

# The history and basics of sustainable development

*What is it, how has it evolved, challenges and opportunities...*

DISCOVER YOUR WORLD



# Personalised introduction of/by the speaker

Speaker

DISCOVER YOUR WORLD

# SUSTAINABILITY – SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

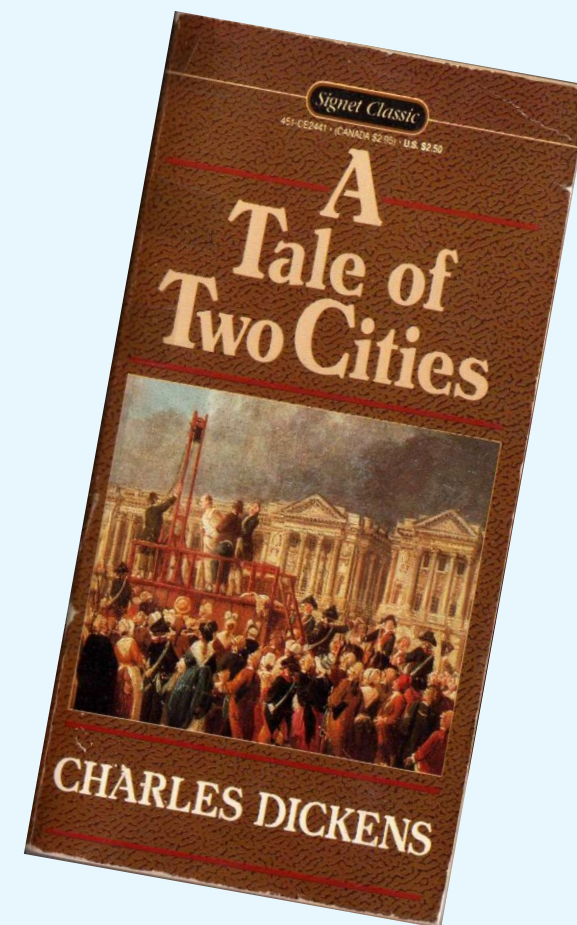
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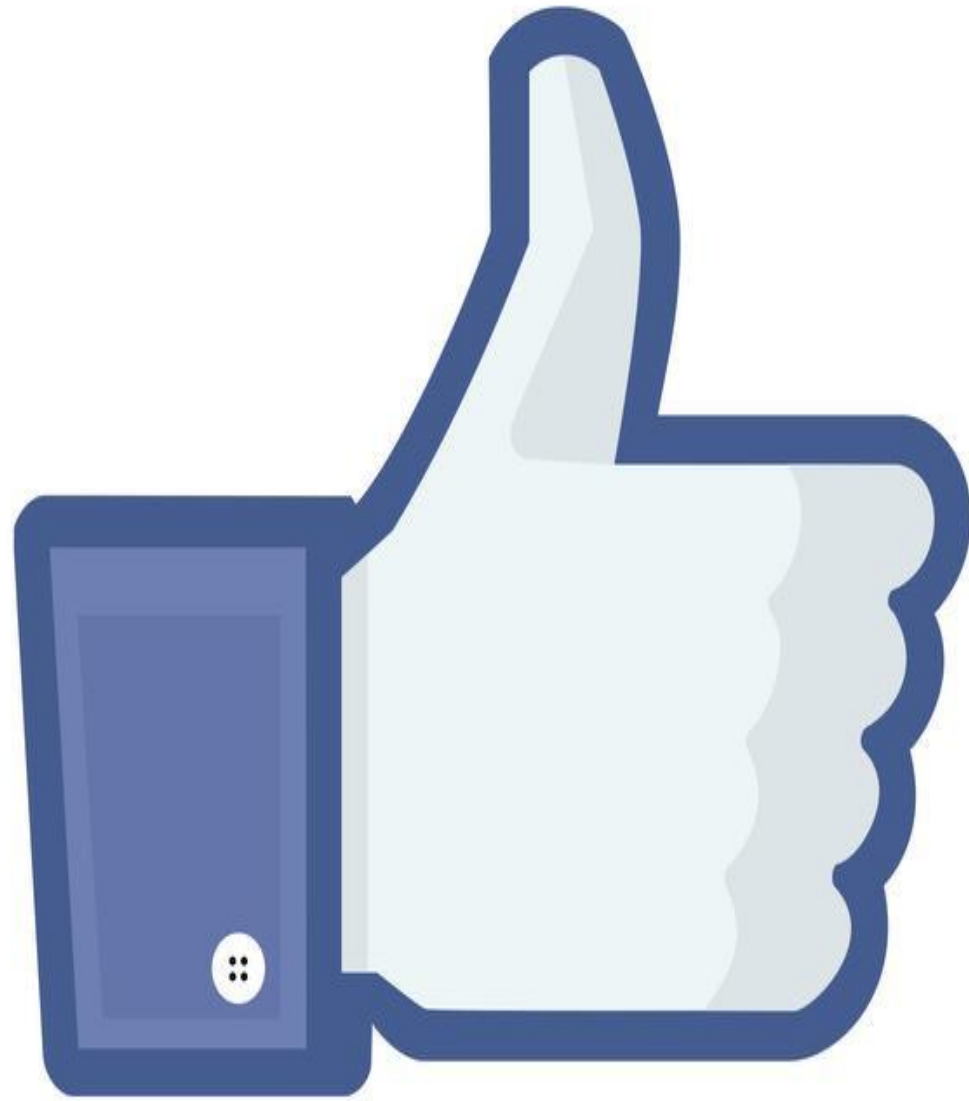


# Tale of two cities

“

*It was the best of times, it was the worst of times,  
it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness,  
it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity,  
it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness,  
it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair...*







