

2020 Vision

Meeting the Challenge of Climate Change

**Dr. Martin Price
East Dorset Friends of the Earth**



There is clear scientific evidence to show that **climate change is happening and is due to human activity**. This includes global warming and greater risk of flooding, droughts and heat waves.

These changes to the climate represent **a real and serious threat to us all**.

Dorset Council Website.

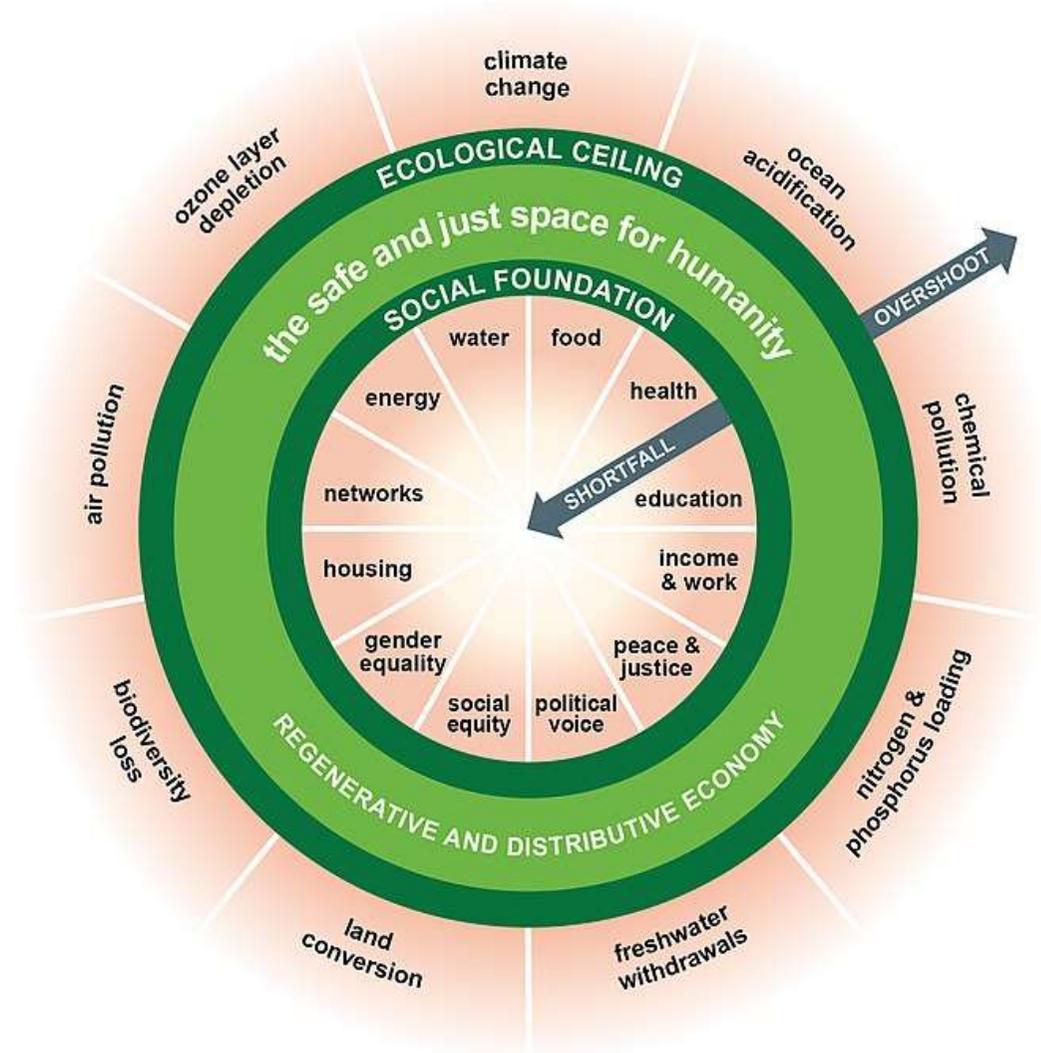
Climate Change is here now!

- Greenhouse gas emissions are **still rising** by 1.5% pa.
- CO₂ levels are **50% above** pre-industrial levels (1750).
- Methane is at **2.5 times** 1750 levels
- At current rates we shall reach 3.2 °C warming this century – the **hottest in 5 million years!**
- a time when sea level was **20m higher** than today.

Climate Change is here now!

- Major climate-linked disasters **cost \$80 – 100 bn. in 2019**
- **directly killing** over 5000 people.
- Oceans are **26% more acid** than in 1750.
- Ocean **oxygen levels** could fall by 4% by 2100
- Soil is being lost **100 times faster** than it is being formed
- Deforestation, droughts and flooding, are putting global **food production and human health at major risk.**
- **1.8bn people are at risk** from sea-level rises predicted by 2050.

