Where we are, and how fast we need to move

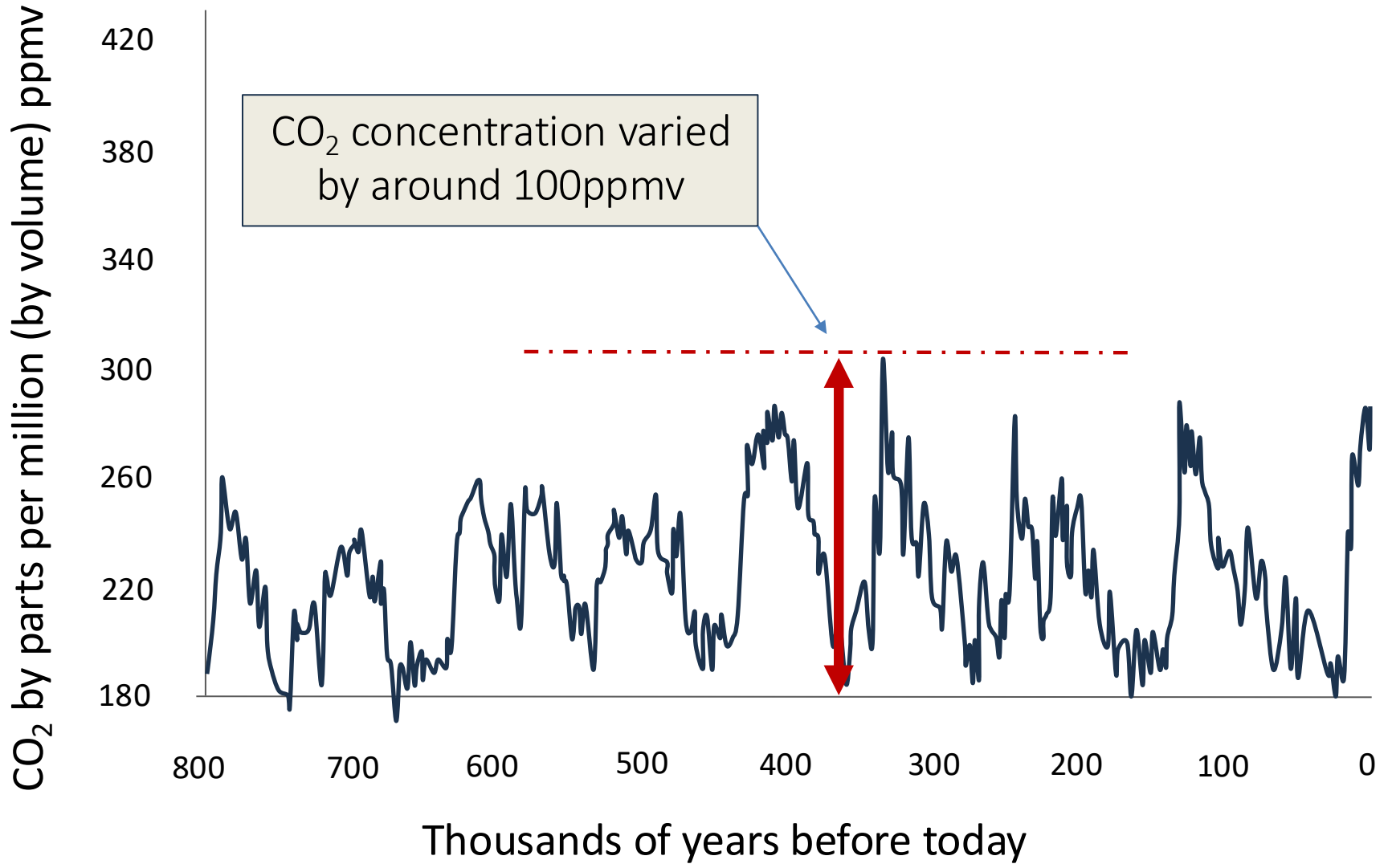
Professor Paul Behrens
National Emergency Briefing

