

Town of Scarborough Sustainability Committee

December 13, 2023 | 8:00 – 9:30 a.m. | Scarborough Town Hall and via Zoom

Meeting Minutes

Attendance – in person

Committee: Ron Allen, Anton Bodor, Lydia Jopp, David Kirstein, Deb McDonough, Rick Meinking

Staff: Angela Blanchette, Town Engineer; Autumn Speer, Planning Director

Guests: David Kunhardt, resident and member of Citizens Climate Lobby (CCL); Larry Litten, resident; Agnes & Norm Dugas, residents

Attendance – Zoom

Town Council: April Sither

To re-play the Sustainability Committee's 12/13/23 meeting, please use the following link:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AsdXAQ6_H70

Call to Order

1. The meeting was called to order at 8:00 am.
2. The Committee voted to approve the minutes from the 10/25/23 meeting. Deb motioned to approve the minutes, Anton seconded. Vote was unanimous.

New Business

1. Carbon Cash Back
 - Davin Kunhardt, Scarborough resident and member of Citizens Climate Lobby, attended the meeting to provide a presentation on the federal Energy Innovation Act and to ask the Sustainability Committee request the Town Council pass a resolution in support of the legislation (presentation slides attached and proposed resolution).
 - The Committee made the following comments and asked the following questions regarding the presentation and proposed resolution:
 - Deb suggested revising the resolution language to reference Scarborough's coastal location and vulnerabilities to sea level rise.
 - Lydia confirmed that tax/fee is assessed on the extraction/production of fossil fuel, not on its use.
 - Ron asked for examples of a direct correlation between the establishment of a fee/tax and a reduction in fossil fuel use.
 - [Case studies and analyses](#) of the United Kingdom's 2013 carbon fee and subsequent reduction in the use of coal are available.
 - Ron noted that the fee/tax model seems like a very bureaucratic process and suggested that regulation on production would be more streamlined.
 - David likened the fee/tax to similar efforts related to tobacco use.
 - Rick asked how the carbon fee/tax differs from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI).

Engineering & Technical Services

- RGGI is a cap and trade program that limits the amount of emissions polluters can generate. Large polluters can buy carbon credits from smaller polluters. David noted that the pollution credits are relatively inexpensive and not all sources of pollution are captured under RGGI. Carbon fee and dividend applies to all sources of carbon.
- Rick noted that RGGI funds in Maine support local efficiency projects. Maine netted \$11M off the 2023 Q4 auction.
- Anton asked about CCL's position on nuclear energy.
 - CCL is open to nuclear energy solutions.
- Who sets the price for the fee/tax?
 - It is imbedded in the law.
- Rick asked April to provide some insight into the Council's resolution process.
 - April recommended that the Sustainability Committee finalize language in the resolution. The Council will need to understand the carbon fee and dividend program, so education will be needed. April suggested requesting a sustainability workshop with the Town Council.
- Next steps:
 - CCL will provide information to the Conservation Commission
 - The Sustainability Committee will consider requesting a workshop with the Town Council about the carbon fee and dividend program

Updates

1. Town Council

- Council goal setting is scheduled for 1/27. April would like time on the Committee's 1/24 agenda to discuss possible goals.
- April will be the Town Council liaison to the vulnerability assessment steering committee. If anyone from the Sustainability Committee is interested in serving on the committee, please reach out to Jami.

2. Planning Board

- Beech Ridge redevelopment is going through the master planning process and may include a transportation depot. The specific use has not been announced yet.
- Rugby fields are being proposed on Tow Rod Road.
- Additional multi-family housing has been approved at The Downs.

3. Conservation Commission

- The Commission is working on ordinance language to strengthen protections around natural resources.

4. Transportation Committee

- The Committee is working on wrapping up the town-wide transportation study.

5. Finance Committee memo

- Jami will send the memo requesting a sustainability reserve account to the Finance Committee on 12/14. The Sustainability Committee will be included in the email.

Next meeting: January 24, 2024

Meeting adjourned at 9:23 am.

Future Projects List:

A Solution to the Climate Crisis

David Kunhardt
Scarborough Sustainability Committee
13 December 2023

Our Ask Today:

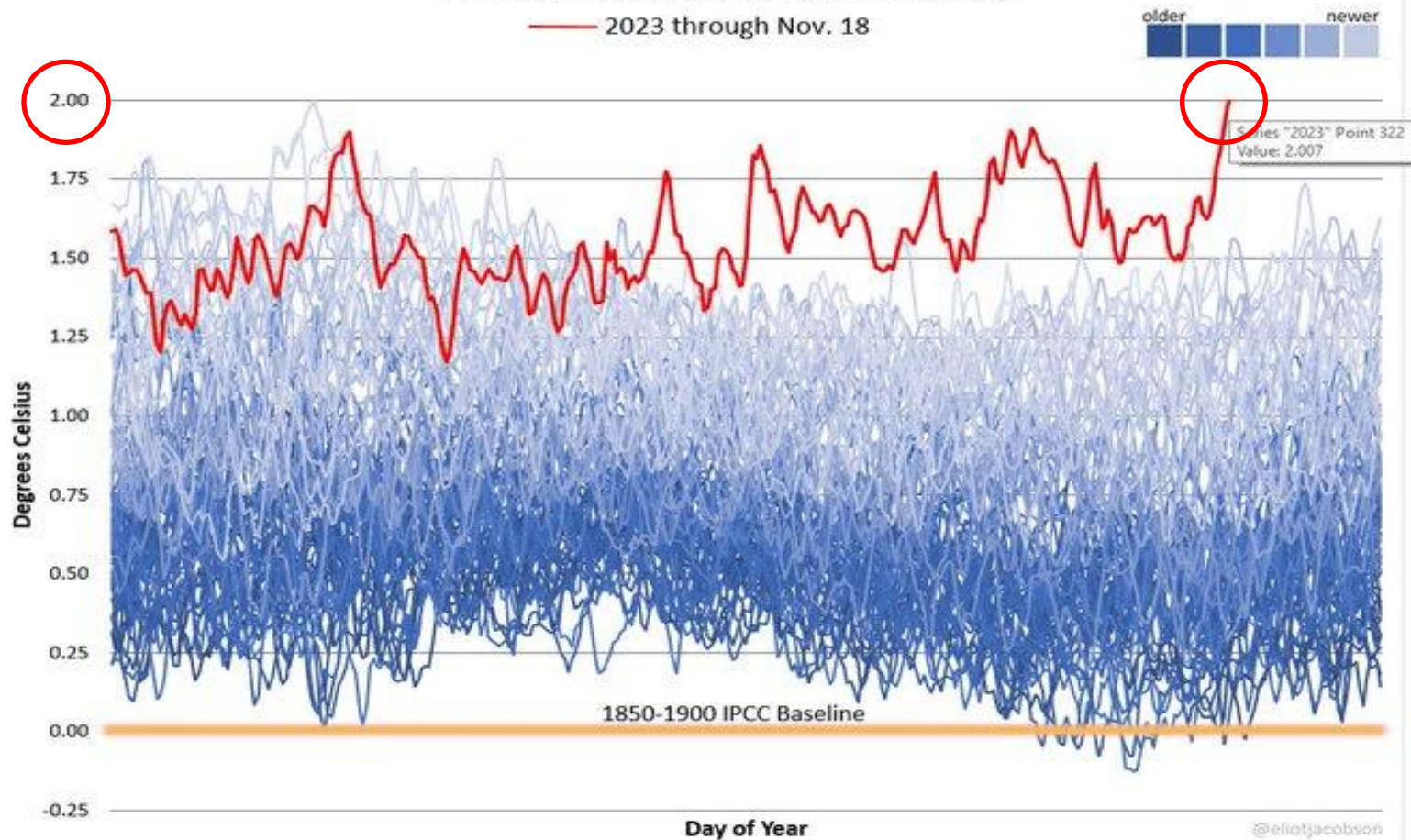
For the Sustainability Committee to support Town Council signing the Carbon cash-back 4 ME resolution that is in your packet. No new spending or program.



