

CLIMATE CHANGE 2014

Mitigation of Climate Change

Key Insights from the AR5



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IfW Centenary Conference

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Working Group III contribution to the
IPCC Fifth Assessment Report

Exploring the solution space

Working Group III contribution to the
IPCC Fifth Assessment Report



IPCC reports are the result of extensive work of many scientists from around the world.

1 Summary for Policymakers

1 Technical Summary

16 Chapters

235 Authors

900 Reviewers

More than 2000 pages

Close to 10,000 references

More than 38,000 comments



#1

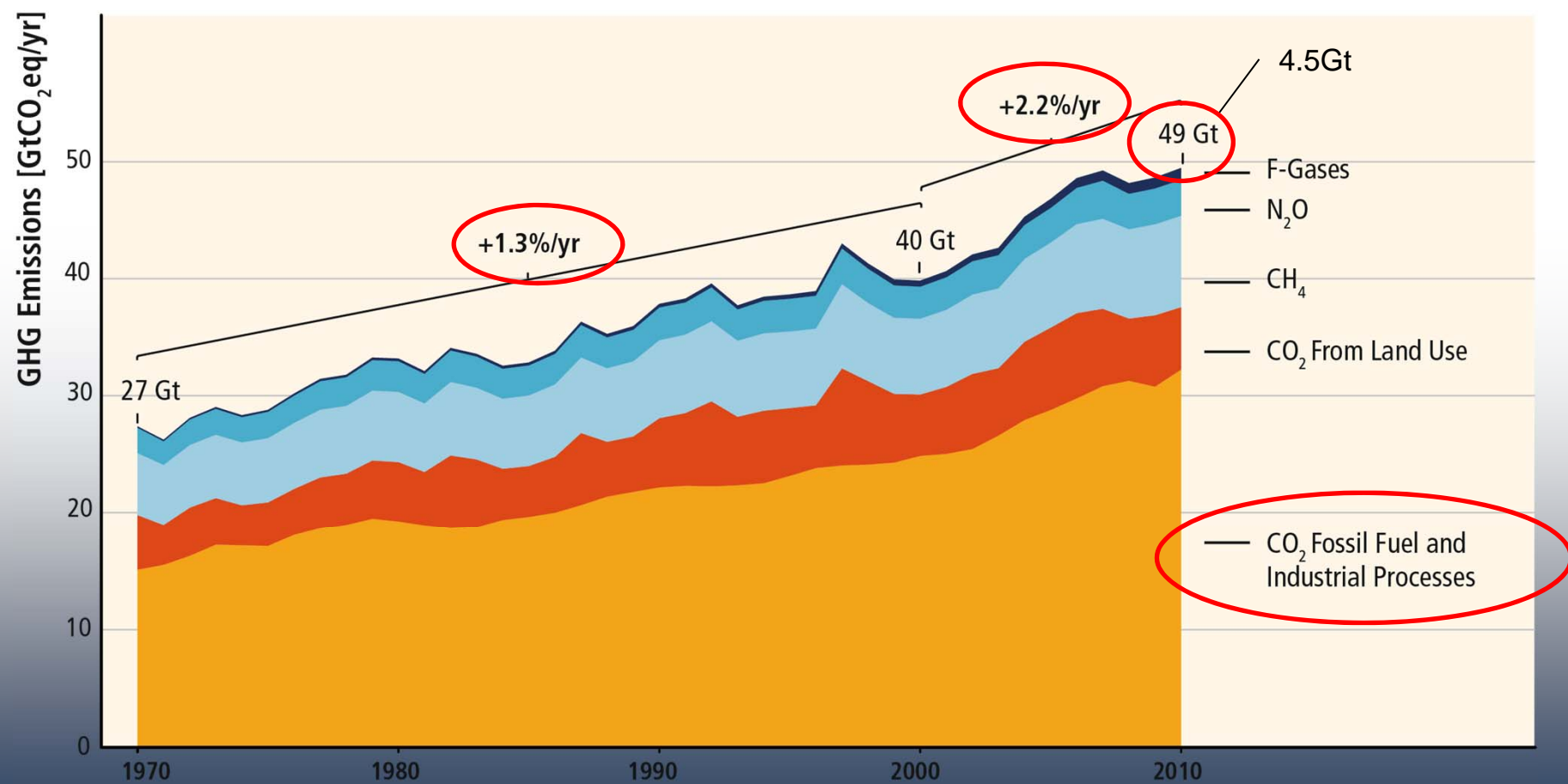
**What are the trends in stocks and flows of
GHG emissions?**



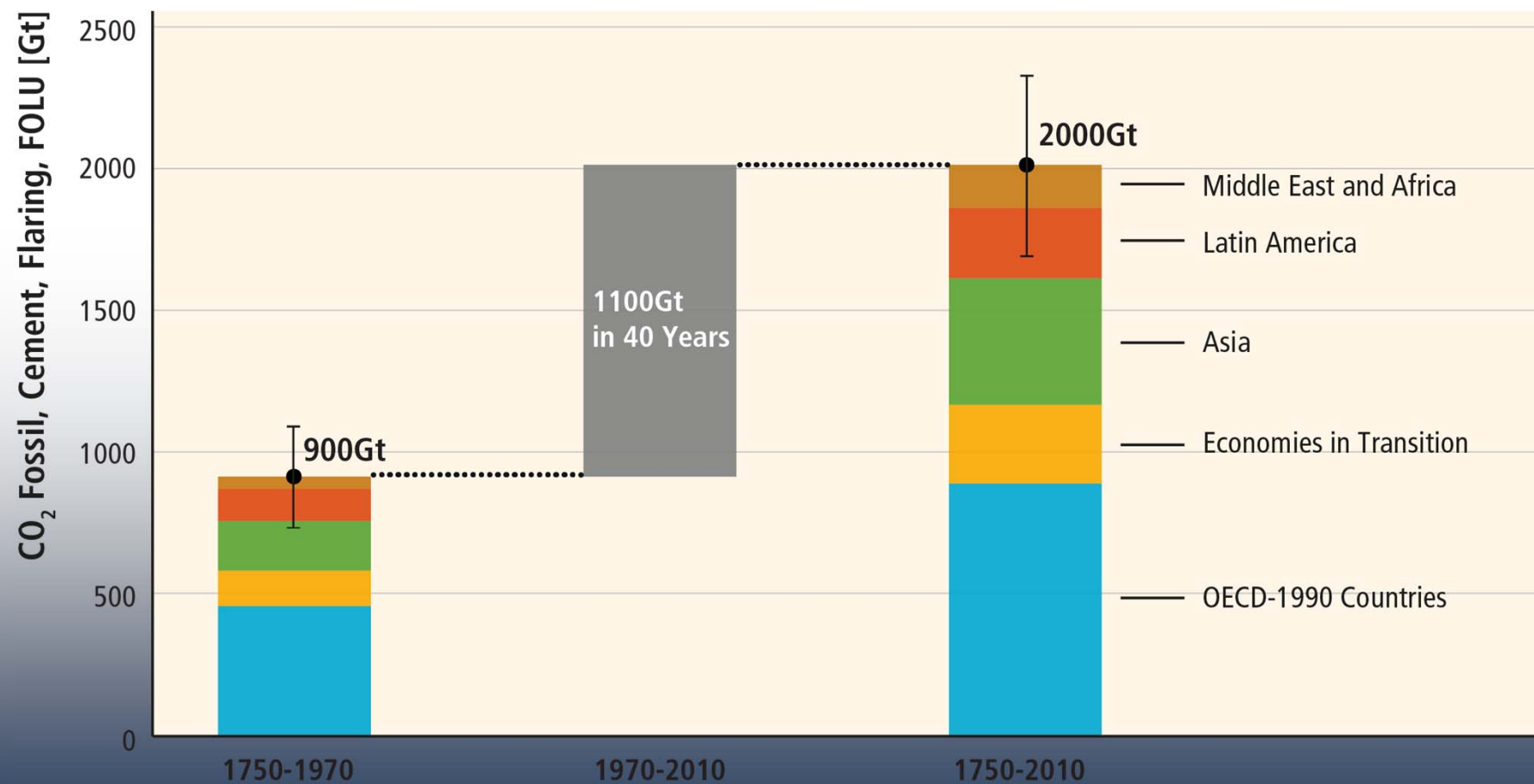
**GHG emissions growth has accelerated
despite reduction efforts.**



GHG emissions growth between 2000 and 2010 has been larger than in the previous three decades.

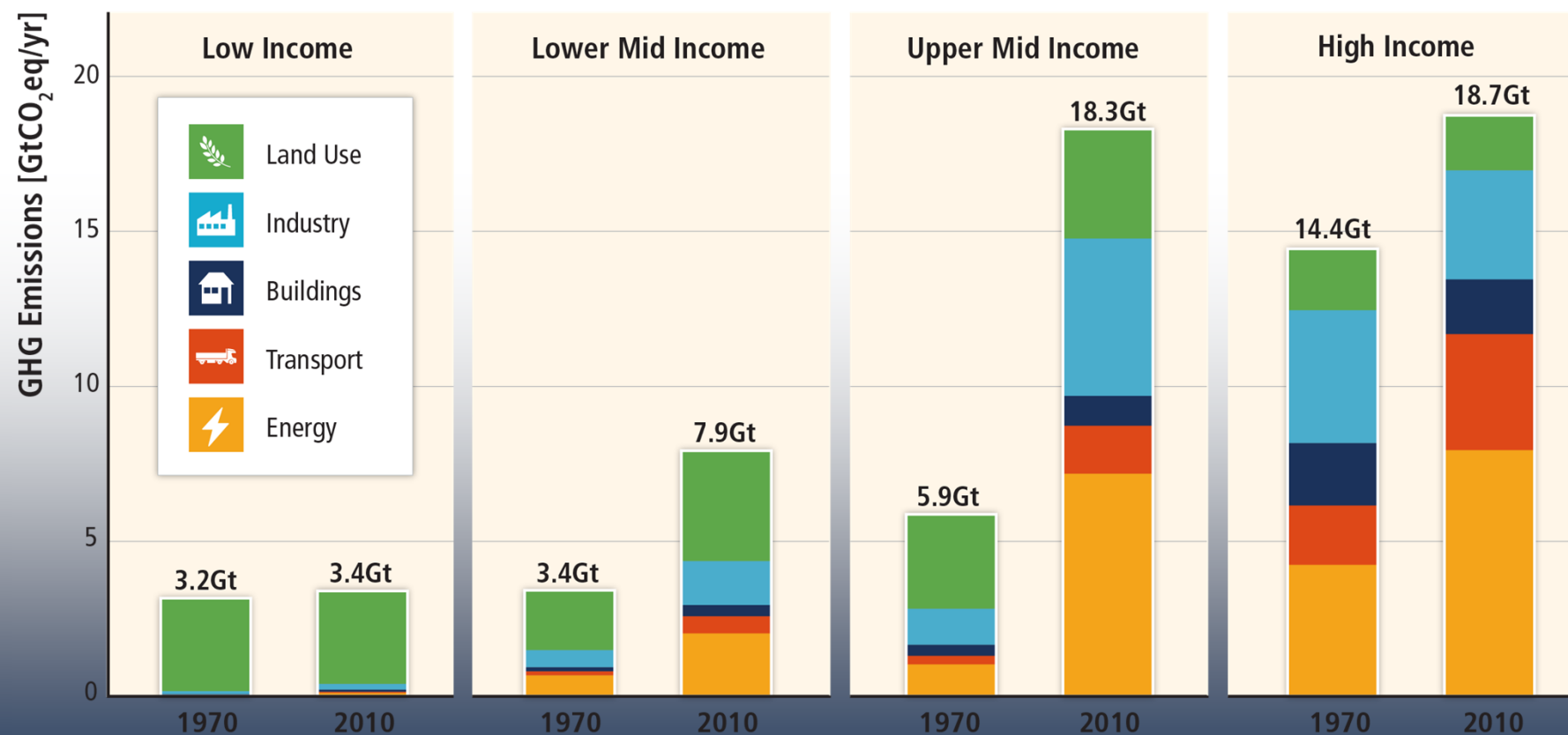


About half of the cumulative anthropogenic CO₂ emissions between 1750 and 2010 have occurred in the last 40 years.

