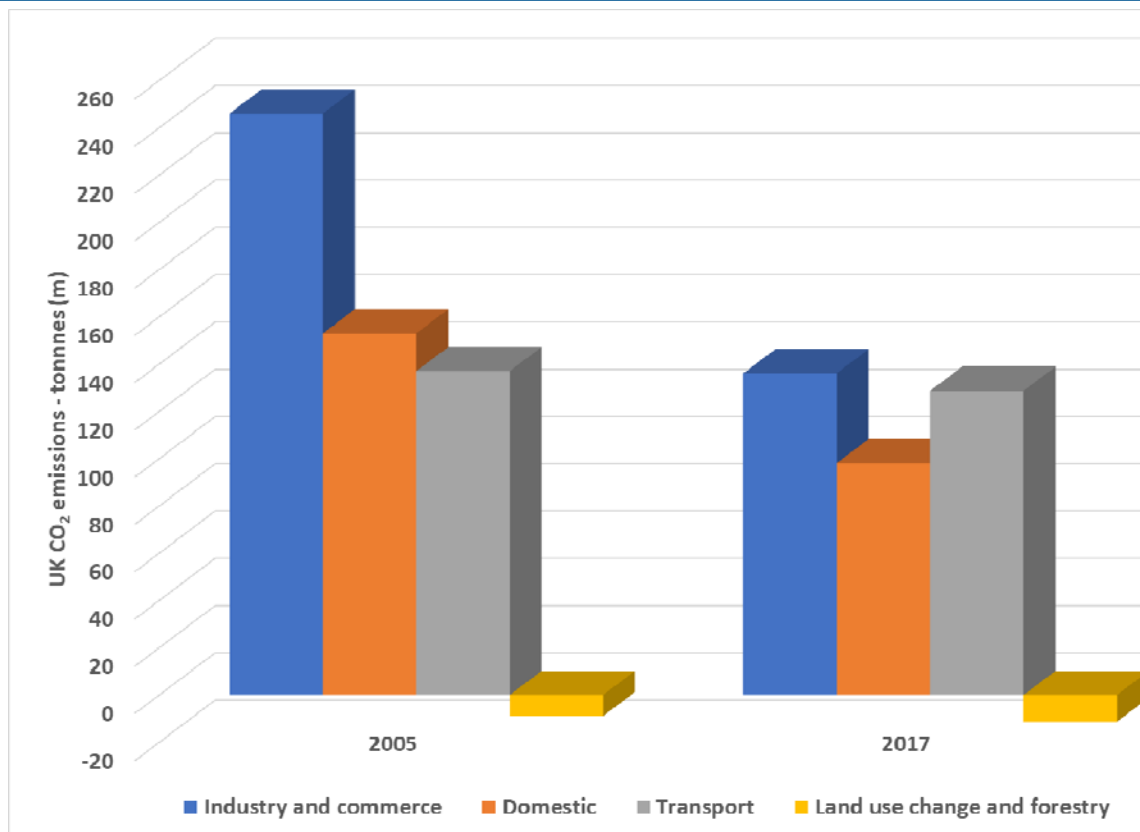


# Responding to the climate emergency: LA plans and what we should look for from them

1. The big picture on emissions
2. Grounds for confidence
3. How to respond to this emergency
4. The state of LAs' plans
5. Two Scottish case studies
6. The boundary between own operations and area
7. Suggested performance indicators and what to do with them
8. The dangers of greenwashing

## The big picture on CO<sub>2</sub> emissions: 2005 and 2017 (UK)



More than half the fall since 2005 – and almost all since 2013 – due to decarbonisation of electricity