Citizens' Climate Lobby

Global 2m Surface Temperature Anomalies: 1940 - 2023 vs. 1850-1900 IPCC Baseline

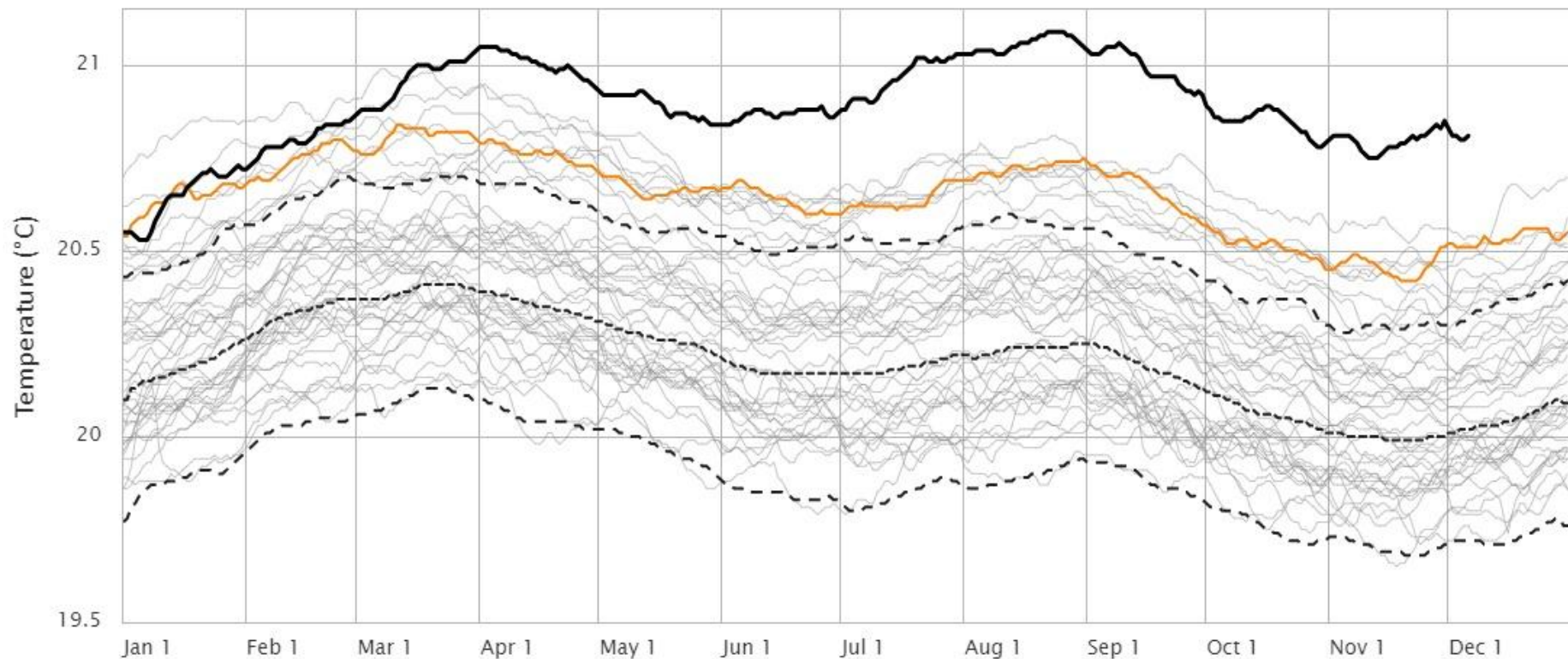
Data: NCEP Climate Forecast System 1979-2023, Copernicus adj. 1940-1978



OCEAN SURFACE TEMPS

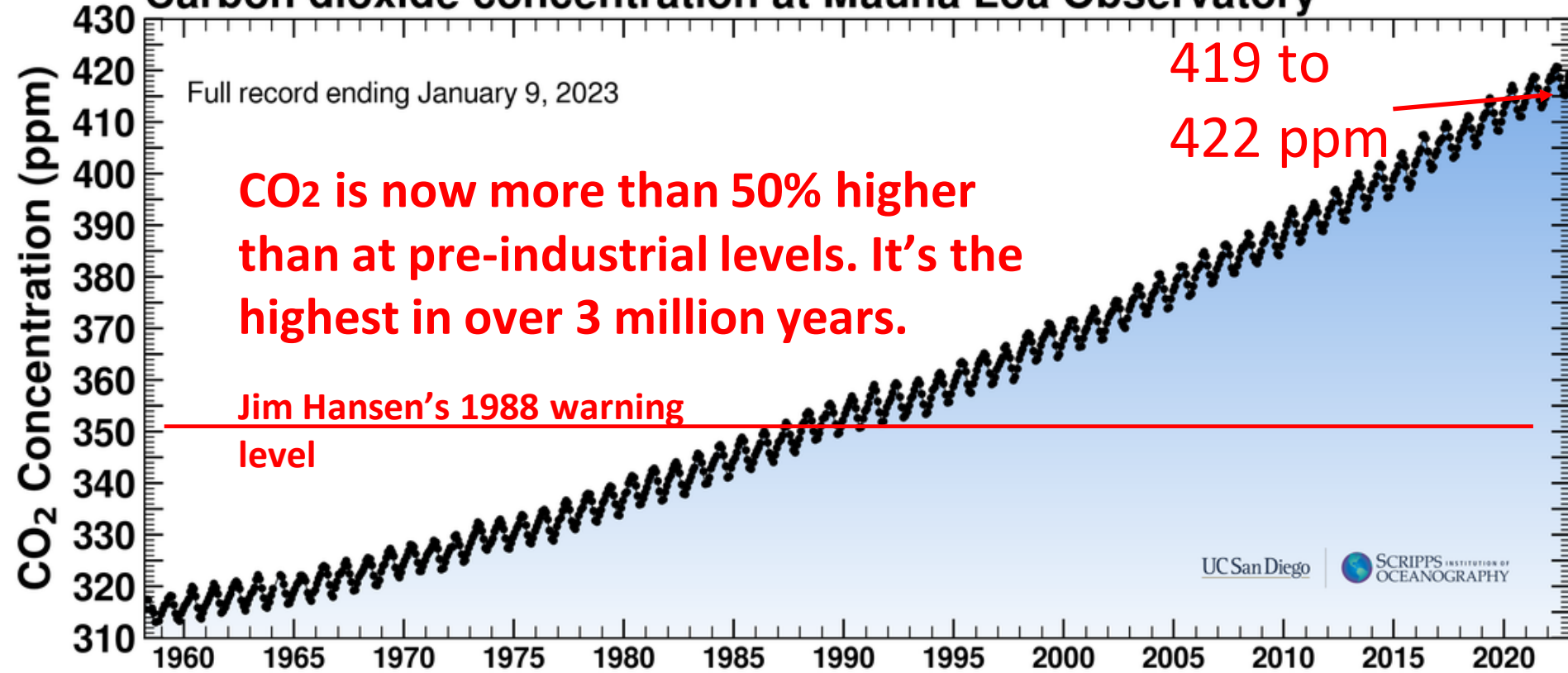
SST World (60S–60N)

