

The New National Just Transition Framework for Scotland

21st May 2025

Dr Kirsten Jenkins and Dr David Drabble

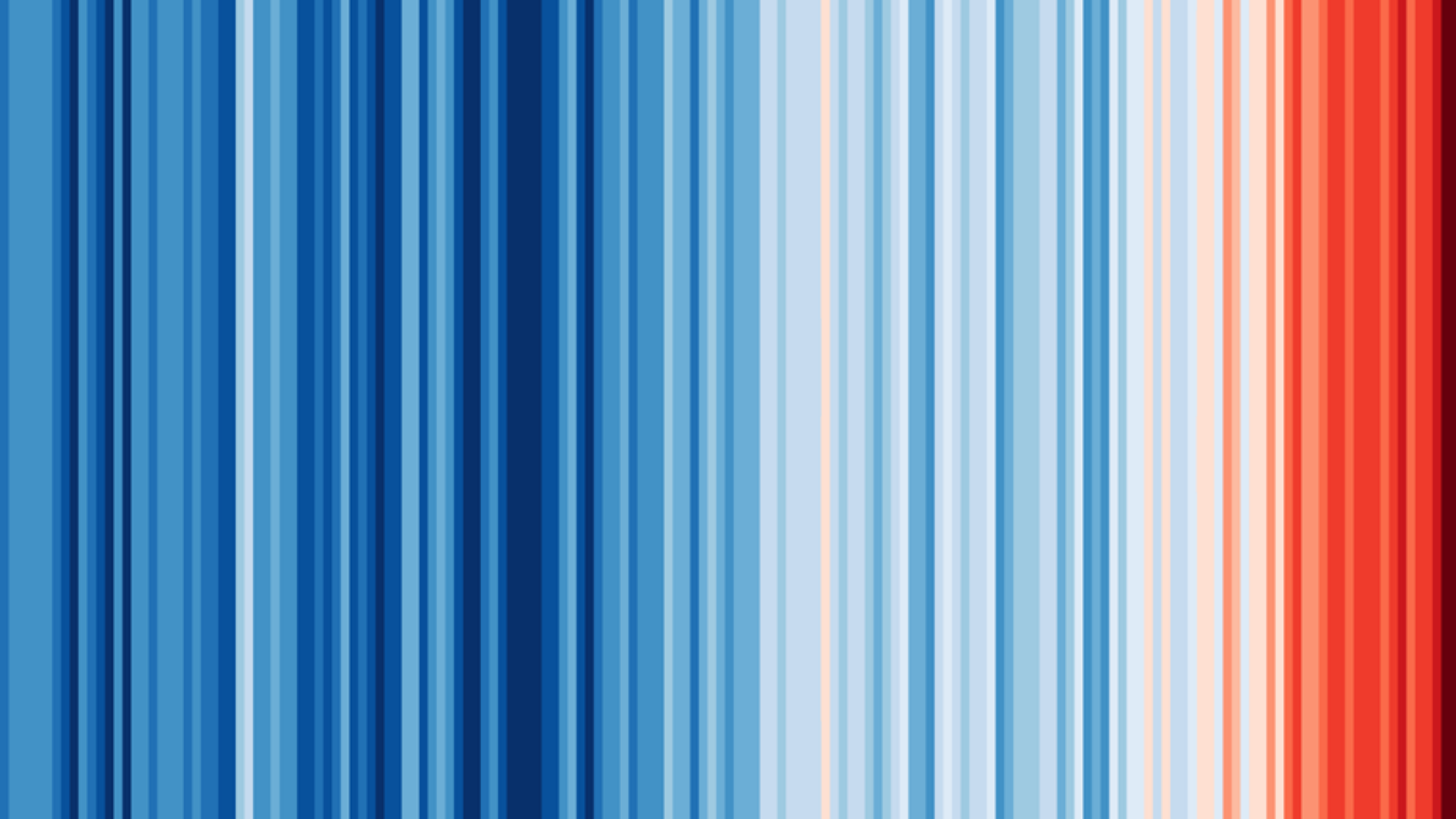
Presentation format

- Introductions
- Context for the topic
- The framework
- Existential crises
- Q&A
- Breaking out
- Coming back