PARIS 2015

UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE

COP21·CMP11



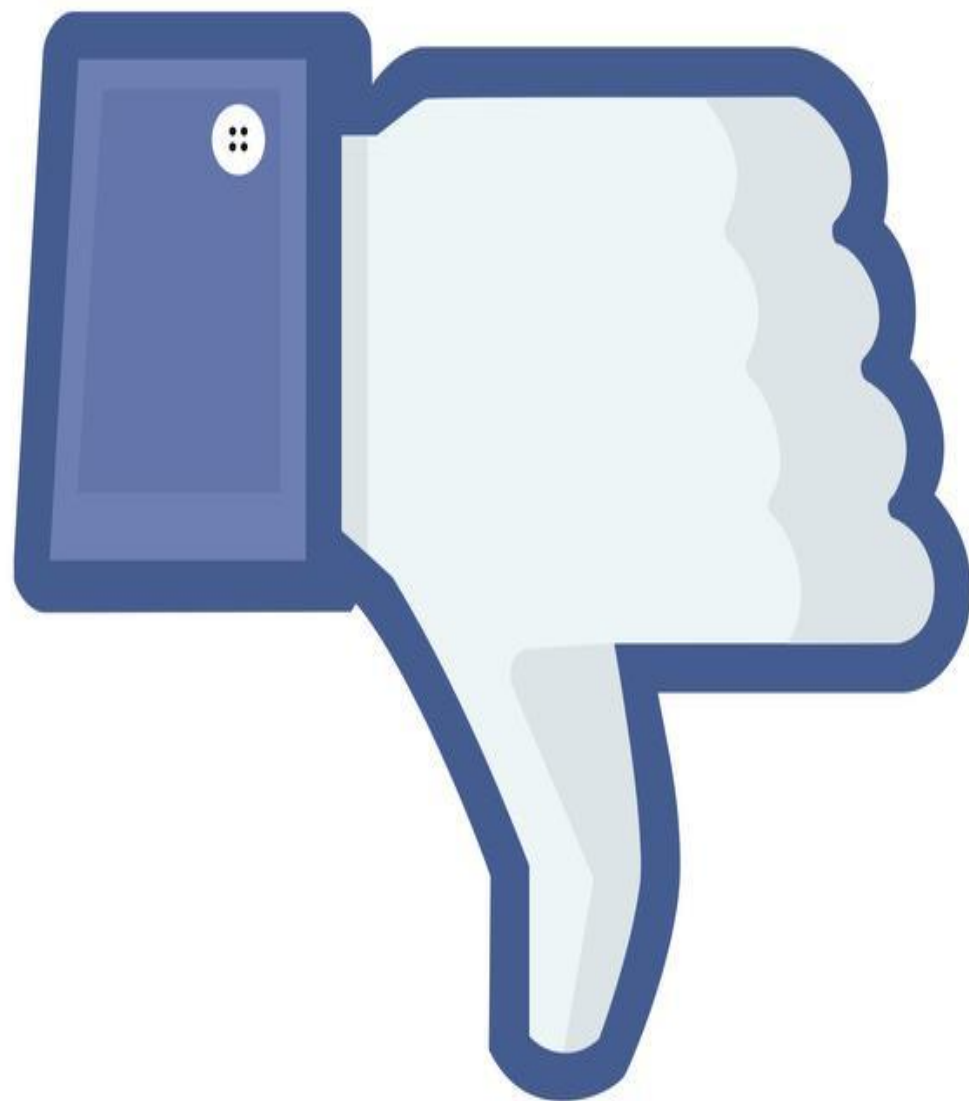


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KLIMAATZAAK



# The UN climate summit ended in bitterness and accusations of betrayal. Now fears are growing for its future

Analysis by [Laura Paddison](#), CNN Senior Climate Reporter  
⌚ 4 minute read · Published 10:10 AM EST, Mon November 25, 2024

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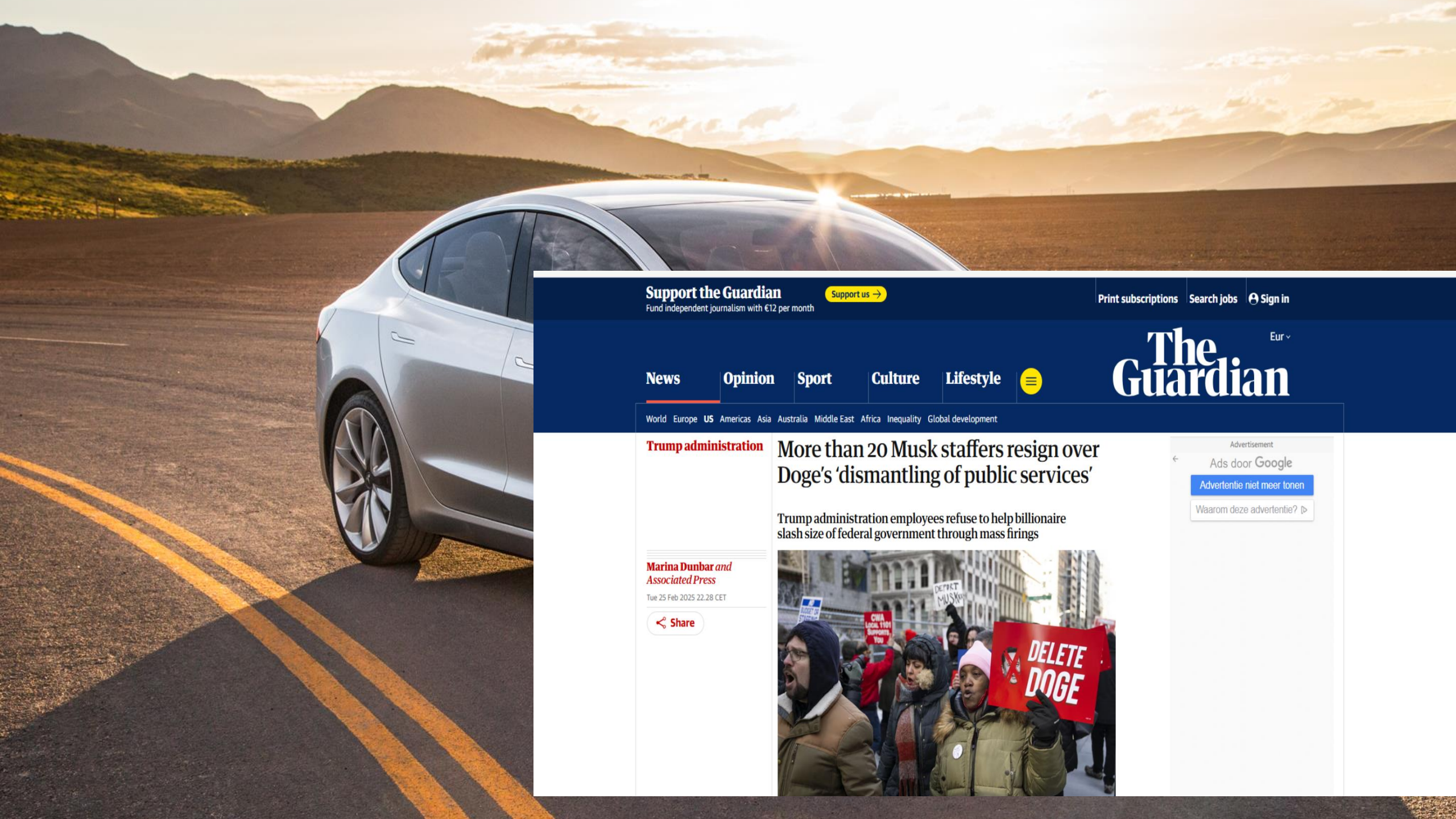
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Trump administration

