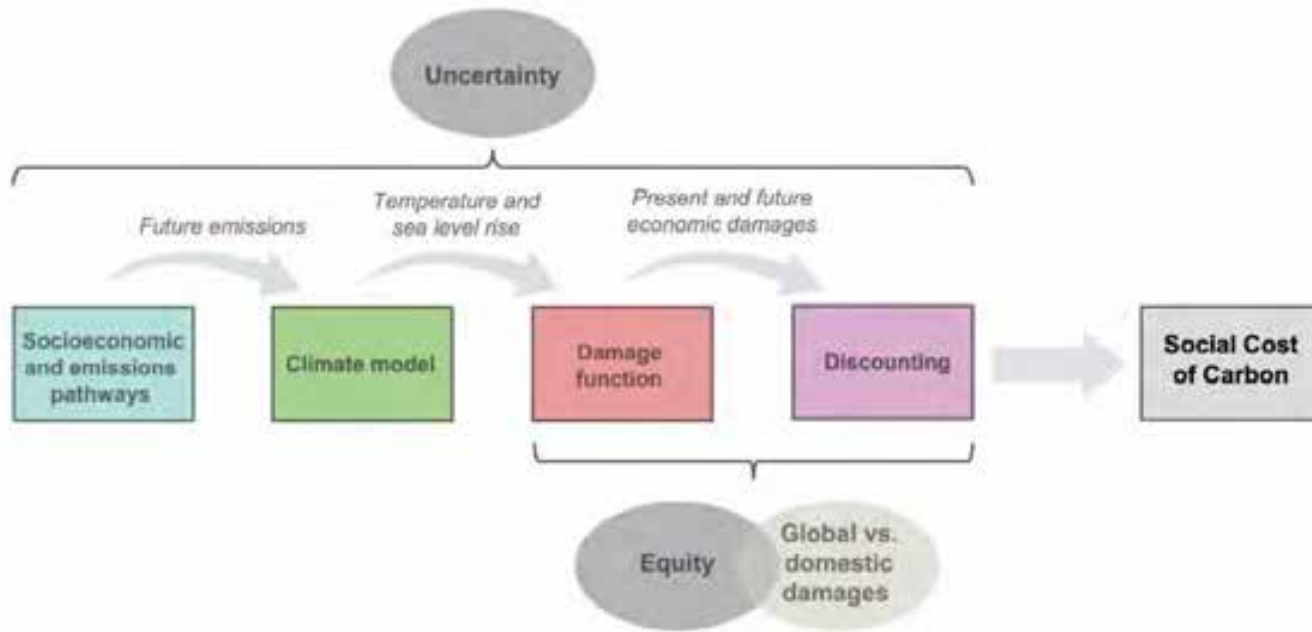
Regen Network Science Team
Gisel Booman
Sam Bennetts
Sophia Leiker

Satellite Carbon monitoring in soil pays farmers to engage in regenerative agriculture

WHAT IS THE COST OF EMITTING CARBON?



THE SOCIAL COST OF CARBON?



- Cost of Future Damages
 - vs.
 - Cost of Mitigation
- To Determine **“Optimal”** Policy

THE SOCIAL COST OF CARBON?

An aerial photograph of a residential neighborhood that has been severely flooded. The water is murky and covers most of the ground, with only the roofs of houses and some trees visible. A semi-transparent white text box is centered over the image, containing text about the social cost of carbon (SCC) for the Biden and Trump administrations, and a specific estimate for Massachusetts.

CURRENT PROPOSED LEVELS OF SCC

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION - \$190

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION - \$7

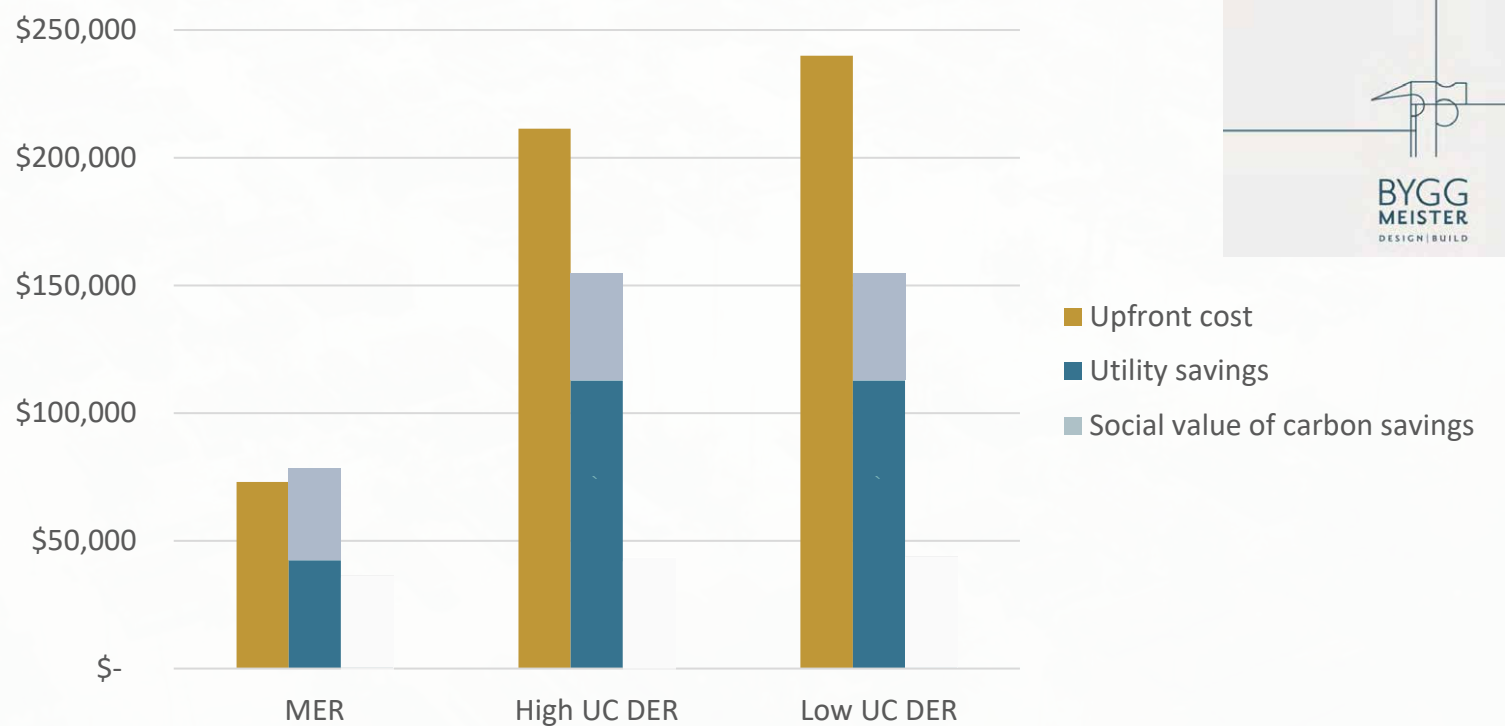
MASSACHUSETTS - \$128 (~~OR \$393?~~)

ESTIMATES AS HIGH AS \$2000

THE SOCIAL COST OF CARBON?

NET COST 2020-2050

MASSACHUSETTS' SCC - \$128

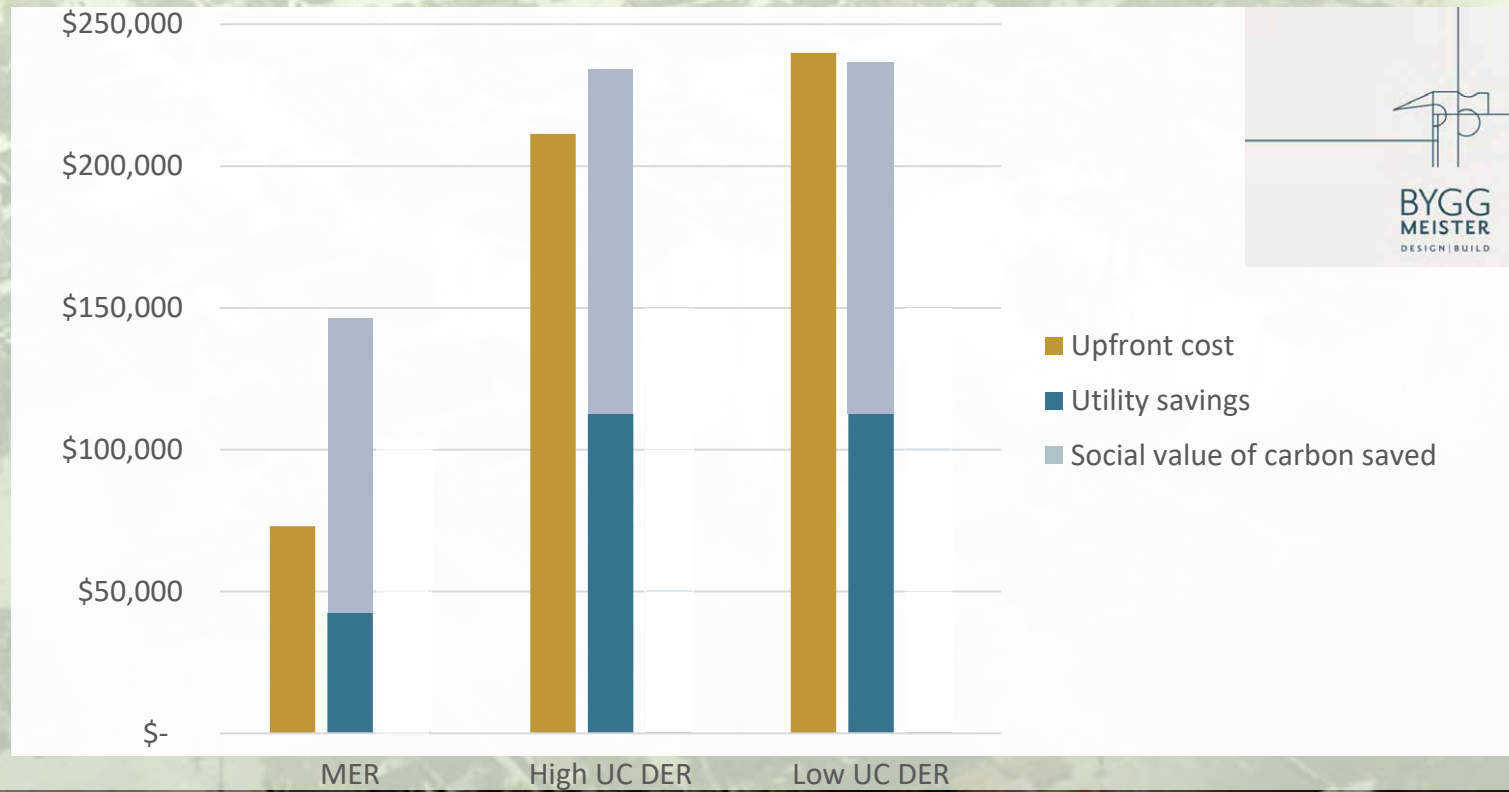


	Net Cost (Savings) 2020-2050
Moderate Retrofit	\$(4,881)
High UC DER	\$56,574
Low UC DER	\$84,180

THE SOCIAL COST OF CARBON?

NET COST 2020-2050

MASSACHUSETTS' SCC - \$393



	Net Cost (Savings) 2020-2050
Moderate Retrofit	\$(72,654)
High UC DER	\$(23,379)
Low UC DER	\$2,173

THE CARINA, PITTSBURGH, PA

Passive to **POSITIVE**
PASSIVE HOUSE AND LOW IMPACT DESIGN



Team

Developer:
Beacon Communities
Architect: Desmone
Structural: Atlantic
MEP: Staengl Engineering
Landscape Architect: Pashek/MTR
Passive House Consulting:
Passive to Positive
GC: Mistick Construction

Program

45 units of affordable
first floor amenities
Adjacent Community Center

Stats

Passive House
(PHIUS 2021) Design Certification

Roof-top solar array for further reductions of
operational energy

Phase

Phase 1 Complete and Occupied

Passive House, Retrofit - Mixed use Development

The 1954 Hebrew School was retrofitted to Passive House standards with a 2 story addition to provide 45 units of affordable housing and amenity space.

The adjacent 1923 synagogue will be retrofit to Passive House Standards in Phase 2 to provide a community theater and arts space.

Rooftop solar will provide a significant percentage of the building's energy requirements, and energy storage will provide for grid citizenship and resiliency.



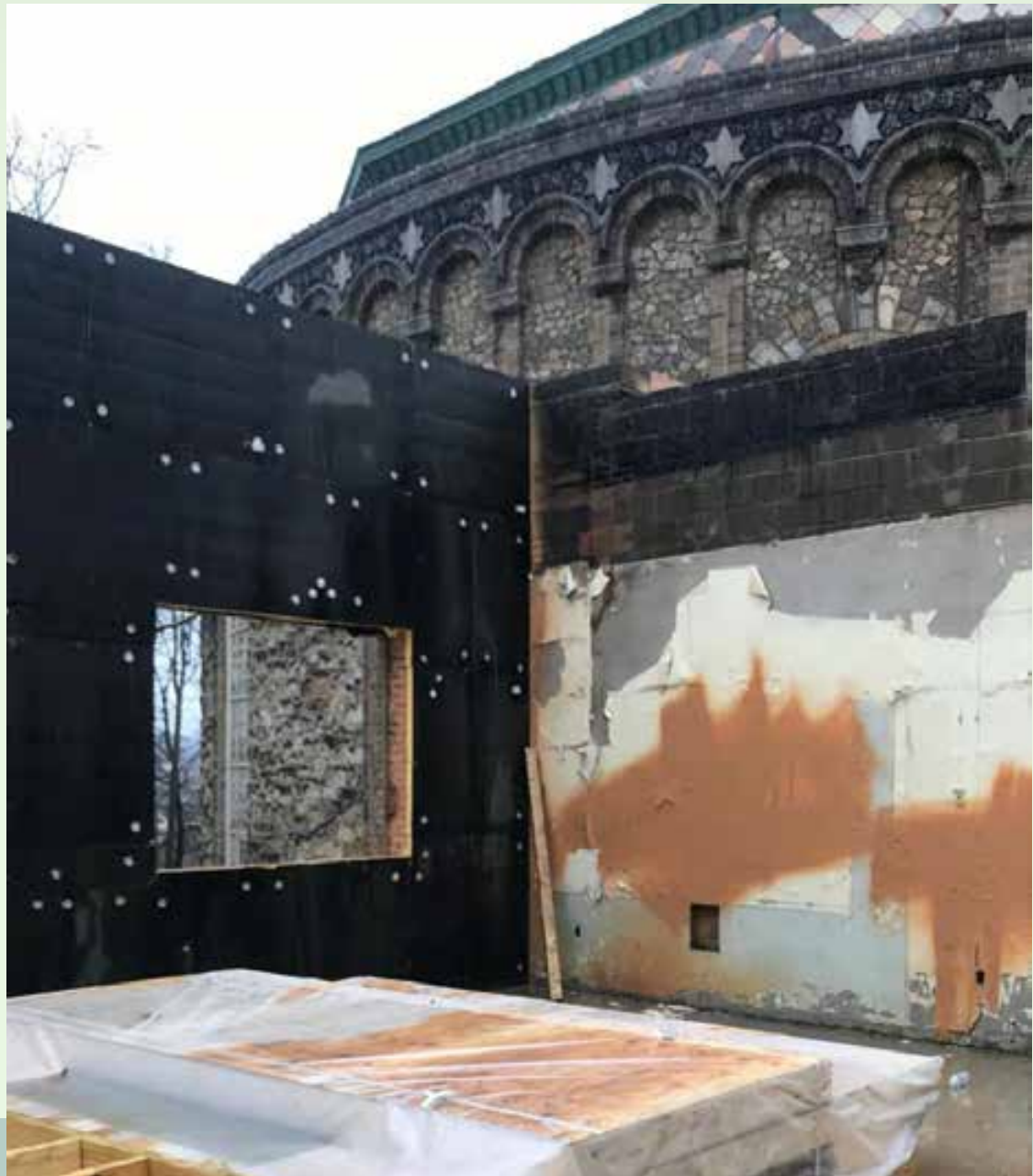
THE CARINA, PITTSBURGH, PA



THE CARINA, PITTSBURGH, PA



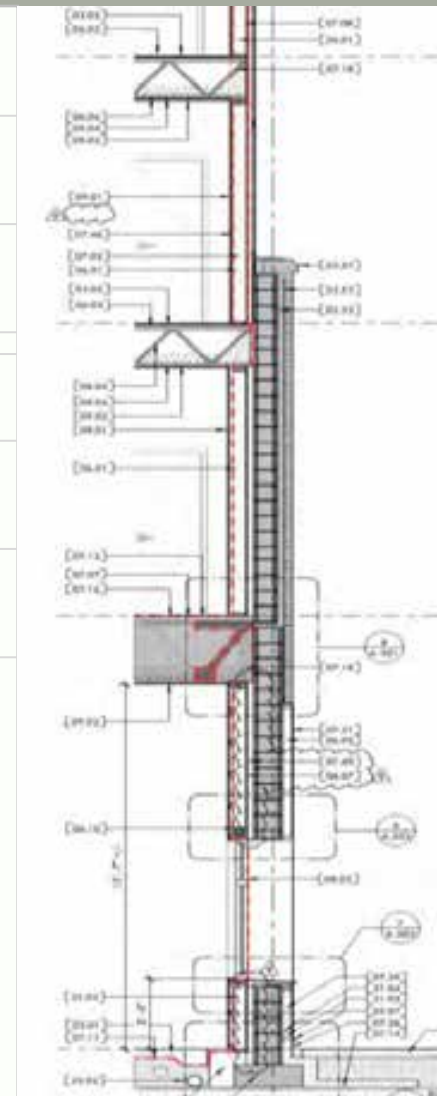
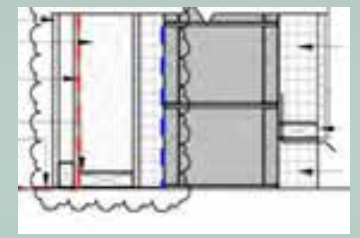
THE CARINA, PITTSBURGH, PA