Introductions



1 Context for the topic







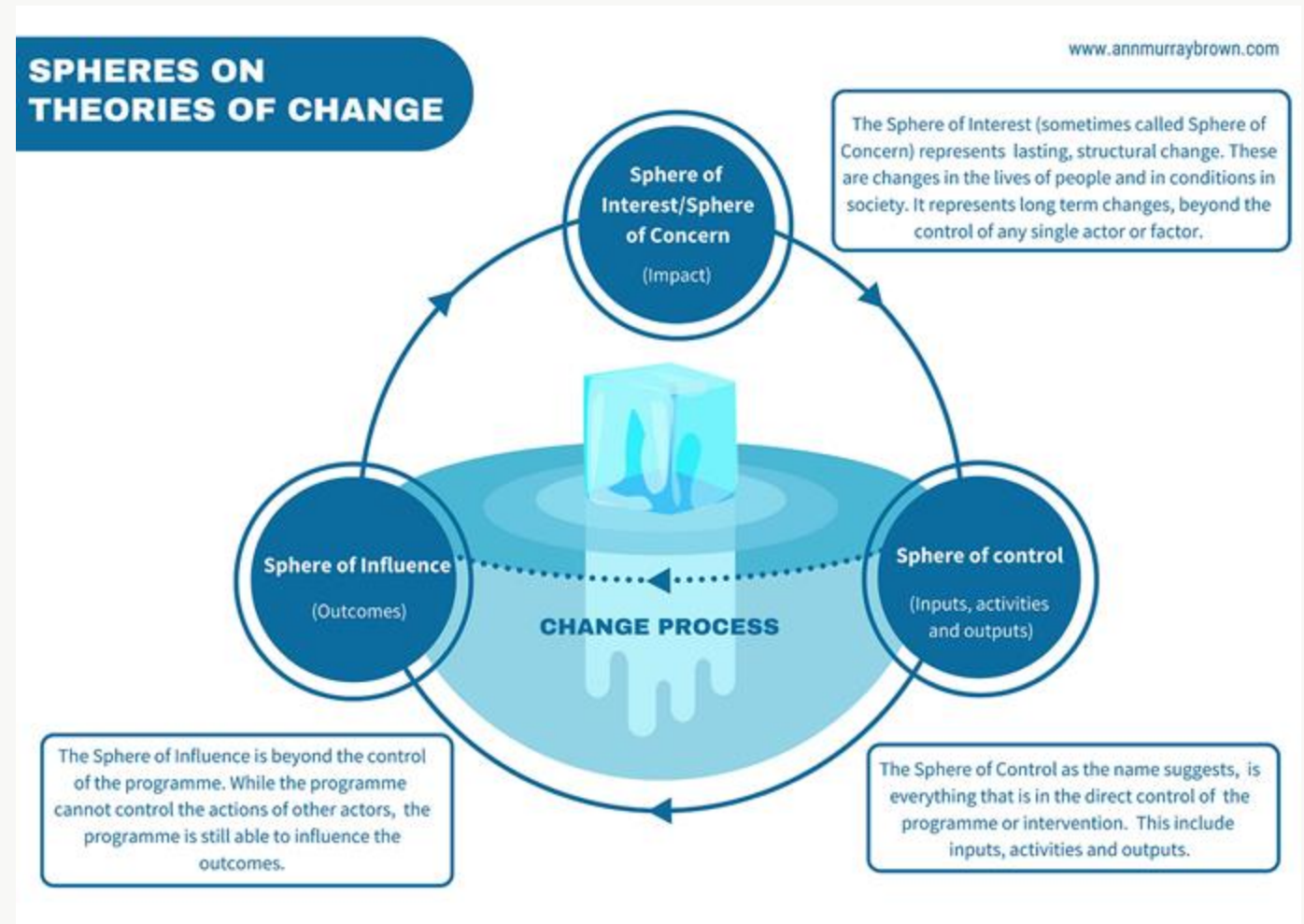
Draft Energy Strategy and Just Transition Plan –
delivering a fair and secure zero carbon
energy system for Scotland