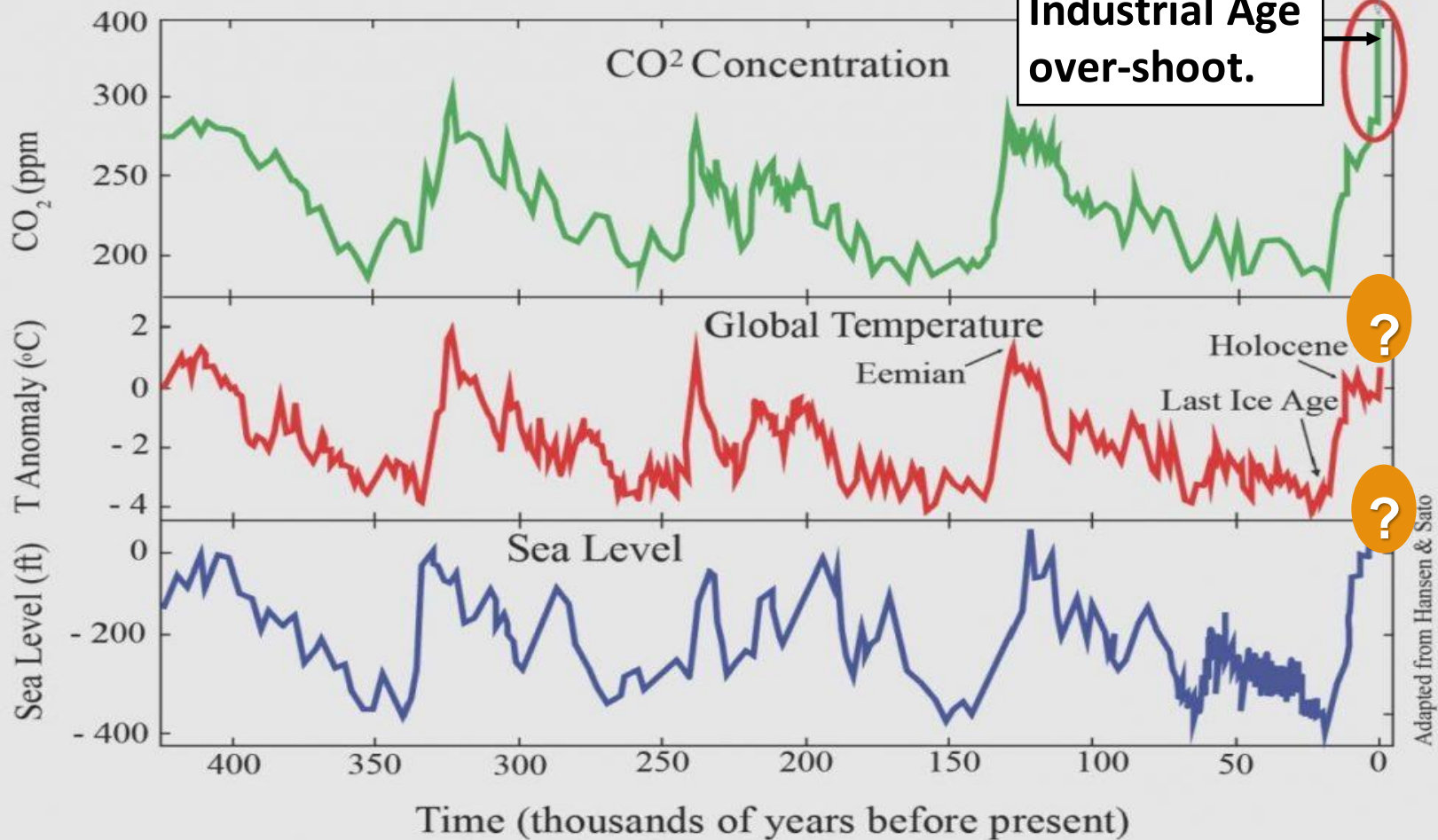
Data Source: NOAA OISST V2.1 | ClimateReanalyzer.org, Climate Change Institute, University of Maine



