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INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON climate change

CLIMATE CHANGE 2014

Mitigation of Climate Change

European Energy Policy in a Changing Global Market

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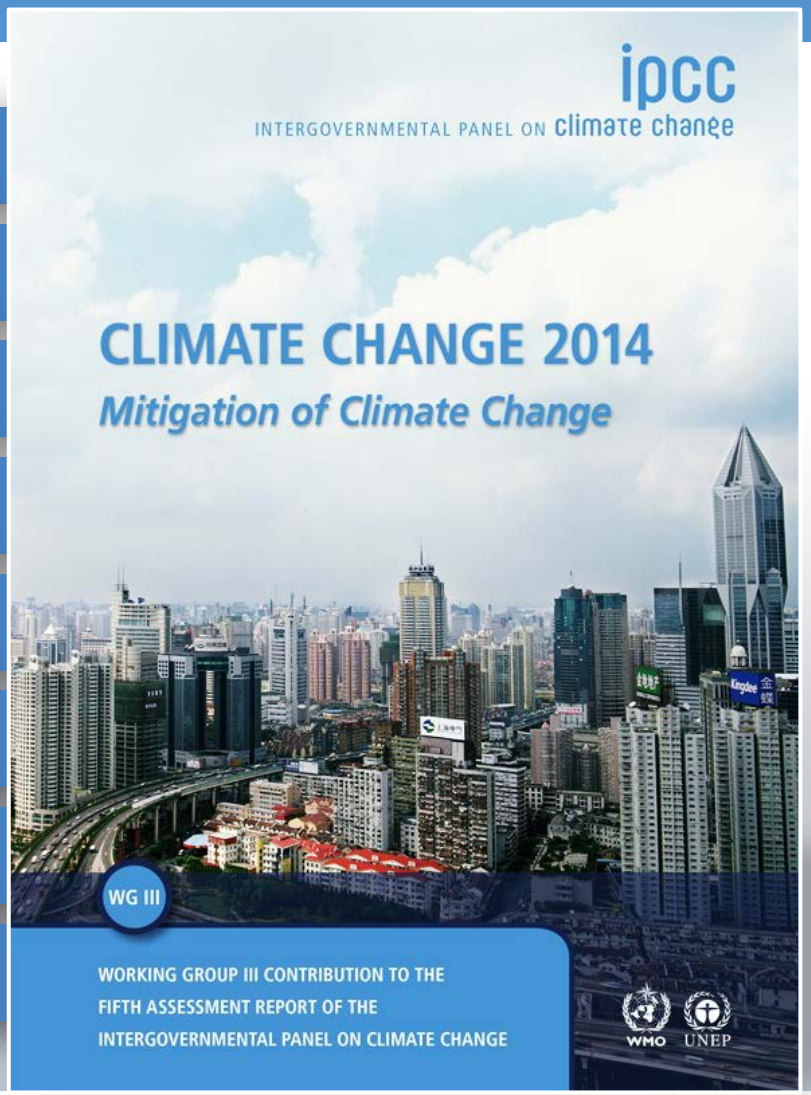
Co-Chair, IPCC Working Group III
13 November 2014, Munich

Working Group III contribution to the
IPCC Fifth Assessment Report

WMO UNEP

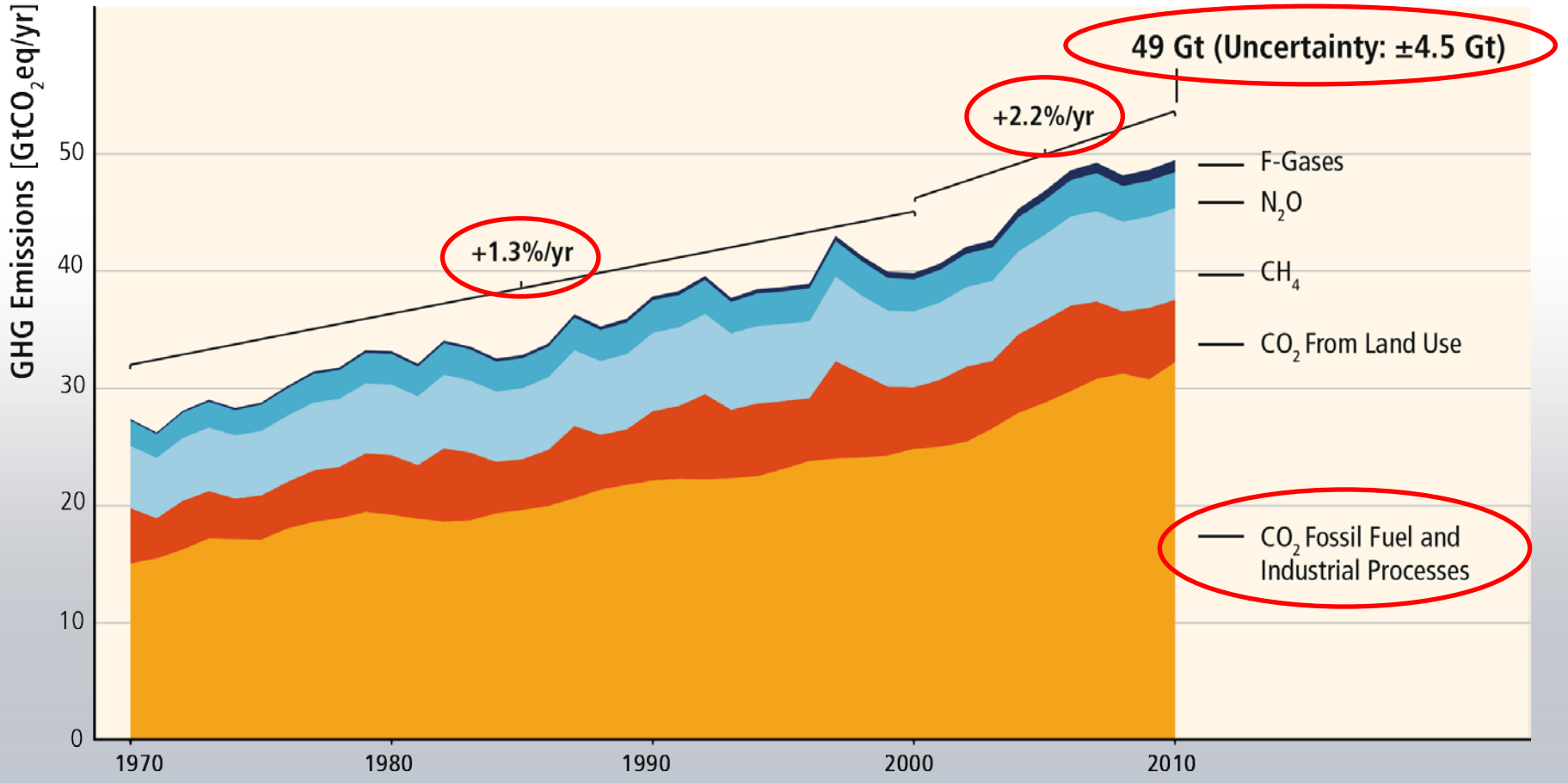
IPCC reports are the result of extensive work of many scientists from around the world.

- 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



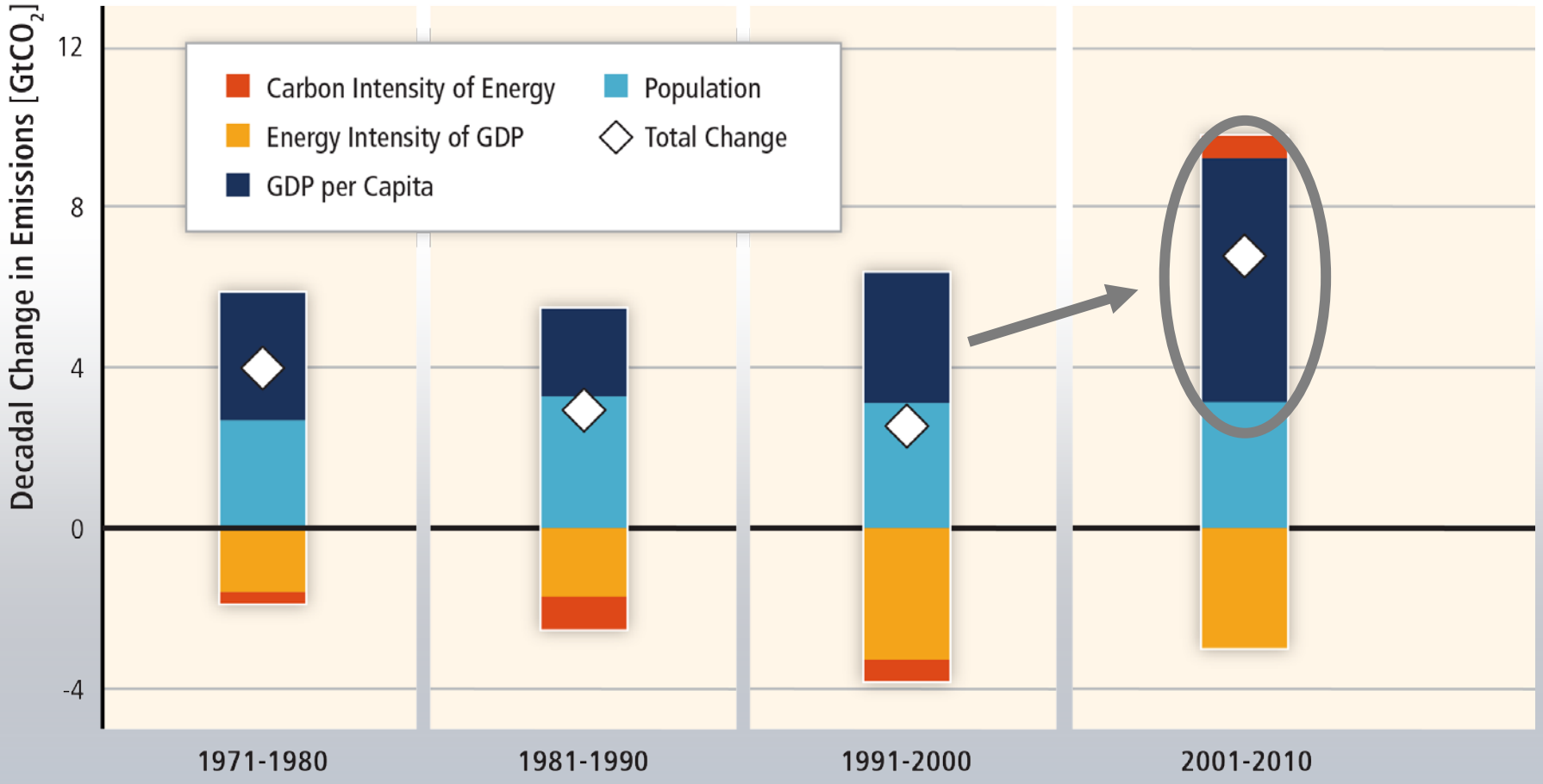
GHG emissions growth has accelerated
despite reduction efforts.

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



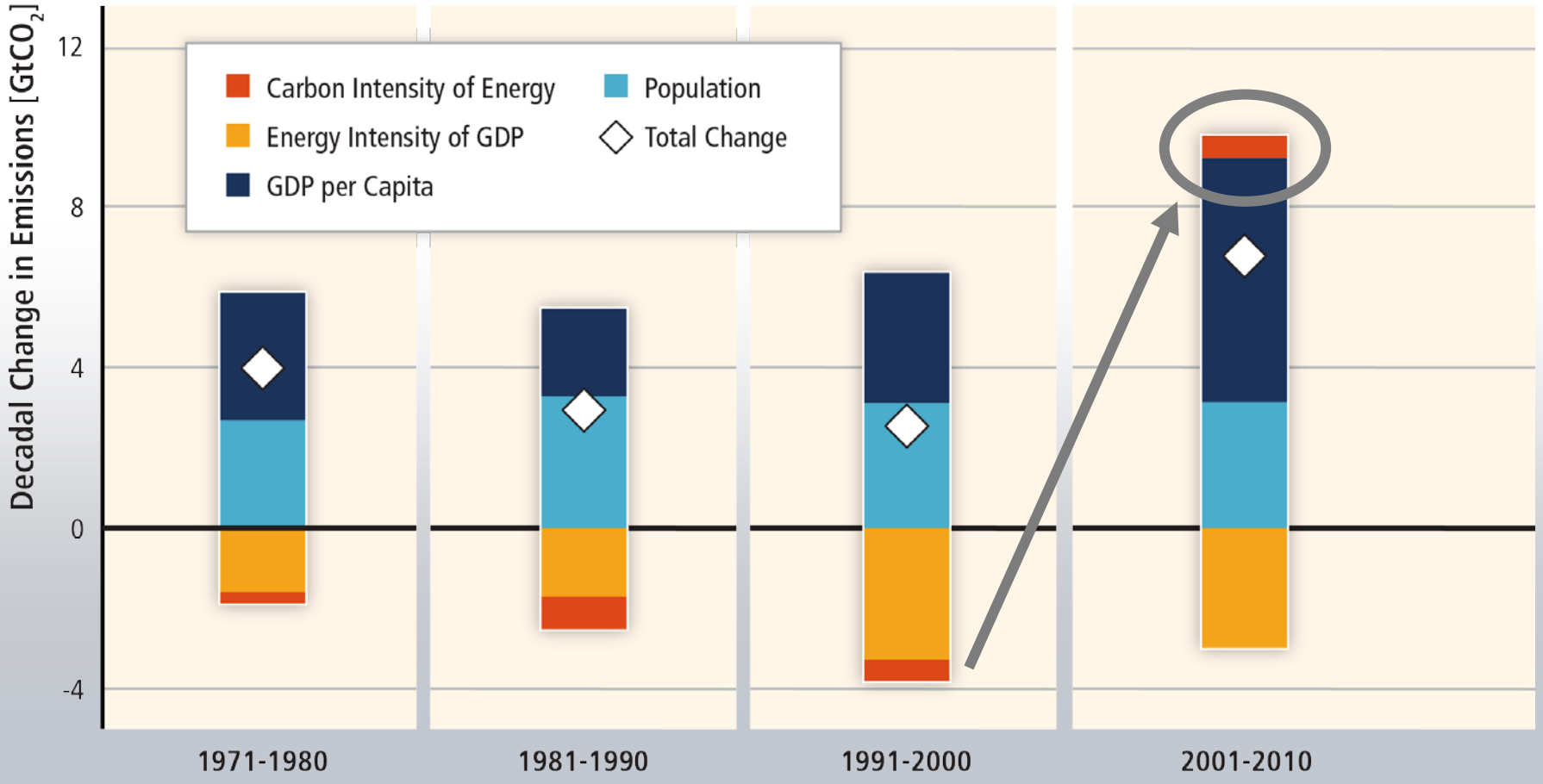
Based on Figure 1.3

GHG emissions rise with growth in GDP and population; long-standing trend of decarbonisation of energy reversed.



