



West Midlands
Combined Authority

WEST MIDLANDS GREENER TOGETHER PANEL

West Midlands Combined Authority

Who's in the room?

- **Involve:** the UK's public participation charity, on a mission to put people at the heart of decision-making
- **West Midlands Combined Authority:** led by the directly-elected Mayor of the West Midlands. Combined Authorities are set up to invest in their regions through collaboration with partners, including local councils.
- **Guest speakers:** Sandra, Salma, Ed and Jackie
- **You:** the panel – experts in being you

10.00	Welcome and introduction – the panel, how will it work, purpose	Lead facilitator + CEx video
10.15	Getting to know each other in our groups	At tables
10.45	Setting the scene: an introduction to the climate crisis, causes, impacts	Pres: Sandra & Salma (20m) At tables: discuss (25m) Lead facilitator: Q&A (15m)
11.45	Break	
12.00	Making connections: how action around the climate crisis can have wider impacts for people, communities and nature	Lead facilitator intro (5m) At tables: quiz (20m) Plenary with answers (20m) Co-benefits activity (30m)
13.15	Lunch	
14.00	Making connections: plenary and concluding slides	
14.30	What's happening in the West Midlands? Learning about the WMCA and its work to support a greener, fairer, healthier region	Table discussions Presentations
15.10	Break	
15.30	What's happening in the West Midlands? Q&A following presentations	Lead facilitator: Q&A (30m)
16.00	A recap on the day and looking ahead to future events	At tables (15m) Plenary (15m)
16.30	Event closes	





Laura Shoaf, Chief Executive of the
West Midlands Combined Authority

What is the Greener Together Panel?

- A panel that will meet over the next 2 years, made up of a group of around 30 residents from across the West Midlands region
- The panel will be one of the ways that local people can help to shape the WMCA's work to address the region's environmental challenges.
- The panel will focus on those challenges where the WMCA most needs citizens' input into shaping its approach.
- The outcomes from the panel will be presented to the WMCA's Environment and Energy Board – the group of elected representatives who lead the 'greener' work for the seven local authorities of the WMCA.



How we will work together

- The panel is rooted in the concepts of deliberative democracy – that’s where a group of people are brought together to hear evidence about a topic and then to collectively deliberate – to *think carefully* – about potential ways forward.
- To help us do this, the sessions will be a mix of activities:
 - Guest speakers sharing information
 - Short videos and posters to help communicate ideas in interesting ways
 - Opportunities to ask questions of the speakers
 - Group discussions led by a table facilitator

Helping each other to have good conversations

- There are no right or wrong answers
- If you don't understand something, just ask
- Respect other peoples' views
- Give each other time to speak
- Give each other your full attention (no scrolling please!)
- Stick to one conversation at a time
- **Anything else you'd like to add?**





**GETTING TO KNOW
EACH OTHER**

Conversations in your groups...

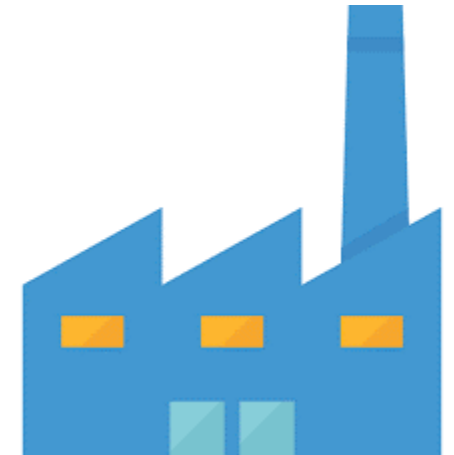
- Introduce yourselves – your name, whereabouts you live and one other thing about yourself
- Your facilitator will then take you into an initial conversation to kick things off, inviting you to share your thoughts and ideas about what a ‘greener West Midlands’ could look and feel like for you in your daily life.