Campaign Against Climate Change
Trade Union Group conference
31 October 2026

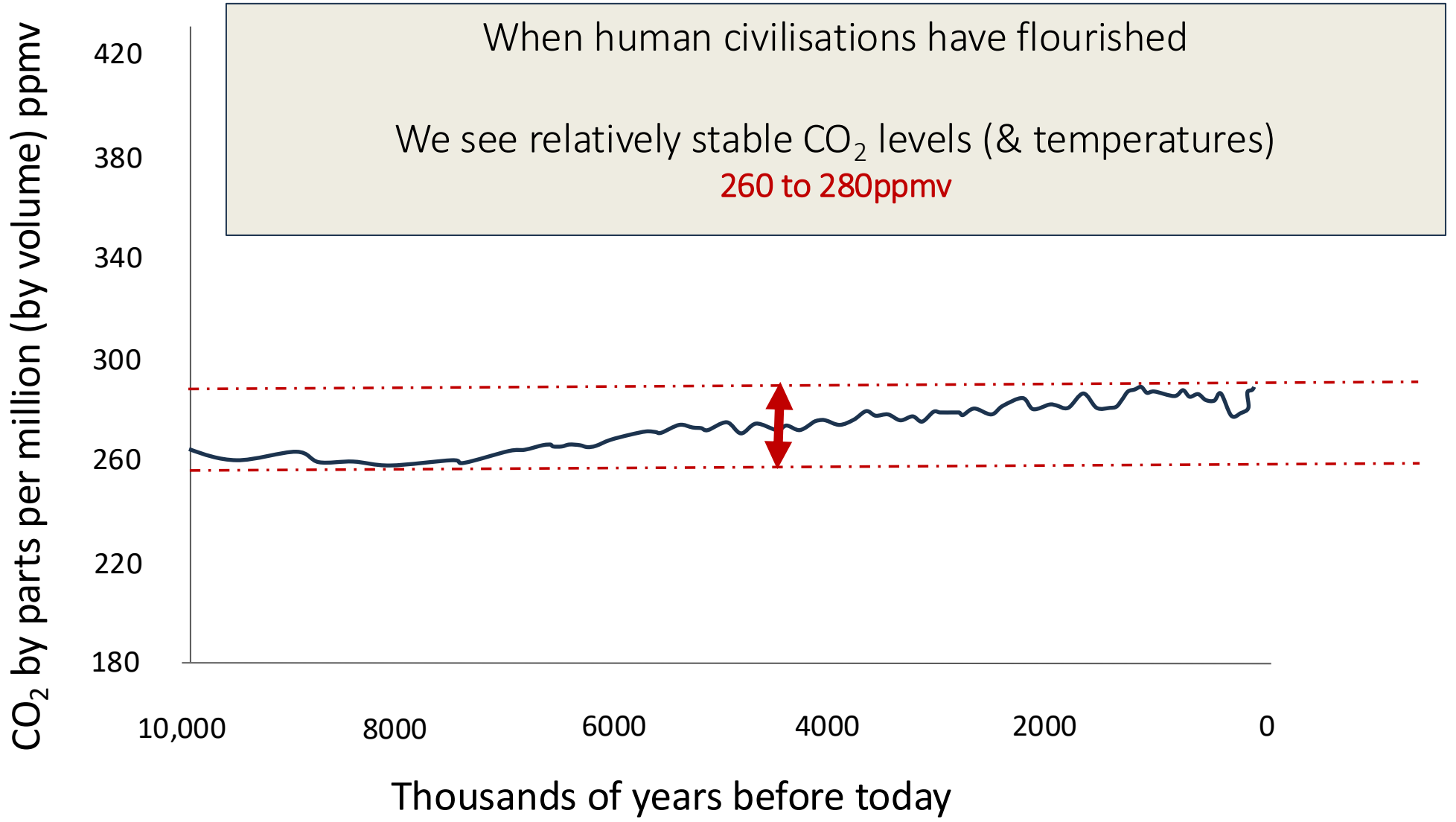
Includes slides by Professor Kevin Anderson, University of Manchester, used with his permission.