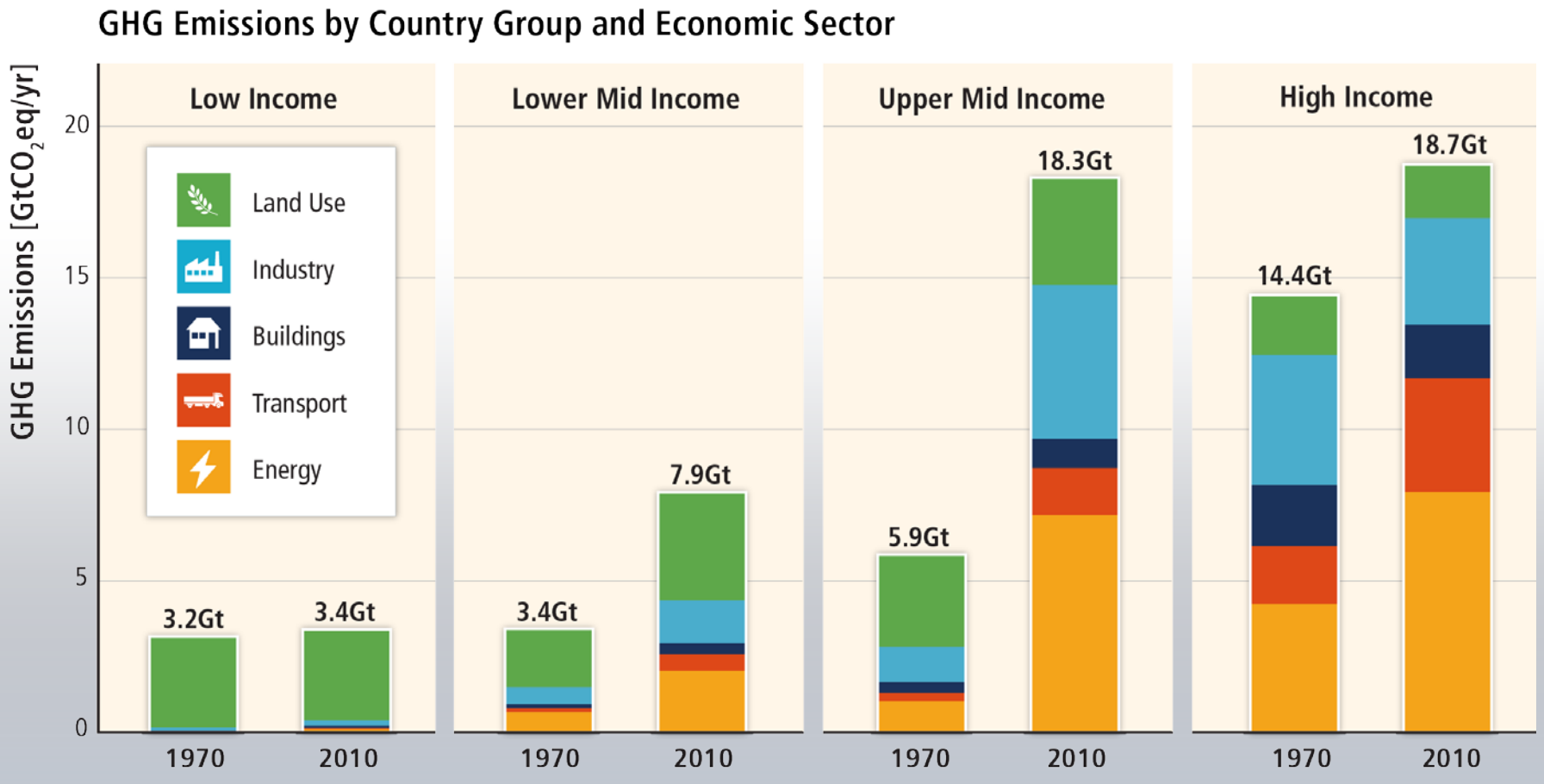
Based on Figure 1.7

GHG emissions rise with growth in GDP and population; long-standing trend of decarbonisation of energy reversed.



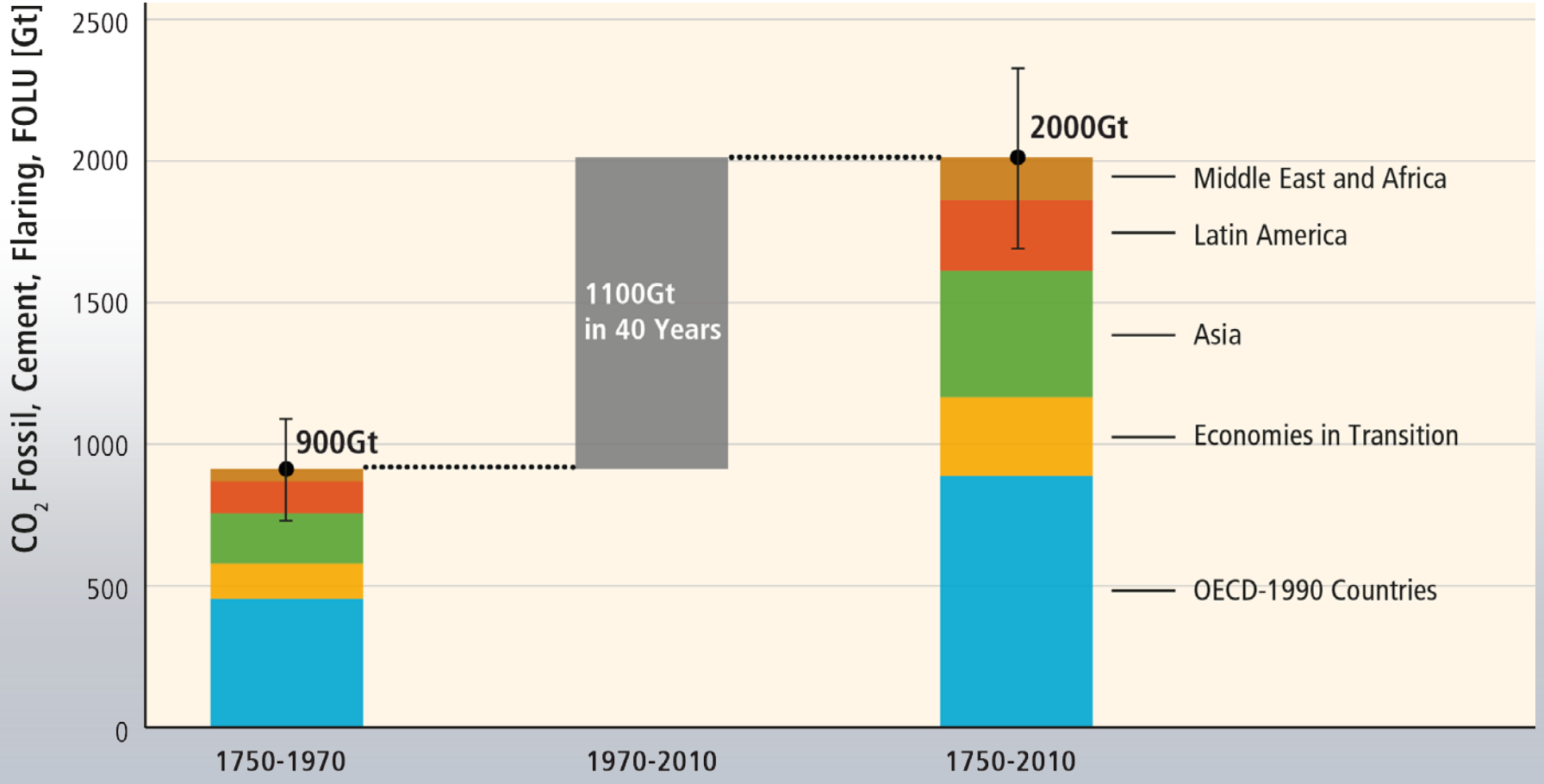
Based on Figure 1.7

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



Based on Figure 1.6

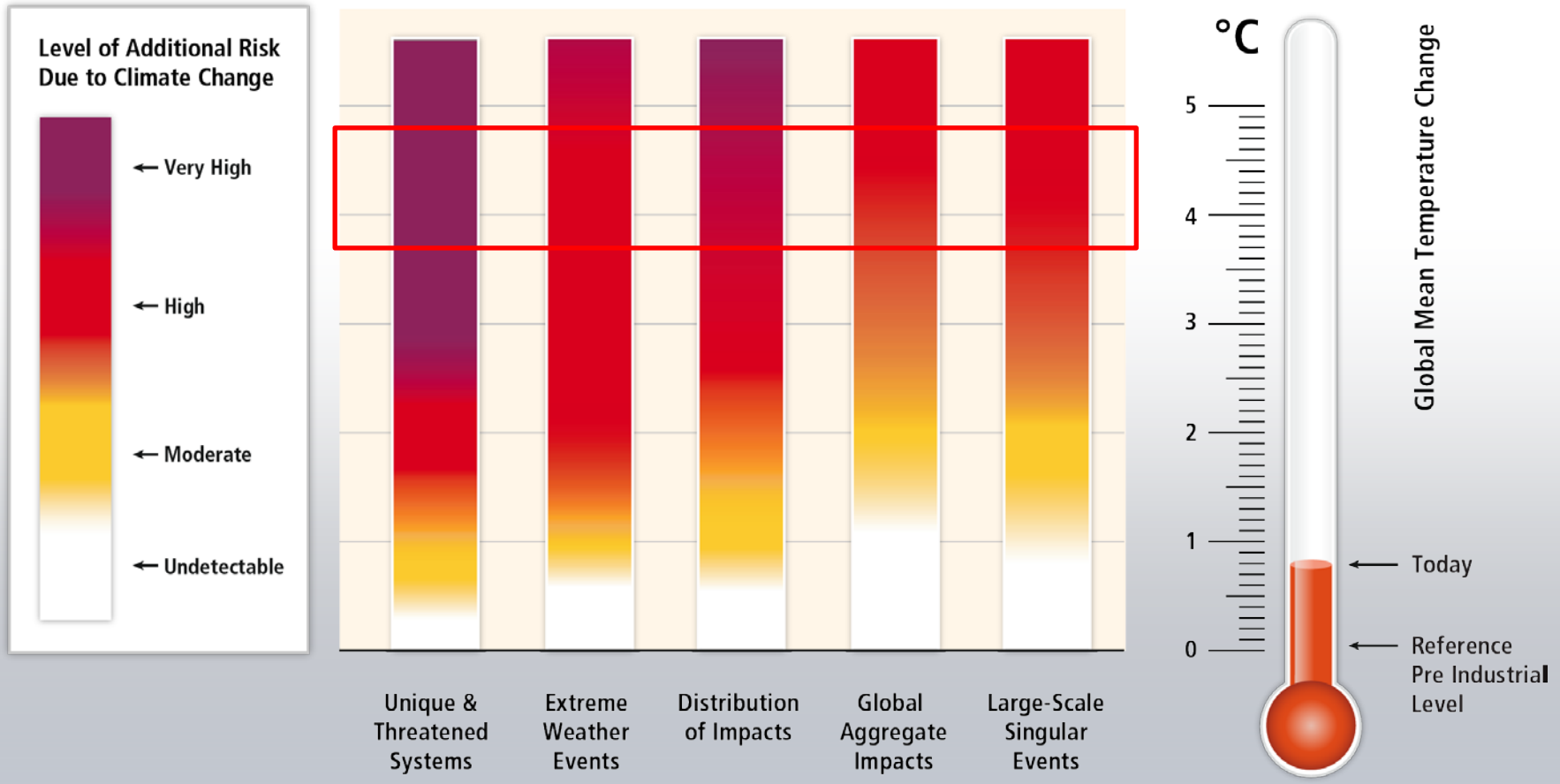
About half of cumulative anthropogenic CO_2 emissions between 1750 and 2010 have occurred in the last 40 years.



