



Land Use, agriculture and net zero

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New targets, new context

Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets)
(Scotland) Act 2019:

- 75% by 2030,
- 90% by 2040
- net-zero by 2045

All sectors will need to do everything possible as fast as possible to meet 2030 target.

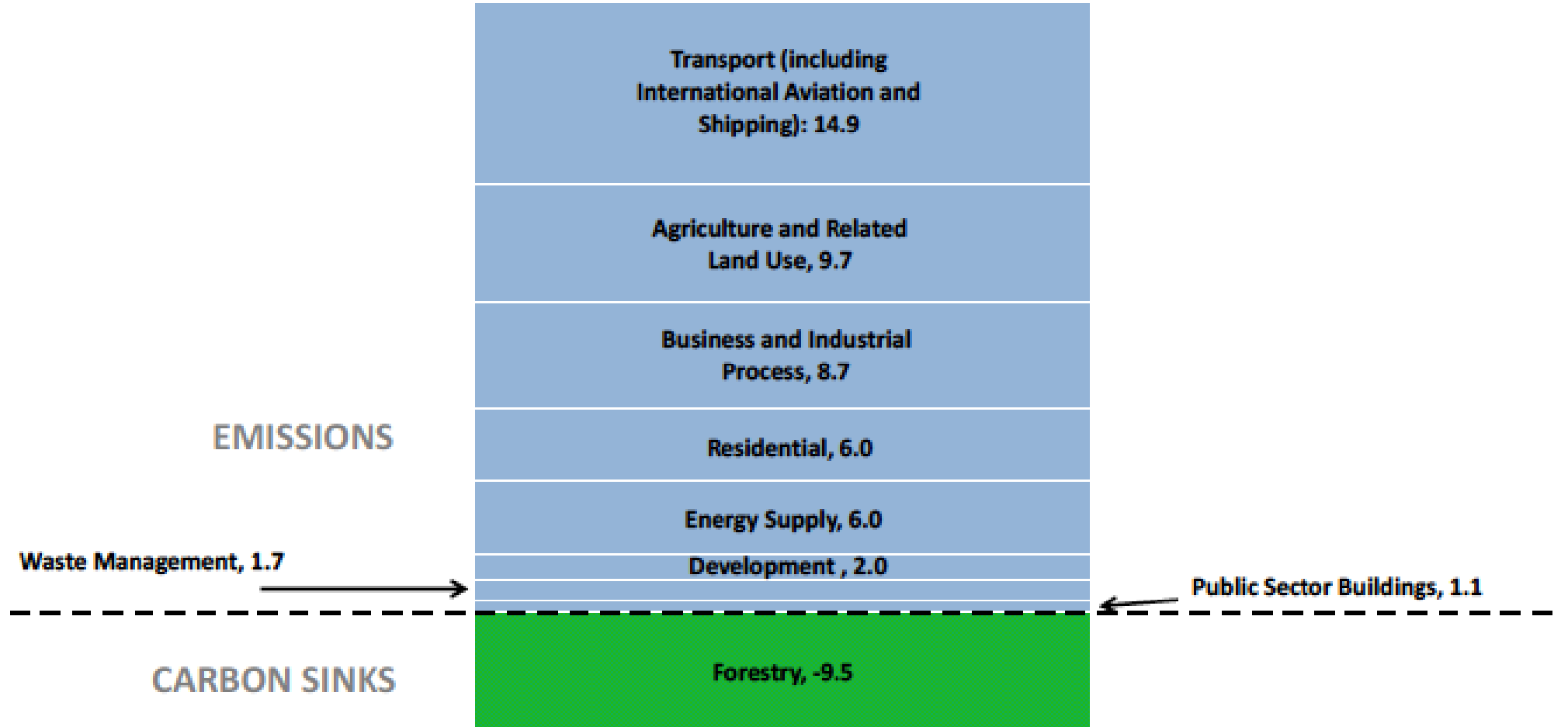


Land Use and net zero

“The net-zero target will not be met without changes in how we use our land. Those changes must start now.”

Committee on Climate Change

- Low-carbon farming practices
- Afforestation and agro-forestry
- Peatlands





Current approach to reducing emissions from agriculture

- Very low ambition - 9% reduction in emissions in Climate Change Plan (Transport - 37%, Buildings - 33%)
- Relies on education and voluntary behaviour change

There is a need for a step change in the government's approach to agricultural emissions

- Much greater ambition
- Less reliance on voluntarism

What does a step change look like?