## More than 20 Musk staffers resign over Doge's 'dismantling of public services'

Trump administration employees refuse to help billionaire slash size of federal government through mass firings

Marina Dunbar and  
Associated Press

Tue 25 Feb 2025 22:28 CET

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## Landmark Climate Change Case Overturned: The Hague Court of Appeals Overturns Ruling Ordering Shell to Reduce CO2 Emissions

NOVEMBER 13, 2024 | COMMENTARY

### In Short

**The Ruling:** On November 12, 2024, The Hague Court of Appeals overturned the landmark climate change litigation case that imposed a 45% CO2 reduction obligation on Shell.

**The Result:** The Hague Court of Appeals established that companies have an obligation to reduce CO2 emissions and failing to take adequate reduction measures may constitute a violation of human rights and lead to liability. However, the Dutch civil courts cannot impose a specific reduction target, as long as there is no scientific consensus on the necessary reduction in a specific sector and country.

**Looking Ahead:** This ruling confirmed a duty of care for companies to reduce CO2 emissions. While a specific reduction target cannot be imposed by the civil courts, companies that fail to implement adequate reduction measures may be subject to scrutiny and targeted in litigation. The court of appeals' judgment may still be appealed before the Dutch Supreme Court.

On May 26, 2021, The Hague District Court issued a ruling ordering Shell Plc (formally known as Royal Dutch Shell), the parent company of the Shell Group, to reduce the Shell Group's (scope 1, 2, and 3) emissions of greenhouse gases ("GHGs") by 45% in 2030, relative to 2019. The district court ruled in favor of the plaintiffs, Friends of the Earth The Netherlands ("FoE"), that—in short—Shell's duty of care required Shell to prevent climate change through its own emissions reduction, and that a failure to do so would constitute an imminent tort. This duty of care was construed based on, *inter alia*, the widespread international consensus that human rights offer protection against the impacts of dangerous climate change. In particular, the district court based this on the Paris Agreement, the [UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights](#), and other guidance.

