

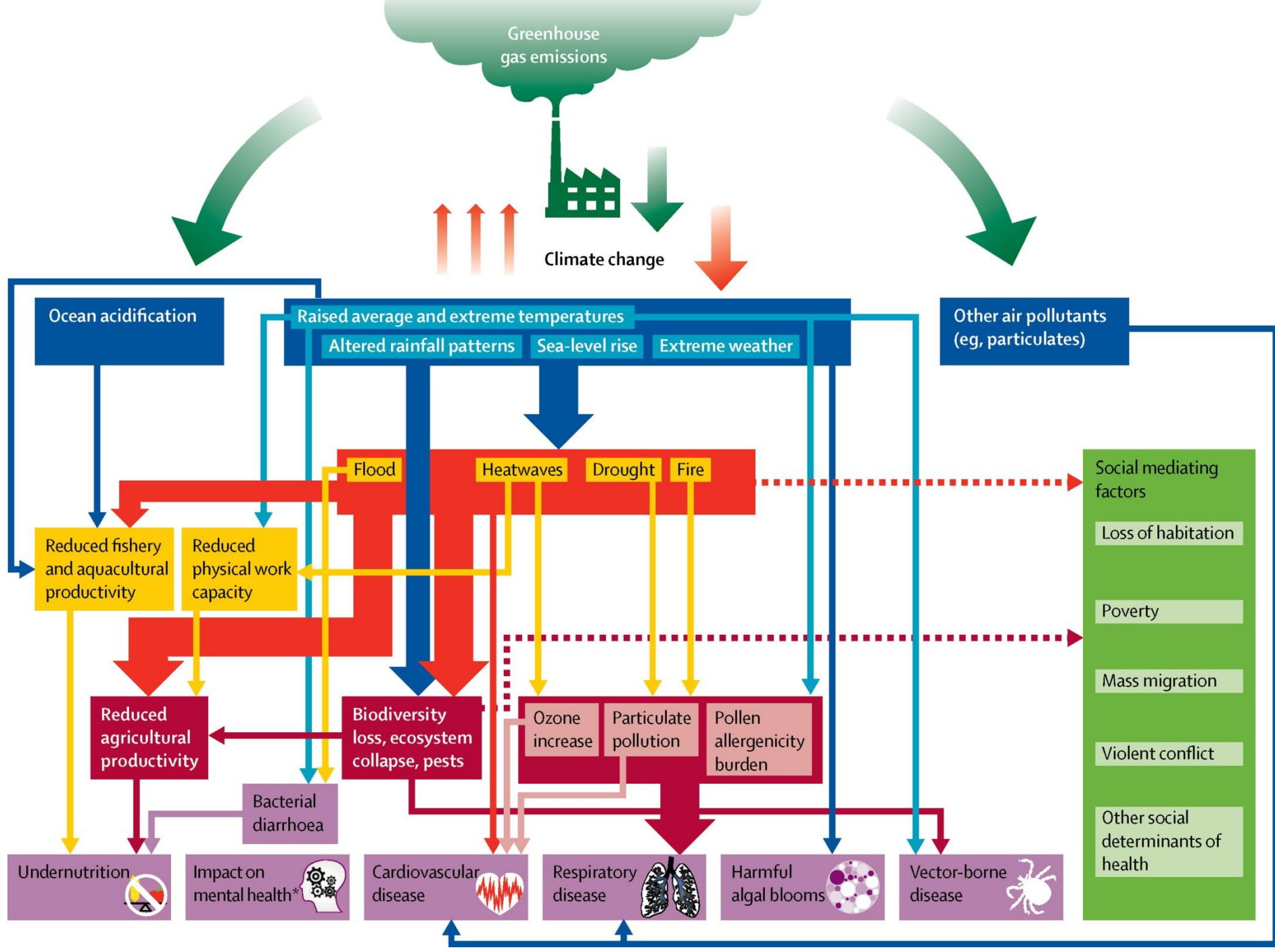
Climate change and public health: a challenge and an opportunity