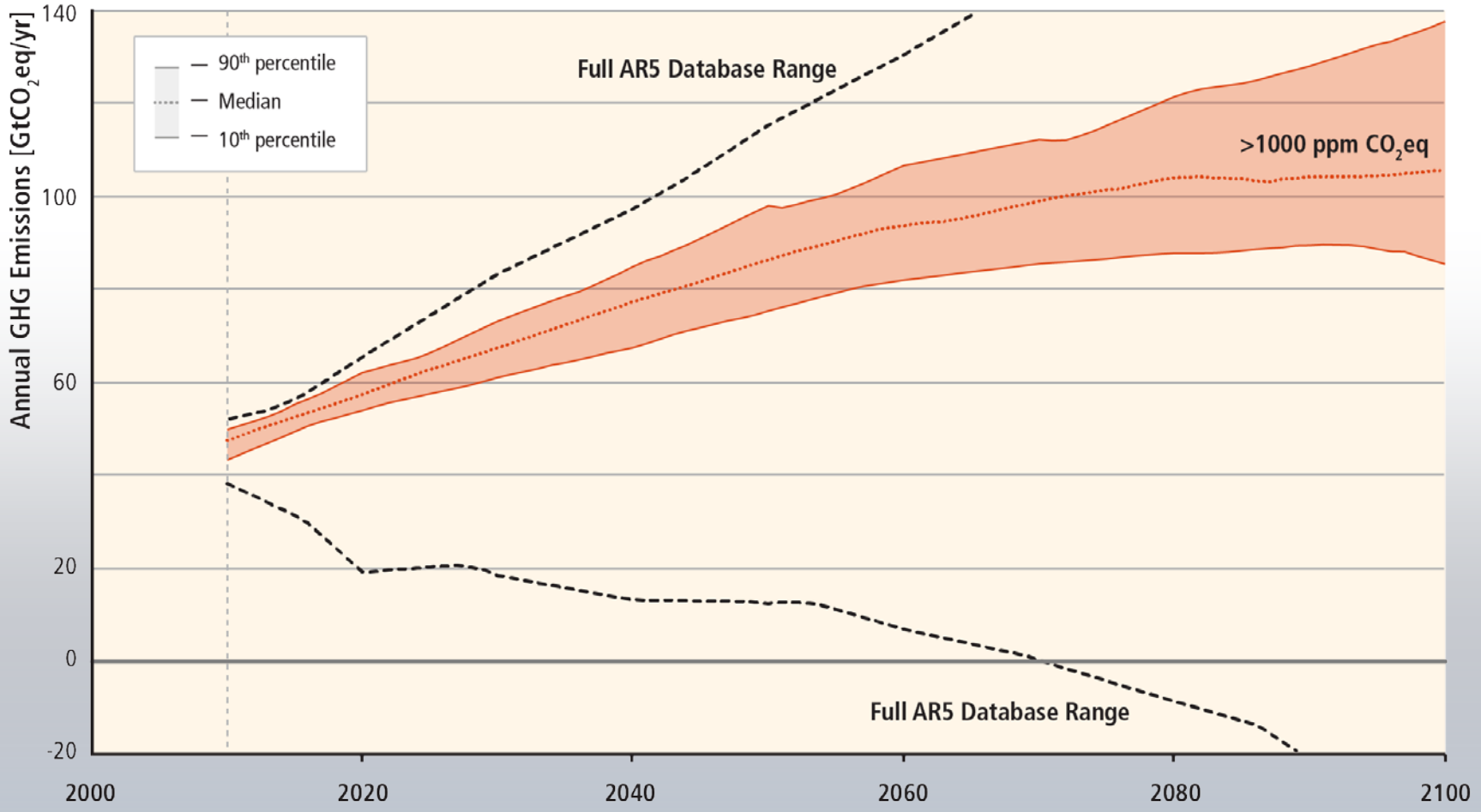
Based on Figure 5.3

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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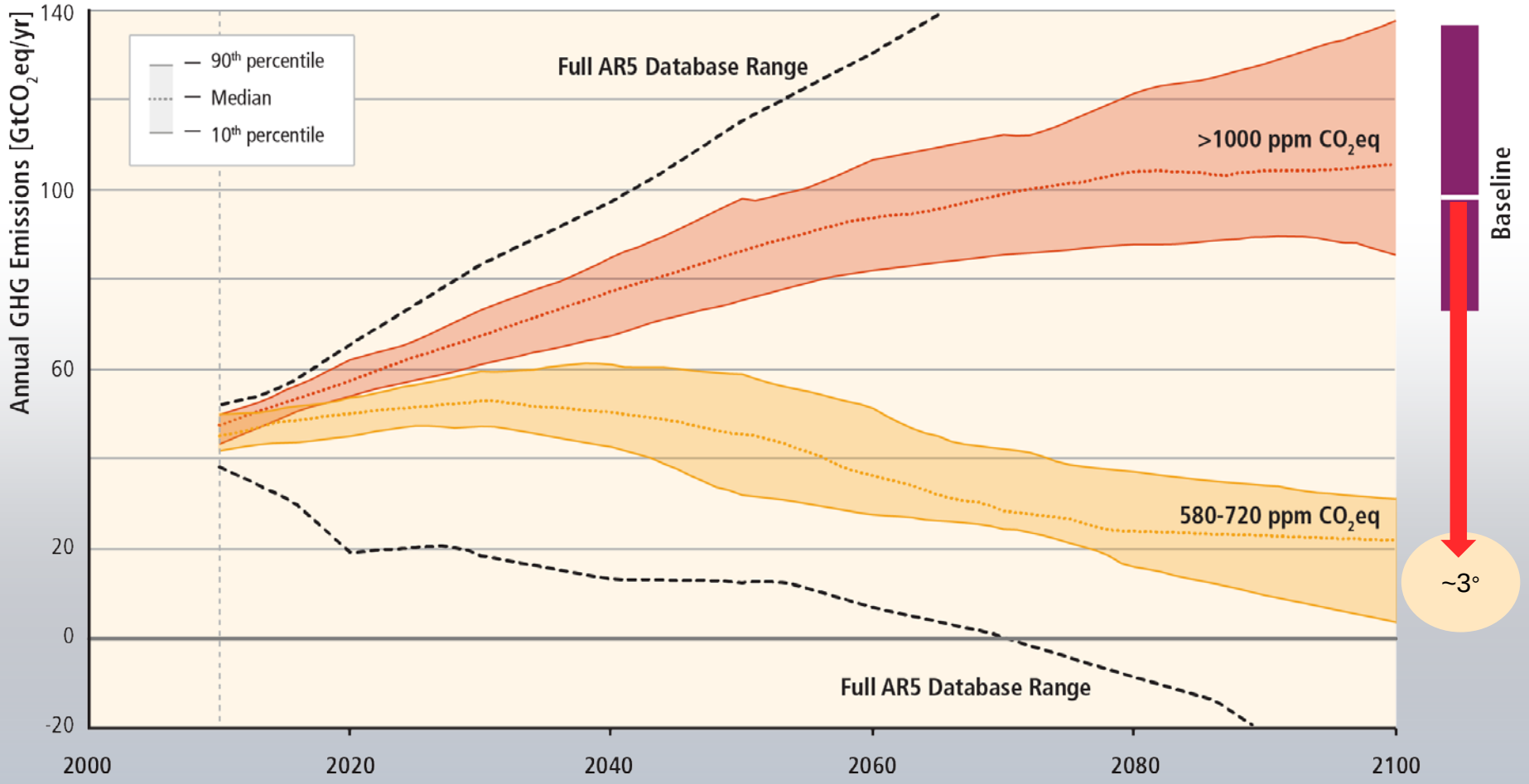

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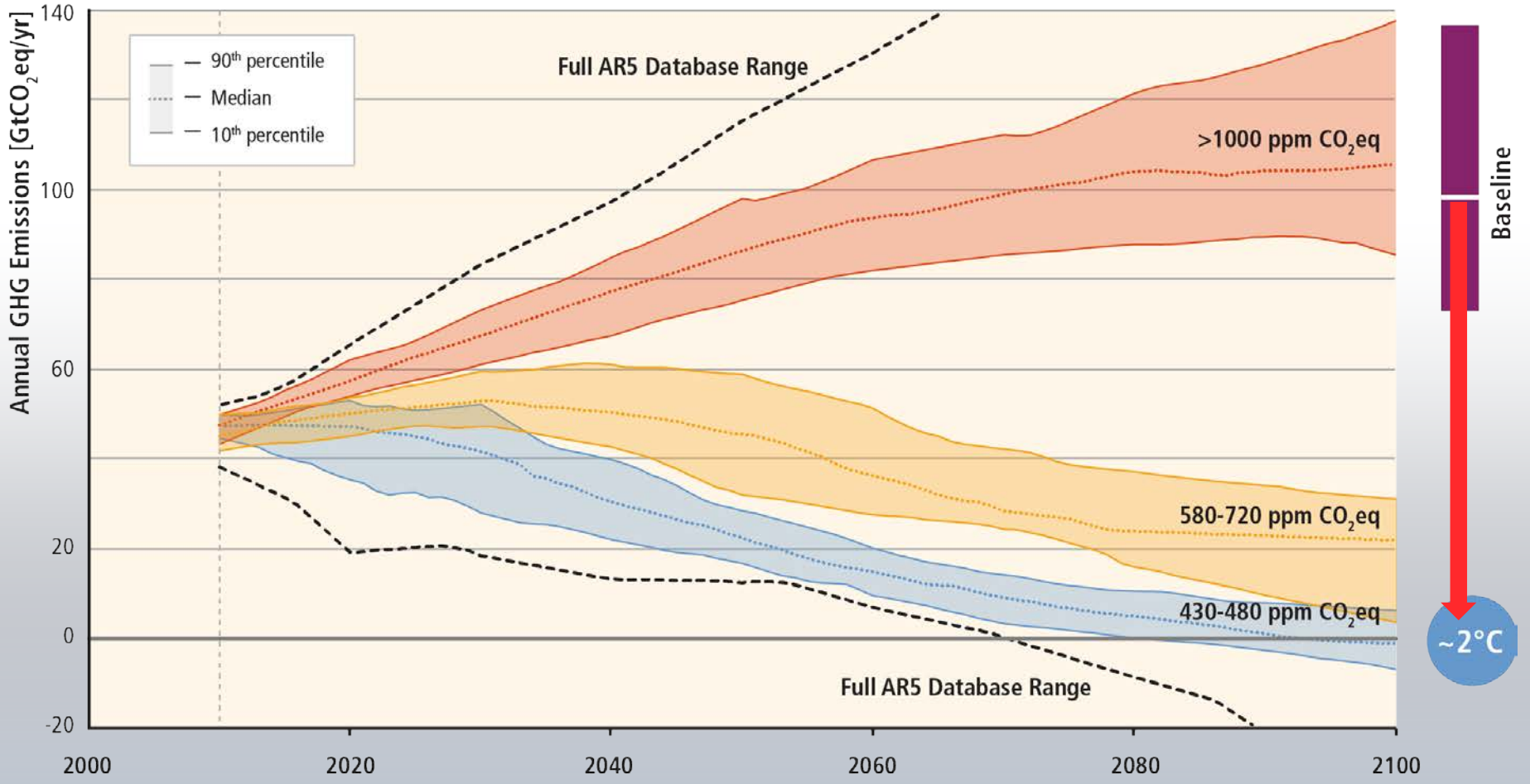
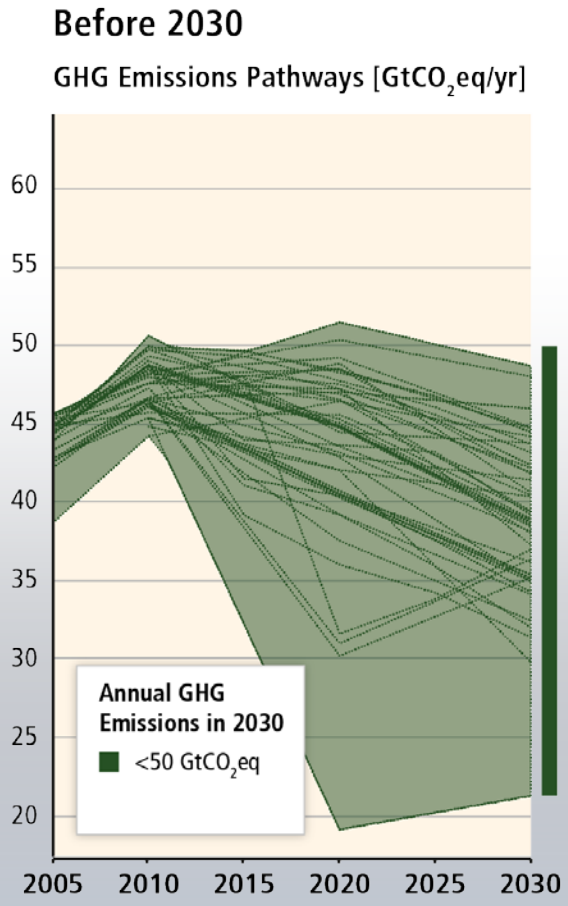


Delaying mitigation increases the difficulty and narrows the options for limiting warming to 2°C.