January 2023

Boundaries

- Vulnerability and the baseline of inequality
- Groups affected by the transition
- Net zero and the Just Transition
- The international dimension



2 The framework

High-level introduction to overall ToC
Outcomes
Mechanisms
Assumptions, risks and impact

The brief

Four components in the brief:

Who will be impacted by the transition	Overview of existing data sources
Support short- medium term monitoring and evaluation	Identify key gaps in the data landscape

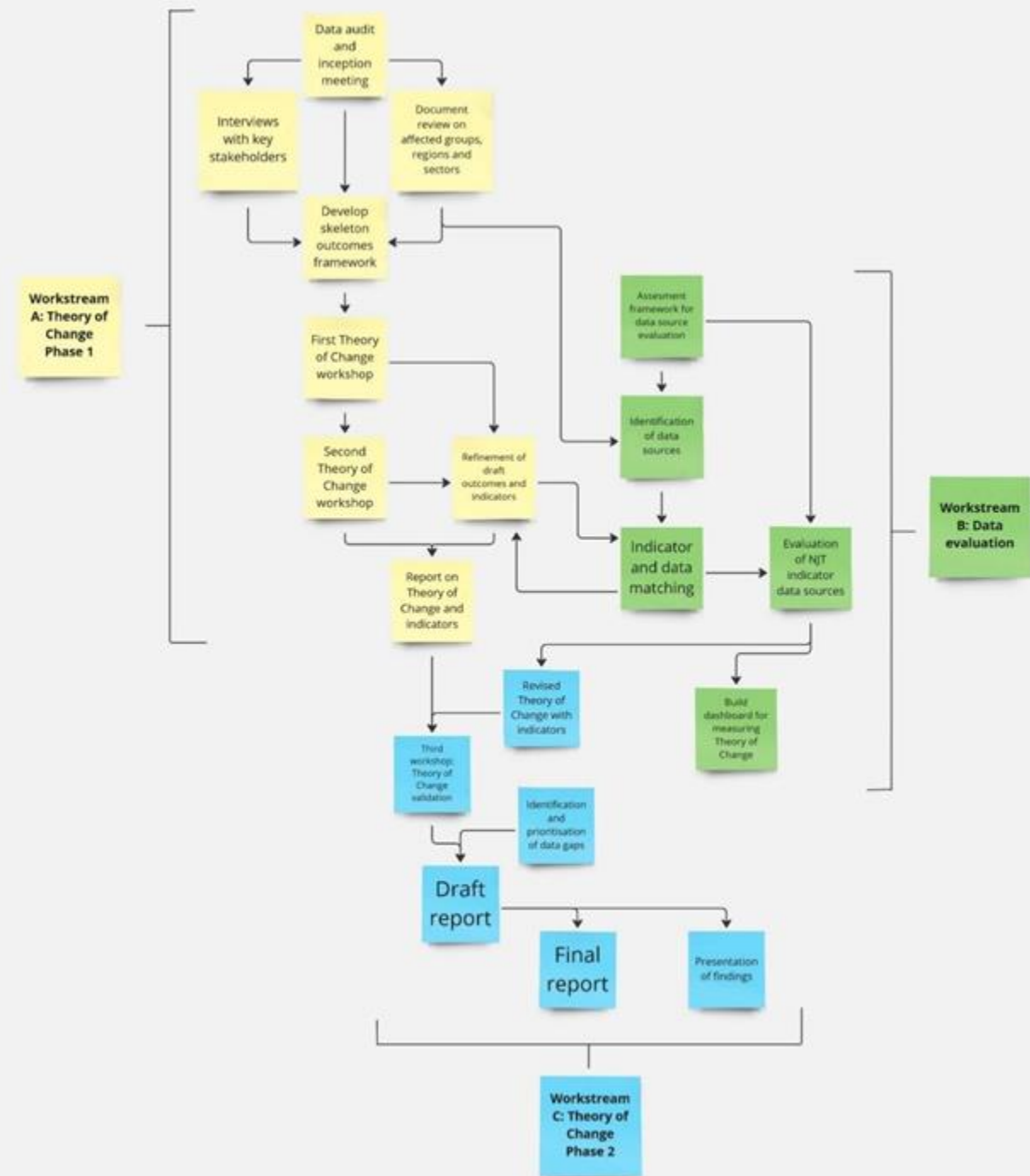
Overall purposes of work:

1. **Pulling together** disparate plans and strategies
2. Framework for future **evaluation and accountability** for the SG and others
3. Providing a **vision** of what [might] work



Methodology

- Twelve interviews
- Document review
- Three workshops with the Commission
- Development of outcomes and mechanism
- Draft Theory of Change
- Data matching and assessment
- Validated Theory of Change
- Synthesis and reporting

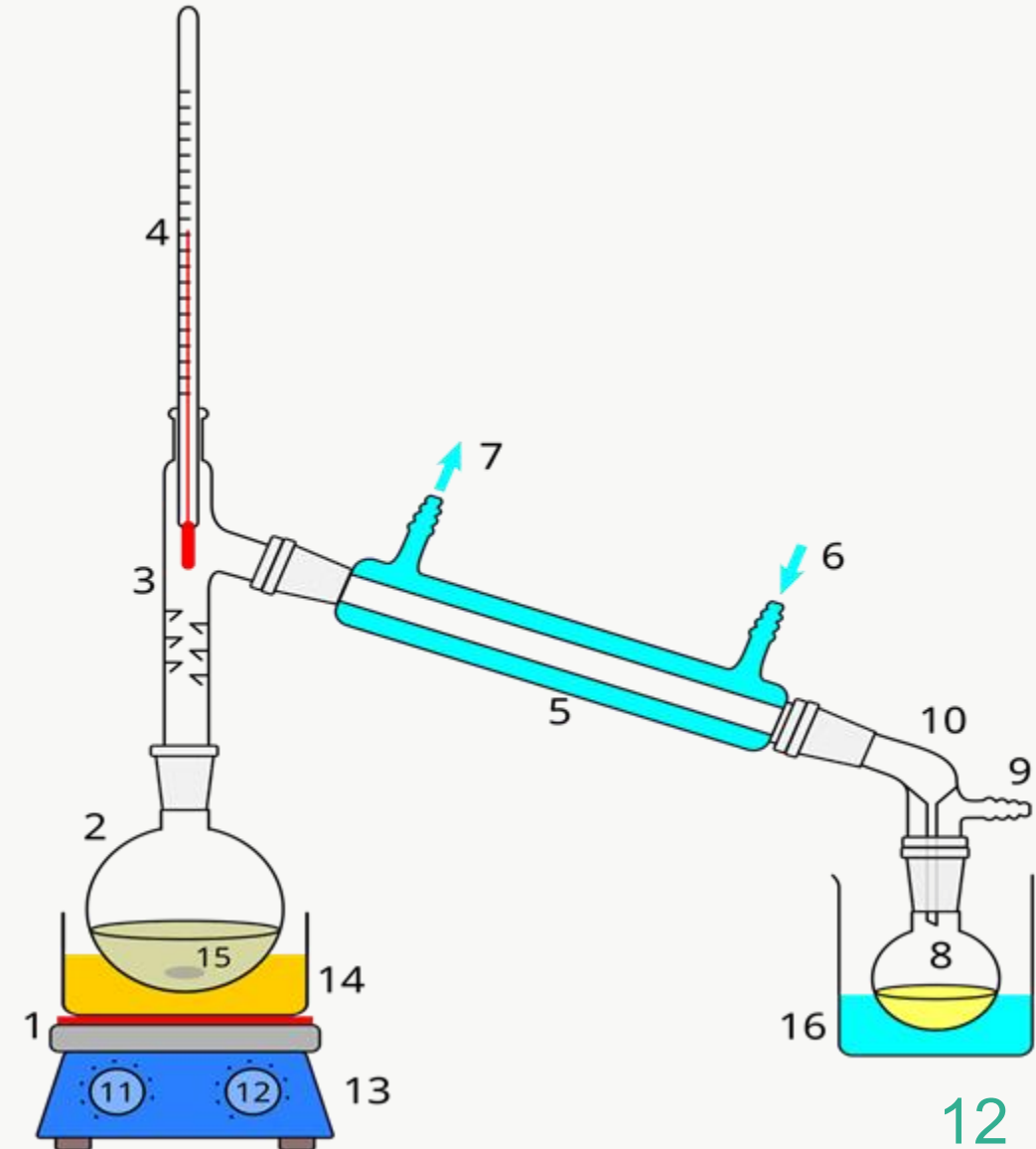


Our high-level Theory of Change

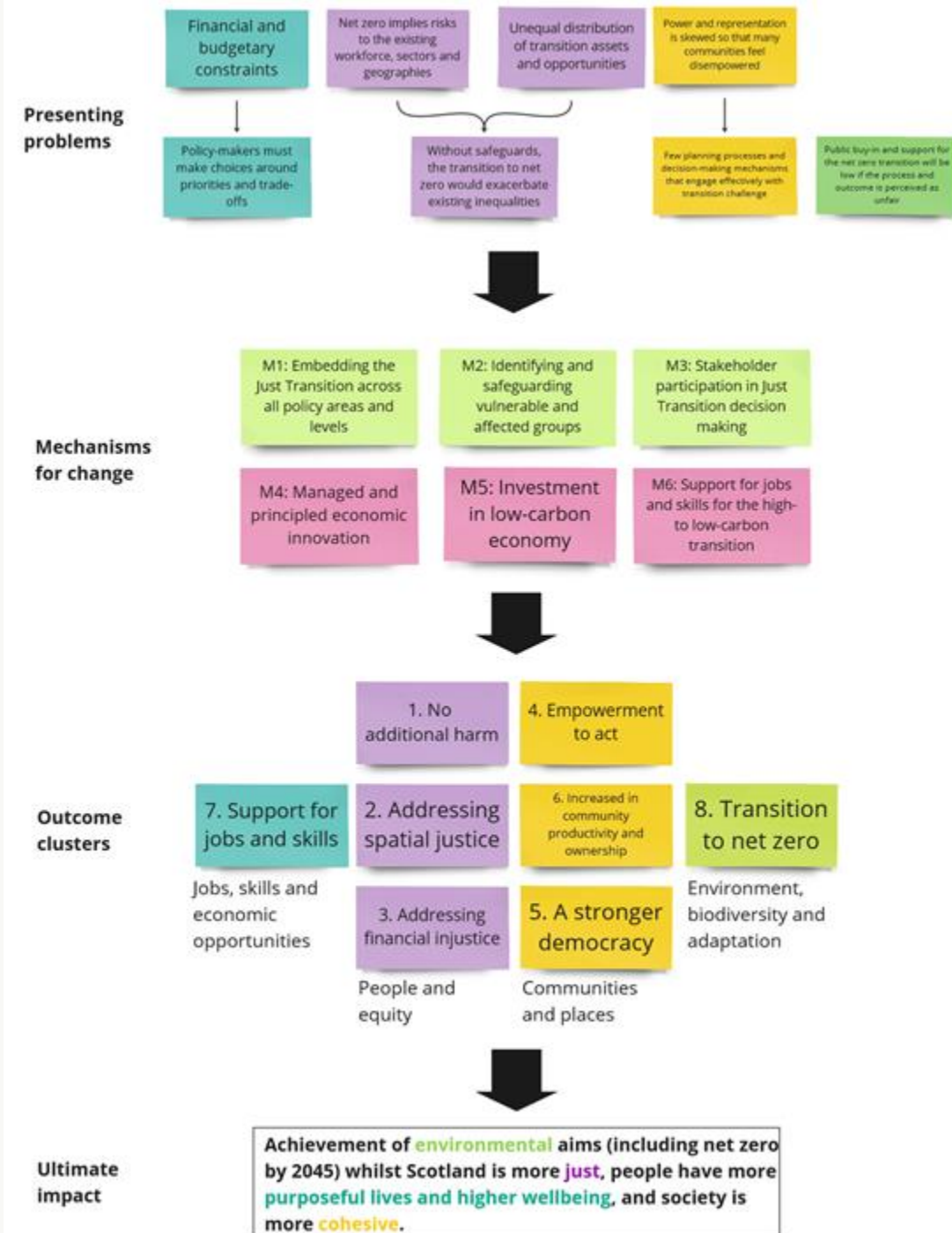
Developed a **granular** Theory of Change which outlines the detailed plan for how short- to medium-term actions can lead to long-term impacts

