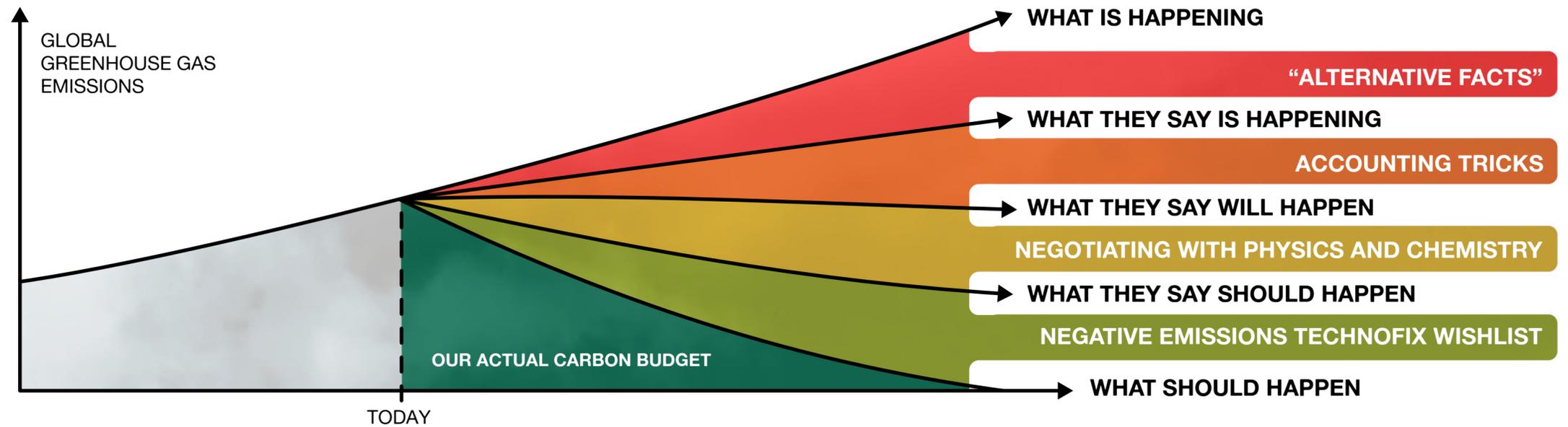


**A CLIMATE MANUAL FOR WHY WE SHOULD STOP TRUSTING CORPORATIONS AND THEIR POLITICAL REPRESENTATIVES, AND TAKE THE MATTER INTO OUR OWN HANDS.**

It seems almost surreal that we continue to be bombarded with good news on the "energy transition on its way" all the while experiencing climate catastrophes of increasing severity and frequency. It is absurd that while so many countries and corporations pledge to cut emissions, the actual amount of CO2 in the atmosphere is increasing at an unprecedented rate. There is a monumental margin of error between reality and the promises that are being made.

**HERE WE BREAK DOWN THIS REALITY GAP IN CLIMATE POLICIES, TO FACILITATE DECONSTRUCTING WHAT WE ARE TOLD.**

# THE CLIMATE REALITY GAP



**OUR CARBON BUDGET:**

the emissions we can emit during a transition to a zero-carbon economy.

To maintain a livable planet, we need to limit global warming to 2°C with respect to pre-industrial levels. This would translate to 50-60% cuts in emissions worldwide by 2030, and these cuts will have to be much more rapid in developed countries.

**"ALTERNATIVE FACTS", IE:**

**OUTRIGHT LIES** that are told by government and industry. The fracking industry has knowingly concealed the extent of methane leakage in natural gas extraction. Car companies like Volkswagen have developed mechanisms to cheat emission inspections.

Less of a lie is when a report is released which says "CO2 emissions from energy sector stabilized last year", and is publicized as "emissions stabilized".

Climate mitigation threatens the profit margins of some of the biggest corporations in all of history. There is a direct conflict of interest between economic incentives and climate facts, and the elite have a vested interest in distorting reality to maintain business-as-usual.

**Be critical about who says what you are reading and hearing.**

**ALL KINDS OF ACCOUNTING**

**GYMNASTICS** with which companies and governments can make emission cuts "appear" on paper, without actually doing anything. This includes ideas such as carbon credits, and various forms of carbon offsetting schemes such as REDD+.

By speculating on the possible future emissions of a possible future project, companies buy and sell emission quotas to "offset" their climate crimes. For instance, a company may announce it will destroy a forest to mine for coal, then announce it won't: this would translate to "negative emissions" in its portfolio, giving the company an emissions "credit" to permit it to pollute further. In reality, the forest is still the forest and the company's emissions continue to grow, but now these emissions are magically compensated on paper.

**Do not buy the greenwashing campaigns of governments and corporations. Emission cuts happen when we cut emissions, not when we add and subtract numbers on paper.**

**PAPERS THAT GOVERNMENTS**

**HAVE BEEN SIGNING**, such as the 2015 Paris agreement, which outlines limiting global warming to 2°C.

However, the "intended nationally determined contributions" in the Paris agreement, those contributions that countries actually committed to, add up to a predicted warming of 3°C. These commitments are not even legally binding: countries may at any point opt out or simply ignore their promises, and there would be no consequences. At G7 and G20 summits similarly "ambitious" non-binding and ambiguous declarations have been announced.

**Pay attention to what countries actually commit to in signing these agreements, and whether or not there are mechanisms to verify if they fulfil their obligations.**

**A WIDE RANGE OF TECHNOFIX**

**SOLUTIONS**, from geoengineering cloud formations to somehow storing carbon in underground boxes, directly extracting greenhouse gases from the atmosphere, or putting mirrors into the atmosphere to shield us from solar radiation.

These proposals are slightly more effective than believing that unicorns will save us, but compared to unicorns they are far more dangerous, and involve experimenting with the Earth's climate system as a whole. They are referred to by policy-makers to create distraction and confusion, and in short are telling us: "Don't worry, we don't need to cut emissions that much."

**Be careful when they talk about "negative emissions" rather than actual emissions.**

The fossil fuel industry tells us "everything is fine", and this is parroted by governments. Buying into these narratives could translate to an **"ambition deficit"** in the climate justice movement.

**FACT-CHECK YOUR GOALS, AND JOIN THE FIGHT TO CHANGE EVERYTHING.**



[www.climaximo.pt](http://www.climaximo.pt)

Background photo: Ian Britton