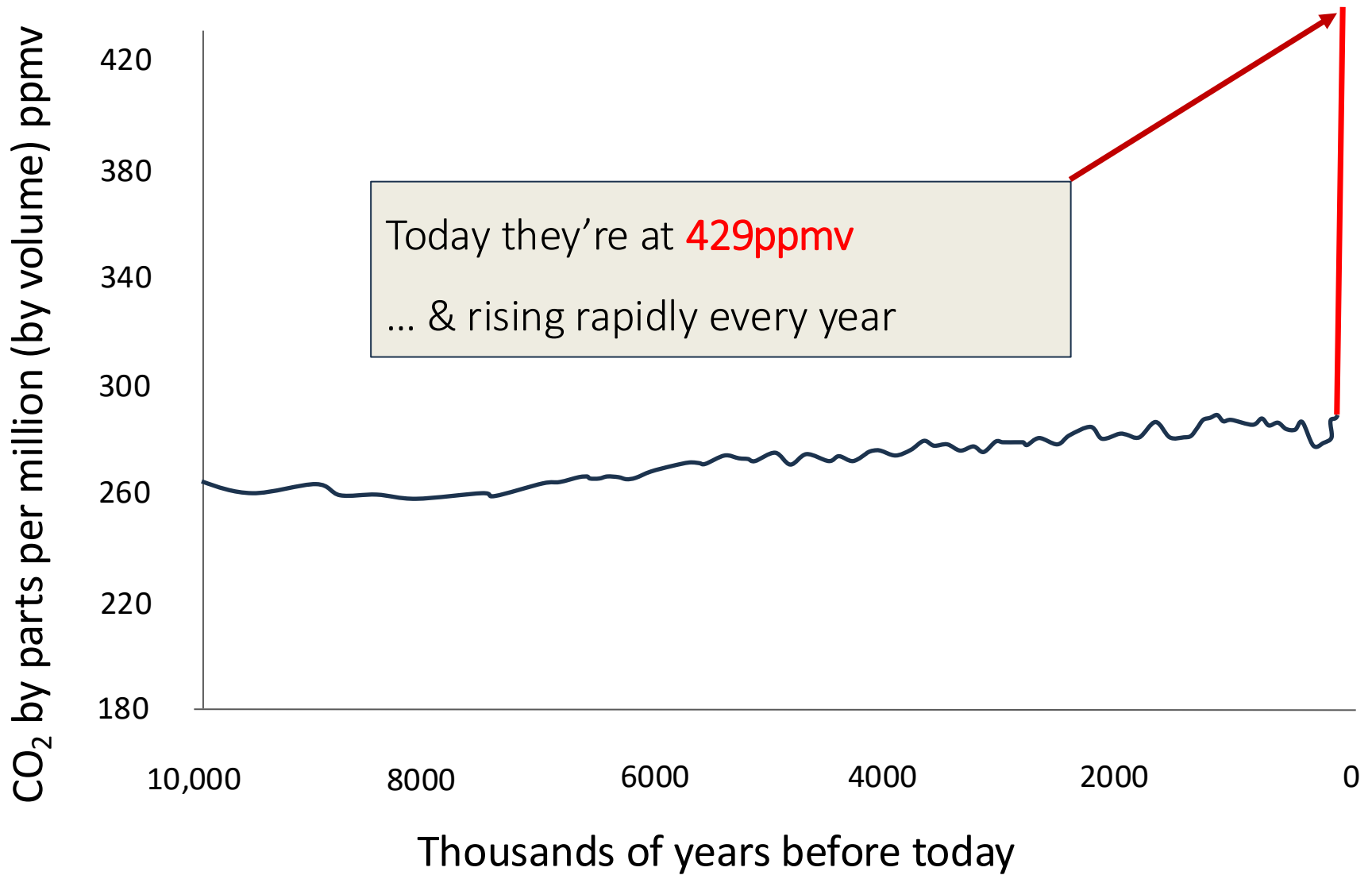
CO_2 emissions are rising at unprecedented rates



