

Justice and Peace Co-ordinating Council

Environment Update for AGM

Chris Myers

Feb 8th 2025

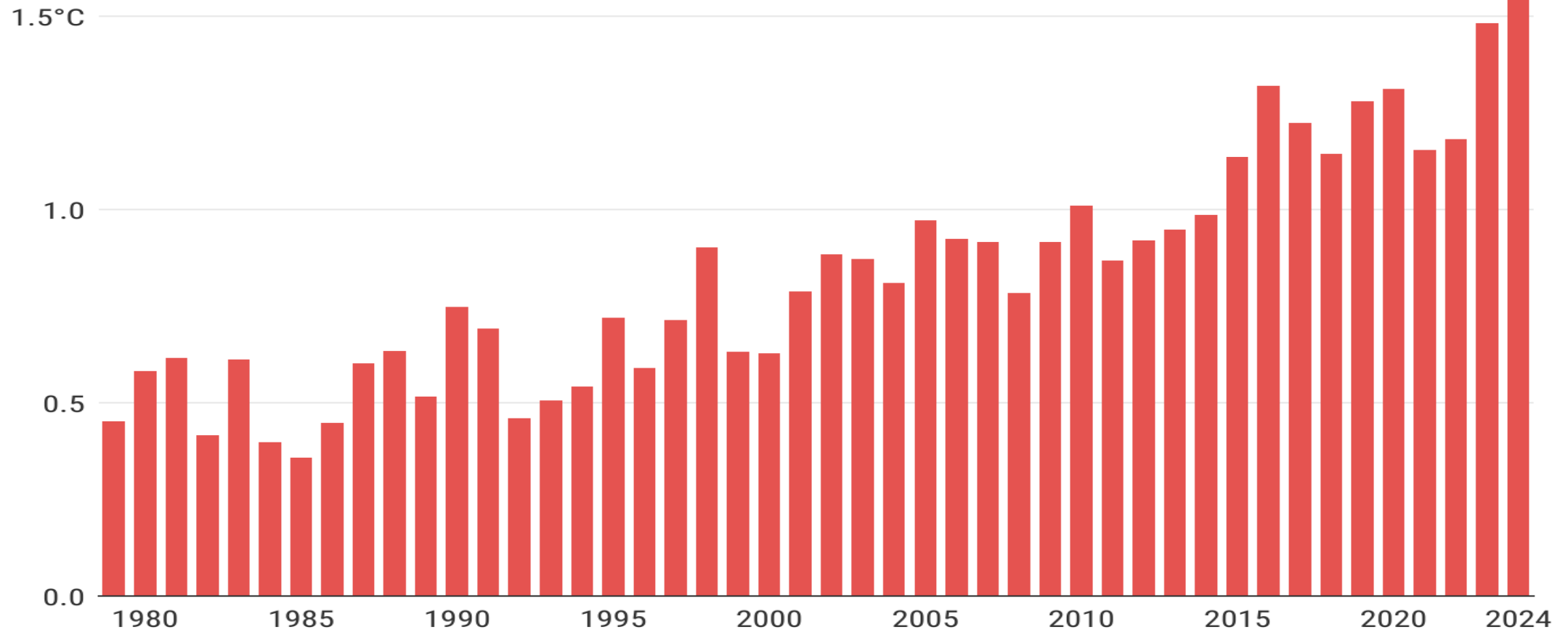
Outline

- ▶ The Climate & Nature Crisis in 2024
- ▶ Tipping Points and Planetary Boundaries
- ▶ Global Developments
- ▶ Diocesan Activities - 2024
- ▶ Looking Ahead - 2025
- ▶ Signs of Hope - what can we do?
- ▶ 2050 Vision - Living in Harmony



Global annual surface air temperature anomalies

Data source: ERA5 • Reference period: pre-industrial (1850–1900) • Credit: C3S/ECMWF



