

# A fair emissions budget for the Netherlands

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Webinar, 29 August 2022

Launch of a report by Hanna Fekete, Niklas Höhne  
and Sybrig Smit (NewClimate Institute)



# Agenda

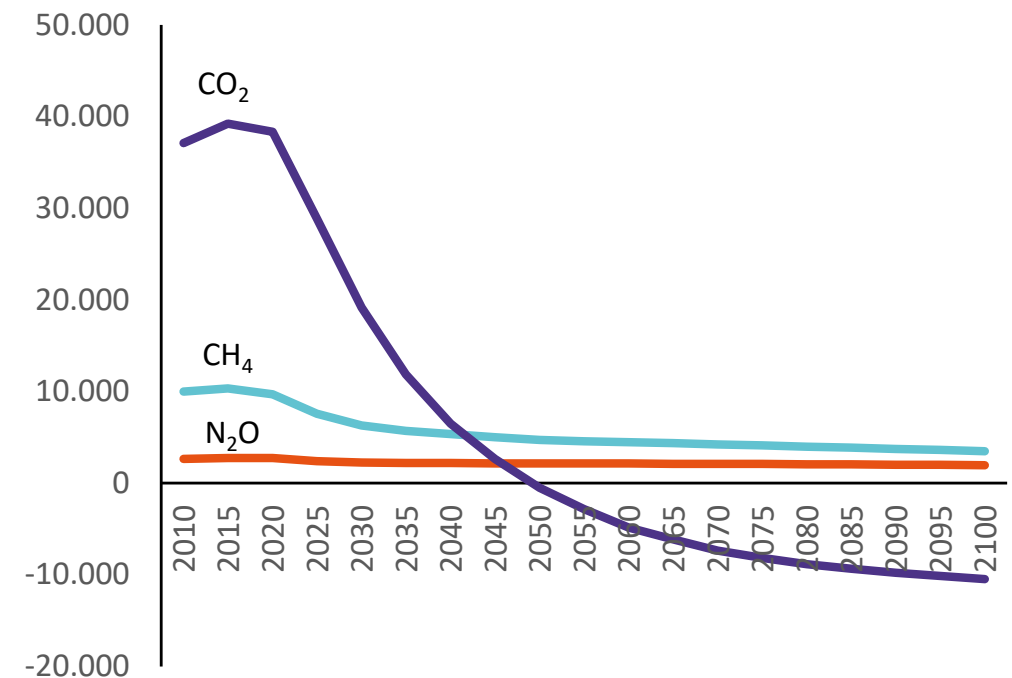
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1. Welcome and introduction (Prof. Dr. Niklas Höhne, NewClimate Institute)
2. Presentation of the findings (Hanna Fekete, NewClimate Institute)
3. Question and Answer session with the audience

# The need for very ambitious climate action

- » Warming has reached 1.2°C
- » Global emissions continue to increase
- » To limit warming to 1.5°C
  - GHG emissions need to **half by 2030**
  - CO<sub>2</sub> emissions need to **reach 0 around 2050**
- » At the current emissions levels, the remaining **global CO<sub>2</sub> budget would be gone by 2030**
- » Fast and deep emissions reductions in all sectors are required, everywhere

Global GHG emissions under 1.5°C scenarios  
[MtCO<sub>2</sub>e/yr]



Data source: Average of selected 1.5°C scenarios from the IPCC special report, extracted from IIASA (2018)

