Achieving Climate and Equity Outcomes: The Role of Policy Design for Effective and Durable Outcomes

Ben Cashore
**Presentation to panel,
"Equitable Climate Action:
Laws, Policies, and Finance for an Inclusive and Accountable Transition"**

Nov 19, 2024, COP side event, Baku Azerbeijan

**Professor & Director, Institute for Environment and Sustainability, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy
COP29 | November 19, 2024
Presentation to panel**

Lee Kuan Yew
School *of* Public Policy

IES INSTITUTE *for* ENVIRONMENT *and* SUSTAINABILITY

Context

- Two Ben Cashores

  - #1 Student of climate, forests and biodiversity governance for 30 years
  - #2 Director of new sustainability institute

Ben#2

Helping Build a Network-nested Sustainability Think Tank at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy

**IES In-house Team
LKYSPP Sustainability Faculty**

Affiliates

Academic
Singapore | ASEAN | Asia | Global

Faculty

Research Institutes

Practitioner
Singapore | ASEAN | Asia | Global

Sustainability Leaders

Agencies & Organizations

Four Key Nested Audiences

Singapore
Accelerating and diffusing sustainability policy pathways

Southeast Asia
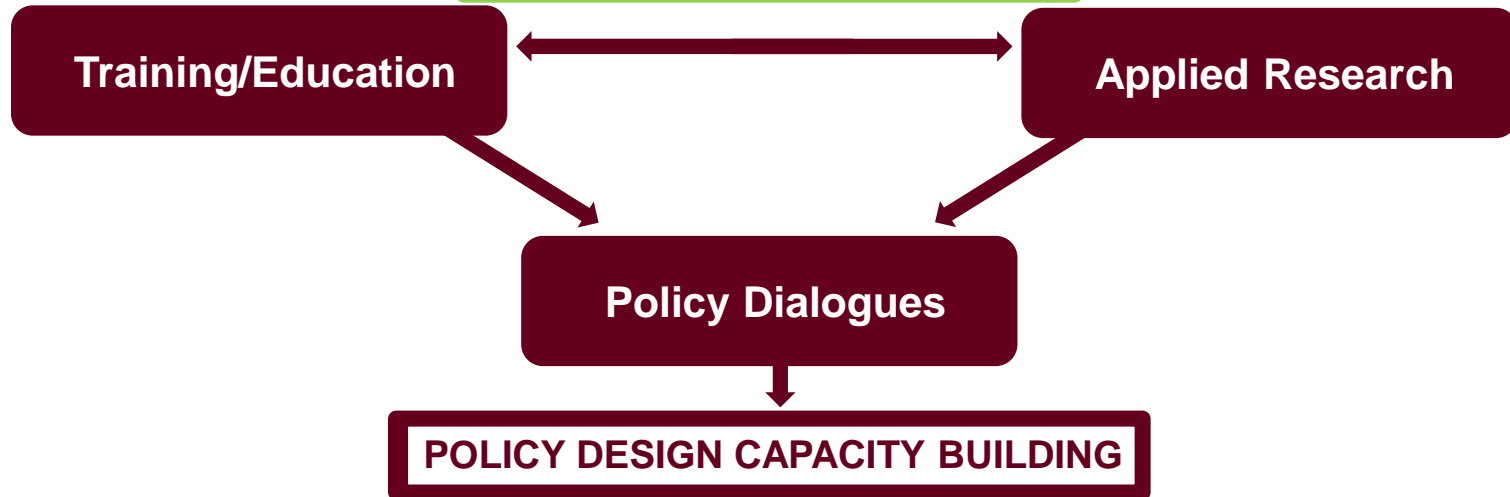Policy design capacity building for durable and effective outcomes

Asia
Lessons from, and for, regional success and cooperation

Global
Accelerating policy lessons from the South for effective global initiatives

IES Triangle Approach

Training/Education ↔ **Applied Research**

Policy Dialogues

POLICY DESIGN CAPACITY BUILDING

THEMATIC AREAS

Oceans & Water

Biodiversity & Land Use

Climate & Energy

Sustainable Livelihoods

IES value proposition: a university-based sustainability policy think tank for Southeast Asia and Asia