PROGRAMME OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION

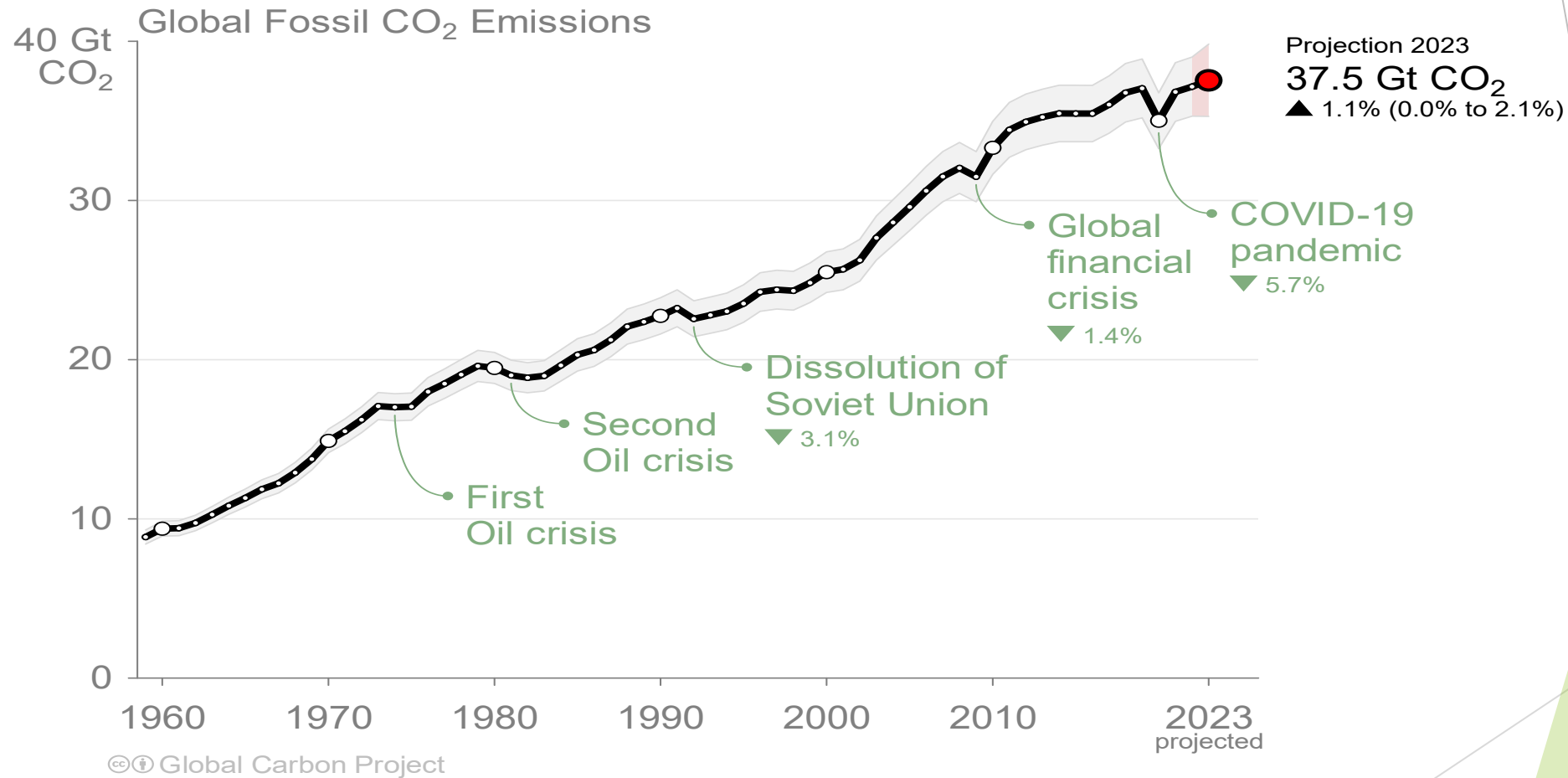


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Global fossil CO₂ emissions

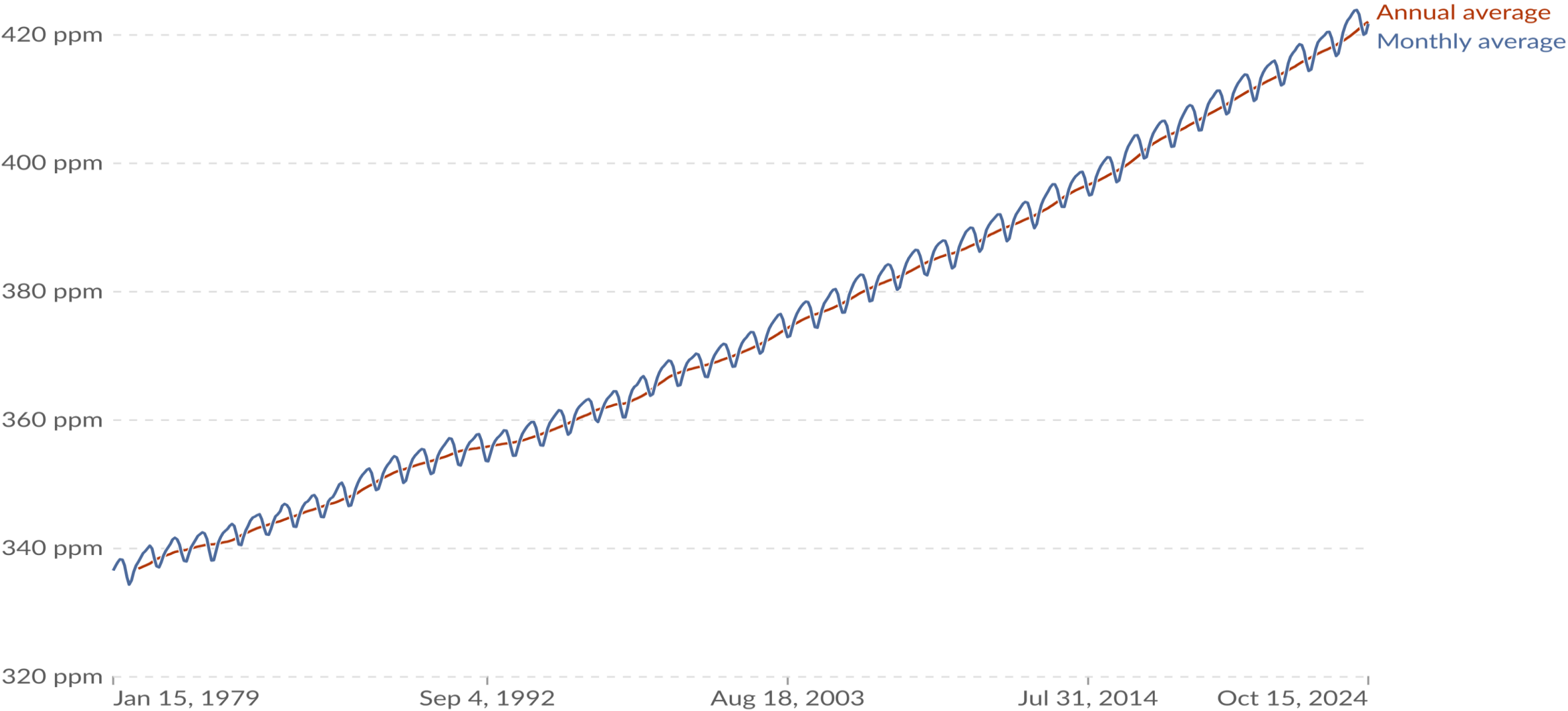
Global fossil CO₂ emissions have risen steadily over the last decades.
Emissions are set to grow again in 2023.



When including cement carbonation, the 2023 estimate is 36.8 ± 2 GtCO₂.
The 2023 projection is based on preliminary data and modelling.
Source: [Friedlingstein et al 2023](#); [Global Carbon Project 2023](#)

Global atmospheric CO₂ concentration

Atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO₂) concentration is measured in parts per million (ppm).