# The proposed targets of the government

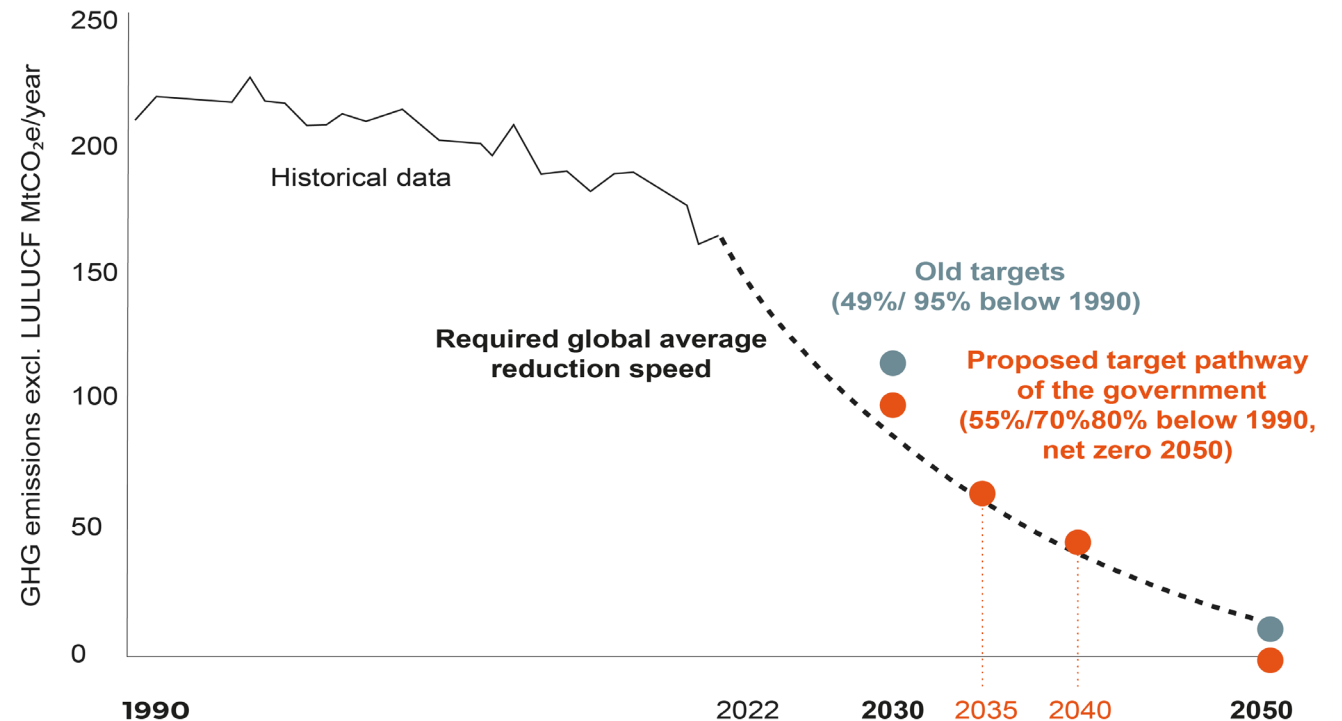
## » Targets of the Netherlands

- **mirror the EU target** of 55% below 1990
- roughly **align with globally required speed** of reduction

## » Targets of the Netherlands do **not**

- take a conservative approach to **carbon dioxide removal**
- reflect the Netherlands' **high historical responsibility and capability**

## The Netherlands' GHG emissions and the rate of global reduction



Data sources: Historical data (Statistics Netherlands (CBS), 2022a, 2022b); targets (VVD D66 CDA en ChristenUnie, 2021), required global average speed: authors own calculations based on the average of selected 1.5°C scenarios from the IPCC special report, extracted from (IIASA, 2018)

# Determining the fair contribution

## The Paris Agreement:

### Article 2.2:

“This Agreement will be implemented to **reflect equity and the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities**, in the light of different national circumstances.”