SETTING THE SCENE

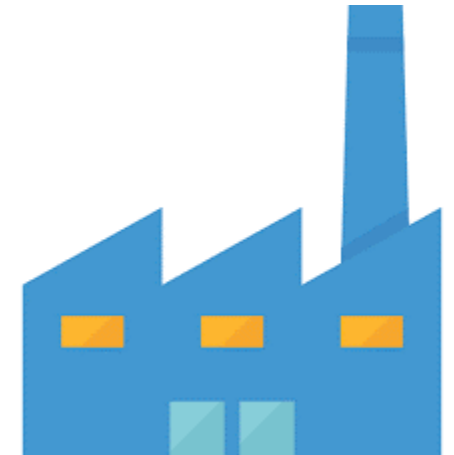
In this part of the session we'll be exploring...

- The challenge: what is the science behind the climate crisis?
- The history: how did these challenges arise in the first place?
- The impact: what does this mean for people around the world today and in the future?



Our guest speakers

- Sandra Green, Possible
- Salma Zulfiqar, artist and film-maker



Climate Solidarity

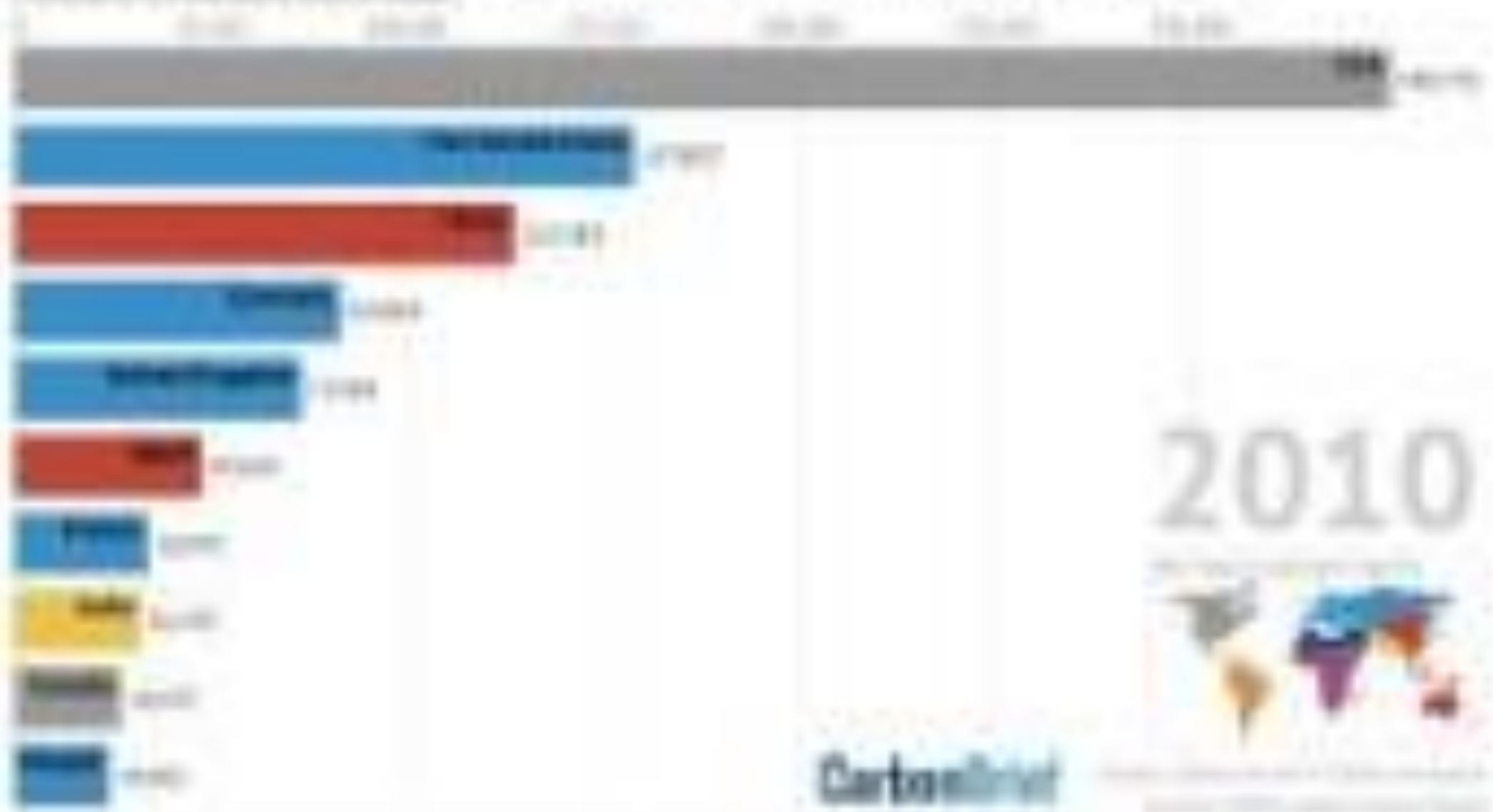
The causes of climate change are unevenly distributed across society and across the globe.