The Root Cause

Carbon dioxide concentration at Mauna Loa Observatory

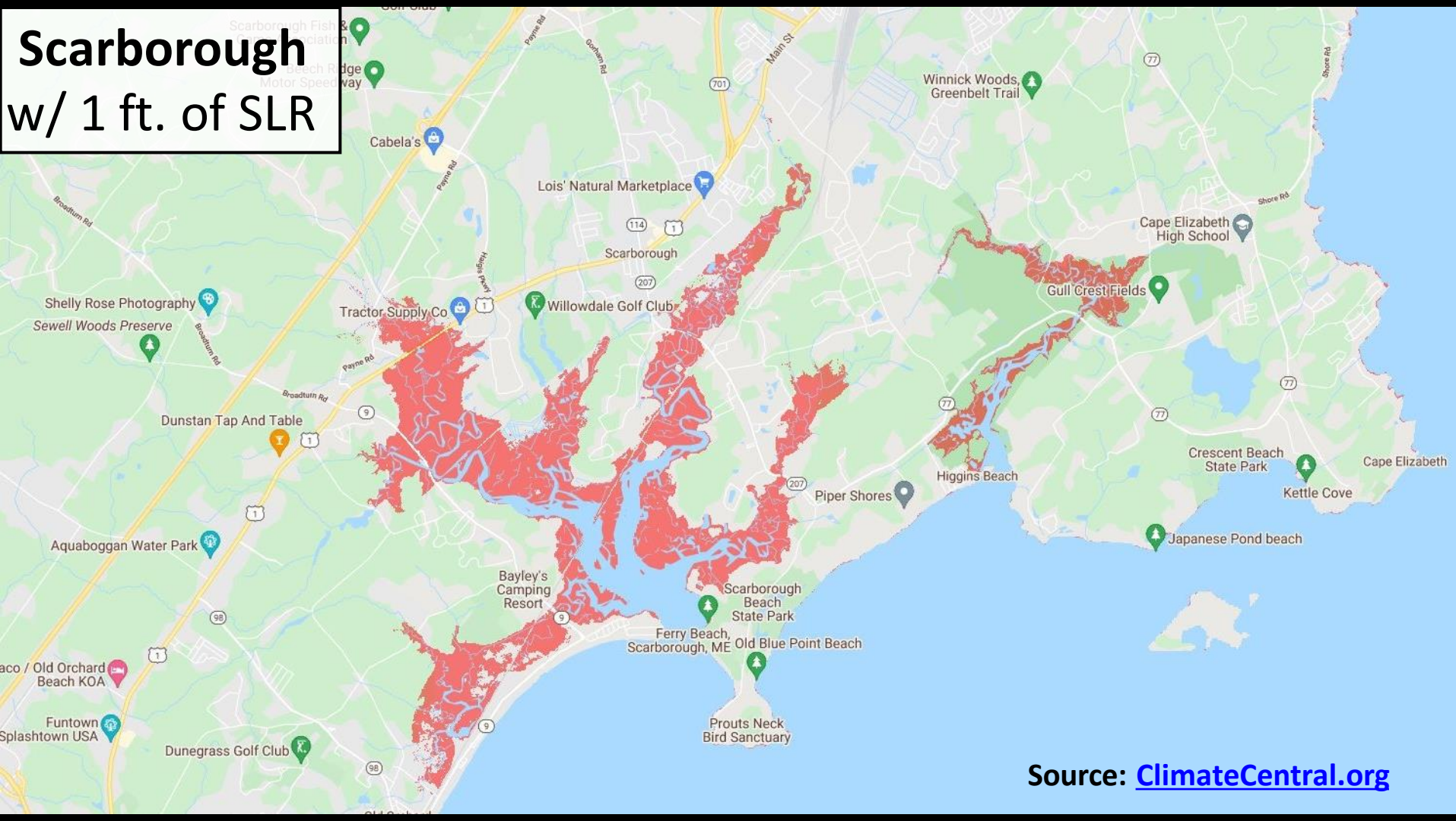




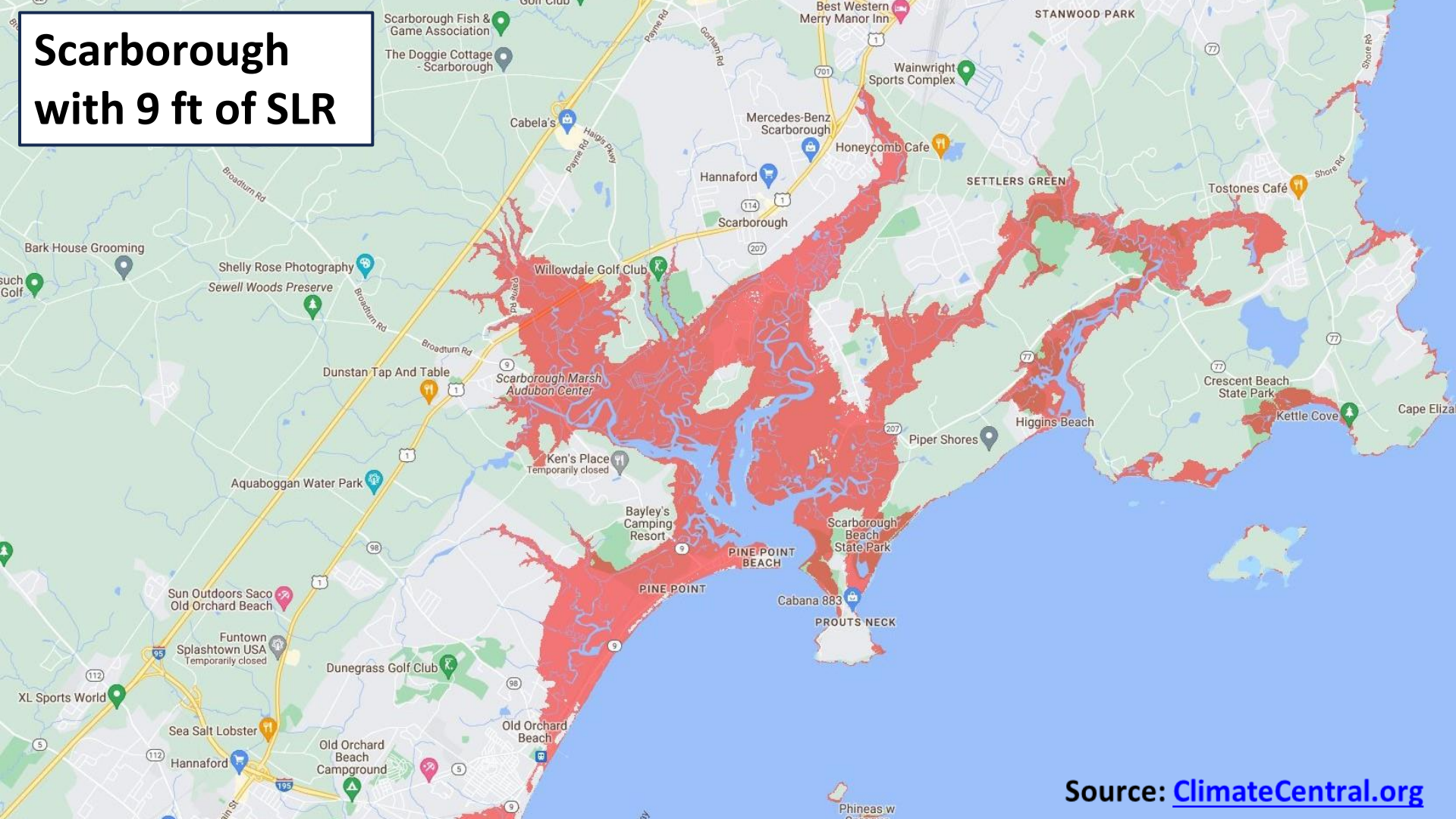
The last time *the present* CO₂ levels were reached, the oceans were up to 20m (>65 ft.) higher than they are today.