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KLIMAATZAAK





# Tale of two c

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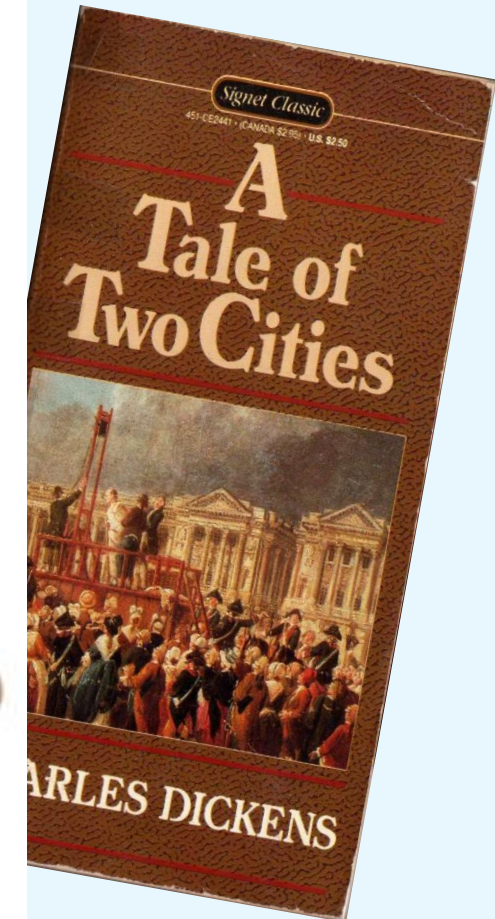
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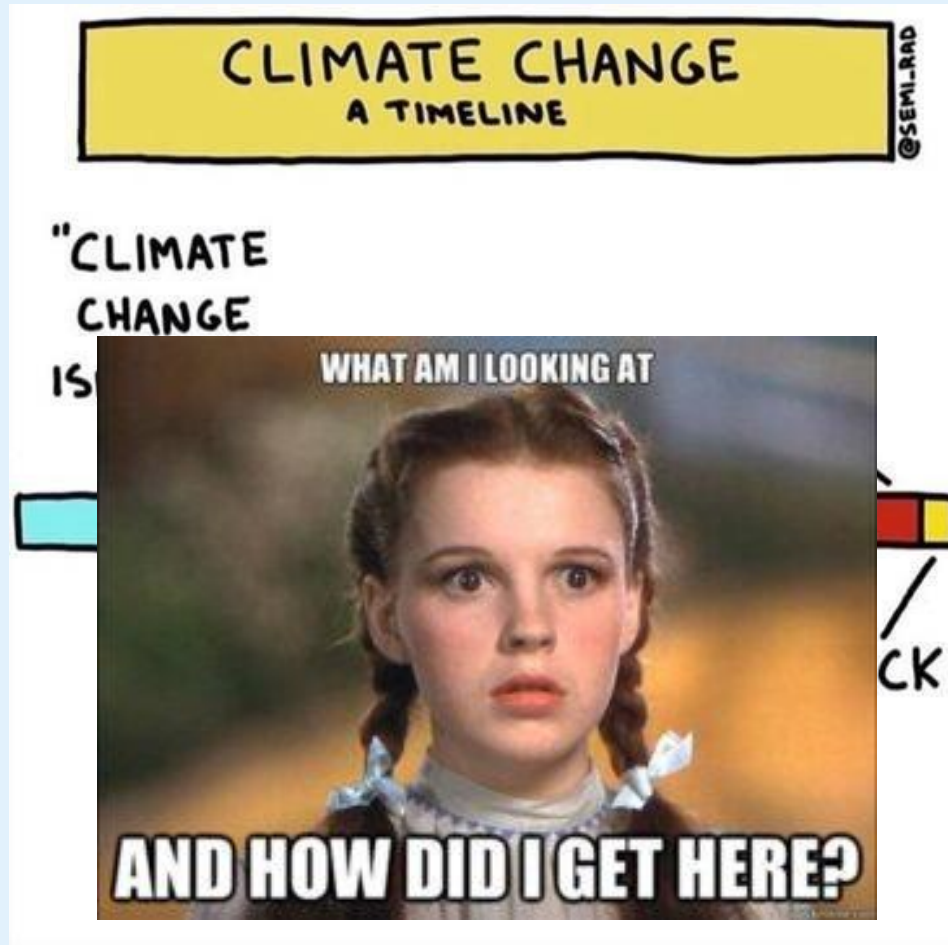
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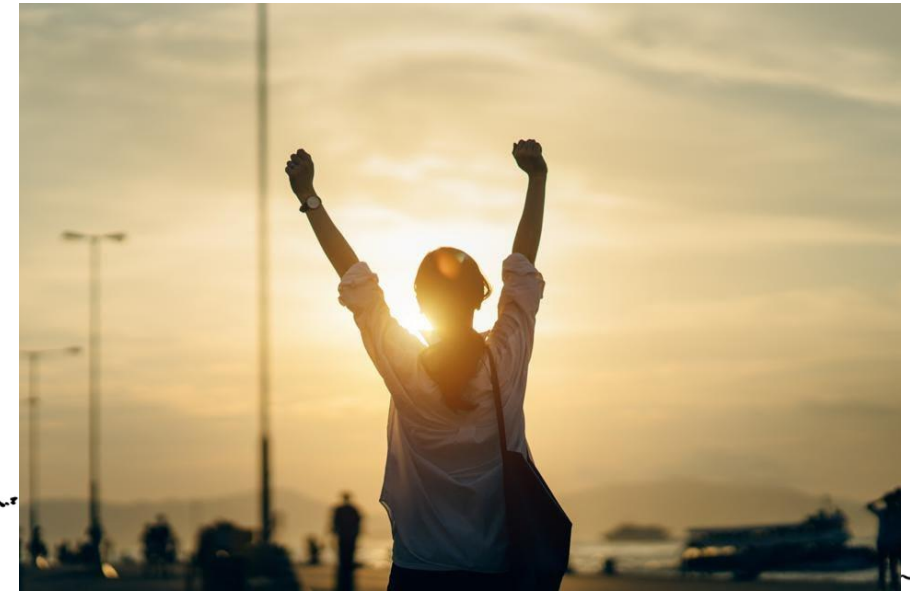
*it was the spri*



# The need to address sustainability...



- and quite a few other challenges that threaten our planet and, consequently, all of us...



# Let's start “from the beginning”...

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<https://climate-positive-education.org/history-sustainable-development/>

# Episode 1

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Let's watch it...

# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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How would you define “sustainable development”?

What is it?

What is it not?

What is included?

What is not included?

What are the most important elements?

What are less important elements?

What is the difference between sustainability and sustainable development?

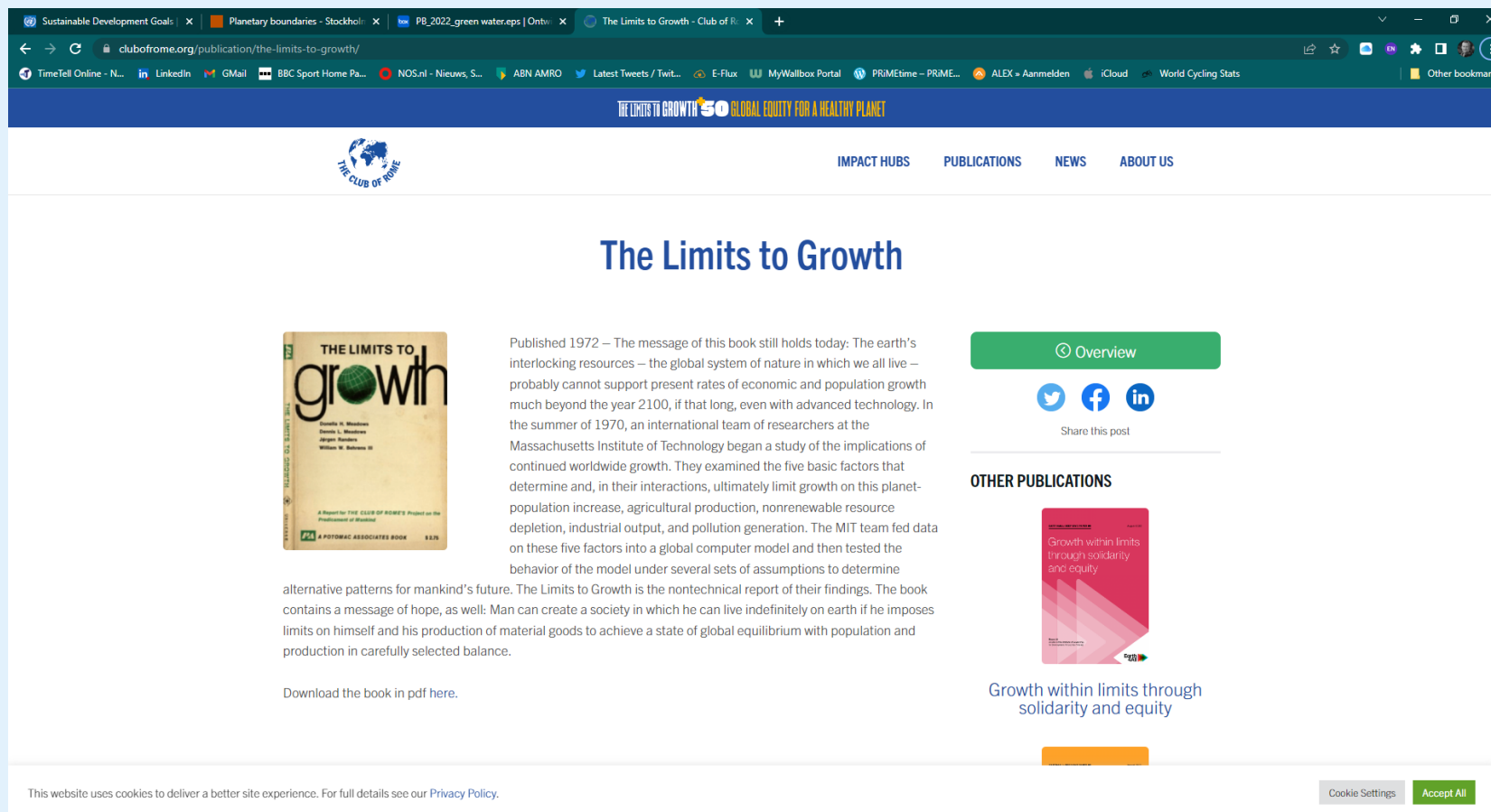
What kind of development is sustainable?