NEGLEY WALL TYPE ANALYSIS

RETROFIT WITH POLYISO vs. BIOGENIC INSULATION

ATHENA IMPACT ESTIMATOR +
EXTERNAL EC3 DATA



NEGLEY WHOLE-ISH BUILDING ANALYSIS

CONVENTIONAL CONSTRUCTION vs. BoD

BEAM IMPACT ESTIMATOR +
EXTERNAL EC3 DATA

MATERIAL CARBON PROJECT RESULTS



PROJECT INFORMATION			
Project Name	North Negley Residences	Construction Year	
Design Firm(s)	Desmone Architects	Number of Bedrooms	
Engineering Firm(s)		Stories Above Grade	4
Builder / Developer		CONDITIONED AREA	
Development Project		Above Grade	64072 ft ²
Street Address	321 N. Negley Avenue	Below Grade	1999 ft ²
City	Pittsburgh	Total	66071 ft ²
Province / State	Pennsylvania	GROSS AREA	
Country	United States	Excluding Garage	66071 ft ²
Building Type	Apartment (all units)	Garage	0 ft ²
Construction Type	Energy Retrofit	Total	66071 ft ²
Project Stage	Construction in Progress		

MATERIAL CARBON EMISSIONS BY SECTION			
Footings & Slabs	704,889 kg CO ₂ e		
Foundation Walls	6,863 kg CO ₂ e		
Structural Elements	50,747 kg CO ₂ e		
Exterior Walls	99,648 kg CO ₂ e		
Party Walls	30,175 kg CO ₂ e		
Exterior Wall Cladding	33,835 kg CO ₂ e		
Windows	40,179 kg CO ₂ e		
Interior Walls	52,305 kg CO ₂ e		
Floors	107,885 kg CO ₂ e		
Ceilings	16,440 kg CO ₂ e		
Roof	50,611 kg CO ₂ e		
Garage	0 kg CO ₂ e		
NET TOTAL	1,193,576 kg CO₂e	MCE (kg CO ₂ e)	705,000

MATERIAL CARBON PROJECT RESULTS



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Building Type	Apartment (all units)	Garage	0 ft ²
Construction Type	Energy Retrofit	Total	66071 ft ²
Project Stage	Construction in Progress		

MATERIAL CARBON EMISSIONS BY SECTION			
Footings & Slabs	603,319 kg CO ₂ e		
Foundation Walls	6,863 kg CO ₂ e		
Structural Elements	50,747 kg CO ₂ e		
Exterior Walls	27,902 kg CO ₂ e		
Party Walls	30,175 kg CO ₂ e		
Exterior Wall Cladding	33,835 kg CO ₂ e		
Windows	40,179 kg CO ₂ e		
Interior Walls	33,740 kg CO ₂ e		
Floors	107,885 kg CO ₂ e		
Ceilings	16,440 kg CO ₂ e		
Roof	50,611 kg CO ₂ e		
Garage	0 kg CO ₂ e		
NET TOTAL	1,001,703 kg CO₂e	MCE (kg CO ₂ e)	605,000



Embodied carbon of Building Envelope + Structure

192 metric tons CO₂ emissions avoided

- at \$128/ton = \$24,576 (Mass Save)
- At \$190/ton = \$36,456 (Biden EPA @2% discount)
- At \$393/ton = \$75,406 (Mass Save high end – rejected)
- At \$1000/ton = \$191,873 (Pure Hypothetical)



PASSIVE HOUSE OPERATIONAL CARBON REDUCTIONS + SOLAR AND EC REDUCTIONS

Savings CO₂e operational 10 years = 1558 MT

Savings CO₂Ee Embodied = 192 MT 192+1558 = 1750 MT avoided Carbon

- at \$128/ton = \$224,000 (Mass Save)
- At \$190/ton = \$336,000 (Biden EPA @2% discount)
- At \$393/ton = \$687,750 (Mass Save high end – rejected)
- At \$1000/ton = \$1,750,000 (Pure Hypothetical)

THE NEW CARBON ARCHITECTURE CAPTURE AND STORE CARBON



A THOUGHT EXPERIMENT USING 11 E LENOX ST. ROXBURY MA



Best Case Design (low refrigerant) + PV + 10 years of operation

1375 metric tons CO₂ emissions avoided

- at \$128/ton = \$91,284 (Mass Save)
- At \$190/ton = \$135,501 (Biden EPA @2% discount)
- At \$393/ton = \$280,272 (Mass Save high end – rejected)
- At \$1000/ton = \$713,162 (Pure Hypothetical)

Best Case Design (low refrigerant) + PV + 10 years of operation

+ CARBON STORAGE IN TIMBER

1610 metric tons CO₂ emissions avoided

- at \$128/ton = \$206,120 (Mass Save)
- At \$190/ton = \$305,960 (Biden EPA @2% discount)
- At \$393/ton = \$632,854 (Mass Save high end – rejected)
- At \$1000/ton = \$1,610,316 (Pure Hypothetical)

WILL PUTTING A VALUE ON CARBON MAKE RETROFITS COST-EFFECTIVE?

Conclusion:

it all depends on the value of carbon – with current valuation it appears we are nowhere near COST EFFECTIVE.

IAM's = INTEGRATED ASSESSMENT MODELS

ARE NOT APPROPRIATELY TARGETED

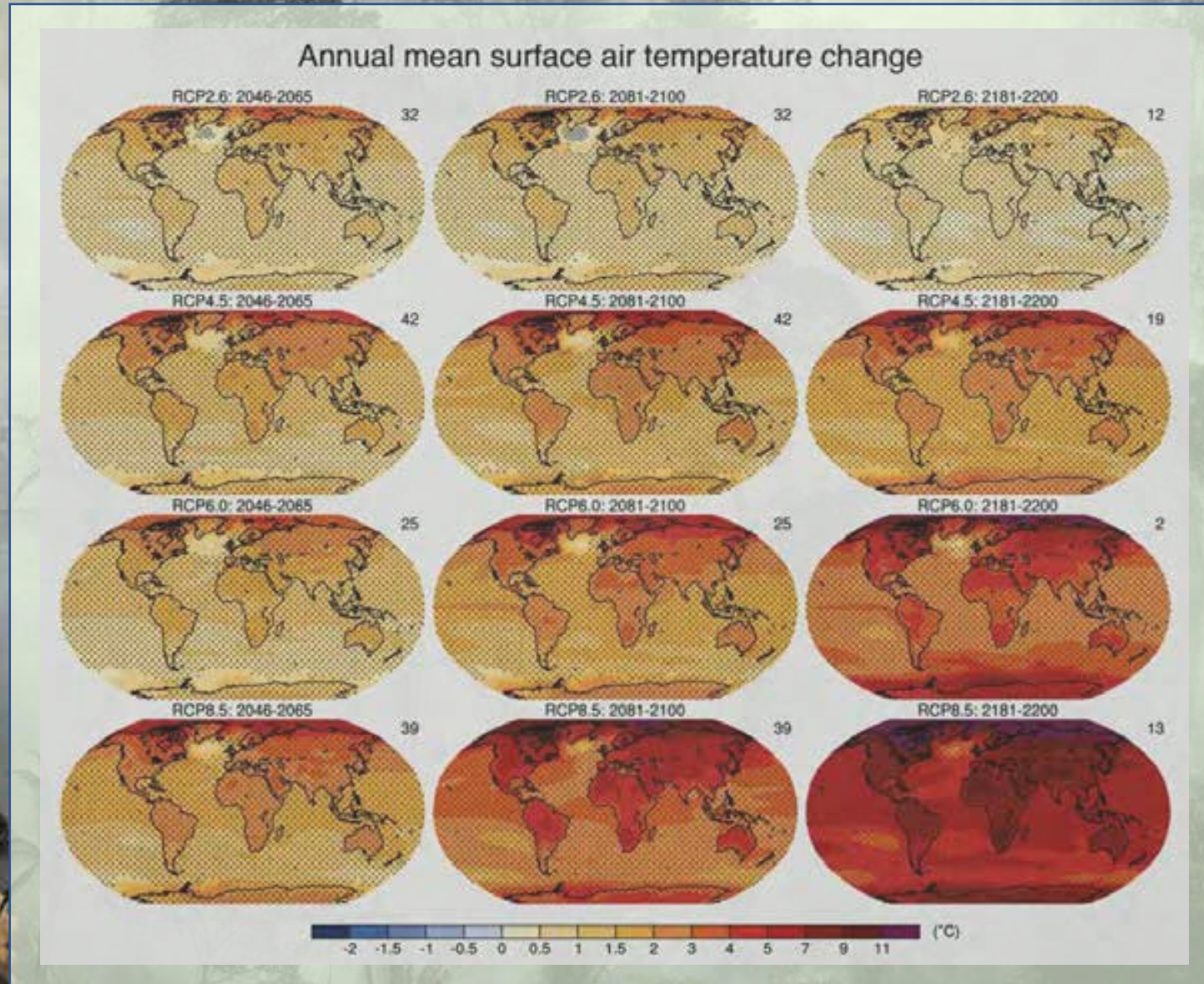
**MODELS' SCC's ARE CONSISTENTLY TOO LOW TO SUPPORT THE COST
OF MITIGATION**

**MOST SET PARAMETERS THAT WOULD YIELD 3-4° C
TEMPURATURE RISE**

NOT EVEN AN ACCEPTABLE OUTCOME

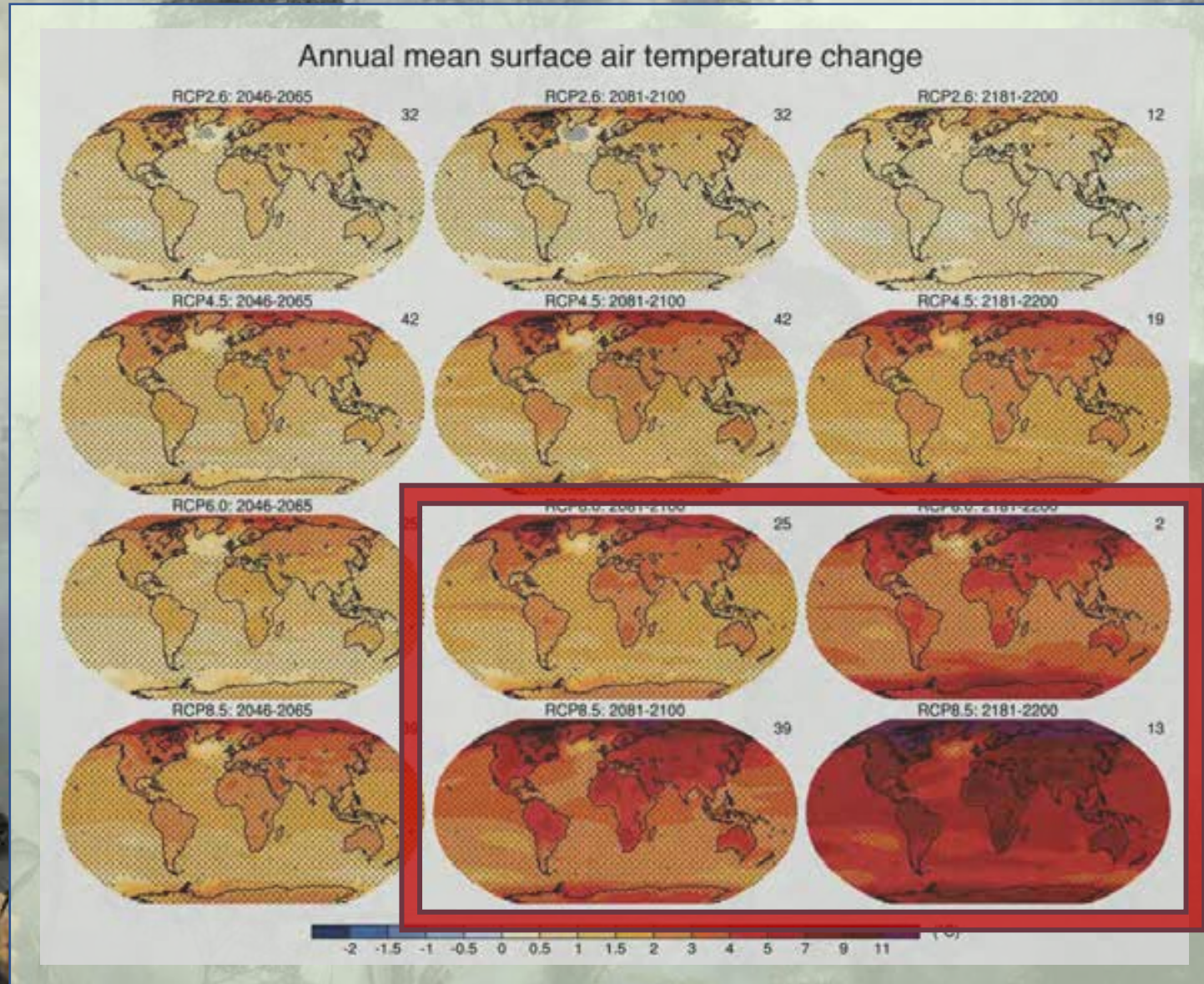
SO HOW DO WE VALUE CARBON?

PROBLEM #1



SO HOW DO WE VALUE CARBON?

PROBLEM #1



SO HOW DO WE VALUE CARBON?

PROBLEM #1

IAM's = INTEGRATED ASSESMENT MODELS

*MUST SET A BASELINE OF SURVIVAL
OR
IT IS POINTLESS*

HOW DO WE VALUE CARBON?

PROBLEM #2



IN MANY IAM MODELS, **GROWTH IS EXOGENOUS**

- PREDETERMINED AND CONSTANT

- COMPLETELY IGNORES LASTING IMPACT ON CAPITAL AND
GROWTH (??!!?!?!?)

DOES NOT CAPTURE THE POTENTIAL MARKET GROWTH
OF **CLIMATE SOLUTIONS**

SO HOW DO WE VALUE CARBON?