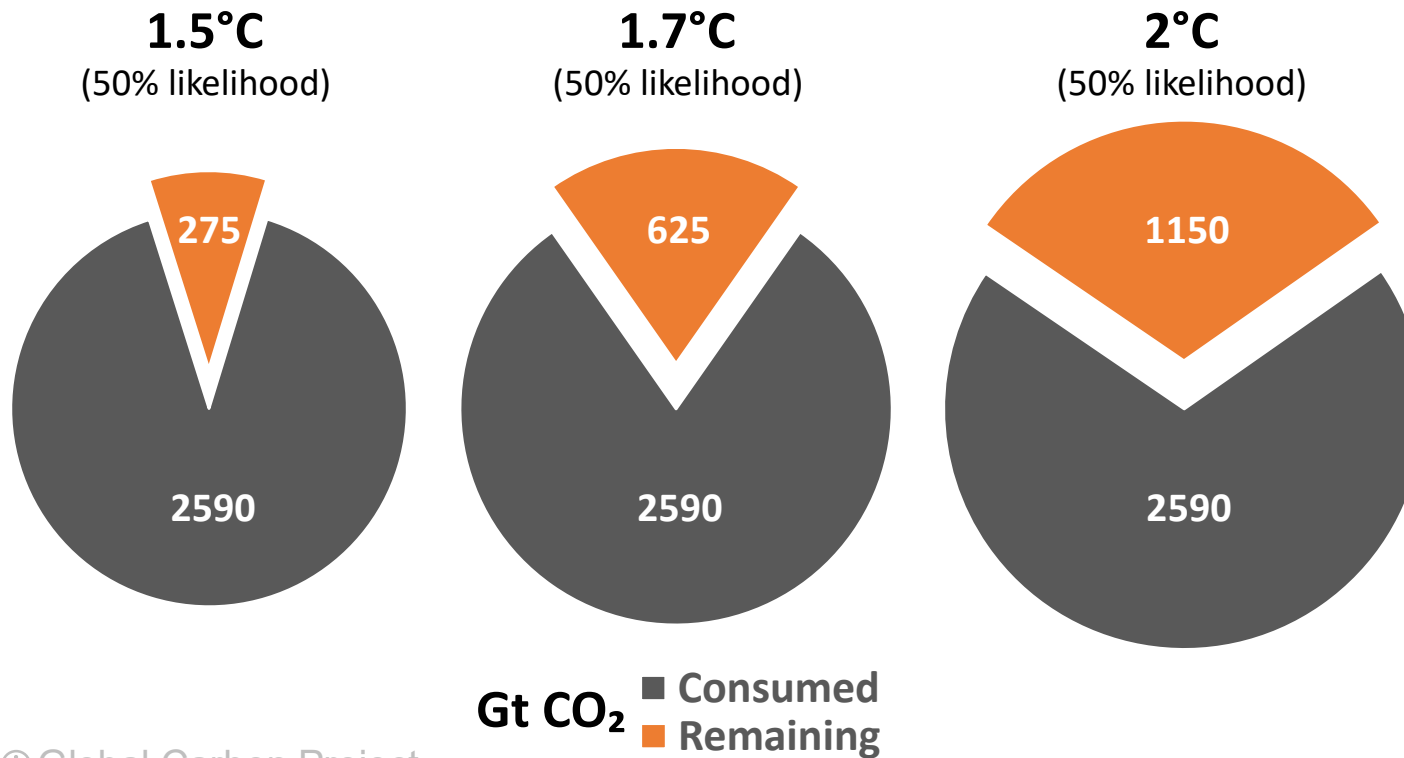


Data source: NOAA Global Monitoring Laboratory - Trends in Atmospheric Carbon Dioxide (2025)

OurWorldinData.org/climate-change | CC BY

Remaining carbon budget

The remaining carbon budget to limit global warming to 1.5°C , 1.7°C and 2°C is 275 GtCO₂, 625 GtCO₂, and 1150 GtCO₂ respectively, equivalent to 7, 15 and 28 years from 2024. 2590 GtCO₂ have been emitted since 1850