# Episode 3

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Let's watch it...

# Club of Rome: key message and what has happened since



The screenshot shows the Club of Rome website page for 'The Limits to Growth'. The page features the Club of Rome logo, navigation links (IMPACT HUBS, PUBLICATIONS, NEWS, ABOUT US), and the title 'The Limits to Growth'. Below the title, there is a book cover image and a detailed description of the book's publication in 1972. The text explains that the book's message remains relevant today, discussing the earth's interlocking resources and the global system of nature. It mentions that the book was published in the summer of 1970, based on a study by researchers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The study examined five basic factors: population increase, agricultural production, nonrenewable resource depletion, industrial output, and pollution generation. The MIT team used a global computer model to test the behavior of the model under various assumptions to determine alternative patterns for mankind's future. The book contains a message of hope, stating that a society can be created where humans live indefinitely on Earth by imposing limits on themselves and their production of material goods to achieve a state of global equilibrium with population and production in a carefully selected balance. A link to download the book in PDF is provided. On the right side, there is an 'Overview' button, social media sharing options (Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn), and a section for 'OTHER PUBLICATIONS' featuring a book titled 'Growth within limits through solidarity and equity'. At the bottom, there is a cookie consent banner.

clubofrome.org/publication/the-limits-to-growth/

## The Limits to Growth

Published 1972 – The message of this book still holds today: The earth's interlocking resources – the global system of nature in which we all live – probably cannot support present rates of economic and population growth much beyond the year 2100, if that long, even with advanced technology. In the summer of 1970, an international team of researchers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology began a study of the implications of continued worldwide growth. They examined the five basic factors that determine and, in their interactions, ultimately limit growth on this planet: population increase, agricultural production, nonrenewable resource depletion, industrial output, and pollution generation. The MIT team fed data on these five factors into a global computer model and then tested the behavior of the model under several sets of assumptions to determine alternative patterns for mankind's future. The Limits to Growth is the nontechnical report of their findings. The book contains a message of hope, as well: Man can create a society in which he can live indefinitely on earth if he imposes limits on himself and his production of material goods to achieve a state of global equilibrium with population and production in carefully selected balance.

[Download the book in pdf here.](#)

Overview

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Growth within limits through solidarity and equity

