

# Bradford 2025 Food Symposium

## Break out session: Climate Action Plan



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## Break out session: Climate Action Plan

- Climate Action – the story so far...
- Climate Action in Bradford District
- **Conversation 1** - what is the link between Global Food Systems and Climate Change?
- **Conversation 2** – What household or food choice changes can we make to help reduce global Greenhouse Gas emissions and build climate resilience?



# Climate Action - the story so far...

- 😊 The UK's emissions have **halved** (50.4%) since 1990.
- 😊 2005-2022 Bradford District emissions decreased by **47%**.
- 😊 Largely to due swapping fossil fuels for **renewables**.
- 😊 Renewables contribute to **>40%** of the UK's overall energy production (7% in 2010).
- 😊 Per capita emissions in Bradford - below average for England and UK.
- 😞 **2024** - first year above Paris Agreement's **1.5°C target**
- 😞 **2025** on course to be **2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup>** warmest year on record.
- 😞 **Consequences of climate change**...heatwaves, droughts, flooding, crop failure, famine...
- 😞 The **poorest** and **most vulnerable** people and places **suffer first and worst**.
- 👊 **Slow the pace** of climate change and **adapt** to 'locked-in' consequences.
- 🌍 The opportunity – a **healthy, happy, resilient, cohesive, prosperous and sustainable future**.



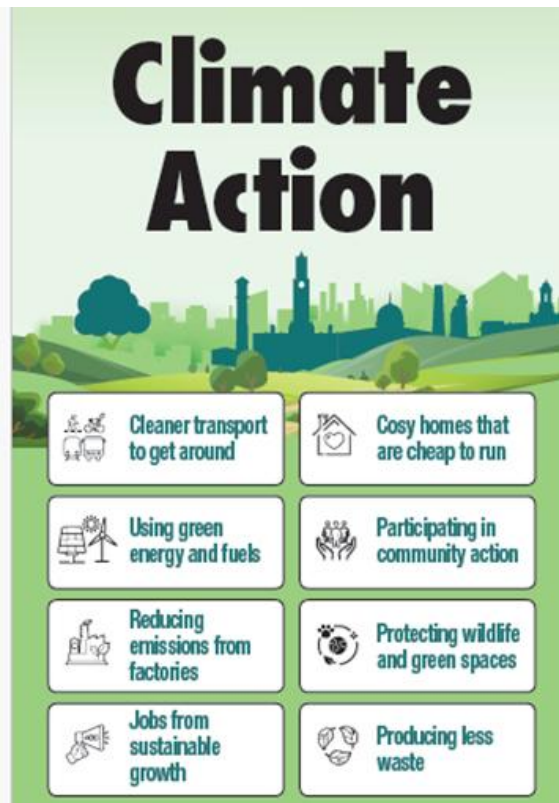
- ✓ UK Government – **net zero target** by **2050**
- ✓ **2019** Bradford Council declared a **Climate Emergency**.
- ✓ Commitment to reach **net zero** by **2038** - with **significant progress** by **2030**.
- ✓ **2023** Bradford Council declared a **Biodiversity Emergency**.



# Climate Action in Bradford District



| Bradford District's Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions (2022)                         |                                                                                                                                     |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|   | 31% - <b>Energy</b> use in domestic buildings – mainly from gas boilers.                                                            |
|   | 25% - <b>Transport</b> – mainly from road transport.                                                                                |
|   | 18% - <b>Industry</b> - higher than average due to large number of manufacturing businesses.                                        |
|   | 14% - <b>Commercial buildings</b><br>5% - <b>Public sector buildings</b>                                                            |
|   | 3.4% - <b>Waste</b>                                                                                                                 |
|   | 3.4% - <b>Agriculture</b> – mainly from livestock                                                                                   |
|  | 0.2% - <b>Land Use, Land Use Change &amp; Forestry (LULUCF)</b> – mainly from peatland but also removed via forestry and grasslands |



## CAP – 8 Priorities:

1. Travel & Transport
2. Renewable Energy & Fuels
3. Decarbonising Industry
4. Sustainable & Inclusive Economy
5. Warm & Comfortable Buildings
6. Community Climate Action
7. Land & Nature
8. Consumption & Waste