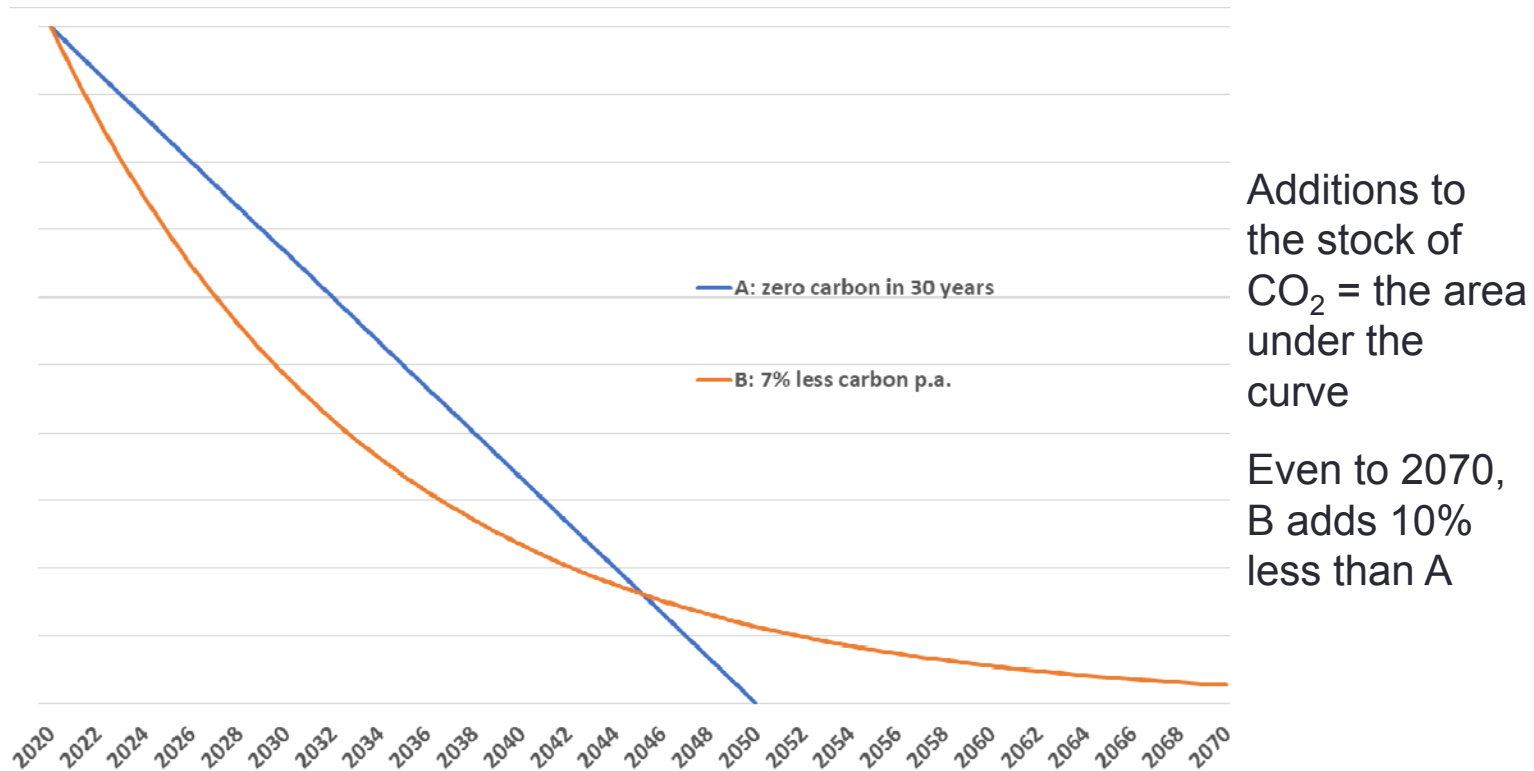
As a result, most UK LA areas recorded five-year falls of between 14% and 31%

Electricity now accounts for  $\frac{1}{3}$  of industry emissions and  $\frac{1}{4}$  of domestic

# Grounds for confidence – and where the biggest challenges lie

- Electricity is decarbonising rapidly: offshore wind can take this much further
- Plentiful green electricity may but not be cheap but is a key to green gas ( $\text{H}_2$  from  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ) in place of  $\text{CH}_4$
- Technology + the market will speed decarbonisation of transport (but not just about  $\text{CO}_2$ )
- But scant progress so far on: i) transport; ii) heat (buildings); iii) agricultural and industrial emissions