Asia

Southeast Asia

Fills a Gap:
Most are based in North America and Europe

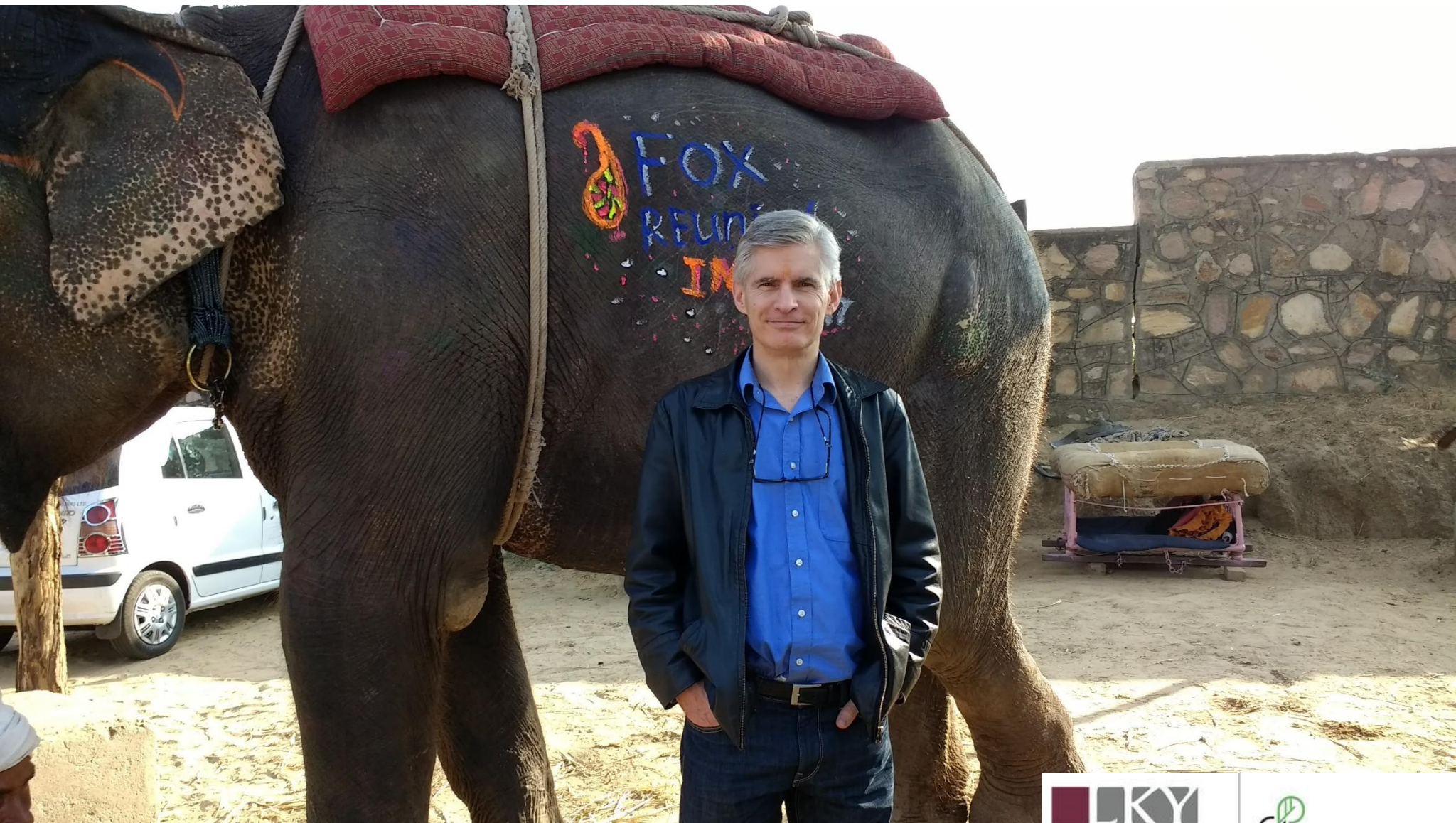

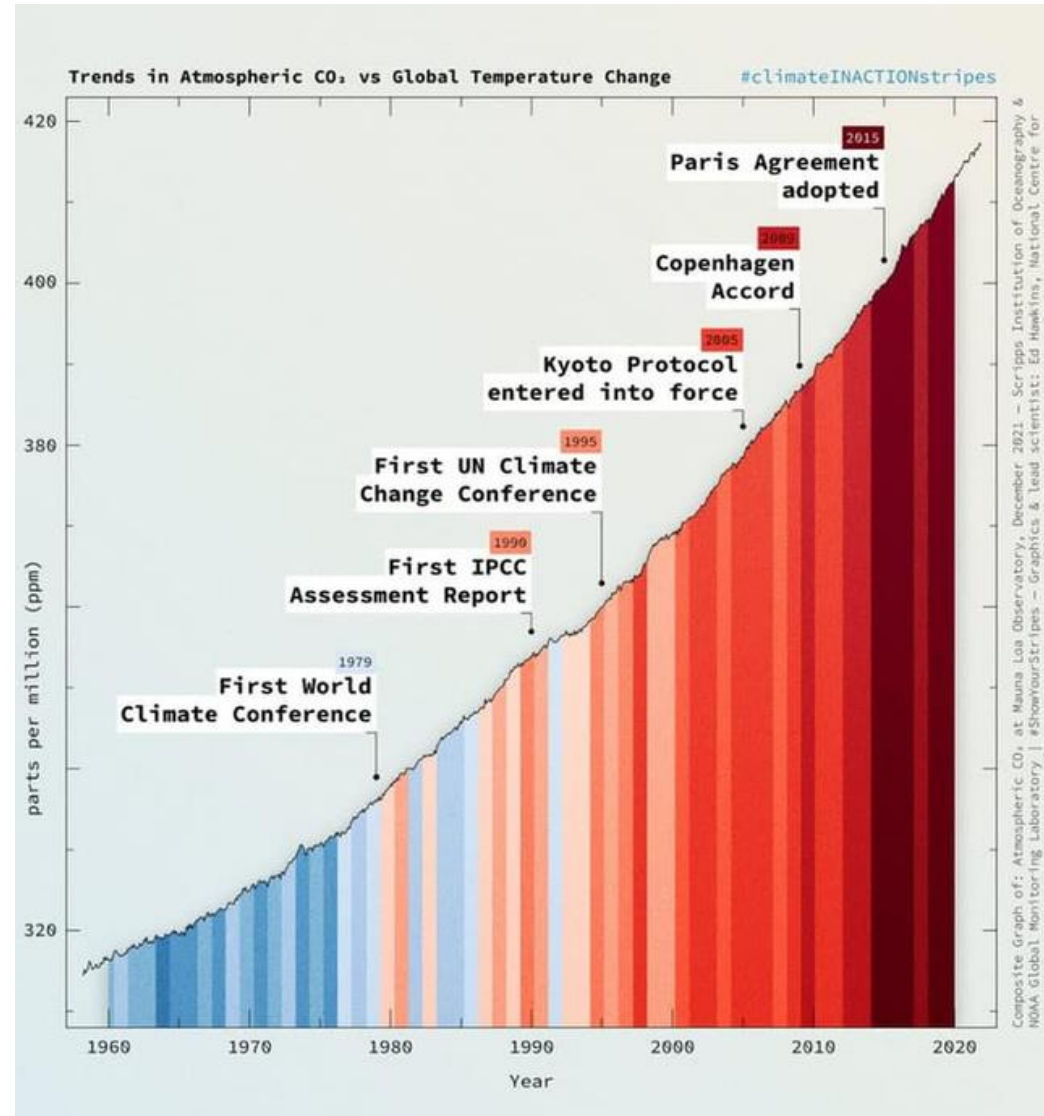North America

Europe

Ben #1: There is an Elephant in the Room

Problem-Solving Interventions, and the Problem Itself, are Both Accelerating

- **1992: Rio Earth Summit's Agenda 21 for sustainable development**
- **1997: Kyoto's binding commitments (5% below 1990 levels)**
- **2000: 8 "Millennium Development Goals" (MDGs)**
- **2007: Bali COP 13 agreement on financing for carbon and forests**
- **2012: Rio+20 "green economy"**
- **2015: Paris Accord's "non-binding" commitments to limit warming to 1.5/2°C, Reduce emissions below 2010 levels by 2030, "net zero" by 2050**
- **2015: 17 "Sustainable Development Goals" (SDG)**
- **2021: Glasgow's COP 26 agreement on financing for carbon and forests**

Trends in Atmospheric CO_2 vs Global Temperature Change   #climateINACTIONstripes

- Paris Agreement adopted — 2015
- Copenhagen Accord — 2009
- Kyoto Protocol entered into force — 2005
- First UN Climate Change Conference — 1995
- First IPCC Assessment Report — 1990
- First World Climate Conference — 1979

parts per million (ppm) — 320, 380, 400, 420
Year — 1960, 1970, 1980, 1990, 2000, 2010, 2020