„immediate action“

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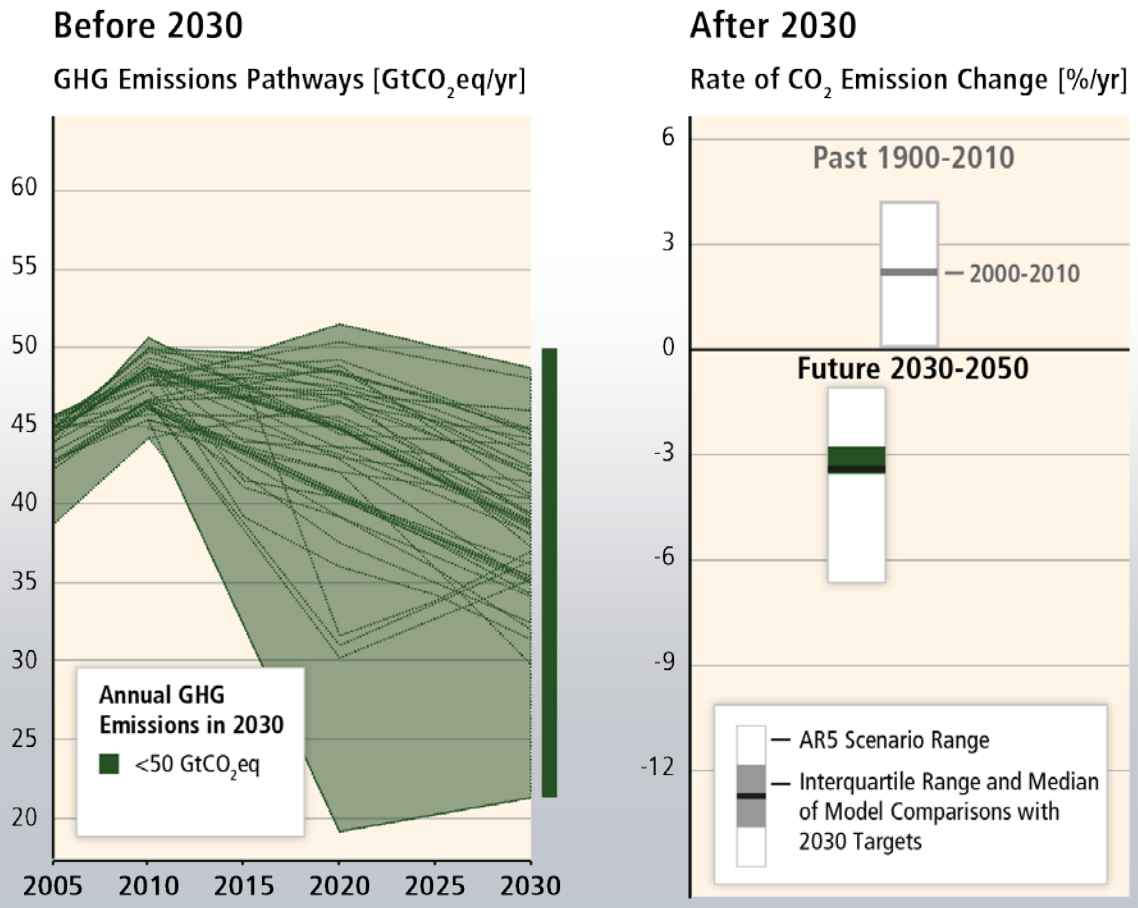

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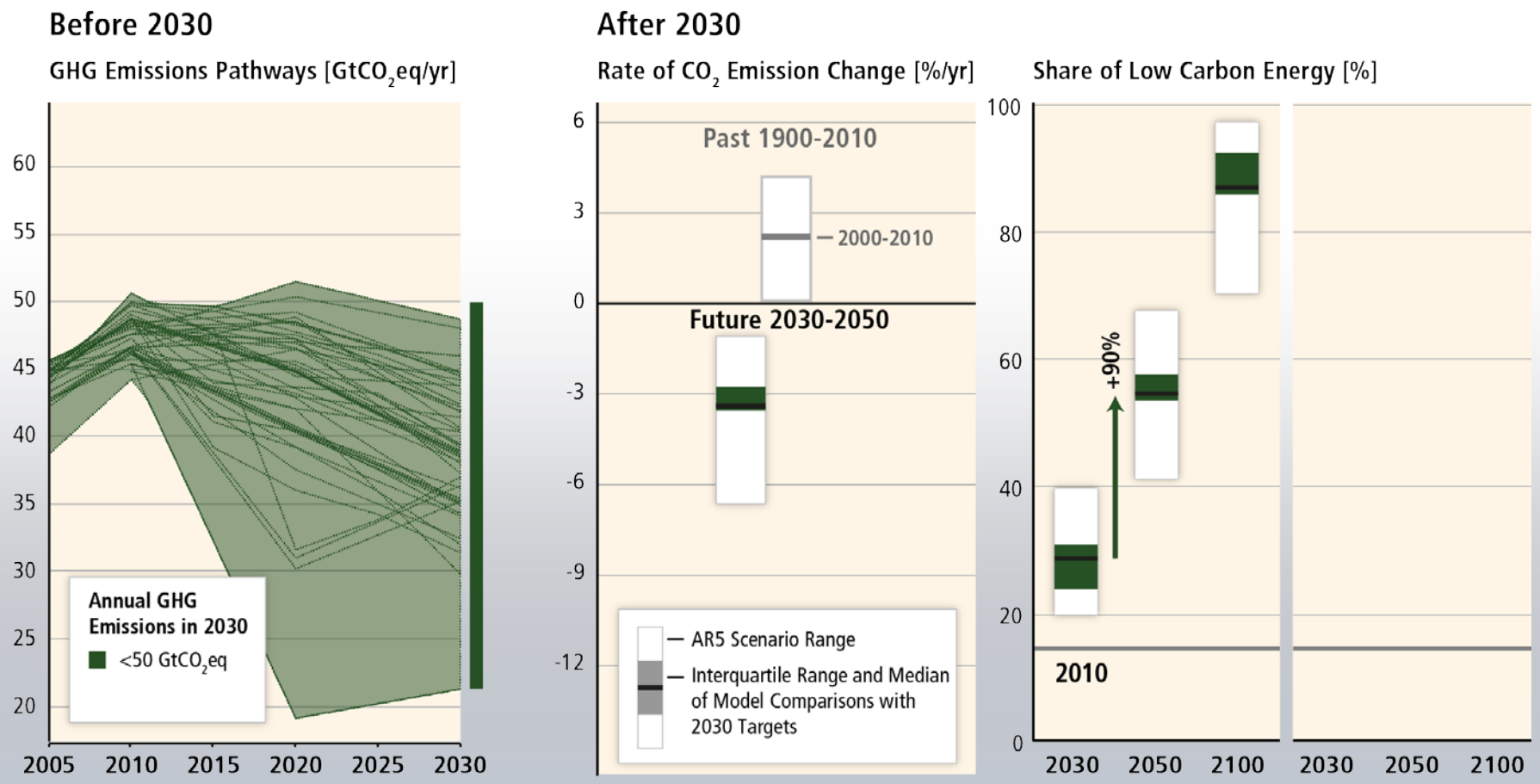

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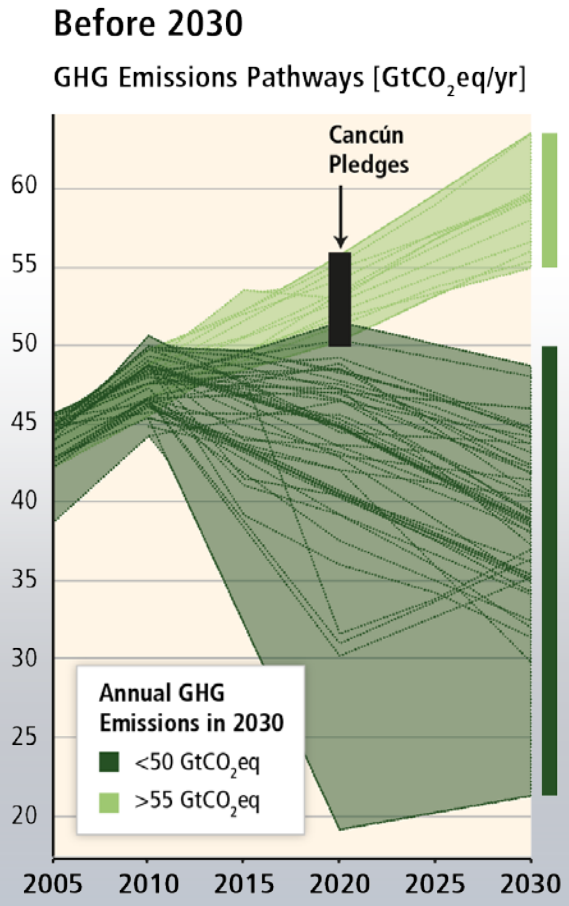

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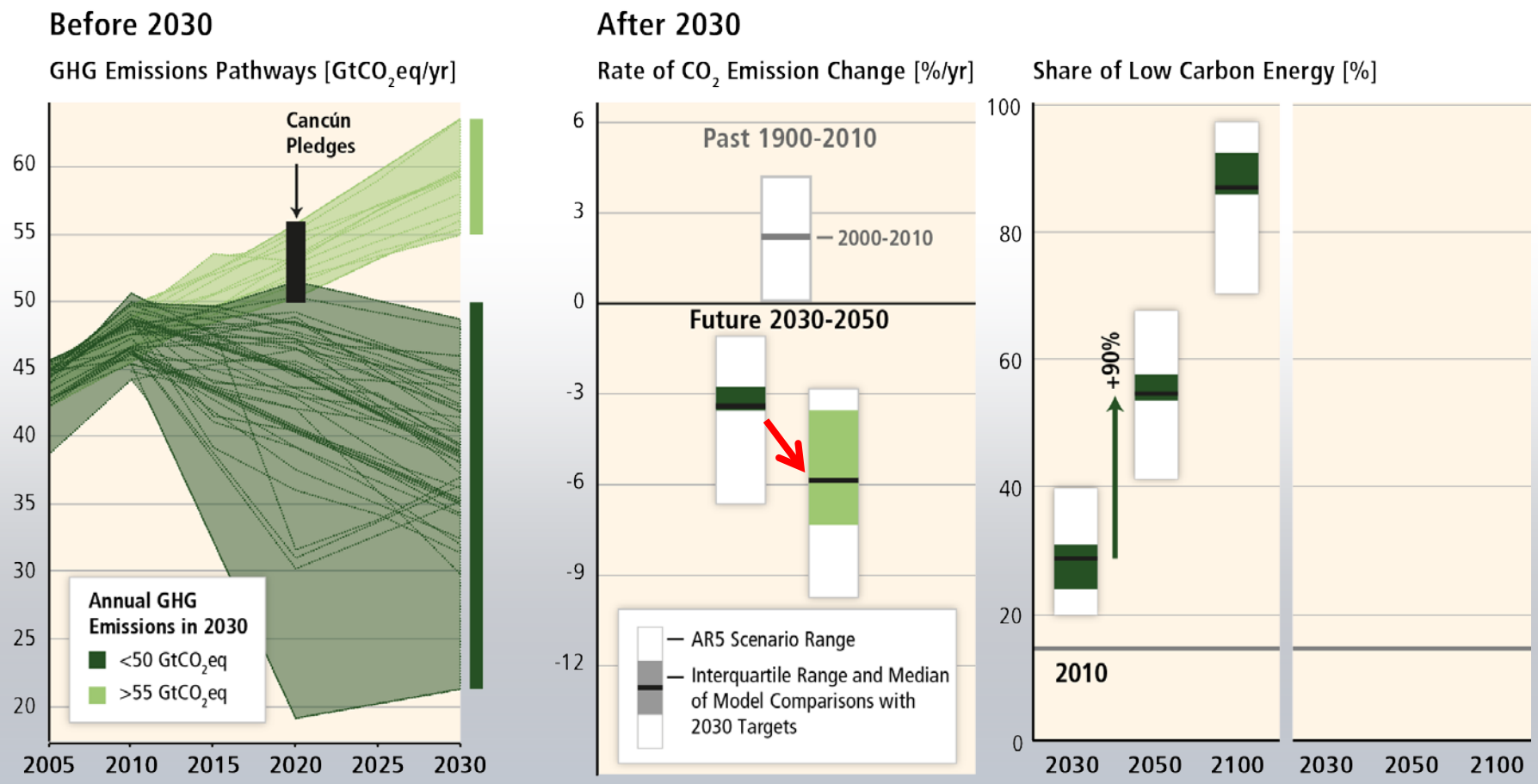

