

Climate and Ecological Emergency Working Group

Held at:	Folkestone Room - Civic Centre Folkestone
Date	Friday, 18 October 2019
Present	Councillors Gary Fuller, Ian Meyers, David Monk, Georgina Treloar and David Wimble
Apologies for Absence	Councillor Jackie Meade
Officers Present:	Kate Clark (Committee Services Officer), Tim Madden (Corporate Director - Customer, Support and Specialist Services), Charlotte Spendley (Assistant Director), Adrian Tofts (Strategy, Policy and Performance Manager) and Hazel Sargent (Low Carbon and Sustainability Specialist)
Others Present:	Carolyn McKenzie (Head of Sustainable Business and Communities, KCC)

1. Chair's Welcome (including purpose of group and Terms of Reference)

The Leader (Councillor Monk) welcomed attendees to the inaugural meeting and advised that subsequent meetings will be chaired by Councillor Stuart Peall, Cabinet Member for Enforcement, Regulatory Services, Waste and Building Control.

The Leader drew members attention to the Terms of Reference.

2. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Introduction of Low Carbon & Sustainability Specialist

Hazel Sargent introduced herself as the District Council's Low Carbon and Sustainability Specialist and was looking forward to this challenging role.

4. **National and Kent scene setting (Carolyn McKenzie, KCC)**

Carolyn McKenzie, Head of Sustainable Business and Communities at Kent County Council introduced herself.

All present also introduced themselves.

A presentation was given to members, comments as follows:

- KCC is preparing an Energy and Low Emissions Strategy. The strategic framework is evidenced based with the action plan being updated annually.
- Air quality – the Government has produced various strategic papers, however net zero emissions target for the area is potentially 2030, evidence shows this is more likely to be the Government's target of 2050. There are a number of hotspots in Kent and Medway areas where vulnerable residents reside.
- Solar/Wind energy – more infrastructure needed, notwithstanding nuclear energy. A move to reduce fossil fuels, further suggestions were wave energy and SSSR.
- EV infrastructure – looking at solar hubs/charging clusters in car parks.
- Aims to ensure construction, operation and material supply of buildings to produce net zero emissions by 2025.
- Consideration for mobility, connectivity, travel and offsetting. Encourage homeworking, superior broadband, alternative ways of travelling.
- LED lighting and heat generation. Very reliant on fossil fuels and important to look at alternative heat sources such as water or sewerage.
- Flood risks – the county council have reviewed flooding areas and the demographics, looking at who can and can't help themselves. Planning at district level looks forward 100 years as part of applications received.
- Building regulations – consultation by central Government, looking at more stringent and less variable regulations to be proposed by 2025.

Members thanked Carolyn for her attendance and informative presentation.

5. **Discussion on priority areas to explore**

Adrian Tofts, Strategy, Policy and Performance Manager, gave a presentation to members, the following comments were made:

- Promote the purchase/lease of electrical vehicles.
- Encourage more cycling and walking, the charity Sustrans is a major force in this respect.
- Grants available for charging points and pool EVs
- Lorry Parks – encourage cleaner production of energy within parks.
- Kent and Medway Warm Homes initiative.
- Housing stock – a potential to move away from gas boilers to electric heating

- Recycling excess heat from crematorium sites along with mercury abatement.
- SALIX loans are available which provides interest free, Government backed finance to the public sector.
- Tree planting forward plan. A green infrastructure plan has been prepared that will identify projects that may include tree planting.

6. **Agreed actions and next steps**

1. Costings and/or action plans on items discussed today.
2. Ask Cllr Tony Hills and Max Tant (Flood and Water Manager, KCC) to attend the next working group with a view to addressing flooding risks in the district.
3. Recommend to Council that electric vehicles, charging points, costs and location are considered when replacing fleet vehicles.
4. Recommend to Council that the Civic Centre building energy impact on climate change is explored and costed
5. Promote reduction of food waste, packaging and healthy diets to all residents using a communication channel plan, such as 'Your District Today'.