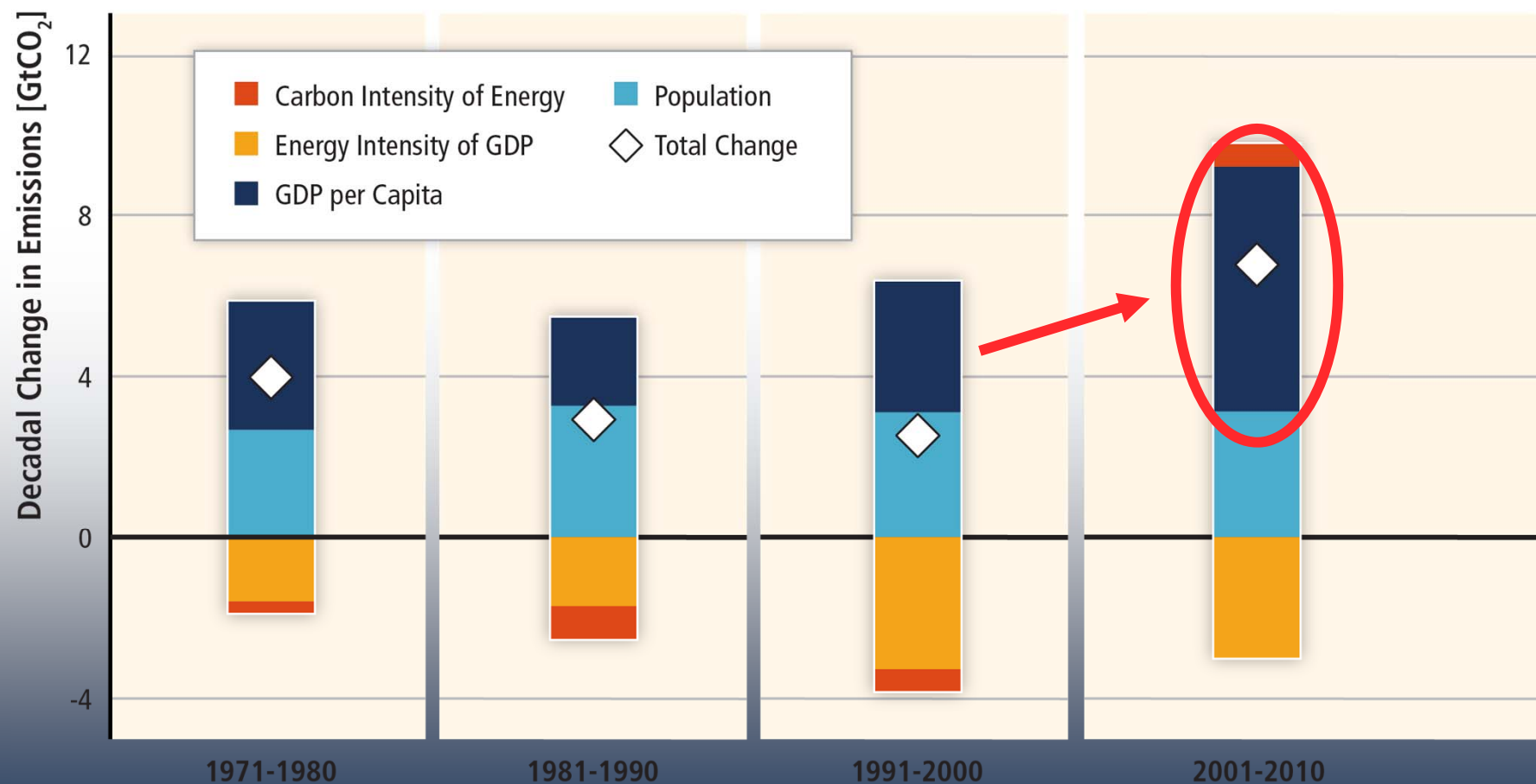


Regional patterns of GHG emissions are shifting along with changes in the world economy.

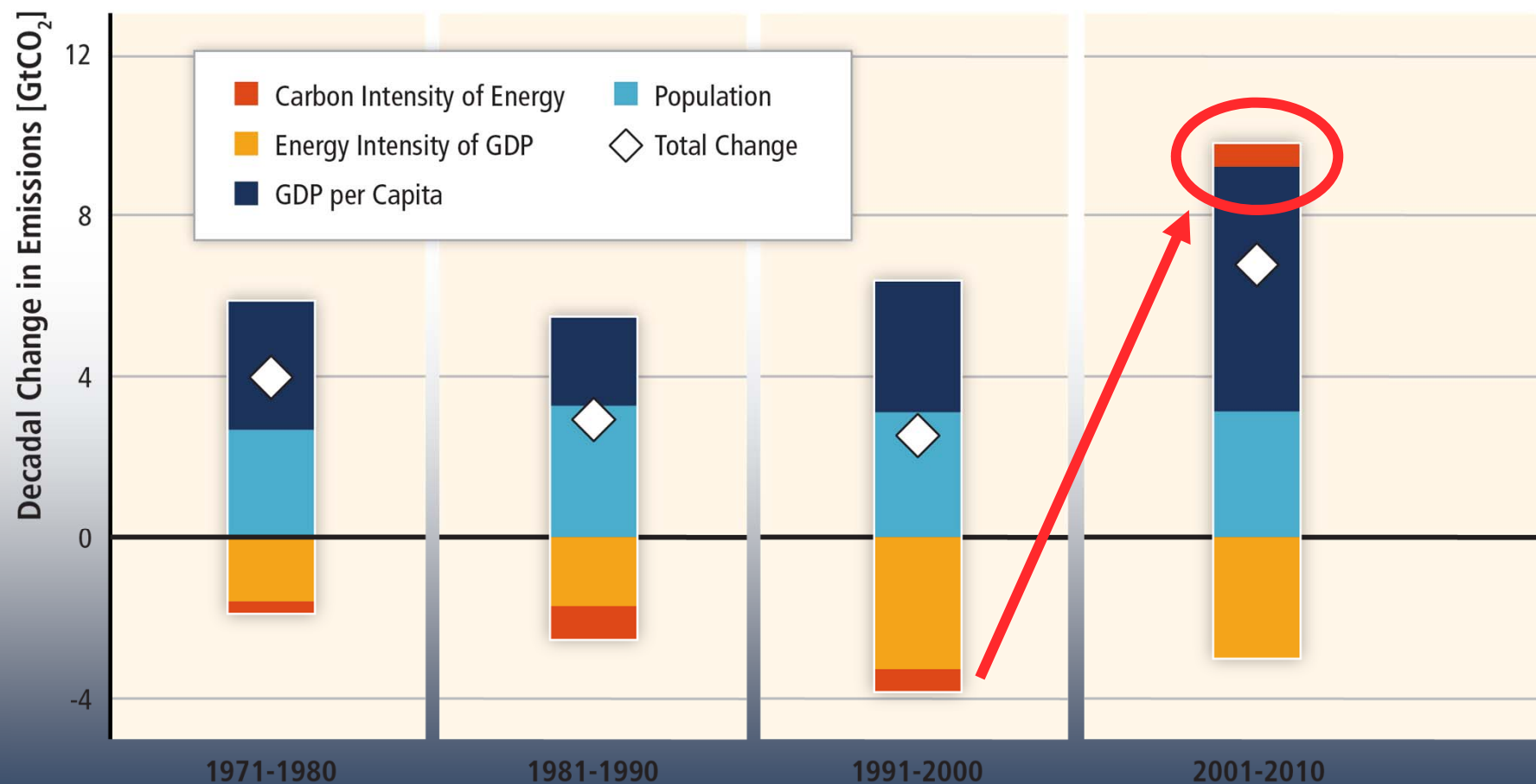
GHG Emissions by Country Group and Economic Sector



Most of the recent GHG emissions growth has been driven by growth in economic activity.



The long-standing trend of gradual decarbonization of energy has reversed recently.



#2

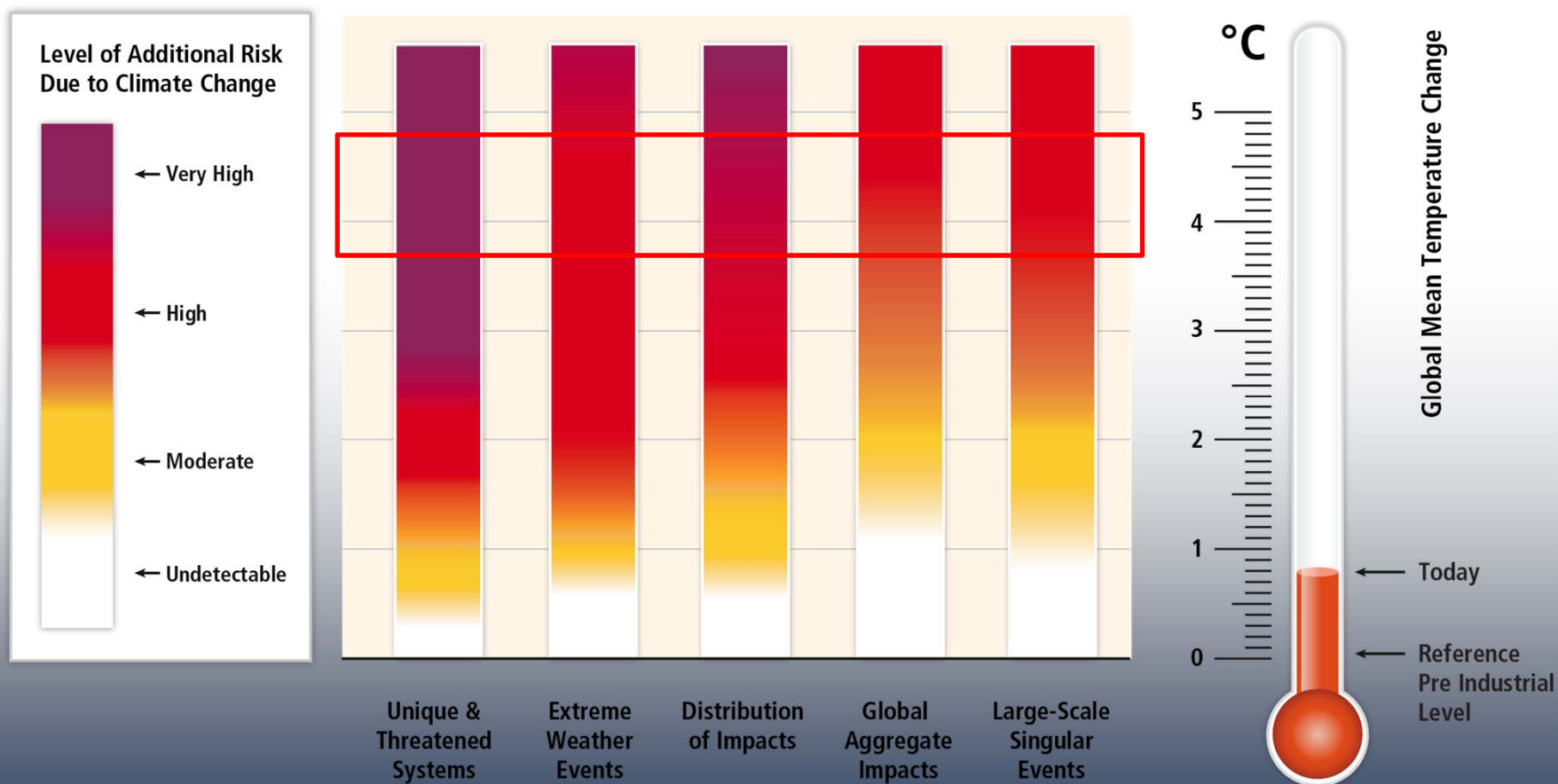
What does the WGIII AR5 tell us about mitigation action required to limit global warming to 2 °C and 1.5 °C?