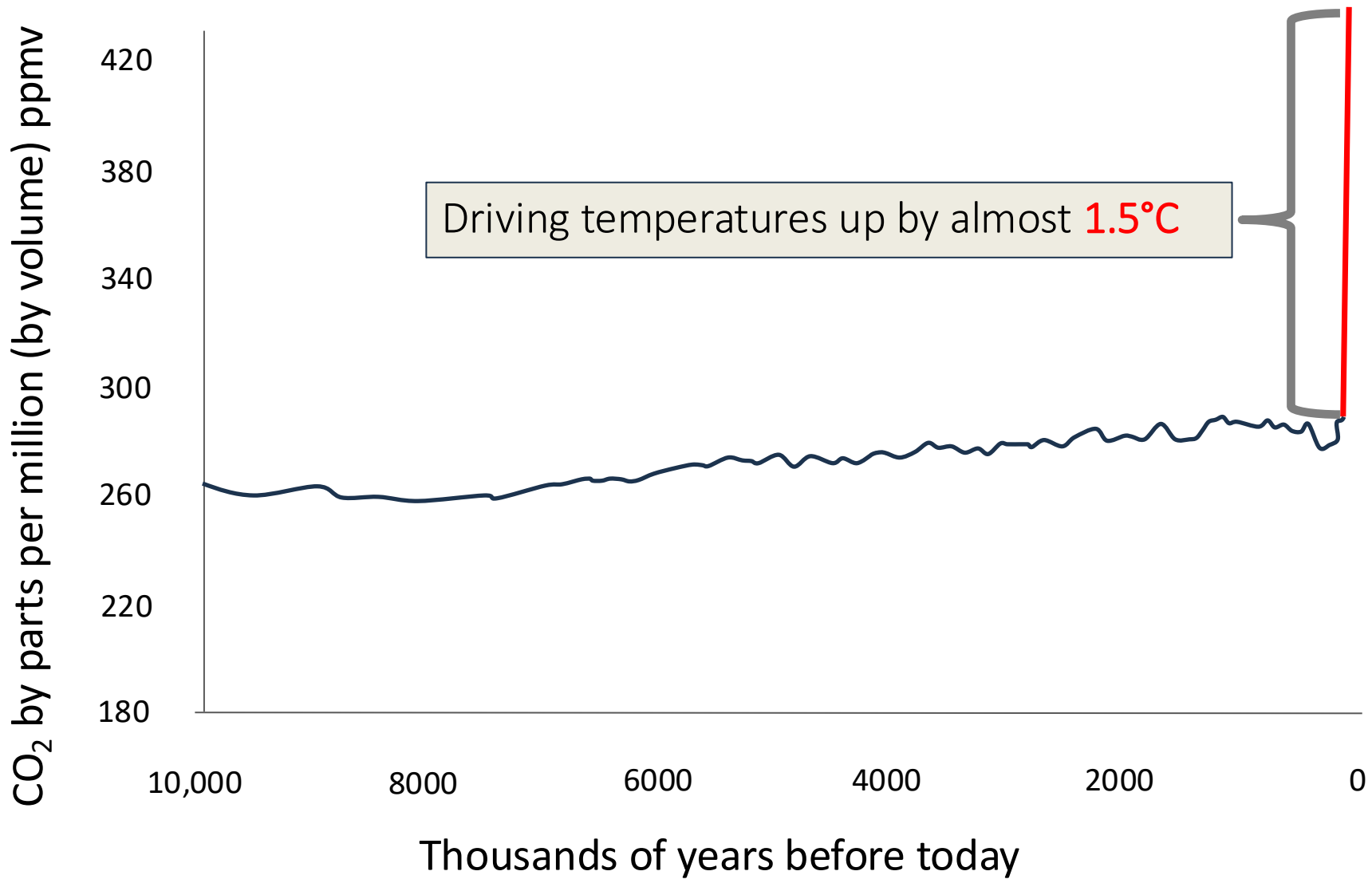
CO_2 emissions are rising at unprecedented rates