Composite Graph of: Atmospheric CO_2 at Mauna Loa Observatory, December 2021 – Scripps Institution of Oceanography & NOAA Global Monitoring Laboratory; #ShowYourStripes - Graphics & lead scientist: Ed Hawkins, National Centre for

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Ben #2: The good news

Sustainability is now mainstream

Just transitions is central
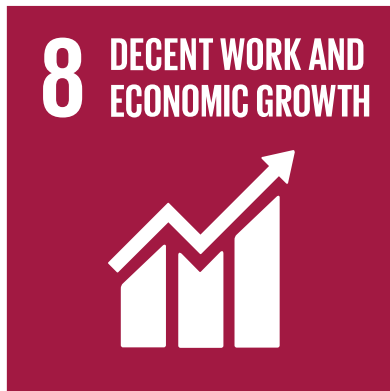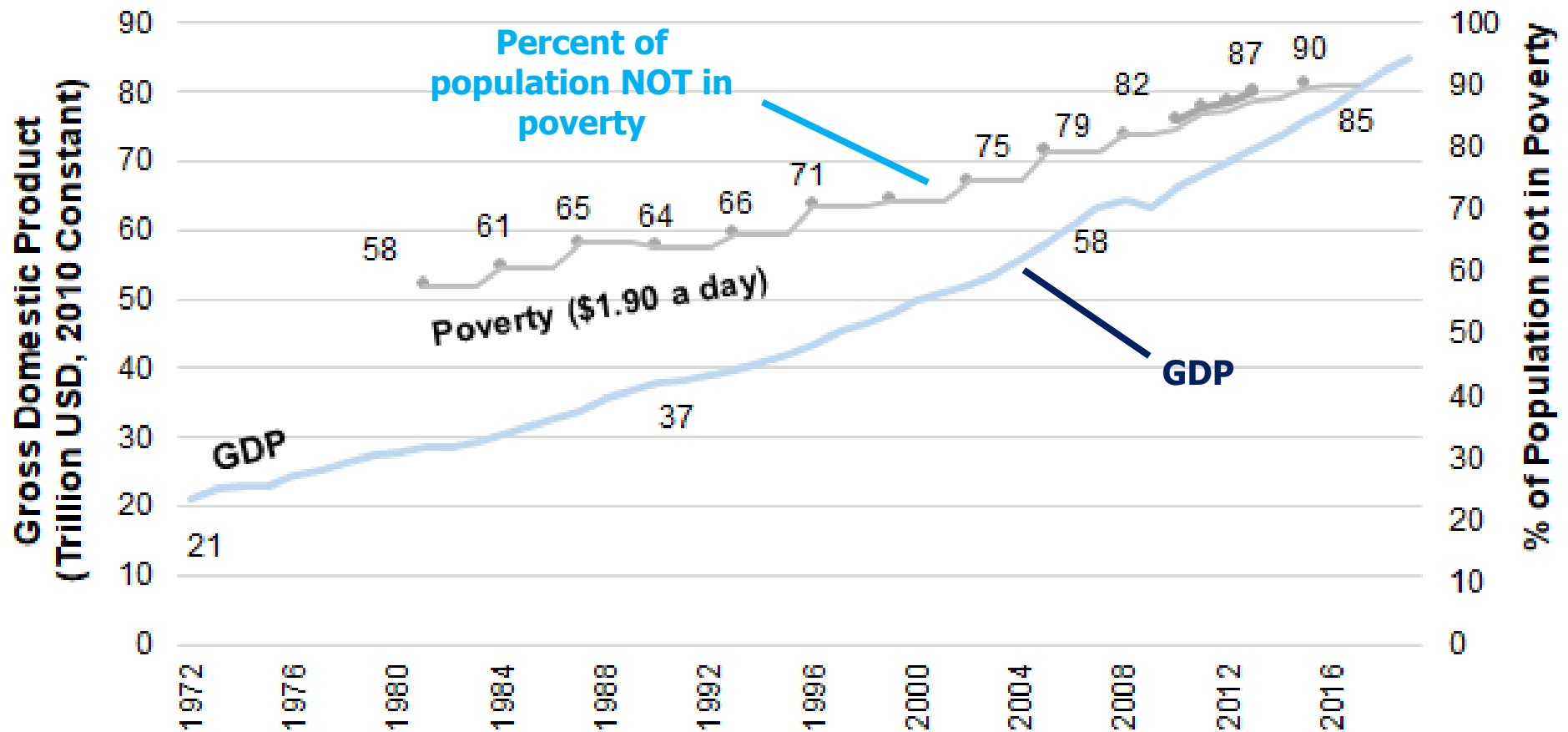
Progress Made on Some Problems