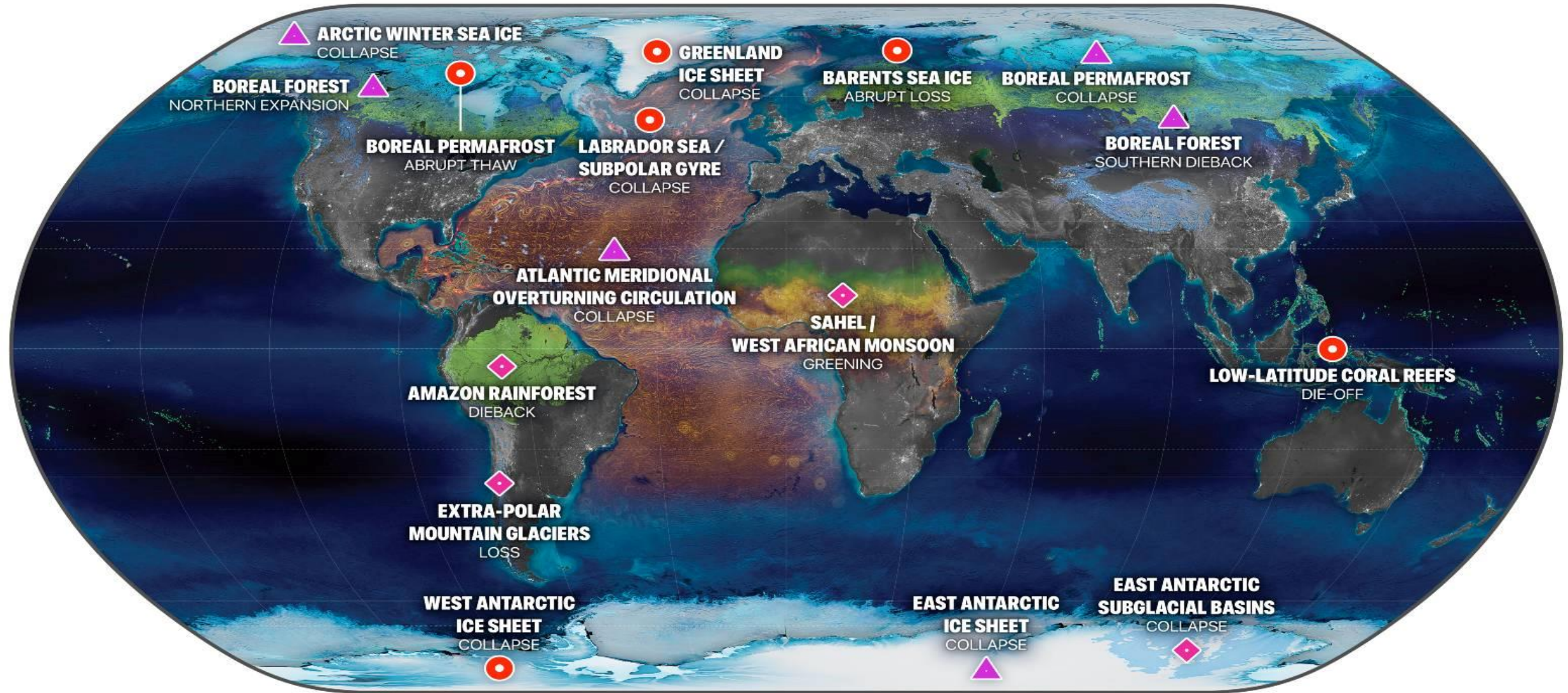
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The remaining carbon budgets is the average of two estimates (IPCC AR6 and Forster et al., 2023), both updated by removing the most recent emissions.

Quantities are subject to additional uncertainties e.g., future mitigation choices of non-CO₂ emissions

Source: [IPCC AR6 WG1](#); [Forster et al., 2023](#); [Friedlingstein et al 2023](#); [Global Carbon Project 2023](#)