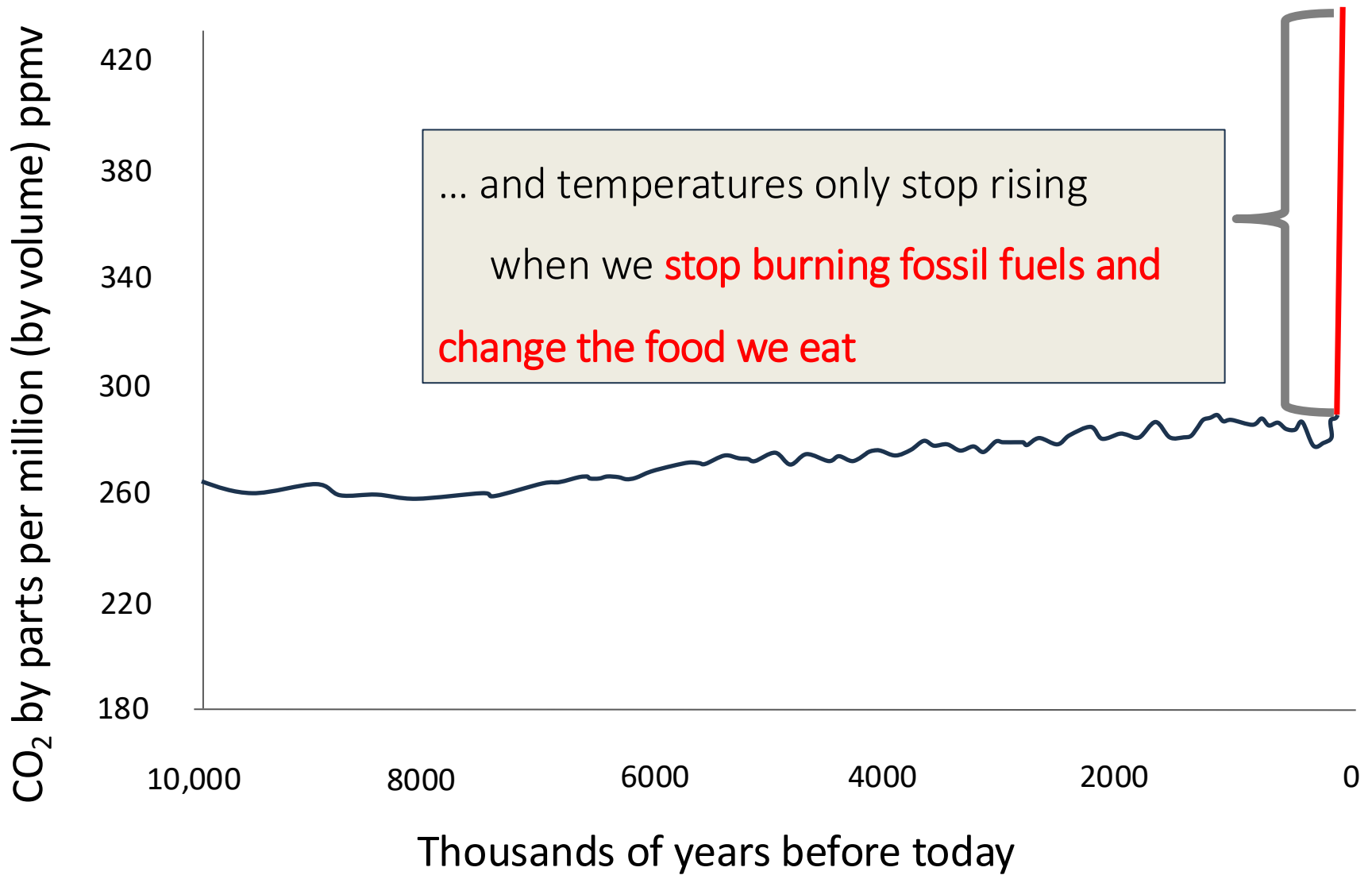
CO_2 emissions are rising at unprecedented rates



CO_2 emissions are rising at unprecedented rates



CO_2 emissions are rising at unprecedented rates












WE WON'T PAY FOR THE CRISIS
COST OF LIVING!!
* Don't let the Chronically Ill Die Of the COLD!!
* Rickets is on the R
* STOP FUEL POVER
* No One Should GO HUNGRY !!!
* STOP SUICIDES
BECAUSE OF FIN
HARDSHI



hold well below 2°C … & pursue 1.5°C

Revising & updating the carbon budgets to start 2027

January 2027	**“pursuing .. 1.5°C”** (50% ≤ 1.5°C) ***Forster et al***	**“well below 2°C”** (83% ≤ 2°C) ***Forster et al***

… but isn't the UK showing leadership?