Poverty Alleviation

Economic Growth

World Economic Growth and Poverty Alleviation

Ben #2: Income inequality

A
BRIEF
HISTORY
of
EQUALITY
THOMAS
PIKETTY

Author of the *New York Times* Bestsellers
Capital and Ideology and *Capital in the Twenty-First Century*

By the author of international bestseller
Capital in the Twenty-First Century

THOMAS PIKETTY

NATURE,
CULTURE,
and
INEQUALITY

'Piketty has transformed our economic discourse.'
The New York Review of Books

Ben #1: Responsibilities for Climate Not Always Driving Climate Solutions

Historical Responsibilities

Emissions by wealth

theguardian.com/environment/2021/nov/05/carbon-top-1-percent-could-jeopardise-1point5c-global-heating-limit

🕐 This article is more than **2 months old**

Greenhouse gas emissions

'Luxury carbon consumption' of top 1% threatens 1.5C global heating limit

Richest 1% will account for 16% of total emissions by 2030, while poorest 50% will release one tonne of CO2 a year

Phoebe Weston

🐦 @phoeb0

Fri 5 Nov 2021 12.09 GMT

Ben #2: Consensus that Climate Solutions Must be Just and Equitable

Meeting the Paris Accord's goal of limiting warming to 1.5/2 ° Celsius

Peak carbon emissions by 2030 or earlier

Carbon neutrality ("net zero") by 2050

Just and equitable transitions

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The Question Remains

- How can effective climate solutions be designed to be equitable?

- My argument
  - Whether climate and equity outcomes are synergistic or not is not pre-ordained
  - Achieving both requires much greater attention to policy design and policy pathways

Policy levers can trigger change process
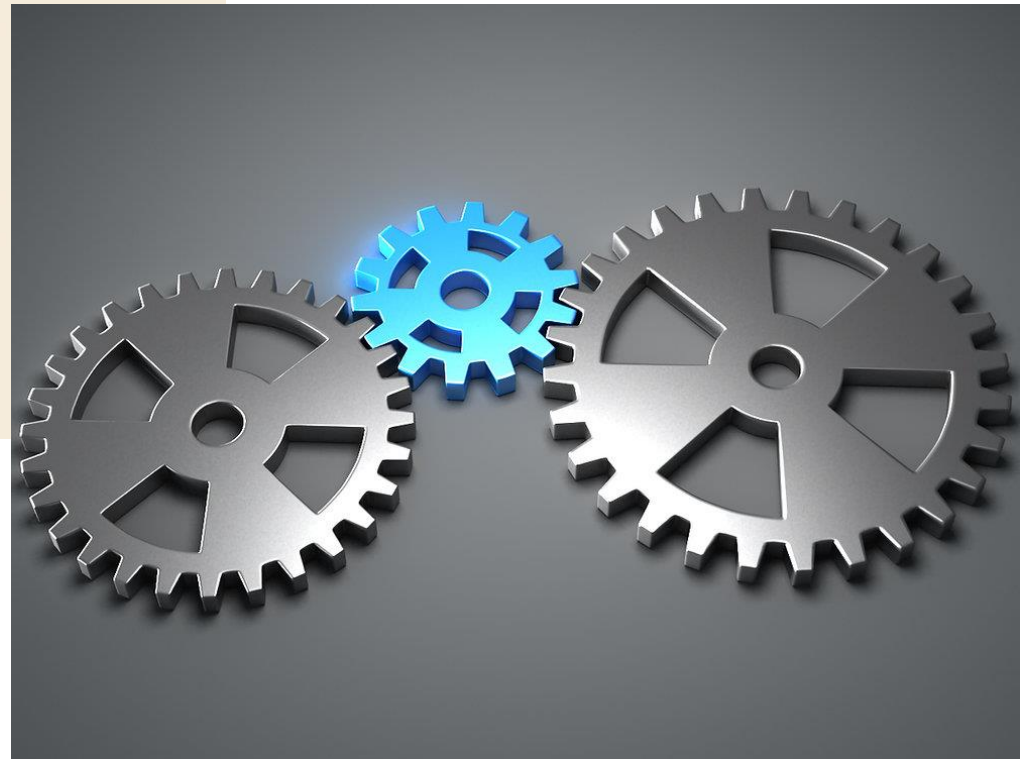
Through Multiple Step Policy Pathways

