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FOR WALES

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# Introduction and Setting the Scene

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# Context and Current Challenges

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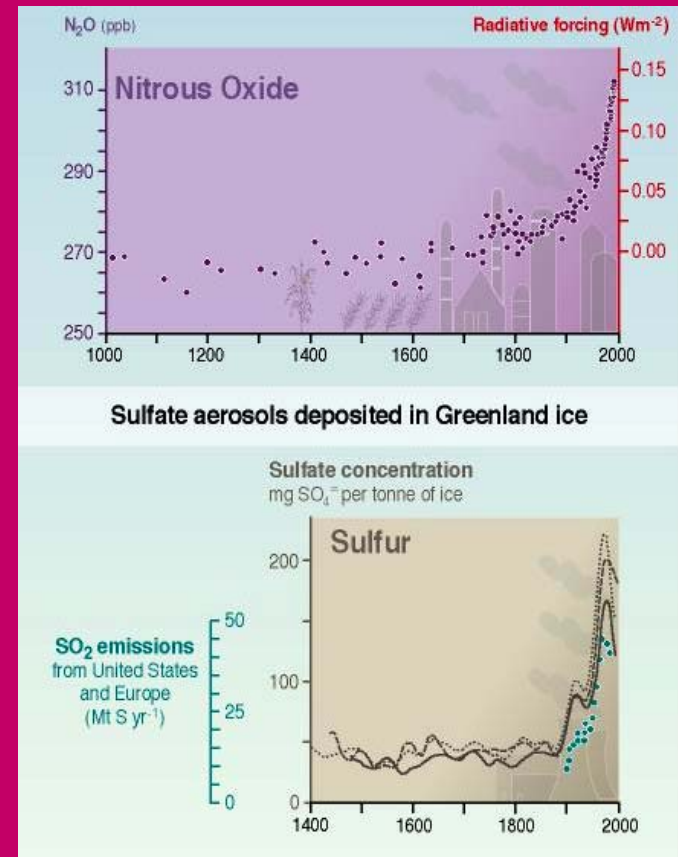
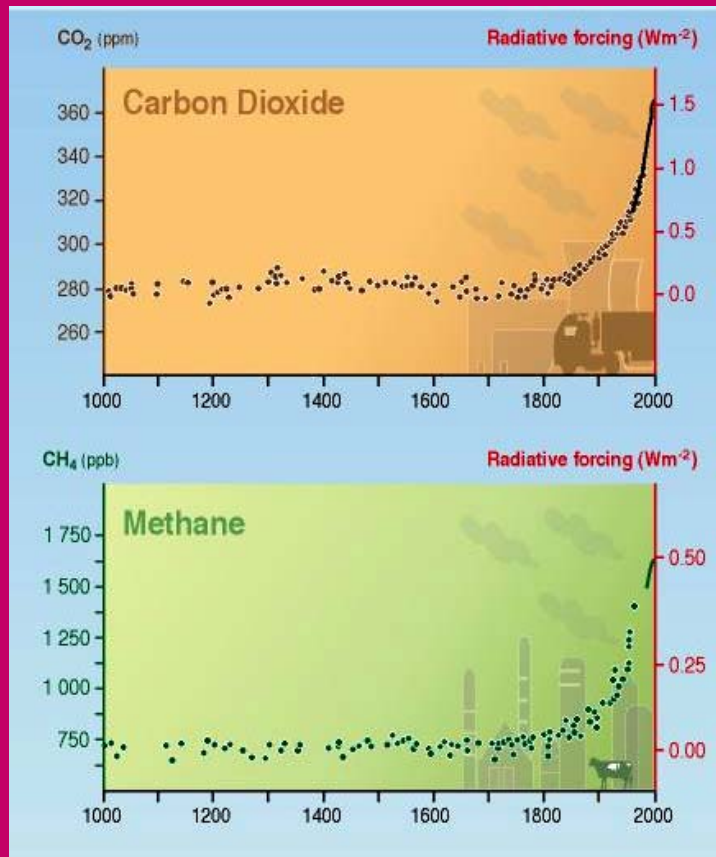


- Welsh Assembly Government was the first in the world to set down its ecological footprint as a key indicator.
- Wales is one of only three countries in the world with a legal commitment to sustainable development enshrined in its constitution under Government of Wales Act.
- Welsh Assembly Government made sustainable development the cornerstone of policy and strategy.
- Welsh Assembly Government has been the most challenging in public statements in relation to climate change and carbon reduction – e.g. 2011 aspiration; 3% reduction in One Wales.

# Human Activity has changed the composition of the atmosphere from pre-industrial levels

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# Climate Change Impacts

- Higher Temperatures, More Heat Waves (**very likely**)
  - Maintaining thermal comfort of buildings
  - Responding to changing energy supply/demand
  - Risks to Infrastructure and Productivity
  
- More Intense Rainfall Events (**very likely**)
  - Flood Risk
  - Insurance
  
- Increased Summer Drying (**likely**)
  - Water Resources
  - Structural implications (Subsidence)



# Stern Report 2006

- Climate change will reduce global GDP
- Predicted costs are between 5% and 20% pa
- Costs predicted to range between £58bn - £231bn

## Cost of mitigation and adaptation:

- We need to invest 1% of GDP
- = £192 per person pa;
- = £3.70 per person, per week

## Stern 2008:

- Costs of tackling climate change doubled to 2% GDP
- Evidence shows that effects of climate change happening more quickly than predicted.
- Global emissions need to halve by 2050, with cuts of 80% in UK

# Planning Policy in Wales

No shortage of good planning guidance at national levels;

- Design Statements and revised TAN 12
  - WAG working to remove barriers to LPA delivery of climate change and low carbon measures;
  - DCFW seeking resource efficient development – demand reduction
  - WAG Renewable energy strategy and micro-generation targets etc
  - SDC/DCFW – “coalition of the willing” – cross-sector
  - Pursuance of devolution of Building Regulations
  - Public procurement work ongoing – **How bold?**
- **Private Sector:**
- Uncertainty, skill gaps, patchy supply chains
  - Difficult to gauge response – esp. in current market
- Key message from UKGBC – climate change will still be here when the market picks up – **use your time wisely** to prepare.

# Sustainability and the Financial crisis

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• Will sustainability be a growth area in the economy in the next 3 years?

Yes: 85%

• Difference crisis has made to commitment to sustainability over last 6 months?

Bigger focus: 55%

Adversely affected: 18%

• The Government should stick to ambitious targets?

Strongly agree: 76%

Strongly disagree: 2%

Source: UKGBC web poll of members Nov 0