- **Ambition** – WWF research suggested that agricultural GHG emissions in Scotland could be reduced by 35% by 2045.
- **A new approach** –
 - Mandatory soil testing, carbon audits, extension of Nitrate Vulnerable Zones
 - Reducing emissions at the heart of a new agricultural policy i.e. reducing emissions at heart of receiving public money
 - Investment in transformation in the agricultural industry
 - Much more focused and coordinated advice, training and skills development

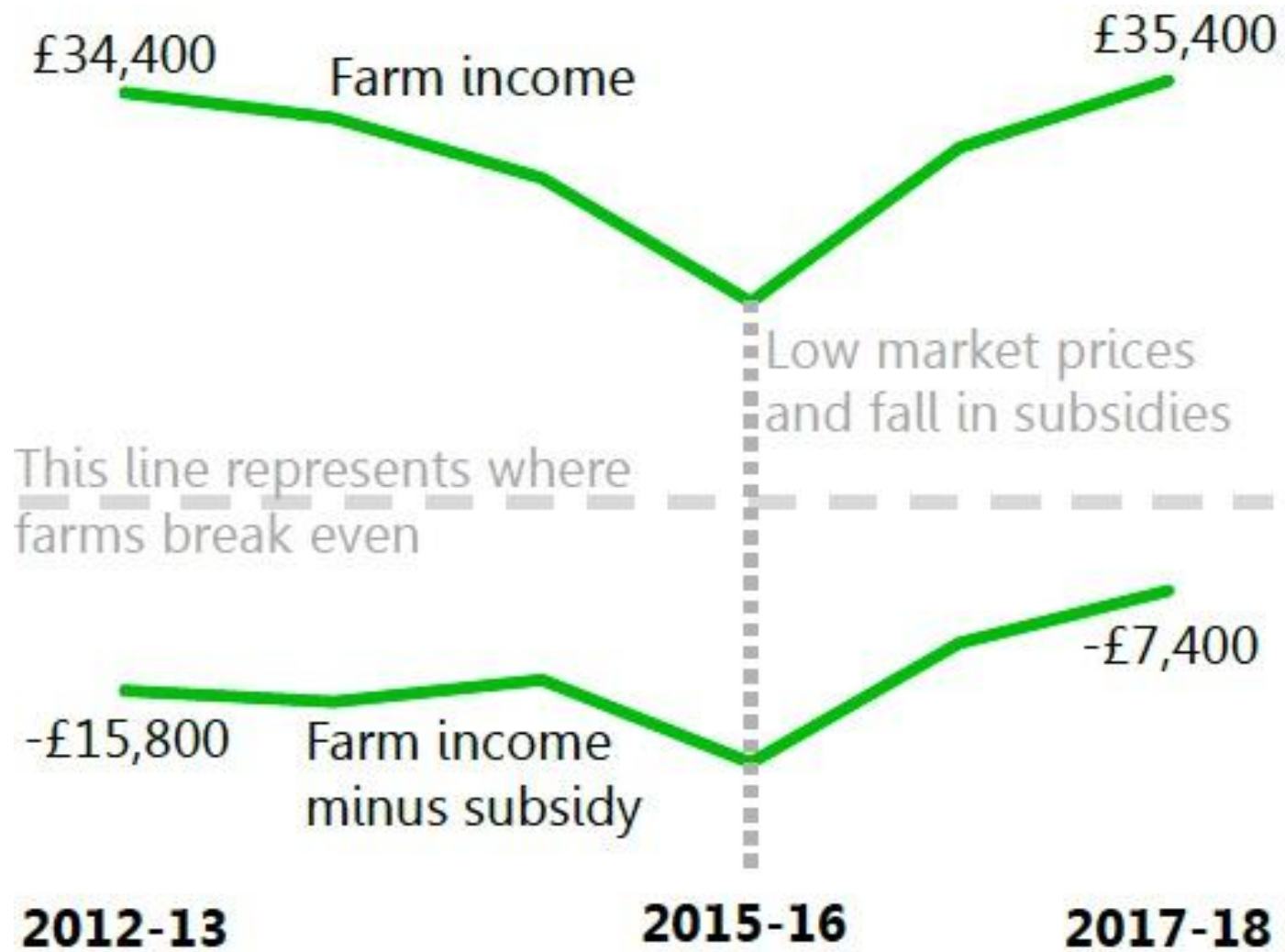


But this is a challenge...

Committee on Climate Change scenario:

- All measures adopted in agriculture
- 20% reduction in beef, lamb and dairy consumption
- 20% conversion of agricultural land to another use

**Challenging for farming – changing markets;
changing land management/skills**



The industry will need help for a rapid transition



Brings us back to the step change required...

We need to see a comprehensive change in approach from government with reducing emissions at the core:

- Government has to drive change (move away from voluntarism)
- Agricultural policy has to change to focus on delivering public goods/reducing emissions
- Help for the industry to facilitate change (funding/investment, advice, training, exit routes)



Afforestation & Agroforestry

Large scale woodland expansion is expected ... But what sort of new woodland and where?

Must avoid a repeat of the Flow Country

We want to see:

- More emphasis on native woodland
- More emphasis on natural regeneration
- Deer Working Group recommendations implemented
- A strategic approach at the regional level (RLUPs)



Peatlands

- £250M over 10 years on restoration very welcome

But

1. We need to aim to restore all peatland
2. There is a need for a coherent set of policies on peatlands

- Ban burning on peatlands
- End horticultural peat extraction
- End the sale of peat for horticultural use
- Invasive tree establishment on bogs



Invest in the
development of the
alternatives



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