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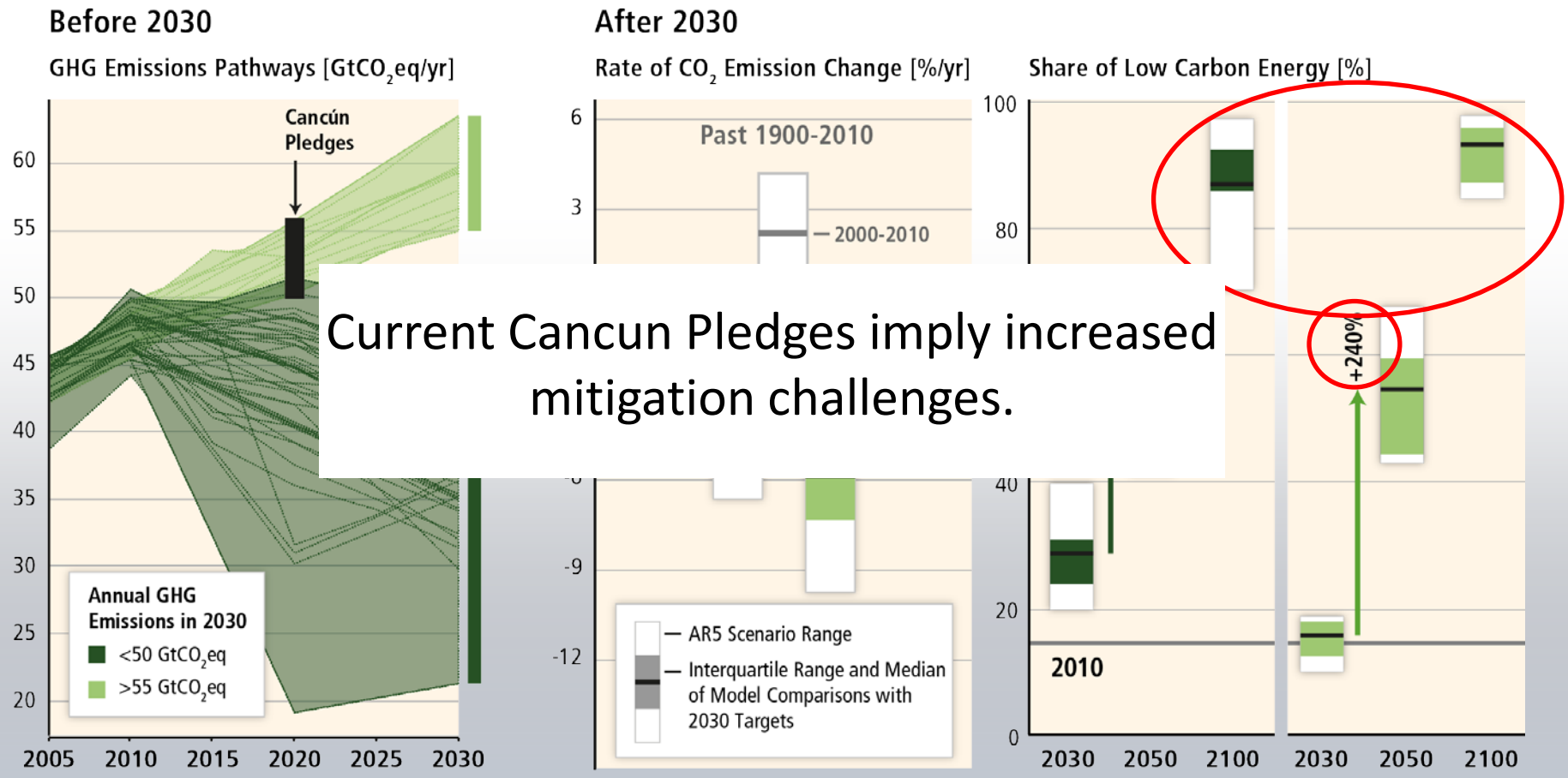
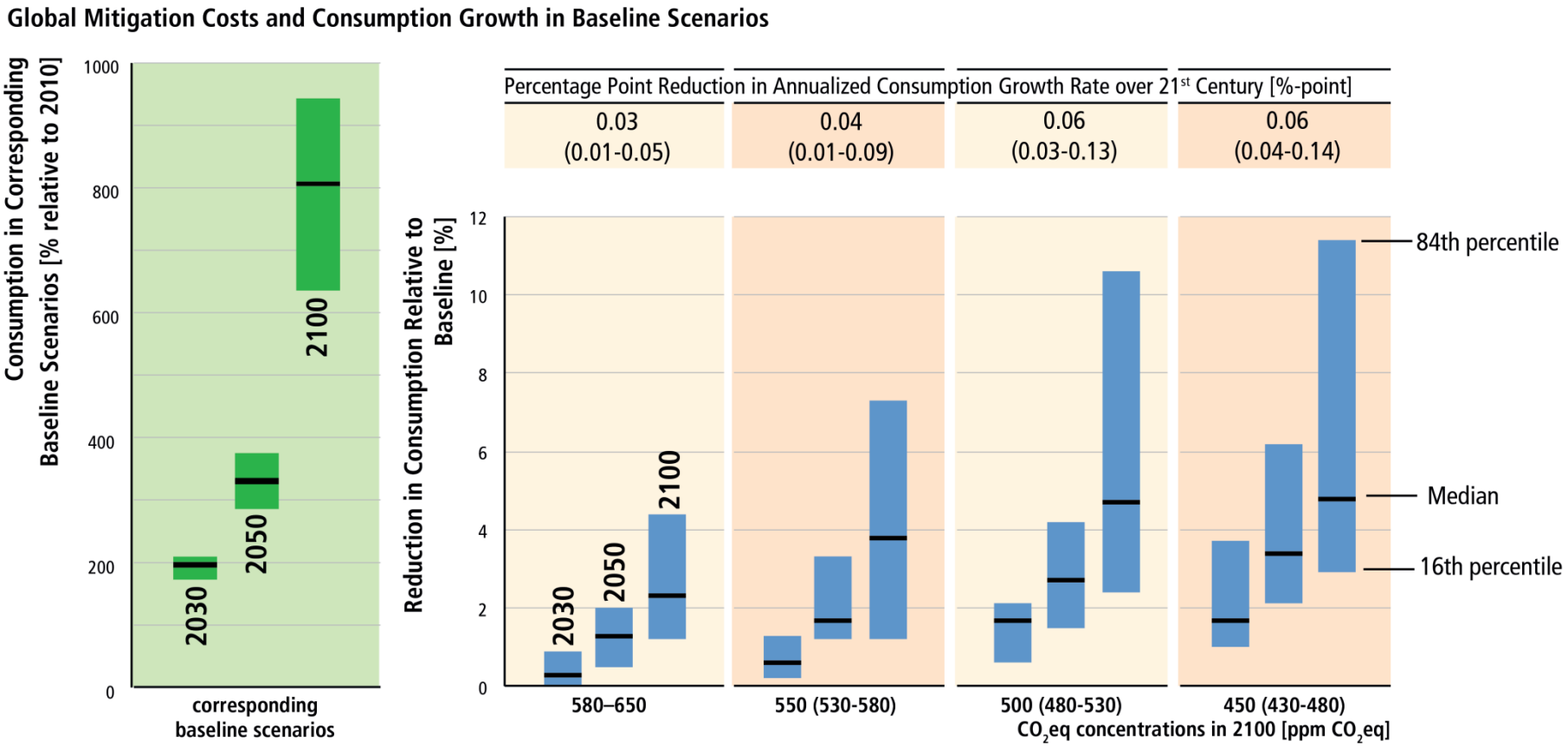


Current Cancun Pledges imply increased mitigation challenges.

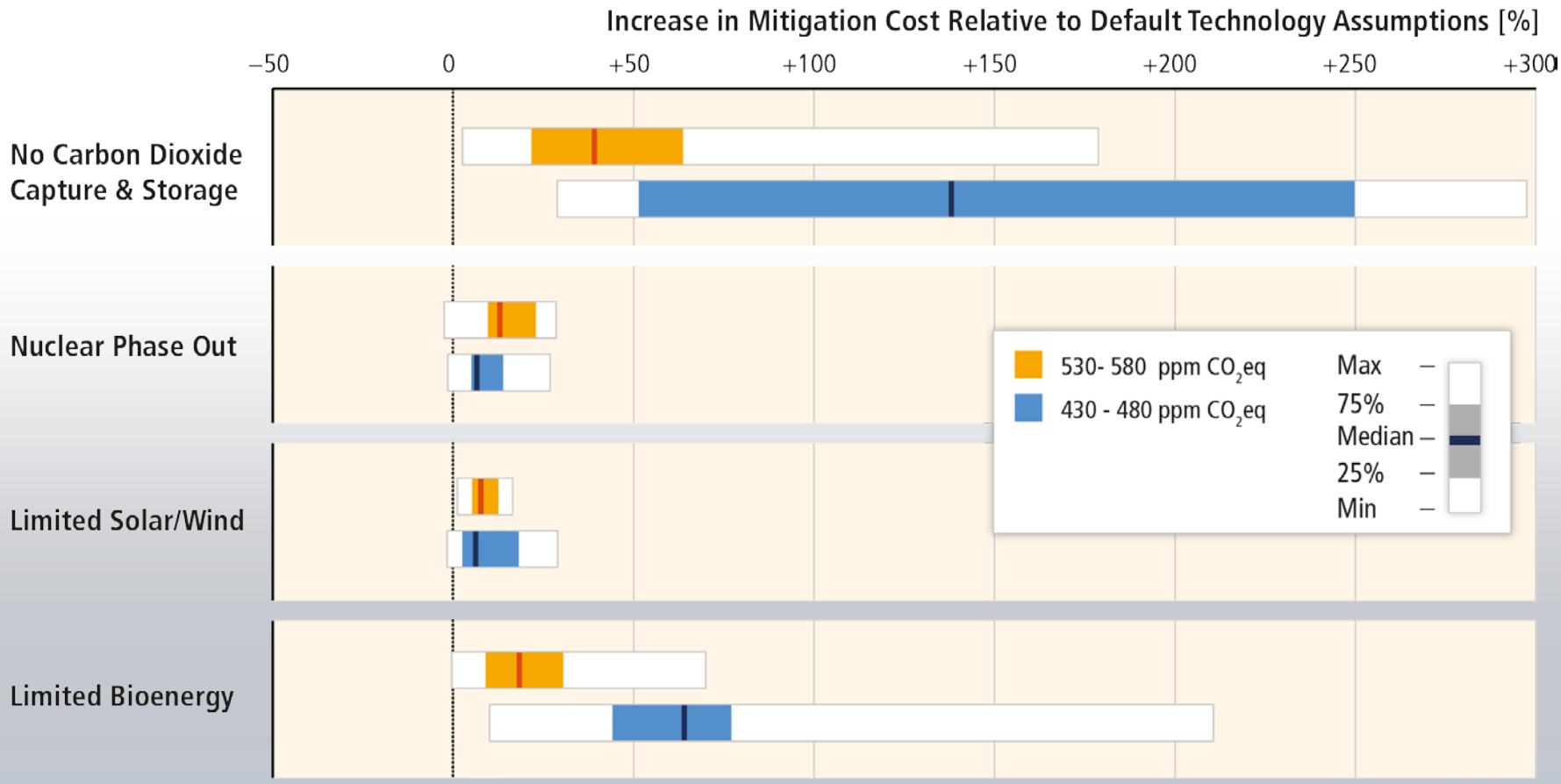
Mitigation cost estimates vary, but do not strongly affect global GDP growth.

Global costs rise with the ambition of the mitigation goal.



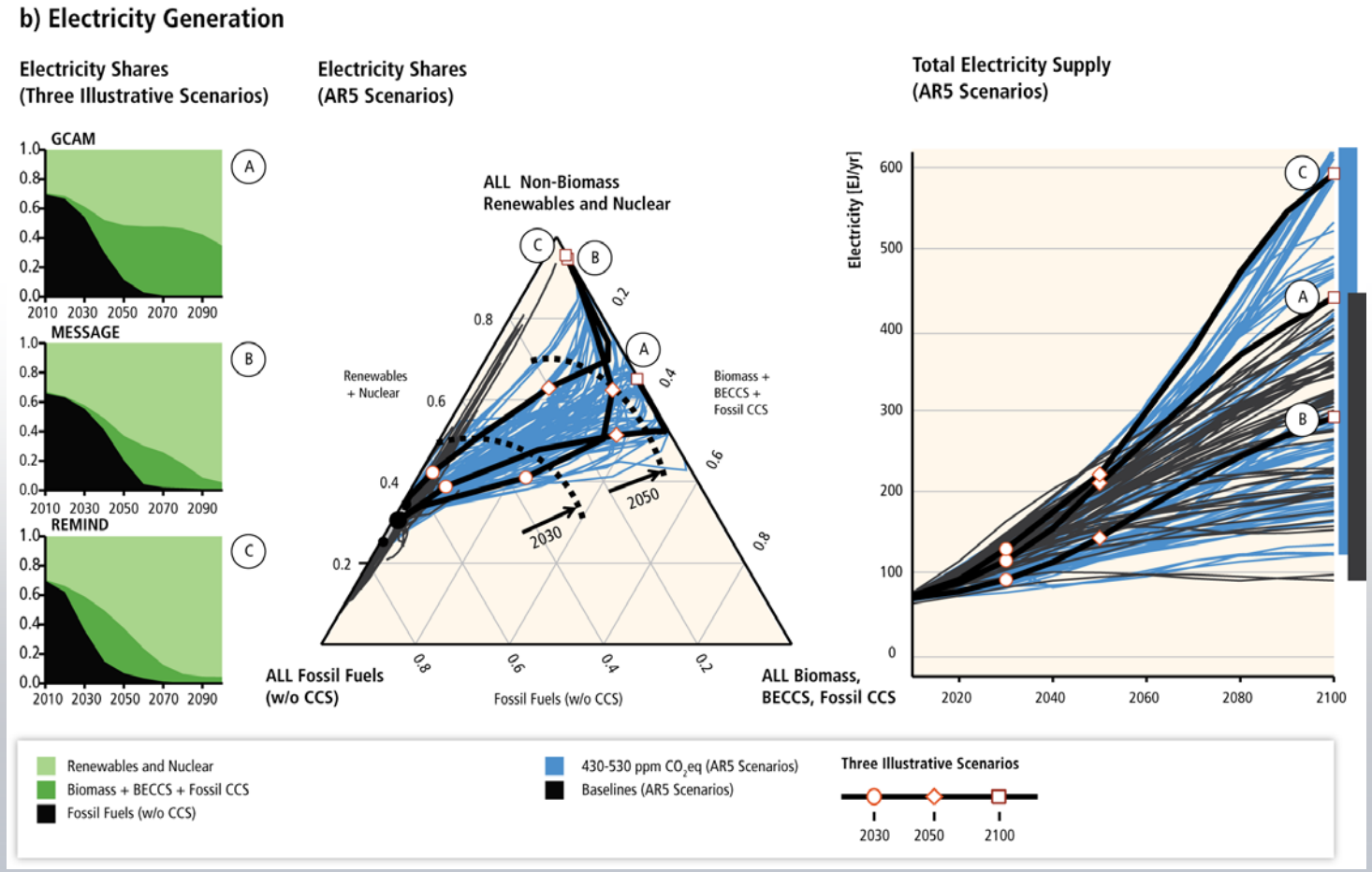
SYR figure SPM.13

Availability of technology can greatly influence mitigation costs.