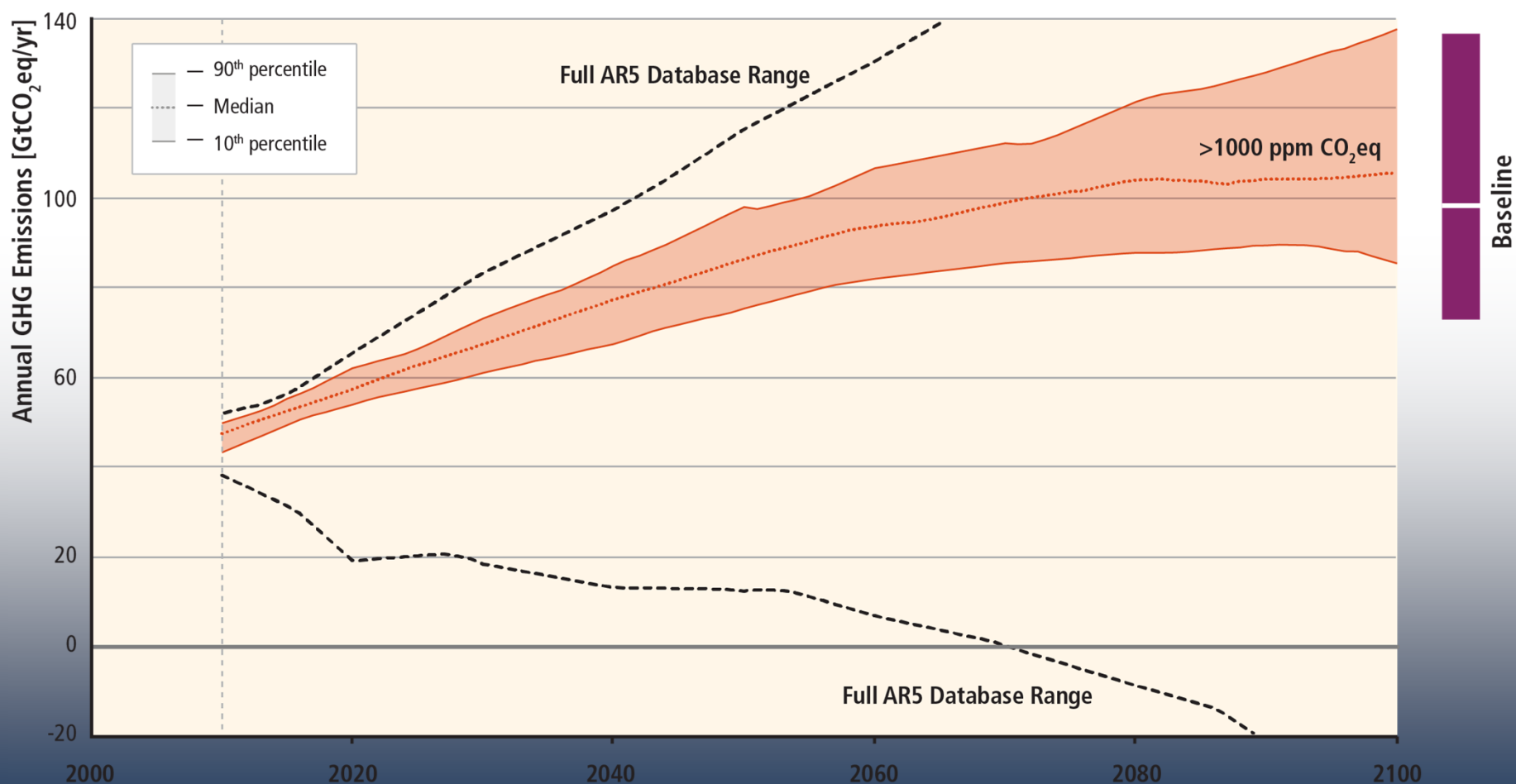
Limiting warming to 2 C relative to pre-industrial levels involves substantial technological, economic and institutional challenges.



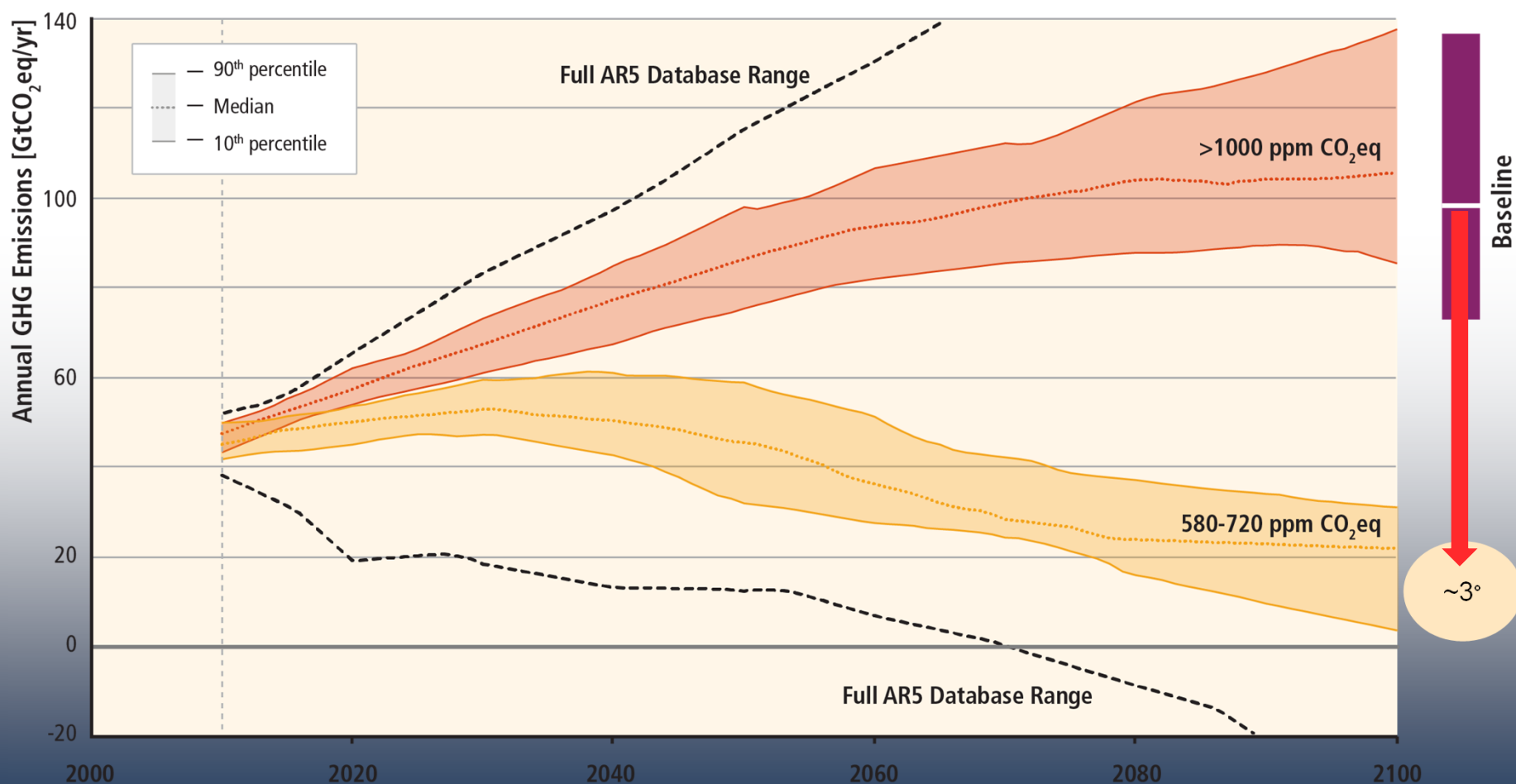
Without additional mitigation, global mean surface temperature is projected to increase by 3.7 to 4.8°C (2.5 - 7.8°C) until 2100.



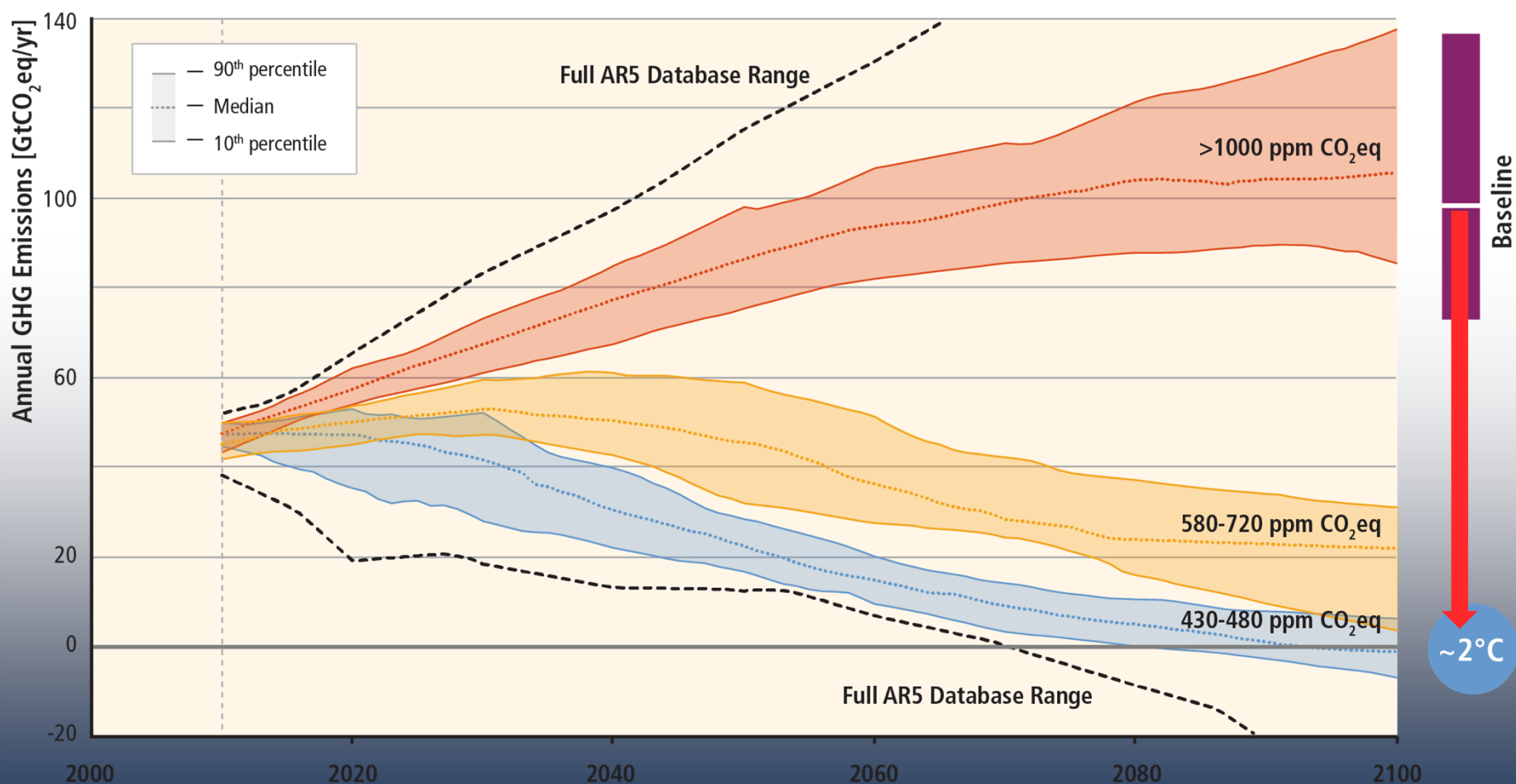
Stabilization of atmospheric GHG concentrations requires moving away from the baseline, regardless of the mitigation goal.