CLIMATE TIPPING ELEMENTS



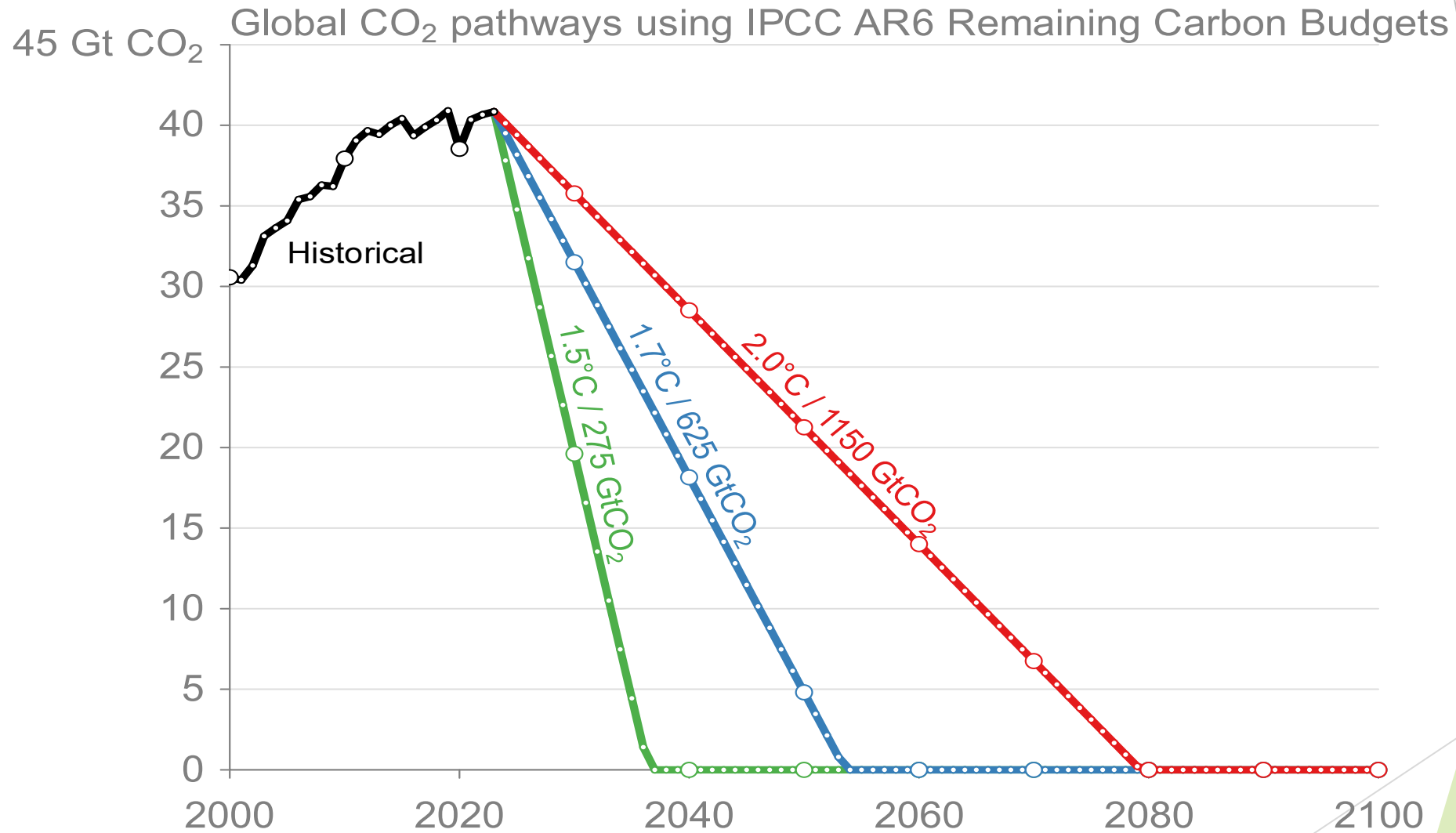
GLOBAL WARMING THRESHOLDS


 $<2^{\circ}\text{C}$


 $2-4^{\circ}\text{C}$


 $\geq 4^{\circ}\text{C}$

Global CO₂ emissions must reach zero to limit global warming



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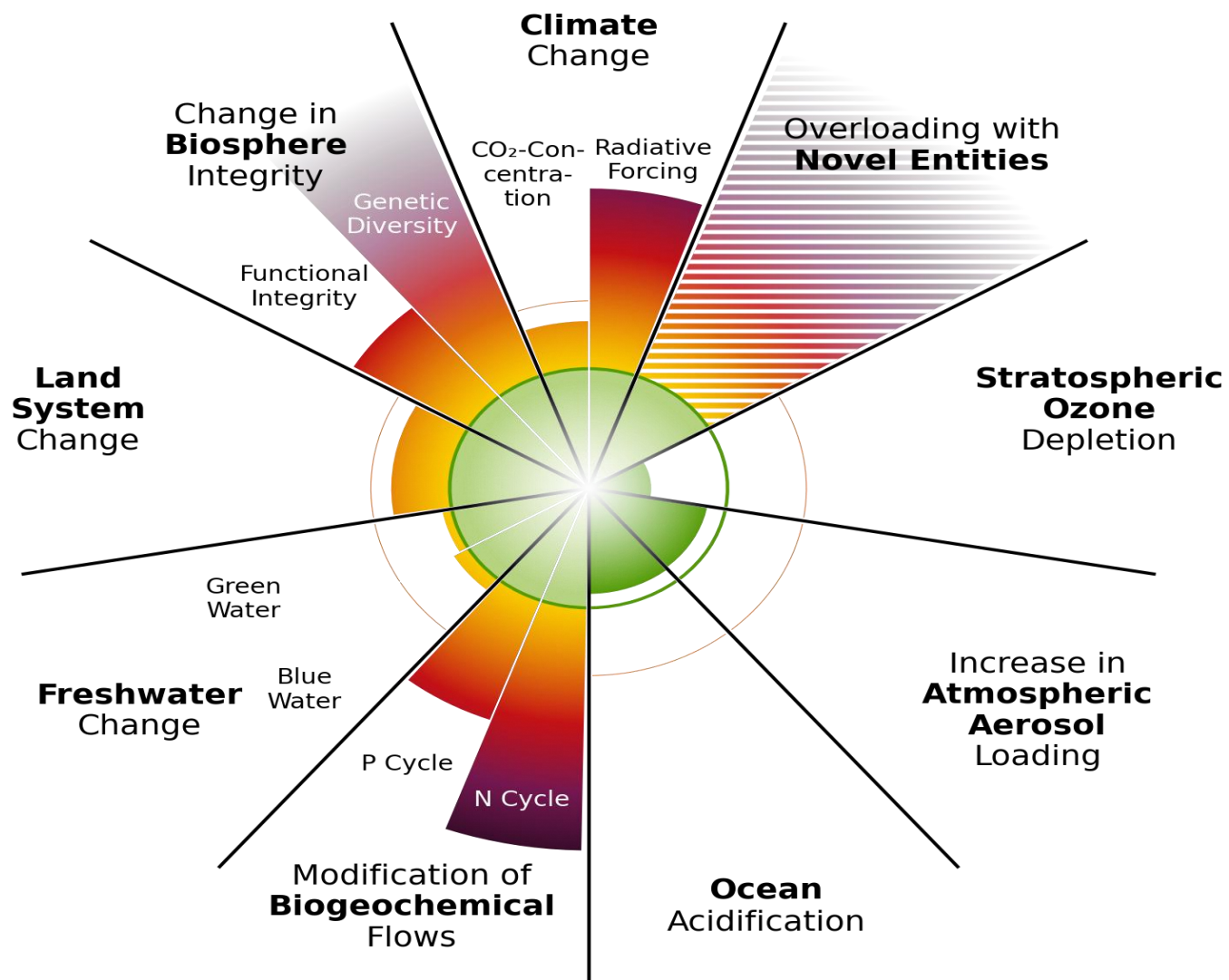
Source: [Friedlingstein et al 2023](#); [Global Carbon Project 2023](#)



Northumberland
Wildlife Trust

Biodiversity Loss





CC BY Version 1.2 - 2024



IPCC Sixth Assessment Report (AR6)

- “There is a rapidly closing window of opportunity to secure a liveable and sustainable future for all...The choices and actions implemented in this decade will have impacts now and for thousands of years.”
- Leading climate scientist and IPCC author Prof Friederike Otto said the report highlights “not only the urgency of the problem and the gravity of it, but also lots of reasons for hope - because we still have the time to act and we have everything we need”. To which I might add - except the political will!