Example #1:
Policy design innovations can accelerate clean technologies and income
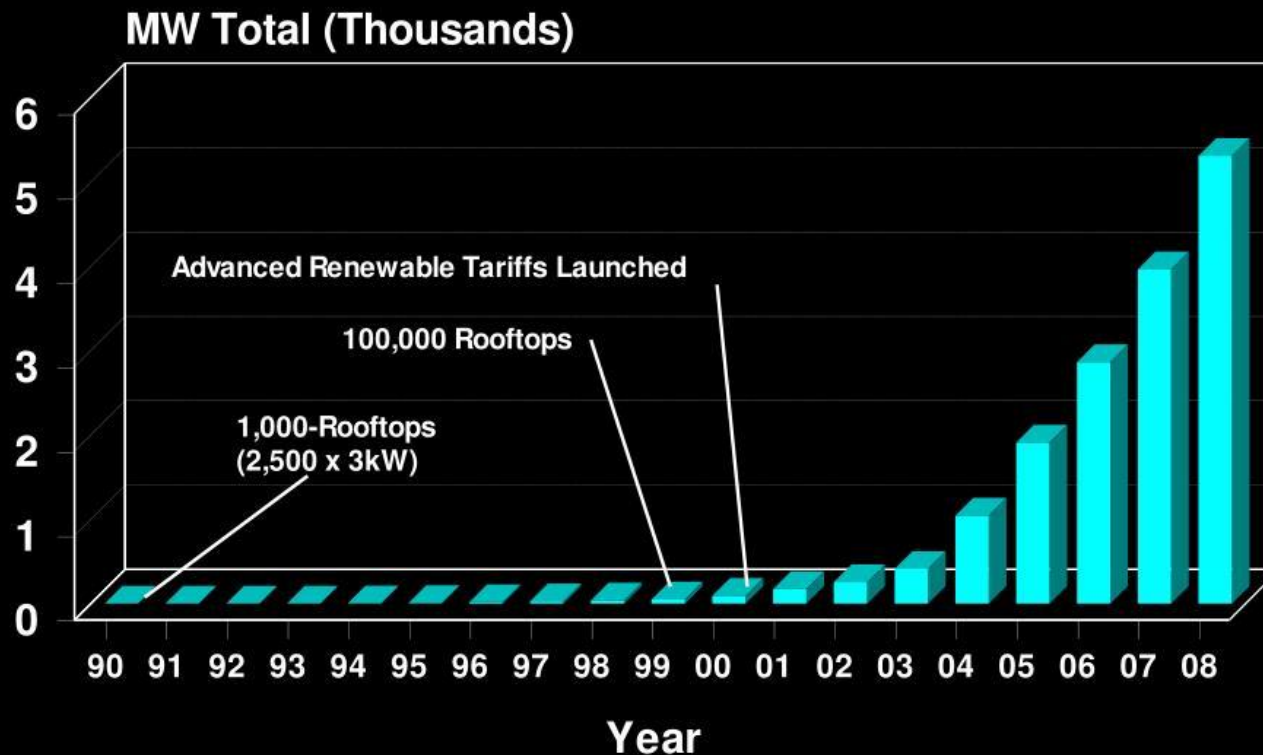
Example #1: Germany's Feed-In-Tariff

Example #1: Germany's Feed-In-Tariff

Renewable Tariffs &
Solar Photovoltaics in Germany

MW Total (Thousands)

Advanced Renewable Tariffs Launched

100,000 Rooftops

1,000-Rooftops
(2,500 x 3kW)

Year

Paul Gipe, wind-works.org

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Germany's Feed-In-Tariff Policy Pathway