John Englander, Dr, James Hansen, Makiko Sato

Scarborough w/ 1 ft. of SLR

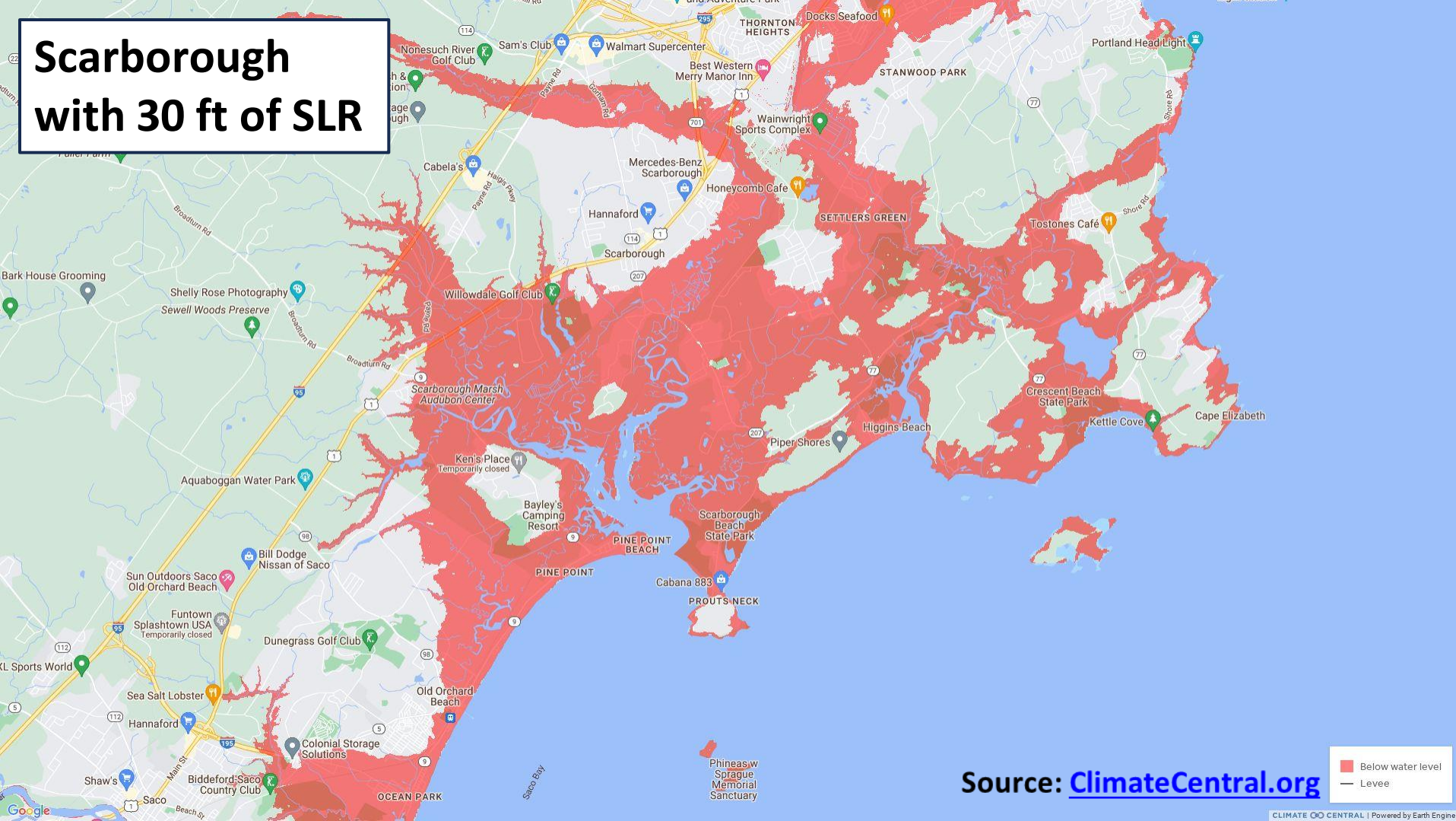


Scarborough with 9 ft of SLR



Source: [ClimateCentral.org](https://www.climatecentral.org)

Scarborough with 30 ft of SLR



Carbon Fee & Cash-Back

“From the standpoint of an economist, the most efficient way to tackle climate change is to tax emissions — to create a disincentive to emit carbon dioxide.”

-- Janet Yellen 2018

3,623 US economists have signed a statement of support:

- All four current and former Chairs of the Federal Reserve
- 27 Nobel laureates; 15 Chairs, Council of Econ. Advisors

**Consensus of
economists on
carbon price**

*is as
strong as*

**Consensus of climate
scientists about
climate change**



Janet Yellen
Treasury Secretary

Former Chair of the Federal Reserve

Carbon Fee & Cash-Back

- **COP 28:** 200 countries pledge a “transition from fossil fuels”
- MIT Co-Lab & ClimateInteractive.org
 - [EN-Roads Climate Solutions Simulator Tool](#)

The Carbon Cash-Back Solution

Revenue-Neutral – doesn't add to deficit
Carbon Fee – yes, a tax on polluter companies
& Cash Back – send the \$ out to all, equally
with Border Adjustment – a tariff on non-C-
tax countries' products to protect US business,
and encourage global compliance

Sponsors of a Carbon Fee and Cash Back

- Over **40 countries** already tax Carbon
- **Sweden** – highest price, growing economy
- **Canada** – expanded to nation-wide
- **96** Members of the U.S. House, incl **Chellie Pingree of ME**, and **49** U.S. Senators
- **Citizens' Climate Lobby**



See: <https://energyinnovationact.org/>

Who Is Citizens' Climate Lobby?

- A ***grassroots volunteer*** organization creating the ***political will*** to address climate
- >**200,000** supporters
- **600 chapters** in >**90%** of Congr. districts
- **2023:** Held **436** Meetings on Capitol Hill
- “A **peaceful army** with respect & admiration...”

Slide created by CCL & David Kunhardt

June 13, 2023

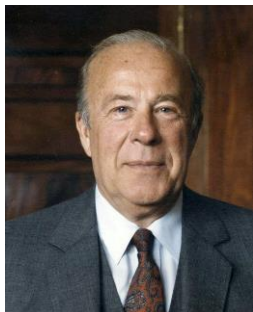


Who Is Citizens' Climate Lobby?

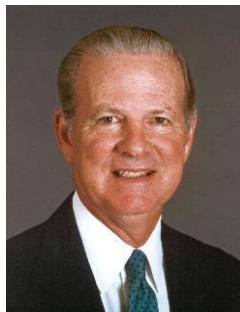
- This year, **15 students** went with our Maine delegation to the training, then to Lobby Day
- Including these ten from Baxter Academy
- They were awed,
- ...and were awesome.