Distilled this into a **high-level Theory of Change** which deals with the types of actions that could lead to thematic outcomes, and achievement of the National Outcomes

Easier to **communicate**



High-level Theory of Change for the JT

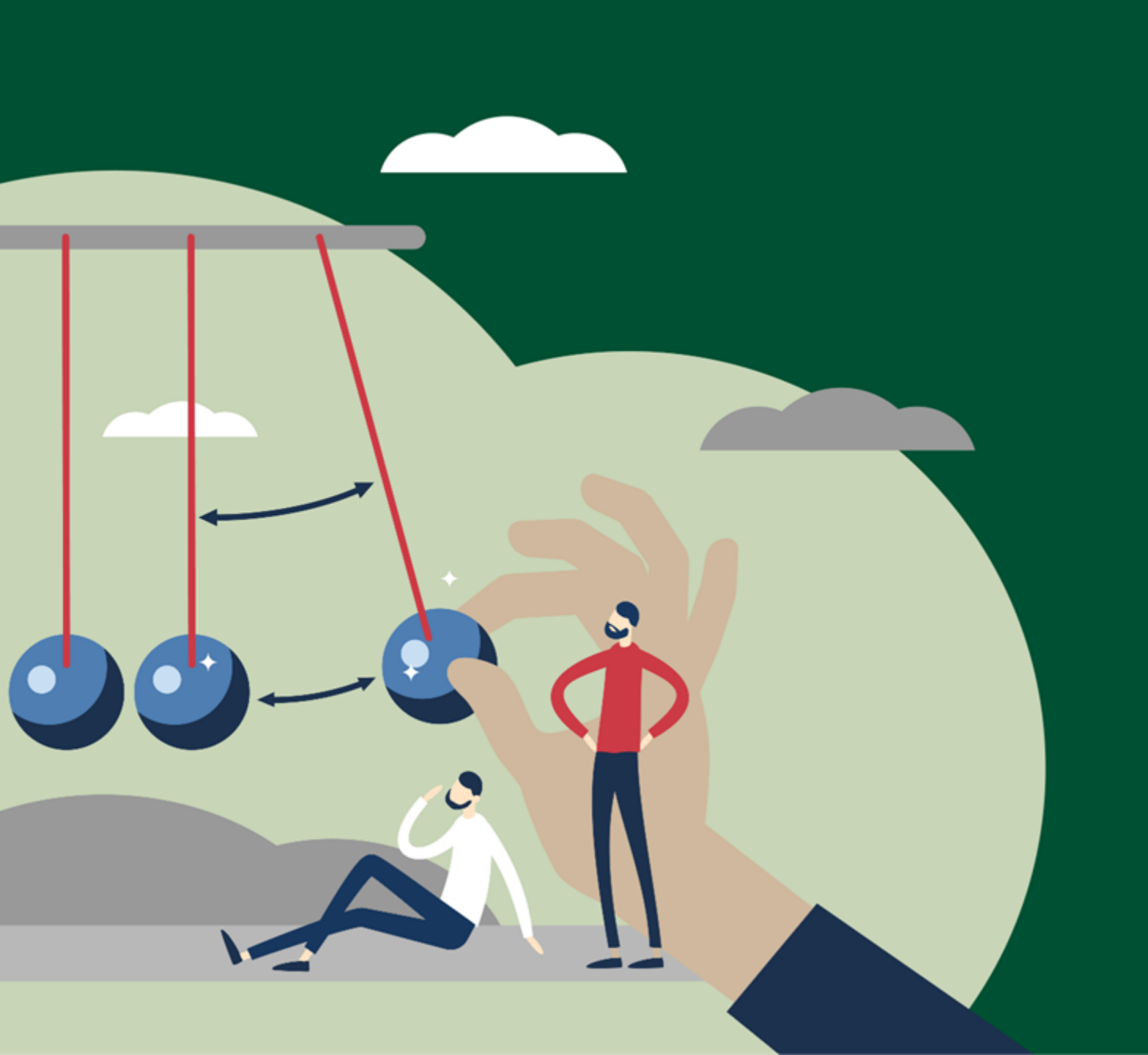


Key outcomes to measure



Ultimate impact

Achievement of environmental aims (including net zero and nature positive by 2045) whilst Scotland is more just, people have more purposeful lives and higher wellbeing, and society is more cohesive.





M1: Embedding the Just Transition across all policy areas and levels



M2: Identifying and safeguarding vulnerable and affected groups



M3: Stakeholder participation in Just Transition decision making



M4: Managed and principled economic innovation



M5: Investment in low-carbon economy



M6: Support for jobs and skills for the high- to low-carbon transition

Summary of assumptions and risks

Risks included:

- Insufficient Government leadership over the Just Transition
- Unprotected employment
- Flawed participation and disenfranchisement
- Insufficient investment and structural support

Theoretical assumptions



Government driven: A Just Transition would not occur if not well managed and guided by the Scottish Government

Link to low carbon transition: If the low carbon transition is unjust and/or perceived as unjust, this will slow down the roll out of low carbon solutions in communities

Contextual assumptions



Agreement with definitions

Separate finance stream

Scarce but sufficient resources

UK Government support

Operational assumptions



Regional focus

Robust governance

Equity in opportunities

Transparent, scrutinised planning

3 Existential crises

Defining responsibilities

“A complex landscape of accountability, responsibility and reporting that requires both a clear stakeholder map, and cross-cutting working, monitoring and evaluation”

- Annual dashboard that sits across government directorates
- Cross-directorate working group in alignment with Mechanism 1
- Permanent Just Transition Commission
- Use framework for future evaluations
- Coordinate ambition with Westminster, England-shire



