

Polluter

A national perspective

In Austria, the Environment Agency is responsible for preparing the national greenhouse gas inventory. This serves as the official basis for reports to the United Nations.¹

The greenhouse gas inventory includes, on one hand, the different greenhouse gases (such as CO₂, CH₄, N₂O, SF₆, F(C)KW, etc.), and on the other hand, sectors. In the official Austrian climate report, emissions are divided into six sectors.²

Transport

28%

Fluorinated gases

2%

Waste

3%

Energy & Industry

44%

Buildings

12%

Emissions by sector

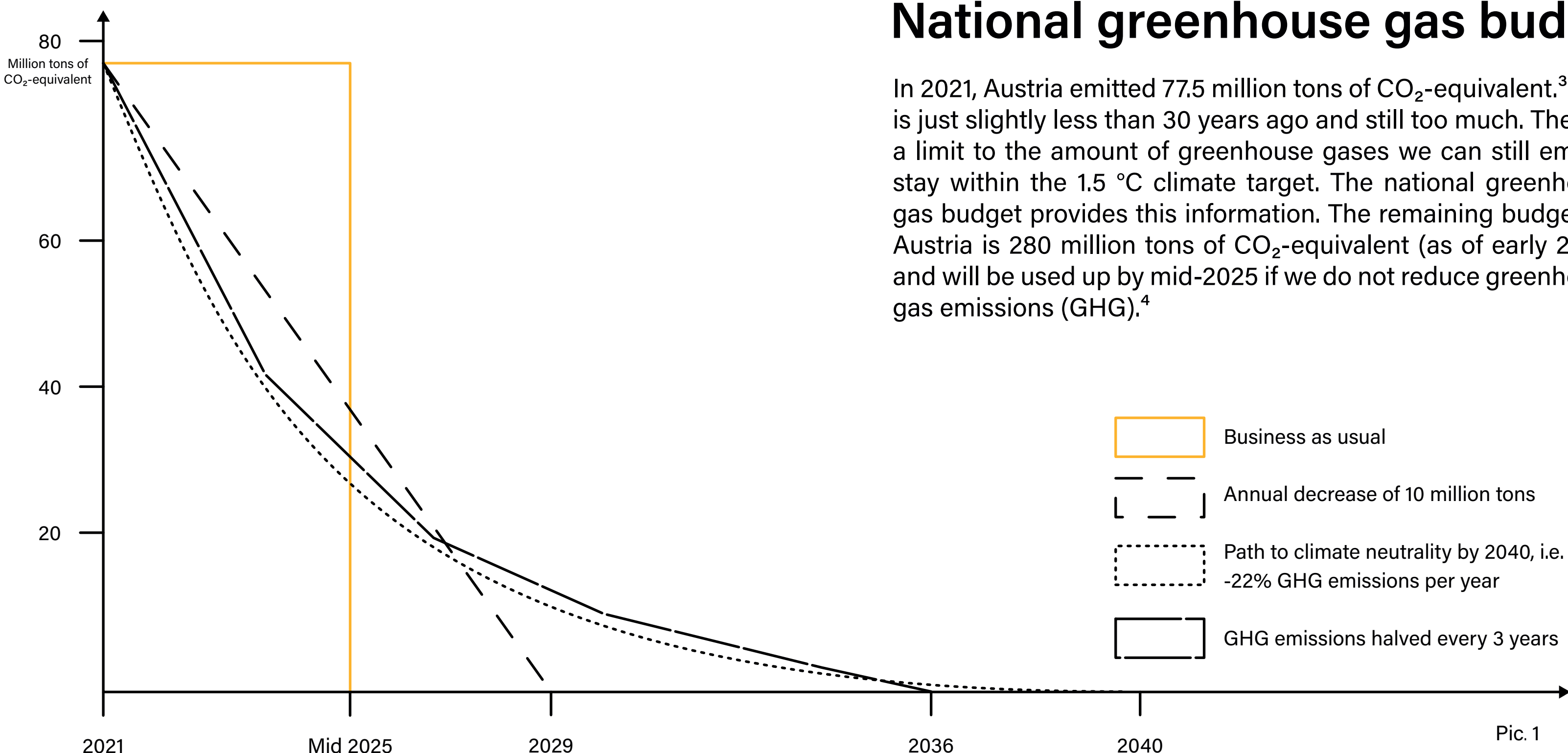
In Austria, the "Energy and Industry" sector is the largest emitter of greenhouse gases, followed by transport, the building sector, and agriculture.