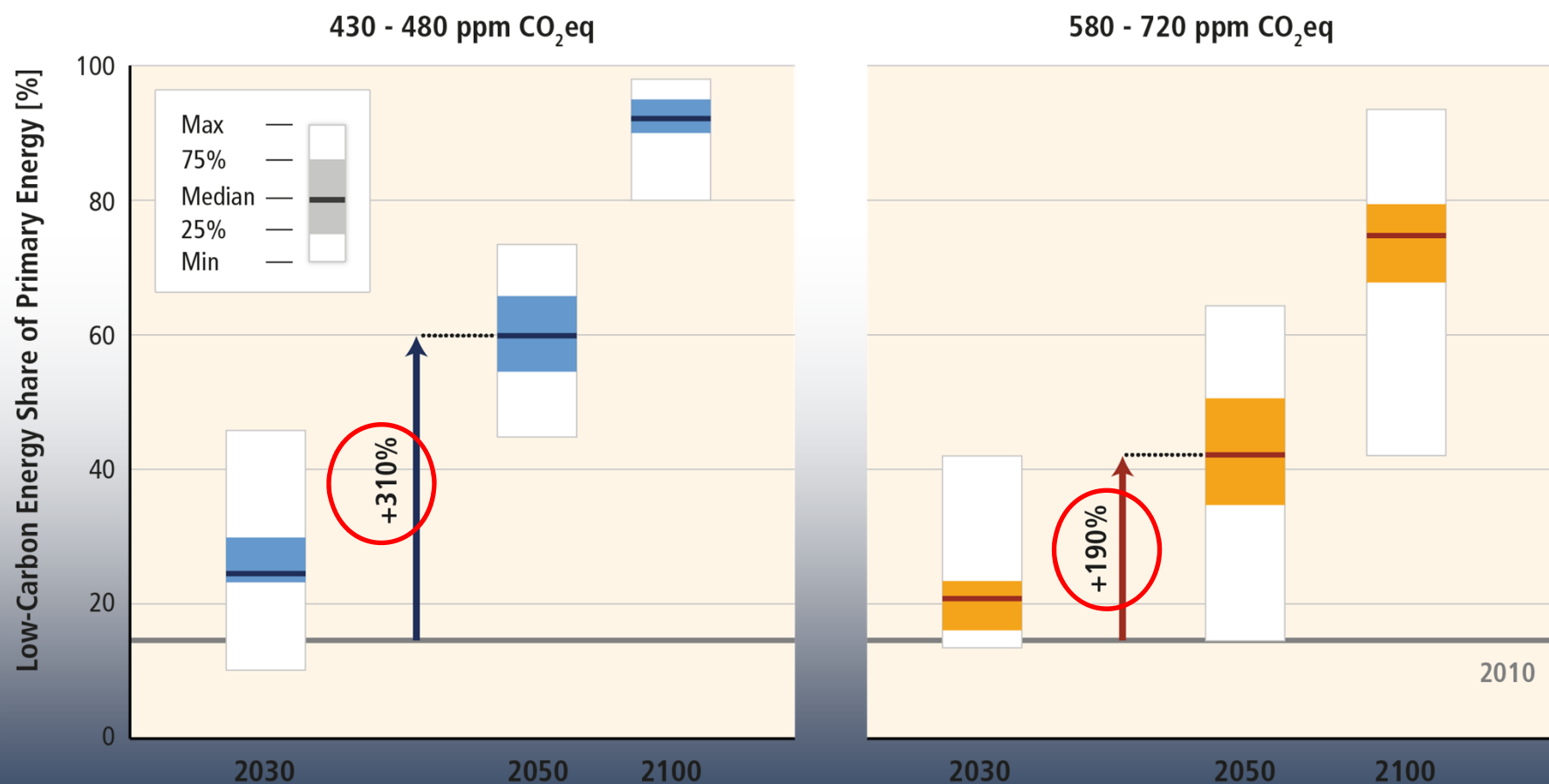
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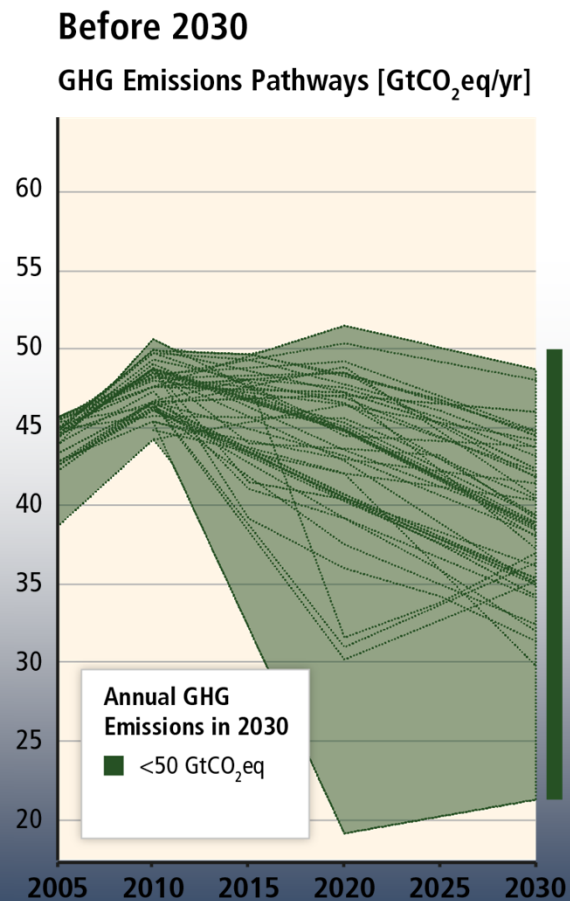
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Mitigation involves substantial upscaling of low carbon energy.

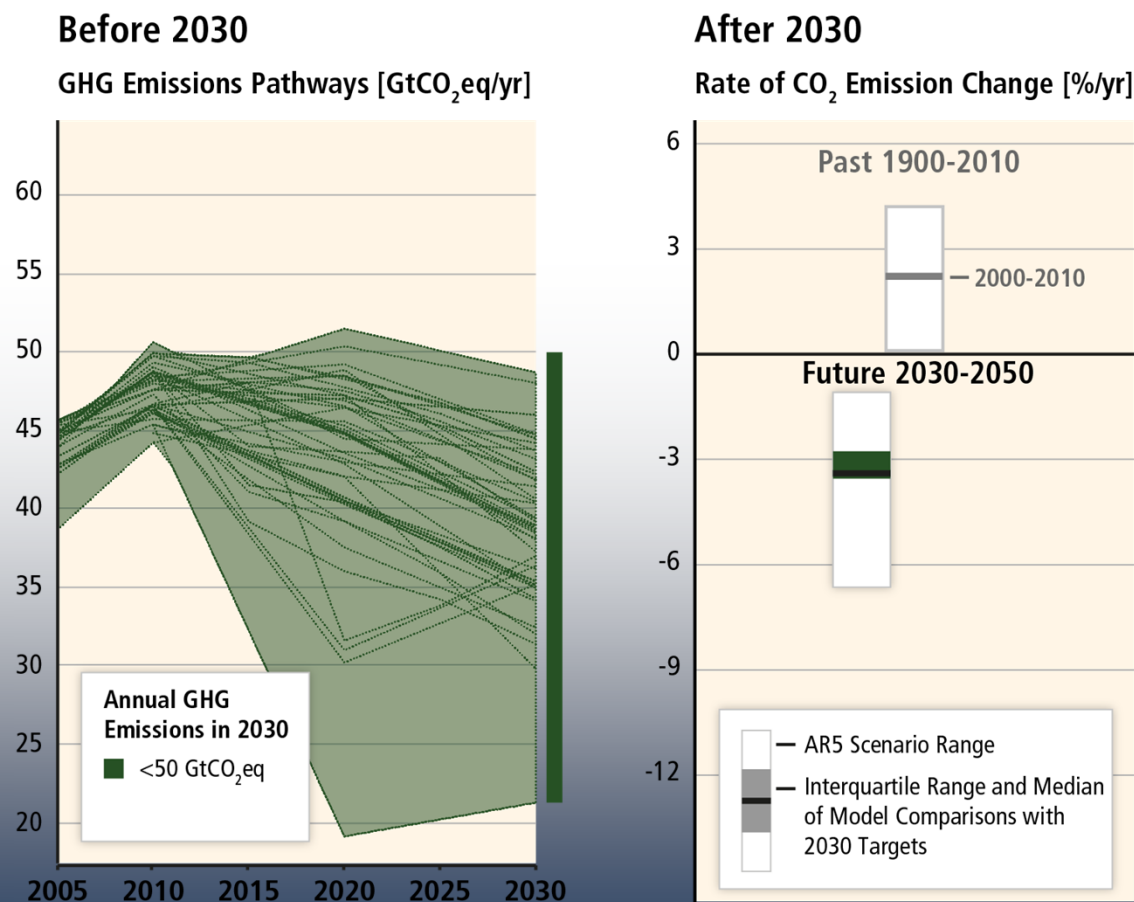


Delaying mitigation increases the difficulty and narrows the options for limiting warming to 2°C.



„immediate action“

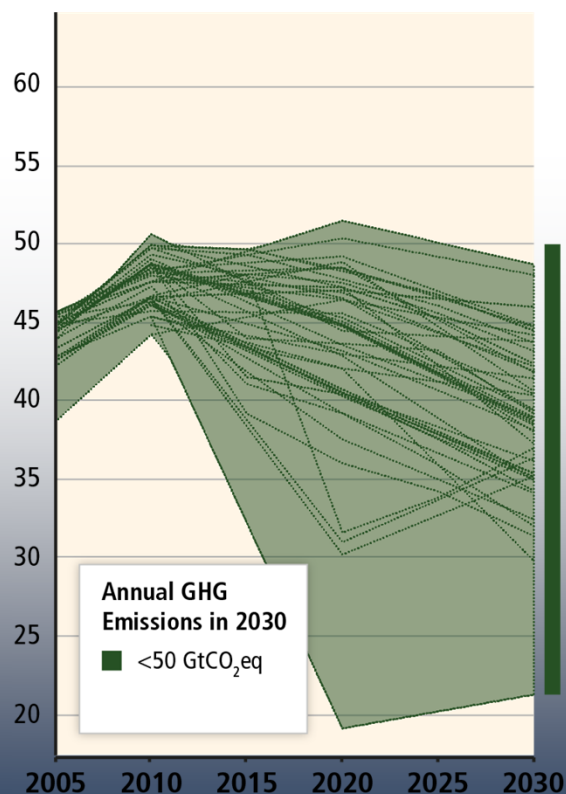
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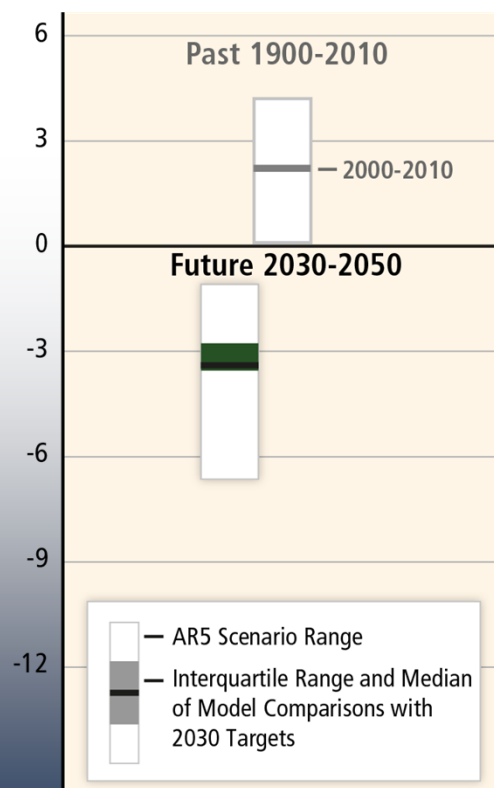
Before 2030

GHG Emissions Pathways [GtCO₂eq/yr]