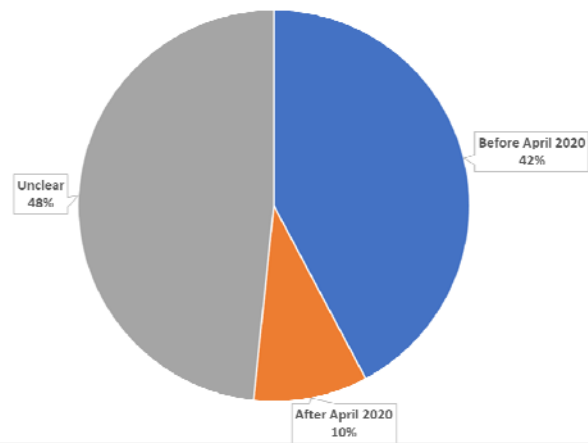
# How to respond to this emergency: what matters are additions to the stock of CO<sub>2</sub>



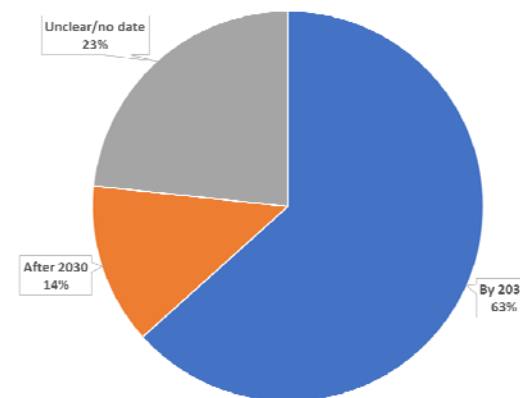
Focus on big strides in next 3/4 years, not exactly when you'll hit zero

# The state of LAs' plans: when's it due, where's it for, when's it zero, is there a predecessor?

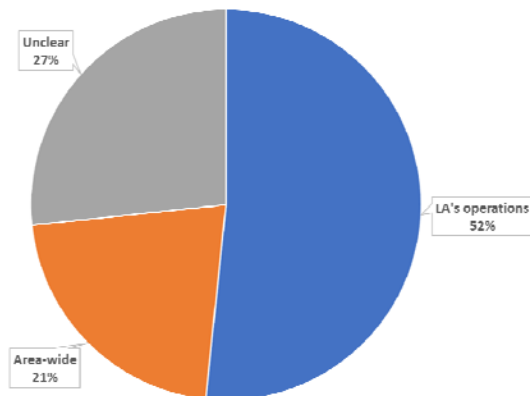
When will climate change plan be published?



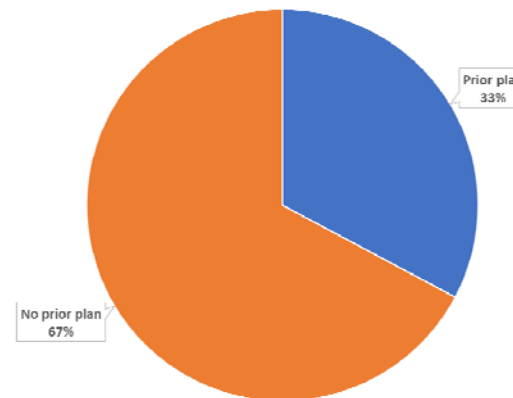
When is the commitment to hit net zero?