The consequences are also unevenly distributed, with some people affected much more than others.



The countries with the largest cumulative CO2 emissions since 1750

Percentage of world cumulative CO2 emissions since 1750

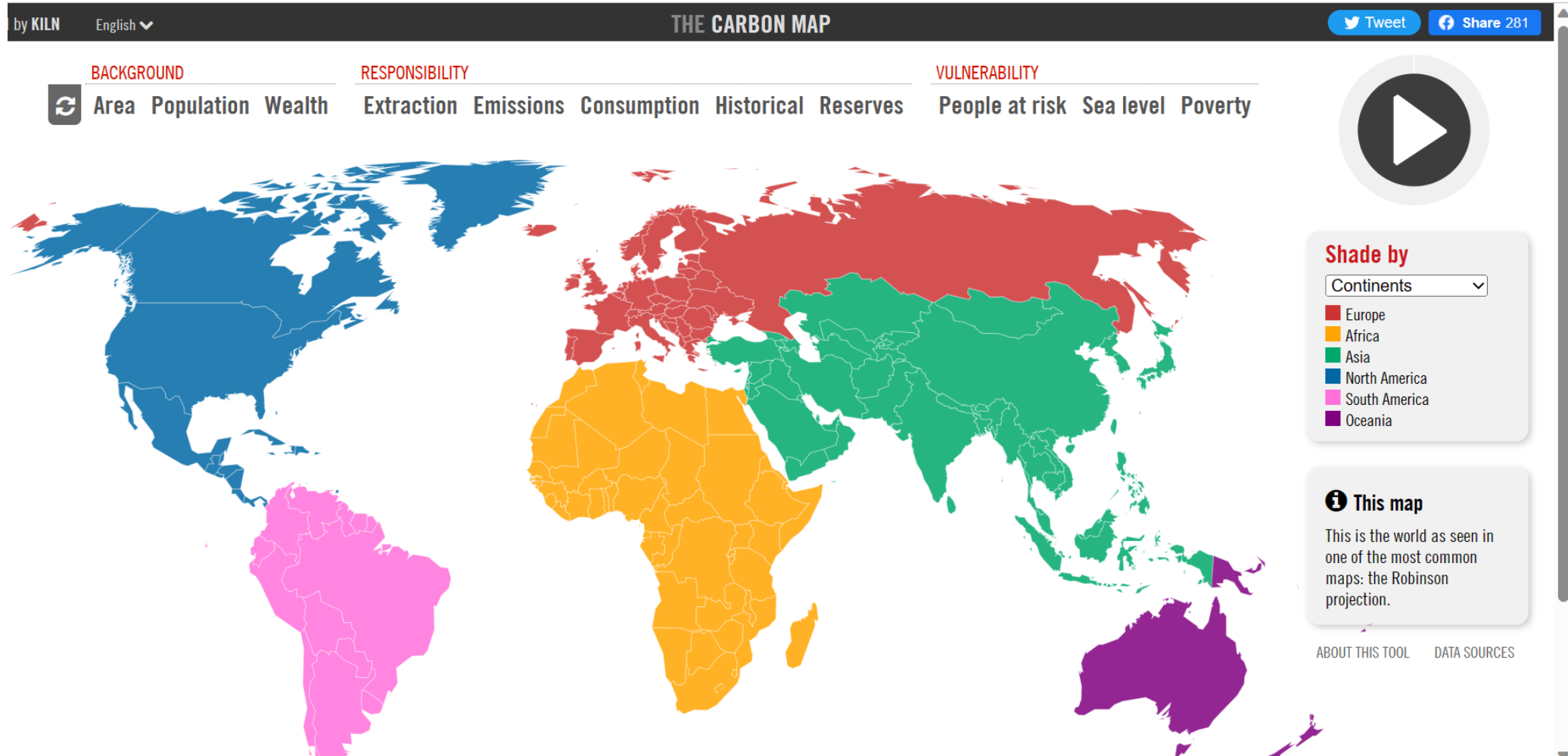


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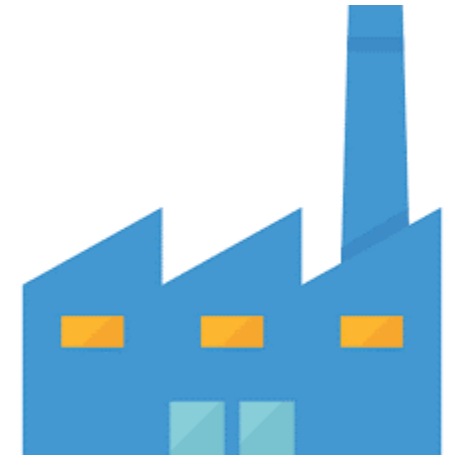
Cartoonist

The carbon map...



Group discussions

- What are your reflections on what you've heard?
- What stands out for you?
- Are there any questions you'd like to explore with the speakers?



WEST MIDLANDS
Greener Together





BREAK



MAKING CONNECTIONS



MAKING CONNECTIONS 1:

Discovery session

In this part of the session we'll be finding out more about the big picture...

What is climate change?

Climate change is the long-term shift in weather patterns and temperatures across the world.

What causes it?



Currently, the **biggest driver** of climate change is human activity.

The greenhouse gas effect is where **greenhouse gases**, including carbon dioxide (CO₂) and methane (CH₄) build up in the atmosphere and act like a blanket.

When sunlight enters our atmosphere and bounces off the earth, it gets turned into infrared radiation. The blanket of greenhouse gases traps some of this radiation as heat in the atmosphere – warming up the planet over time and changing weather patterns.