## CAP - 6 Principles:

1. Inclusion
2. Equity
3. Just Transition
4. Climate Justice
5. Intergenerational Fairness
6. Collaboration



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# Climate Action in Bradford District



1. Infrastructure and behavioural change programmes



2. Low Carbon Hydrogen facility and Bradford Energy Network



3. Bradford Manufacturing Futures - industrial decarbonisation



4. Sustainable procurement; green skills & careers; sustainable food.



5. New Local Plan; re-generation programmes and housing retrofit



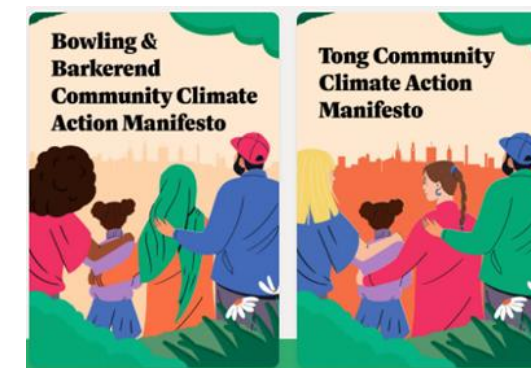
6. Climate action with neighbourhoods, schools & business communities



7. Land use - habitat restoration; flood management; nature reserves



8. Public campaigns; household food waste, anaerobic digestion facility



# Conversation 1

What is the **link** between  
Global Food Systems and  
Climate Change?