"The UK is the first major economy to halve its emissions – having cut them by 50% between 1990 and 2022"

… but isn't the UK showing leadership?



Include international aviation, shipping, imports & exports

No real leadership

~20% reduction since 1990 i.e. < 1% each year

same is true for Denmark, Sweden, France & the EU

Why is fairness/equity the key issue *(Globally)*

Collectively the top 1% of global emitters have

lifestyles that give rise to almost **twice** the emissions

of the **bottom half** of the world's population

Responding to CC is win-win-win for the majority

- Comfortable & affordable homes
- High quality public transport
- Secure & valued employment
- Better air quality … health … education
- Functioning infrastructure
- Better and healthier food
- More nature
- Geopolitical independence
- More climate resilience
- Improved food security

1) technology is a pre-requisite of delivering on Paris

… but after 30yrs of failure to address climate change it is now far from sufficient

2) urgent & profound shift in social norms is also essential

On technology…

Differentiate between:

Delay ‘technologies’:

- designed to avoid effective legislation & maintain a thriving oil & gas sector

Timely technologies:

- known to work at scale – now!

Delay *'technology'*… to avoid legislation

For example:

- New gas-fired power stations with carbon capture & storage (CCS)
- Blue hydrogen plants with CCS
- Bioenergy with CCS (Drax, etc.)

Delay *'technology'*… to avoid legislation

- All rely on successful & very large-scale deployment of CCS
  - *a technology that has been promised for almost 3 decades*
  - *in 2024 CCS stored less* ***than 0.03%*** *of global fossil fuel* CO_2

Relative to Paris:

- All are false solutions designed to delay meaningful legislation

Timely technologies:

Headline examples:

- Retrofit existing homes *(inc. heat pumps, etc.)*
- Build only zero-carbon homes *(& limited in the size)*
- Rapid roll out of public transport
- EV charging for rural environments *(much less for cities)*
- Rapid shift to zero CO_2 electricity
- Major programme of electrification *(only **1/5** UK energy is electricity)*
- ***Deep & rapid cuts in aviation; slow steaming, etc. for shipping***