PROBLEM #3



IAM'S DO NOT ACCOUNT FOR UNCERTAINTY OF RISK



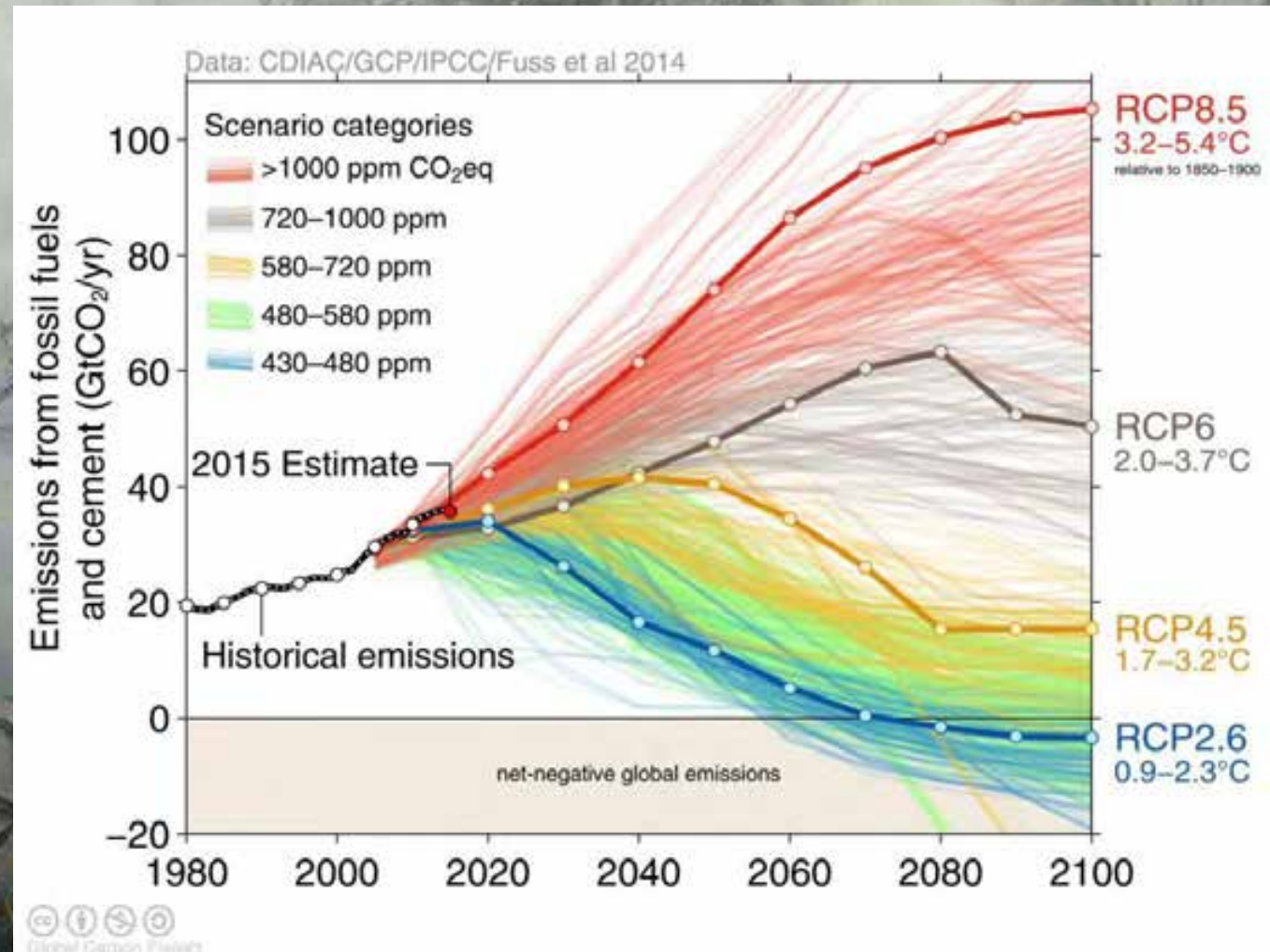
UNKNOWN UNKNOWNNS

MARGIN OF ERROR IN
ESTIMATES GOES UP WITH
INCREASE IN TEMPERATURE

SO HOW DO WE VALUE CARBON?

PROBLEM #3

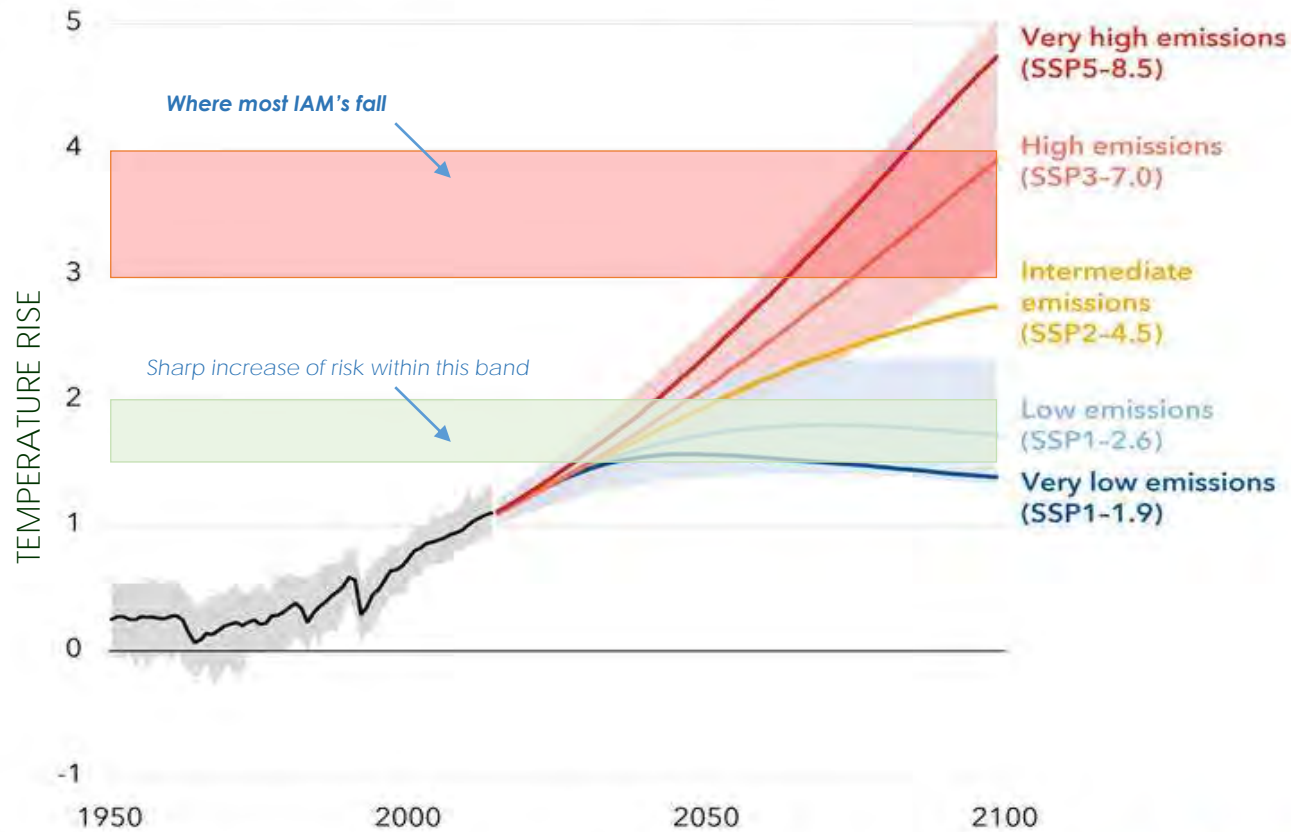
THE HIGHER WE LET THE TEMPERATURE RISE,
THE WIDER THE UNCERTAINTY



Uncertain future

There is significant uncertainty about the trajectory of global emissions and as a result global warming.

(temperature change in °C, scenarios used by the IPCC)



Source: IPCC, 2021 Summary for Policymakers.

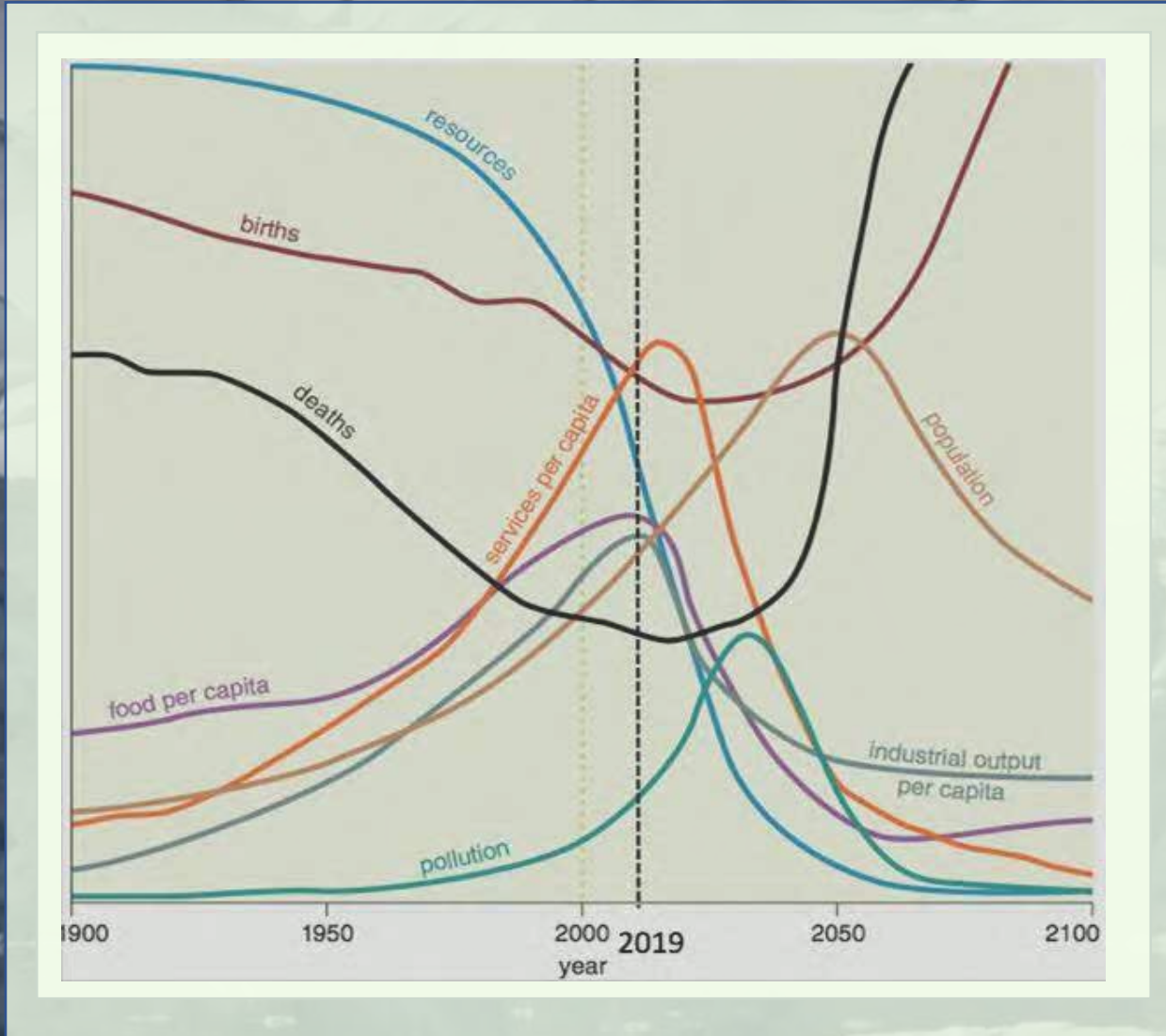
Note: Global surface temperature change relative to the period 1850-1900.

IMF

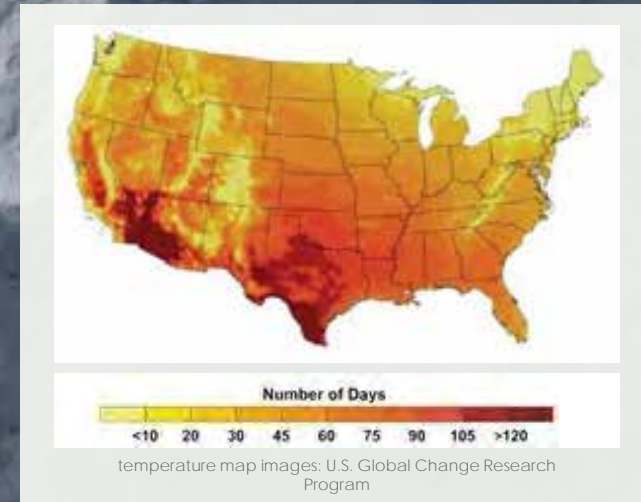
THE HIGHER WE LET THE TEMPERATURE RISE,
THE WIDER THE UNCERTAINTY

SHARP INCREASE OF RISK OF
SERIOUS DISLOCATION AND
LARGE-SCALE LOSS OF LIFE
BETWEEN 1.5° + 2°C

THIS IS WITHIN THE MARGIN OF ERROR FOR OPTIMISTIC SCENARIOS



COMPLEX NON-LINEAR RELATIONSHIPS
TIPPING POINTS AND SYSTEMIC
COLLAPSE



HOW DO WE VALUE CARBON?

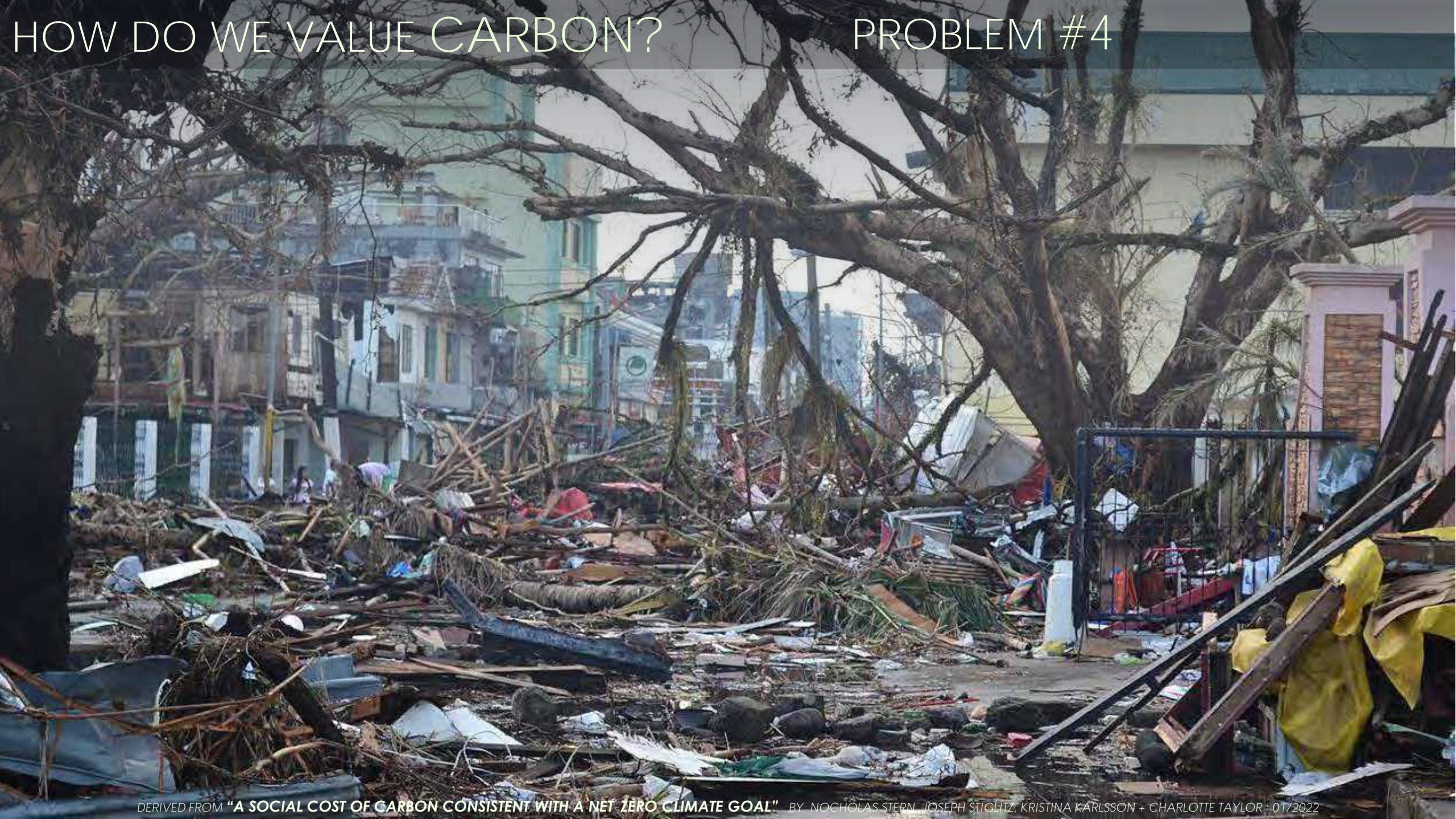
PROBLEM #3

COMPLEX NON-LINEAR RELATIONSHIPS
+ TIPPING POINTS



HOW DO WE VALUE CARBON?