Agriculture

11%

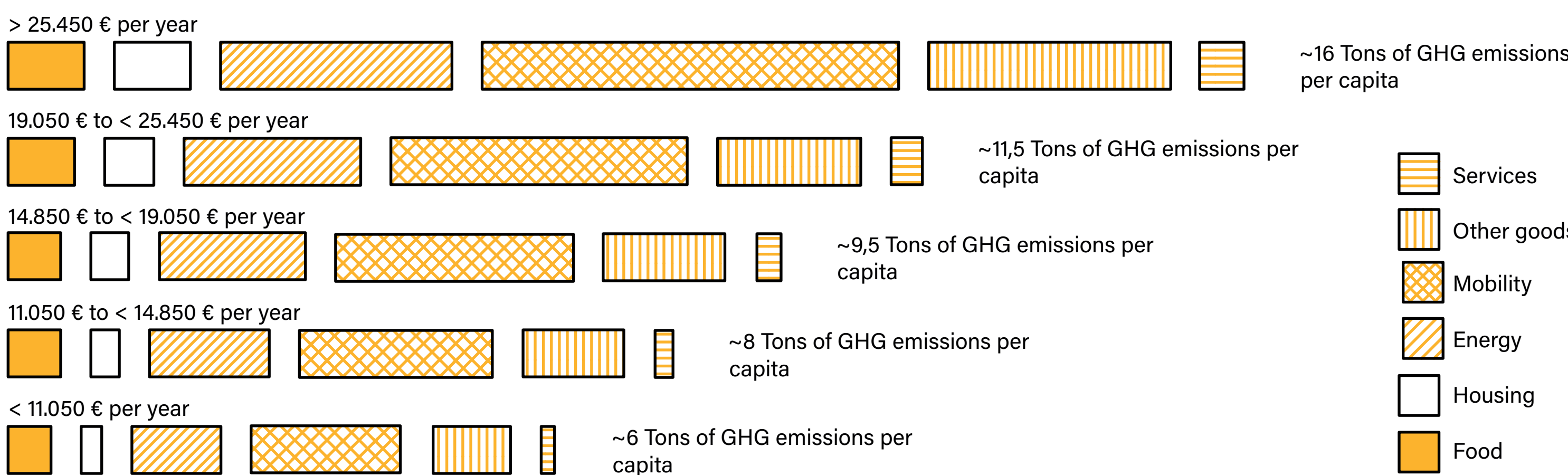
National greenhouse gas budget

In 2021, Austria emitted 77.5 million tons of CO₂-equivalent.³ This is just slightly less than 30 years ago and still too much. There is a limit to the amount of greenhouse gases we can still emit to stay within the 1.5 °C climate target. The national greenhouse gas budget provides this information. The remaining budget for Austria is 280 million tons of CO₂-equivalent (as of early 2022) and will be used up by mid-2025 if we do not reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHG).⁴



Income-dependent emissions

Although there is a national per capita average for greenhouse gas emissions (approximately 8.6 tons of CO₂-equivalent, production-based accounting), not everyone contributes to emissions to the same extent. These emissions are dependent on consumption, that is, the extent of the use and consumption of goods and services. The rule is as follows: Those with higher incomes can afford more and actually consume more. Therefore, with increased consumption, consumption-based greenhouse gas emissions also rise.⁶