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National and local background

18 October 2019

Background

- Climate Change Act 2008 introduced the UK's first legally binding target for 2050 to **reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 80% compared to 1990 levels**
- 2015 Paris Agreement – 195 countries adopted the first-ever binding global climate deal
- Governments agreed to goal of keeping the increase in global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and to aim to limit the increase to 1.5°C
- June 2019 the UK amended the Act and set a legally binding target to achieve **net zero emissions from across the UK economy by 2050**

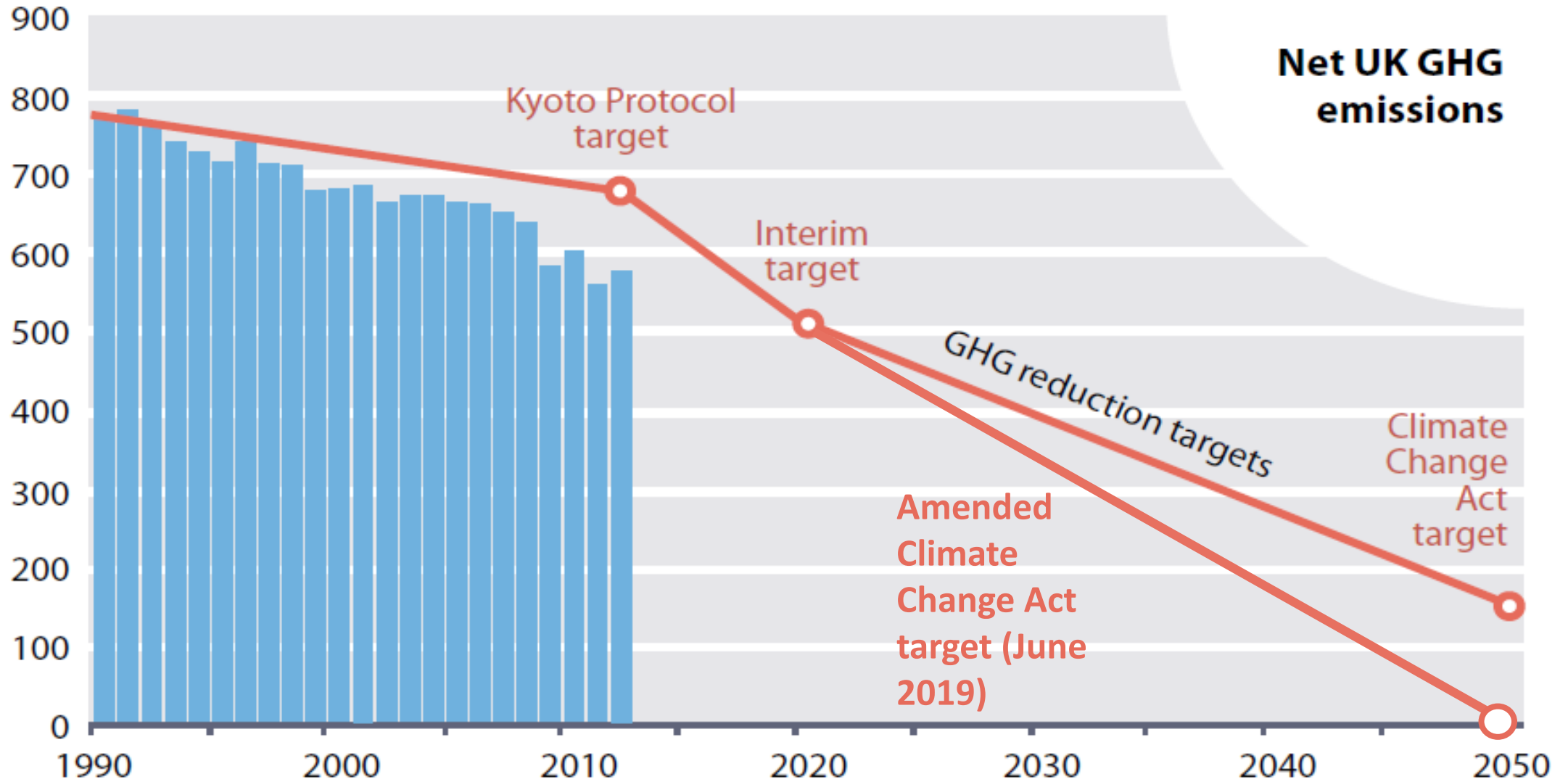
Background

“The UK’s 2050 net zero target — one of the most ambitious in the world — was recommended by the Committee on Climate Change, the UK’s independent climate advisory body. Net zero means any emissions would be balanced by schemes to offset an equivalent amount of greenhouse gases from the atmosphere, such as planting trees or using technology like carbon capture and storage.”

