Imperial College London

#### **Revisiting Climate Stabilisation Wedges:** A framework for decarbonising the economy by 2050

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# **Engagement with climate change**

"Individuals are actors who contribute to climate change, need to deal with its impacts, and identify, develop, support, and implement climate solutions, **involving them is not an option but an imperative**."



#### Aware of causes

#### Aware of impacts

Act to mitigate

# Models and public engagement



# **Simplifying with Stabilisation Wedges**



# **Aims and objectives**

The wedges are useful but outdated in terms of timeframe, ambition and scope.

**Aim:** <u>To make climate change discourse more accessible</u> by updating the wedges with a new timeframe, more ambitious targets and more mitigation strategies.</u>

#### **Objectives:**

- 1. Redefine dimensions of a wedge
- 2. Determine relationship between wedges and temperature
- 3. Develop generic method for calculating wedges
- 4. Scope portfolio of mitigation strategies

# 1. Redefining a wedge



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## 2. Relating wedges to temperature

#### **Transient climate response:**

- 0.45°C (0.3–0.6°C) per 1,000 GtCO<sub>2</sub>
- A wedge is equal to 0.01 to 0.02°C

#### Our approach:

- Warming usually estimated in 2100 and wedges only run to 2050...
- Relationship between cumulative emissions in 2020-2050 and warming in 2100 from IAM scenarios



# 3. Developing generic method



## 4. Scoping strategies



### How many wedges are required?



## **Technological strategies**







**3 times** current installed capacity



**900 million** electric vehicles with clean electricity



**10 times** current ethanol production



**2 times** current H<sub>2</sub> supply from clean sources



**3 times** current HP output with clean electricity



**Triple** projected insulation rates



**80%** of steel mills fitted with CCS



**40%** of current bioenergy supply to BECCS



**500,000** of the world's largest DAC plant

### **Behavioural and natural strategies**



One-third of car travel walked, cycled or avoided



**Two-thirds** of air travel avoided



**25% reduction** in meat intake for 5 billion people



Halve global food loss and waste



**One-fifth** of <u>unintended</u> births avoided



Halve historical tropical deforestation rates



**Double** historical tropical reforestation rate



**5%** of global pastures planted with trees



Halt drainage <u>and</u> rewet **90%** of drained area



**60%** of croplands under soil management practices

# **Reflecting on the role of people**

- **People** sit at the very core of climate change
- **People** have very different views on climate solutions
- Typical models of mitigation have failed to reach **people**
- **People** must play a role in decision-making
- Wedges arm **people** with a simple language to discuss climate change

"Simplicity is the ultimate sophistication" – Leonardo da Vinci