PROBLEM #4



TO DETERMINE “OPTIMAL” POLICY

OPTIMAL FOR WHAT? - COST? HEALTH? HAPPINESS?
DIGNITY? EQUITY? SURVIVAL?

AND WHO ARE WE ASKING?



IAM'S IGNORE INEQUALITY
OF IMPACTS ...
... AND RESPONSIBILITY

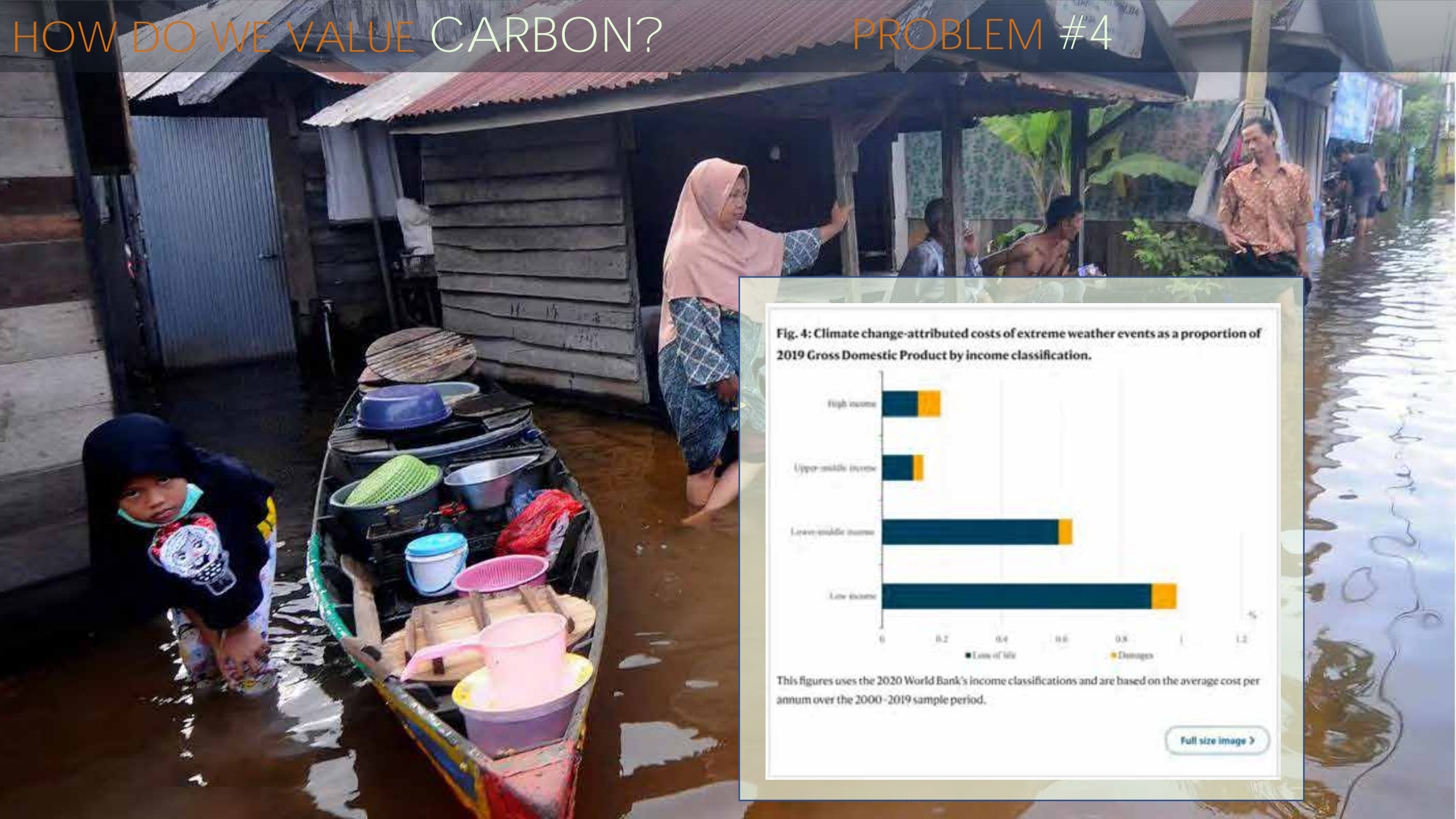
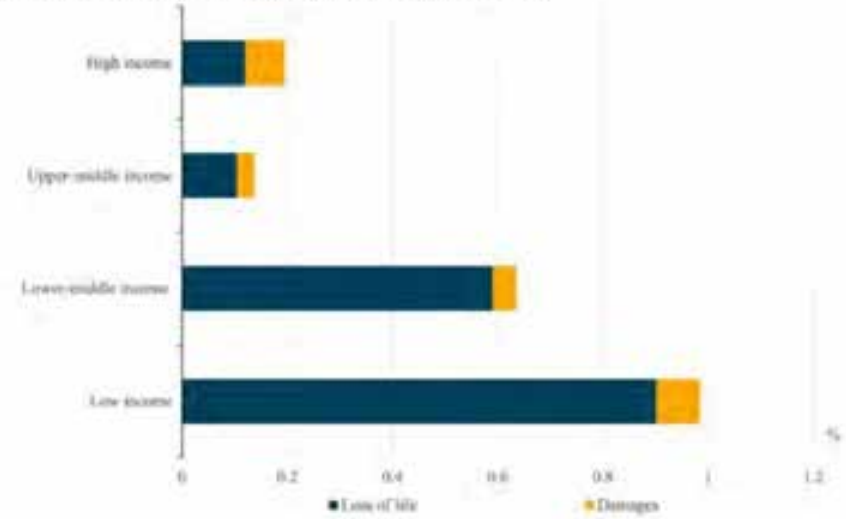


Fig. 4: Climate change-attributed costs of extreme weather events as a proportion of 2019 Gross Domestic Product by income classification.



This figures uses the 2020 World Bank's income classifications and are based on the average cost per annum over the 2000 - 2019 sample period.

[Full size image >](#)

WHAT IS THE COST OF CARBON?

PROBLEM #5



THE SOCIAL COST OF CARBON?

PROBLEM #5

CYCLONE DAMAGE IN BANGLADESH, 2007 – RUTH FREMSON, NY TIMES

World , regional or national data
but impacts are a cutely local and
uneven


Calculating the Social Cost of Carbon: What Are We Already Spending?
Climate Change Fork

CLIMATE IMPACTS ARE DISPROPORTIONATELY FELT BY THOSE WHO CAN LEAST AFFORD IT

THE SOCIAL COST OF CARBON?

PROBLEM #6





Discount rates are arbitrary, biased, or unrealistic.



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For Mass Save, the difference between \$128 and \$393 was the use of a 2% or 1% discount rate respectively

Discount rates are arbitrary, biased, or unrealistic.

For Mass Save, the difference between \$128 and \$393 was the use of a 2% or 1% discount rate respectively

With climate change driven economic disruption, the discount rate could in fact be negative.

HOW DO WE VALUE CARBON?

PROBLEM #7

INCOMPLETE (INHUMANE) DATA DATA

... WE ARE NOT GETTING THE COSTS RIGHT
... WE ARE NOT EVEN GETTING THEM ON THE LEDGER.-
BRANDON TERRY, HARVARD POLITICAL THEORIST

HOW DO WE VALUE CARBON?

PROBLEM #7

EMPIRICAL DATA

Climate change is costing the world
\$16 million per hour
World Economic FORUM

“ . . . our headline number of \$140bn is a significant understatement,” Noy explained, noting that heat wave data on human deaths was only available in Europe. **“We have no idea how many people died from heatwaves in all of sub-Saharan Africa.”**

Further, authors Noy and Rebecca Newman . . . wrote . . . that there are also immeasurable effects from extreme weather, such as trauma, loss of educational access, and job loss that would further increase the costs

. . . WE ARE NOT GETTING THE COSTS RIGHT
. . . WE ARE NOT EVEN GETTING THEM ON THE LEDGER.-
BRANDON TERRY, HARVARD POLITICAL THEORIST

TO WHOM DOES THIS COST APPLY?





TO WHOM DOES THIS COST APPLY?

IN MASSACHUSETTS, IT IS PURELY TO
JUDGE COST EFFECTIVENESS OF MASS
SAVE INCENTIVE PROGRAMS



TO WHOM DOES THIS COST APPLY?

THIS IS NOT A COST APPLIED TO THE PRODUCERS OF A PRODUCT

WHAT ABOUT CARBON TRADING?

MARKET - BASED SOLUTIONS!!



WHAT ABOUT CARBON TRADING?

MARKET - BASED SOLUTIONS!!

TWO KINDS OF MARKETS
COMPLIANCE + VOLUNTARY



WHAT ABOUT CARBON TRADING?

MARKET - BASED SOLUTIONS!!

COMPLIANCE MARKETS

Compliance markets are created and regulated by mandatory national, regional, or international carbon reduction regimes.



WHAT ABOUT CARBON TRADING?

MARKET - BASED SOLUTIONS!!

COMPLIANCE MARKETS

Compliance markets are created and regulated by mandatory national, regional, or international carbon reduction regimes.

Regulated utilities and industries must meet % carbon emissions reductions or by credits.

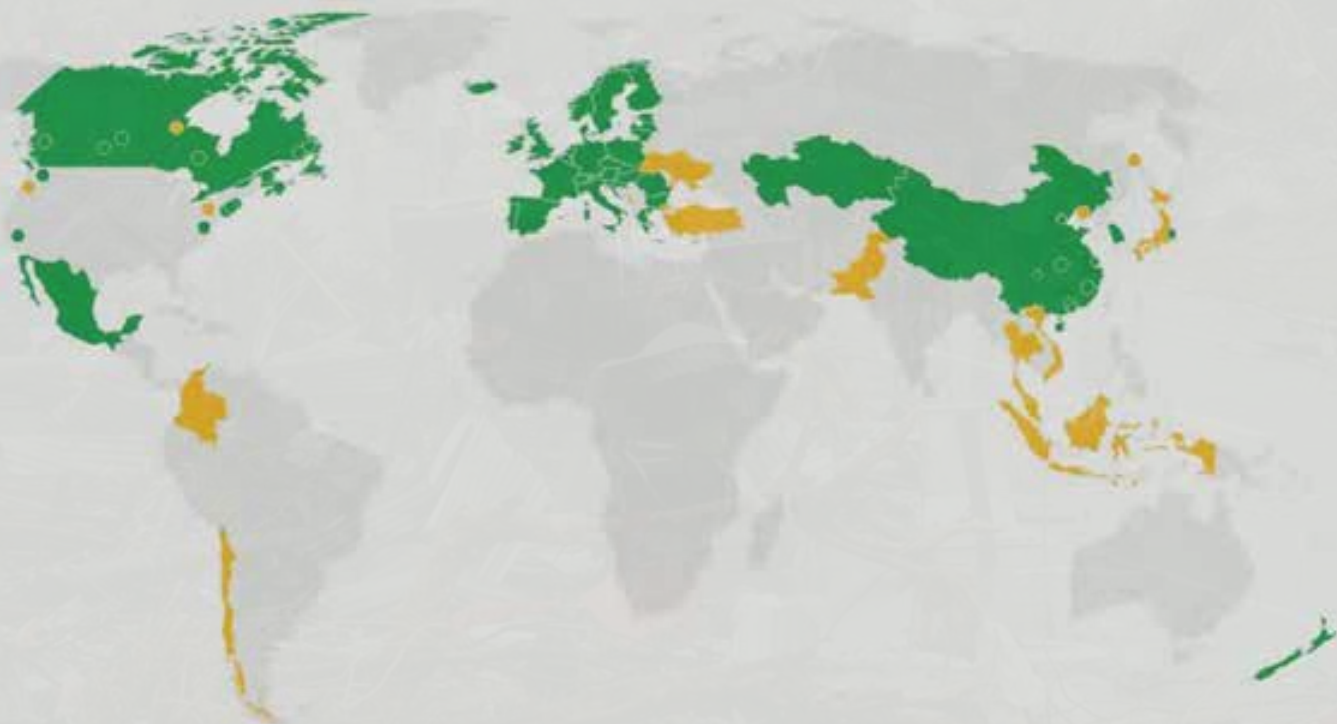


WHAT ABOUT CARBON TRADING?

MARKET - BASED SOLUTIONS!!

COMPLIANCE MARKETS

Figure 1: Global ETS Map of Current Compliance Credit Market Landscape



These markets reflect the value of credits to companies who must reach emissions targets, i.e. 55% below 1990 levels - not a ***value of carbon's effects***

WHAT ABOUT CARBON TRADING?

MARKET - BASED SOLUTIONS!!

COMPLIANCE MARKETS

 CARBON CREDITS .com	Last	Change	YTD
Live Carbon Prices			
Compliance Markets			
European Union	€56.31	-0.23 %	-30.18 %
UK	£35.60	-0.11 %	-21.76 %
California	\$28.66	-	0.00 %
Australia (AUD)	\$36.75	+2.80 %	+9.70 %
New Zealand (NZD)	\$66.25	-0.75 %	-4.19 %
South Korea	\$6.86	-	+1.33 %
China	\$11.21	-2.41 %	+0.31 %
Voluntary Markets			
Aviation Industry Offset	\$0.83	-	+40.68 %
Nature Based Offset	\$1.53	+0.66 %	+68.13 %
Tech Based Offset	\$0.65	-	+10.17 %

CarbonCredits.com Real-time Pricing

[Click here to learn how carbon credits are priced.](#)

These markets reflect the value of credits to companies who must reach emissions targets, i.e. 55% below 1990 levels - not a **value of carbon's effects**



WHAT ABOUT CARBON TRADING?

MARKET - BASED SOLUTIONS!!

VOLUNTARY MARKETS



WHAT ABOUT CARBON TRADING?

MARKET - BASED SOLUTIONS!!

VOLUNTARY MARKETS

Generally, corporations looking to improve reputation.

There has been a decline in confidence in the quality of carbon offsets sold in these markets.

And a backlash against ESG

BUT ACCESS IS ONLY FOR CORPORATIONS AND THE RICH

WHAT ABOUT CARBON TRADING?

MARKET - BASED SOLUTIONS!!

VOLUNTARY MARKETS

These markets require intermediaries to act as third-party verifiers of carbon reductions.

Under the patronage of Sheikh Ahmed Dalmook Al Maktoum, Blue Carbon was formed to create environmental assets, nature-based solutions and register carbon removal projects using modern methodologies.



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WHAT ABOUT CARBON TRADING?

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"The **UAE Carbon Alliance** aims to establish the UAE as a leading hub for **high integrity, high quality carbon markets**. Carbon abatement efforts are fundamental and non-negotiable for the health of our planet, and this partnership commits to focus on the **financial, environmental, and social viability** of these efforts."

BUT ACCESS IS ONLY FOR CORPORATIONS AND THE RICH

KEEP SOLUTIONS LOCAL - YOU HAVE
NO IDEA WHAT YOUR CARBON
OFFSETS ARE BUYING



A Maasai boy herds goats and sheep in the shadow of Ol Doinyo Lengai-known to the Maasai as the Mountain of God-in northern Tanzania. Government plans call for the removal of the Maasai from this region, the latest in a long series of evictions.

BETTER PRESERVE THIS . . . FOR THE
DUBAI ROYALS



A Maasai boy herds goats and sheep in the shadow of Ol Doinyo Lengai-known to the Maasai as the Mountain of God-in northern Tanzania. Government plans call for the removal of the Maasai from this region, the latest in a long series of evictions.



\$200 million on:

- 25,000 tons CO₂ removal by Direct Air Capture over 9 years +
- 28,500 tons from Bio-Oil over 5 years
- = 53,500 and \$3,738/ton

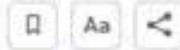
TECHNOLOGY OR CONSERVATION?