### Article 3:

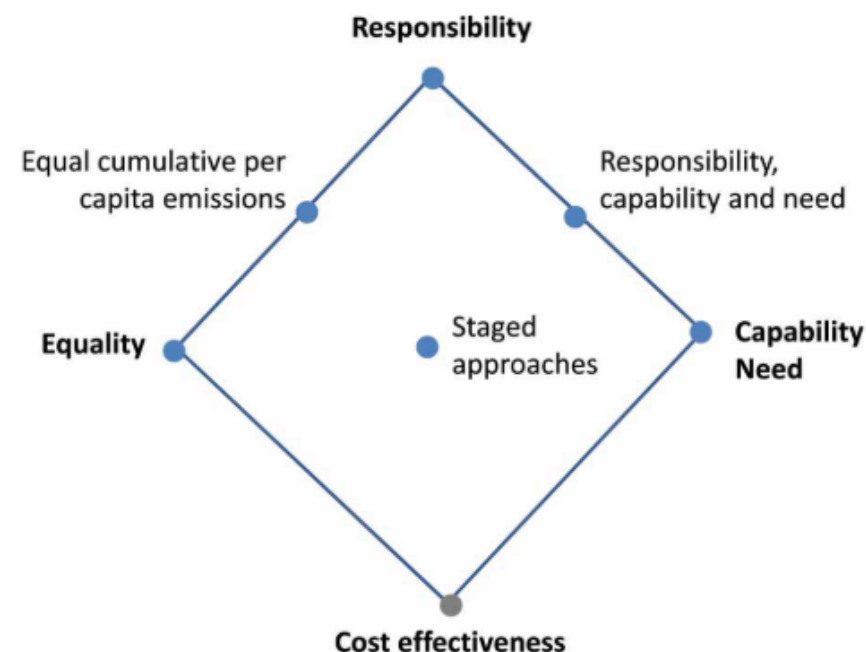
“...all Parties are to undertake and communicate **ambitious efforts**”

### Article 4:

“...Parties aim to reach global peaking of greenhouse gas emissions as soon as possible, **recognizing that peaking will take longer for developing country Parties**...”

“Each Party’s ... [target] will ... reflect **its highest possible ambition**”

Research uses different emissions allocation approaches to distribute the global efforts



Source: Höhne et al. 2014

# Fair share concept has been used

## Target setting 2020

- » IPCC range of 25-40% reduction from 1990 to 2020 used by many countries as guide
- » Urgenda court case: 25% at least

Source: den Elzen, Höhne 2008, 2010

## Germany

- » Court forced government to revise its climate change law
- » Report on carbon budgets was one element considered

Source: BVerfG, 2021, Sachverständigenrat für Umweltfragen (SRU), 2020

## Quantifying fair contributions

- » Used in the Climate Action Tracker since 2009
- » Checked against principles of international environmental law