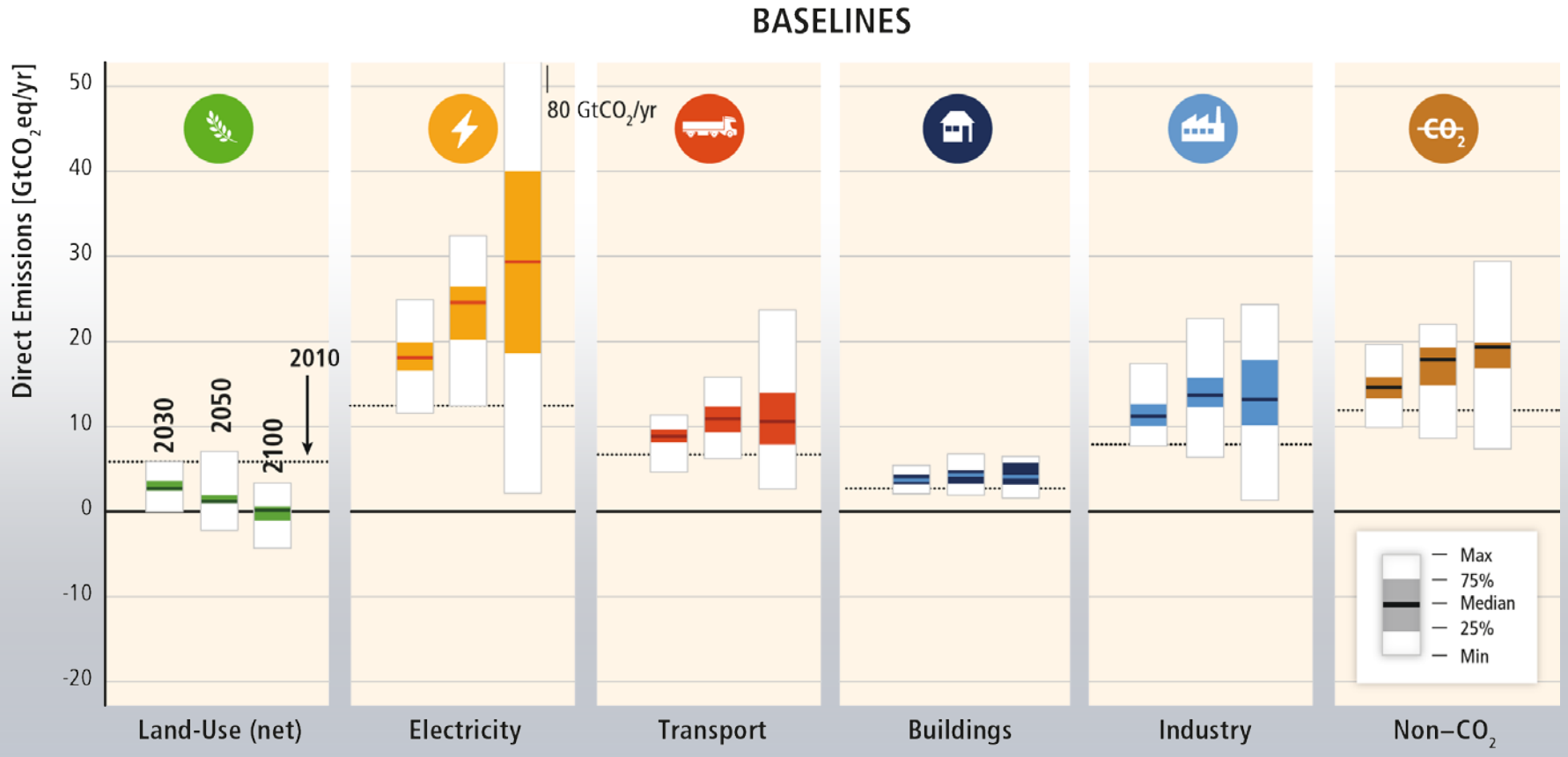
Based on Figure 6.24

In low CO_2 concentration stabilization scenarios, fossil fuel use without CCS is phased out in the long-term.



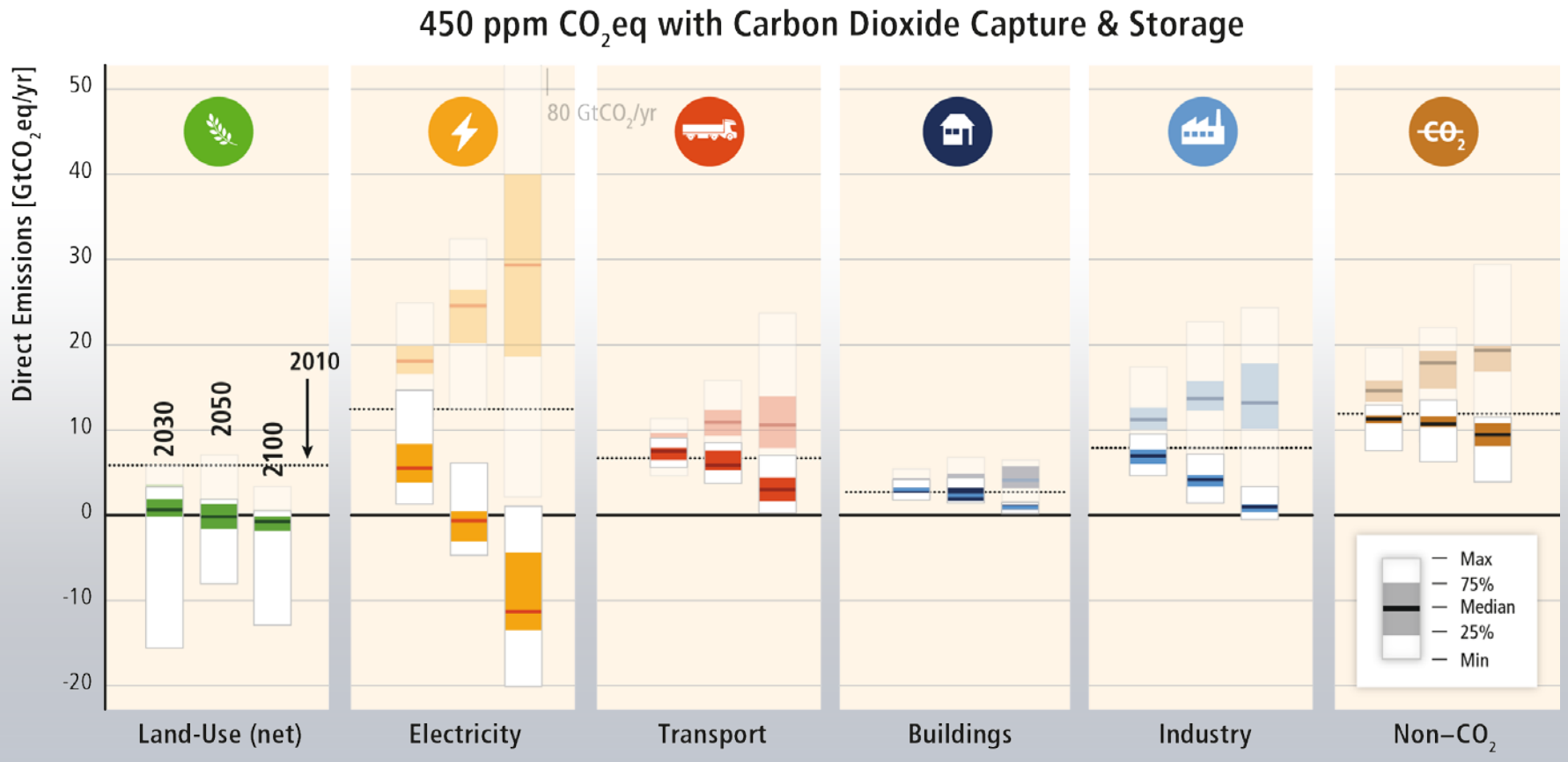
Based on Figure 7.15b

Baseline scenarios suggest rising GHG emissions in all sectors, except for CO_2 emissions in the land-use sector.



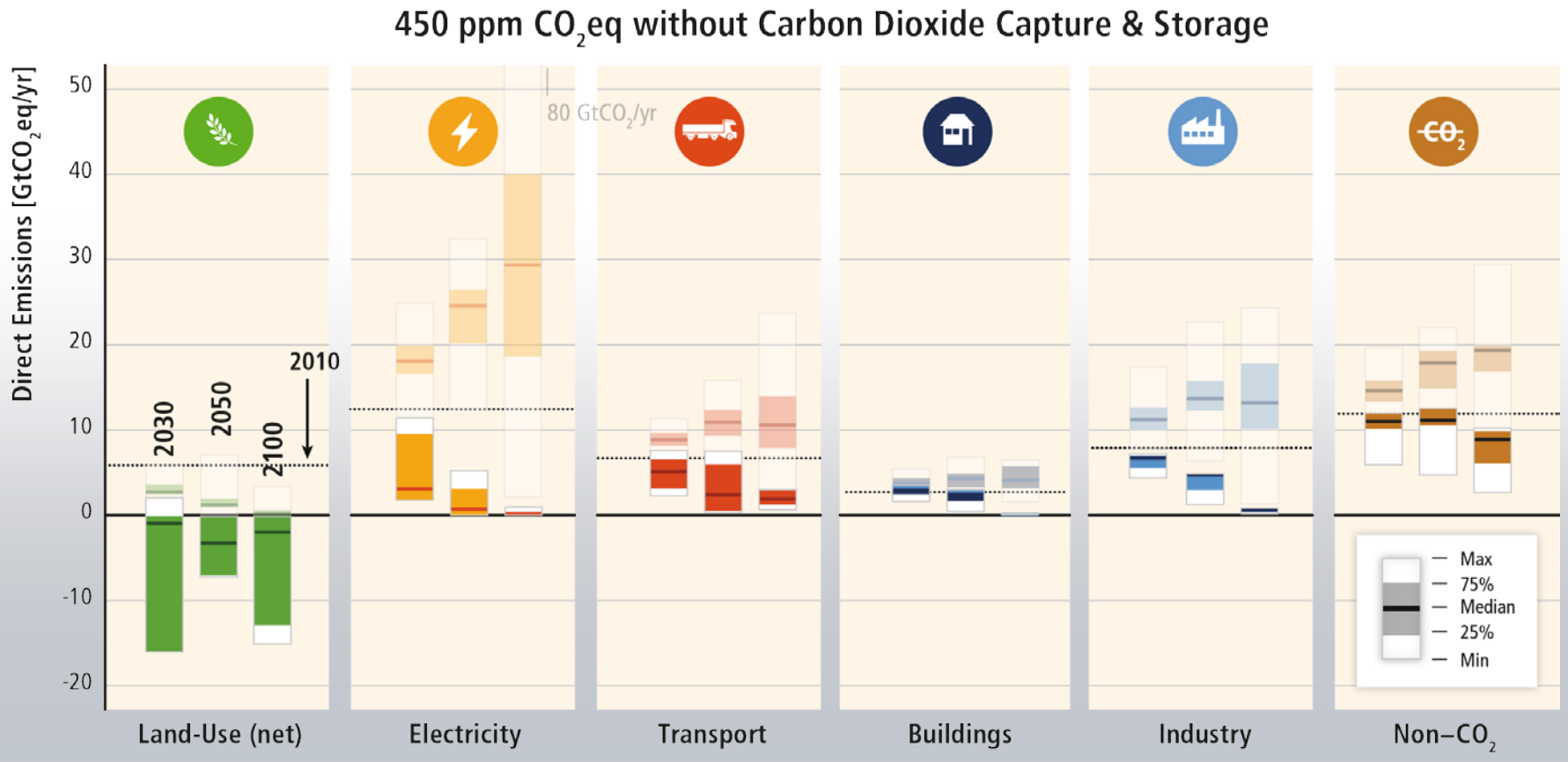
Based on Figure TS.17

Mitigation requires changes throughout the economy. Systemic approaches are expected to be most effective.



Based on Figure TS.17

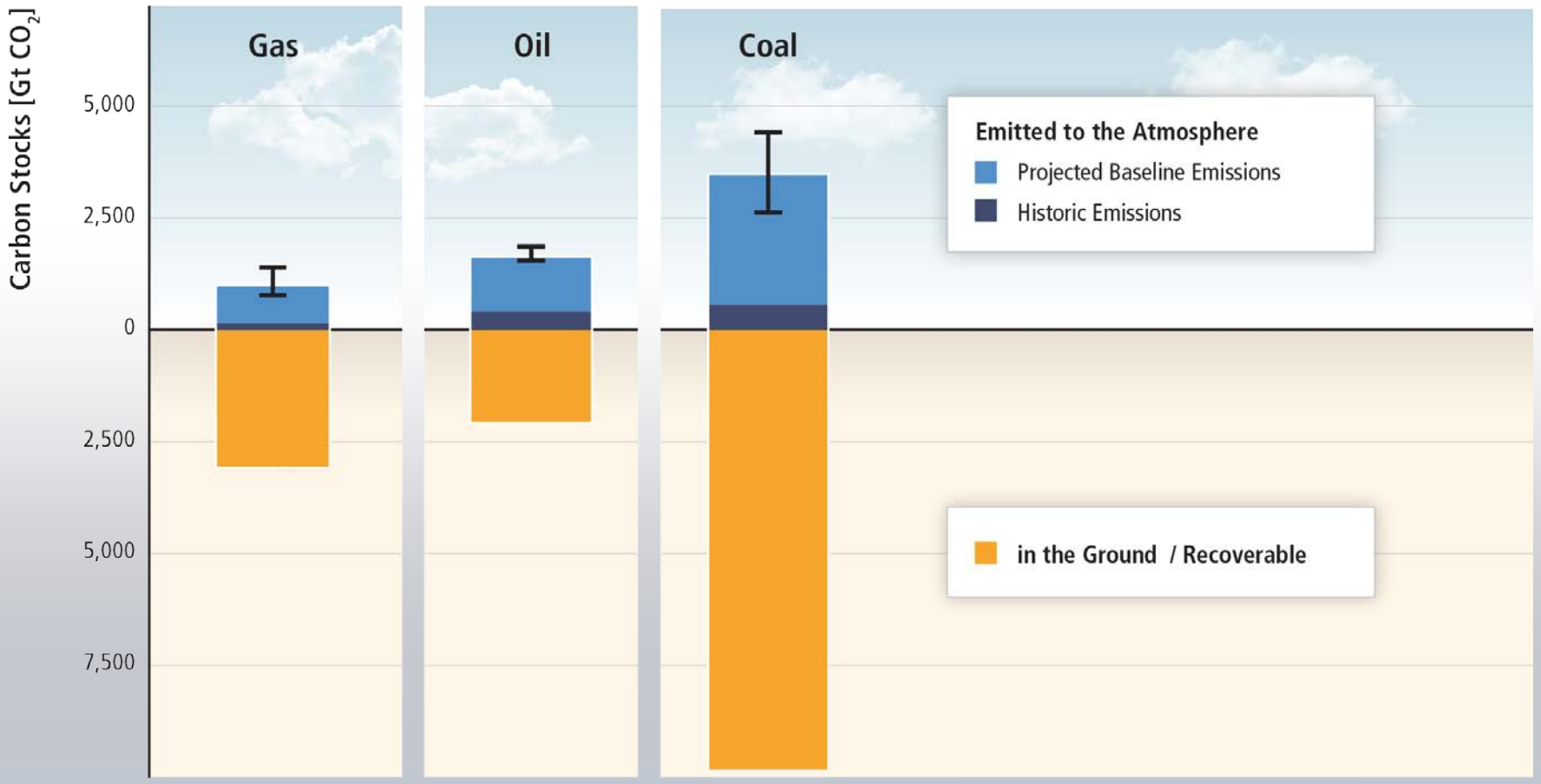
Mitigation efforts in one sector determine efforts in others.