Sustainability | Sustainable Markets | ESG Investors | Climate Change | Climate Solutions

JPMorgan Chase to spend \$200 million on carbon dioxide removals

By Susanna Twidale

May 23, 2023 10:14 AM EDT · Updated 8 months ago



A view of the exterior of the JP Morgan Chase & Co. corporate headquarters in New York City May 20, 2015. REUTERS/Mike Segal



\$200 million on:

- 25,000 tons CO₂ removal by Direct Air Capture over 9 years +
- 28,500 tons from Bio-Oil over 5 years
- = 53,500 and **\$3,738/ton**

- 1375 tons CO₂ emissions avoided
- at **\$3,738/ton = \$5,139,750**

- **Why couldn't we claim this kind of support?**
- CONSERVATION IS PREFERABLE TO HIGH TECH

WHAT ABOUT CARBON TRADING?

MARKET - BASED SOLUTIONS!!

To be fair . . . There is a ton of good work being done to quantify and verify carbon benefits

VOLUNTARY MARKETS

These markets require intermediaries to act as third-party verifiers of carbon reductions.



Welcome to the Verra Registry

The Verra Registry is a cornerstone for the implementation of Verra's standards and programs. It facilitates the transparent listing of information on certified projects, issued and retired units, and enables the trading of units. The Verra Registry also ensures the uniqueness of projects and credits in the system. Information on projects and credits can be accessed by scrolling down and clicking on one of the program-specific modules below.

An active Verra Registry account is required for any entity wishing to register projects or issue, retire, or transfer units. Account applications may be submitted by clicking on the "Open New Account" button. Note that all registry account applicants will be subject to strict "Know-Your-Customer" background checks.

For more information on Verra and its programs, please visit www.verra.org.



Verified Carbon Standard

The VCS Program allows certified projects to turn their greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reductions and removals into tradable carbon credits. Since its launch in 2005, the VCS Program has grown into the world's largest voluntary GHG program. VCS projects include a range of technologies and resources which result in GHG emission reductions and removals, including renewable energy, forest and wetland conservation and restoration, transport efficiency improvements, and many others.

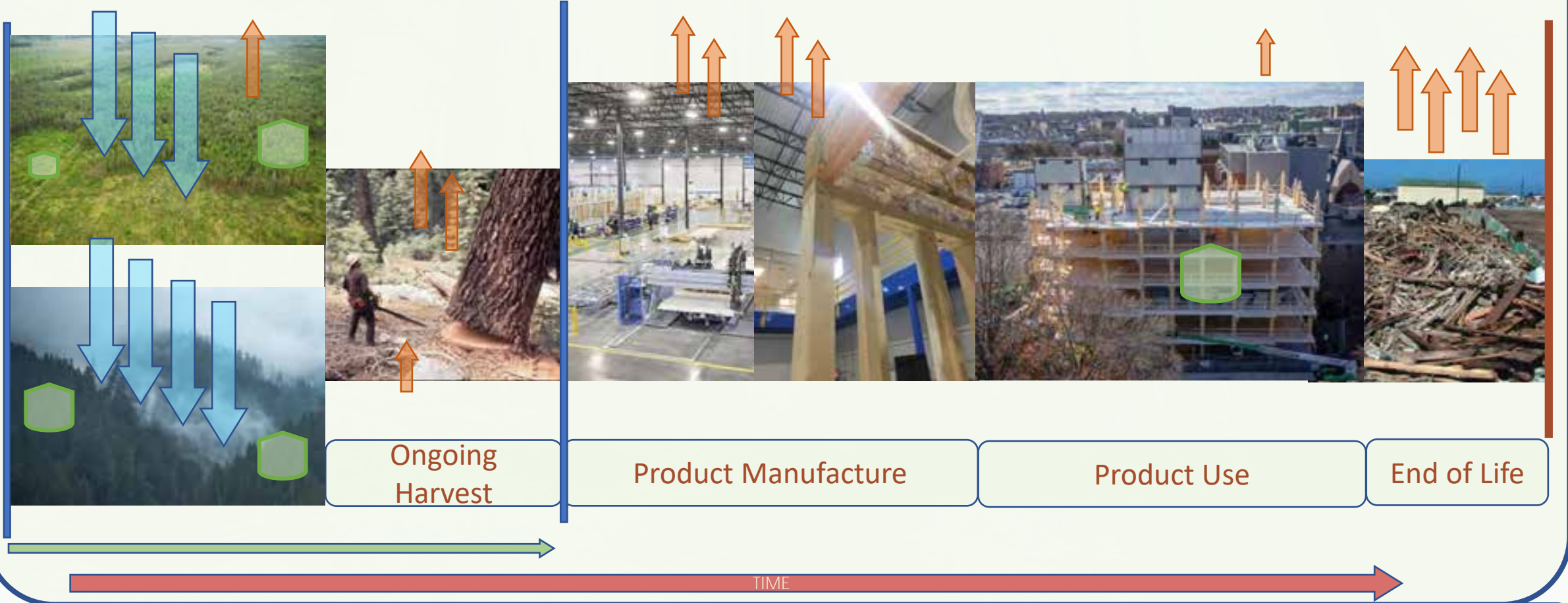
Project and Credit Summary

VCS Standard	VCS Standard
1,276,043,031	742,781,896
VCS Standard Projects	VCS Projects and VCS Credits
2,291	1,549
VCS Projects without VCS Credits	New Approvals Pooled
401	73,788,308

There is a ton of good work being done to quantify and verify carbon benefits

APPROACHES FOR CARBON ACCOUNTING

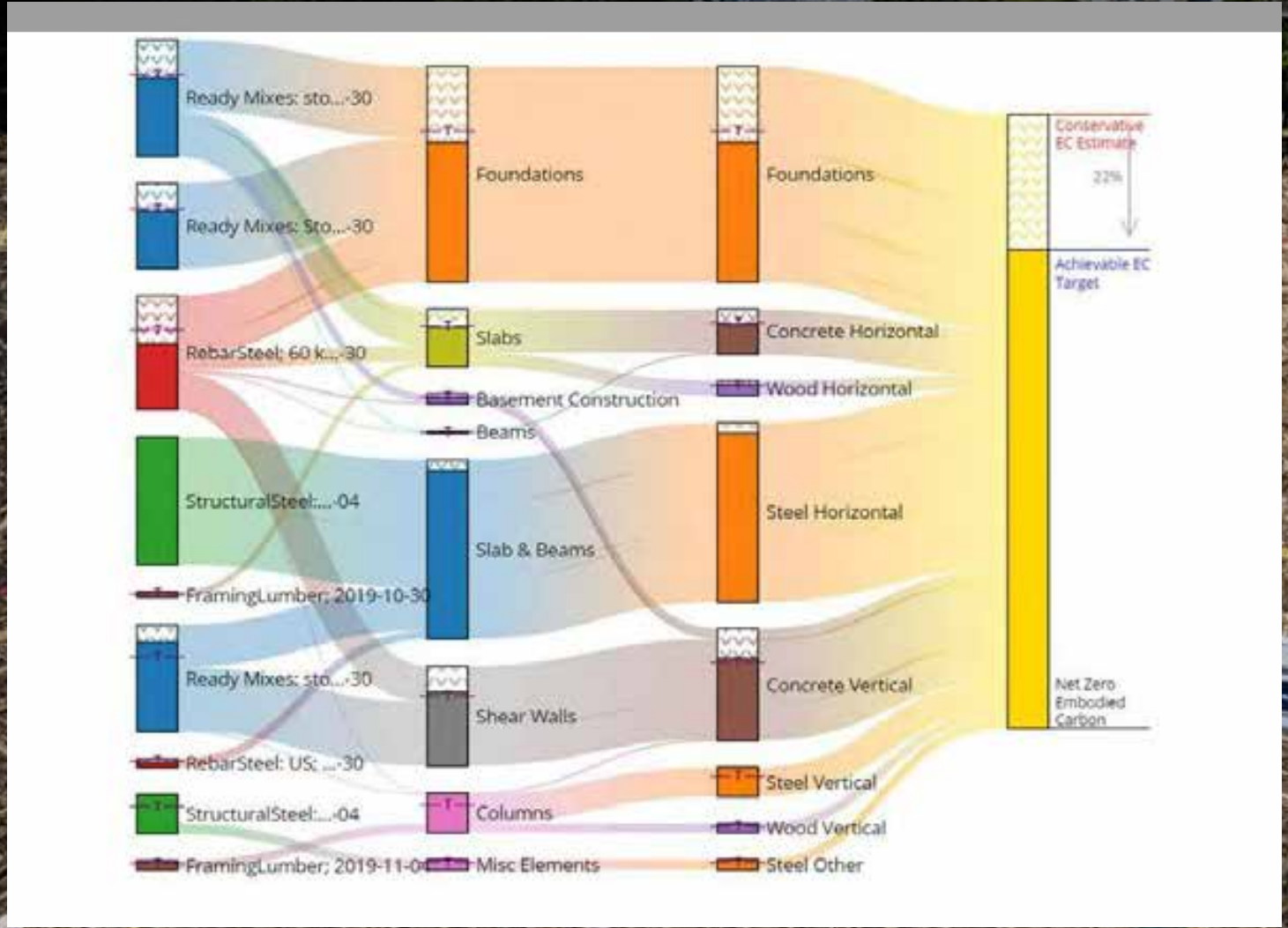
APPROACH 4: Compares net Carbon removals from “supply area” over “period of interest” .



Ongoing growth + harvest

Modeling of alternate scenario to evaluate carbon cost of removal.

BUT THESE ARE CUMBERSOME AND TIME CONSUMING – AND WE ARE OUT OF TIME



CURRENT MARKET RESPONSE



THERE IS A MARKET SIGNAL

CURRENT MARKET RESPONSE

CUT AND RUN



... WHAT WOULD IT MEAN TO CAPTURE THAT VALUE IN THIS MARKET SIGNAL



THERE IS A MARKET SIGNAL

CURRENT MARKET RESPONSE



THERE IS A MARKET SIGNAL

CURRENT MARKET RESPONSE

Climate Shocks Are Making Parts of America Uninsurable at Just Cost

Insurance companies are pulling out of California and other high-risk areas, leaving homeowners with few options to protect their investments.

CUT AND RUN



A firefighter tried to save a home in Meyers, Calif., in 2021. Max Whittaker for The New York Times

... WHAT WOULD IT MEAN TO
CAPTURE THAT VALUE IN THIS
MARKET SIGNAL



WHAT SHOULD WE DO ?

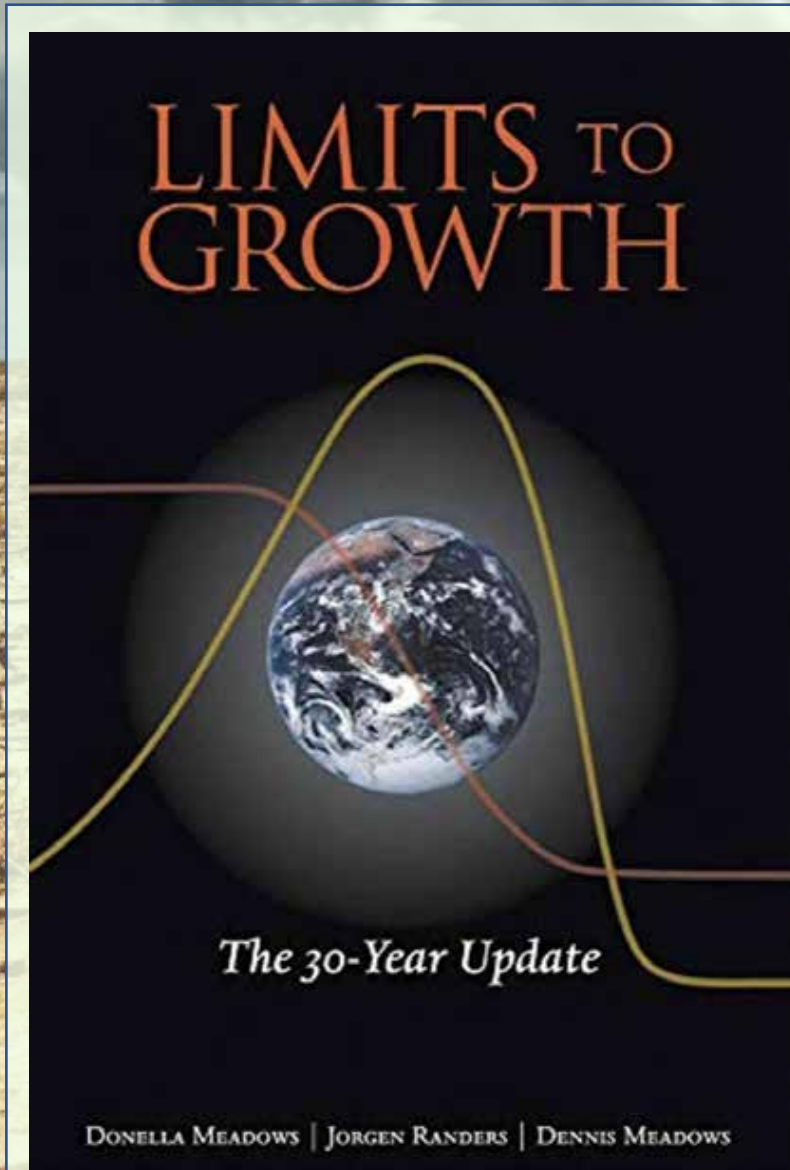
DO NOT WAIT FOR SOMEONE TO
DEMONSTRATE COST EFFETIVENESS

... WE ARE NOT GETTING THE COSTS RIGHT,

WE ARE NOT EVEN GETTING THEM ON THE LEDGER.

- BRANDON TERRY, HARVARD POLITICAL THEORIST

WILL TECHNOLOGY AND EFFICIENCY **SAVE US?**



WORLD 3 IS NOT A PREDICTOR OF THE FUTURE

HOWEVER:

MIT lab has run thousands of simulations

Updated and compared against 30-year and 50-year data.

They are remarkably accurate.

So what do they suggest?

Recent Past: 1961-2079

WILL TECHNOLOGY AND EFFICIENCY **SAVE US?**

MORE RESOURCES AND GREATER EFFICIENCY

FANTASY – NO LIMITS

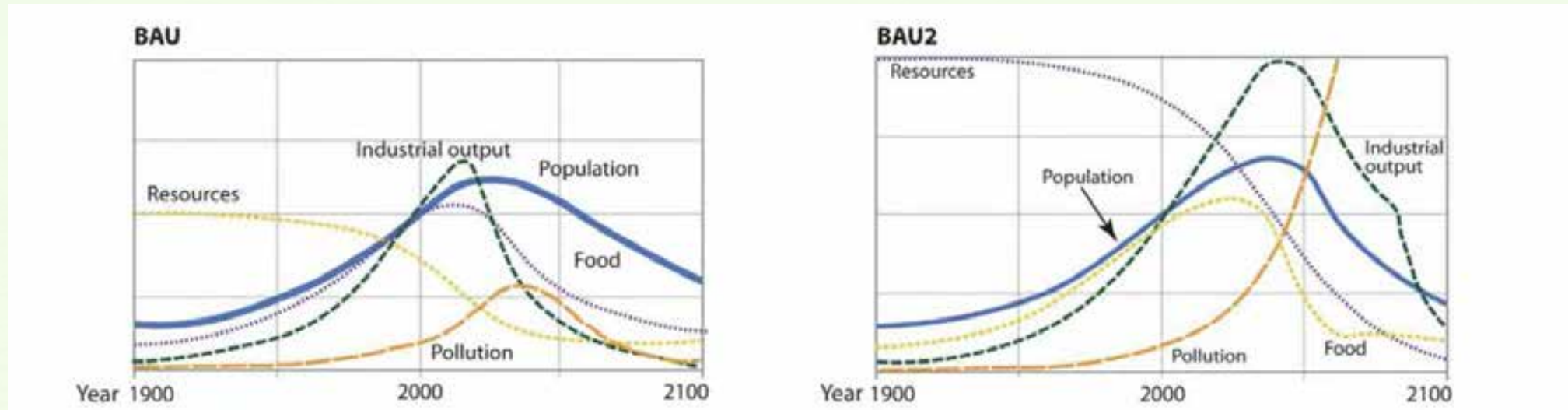


FIGURE 1 The BAU, BAU2, CT, and SW scenarios. Adapted from *Limits to Growth: The 30-Year Update* (p. 169, 173, 219, 245), by Meadows, D. H., Meadows, D. L. and Randers, J. 2004. Chelsea Green Publishing Co. Copyright 2004 by Dennis Meadows. Adapted with permission