Chris Skidmore, Energy and Clean Growth Minister, June 2019

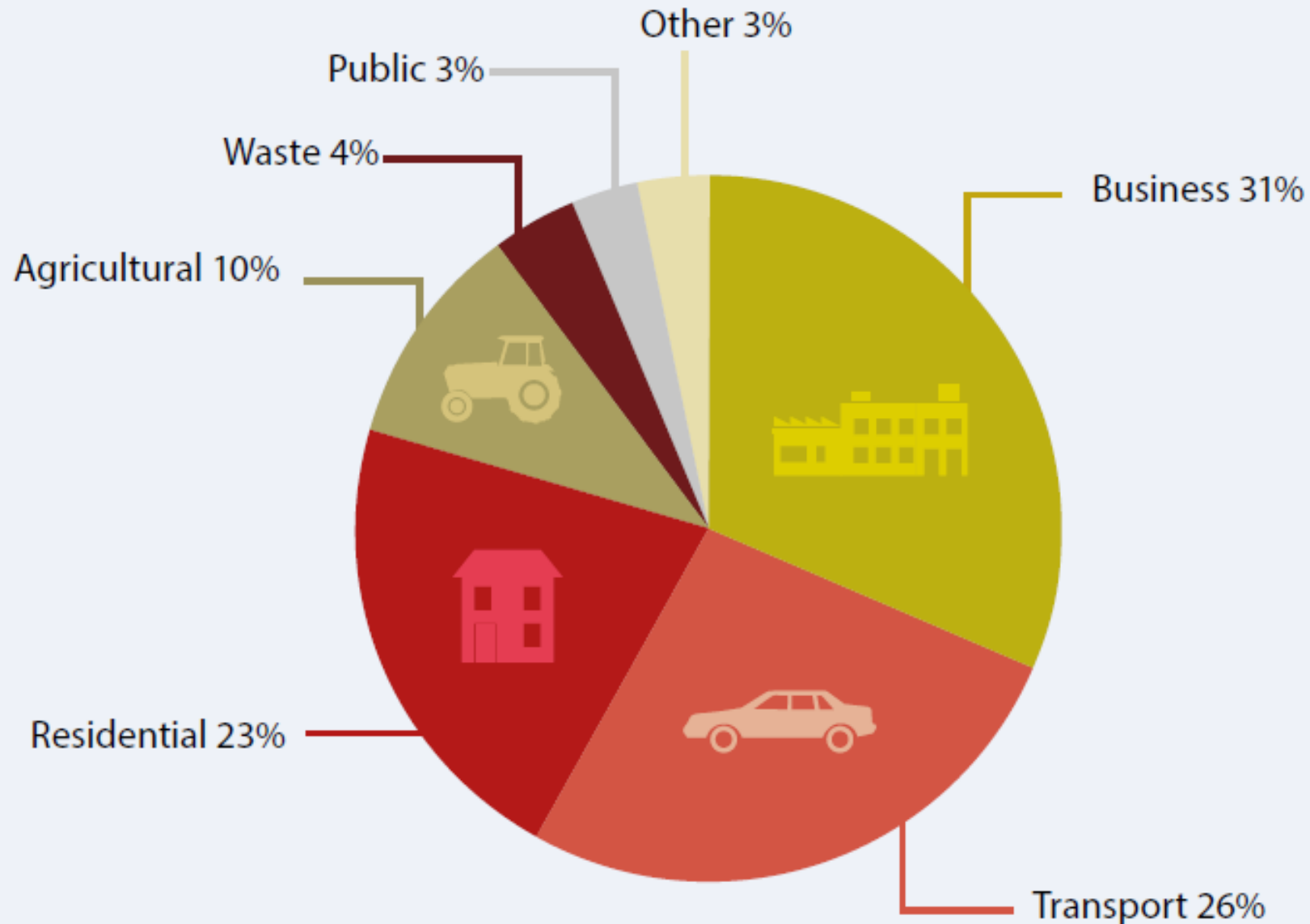
Background

Page 8



Annual UK greenhouse gas