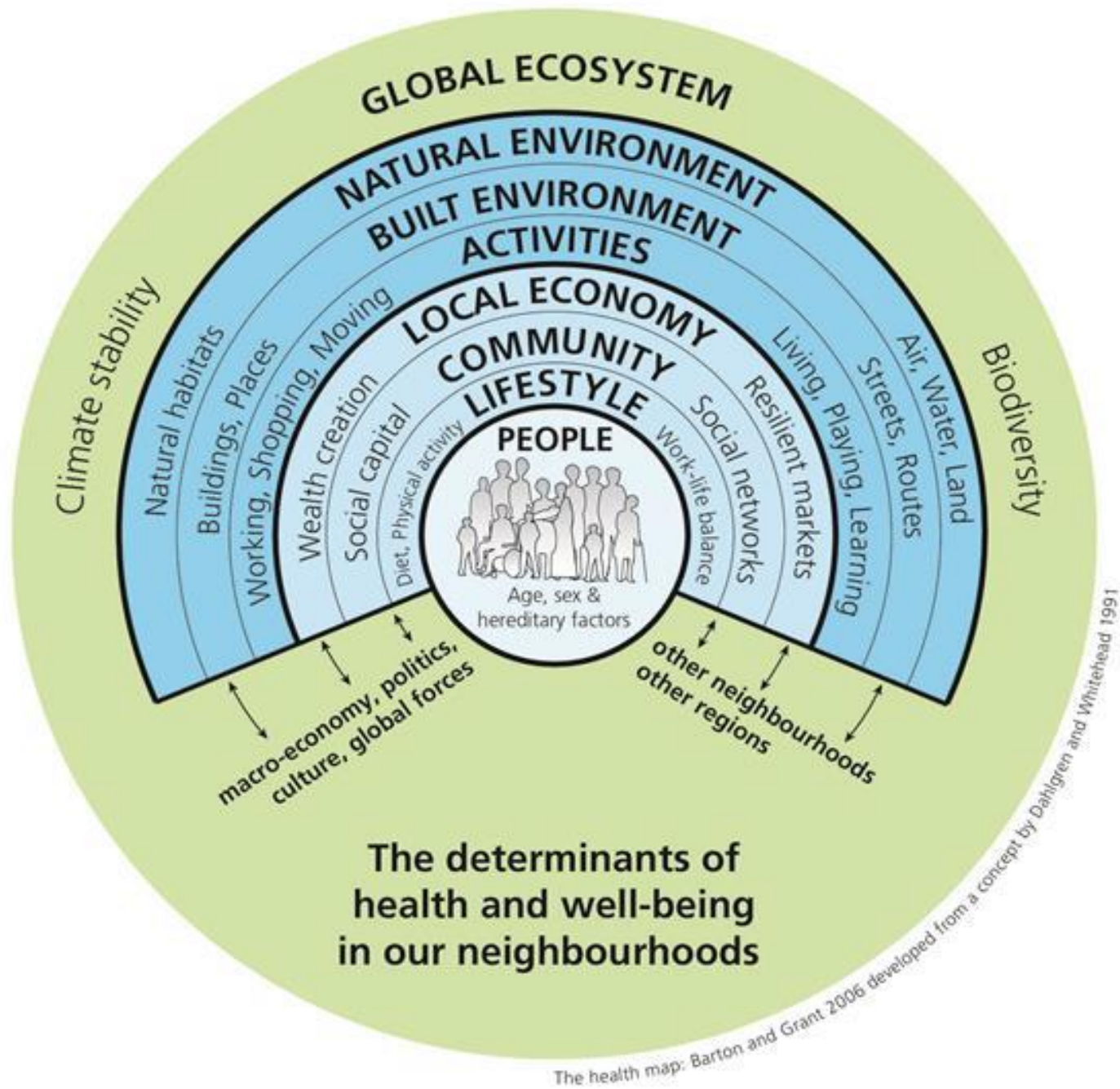
Paul Butcher

Director of Public Health

Why is a DPH interested ?