Source: Climate Action Tracker, 2018, Rajamani et al. 2021

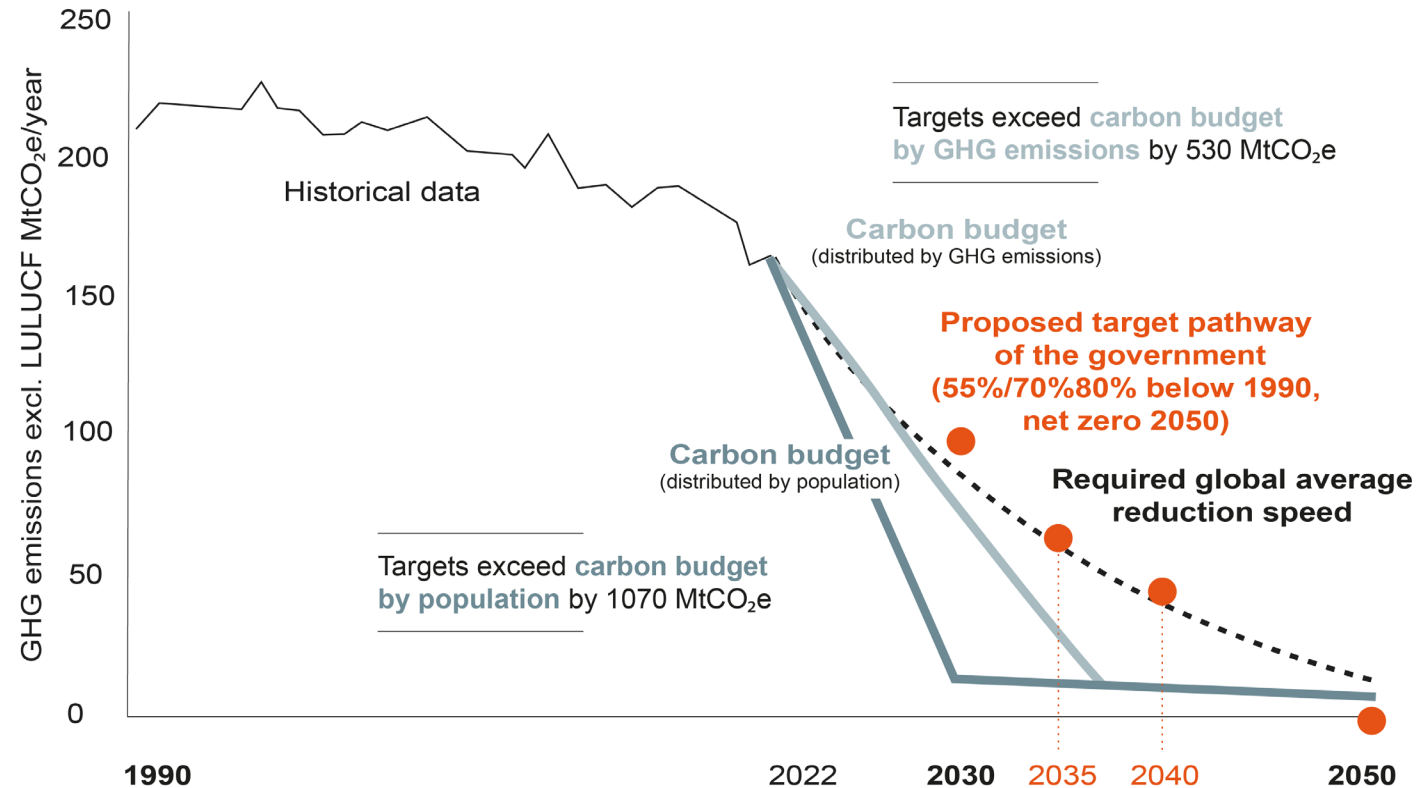
## Finland

- » Finland set a net-zero target for 2035
- » Year is based on carbon budget calculations