What is a greenhouse gas?

A greenhouse gas (GHG), is a gas that absorbs and emits energy from radiation. Carbon dioxide is the most common greenhouse gas. Others include methane and nitrous oxide.





Some definitions

EMISSIONS: these are the gases we produce and release into the atmosphere. Emissions of greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide are causing accelerated global warming.

NET ZERO: this refers to the target of balancing out the amount of greenhouse gases being released into the atmosphere with the amount being re-absorbed, so that the overall (or net) increase in greenhouse gases equals... zero!

CARBON FOOTPRINT: this refers to the amount of carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere as a result of everything a particular individual, organization, or country does day to day.

So, in order to reach net zero – in a business, or a country, or in the world as a whole – we need to be taking action to reduce our carbon footprint.



Effects on our planet

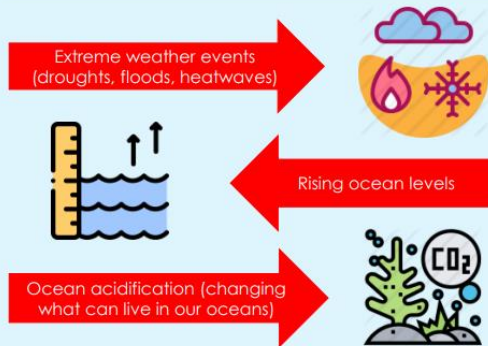
Even if we could stop all emissions today, there would still be some change in our climate. This is because the emissions we've already produced will remain in the atmosphere.