- **“Climate change is the biggest challenge that our civilisation has ever had to face up to.”**
- Lancet Commission on Health and Climate Change, which concluded that climate change posed a **“potentially catastrophic risk to human health.”**
- Climate change defining health issue of 21st century
- Our changing climate poses a threat to public health, but also great opportunity for creating cleaner, healthier environments





WHO youtube clip – highlighting impact on health of climate change

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZrwqwuNNX4I>

Barriers

- Climate change – too abstract – someone else some other time –
 BUT health can mobilise people
- Economic growth v environment
 False dichotomy – it is a transition
- Politics
 Science/ technology/economics / morality –
 imperatives point in same direction

We are going down a decarbonised path !!

Actions – National

- Major step was taken in [Paris](#) last year when all countries agreed an action plan to limit global warming to well below 2°C.
- UK first country to introduce comprehensive legislation in 2008 with the [Climate Change Act](#), the UK has undertaken a clear leadership role in ensuring that we, along with other nations, achieve this objective.

Taking action

- The UK employed 460,000 in the low carbon sector in 2013, which makes a significant contribution to our economy with a turnover of £120 billion a year.
- it is the co-benefits of the transition to a low carbon economy that often drives countries to shift their investment – such as better health and air quality for their populations

Key Public Health interventions

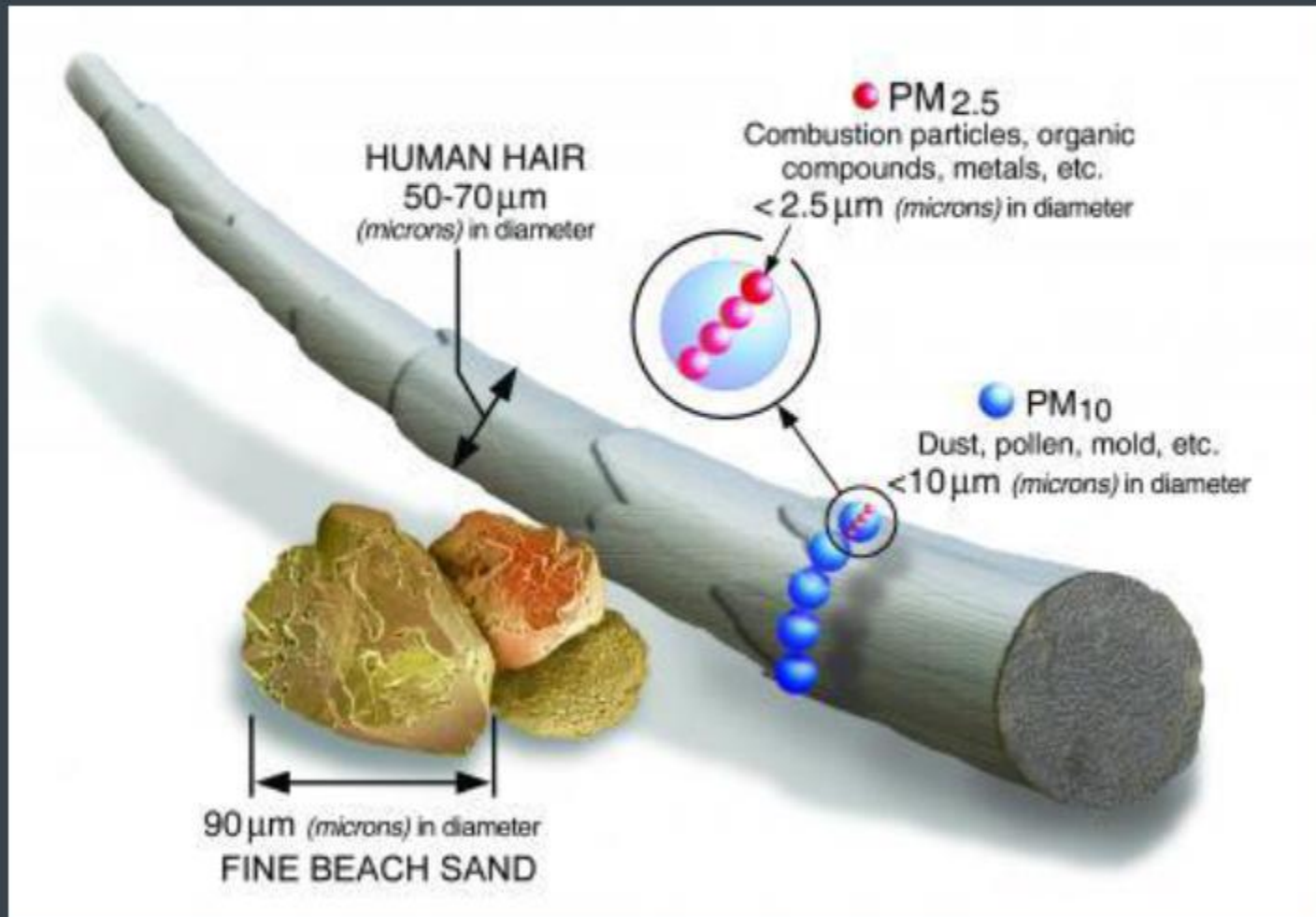
- This includes [active travel](#), the role of [accessible green and blue space](#), the importance of [well insulated](#) affordable homes and evidence that [sustainable nutrition](#) is also healthier nutrition.
- All of these interventions have the potential to impact the future sustainability of the planet as well as improvements in health and wellbeing.