EVEN WITH:

- 200% LAND YIELD INCREASE
- NO LAND ENCROACHMENT DESPITE HUGE POPULATION
- PERPETUAL 4% REDUCTION IN EMISSIONS
- TOTAL RECYCLING
- ACCELERATED TECHNOLOGICAL IMPROVEMENTS

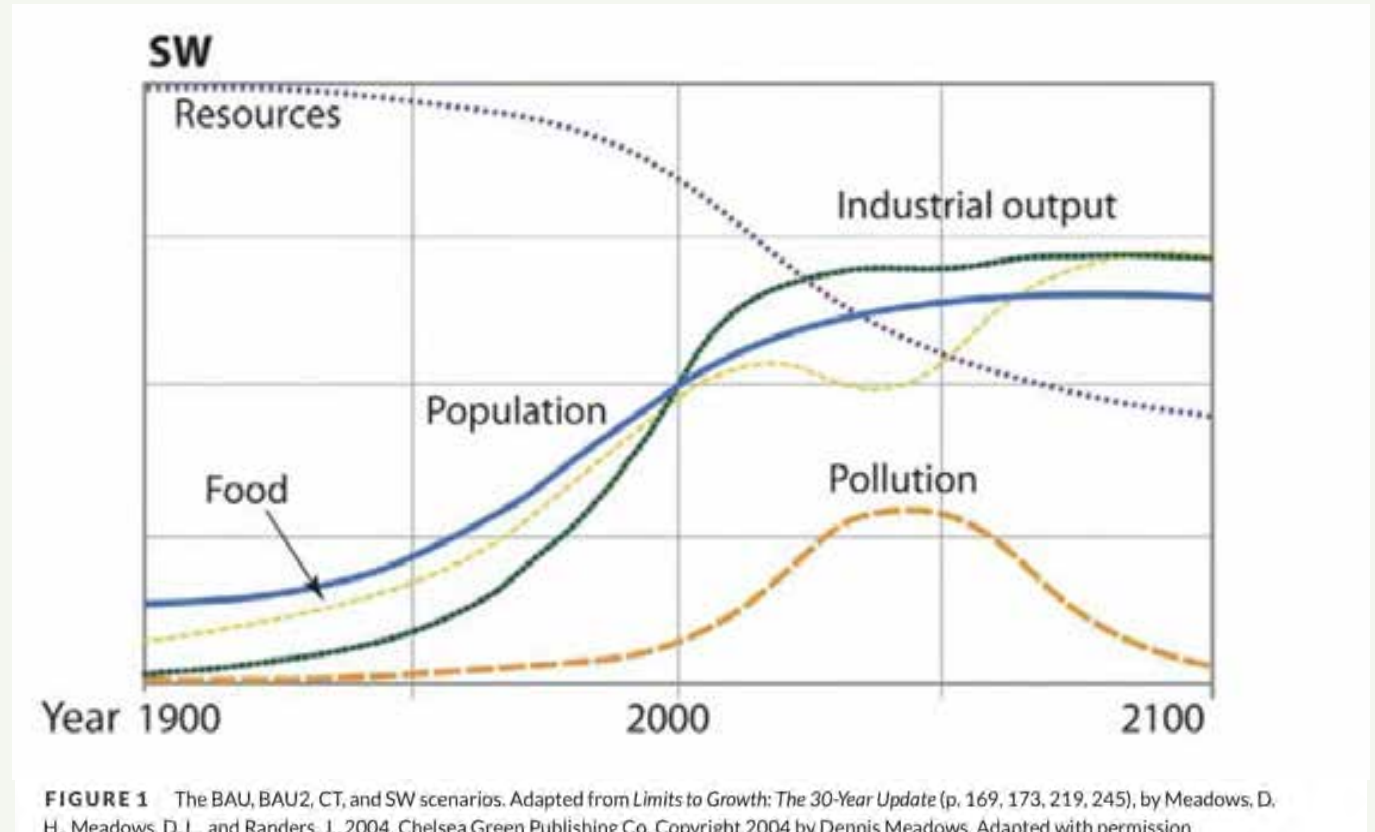


temperature map images: U.S. Global Change Research Program

WHAT IS ENOUGH ?

THE PATH TO ZERO:

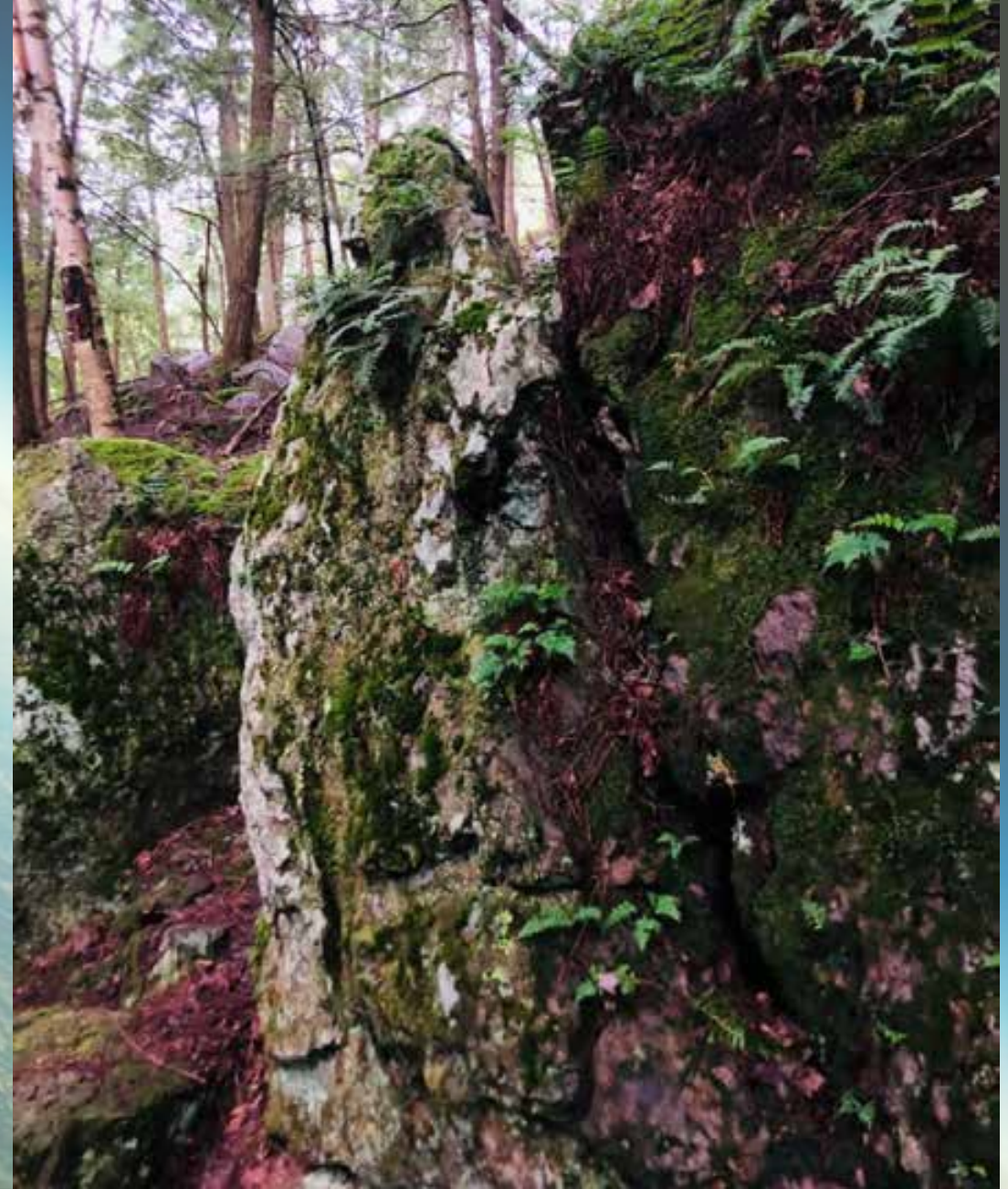
- Stabilize population at 7.5 Billion
 - 2 children per couple with perfect birth control
- Technological increase
 - Abate pollution
 - Increase land yields
 - Protect renewable resources from erosion
- Reduce industrial output
 - **“enough”** material wealth at 10% higher than 2000 levels **“for all”**
 - reduction for the rich
 - increase for the poor



CAN ENOUGH BE ENOUGH?? + HOW DO WE USE TECHNOLOGY??
THESE TURN OUT TO BE THE MOST IMPORTANT QUESTIONS

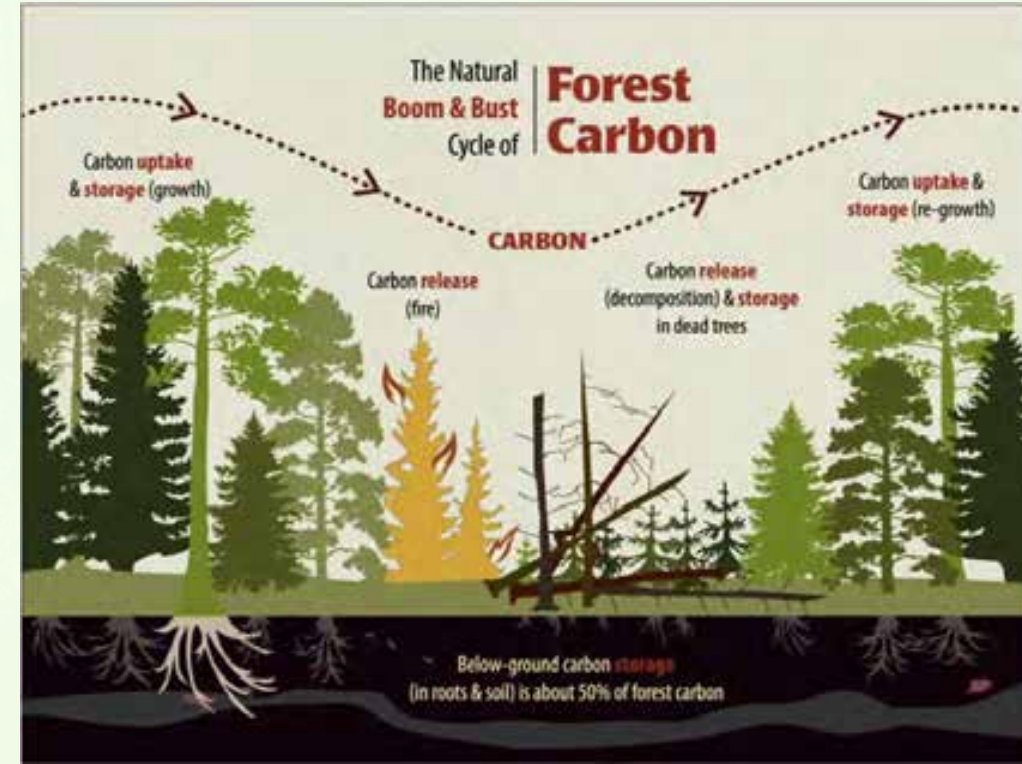
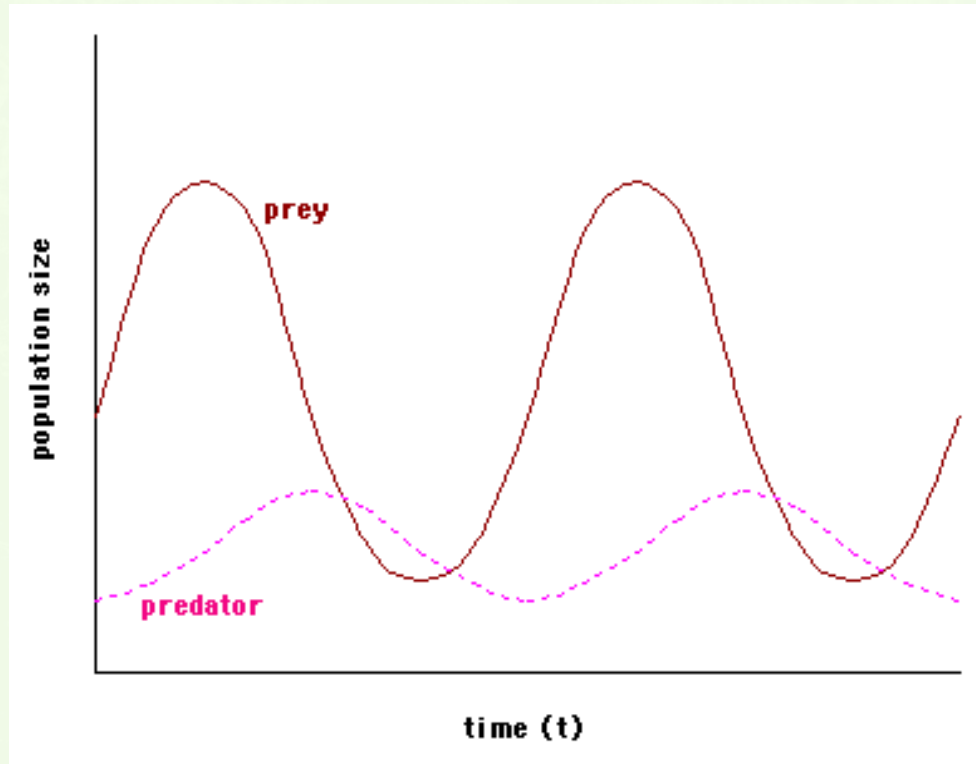
THINK LIKE NATURE

DIVERSE , RESILIENT ABUNDANCE



NATURAL SYSTEMS

FUNCTION WITHIN RESOURCE LIMITS – NO WASTE

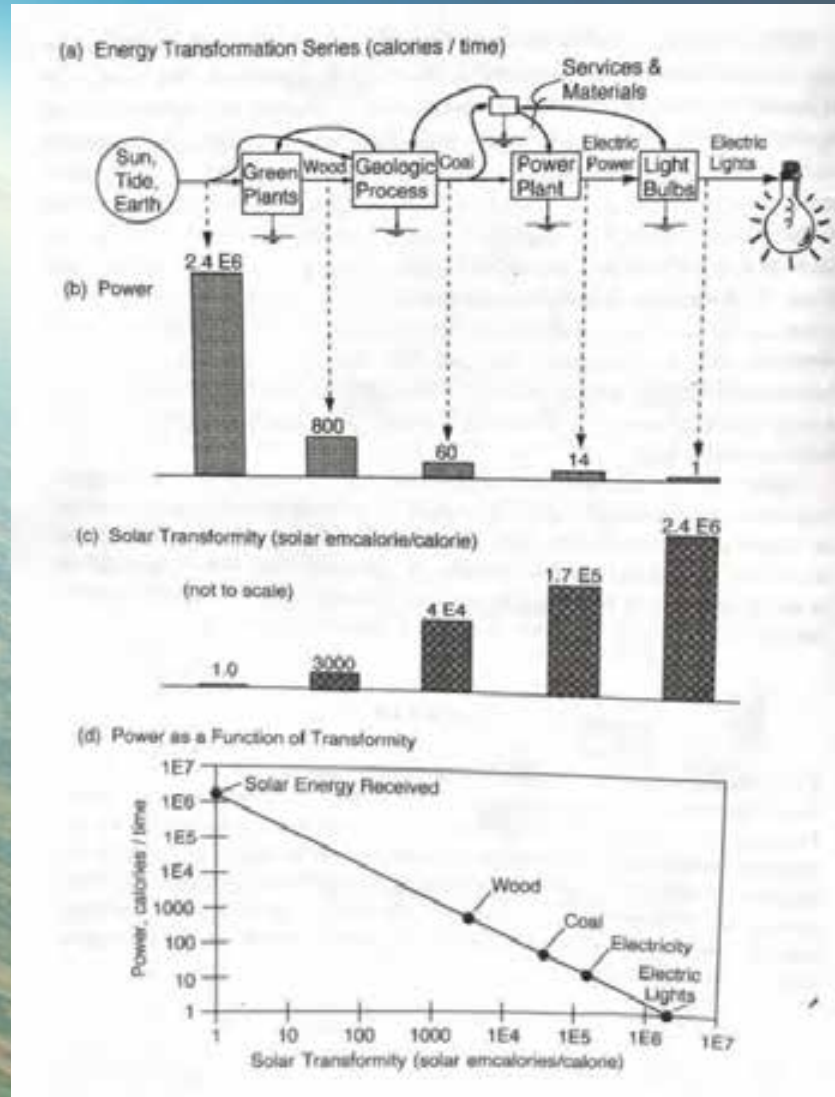


THE CAPACITY FOR REGENERATION

Recent Past, 1961 - 1979

CLASSIC OSCILLATION - DYNAMIC EQUILIBRIUM

THE SECOND LAW OF THERMODYNAMICS AND THE PATH TO ZERO



LOW TECH IS THE TRUE HIGH TECH – PRIORITIZE PASSIVE + NATURAL SYSTEMS

RENEWABLE MATERIALS GROWN SUSTAINABLY



MAKE WISER INVESTMENTS

Resilience Through Conservation

- AVOIDED INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS AND MAINTENANCE
- GRID SERVICES
- PUBLIC HEALTH IMPACTS
- CLIMATE IMPACTS