CLIMATE LEADERSHIP COUNCIL



George Shultz



Jim Baker

AECOM

Allianz

AT&T

Ford

GM

IBM

Johnson & Johnson

MetLife

Microsoft

P&G

PEPSICO

Santander

Schneider
Electric

Unilever

TOTAL

VISTRA
ENERGY

BHP

bp

CALPINE

ConocoPhillips

Exelon

ExxonMobil

First Solar

Shell

CONSERVATION
INTERNATIONAL

The Nature
Conservancy

WORLD
RESOURCES
INSTITUTE

WWF

Who's supporting carbon fee & cashback?

Climate Leadership Council is making the conservative case for implementing carbon fee & cashback

INDIVIDUAL FOUNDING MEMBERS



Ben Bernanke



Steven Chu



Ray Dalio



Martin Feldstein



Ted Halstead



Stephen Hawking



N. Gregory Mankiw



Paul Polman



Klaus Schwab



Tom Stephenson



Lawrence Summers



Ratan Tata



Rob Walton

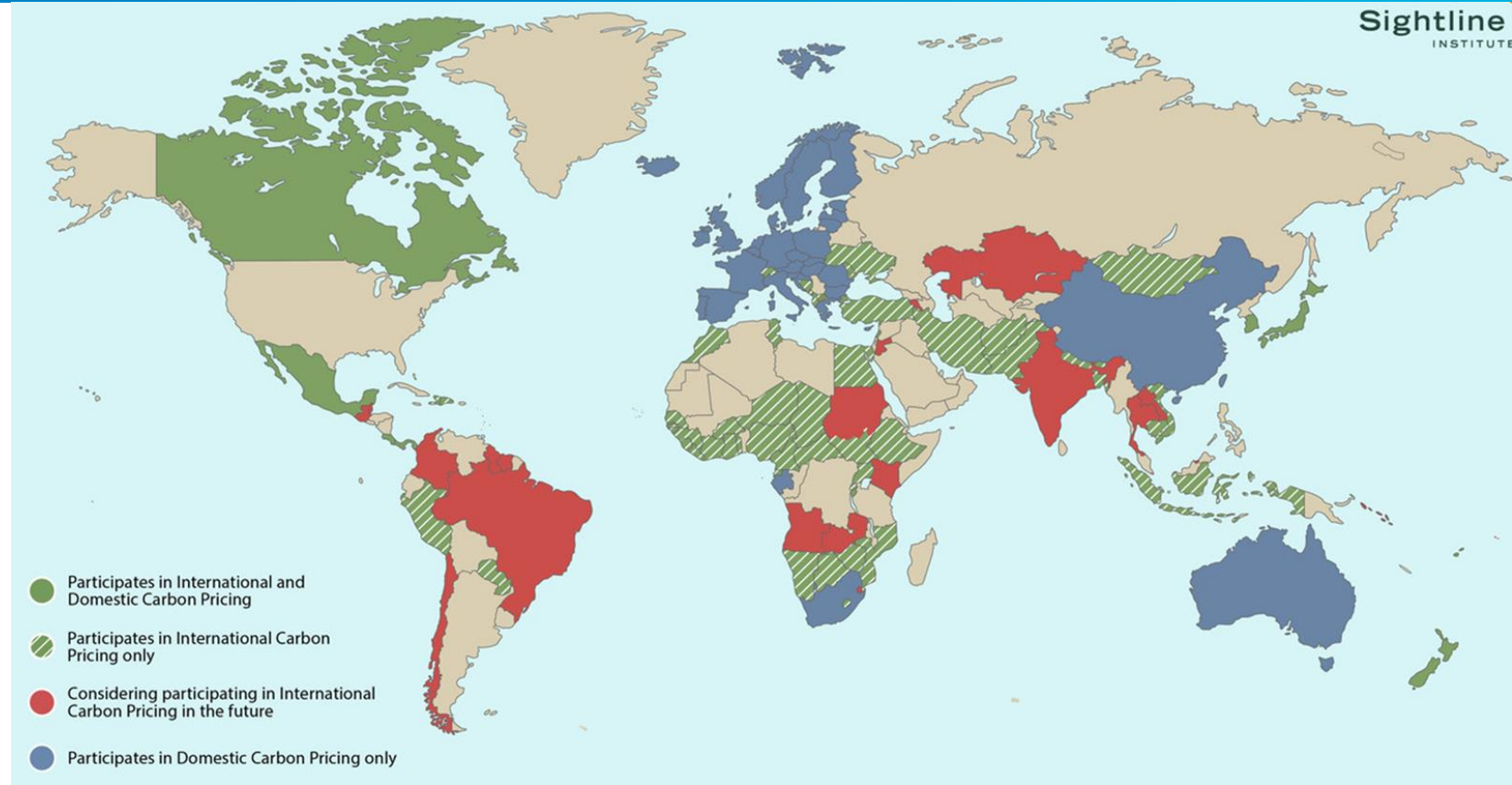