Laudate Deum (para 2) - Pope Francis

- “Eight years have passed since I published the Encyclical Letter *Laudato Si'*, when I wanted to share with all of you, my brothers and sisters of our suffering planet, my heartfelt concerns about the care of our common home. Yet, with the passage of time, I have realized that our responses have not been adequate, while the world in which we live is collapsing and may be nearing breaking point.”

International Agreements

- 2015 - Paris Climate Agreement - to limit global temp rise to below 1.5C.
- Global targets for nature agreed at the COP15 biodiversity summit in Montreal December 2022. Goals agreed to “halt and reverse” biodiversity loss by 2030.
- March 2023 - high seas treaty agreed at the UN. Its aim to protect 30% of the Earth's oceans by 2030, One-third of the oceans will become marine reserves.
- Global Plastics Treaty - negotiations ongoing during 2025.
- Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty - to end fossil fuel expansion.
- Climate and Nature Bill - UK - science-based targets to address climate change and restore nature.
- Sustainable Development Goals - targets to address social and environmental justice.

Global Response

- COP16 Biodiversity Conference Colombia November 2024
 - Cali fund established - pharmaceutical and biotechnic companies to contribute
 - Role of indigenous people recognized as key drivers in preserving biodiversity
 - Only 44/192 countries submitted biodiversity plans
 - No agreement on finance
 - Purchase of Rothbury Estate by Wildlife Trusts!
- COP29 Climate Change Conference Baku, Azerbaijan November 2024
 - Richer nations agree funding of \$300 billion per year by 2035
 - Aspiration to increase funding to \$1.3 trillion by 2035
 - Climate action plans insufficient to keep global temp < 1.5C
- Record investments in renewables during 2024, but emissions have not peaked
- Geopolitical situation is very challenging!
- COP30 in Belem, Brazil November 2025
 - New finance initiatives (inc. debt cancellation)
 - Climate Action Plans
 - Nature Restoration inc the Amazon

Diocesan Events and Activities

- Bishop Stephen - Diocesan Vision and Pastoral Letters
- Parish Energy Audit Exercise - extended to include 2023
- IFM renewable energy contract - 50% increase in Parishes
- Energy consultants Zeco appointed to scope decarbonization projects
- Mass to celebrate Laudato Si' Week - St Mary's Cathedral
- Screenings of "The Letter" at Parishes and Schools
- Schools/ Parishes signing up for the Live Simply Award
- Carbon Literacy Training - delivered by CAT
- Esh Green Team
- Campaign in support of the Climate and Nature Bill

Looking Ahead to 2025

- ▶ Vision - “A world free of poverty on a liveable planet.”
- ▶ Pilgrims of Hope – during this Year of Jubilee
- ▶ The Diocese to endorse the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty
- ▶ DEG webinar “Seeds of Hope” 11am-12.30pm Sat March 8th
- ▶ 10-year Anniversary Mass for Laudato Si’ at St Mary’s Cathedral – 10am Sat May 24th
- ▶ Progress on Decarbonization Projects
- ▶ Progress Carbon Literacy Projects
- ▶ Parishes and Schools to register for the Live Simply Award
- ▶ Parishes to switch to IFM, the renewable energy contract with Engie
- ▶ Potential project at the Youth Village to establish a Laudato Si’ Centre
- ▶ Season of Creation Event to be held at the Youth Village in September

What actions can we take?

- ▶ Be a pilgrim of hope during this Jubilee Year
- ▶ Visit the [WWF carbon calculator](#) to estimate your carbon footprint
- ▶ Identify steps to reduce it (energy, transport, food, consumption)
- ▶ Make your garden more nature friendly
- ▶ Support Northumberland or Durham Wildlife Trusts
- ▶ Engage with your MP – they need to hear from you
- ▶ Join the consultation on [Global Levies](#) to raise finance for climate action
- ▶ Support your Parish to become a Live Simply Parish
- ▶ Check whether your Parish is signed up to the IFM renewable energy contract
- ▶ Let's make 2025 a year of action – for people and planet.



Living in harmony -
people and planet