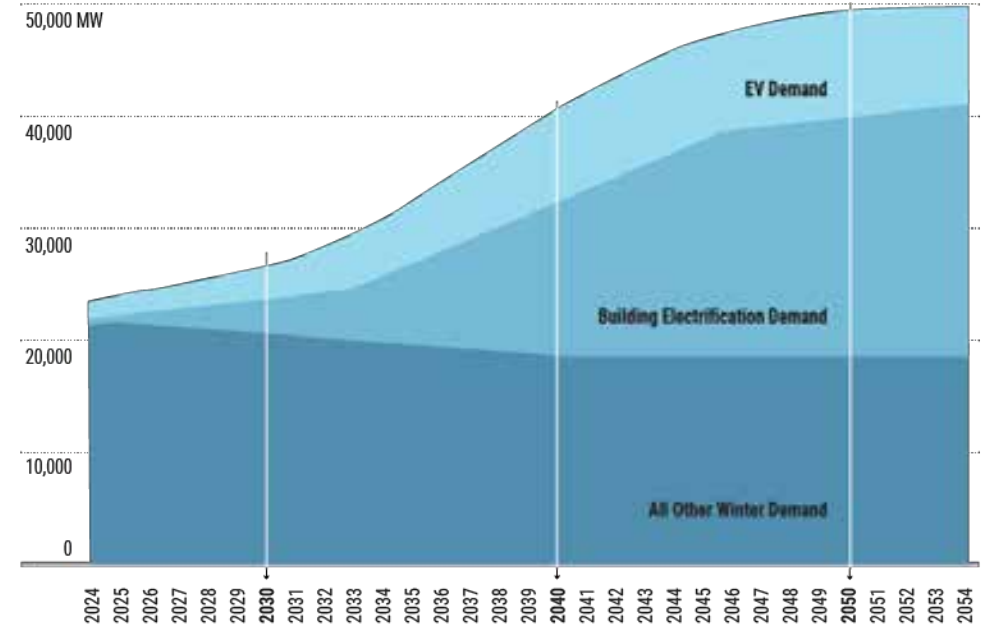
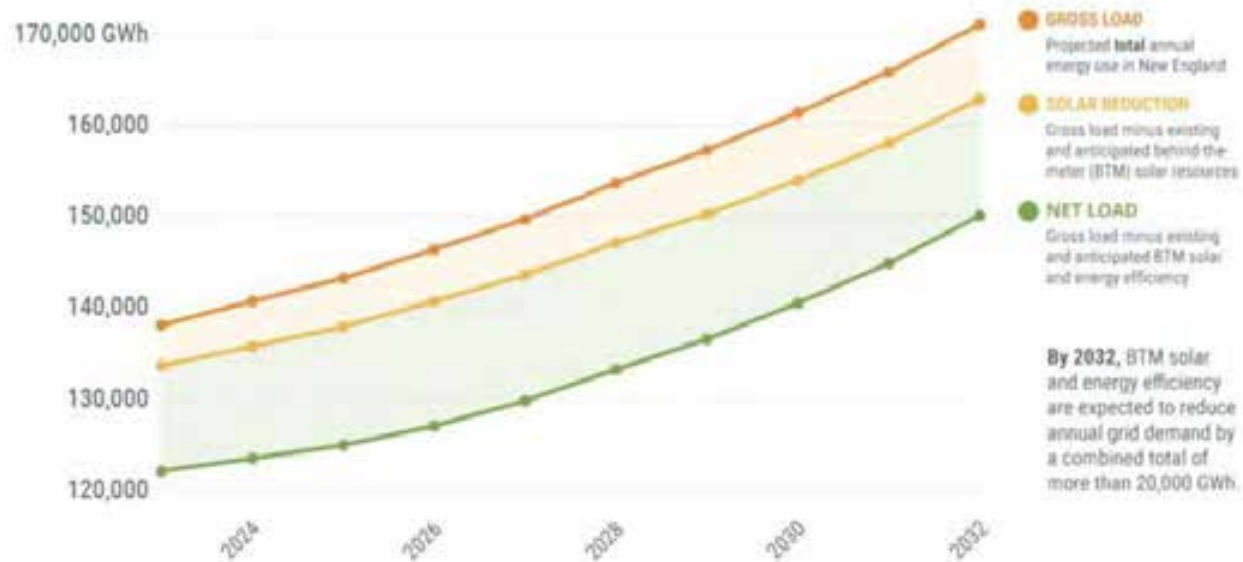
A WISER INVESTMENT

THE US IS ABOUT TO SPEND
\$1.5 TO \$2 TRILLION UPDATING AGING
POWER INFRASTRUCTURE

ISO NEWSWIRE
A Wholesale Electricity Industry Update



Projected annual energy use in New England, 2023–2032



- AVOIDED INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS AND MAINTENANCE
- GRID SERVICES
- PUBLIC HEALTH IMPACTS
- CLIMATE IMPACTS

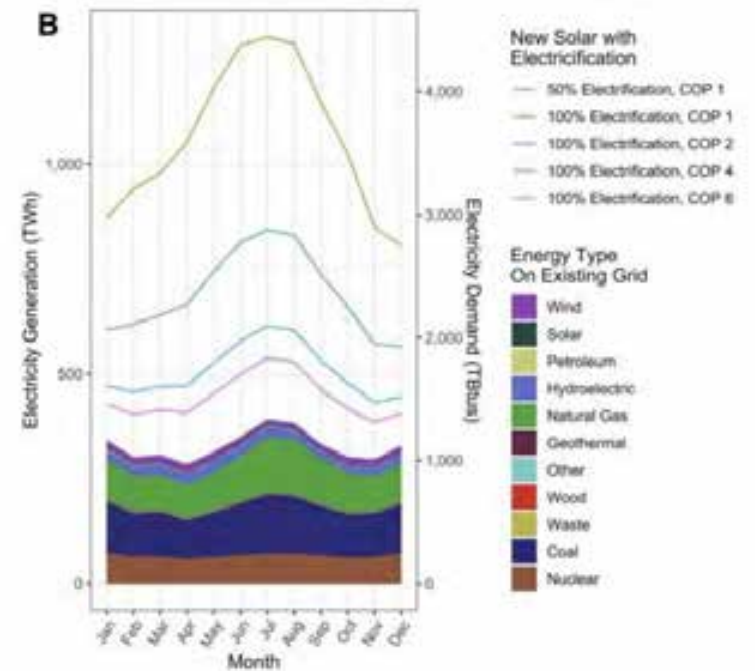
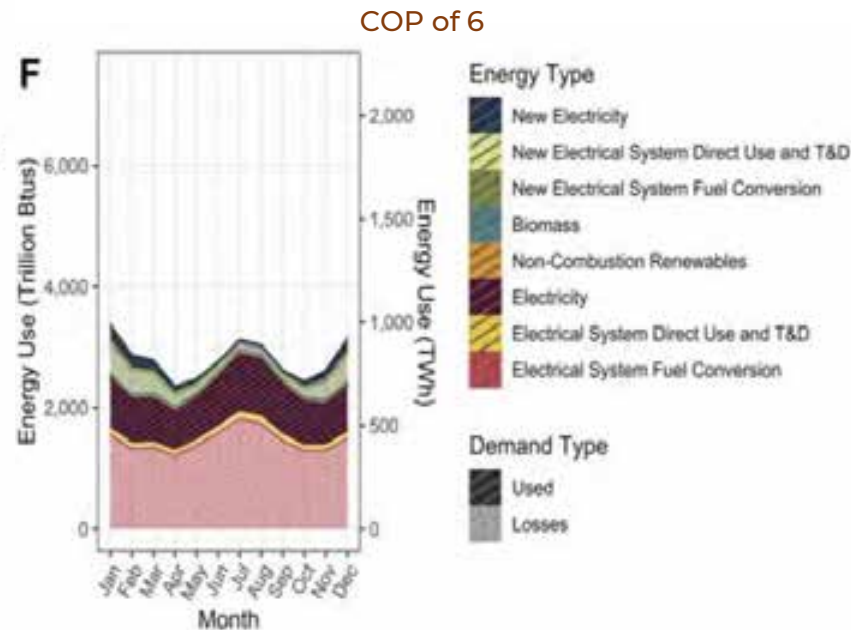
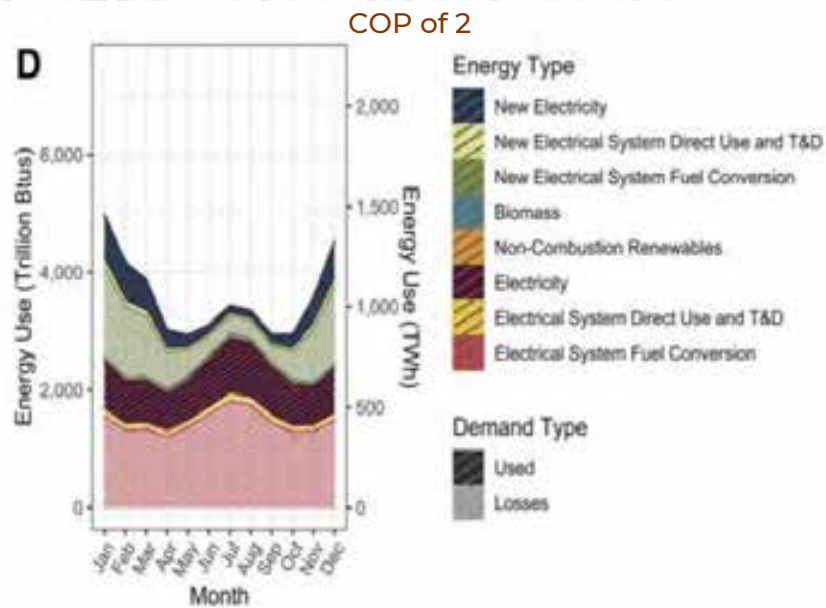
 **New York ISO**
Independent System Operator

A WISER INVESTMENT

THE US IS ABOUT TO SPEND
\$1.5 TO \$2 TRILLION UPDATING AGING
POWER INFRASTRUCTURE

scientific reports

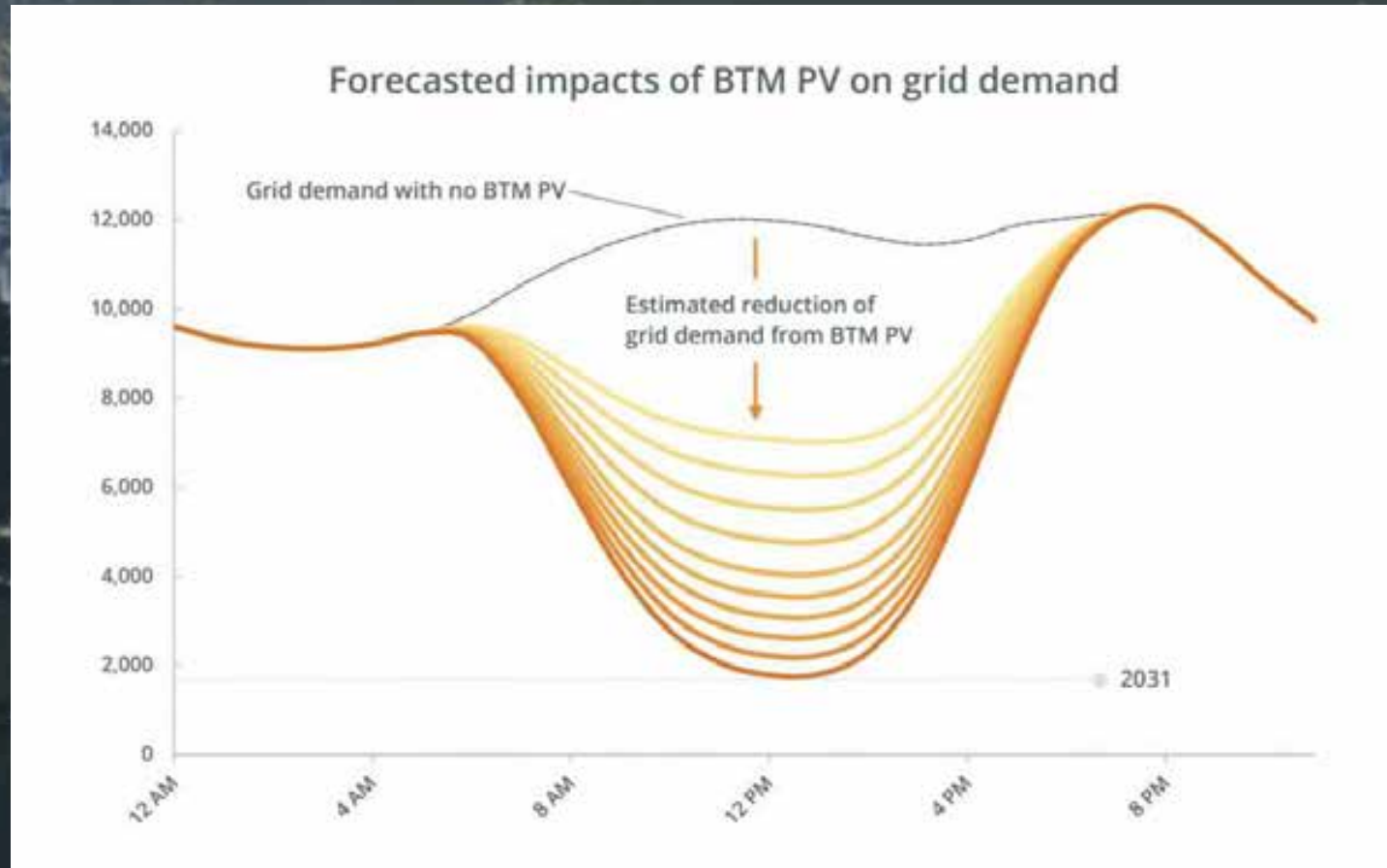
Efficiency Building (Energy System) and Building Energy
Model of Renewable Energy and Thermal Energy
Storage



- AVOIDED INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS AND MAINTENANCE
- GRID SERVICES
- PUBLIC HEALTH IMPACTS
- CLIMATE IMPACTS

A WISER INVESTMENT

Peak load ramps are tough on the grid!