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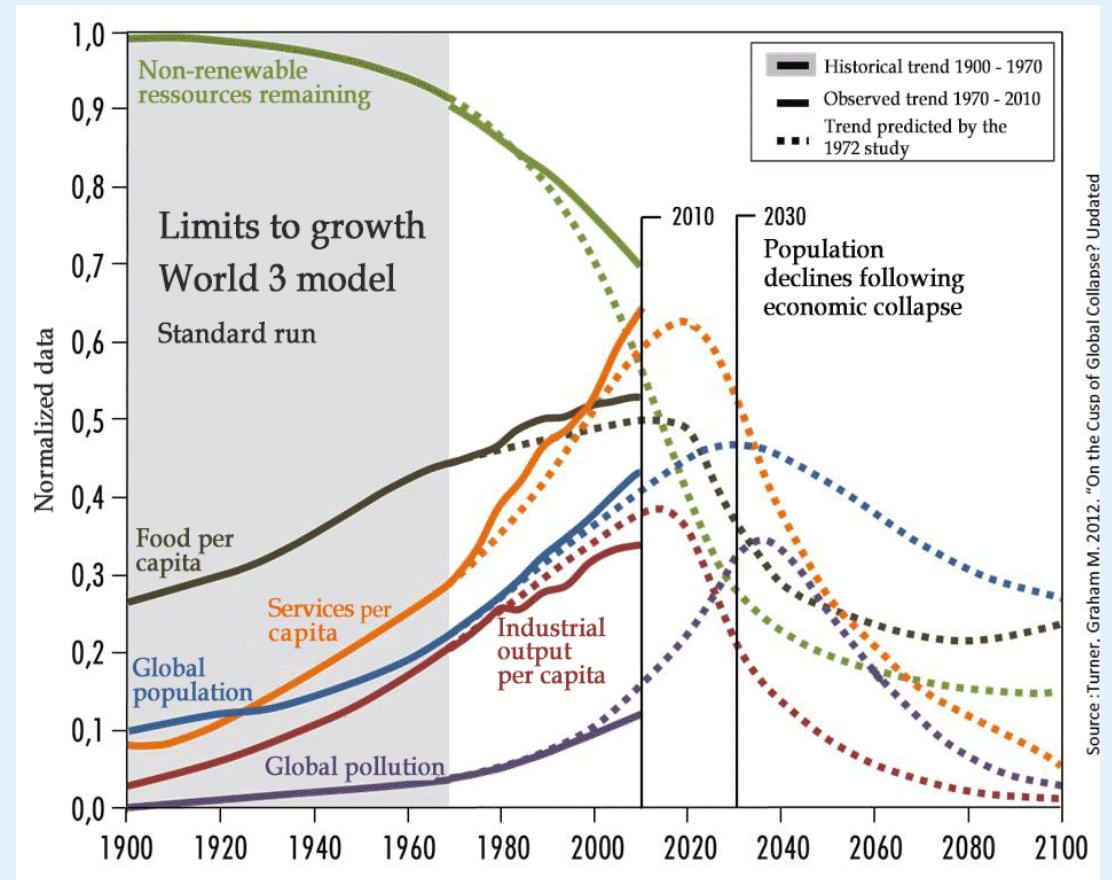
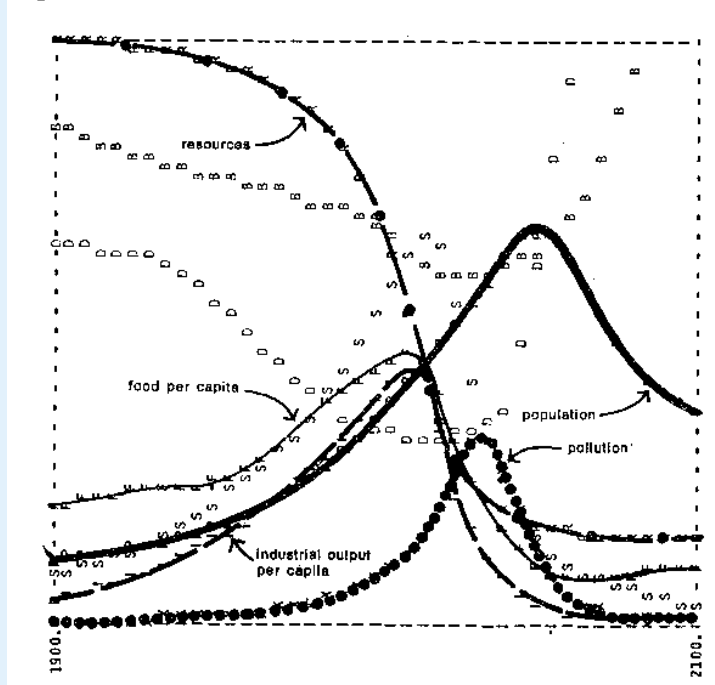
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1972!!!

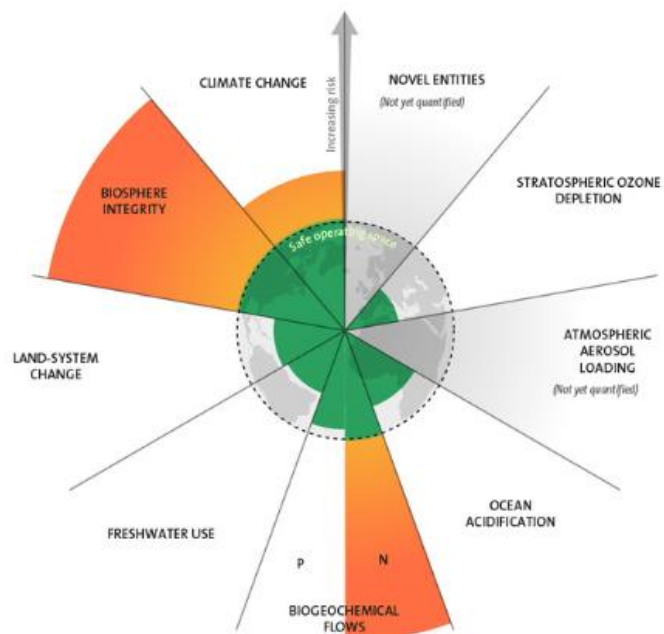
<https://www.clubofrome.org/publication/the-limits-to-growth/>