The Doughnut

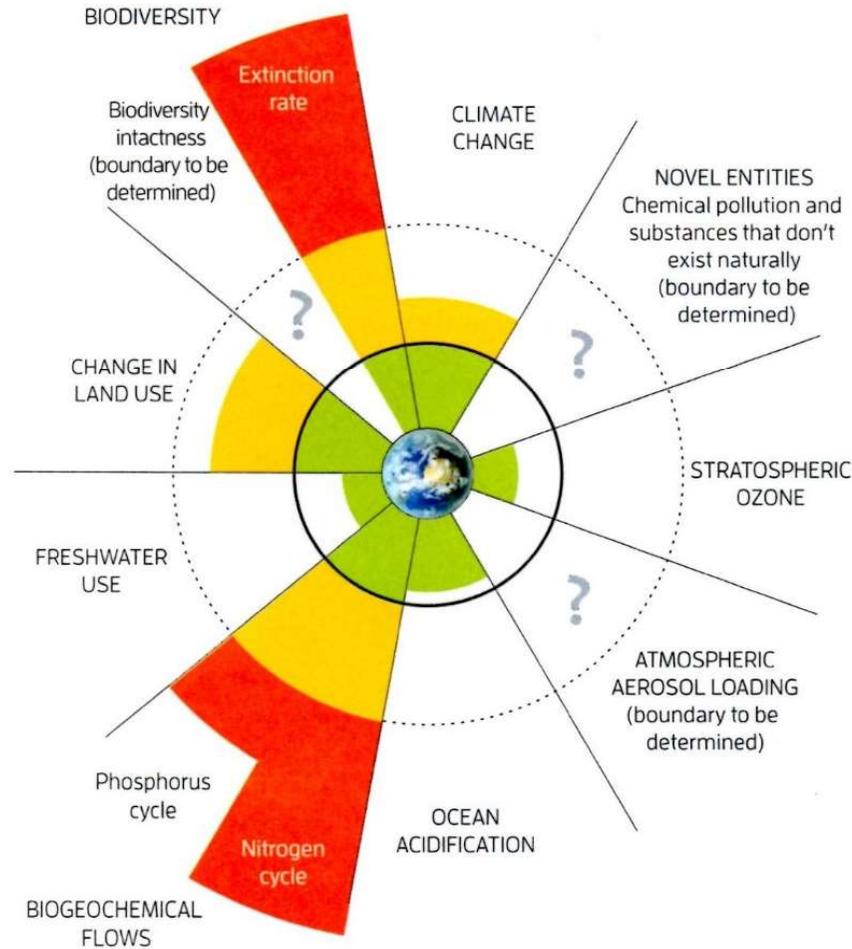


Kate Raworth - Doughnut Economics 2017

Overstepping the mark

We have already gone beyond four of the nine proposed safe operating levels for humans on Earth, know as planetary boundaries

- Below boundary (safe)
- In zone of uncertainty (increasing risk)
- Beyond zone of uncertainty (high risk)
- Outer boundary of safe zone
- Start of high-risk zone



Current Status

Johan Rockstrom, New Scientist, 14th September 2019

“Climate change is the biggest threat out there to our economy, environment, health, way of life, our country, our world, and our future.....

A truly successful response to climate change requires us not just to change our technology but to change our whole way of living and of thinking. This is about much more than just cutting emissions – it’s about turning our thinking on its head to plan for a sustainable future in which we are responsible consumers of stuff and responsible custodians of the planet’s future.”

***Sir James Bevan, Chief Executive, Environment Agency
speaking to the Whitehall and Industry Group, 16 April 2019***

2020 Vision

“If we do not halve our emissions by 2030, we are highly unlikely to be able to halve emissions every decade until we reach net zero by 2050”. Christiana Figueres & Tom Rivett-Carnac (The Future We Choose) 2020.

“..we now must deliver deep cuts to emissions - 7.6% each year... If we don't do this, the 1.5C goal will be out of reach before 2030,” UNEP Executive Director, Inger Andersen (26/11/19)

[ie. zero carbon status **by 2035**]

We must cut emissions by between 50% and 75% by 2030!

To hit this target, we need to have a clear vision of the world we shall end up with in 2050,

.... and we have to start creating it now !

That means we cannot assume “business as usual” as our preferred model.

We cannot project current trends into the future with tweaks – eg. continued car growth but electric after 2032.

We have to start with what will be sustainable in 2050 - assuming an extra 2 billion people on the planet, and their justifiable aim to achieve parity with our standard of living.

Dorset local authorities have already taken a year to decide that they are going to act and to start planning.

It is now time to act!

“The greater danger for most of us isn’t that our aim is too high and we miss it, but that it is too low and we reach it.”

Michelangelo.

Avoiding climate breakdown will require cathedral thinking. We must lay the foundations while we may not know exactly how to build the ceiling....



Humans are very adaptable: we can still fix this. But the opportunity to do so will not last for long. We must start today. We have no more excuses.

Greta Thunberg