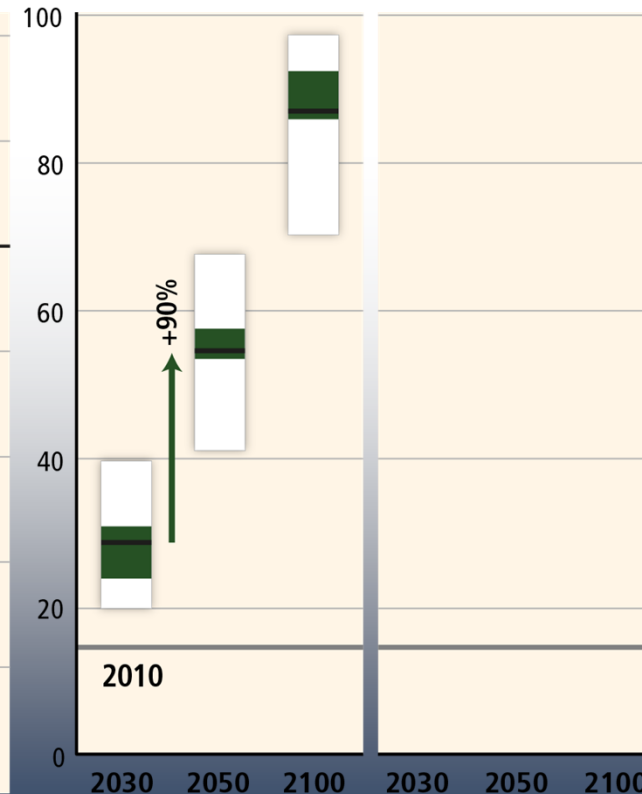


After 2030

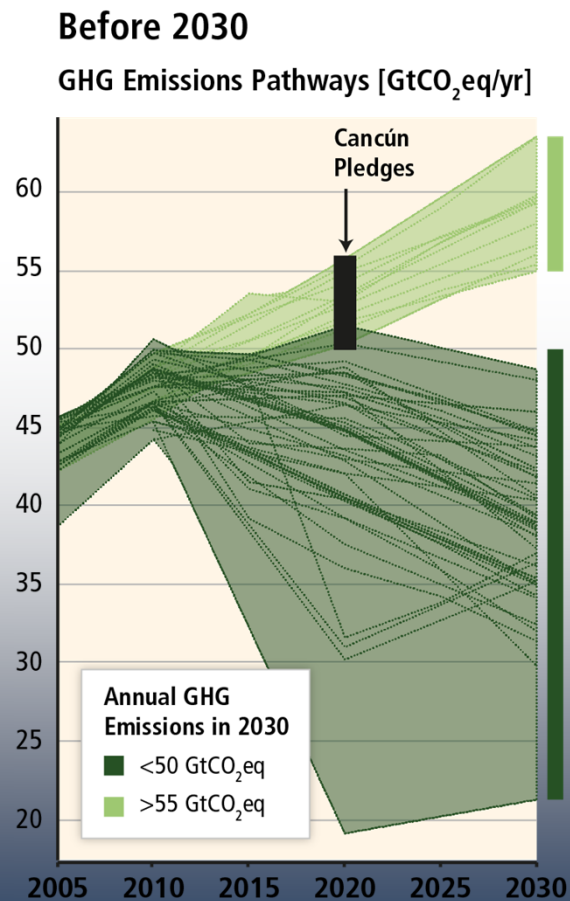
Rate of CO₂ Emission Change [%/yr]



Share of Low Carbon Energy [%]



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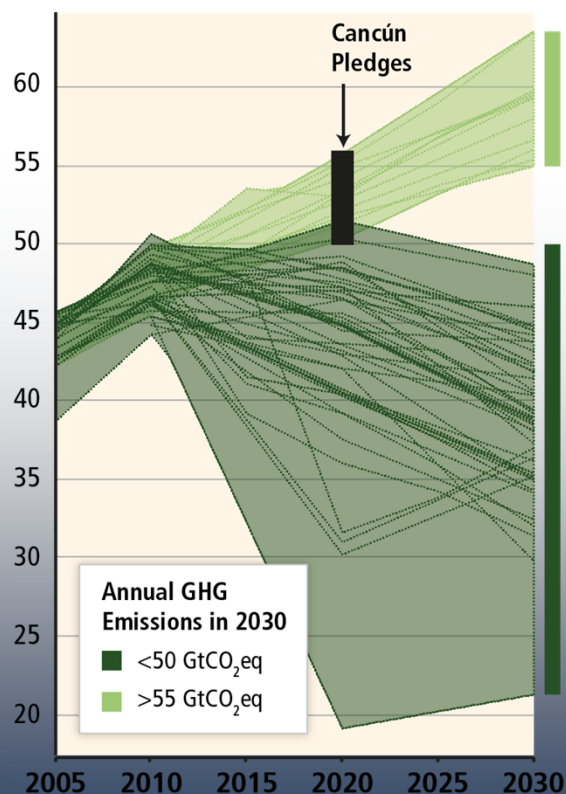
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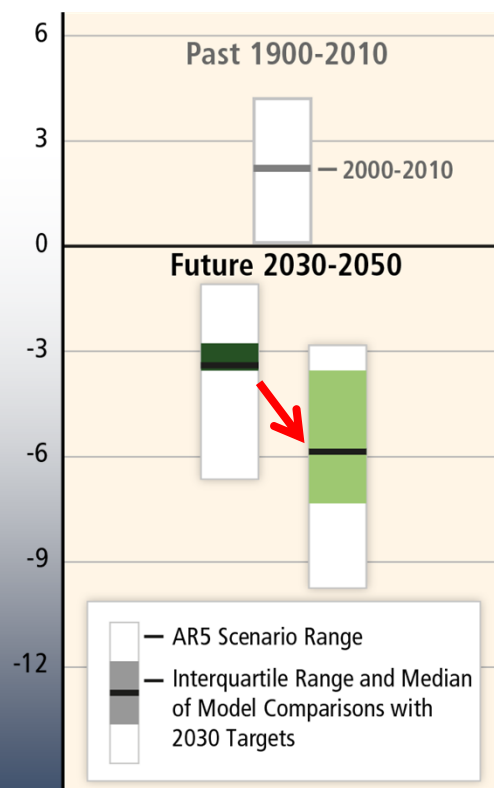
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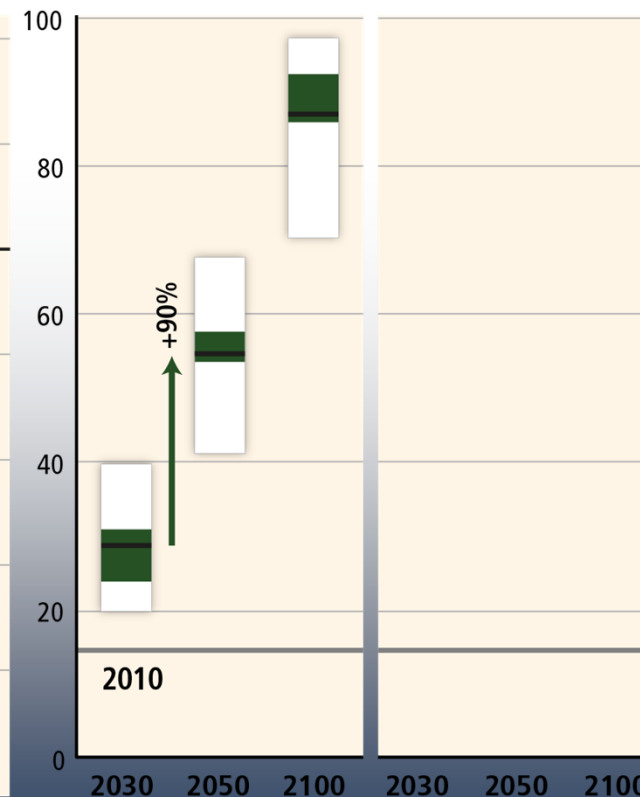


After 2030

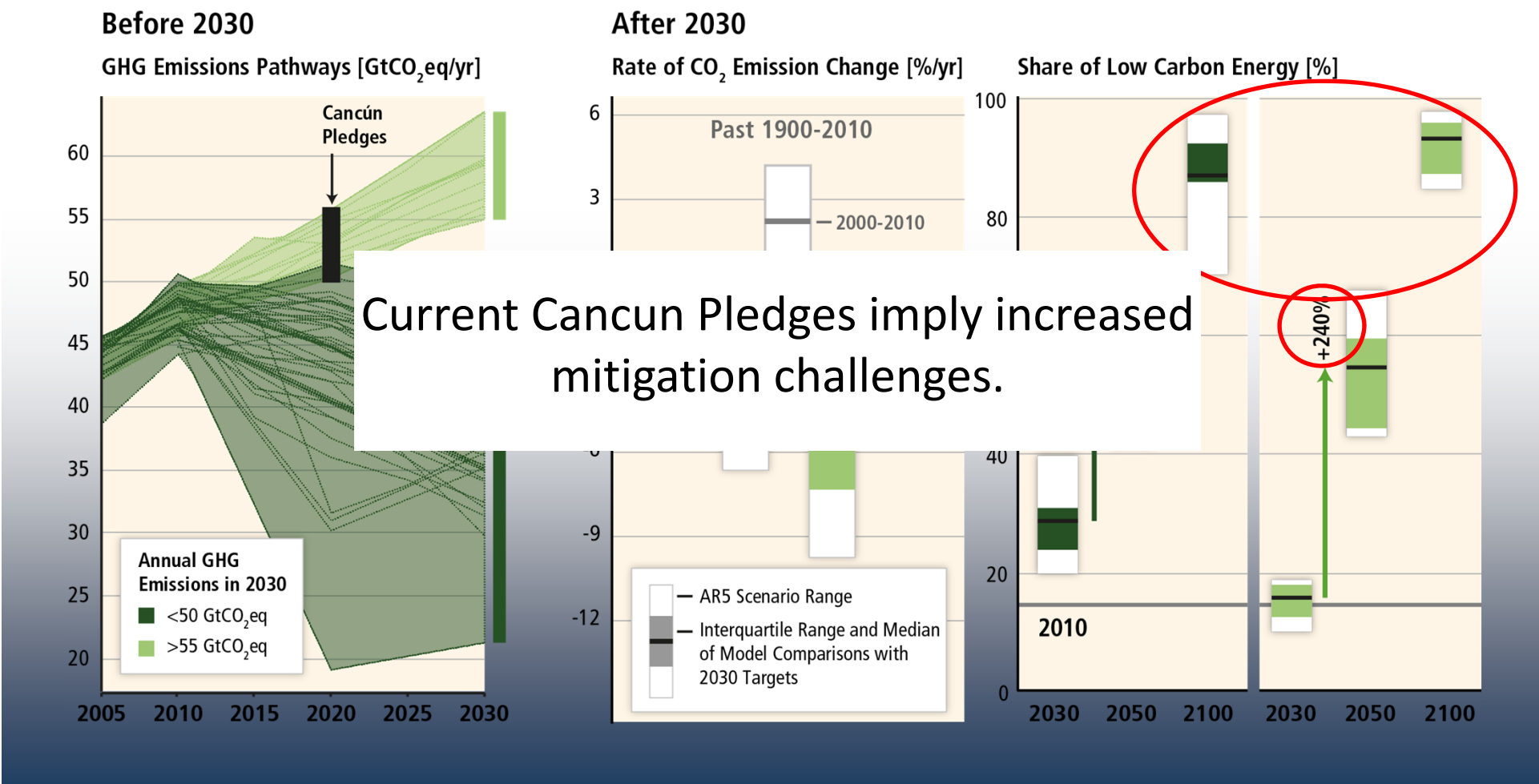
Rate of CO₂ Emission Change [%/yr]



Share of Low Carbon Energy [%]



Delaying mitigation increases the difficulty and narrows the options for limiting warming to 2°C.



Scientific evidence on the 1.5°C goal remains limited.

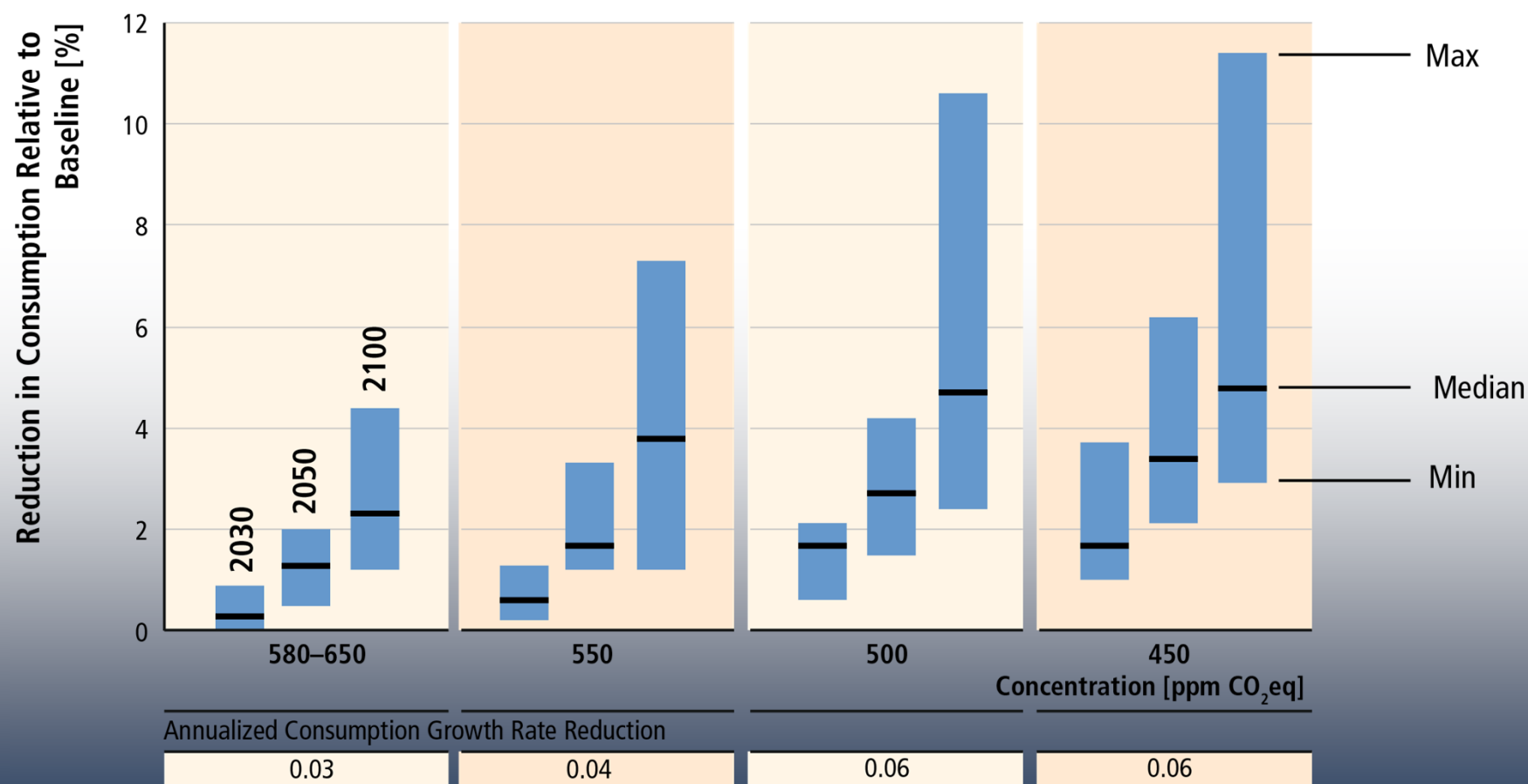
A comprehensive assessment is difficult in the absence of multi-model comparison studies and the limited number of studies focusing on the 1.5°C goal. Existing studies indicate:

- Temperature overshoot and large scale application of carbon dioxide removal technologies
- Immediate mitigation action
- Rapid upscaling of the *full* set of technologies
- Development along a low energy demand pathway

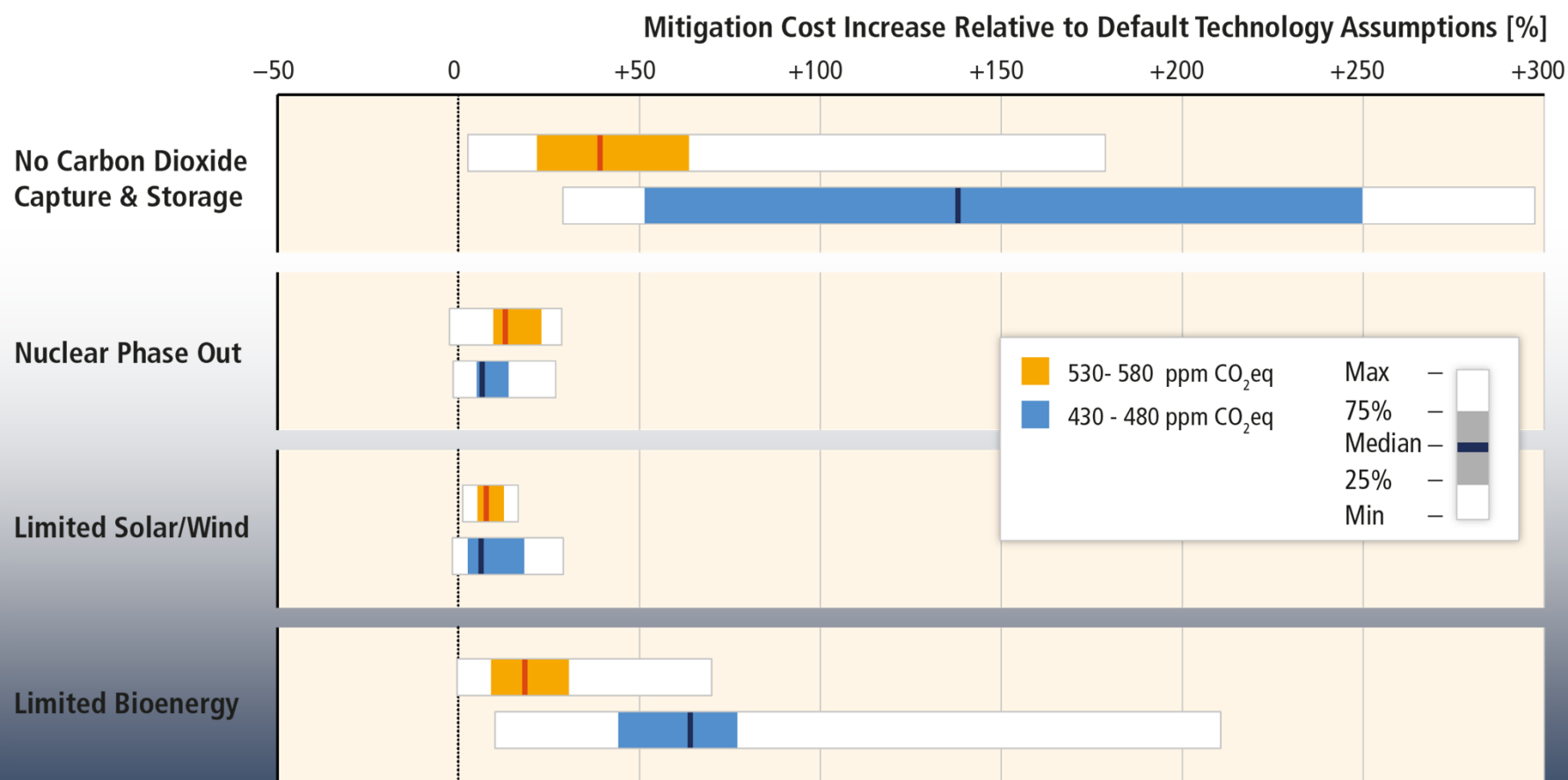
Mitigation cost estimates vary, but global GDP growth is not strongly affected.



Global costs rise with the ambition of the mitigation goal.



Limited availability of technologies can greatly increase mitigation costs.



#3

What are the options for reducing GHG emissions?

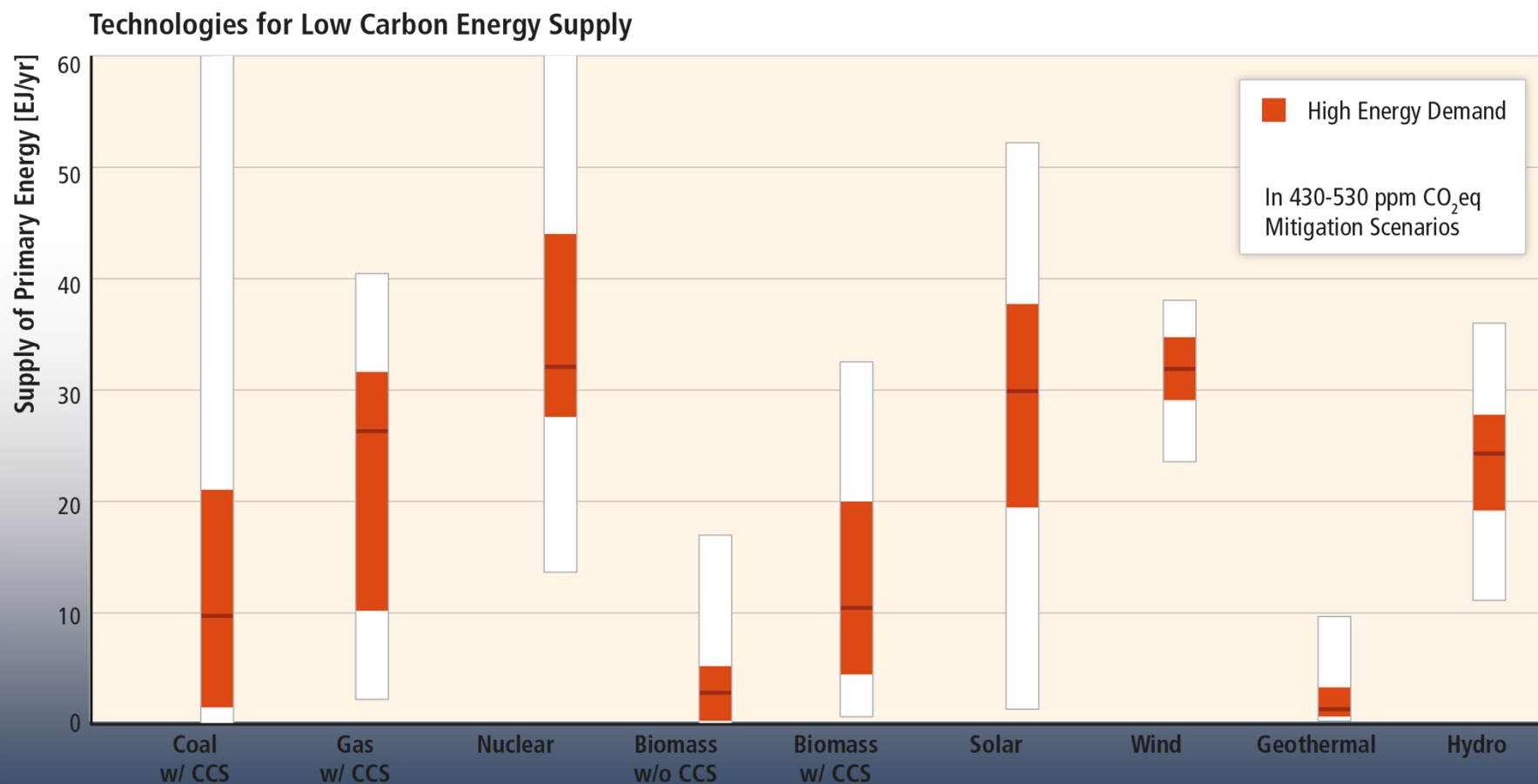


Ambitious mitigation scenarios require a full decarbonization of energy supply.

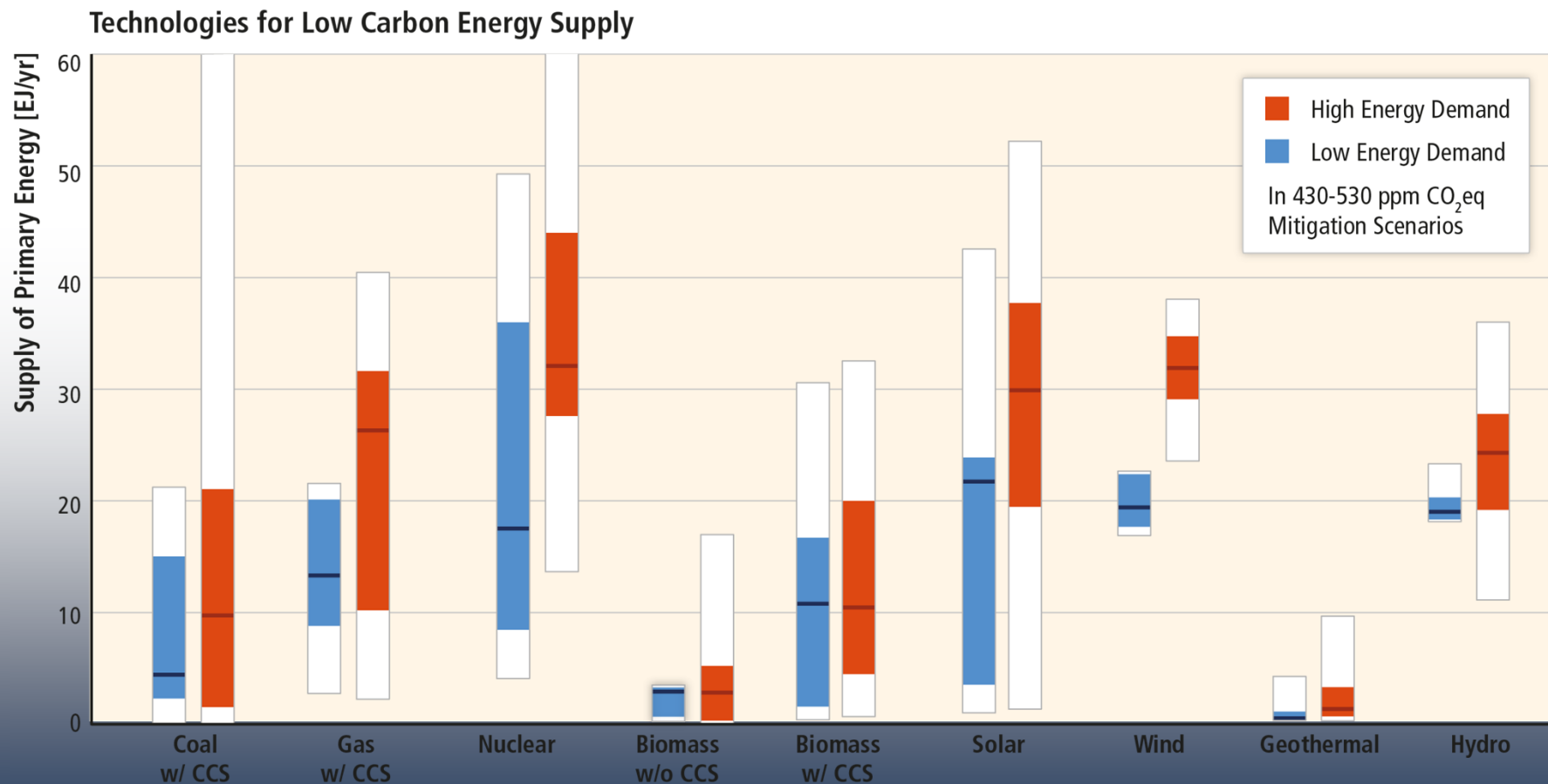
Energy demand reductions can help to reduce emissions in the medium term and to hedge supply-side risks in the long-run.