Based on Figure TS.17

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

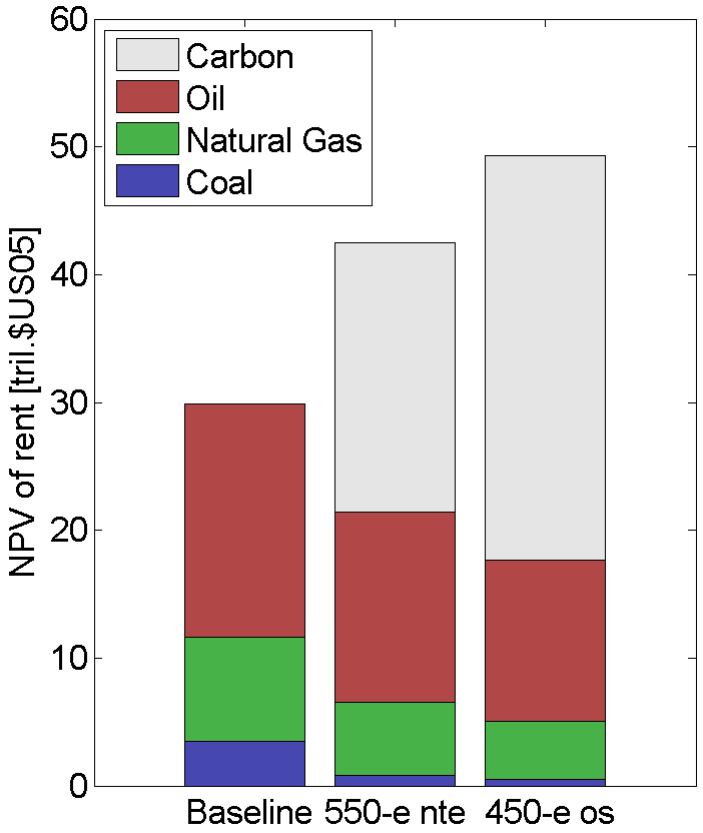
There is far more carbon in the ground than emitted in any baseline scenario.



… what does this imply for European climate and energy policy?

- Own thoughts -

The carbon rent: Emission pricing revenues could overcompensate profit losses of fossil fuel owners.



- Fossil resource rents decrease with climate policy ambition
- For a globally optimal carbon price, over-compensation by carbon rent (=permit price or tax * emissions)
- Carbon rent appropriated domestically via auctioned permits or tax
- Receipts from a CO_2-tax or auctioning could be used to lower taxes, for investments in infrastructure or to reduce debts

Bauer et al. (2013)

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Massive infrastructure investments are needed globally.

- Telecommunication

- Access to electricity

- Water availability

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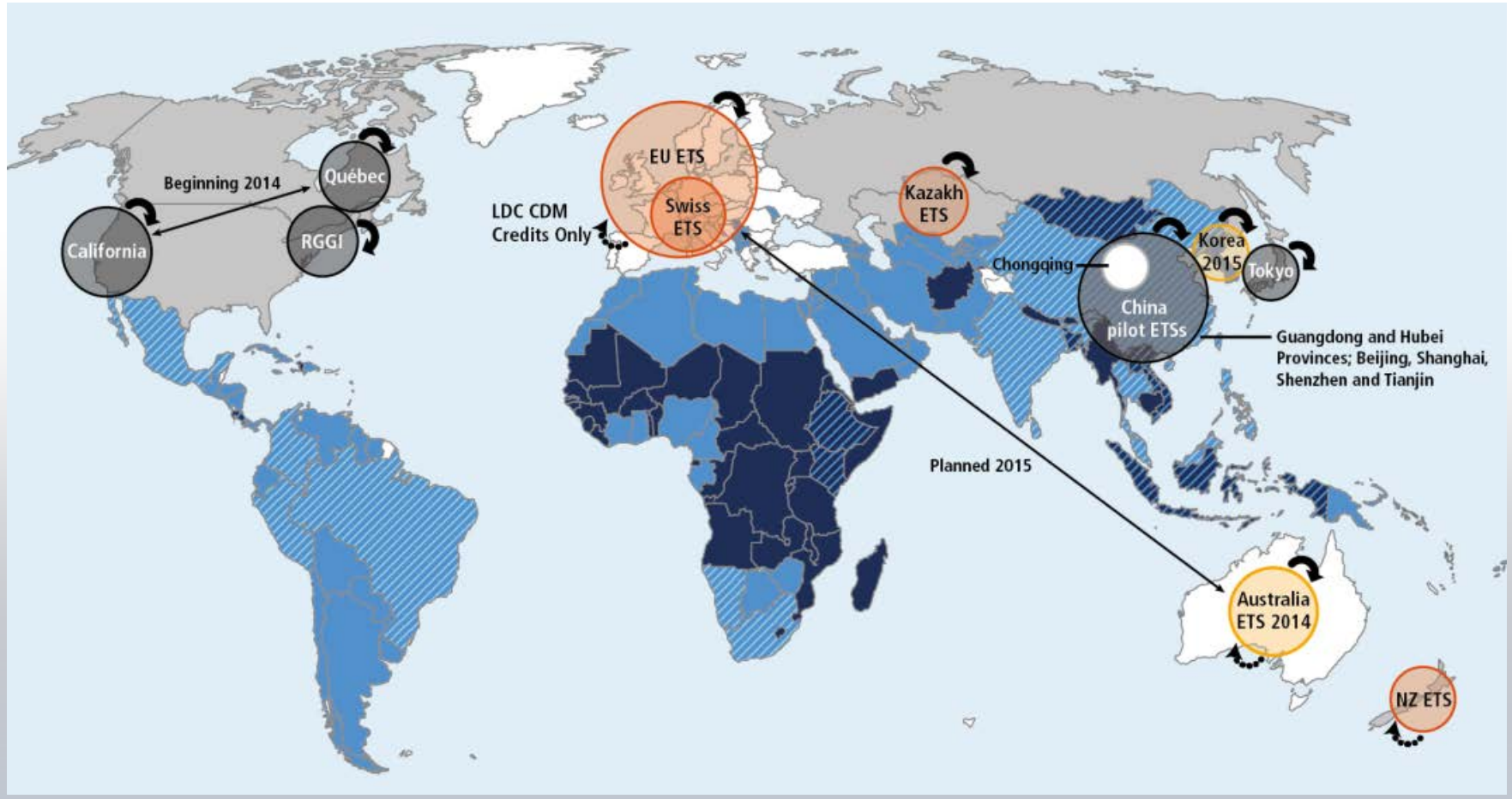
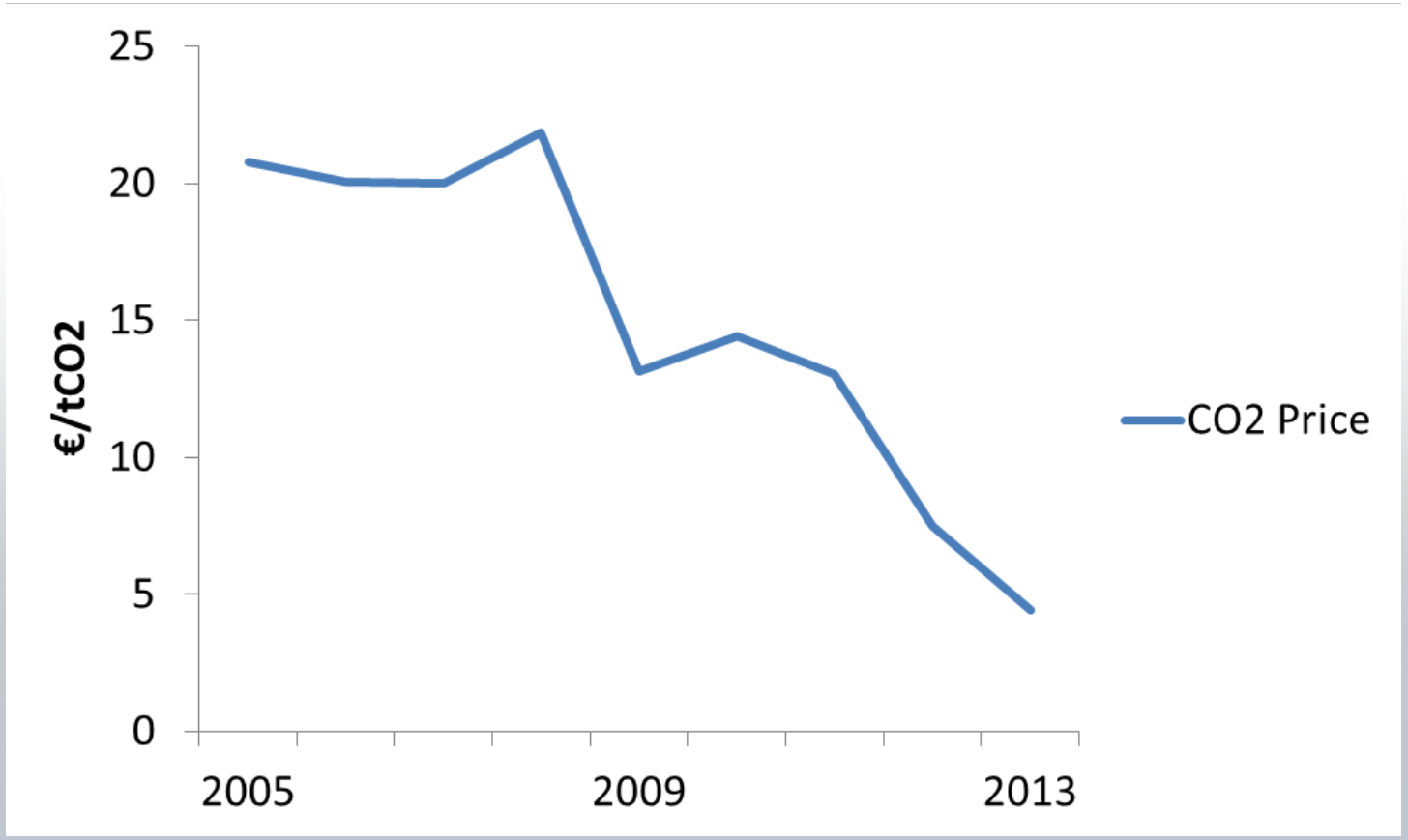
Regions are starting to cooperate.



The EU ETS: ex-post analysis

- Strong decline of CO2 price



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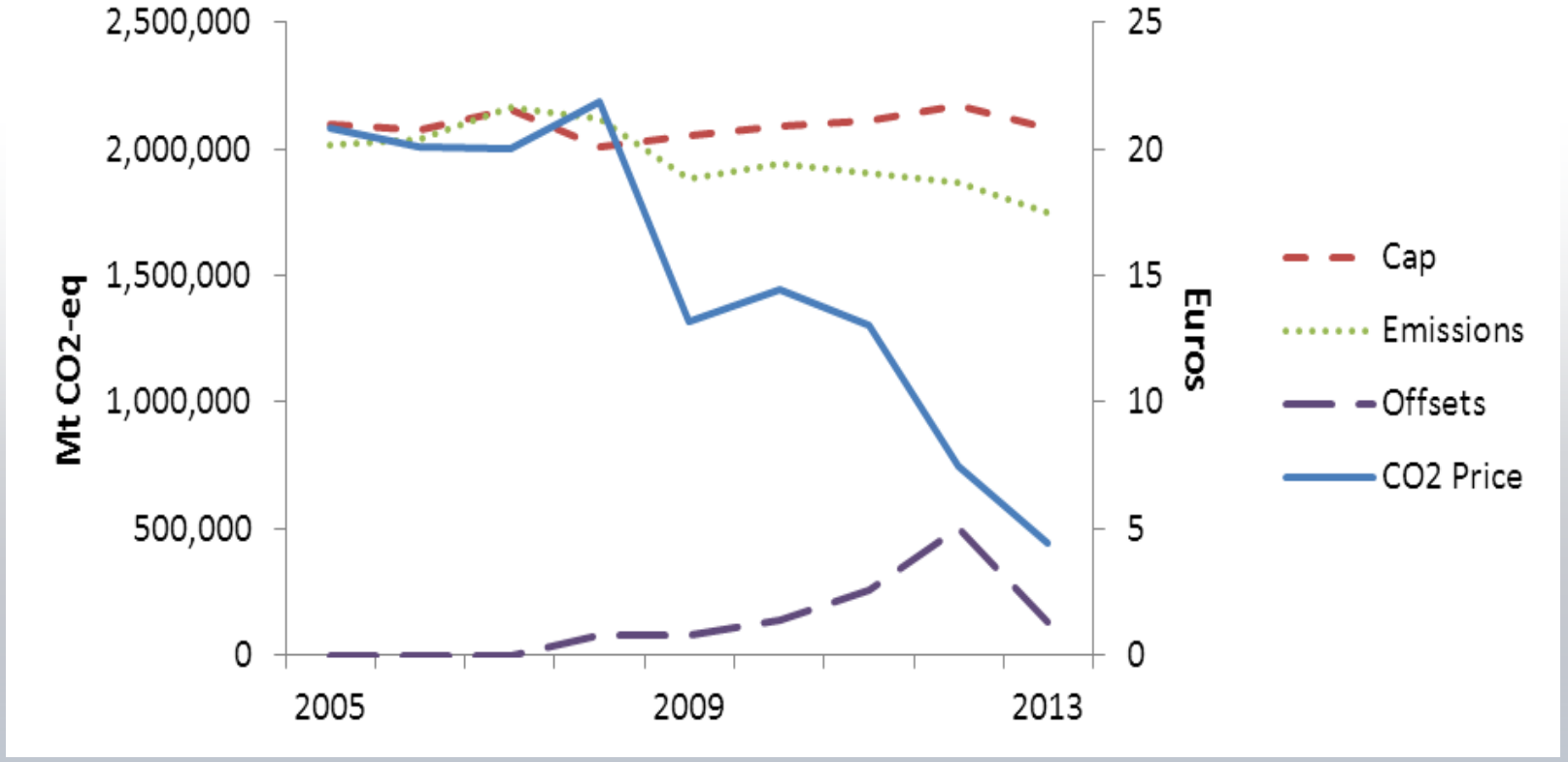
Evaluation of the environmental effectiveness

- Emission cap was legally binding. But is has not been physically binding as emissions stayed below the cap.