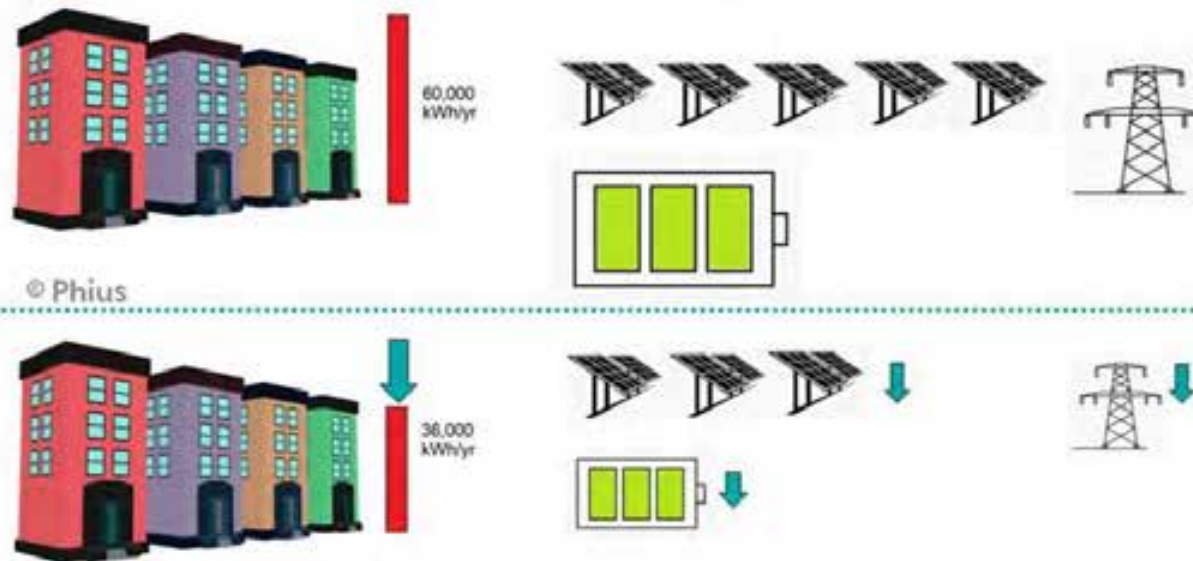
... AND UTILITY DEMAND RESPONSE AND CURTAILMENT INCENTIVES MAY BE A REVENUE STREAM

A WISER INVESTMENT

The More We Spend on Efficiency, the Less We Need to Spend on the Grid

The Ripple Effect of Conservation

Conservation means less generation, less storage, and less transmission capacity needed



Facilitating the Renewable Transition Part. 1: Passive Buildings and the Grid, Lisa White

WE NEED TO ADVOCATE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A MEANINGFUL PRICE ON CARBON?

We need a “A Social Cost of Carbon”:

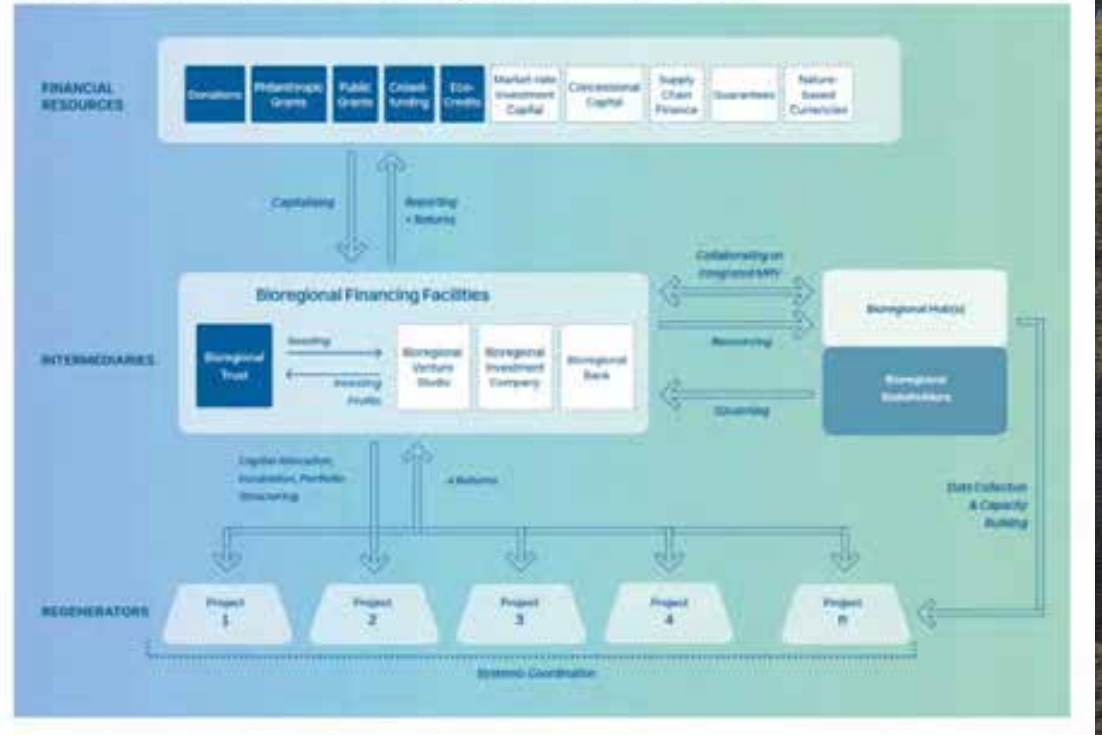
- **Consistent with a “Net-Zero Climate Impact Goal,”**
- Accounting for the increased uncertainty of delay and increased total emissions
 - That accounts for climate impact on growth
 - With sensitivity to regional and localized threats
- And proportional impacts and responsibility by income

SO HOW S...

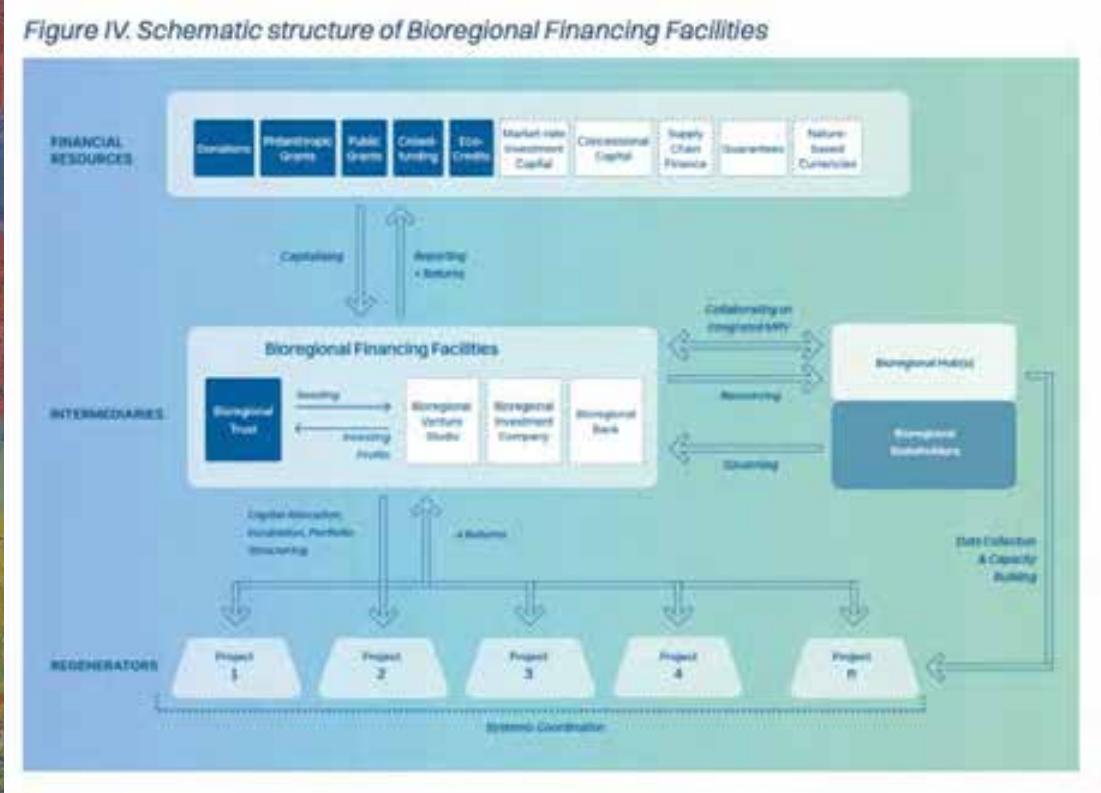
THE WATERSHEDS of NORTH AMERICA

Nature's Borders

Figure IV. Schematic structure of Bioregional Financing Facilities



SO HOW
WAT
NORT



Learn about
the future



LEVERAGE POINTS

PLACES TO INTERVENE IN A SYSTEM

(in increasing order of effectiveness)

9. Constants, parameters, numbers
(subsidies, taxes, standards).
8. Regulating negative feedback loops.
7. Driving positive feedback loops.
6. Material flows and nodes of material intersection.
5. Information flows.
4. The rules of the system (incentives, punishments, constraints).
3. The distribution of power over the rules of the system.
2. The goals of the system.
1. The mindset or paradigm out of which the system — its goals, power structure, rules, its culture — arises.

1. CHANGE YOUR MENTAL FRAME

ASSUME IT MUST BE DONE AND LOOK FOR OPPORTUNITY

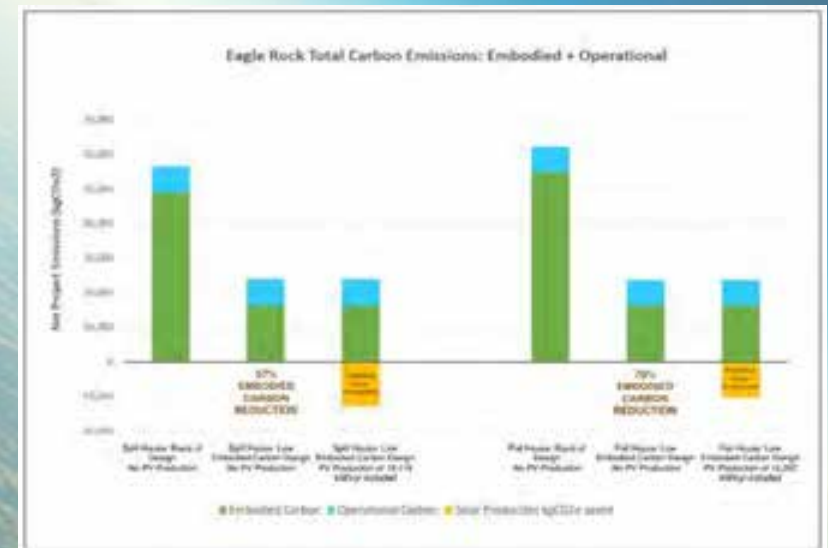
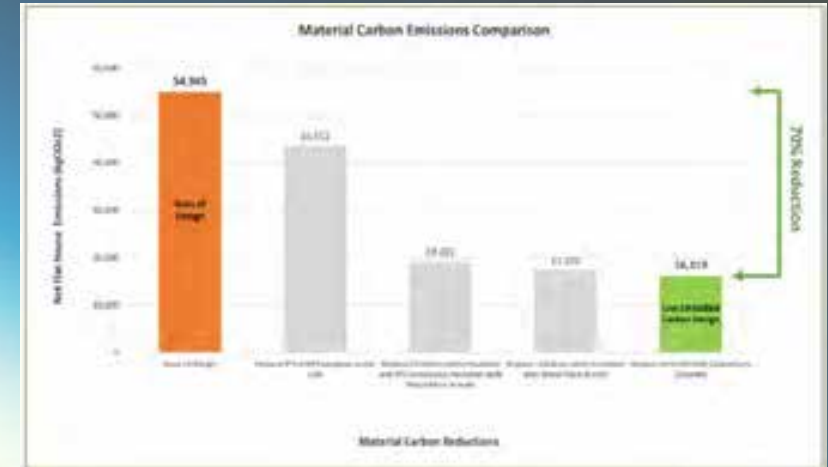
2. PROVIDE INFORMATION

START WITH A HOLISTIC ASSESSMENT TO REVEAL OPPORTUNITIES

SHOW THE IMPACTS AND SOLUTIONS

WHEN PRESENTED WITH ABSTRACTIONS CLIENTS TEND TO DEFAULT TO SKEPTICISM AND ASSUME ADDITIONAL COST

WHEN WE SHOW THEM A COMPARISON THEY GET INTERESTED IN THEIR CHOICE



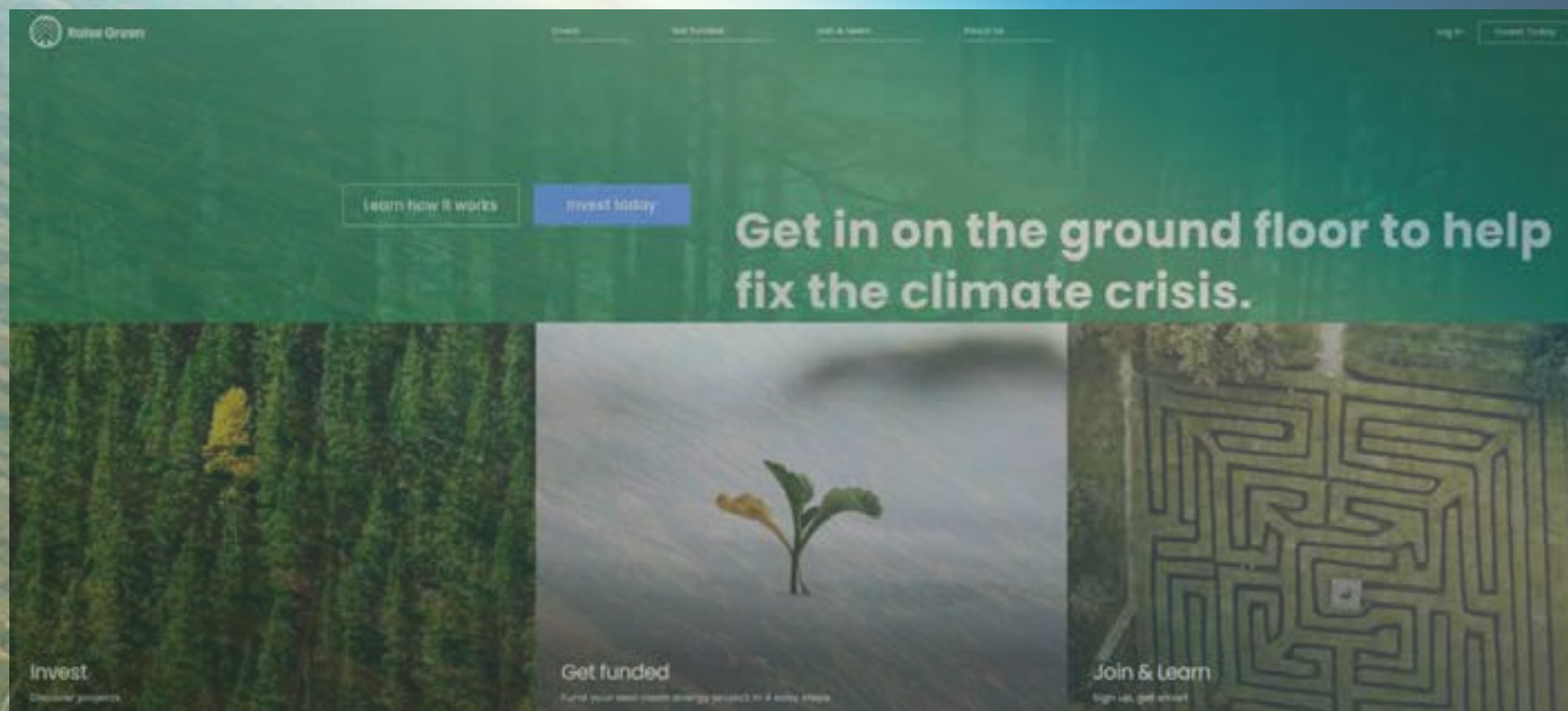
2. PROVIDE INFORMATION

SHOW A SOCIAL COST OF CARBON ON YOUR PRO-FORMA
+ COST EFFECTIVENESS CALCULATIONS (EVEN IF YOU CAN NOT CLAIM IT YET)

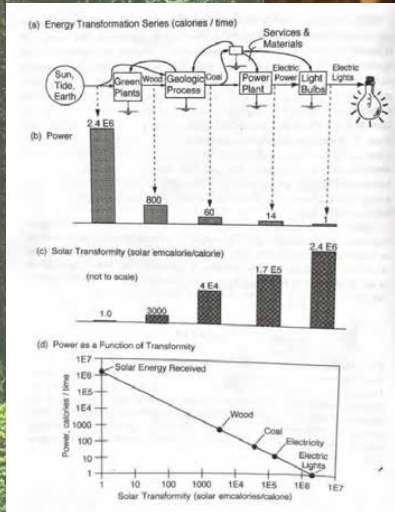
OUR CLIENTS GET TO CHOOSE, BUT THEY SHOULD BE INFORMED

3. COME TOGETHER

LET'S GET TOGETHER AND DEMAND EQUITABLE,
COMMUNITY-BASED ACCESS TO **CARBON VALUE**
THROUGH AGGREGATION COOPERATIVES AND IMPACT
FUNDS



4. PRIORITIZE LOW IMPACT LOW TECH, PASSIVE + NATURAL SYSTEMS



A CONCEPTUAL ENERGY GRAPH COLLAGE OF THE PATH TO ZERO

5. DO IT YOURSELF