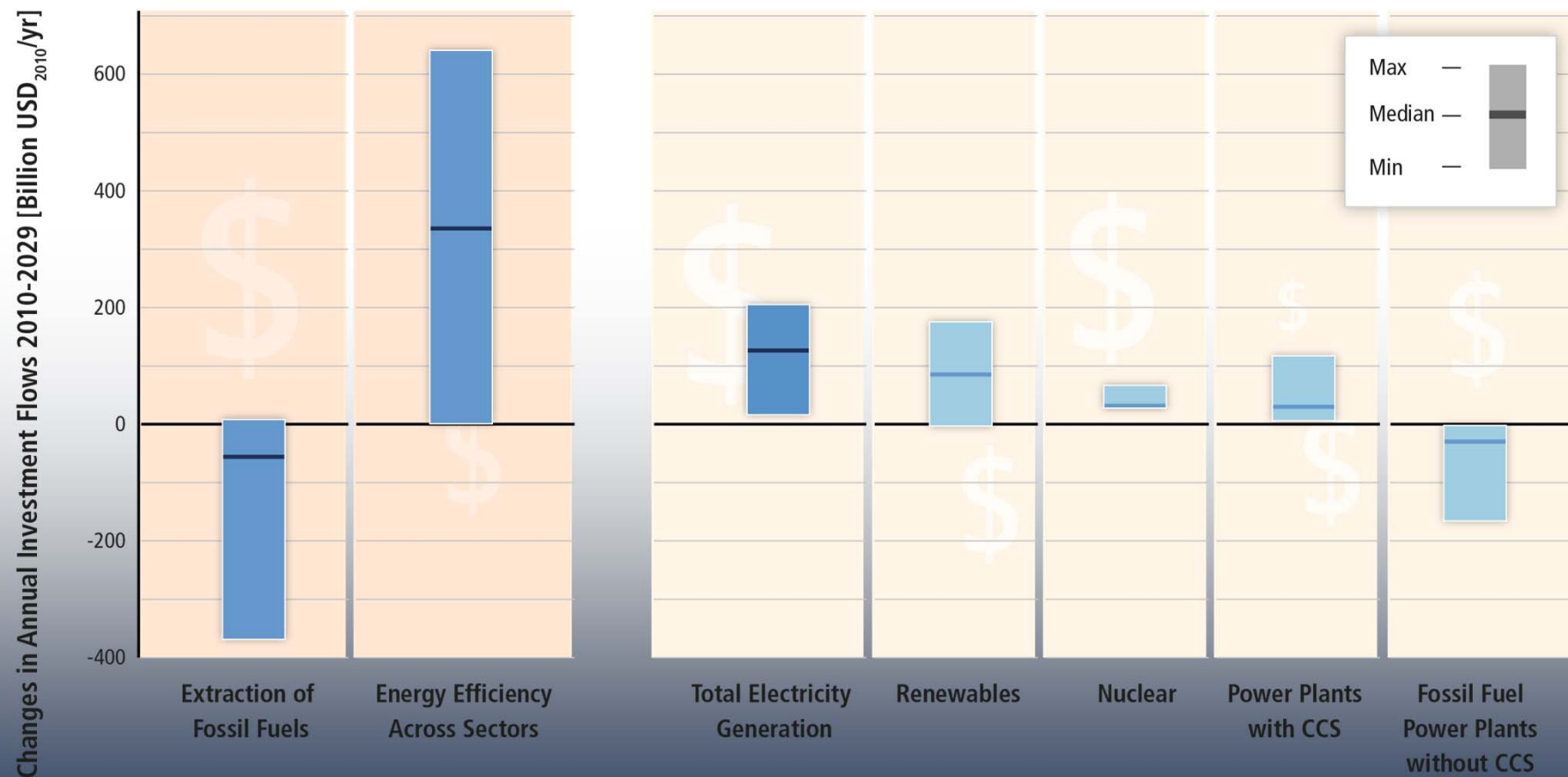
Mitigation scenarios show there is a lot of flexibility in how to decarbonize energy supply.



The scale of energy demand reductions determines the flexibility in decarbonization options and the extent of supply-side risks, infrastructure lock-in and co-benefits of mitigation.



Substantial reductions in emissions would require substantial changes in investment patterns.



#4

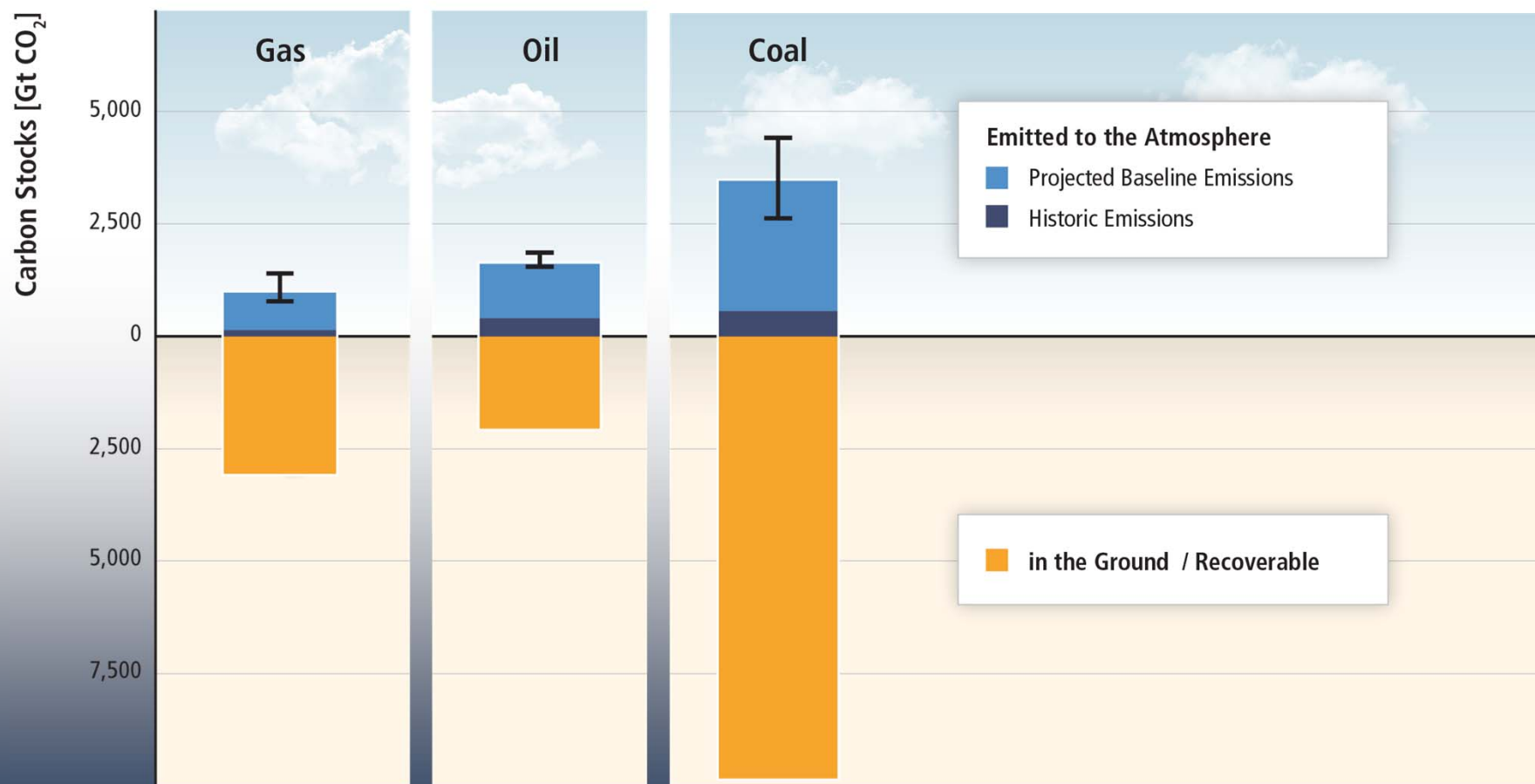
What is the role of international cooperation and national policies in reaching mitigation goals?



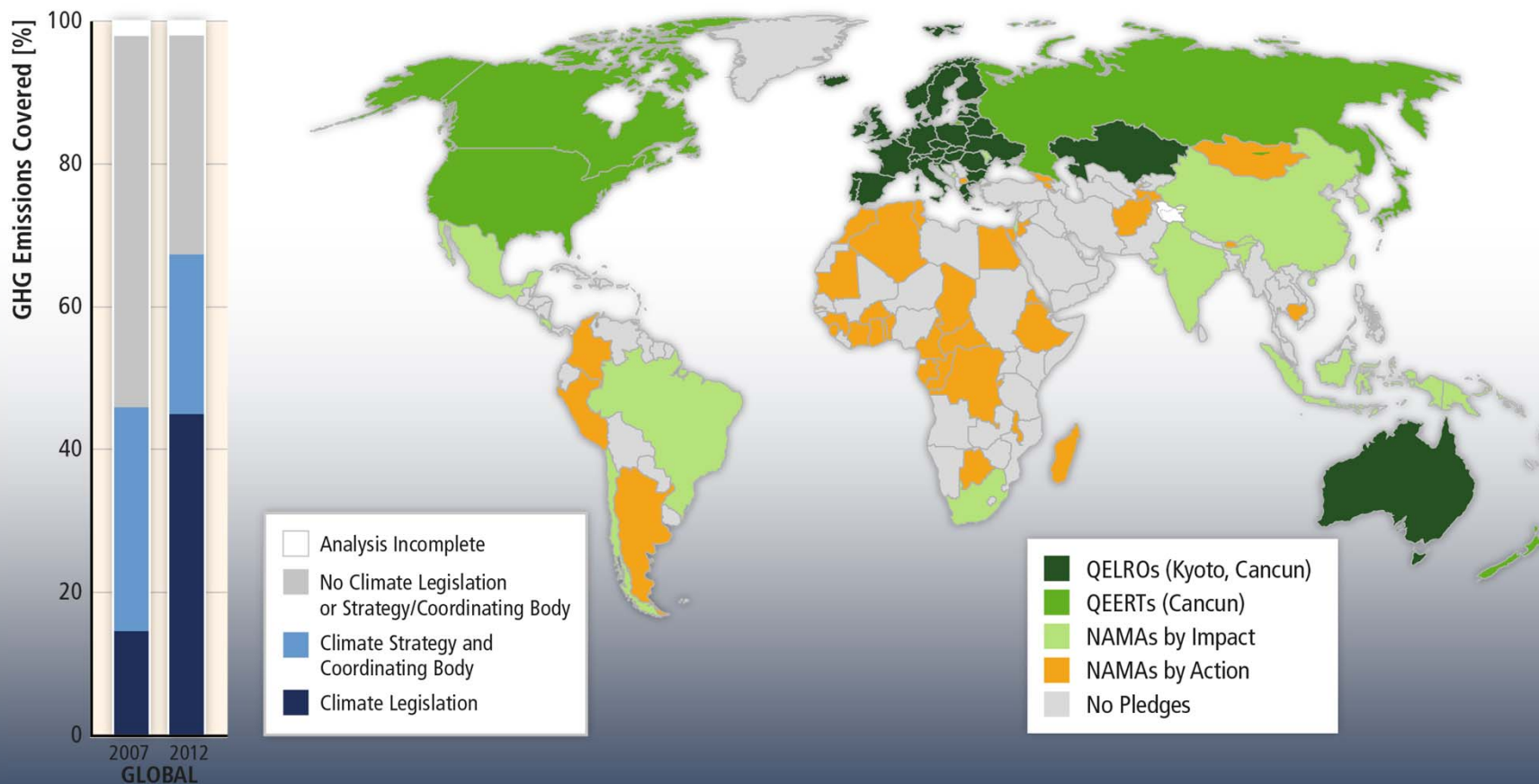
Climate change mitigation is a global commons problem that requires international cooperation and coordination across scales.



