

# A Cross Government Climate Network

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Collective for Climate Action

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MSc climate change and risk management



# The Collective for Climate Action

- ▶ About 2.5 years old
- ▶ Volunteers: public sector and some external
- ▶ Started in the Department of Environment Food and Rural Affairs (defra group)
  - ▶ Public and civil servants
  - ▶ Over 200 government organisations represented
- ▶ Now:
  - ▶ Councils
  - ▶ NHS
  - ▶ Teachers

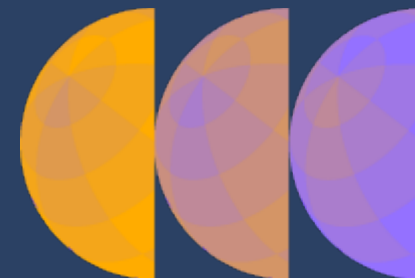


# Our Objective “Building ambition through understanding”

- ▶ There are others like us around the public sector
  - ▶ Doing educational events, newsletter, website, local action in local offices
- ▶ We are the only ones trying to bring everyone together on a platform to share knowledge
  - ▶ Huge amount of knowledge out there
  - ▶ Need to share
- ▶ As open as possible
  - ▶ Material on the website
  - ▶ Events
  - ▶ What we are doing outside of work is as important as within it
    - ▶ Engaging with communities if members were doing work at home
  - ▶ Engagement with charities



# Sharing information



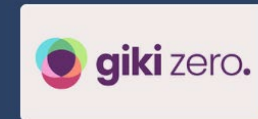
Climate  
Change  
Committee

- ▶ Climate Change Committee (2021 Progress Report to Parliament):
- ▶ Approximately 300 councils have declared a climate emergency
  - ▶ Many Don't have the expertise needed to do the work in many cases
  - ▶ More connection was needed in councils
- ▶ Councils, 141 on our platform
- ▶ Learning from each other
- ▶ Environment Agency working actively with us to share learning on work they have done
- ▶ UK Space Agency learning from Cornwall Council
- ▶ Astonishing amount of resource out there



# Partners and connections

- ▶ Collaboration is essential
  - ▶ Address time and expertise constraints
  - ▶ Promote
    - ▶ each other
    - ▶ our materials
    - ▶ our events
- ▶ Huge amount of good will out there
- ▶ Supportive community
  - ▶ Free training from CPA
  - ▶ Free premium resources from Giki zero
  - ▶ Unpaid speakers from Charities, academia and think tanks.



# The Cross Government Climate Hub

- ▶ Used like most slack workspaces
  - ▶ Profiles
  - ▶ Notifications
- ▶ Labour the networking side of it
- ▶ Having working groups for the major channels
  - ▶ Councils
  - ▶ NHS
- ▶ Growth Team
  - ▶ Actively reaching out to other organisations to bring them on board and use the platform



# The Cross Government Climate Hub

- ▶ Our group is taking a back seat
- ▶ Community member groups keep their identities on the platform
- ▶ About bringing us all together in a shared space
  - ▶ Innovation hub model
- ▶ Self selecting group of public servants
- ▶ Slack works well to break down silos



# Challenges: Platforms

- ▶ Initially Knowledge hub
- ▶ Now primarily slack
- ▶ Platform fatigue
  - ▶ Lockdown
  - ▶ .....another platform
  - ▶ Groups around the country in offices were lost
  - ▶ Commitments changed
- ▶ Platform access in certain areas
- ▶ Who do we allow on here?