Source: Climate Home, 2022, Ollikainen, Weaver and Seppälä, 2019

# Distributing the carbon budget

## GHG emissions budgets for the Netherlands

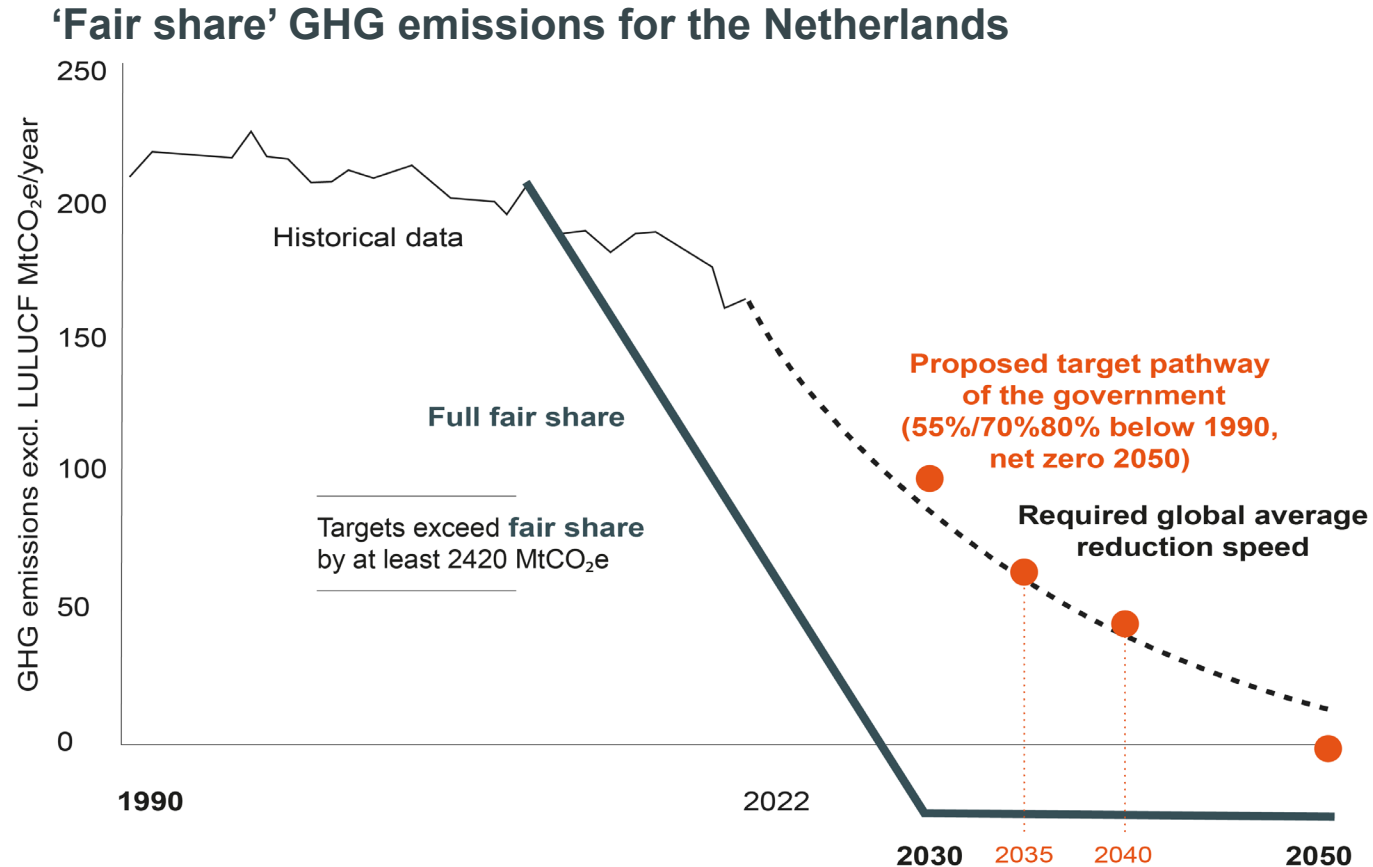


Data sources: Historical data (Statistics Netherlands (CBS), 2022a, 2022b); targets (VVD D66 CDA en ChristenUnie, 2021), required global average speed: authors own calculations based on the average of selected 1.5°C scenarios from the IPCC special report, extracted from (IIASA, 2018); global carbon budgets as input to calculation of Dutch budgets from IPCC (2021)