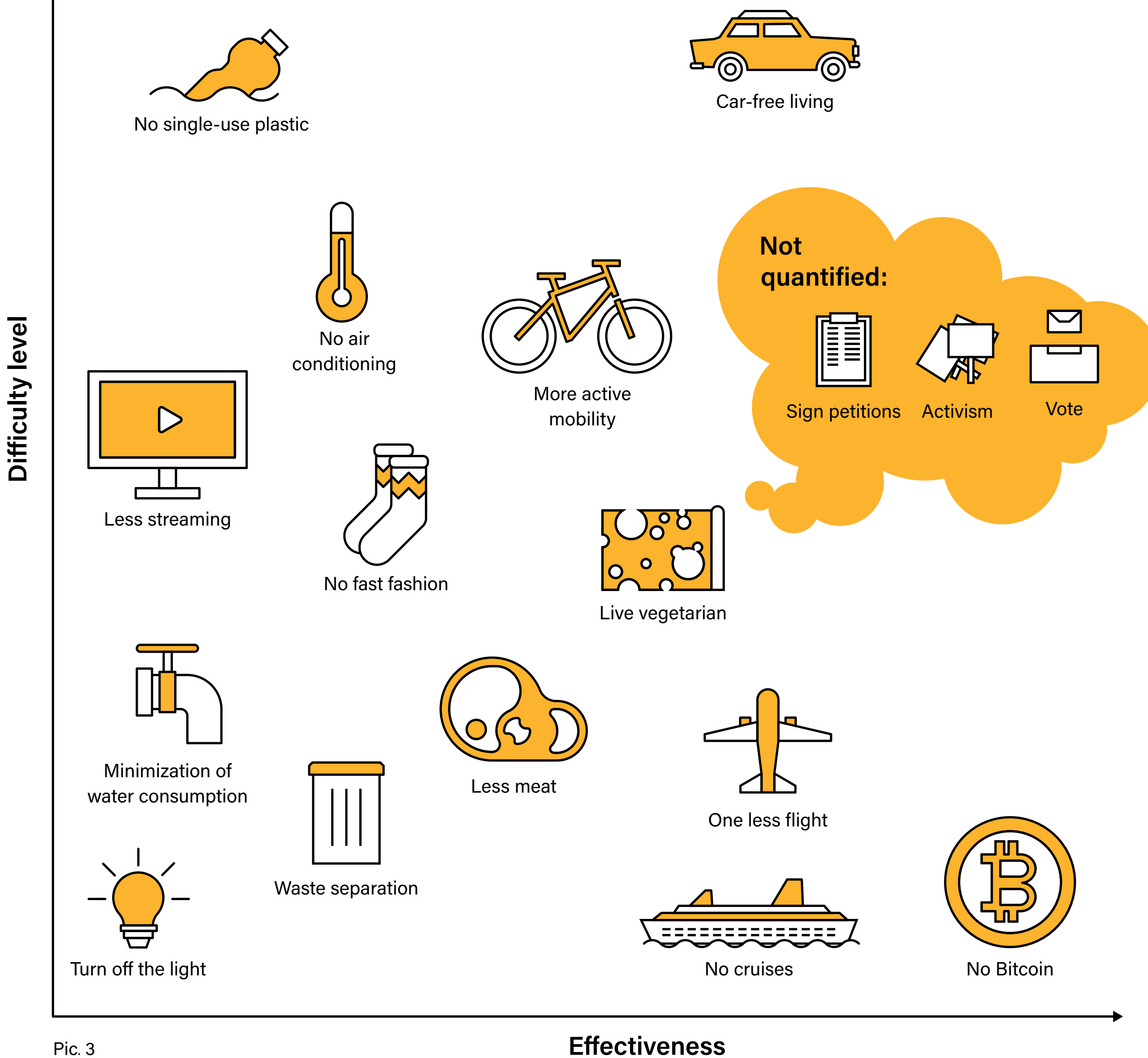


CO₂ tax?

A CO₂ tax is intended to account for externalized costs. These are costs not included in the product price but borne by society, for example, due to damages resulting from the climate crisis. Examples include compensation for crop failures or repairs for flood damages. Those with a lifestyle that causes high greenhouse gas emissions would pay an appropriate CO₂ tax. Households with low incomes can, however, be specifically relieved and supported.⁷

The big levers

How does our daily life impact the climate? Our behavior influences the achievement of the 1.5 °C target. Which consumption and everyday decisions help the climate?



¹ vgl. UNFCCC, o.J.
² vgl. UBA, 2023a, S. 84
³ vgl. UBA, 2023a, S. 82
⁴ vgl. CCCA, 2022, S. 2

⁵ Eigene Berechnung: Emissionen nach UBA, 2023a, S. 82, und Bevölkerungsstand zum 1.1.2022 nach Statistik Austria 2023e
⁶ vgl. Esselzichler et al., 2022, S. 3f.
⁷ vgl. Esselzichler et al., 2022, S. 6

Pic. 1: Eigene Darstellung basierend auf CCCA, 2022, S. 2
Pic. 2: Eigene Darstellung basierend auf Thüne et al., 2022, Daten direkt erhalten. Berechnungen basierend auf Statistik Austria, 2011 und EXIOBASE, 2018.

Pic. 3: Eigene Darstellung basierend auf Brudermann & Hoesen, 2022.
Hinweis: Die Schwierigkeitsgrade sind subjektiv und kontextabhängig. Die Wirksamkeit wurde grob dargestellt.