Climate change has already impacted our planet. These impacts will be **worse** and **more frequent** if we don't cut emissions fast enough.

Impacts on our climate system include:

- Extreme weather events (droughts, floods, heatwaves)
- Rising ocean levels
- Ocean acidification (changing what can live in our oceans)

Research and evidence help us to make decisions about how to cut emissions and reduce the impacts.





MAKING CONNECTIONS 2:

Thinking about co-benefits

In this part of the session we'll be exploring...

- The concept of 'co-benefits': that by taking action to reduce our environmental impact we can also improve people's lives in a range of ways
- The idea of fairness in relation to climate change and the environment – both in terms of how different people experience its impacts, and also the measures society takes to tackle climate change.

Thinking about co-benefits

- At the heart of the international effort to reduce humanity's carbon emissions is the aim of keeping global temperature rises to a minimum.
- But the quest for 'net zero' is not the only environmental challenge we face – and these challenges (and the benefits of addressing them) are often interconnected.
- So the actions we need to take to achieve net zero won't only have positive impacts on our weather and climate – they can have other positive impacts for us too.



ACTIVITY

- In your groups your facilitator will introduce you to a topic related to tackling climate change and working towards net zero.
- There are a set of potential actions linked to each topic – things that local, regional or central government could decide to do to help meet our carbon reduction targets.
- Think about the possible impacts each action could have beyond helping us to tackle climate change. These could be impacts on our households and communities, or on wildlife and our wider environment. They could be positive impacts – i.e. ‘co-benefits’ – or negative impacts.



Action to reduce emissions through transport



Travelling by car generates more emissions per person than other modes of transport, so discouraging car use and encouraging people to use public transport, to cycle and walk more will be important in reducing society's emissions.

OUR HEALTH

- Poor air quality linked to around **40,000 deaths per year** in the UK.
- First 10 months: ULEZ in London helped **reduce NO₂ and PM2.5 by 44% and 27%** respectively.
- % of London residents living in areas with **illegal NO₂ levels has declined by 90%** from 2016 levels.

OUR GENERAL FITNESS

- Increased walking and cycling = better physical & mental health & lower risk of heart disease, diabetes..
- In Walthamstow (London), improved cycling and walking infrastructure =
 - +115 minutes walking
 - +20 minutes cycling per week on average.
 - AND 70% fall in traffic injuries.

COMMUNITY LIFE

- Less traffic = more pleasant streets = more social uses of our public space:
 - Children able to play outside
 - Eating and drinking outside
- Walthamstow example: 18% fall in street crime.



Action to take CO2 out of the atmosphere by protecting and planting trees

Trees absorb carbon dioxide as they grow and the carbon that they store in their wood helps slow the rate of global warming. They also cool the air as they lose moisture and reflect heat upwards from their leaves, thus helping to protect the ground from extreme heat.

OUR HEALTH

- Trees also improve air quality which, as we've seen, improves our health
- Trees in urban areas also create shade for people
- Accessible green spaces in urban and rural areas – to exercise, socialise, relax – also improve our physical and mental health

HABITAT

- The UK is one of the most nature-depleted countries on earth
- Planting trees and creating / restoring natural environments in other ways creates important habitat for wildlife

COMMUNITY LIFE

- More urban greening = more pleasant streets = more social uses of our public space
- Parks and natural spaces provide more welcoming places for people to spend their leisure time



Action to reduce emissions through more energy-efficient homes

The energy used to heat our homes accounts for around 16% of UK emissions. Building more energy-efficient new homes and 'retro-fitting' existing homes (e.g. with wall and loft insulation, draught-proofing, double glazing, LED lighting, renewable energy systems) can therefore make a big impact.