# Exploring the link between Global Food Systems & Climate Change



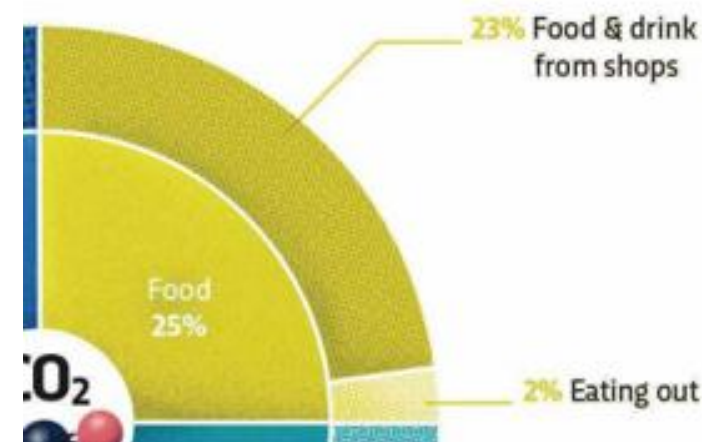
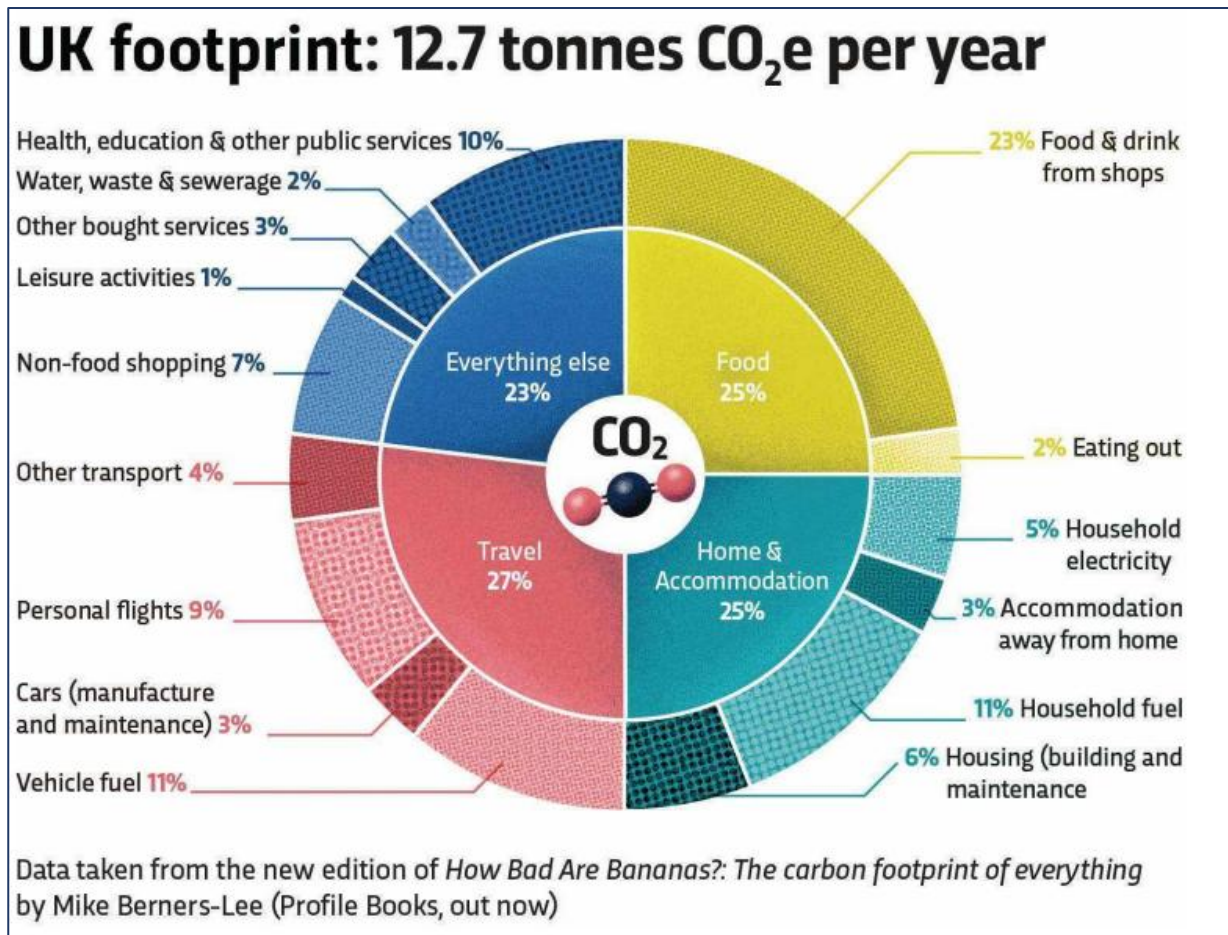
- The global food system releases more GHG emissions (1/3<sup>rd</sup>) than any other sector apart from energy.
- It's the biggest contributor to **biodiversity loss, deforestation, drought, freshwater pollution, and collapse of aquatic wildlife** → environmental, social & health costs.
- **Meat production** alone is responsible for nearly **60%** of the food sector's climate emissions
- The UK's food system accounts for **1/5<sup>th</sup> of domestic emissions** (excluding imports).
- Agriculture is responsible for **50%** of global methane emissions (traps 80 times more heat than CO<sub>2</sub>)
- A changing climate and extreme weather patterns impact **food production** and **food security**.
- Since 2008 the food system has decarbonised at **less than half** the pace of the wider economy.
- We must address land use and reduce meat consumption by **20-50%** to reach net zero by 2050.
- Over ¼ of all the food grown in the UK is never eaten; 70% of post-farmgate **food waste** is from households.



***Every stage of the food system exacerbates the carbon crisis...*** forests cleared to plant crops, energy-intensive manufacture of fertiliser, release of carbon from degrading soils, methane produced by livestock, energy used by manufacturing plants and retail outlets, fuel used to power vehicles in the supply chain, and emissions from decomposing food waste.



# Let's think about our food carbon footprint...

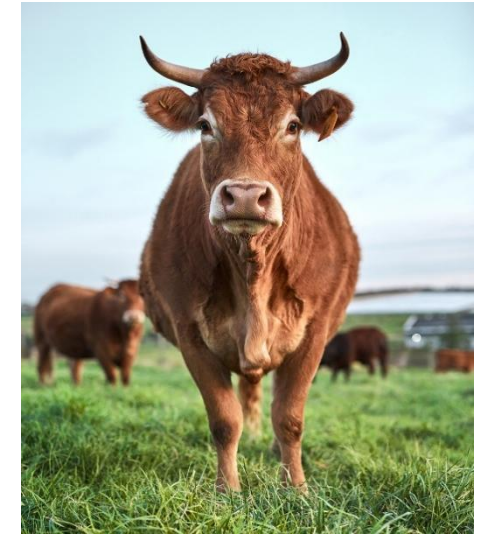


- We each create 8.2kg CO<sub>2</sub>e per day from the food and drink we consume.
- Which foods do you think have the biggest carbon footprint?
- Why do you think that?
- What countries does your food come from?
- How does it get to the UK?
- How is it packaged?
- And then there's food waste...