Grosjean et al. 2014

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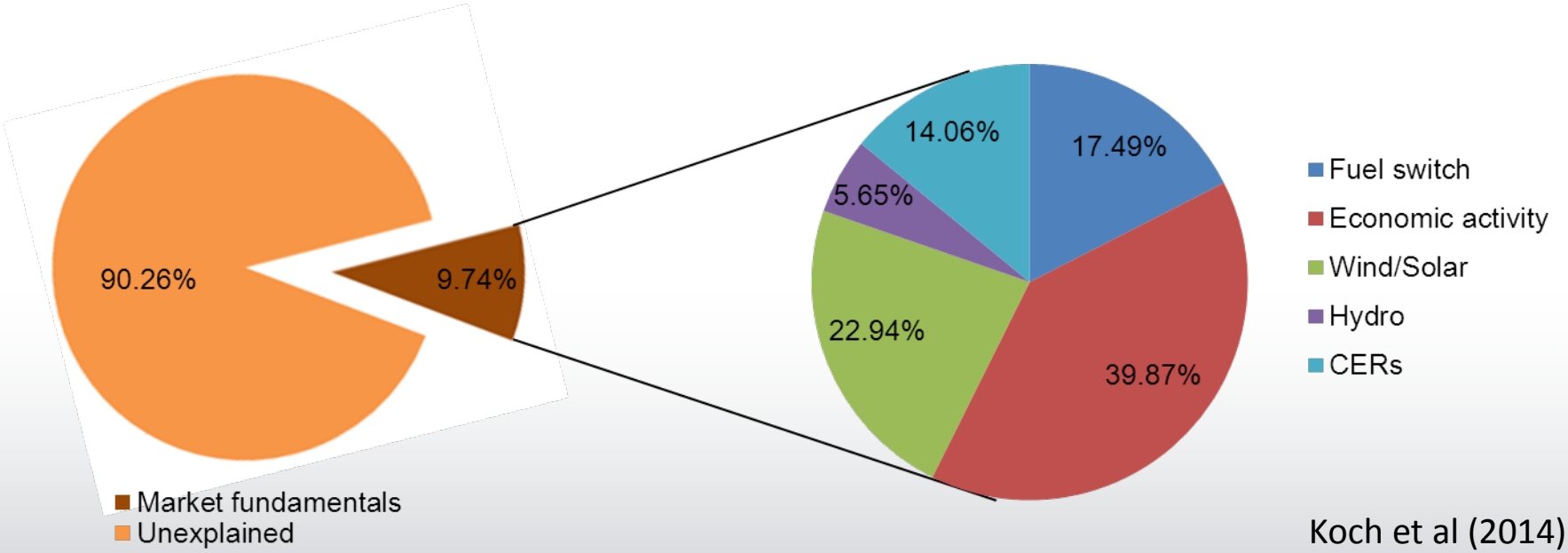
Empirical evaluation of price drivers of EU emission allowances



Koch et al (2014)

- Only 10% of price formation can be explained by market fundamentals (renewable deployment, economic crisis, CDM, …)
- But when taking into consideration policy events dummies (e.g. backloading vote) explanatory power jumps from 10% to 44%.
- In the situtation with the non-binding cap, the standard price formation does not work

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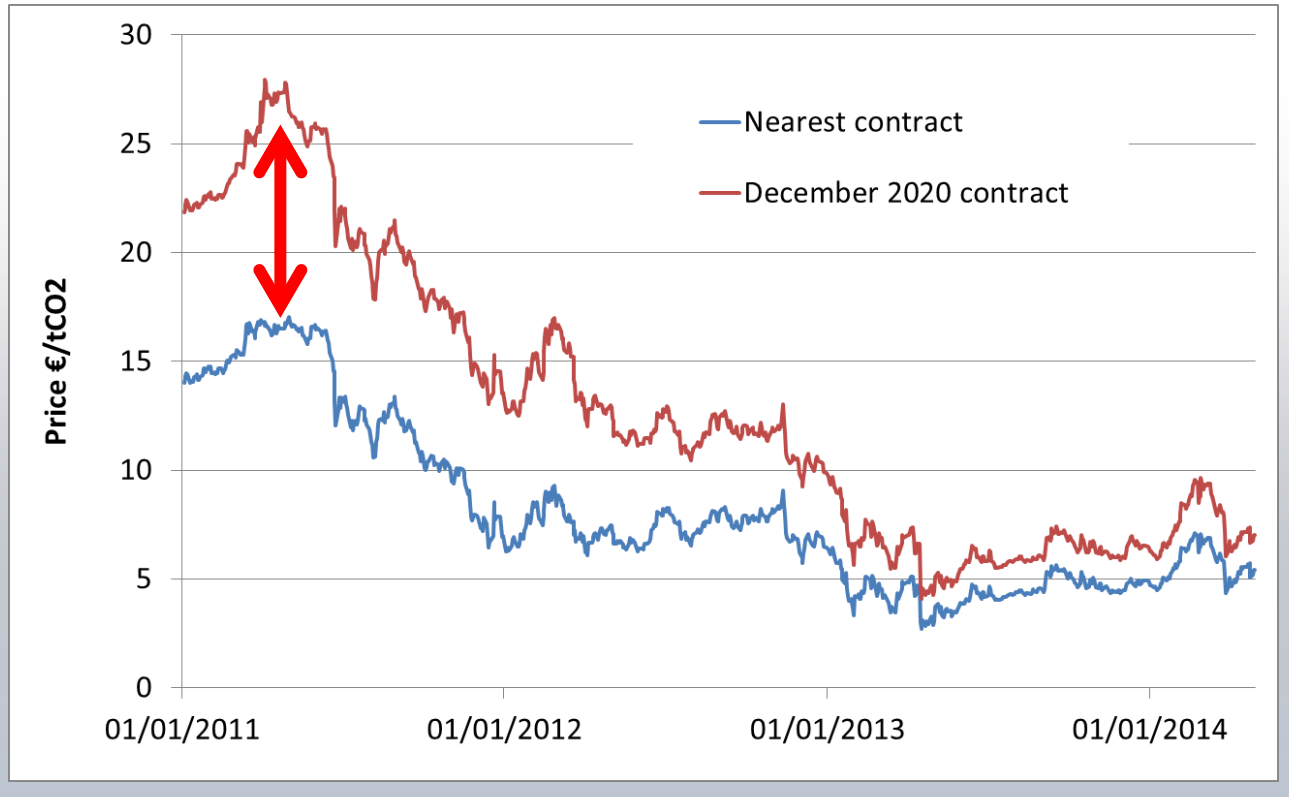
Dynamic cost-effectiveness of ETS is lacking

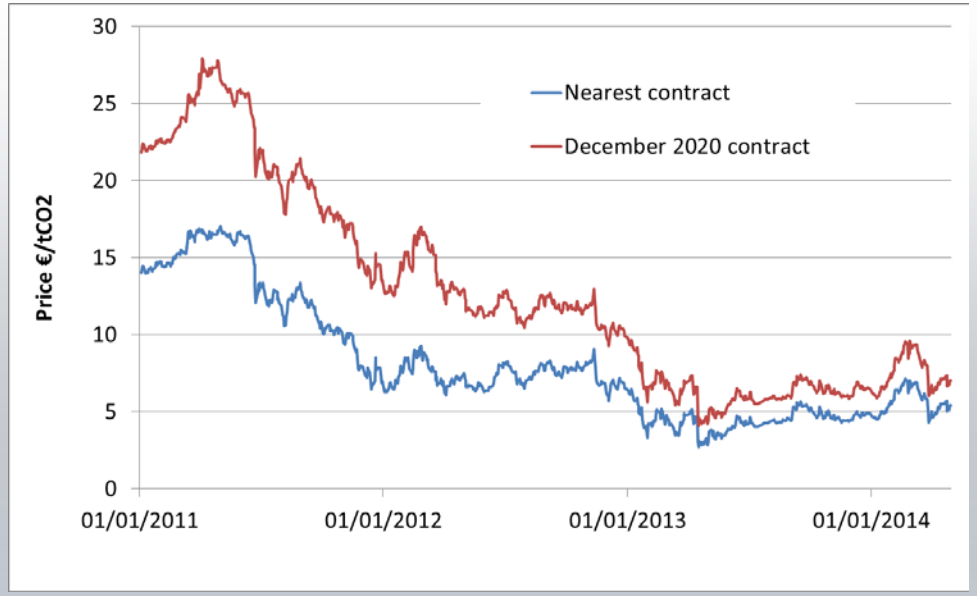
- Declining CO_2 price
- Currently , no substantial price increase expected for 2020 (only little spread between nearest contract and future contract for 2020)



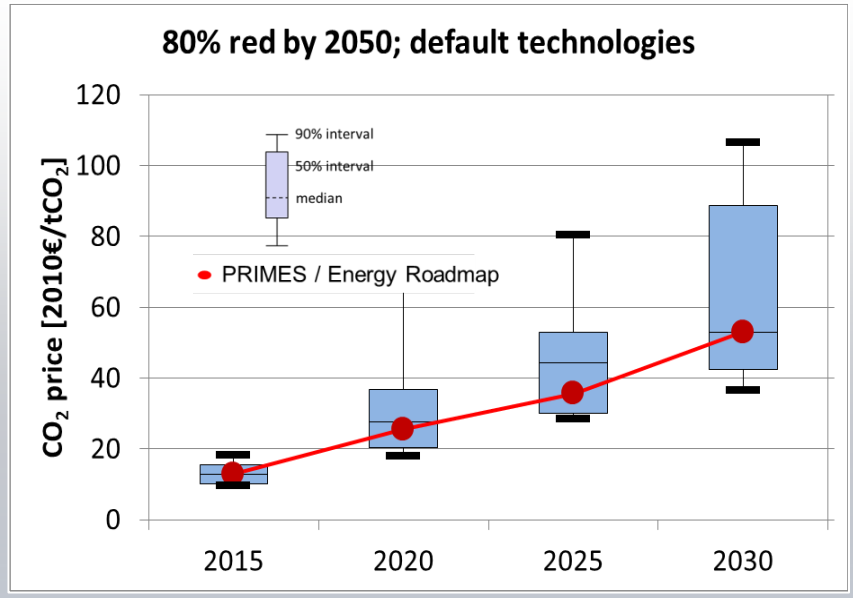
Dynamic cost-effectiveness of ETS is lacking

- Consider the price in 2020 as a benchmark for evaluating dynamic cost-effectiveness of the ETS
- There is a gap between expectations and models that suggest a cost-effective price higher than 20€ / tCO_2 in 2020

EUA nearest contract and Futures 2020



Cost-effective CO_2 price from modeling



Knopf et al. (2013)

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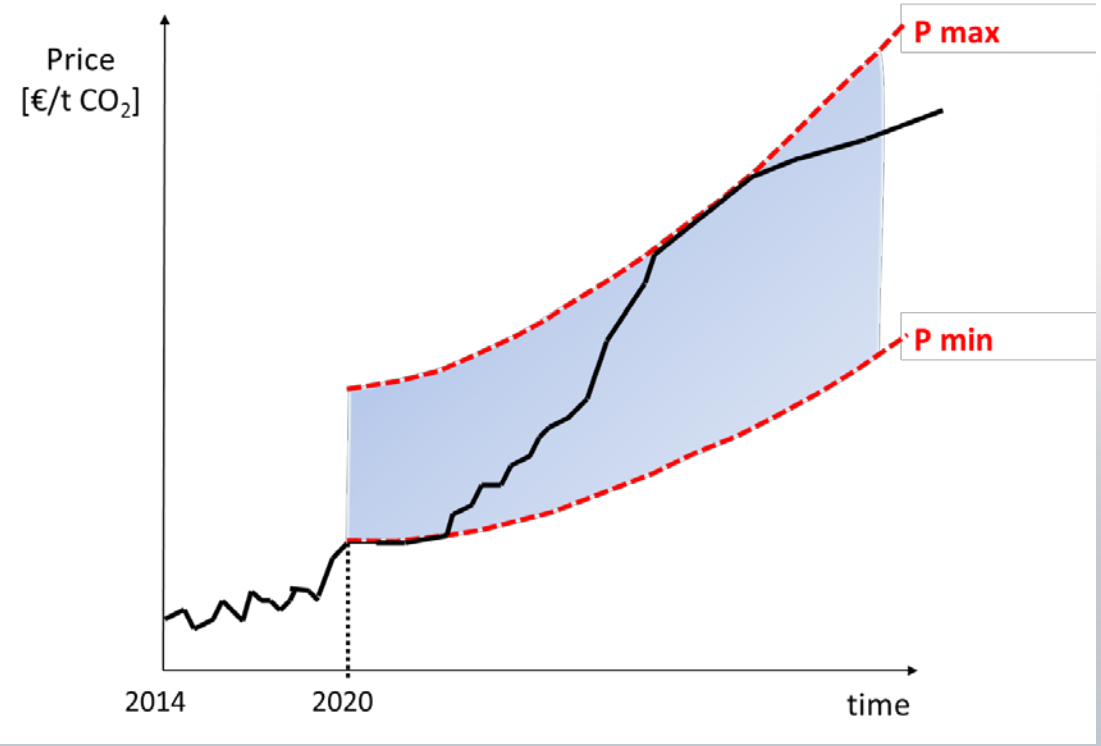
Setting a price collar

- Gives reliable framework for investment decisions



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