» This is still not an unambiguously fair contribution

» A fair emissions budget for the Netherlands

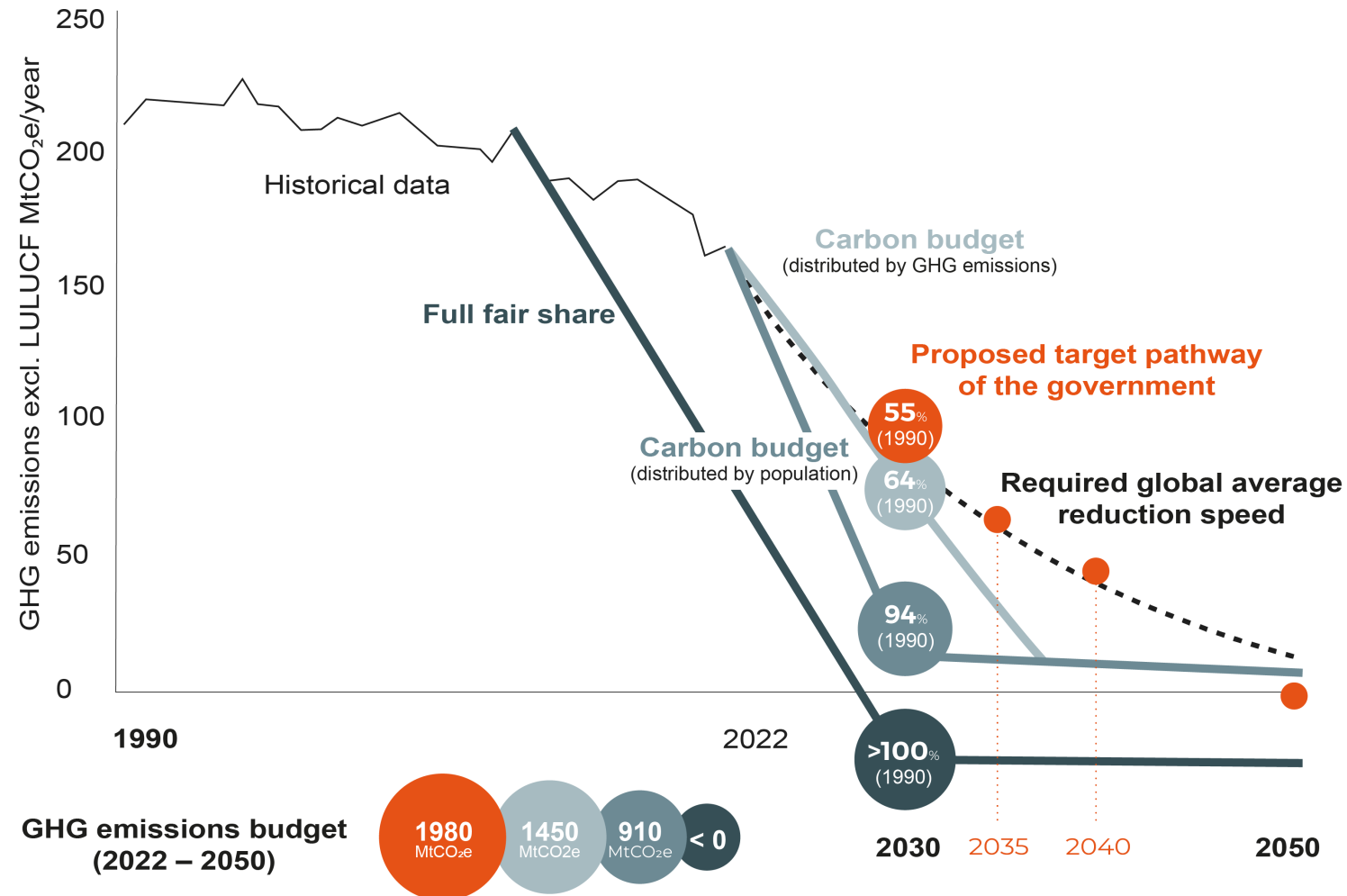
# The Netherlands' full fair share of the effort



Data sources: Historical data (Statistics Netherlands (CBS), 2022a, 2022b); targets (VVD D66 CDA en ChristenUnie, 2021), required global average speed: authors own calculations based on the average of selected 1.5°C scenarios from the IPCC special report, extracted from (IIASA, 2018); fair share for 2030 from Rajamani et al (2021).



# Summary of results



Data sources: Historical data (Statistics Netherlands (CBS), 2022a, 2022b); targets (VVD D66 CDA en ChristenUnie, 2021), required global average speed: authors own calculations based on the average of selected 1.5°C scenarios from the IPCC special report, extracted from (IIASA, 2018); emissions trajectories based on carbon budgets: own calculations with budgets from (IPCC, 2021); fair share in 2030 from (Rajamani et al., 2021)

# Conclusions

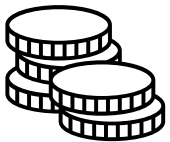


» **"Fair contribution" is a requirement of the Paris Agreement:** countries are / will be held accountable for it