Tackling Fuel Poverty in Scotland

A Strategic Approach



December 2021

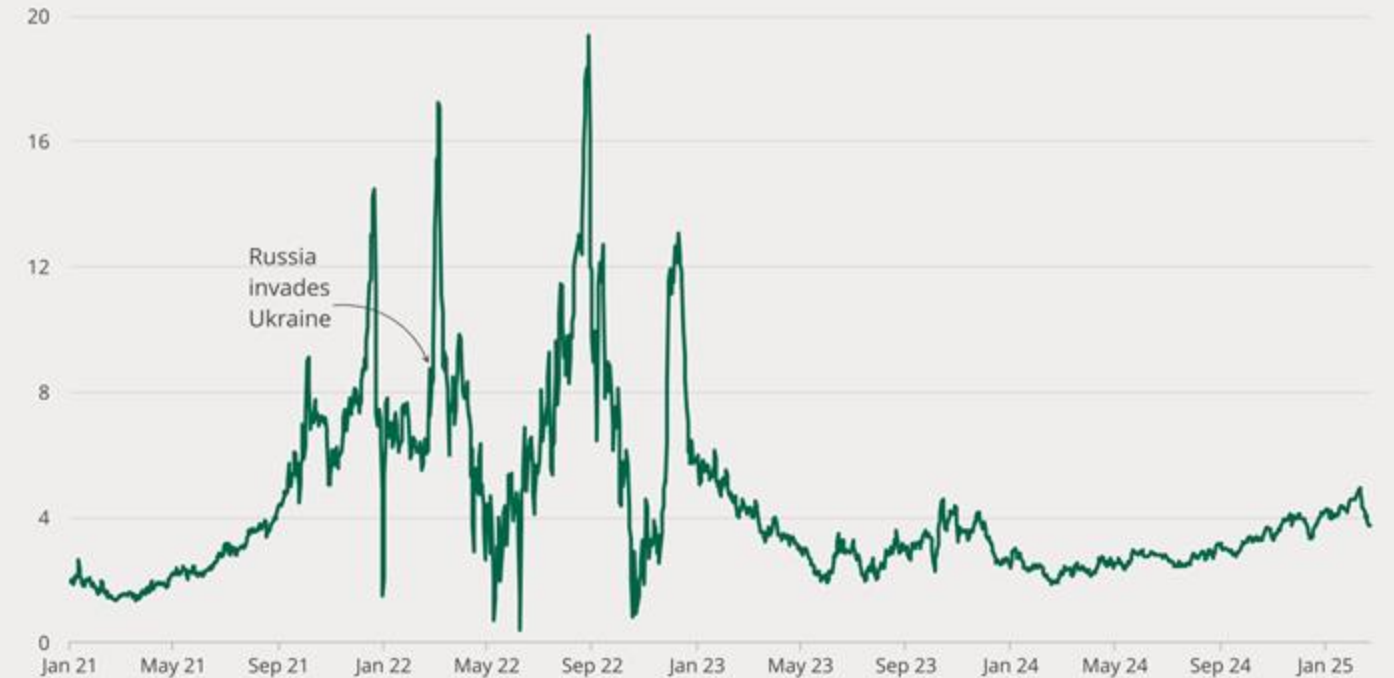


Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

Policy making in a devolved context

Wholesale gas prices spiked several times in 2021/22, fell in early 2023 and rose steadily for much of 2024

UK wholesale spot price for gas. Pence per kWh



Speed and risk

“The scale of the societal changes needed for a 75% reduction in emissions by 2030 would not be fair or just on people in our society. It would cause serious impacts across communities and hit our people exceptionally hard, therefore we cannot achieve them...”