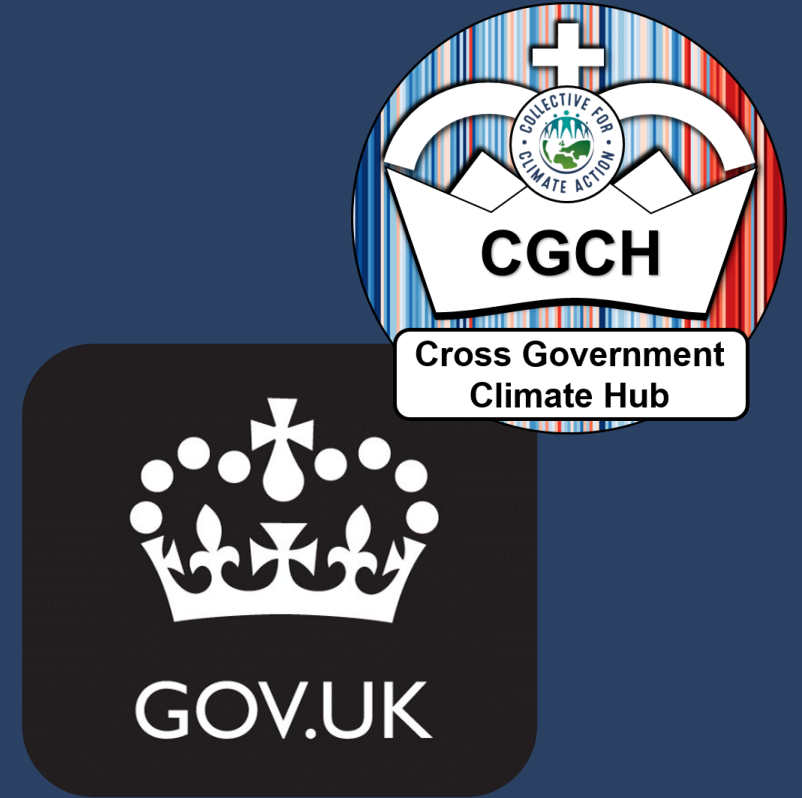
# Challenges: Time

- ▶ We are time pressured to address this
- ▶ Volunteers work differently with different capacities;
  - ▶ in spare time
  - ▶ as part of their role
  - ▶ doing both
  - ▶ Some cannot attend meetings (can only really be done in the day)
- ▶ Fatigue in members: burnout
  - ▶ Some leading and founding members lost



# Other Challenges

- ▶ Branding with .gov
- ▶ Sense of urgency
- ▶ Support from management
- ▶ Different parts of government have very different cultures
- ▶ Professional situation eg:
  - ▶ Civil servants
  - ▶ Arms length body



# Civil Servants

- ▶ Very different demands depending
- ▶ Citizens assembly
  - ▶ Discussions about the limits of action they can take within the Civil Service Code of Conduct
- ▶ Different identities of different departments
- ▶ We are launching a Citizens Assembly for Civil Servants to see how the sector can better address the climate emergency
- ▶ Cross platform promotion of events



# We need to build resilience

- ▶ Ambition is building
- ▶ So are the challenges
- ▶ We are the most unpredictable variable
- ▶ Everything is mapped out with a huge level of risk that would be unacceptable
- ▶ We need to be resilient with the resources we have
- ▶ We need to plan for greater impacts than we are aiming for
  - ▶ Environment Agency is planning for impacts of 4 degrees by 2100



The image shows a screenshot of a BBC News article. At the top, the BBC logo is visible, along with a user profile icon labeled "turk182" and navigation links for Home, News, and Sport. The main heading is "NEWS" in white on a red background. Below this, there are sub-navigation links: Home, Coronavirus, Climate, UK, World, Business, Politics, Tech, Science, and Health. The article is categorized under "Science & Environment". The main title is "Climate change: 'Adapt or die' warning from Environment Agency". The author is "By David Shukman, Science editor", and it was published "23 hours ago". There is a red share icon and a "Climate change" tag. The article features a large photograph of a flooded residential street with a sign that reads "BUTTERFIELD CLOSE CUL-DE-SAC". A portrait of a woman with short brown hair is overlaid on the right side of the image. The text "PA MEDIA" is visible in the bottom right corner of the photograph.



# We are getting noticed.

- ▶ We encourage members from all parts of the Collective to promote us but it falls to a select, committed few.
- ▶ We are gaining more attention from senior civil servants and getting invited to major networking events
- ▶ We will be pushing to provide access to the Cross Gov Climate Hub throughout the public sector through any opportunity possible
- ▶ We are also only just getting started

