Climate Emergency Overview and Scrutiny

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Sefton Council

Today

Purpose : Show progress to date and where decisions will need to be made.

Provide a background to Climate Change and the Council's Climate Emergency Declaration.

Sefton Target

- net zero carbon by 2030.
- Options to avoid, reduce, offset

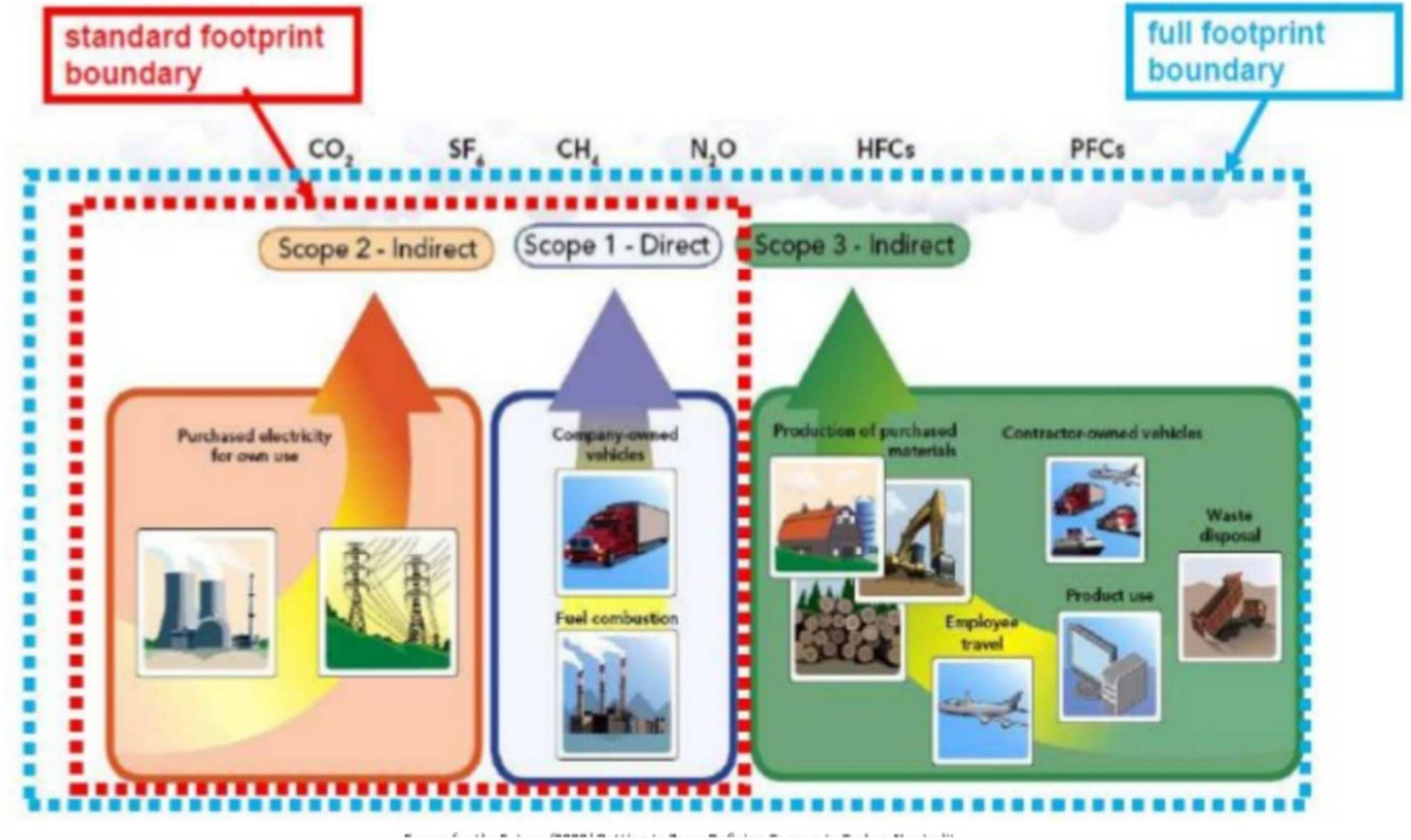
- Since the declaration, a working group has been formed and work has begun on a strategy, action plan and partnership working.
- In order to begin this work, we need to know where we are starting from...