What can we do

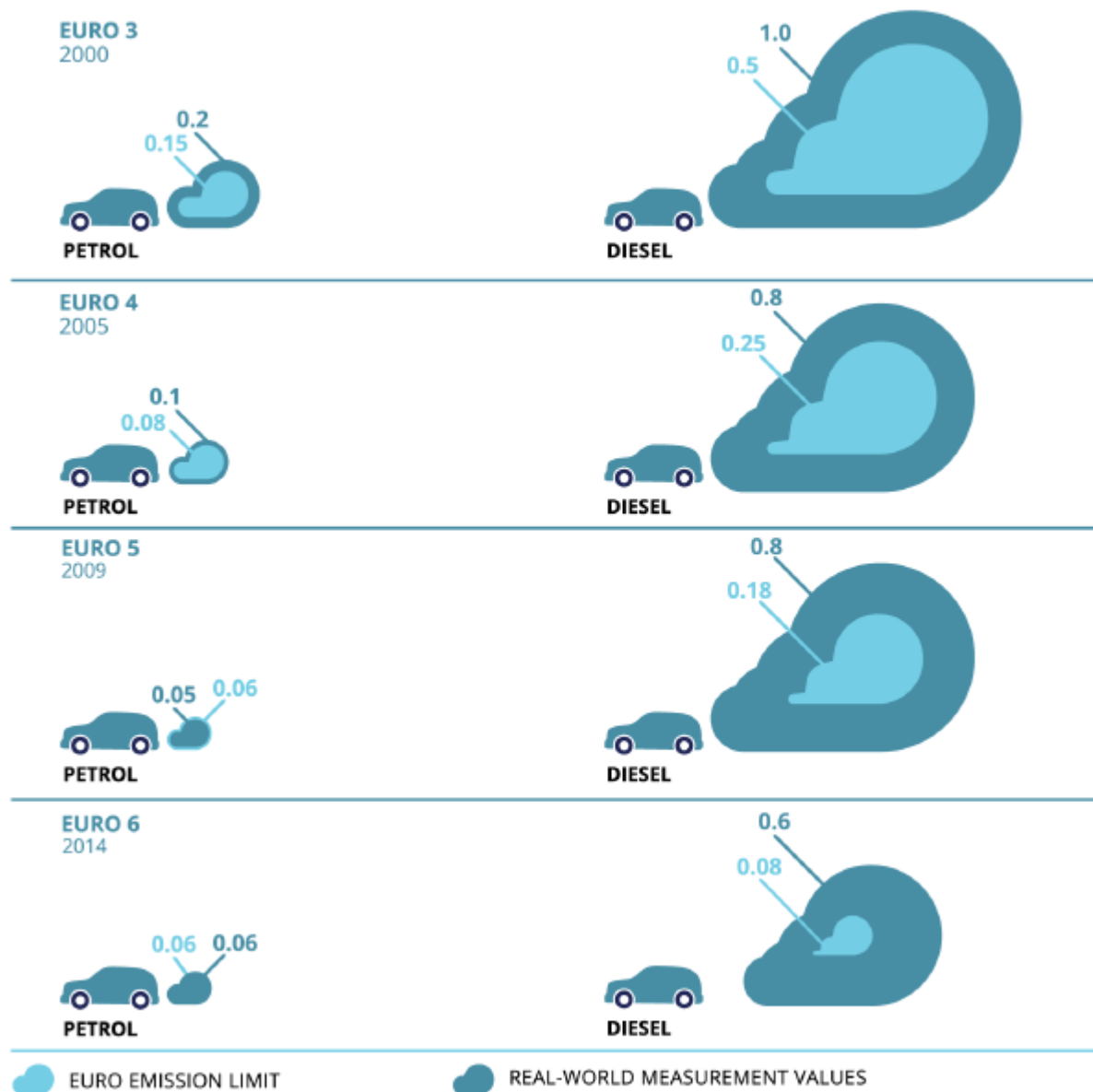
Focus on 2 things

- Transport
- Food

Why are we concerned?



Comparison of NO_x emission standards for different Euro classes



Recent developments

- Bike library – donate a bike or take one out



- Involve yourself and organisation in leaving car behind 1 in 5 trips

Involve yourself and organisation in leaving car
behind 1 in 5 trips



Sustainable food

- A widespread switch to vegetarianism would cut emissions by nearly two-thirds according to recent evidence from Oxford University
- In three decades, [emissions related to agriculture and food production](#) are likely to account for about half of the world's available "carbon budget" - the limited amount of carbon dioxide and its equivalents that can be poured into the atmosphere if we are to hold global warming to no more than 2C.
- While energy generation, transport and buildings have long been a target for governments, businesses and campaigners looking to reduce emissions, the impact from food production has often been left out. But on current trends, with intensive agriculture increasingly geared towards livestock rearing, food production will be a major concern.

SUSTAINABLE FOOD cities





The Sustainable Food Cities approach is about...

- Creating a city-wide **cross-sector partnership** of public agencies (health, environment, economy), businesses, NGOs, community organisations and academic bodies.