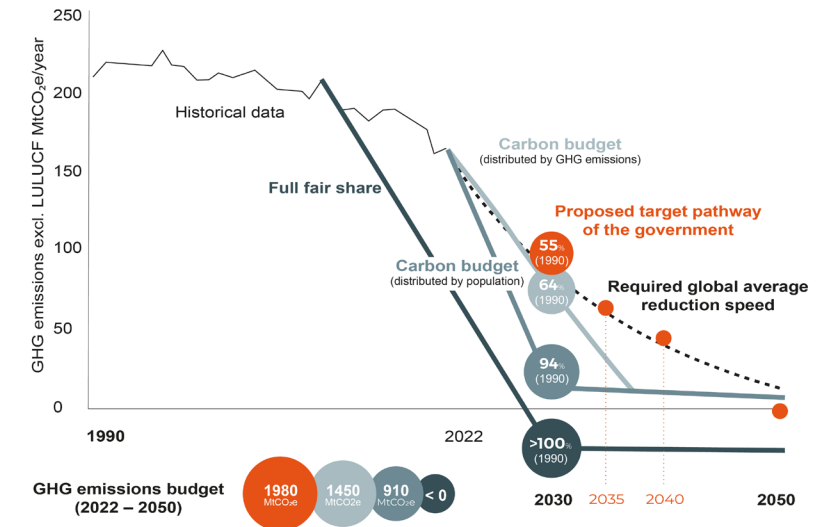


» **Netherlands needs to reduce own emissions as fast as possible:** reductions needed beyond global average speed to reflect its historical responsibilities and capabilities

- -94% by 2030 for distributed carbon budget
- Negative in 2030 for unambiguously fair contribution



» **Netherlands also needs to support other countries to make an unambiguously fair contribution, if own emissions are reduced less than given above**



A wide banner image showing two wind turbines in the foreground, with a sunset sky in shades of orange and pink, and distant mountains in the background. The text "Thank you" is centered in white.

# Thank you

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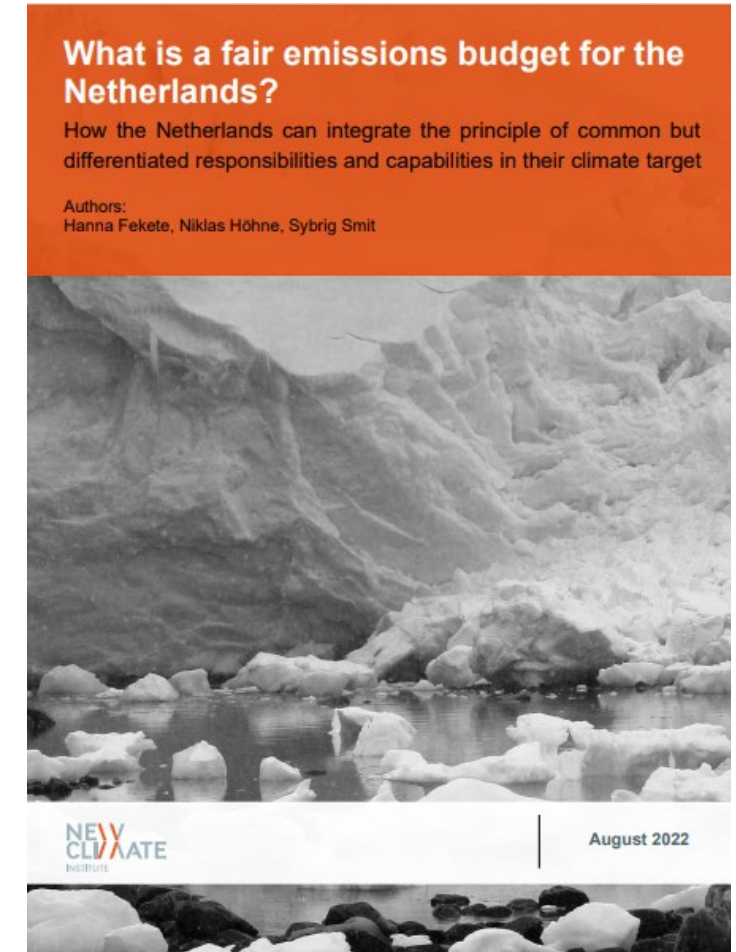
# Questions and Answers

» Please **send your questions through the Q&A function** of the Zoom meeting

» The report and a summary in Dutch are available for download:

<https://newclimate.org/resources/publications/what-is-a-fair-emissions-budget-for-the-netherlands>

We will also upload this power point presentation after the event



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