# Club of Rome: key message

Figure 35 WORLD MODEL STANDARD RUN

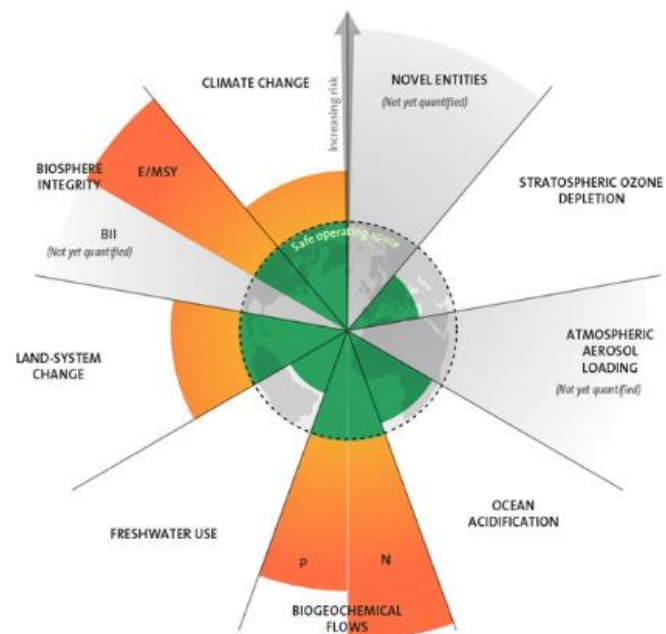


# 2009



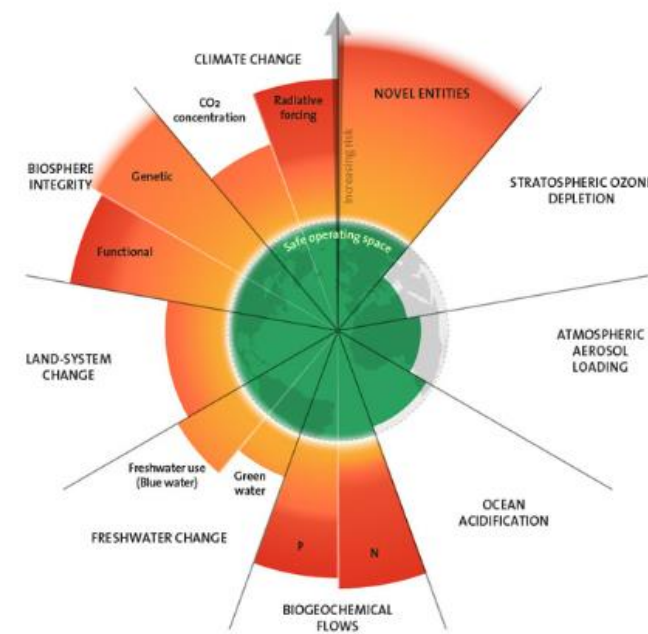
7 boundaries assessed,  
3 crossed

# 2015

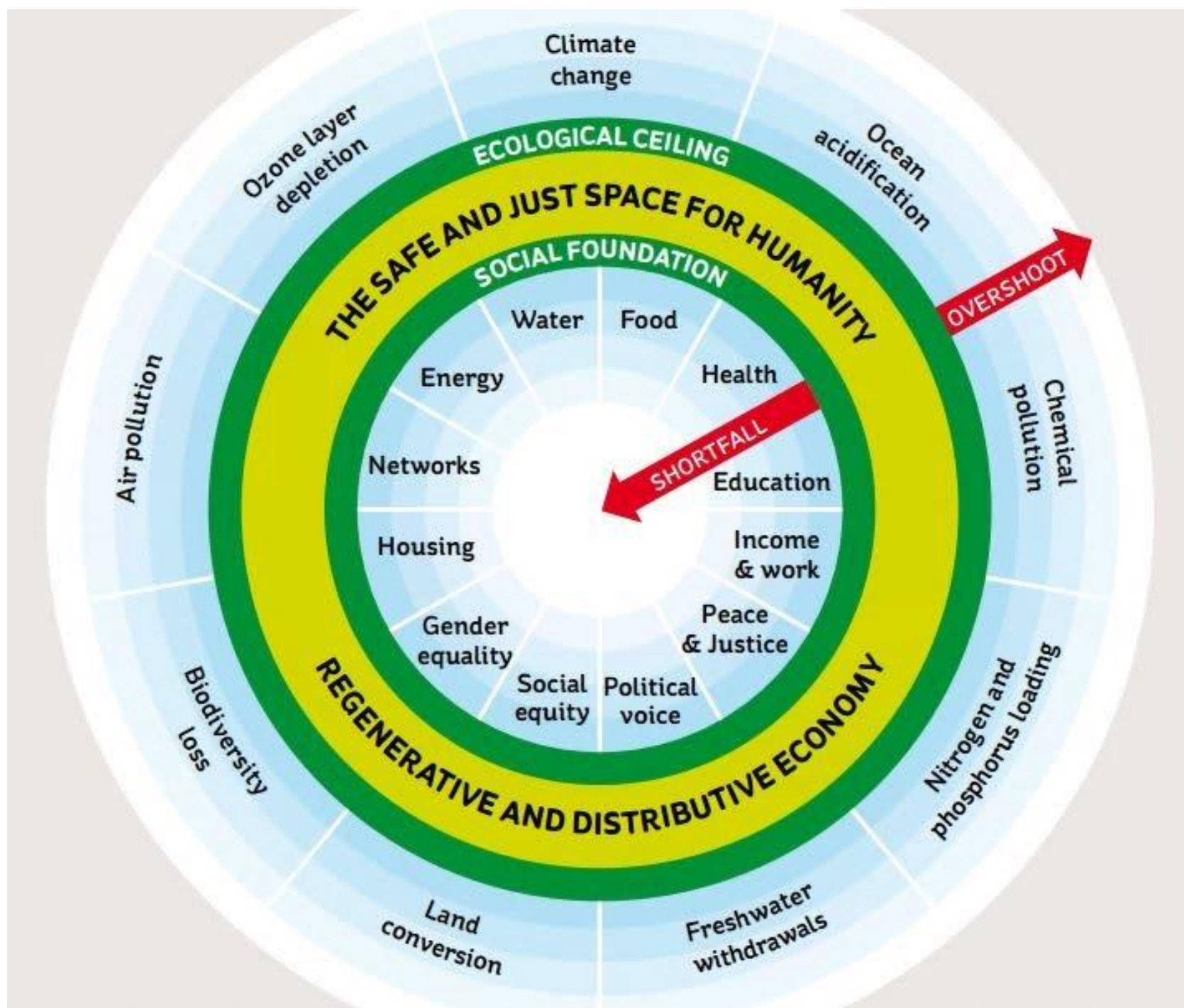


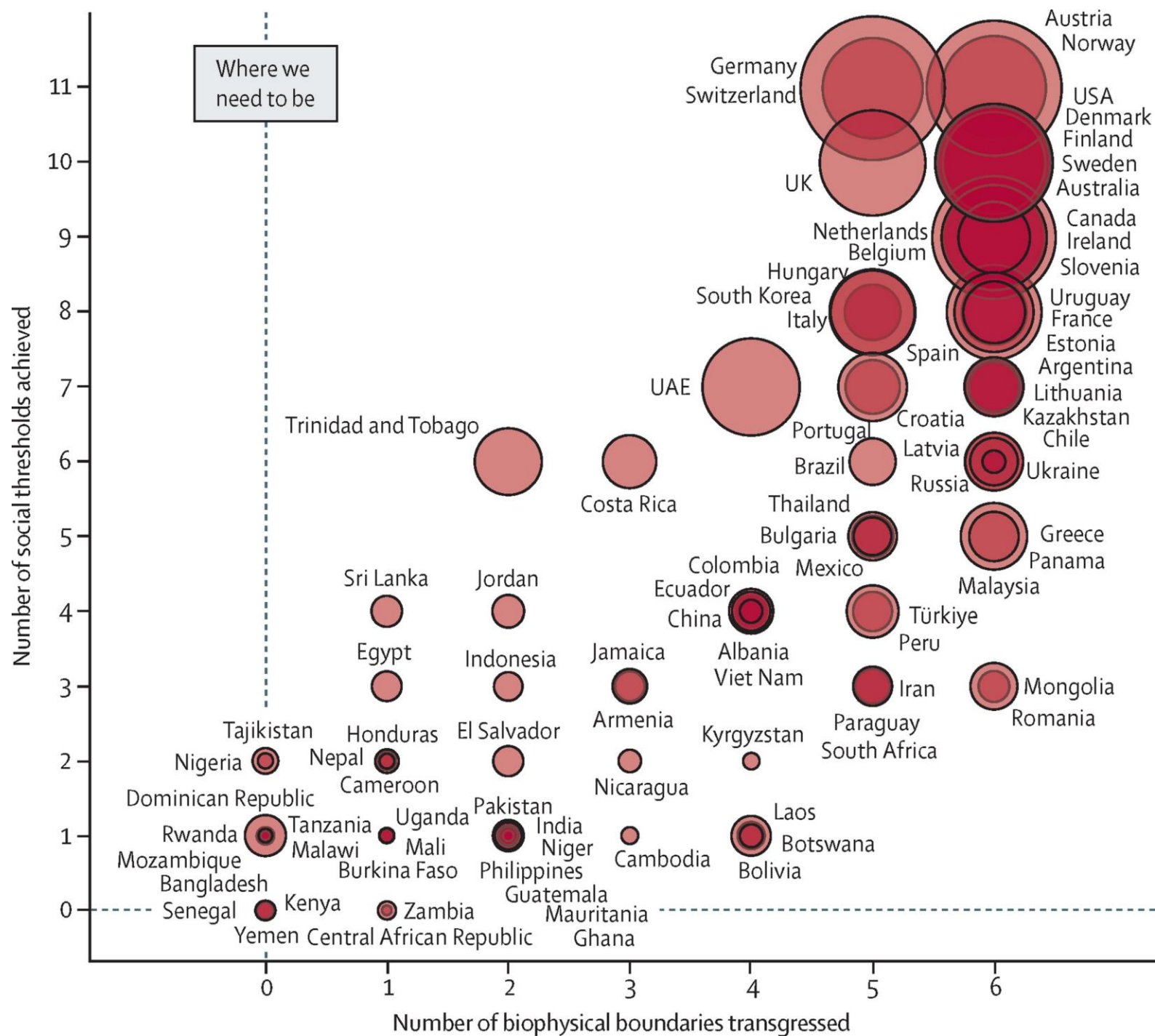
7 boundaries assessed,  
4 crossed

# 2023



9 boundaries assessed,  
6 crossed





# We've known this for quite some time now...

The screenshot shows a web browser displaying the Club of Rome website. The page title is "The Limits to Growth" and the URL is "clubofrome.org/publication/the-limits-to-growth/". The page features a header with the Club of Rome logo and navigation links: "IMPACT HUBS", "PUBLICATIONS", "NEWS", and "ABOUT US". The main content area includes a book cover for "The Limits to Growth" and a detailed description of the book's publication in 1972. The description states: "Published 1972 – The message of this book still holds today: The earth's interlocking resources – the global system of nature in which we all live – probably cannot support present rates of economic and population growth much beyond the year 2100, if that long, even with advanced technology. In the summer of 1970, an international team of researchers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology began a study of the implications of continued worldwide growth. They examined the five basic factors that determine and, in their interactions, ultimately limit growth on this planet: population increase, agricultural production, nonrenewable resource depletion, industrial output, and pollution generation. The MIT team fed data on these five factors into a global computer model and then tested the behavior of the model under several sets of assumptions to determine alternative patterns for mankind's future. The Limits to Growth is the nontechnical report of their findings. The book contains a message of hope, as well: Man can create a society in which he can live indefinitely on earth if he imposes limits on himself and his production of material goods to achieve a state of global equilibrium with population and production in carefully selected balance." Below the description is a link to "Download the book in pdf here." To the right of the main text, there is a green "Overview" button, social media sharing icons for Twitter, Facebook, and LinkedIn, and a section titled "OTHER PUBLICATIONS" featuring a book cover for "Growth within limits through solidarity and equity". At the bottom of the page, there is a cookie consent banner that reads: "This website uses cookies to deliver a better site experience. For full details see our Privacy Policy." with buttons for "Cookie Settings" and "Accept All".