Christine Todd
Whitman



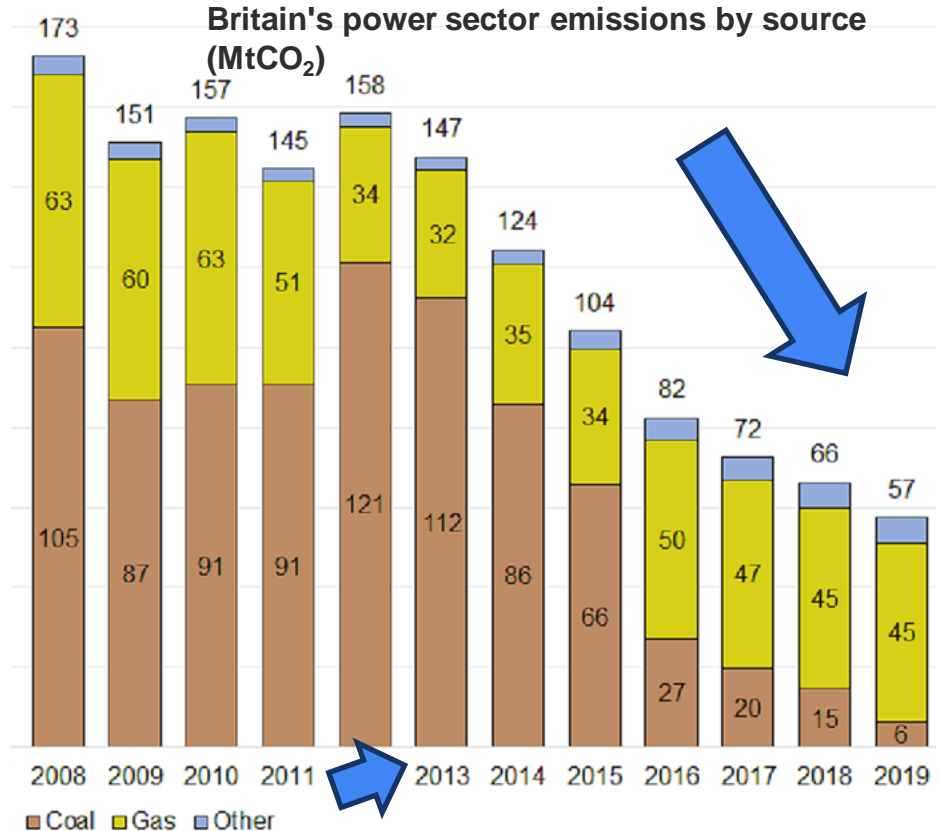
Janet Yellen

Carbon Pricing is the Growing Global Norm

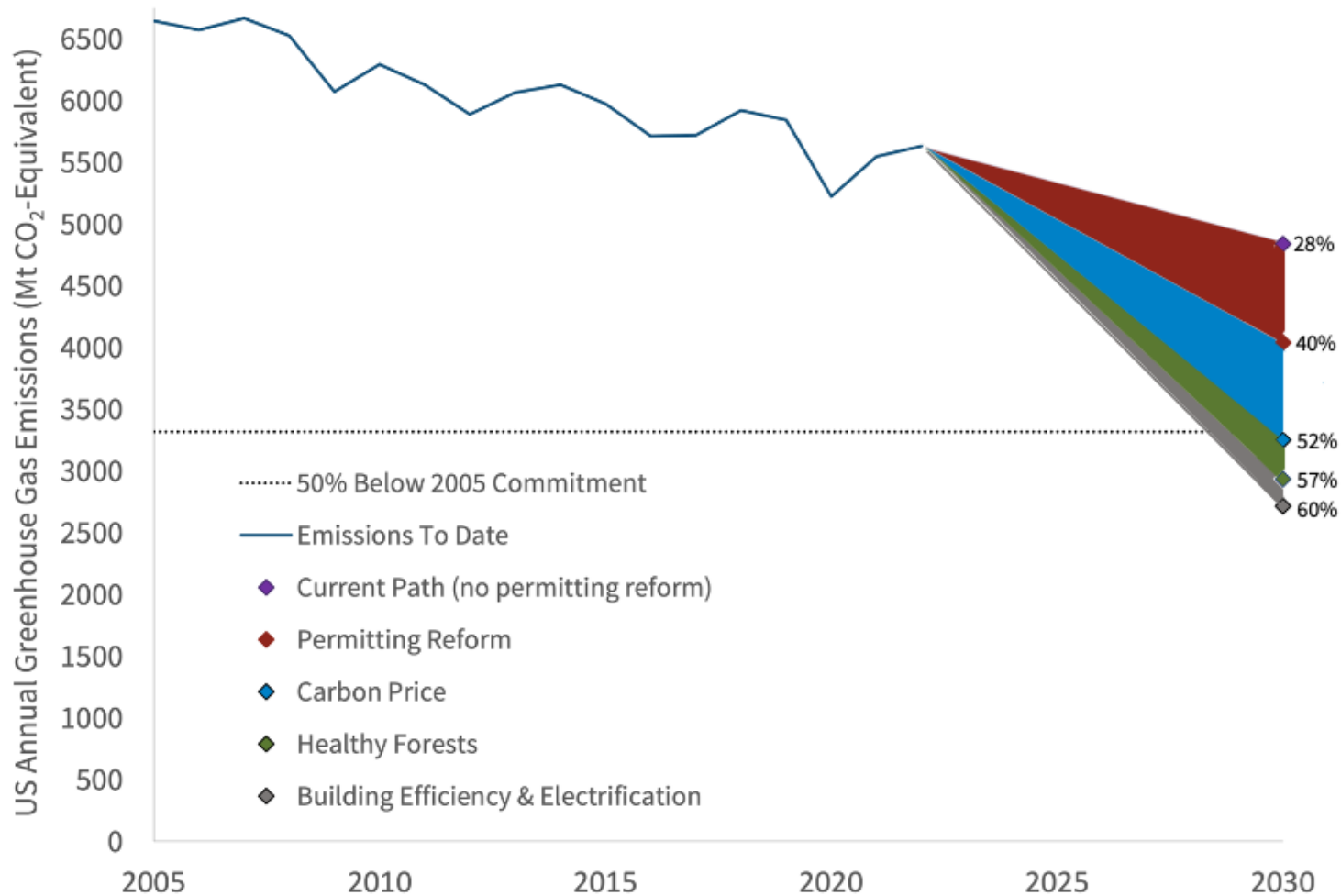


Carbon Pricing has Proven Effectiveness

After Great Britain introduced a carbon tax in 2013 (about \$7.75, rising to \$27 in 2015), *CO₂ emissions fell 61% in six years*, led by a steep decline in coal generation.



US Greenhouse Gas Emissions



How Carbon Fee & Cash Back Works

U.S. Treasury writes
monthly checks



... to every individual
equally

Energy Companies pay rising
fees per ton of carbon from
mines, wells & ports to Treasury

Increased cost of
carbon-intensive
products **stimulates**
demand for lower-
cost products



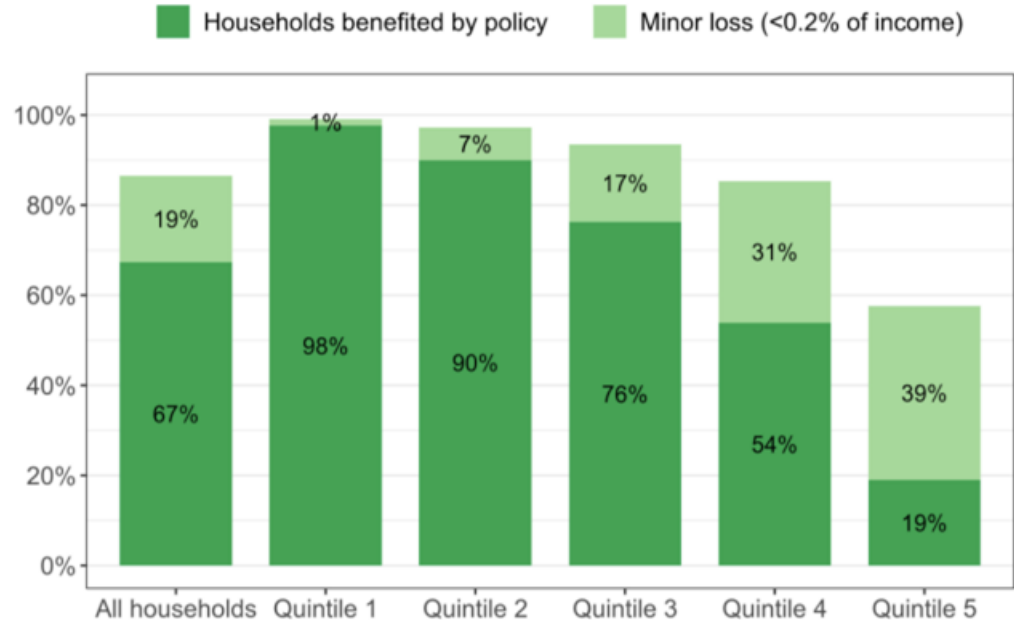
\$15 per Ton, escalating \$10/T/Yr.