Responding to CC is win-win-win for the majority

- Comfortable & affordable homes
- Hig
- Sec
- Bet
- Functioning infrastructure

moving resources & labour that furnish the private luxury of a relative few,

to the public wellbeing for all … to a future of

private sufficiency & public luxury



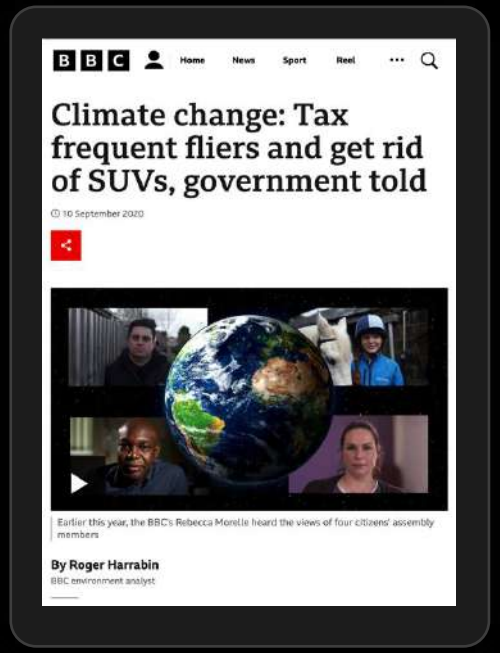
From one hall to thousands of rooms

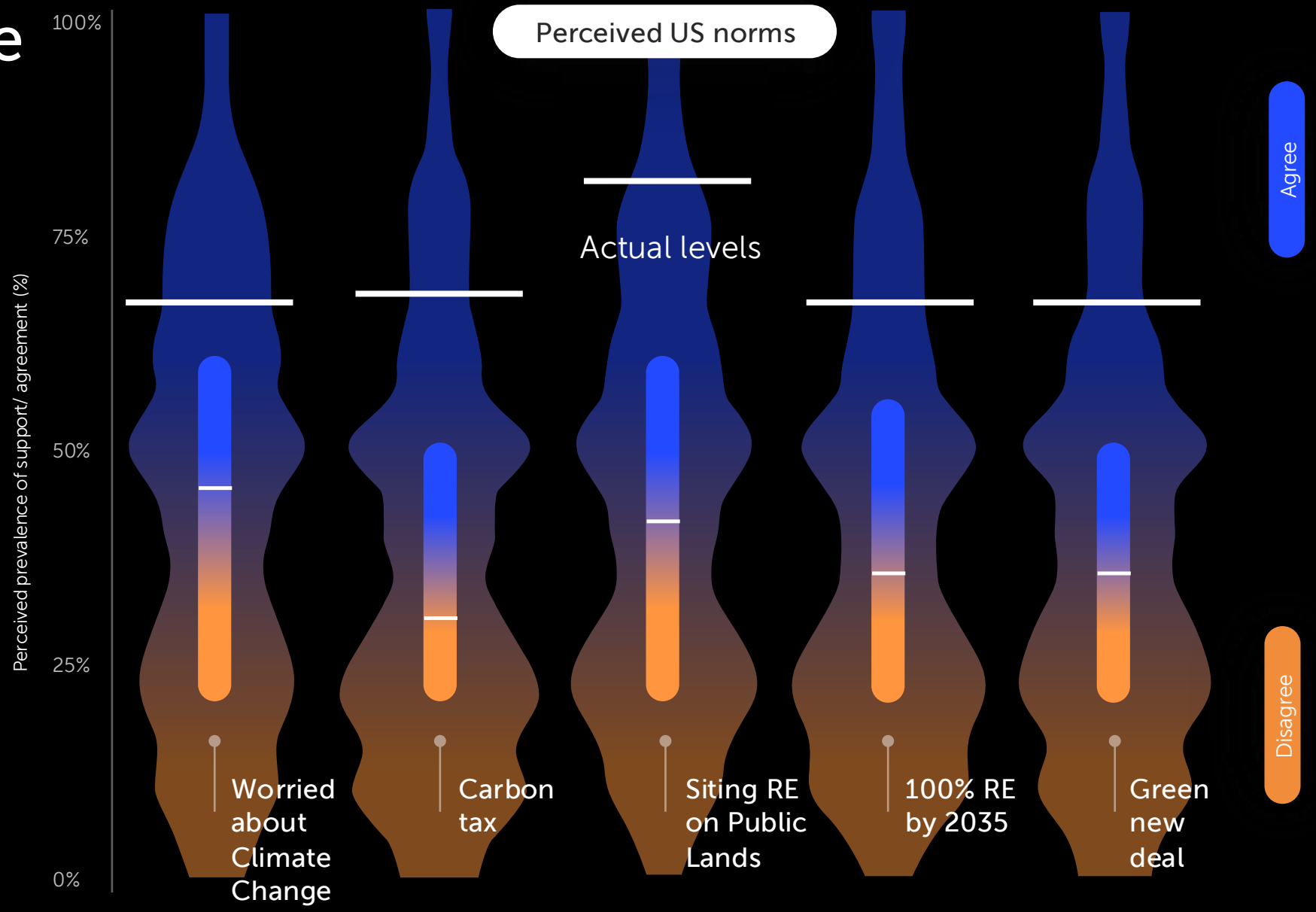
Nov 2025	Over 1,200 MPs, peers, and leaders briefed in Central Hall, Westminster
Apr 2026	The film goes out: over 4,800 screenings registered, in 27 countries
Oct 2026	111 MPs have signed the Early Day Motion for a televised briefing
16 Nov	Parliament debates the petition, now past 130,000 signatures

The trade union cut runs at lunch today. Take it back to your branch.

NEB overview, as of 7 October 2026; Early Day Motion 93 (2026–27), 111 signatures on 20 October; petition 767687, 131,499 signatures on 22 October. Photo: National Emergency Briefing, Central Hall Westminster, 27 November 2025.

We underestimate our neighbours





It’s now too late for non-radical futures

The choice is between

1) A deep, rapid & fair decarbonisation of modern society

… an organised-*ish* technical & social revolution …

2) Ongoing rhetoric, lies & delay as temperatures exceed “dangerous” for all

… i.e. revolutionary-scales of change that are chaotic & Violent