- Developing a **joint vision** and **common goals** on how healthy and sustainable food can become a defining characteristic of their city.
- Develop and implementing an **action plan** that leads to significant measurable improvements in all aspects of food, health and sustainability.

“It is about completely re-imagining, and ultimately reshaping, a city (or town, borough, district, county) through the lens of good food”



How does it work?



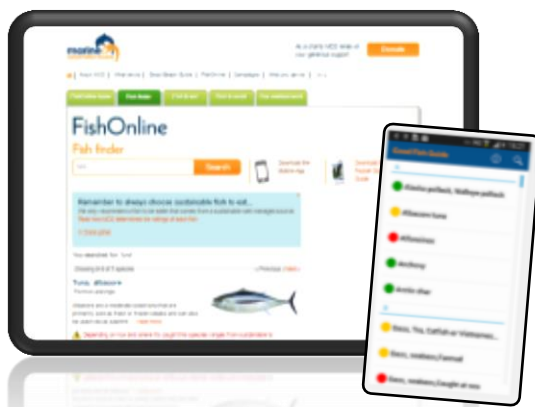
The pledge requires a caterer to...

The Pledge

- Specific and clear, but flexible
- Agreed by collaboration of organisations
- Different for large and small businesses



Fish-serving institutions are asked to sign the fish cities pledge



AVOID THE WORST

Red-rated



PROMOTE THE BEST

Green-rated/MSC Certification



IMPROVE THE REST

Amber-rated



Final thoughts

- Tackling climate change great opportunity for improving health
- Pessimism of intellect but positivity of will
- Economy and people inevitable transition to low carbon economy
- Power of demand - how do we unleash ?
- Climate change affects and involves every country and every individual. We must all work together in order to ensure a safe, healthy and sustainable world for future generations.
- How do we further mobilise ?