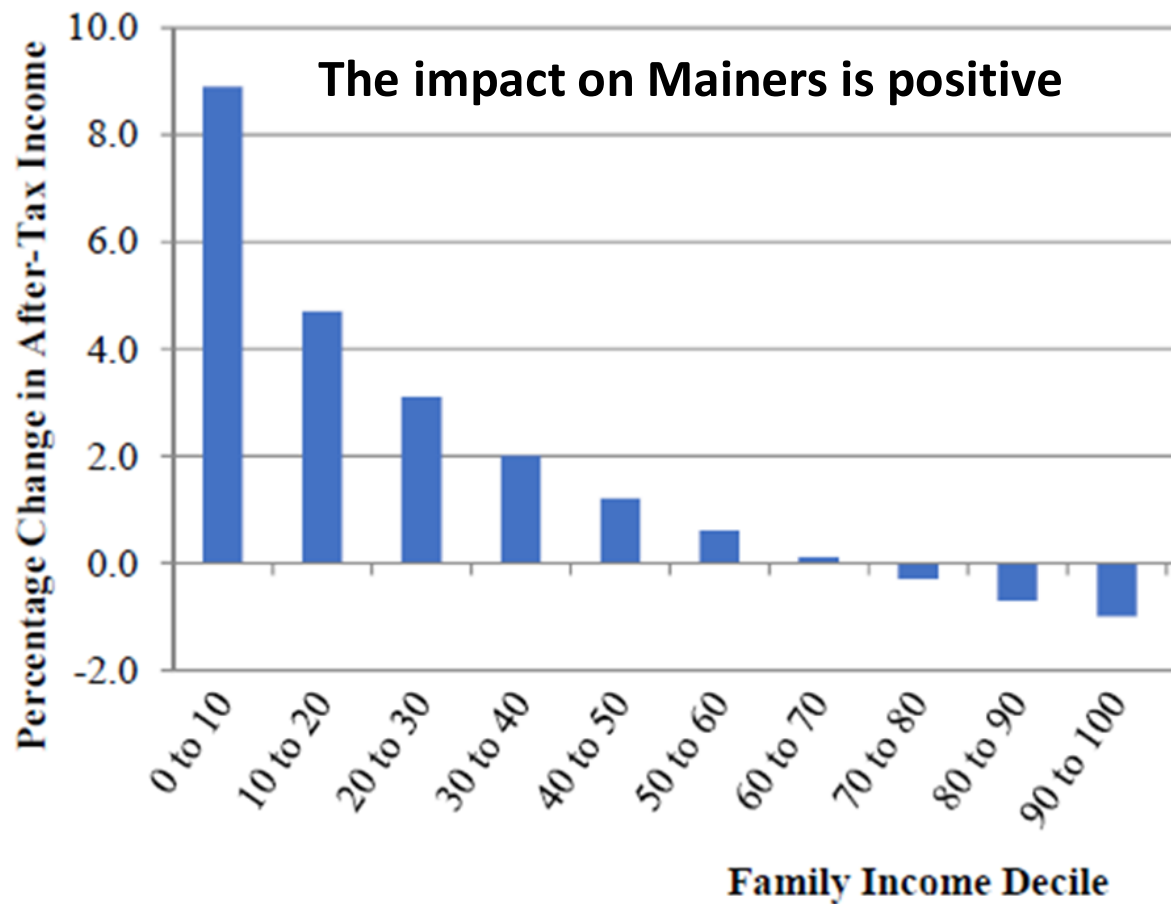
**Result: Growing
demand for Low-CO₂
products -> innovation.**

Carbon Cash-Back Promotes Equity

Lower-income households on average have smaller carbon footprints and would be net beneficiaries of a carbon fee and cash-back dividend.

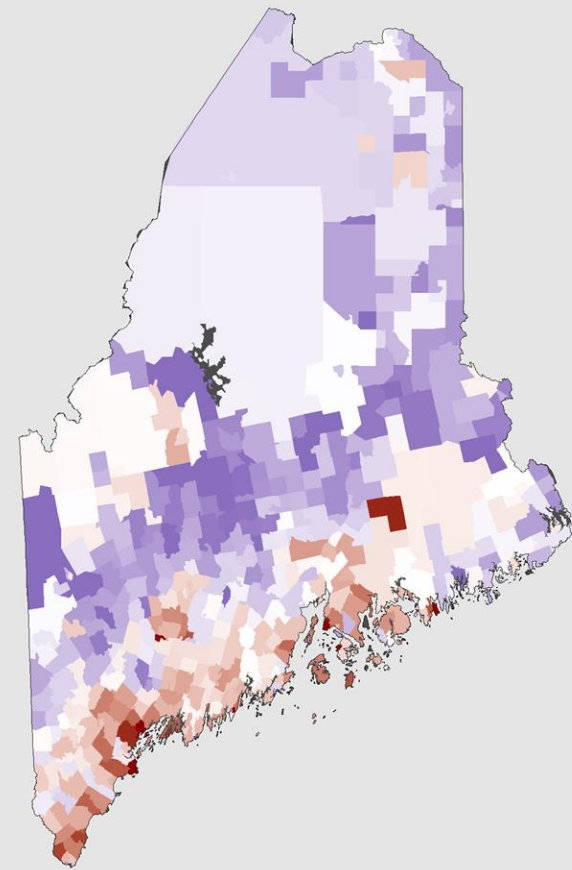


Percent of households whose carbon dividends exceed carbon costs, ranked by consumption quintile. The lighter green denotes a “minor loss,” defined as less than 0.2 percent of income



Percent of households benefited by policy

50% 60% 70%



Source: U.S. Department of the Treasury (2017)

Join Us – Carbon cash-back 4 ME

**28 Cities & Towns have signed on, so far,
including:**

- ✓ Portland
- ✓ South Portland
- ✓ Cape Elizabeth
- ✓ Saco



Citizens' Climate Lobby

- Community solar / municipal solar array
- Municipal building energy audits
- Residential energy efficiency grants
- Electric school buses
- Recycling information for homeowners when houses change hands
- Composting
- Tree preservation ordinance