emissions (excluding aviation and shipping) showing progress against targets

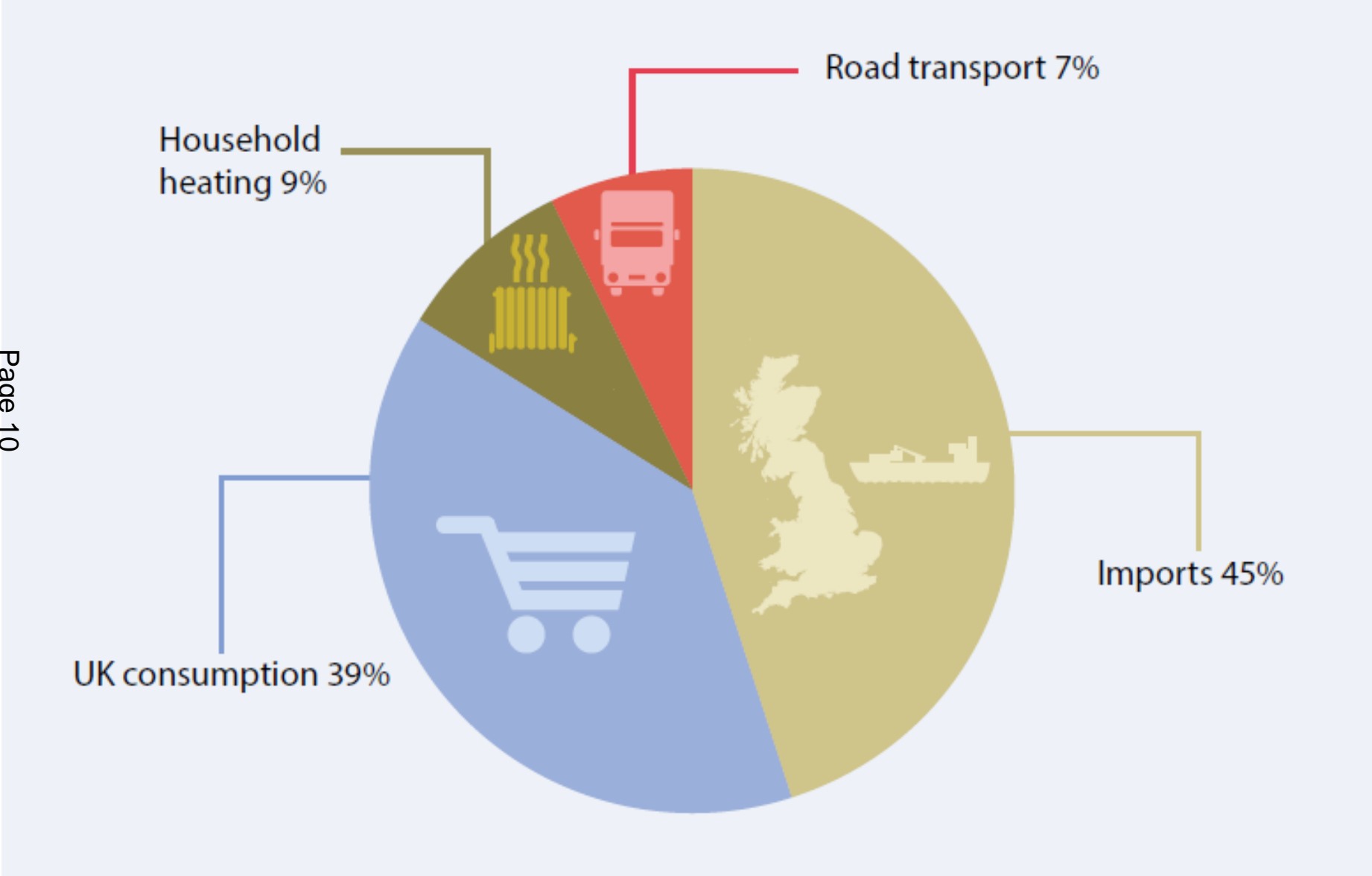
Emissions generated in UK (by user)