How we quantify our emissions

- Scope – defined using ‘Greenhouse Gas Protocol’
- Only Sefton Council operations

- Can approximate wider Sefton emissions using ‘Scatter’

How we quantify our emissions



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Next Steps

- Most Departments have now
  - Received information on the issues
  - tasked with completing the initial scoping exercise
  - Asked to consider other actions

Officers to suggest options for scope
Decision on scope is required

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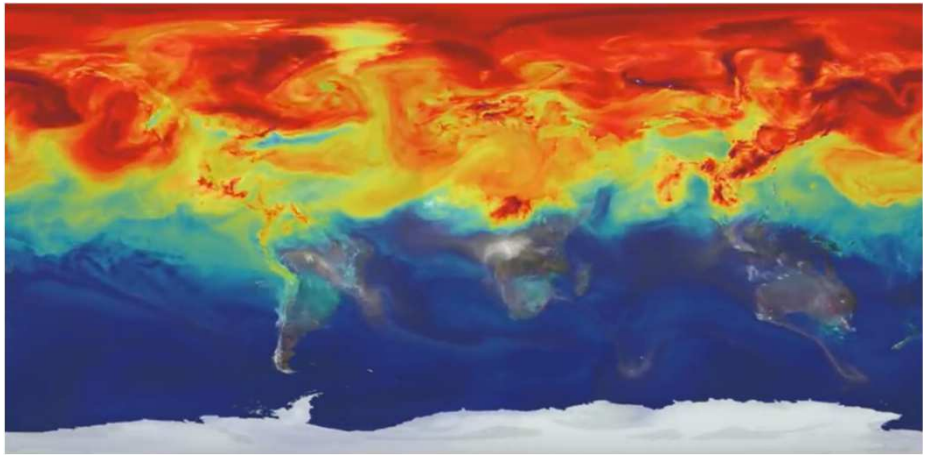
The following slides contain additional information on the Climate change emergency not included in the O&S presentation.

Climate Change

- Climate Time Machine

Climate Change

- See NASA's ' a year in the life of earth's CO2



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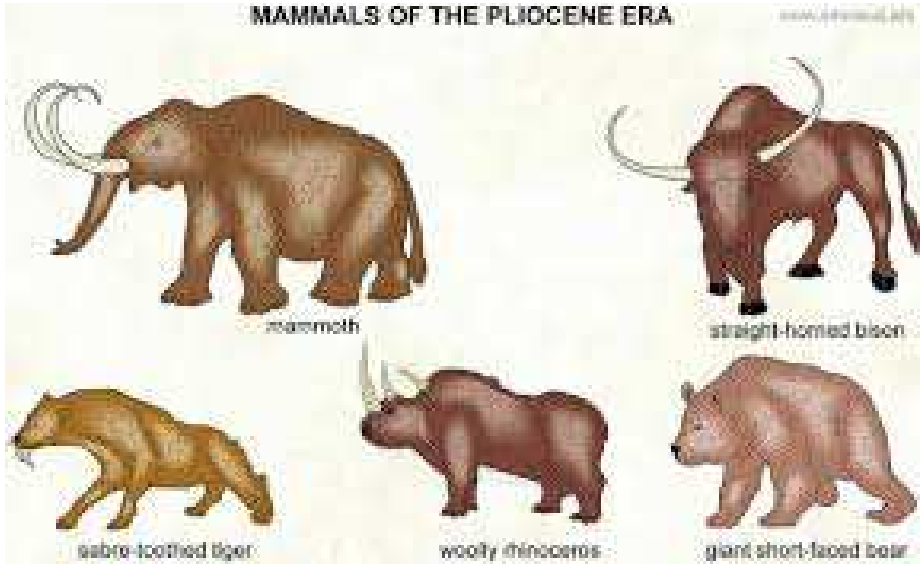
Climate Change

- The last time we had CO2 levels (above 400ppm) this high we had trees at the South pole – The Pliocene era (from about 5.3 million to 2.6 million years ago)



Why CO_2 is key

- "If we keep carbon emissions going at the current rate, by the end of the century we will have 1,000ppm," The low 280ppm level of CO_2 in the run-up to the industrial revolution was rooted in carbon being removed from the air by plants and animals and then buried. "It formed coal seams, gas and oil fields. And what we have been doing for the last 150 years is digging it all up and putting it back into the atmosphere, it's crazy."

Martin Siegert, a geophysicist and climate-change scientist at Imperial College London (Guardian Interview 2019)

International Context

- Climate change is a global issue
- The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) have outlined the serious harm that a 2^{o}C or above rise in global temperature would cause.
- The international target set was to limit temperature rise to 1.5^{o}C at the 2015 Paris Climate Change COP conference.
- An IPCC Report in 2018 stated that humans had 12 years in which to make significant changes to the way we live in order to achieve the 1.5^{o}C target
- Business as usual is not an option.

National Context

- The U.K. Committee on Climate Change states that a rapid increase in UK climate action is necessary to reach the UK target of net carbon zero by 2050.
- The government has begun progress in this area with the DEFRA 25 Year Plan
- Draft proposals such as the Environment Bill have been put on hold for the election.
- Both main parties seem committed to some action in this area.

Local Context

Impacts

- More extreme weather events (flood, heat wave), Coastal erosion, impact on supply chain.

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- Benefits of action; improved air quality, more green spaces, local jobs, local industry, resilient population (improved housing)