There is far more carbon in the ground than emitted in any baseline scenario.



The number of climate change policies at the national and international level is growing. So far, these policies have not influenced the emission trend significantly.



Examples of the performance of emission taxes

UK Climate Change Levy: 10% tax on electricity use

- Electricity use reduction >22% at plants subject to the levy compared to plants with voluntary agreement
- No evidence of detrimental effect on the economy or migration of industry

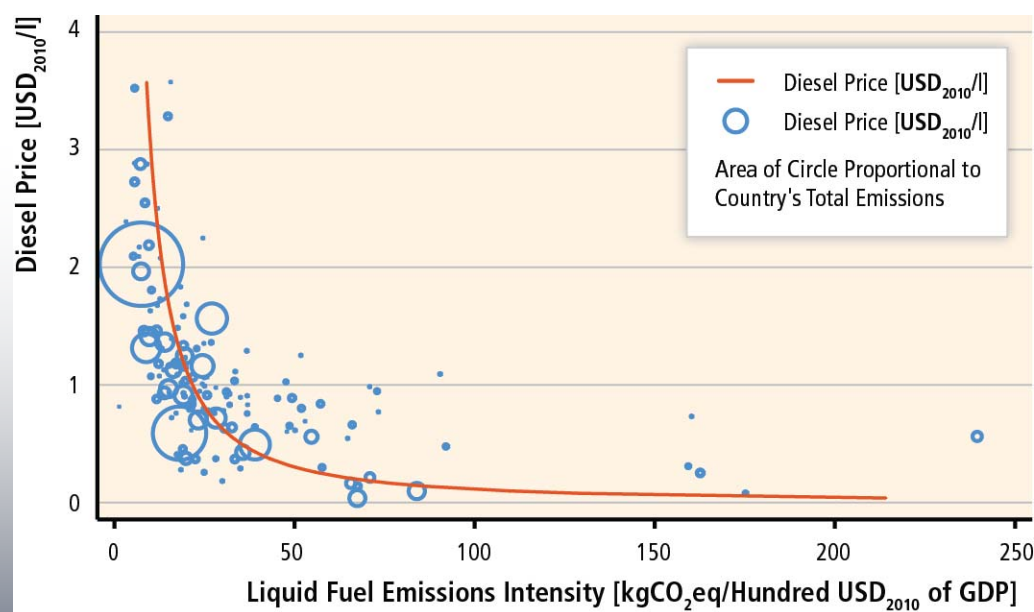
Swedish carbon tax

- Reductions in carbon intensity of GDP of 40%

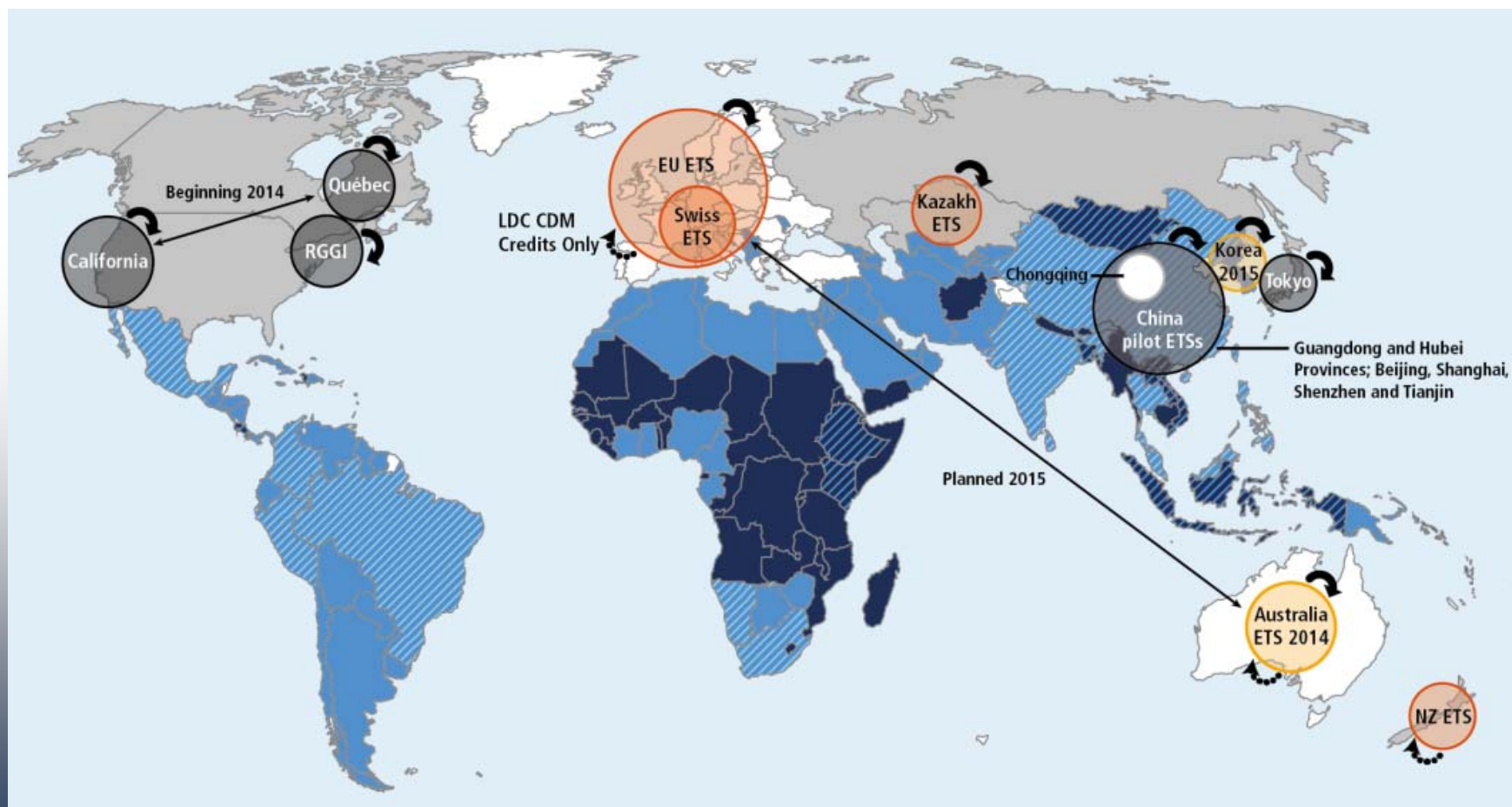
Examples of the performance of emission taxes

Fuel taxes

- In the long run 10% higher fuel prices will lead to a roughly 7% reduction in fuel use and emissions
- OECD could have decreased fuel use by more than 35% if all member countries had chosen taxes as high as in the UK



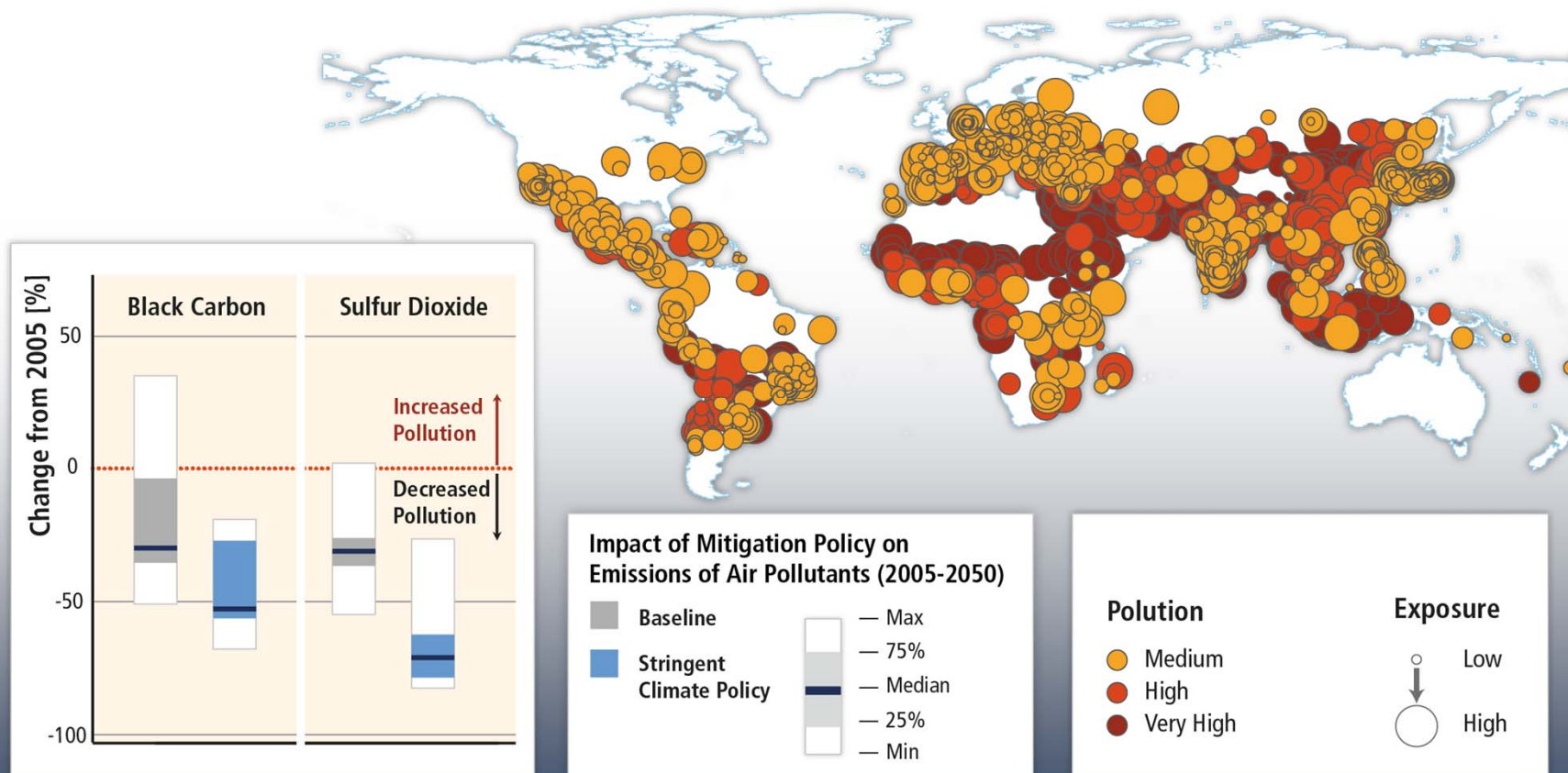
Regions are starting to cooperate.



International climate policy is only slowly taking shape.

- The UNFCCC regime is the only platform with broad legitimacy.
- Cooperation outside the UNFCCC has increased but except for the Montreal Protocol did not lead to significant emissions reduction.
- The Kyoto Protocol was less successful than envisaged.
 - The emissions commitments were reached, benefitting from economic changes in countries in transition.
 - The market mechanisms have mobilized low-cost mitigation, whose additionality is however debated.

Mitigation can result in large co-benefits for human health and other societal goals.



Some final thoughts beyond IPCC

- After all, carbon pricing is a good a idea: Taxing bads instead of goods.
- Finance ministers might be interested in carbon pricing even if they doubt scientific evidence of climate change.
- Infrastructure investments can create short-term benefits.

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