New Equilibrium

Lower price of world's solar panels

Behaviour is routinised

5 Normative/cultural

Companies emerge to supply demand

4 Motivations: economic

More citizens demand coverage

3 Motivations: economic

Low carbon behaviour in homes

2 Motivations: economic

Long term contracts, Retail rate for excess energy

1 Motivations: rules
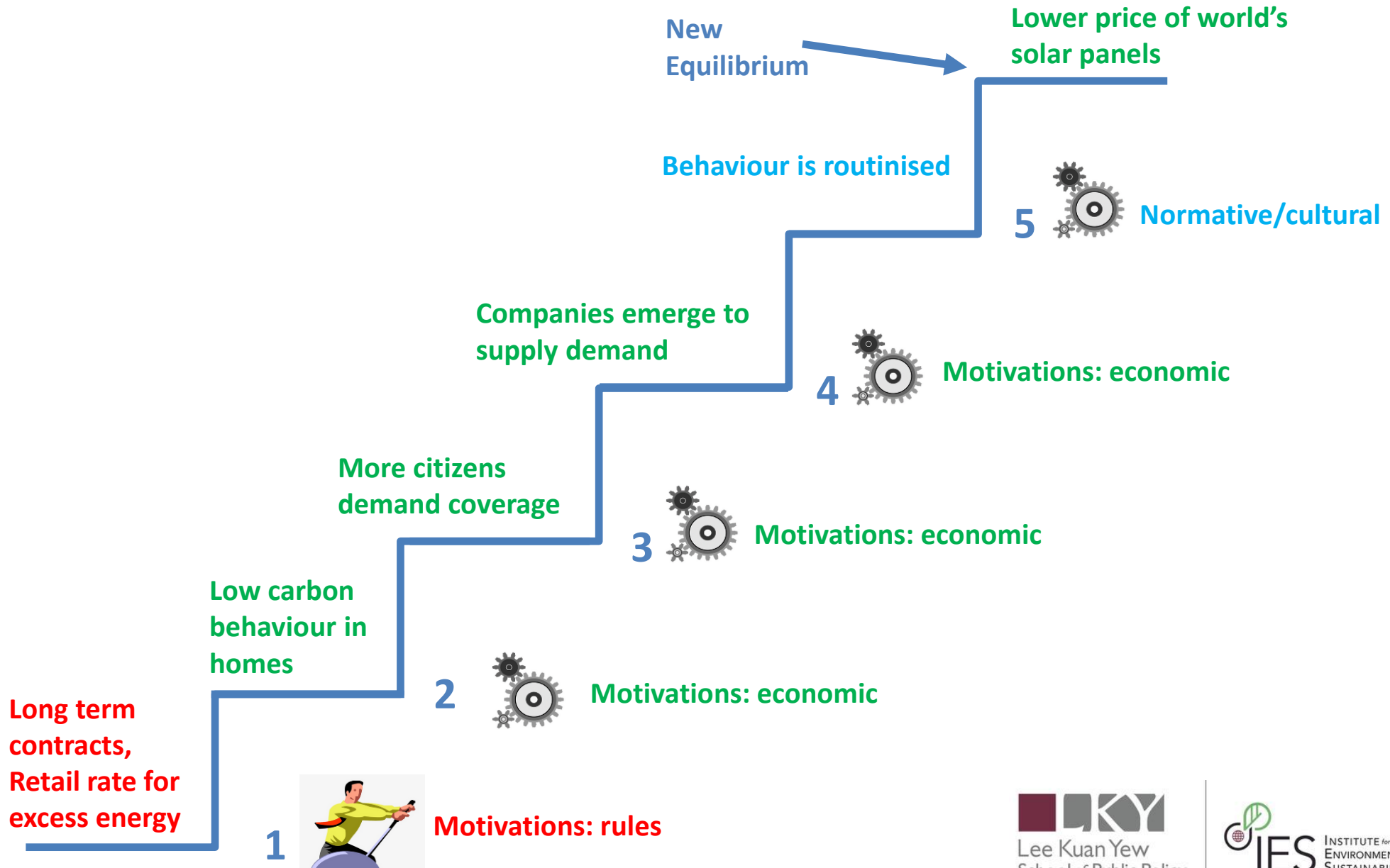
Example #2:
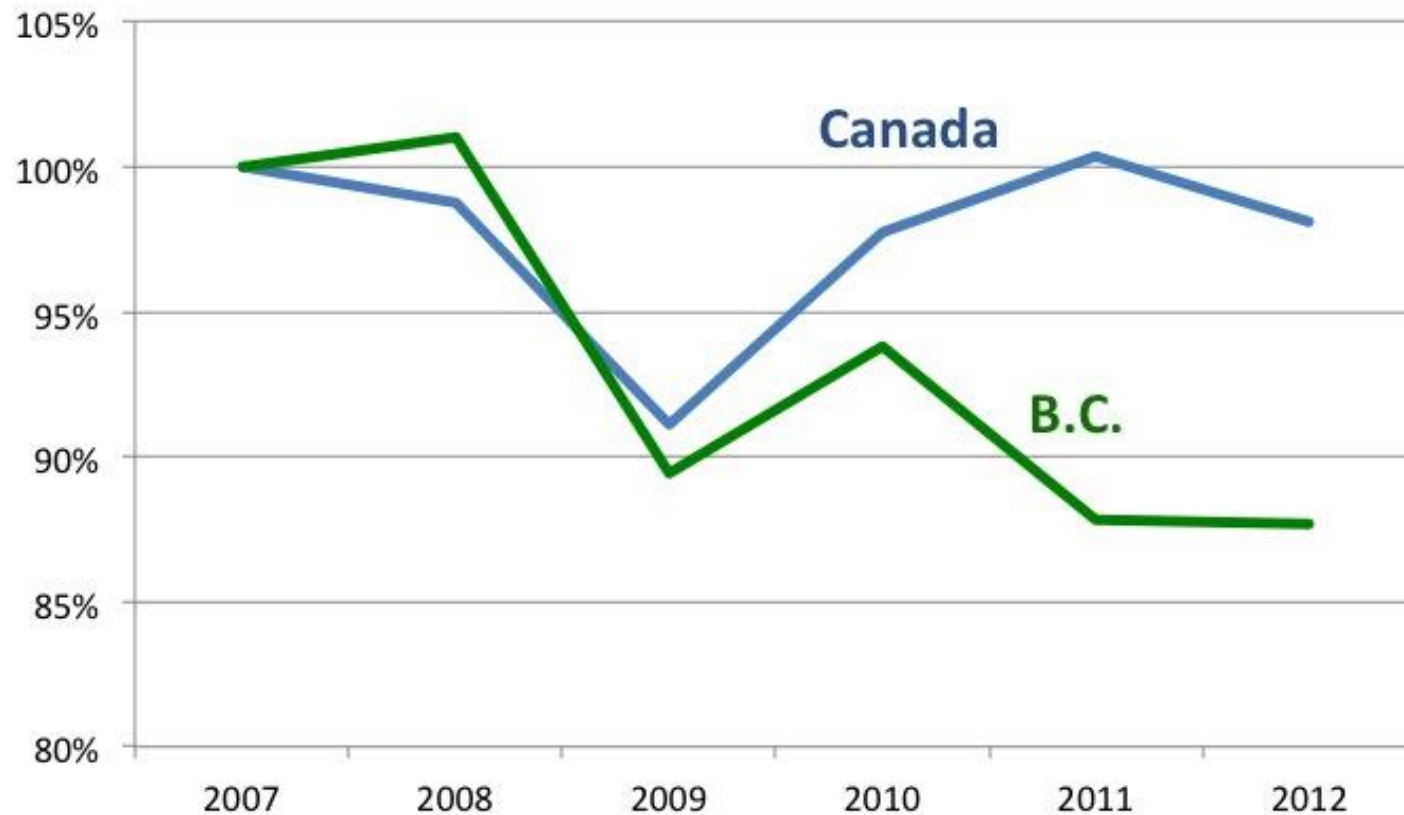## Policies accelerate decarbonization and equity, creating mutually compatible reinforcing effects

Example #2: British Columbia's Carbon Tax

Total $

50.18

Litres

CORRECTED

CORRIGÉ

34.822

Taxes Included in Gasoline Prices in Metro Vancouver Area

5% GST

6.67¢ per litre
BC Carbon Tax

10¢ per litre
Federal Excise Tax

25.5¢ per litre
Provincial Fuel Tax
Includes Urban Transit Tax

*APRIL 2013

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Example #2: British Columbia's Carbon Tax

Sales of refined petroleum products per capita
(2007 = 100%)

Canada

B.C.

Source: CANSIM 134-0004, 051-0001

Policy Design Can Also Help Avoid

Premature Punctuation

Undermining Effects

Finally Effective Policy Design Processes Requires Equitable Stakeholder Engagement

Can Legality Verification enhance local rights to forest resources?

Piloting the policy learning protocol in the Peruvian forest context

Executive Summary

Photo Credit: Adam Bauer-Goulden

IUFRO

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Bottom Line: No More Elephants

Partner with IES to Advance Effective and Equitable Policy Design