# The total greenhouse gas cost of everyday foods

| FOOD                                          | KG CO2e PER KG PRODUCE |                                            |      |
|-----------------------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------------------|------|
| Oatmeal milk, unrefrigerated (from UK)        | 0.2                    | Cream (British)                            | 5.9  |
| Apples (local)                                | 0.3                    | Whole chicken (global average)             | 8.1  |
| Potatoes and root veg (UK grown)              | 0.3                    | Butter (British)                           | 9.8  |
| Soya milk, unrefrigerated                     | 0.4                    | Bacon (UK produced)                        | 10   |
| Onions (UK grown)                             | 0.5                    | Mozzarella (UK produced)                   | 10.1 |
| Garlic (UK grown)                             | 0.5                    | Mozzarella (driven from Italy)             | 10.3 |
| Apples (shipped from New Zealand)             | 0.6                    | Cheddar (UK produced)                      | 11.8 |
| Lettuce (UK grown)                            | 0.6                    | Grapes (flown from South Africa)           | 18.5 |
| Almond milk, unrefrigerated (from California) | 0.6                    | Asparagus (flown from Peru)                | 18.5 |
| Bananas (shipped from Latin America)          | 0.7                    | Eggs (British)                             | 19.1 |
| Broccoli (UK grown)                           | 0.7                    | Parmesan (driven from Italy)               | 19.1 |
| Squash (UK grown)                             | 0.7                    | Lamb (UK produced)                         | 21   |
| Cauliflower (UK grown)                        | 0.9                    | Tuna (flown from Seychelles)               | 22   |
| Kale (UK grown)                               | 0.9                    | Tiger prawns (farmed Thailand)             | 25   |
| Lemons (shipped from Spain)                   | 0.9                    | Beef (UK produced)                         | 25   |
|                                               |                        | Beef steak (imported from deforested land) | 83.3 |

This considers...farming practices, agricultural machinery used, methane burps, transport needed in the production/supply chain, other fuel requirements, processing and packaging.



Professor Mike Berners-Lee from University of Lancaster has created UK 'carbon equivalent' (CO2e) data, listing the **total greenhouse gas cost**, including methane, nitrous oxide and other gases, of everyday foods in the UK.

The full list available at:  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/food/articles/carbon>

# Conversation 2

What household or food choice **changes** can we make to help reduce global Greenhouse Gas emissions and build climate resilience?

What are the **barriers**?

*“Around 60% of all changes required to reach net zero rely on societal or behavioural change”*

**UK Climate Change Committee**

# Changes we could make to safeguard our planet...

- Buy fruit and veg **in season**
- Avoid highly perishable veg and fruit (e.g. asparagus, berries) which are **flown in** when out of season.
- **Eat more** plant-based foods – ‘Meat Free Monday’, try swapping meat proteins for bean proteins, try plant-based dairy.
- **Eat less**, but better meat.
- Be a **careful consumer** – buy British, shop local, buy ethical/organic, buy Fairtrade.
- Avoid **intensively farmed** foods, support **nature-based** farmers and growers.
- Avoid (unsustainable) **palm oil** which is linked to deforestation and loss of wildlife habitat.
- Check the packaging for **country of origin**.
- **Eat everything** you buy, reduce waste.
- Buy **less packaging** and avoid black plastic as it can’t be recycled.
- Use **low-carbon cooking** methods e.g. put a lid on your saucepan (saves 20% of energy), only boil what you need.
- **Compost** food waste or try smaller alternatives e.g. wormery, Bokashi bin.
- **Grow your own** or try **community growing** e.g. Incredible Edible, Grow to School, allotment, raised beds at home etc.
- **Food Activism** – use your **voice** to influence change e.g. support campaigns, petition.



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**Thank you for taking part!**



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