



WHERE ARE WE NOW? SUSTAINABILITY GAPS IN THE UK & EU

DR ROSEMARY GREEN, ASSOCIATE PROF. IN SUSTAINABILITY



FOOD SYSTEM IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT



We are exceeding planetary boundaries in our global resource and food and agriculture is a huge part of this problem.

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ACCOUNTS FOR:

- ✓ 26% OF GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS
- ✓ 50% OF LAND USE
- ✓ 70% FRESHWATER USE
- ✓ 78% OCEAN AND FRESHWATER POLLUTION
- ✓ 94% OF MAMMAL BIOMASS (EXCL. HUMANS)

Meeting climate targets and creating a resilient food system will require systemic transformation alongside individual dietary shifts.

ACHIEVING TARGETS: UK



The UK Committee on Climate Change has set out ways of meeting its net zero target, including a **35-50%** reduction in all meat and dairy consumption by 2050 and a **20%** reduction by 2030.

SUGGESTIONS TO ACHIEVE THIS...

- 1 RELY ON CURRENT DOWNWARD TRENDS ON MEAT CONSUMPTION
- 2 TAX MEAT (20%) AND SUBSIDISE FRUIT & VEG WITH REVENUE
- 3 ENCOURAGE MEAT AND DAIRY ALTERNATIVES E.G. PLANT-BASED DRINKS ETC.

Although meat and dairy intake is trending down, we cannot rely on this alone to help the UK meet targets.



Modelling suggests that introducing a meat and dairy tax, in addition to encouraging more alternatives through product innovation would be best to help the UK meet planetary targets.



Increasing veg intake alone can have a significant impact on the environmental footprint of our diets and life expectancy!



DIETARY SHIFTS TO MEET PLANETARY BOUNDARIES



Many countries need to reduce consumption of red meat, starchy veg and dairy and increase consumption of fruit and veg, nuts, legumes and wholegrains.



People who meet more UK Eatwell Guide recommendations have **7%** less chance of dying early and **30%** lower carbon emissions.

Only around **30%** of people in the UK currently eat this way, and only **1%** follow the Eatwell Guide closely.