OUR HEALTH

- National Energy Action estimates that 12,000 deaths per year are linked to living in a cold property.
- Children living in damp, mouldy houses have an increased risk of respiratory infections. These conditions can make asthma worse too.

COST

- Improving the heat efficiency of homes makes them cheaper to heat.
- E.g. Exeter City Council built 200 council homes to 'Passivhaus' standards and **60% of residents** haven't had to switch on their heating.

ENERGY SECURITY

- The more energy we can produce from renewable energy here in the UK, the more resilient we will be to international events and shocks in global energy markets.



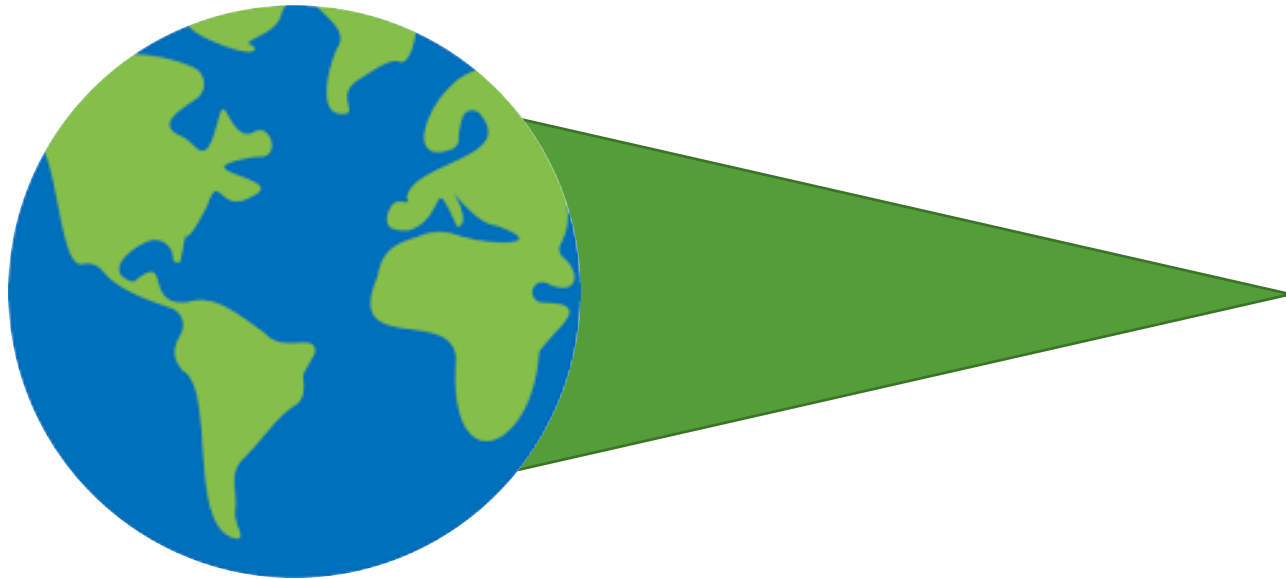


LUNCH

PLENARY

- What were the main points of your group's discussion before lunch?

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE WEST MIDLANDS?



In this part of the session we'll be exploring...

- The role of the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) – what it does, what powers it has and who it works with
- The WMCA's Five Year Plan for a greener, fairer, healthier region – what's in the plan and how's it going?
- What are our communities already doing to make a positive impact on our environment?

Our panel

- Ed Cox, Executive Director – Strategy, Integration and Net Zero, WMCA
- Jaqueline Homan, Head of Environment, WMCA



BREAK

Q&A with Ed and Jackie

- Ed Cox, Executive Director – Strategy, Integration and Net Zero, WMCA
- Jaqueline Homan, Head of Environment, WMCA

To finish...

- Talk at your tables about how you've found the session today and your hopes for the panel as we go forward into future sessions