clubofrome.org/publication/the-limits-to-growth/

THE LIMITS TO GROWTH 50 GLOBAL EQUITY FOR A HEALTHY PLANET

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## The Limits to Growth

Published 1972 – The message of this book still holds today: The earth's interlocking resources – the global system of nature in which we all live – probably cannot support present rates of economic and population growth much beyond the year 2100, if that long, even with advanced technology. In the summer of 1970, an international team of researchers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology began a study of the implications of continued worldwide growth. They examined the five basic factors that determine and, in their interactions, ultimately limit growth on this planet: population increase, agricultural production, nonrenewable resource depletion, industrial output, and pollution generation. The MIT team fed data on these five factors into a global computer model and then tested the behavior of the model under several sets of assumptions to determine alternative patterns for mankind's future. The Limits to Growth is the nontechnical report of their findings. The book contains a message of hope, as well: Man can create a society in which he can live indefinitely on earth if he imposes limits on himself and his production of material goods to achieve a state of global equilibrium with population and production in carefully selected balance.

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Overview

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1972!!!

<https://www.clubofrome.org/publication/the-limits-to-growth/>

# A “new” Club of Rome?

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WHO should be in it and what should they do?

Which people?

... and why?

What will be their role as a “club”?

... and why?

What will be the specific roles of specific people within that club?

... and why?

# Episode 4

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Watch it in preparation for the next lecture...

<https://climate-positive-education.org/history-sustainable-development/>

# Next time...

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Short recap of this first lecture

Episode 5

Sustainable Development Goals

... how to (better) measure progress

Episode 6

... how to (better) stimulate progress

Final thoughts and reflection

Thank you!

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of applied sciences

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empowering young professionals  
on their journey  
to shape a better world