Total UK generated emissions – **514 million tonnes CO₂ equivalent**

Greenhouse gas emissions generated in UK by user (DECC, 2016)

UK emissions (including imported goods and services)

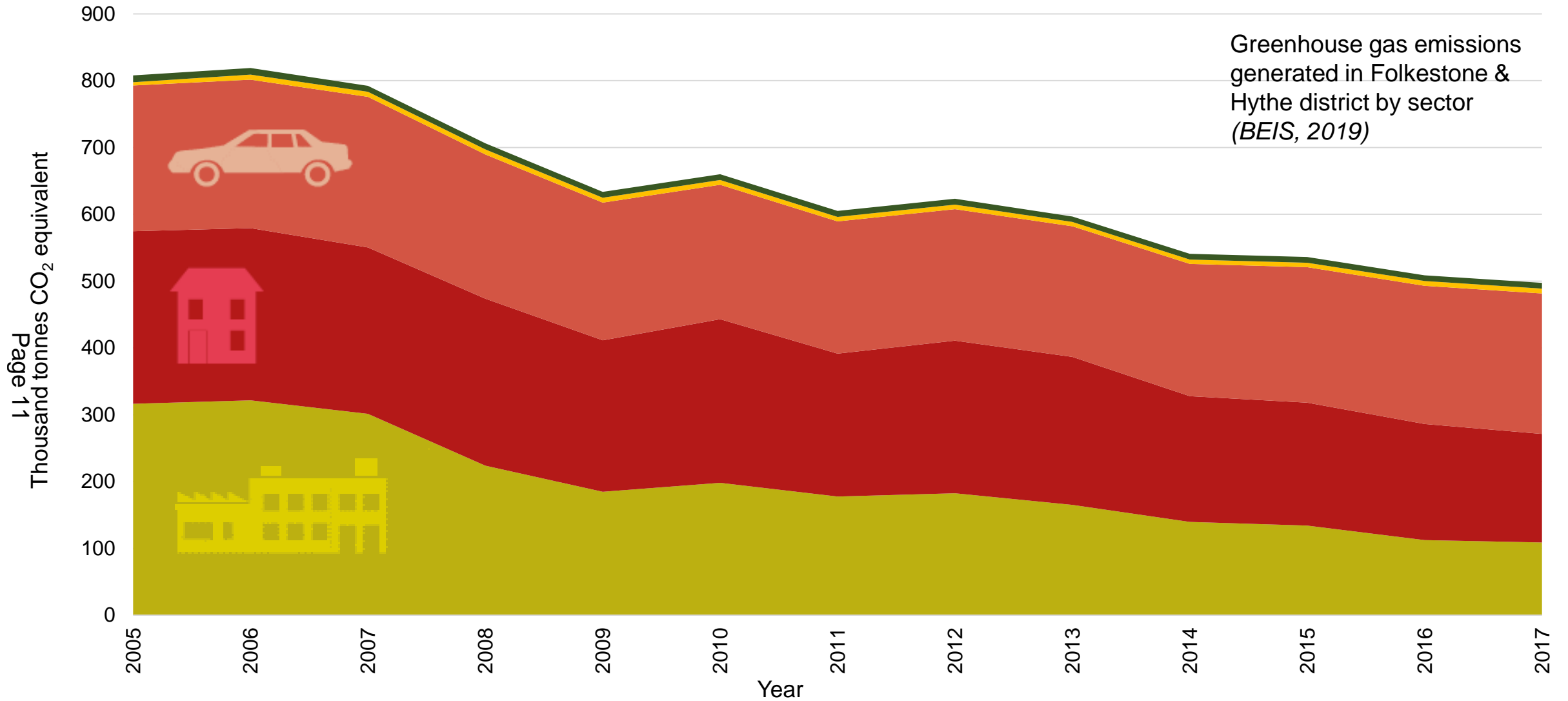


Total UK emissions including imports – **863 million tonnes CO₂ equivalent**

UK total consumption emissions, including goods and services imported (DEFRA, 2016)

Folkestone & Hythe district - direct emissions (2005-17)

Greenhouse gas emissions generated in Folkestone & Hythe district by sector
(BEIS, 2019)

