



## THE CARBON BUDGET

The carbon budget provided by the [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change<sup>1\)</sup>](#) Synthesis Report, AR5, is used as a basis for calculating the Carbon Budget; **the emission-space left** at the global level to deliver on the temperature commitments set in the Paris Agreement.

[Christiana Figueres](#) (was Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC for the Paris conference) likens the carbon budget to a bathtub that's already 60 percent full. If you keep adding water, at some point in the near future the tub will overflow. Greenhouse gases concentration must stabilize at somewhere in between<sup>2)</sup> 430 and 480 parts per million of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent (it was 405.85ppm on September 18 2018)

To divide this global budget that we have left, into national budgets, the budgets of the low income countries are first calculated (depending on when they will peak, i.e. when they will start to actually reduce emissions) and then the wealthy OECD countries, which should peak in 2020, divide the limited share that remains of the carbon budget, between them. Some countries have further disaggregated their national budget to the municipal level. Unfortunately, all countries do not take this as seriously as they should and there are still arguments on how the global budget should be divided.

Each country has developed a carbon reduction plan, an **INDC** (Intended Nationally Determined Contributions), with a 2050, CO<sub>2</sub> reduction target and sub-targets for every 10 years in between. See the "Transition Plans" box. Unfortunately, summing up the INDCs for all countries result in a CO<sub>2</sub> concentration far beyond the global CO<sub>2</sub> budget we have left, and will lead to a 3 to 4 degree temperature increase! **We the people have to request our governments to increase the INDC submitted.** There will be a global INDC revision in 2022.

### How will we do that?

Follow 'it is about us'. We will create awareness and spread information about **INDCs** as well as the division and balance left of the global **Carbon Budget**, and we will support campaigns to increase the INDCs and to reach agreements on the division of the national Carbon Budgets.

Every day we add more CO<sub>2</sub> to the atmosphere, with just about every activity we do. Most of the CO<sub>2</sub> remains in the atmosphere for 30 to 100 years! 20% of the CO<sub>2</sub> can stay in the atmosphere for **thousands of years**. We must become aware of what we do and we; the countries and the people, must stay within our budget; that is a must and it is to the benefit of everybody!