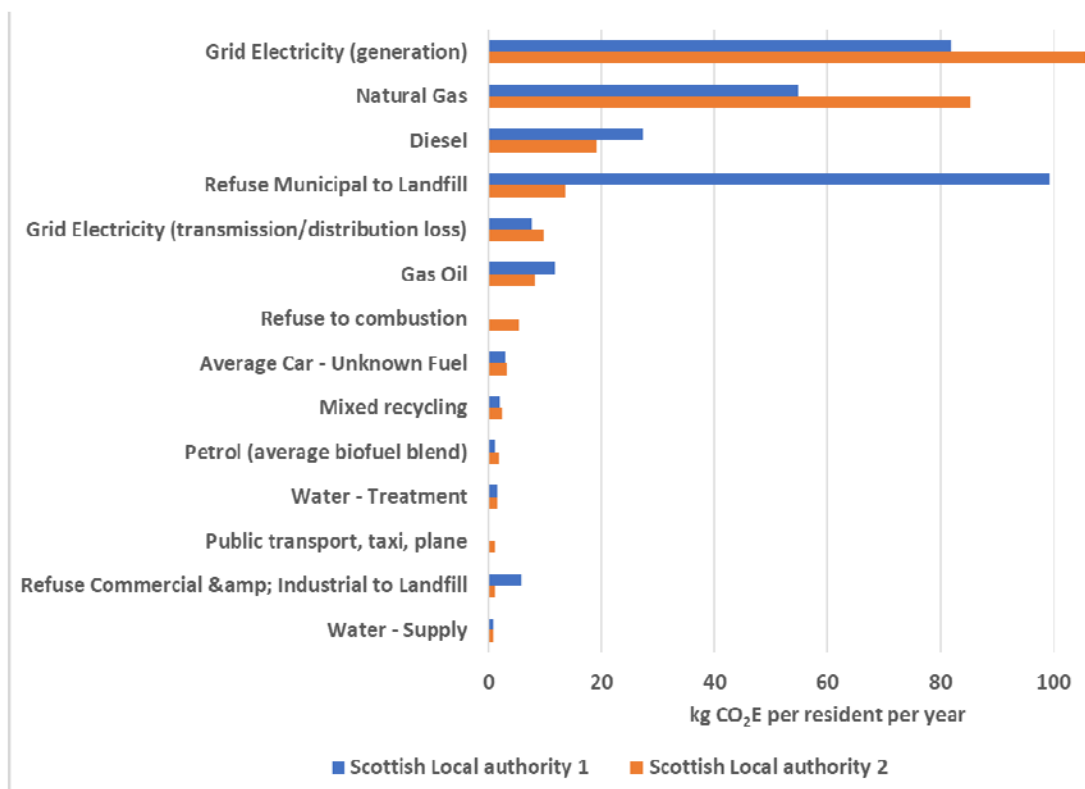
What does the climate commitment apply to?



Is there a prior plan for climate change?



## Case study: two Scottish LAs' own emissions: (public sector CC duties report, 2017/18)



Three things of first order importance:

- Electricity
- Gas, oil, diesel
- Landfill

Many things of lesser importance

Over five years, own emissions have fallen by 20% (LA #1) and 41% (LA #2)

## Where's the boundary? "Own operations" and "LA area" are very different

- Scale: "own" emissions = 6%-8% of "area" emissions?
- Supply chain: most emissions from LA activity are here
- Approach: management ("own") vs leadership ("area")
- e.g. Cornwall's three work programmes: operational, facilitation and regional/national partnerships
- The importance of heat (housing, buildings) and transport leaves "own" operations very narrow
- Performance measures need to go further

# Suggested performance indicators – and what to do with them

1. Own emissions by use category: energy for buildings, public lighting, transport; waste and recycling
2. Plus area household and transport emissions, with any directly controlled elements identified separately
3. Shown on a per capita basis (to compare cross-LA)
4. Both with/sans effect of electricity decarbonisation (better to identify behavioural change and LA impact)
5. Plus three/four year targets for each indicator (focus on the short term)
6. Evaluated by APSE against national, regional, LA-type benchmarks and goals consistent with the CCE



## Conclusion: the dangers of greenwashing

- Electricity decarbonisation means everyone's a winner
- Declaring an emergency as cover for inaction and/or lack of high level commitment
- Showing strength by intent (I'll get to zero a'fore ye) instead of intent by strength (action this year and next)
- Focusing on own operations instead of leading – as only LAs can – on buildings and heat