Acting Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero and Energy, Gillian Martin



Ranking interventions, negotiating tensions



Inaction or uncoordinated action?



5

Q&A

What's your
favourite
drink, Kirsten?



6 Break out

In breakout groups, discuss the following questions:

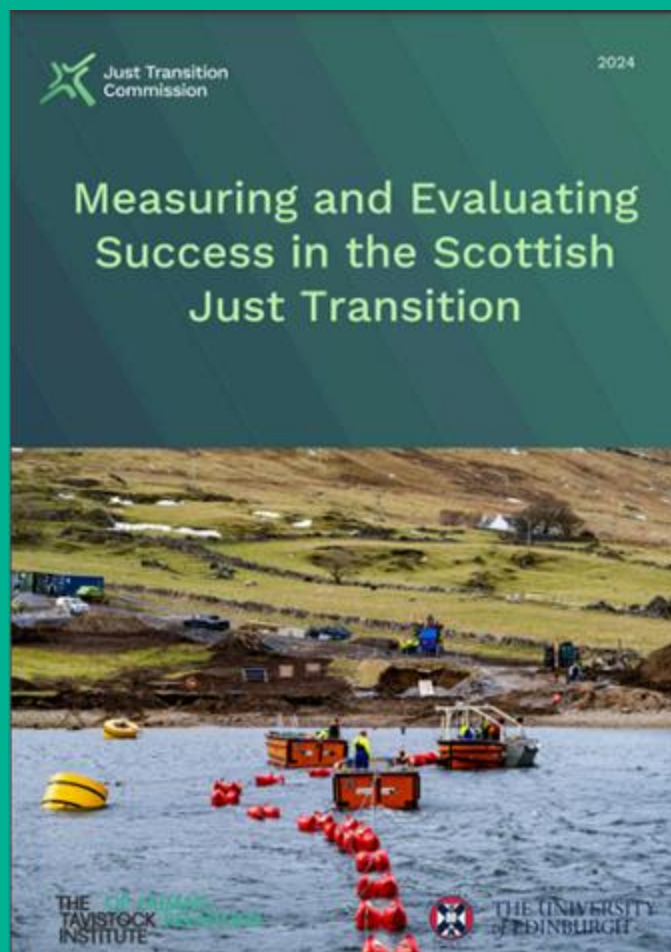
What might be the consequences of inaction on Just Transition?

What might be the systemic barriers to Just Transition action?

What information do we need to make decisions?

7 Reporting back





We're happy to chat:
D.Drabble@TavInstitute.org
Kirsten.Jenkins@ed.ac.uk