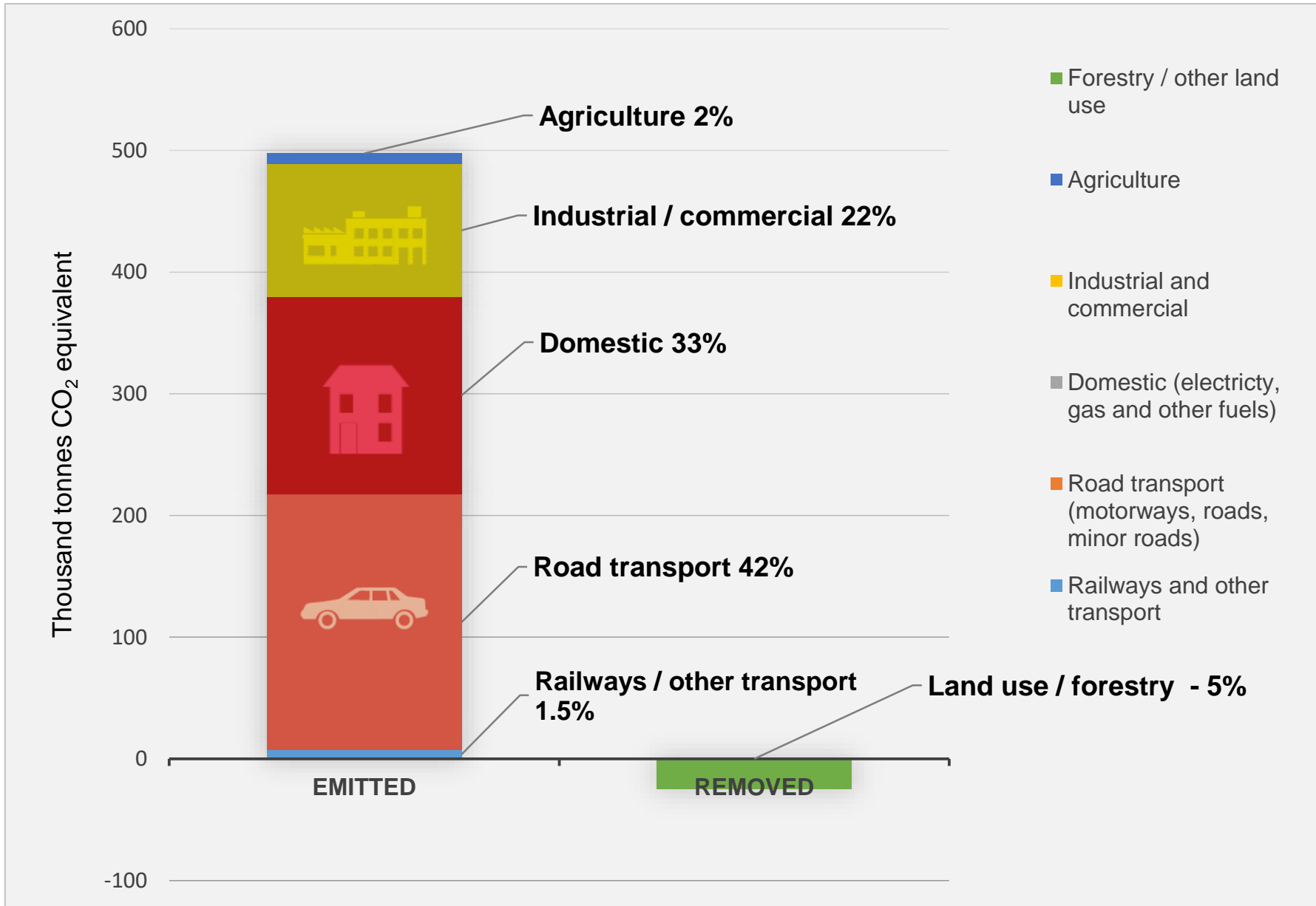


Industrial and commercial
Railways and other transport

Domestic (electricity, gas, other)
Agriculture

Transport (roads, motorways)

Folkestone & Hythe district - direct emissions



Folkestone & Hythe generated emissions (2017 figures) - **472,500 tonnes CO₂ net** (497,400 tonnes CO₂ equivalent gross)

Greenhouse gas emissions generated in Folkestone & Hythe district by sector (BEIS, 2019)

Four key areas



Page 13

- Road transport
- Domestic
- Industrial and commercial
- Agriculture, forestry and other land use

Transport

- Road transport (motorways, main roads, minor roads) is responsible for around **42% of the district's greenhouse gas emissions** (gross)
- Opportunities:
 - Reducing the need to travel (e.g. home working)
 - Replace driving with walking and cycling for short trips (e.g. the school run)
 - Promote public transport
 - Reduce dependency on the car (e.g. car sharing, car clubs)
 - Promote electric vehicles for unavoidable journeys

Domestic energy

- Domestic energy is responsible for around **33% of the district's greenhouse gas emissions** (gross) – mainly space heating (electricity, gas and other fuels)
- Opportunities:
 - Reduction in energy demand – insulation of existing homes, improved energy efficiency of appliances
 - Managing energy demand more efficiently – smart meters and energy storage
 - Switch to renewable energy technologies for remaining energy needs – heat pumps, solar hot water and district heat networks

Industrial and commercial

- Industrial and commercial activities are responsible for around **22% of the district's domestic greenhouse gas emissions**
- Opportunities:
 - Reduction in energy demand – reducing heat loss, improved energy efficiency of processes
 - Managing energy demand more efficiently – smart meters and energy storage
 - Switch to renewable energy technologies for remaining energy needs

Agriculture, forestry and land use change

- Some agricultural activities emit greenhouse gases (e.g. vehicles, equipment, fertiliser use)
- Some land use changes remove emissions (e.g. tree planting)
- Agriculture is responsible for around **2% of the district's emissions** (gross) but land use change **removes around 5% of emissions**

Opportunities:

- Promoting more healthy diets
- Reduction in packaging and transport ('food miles')
- Reduced food waste (in production and consumption)
- Improved farming practices
- Improved management of other open spaces
- Increased woodland planting and street trees, recreation of lost habitats (e.g. wetlands)

Discussion