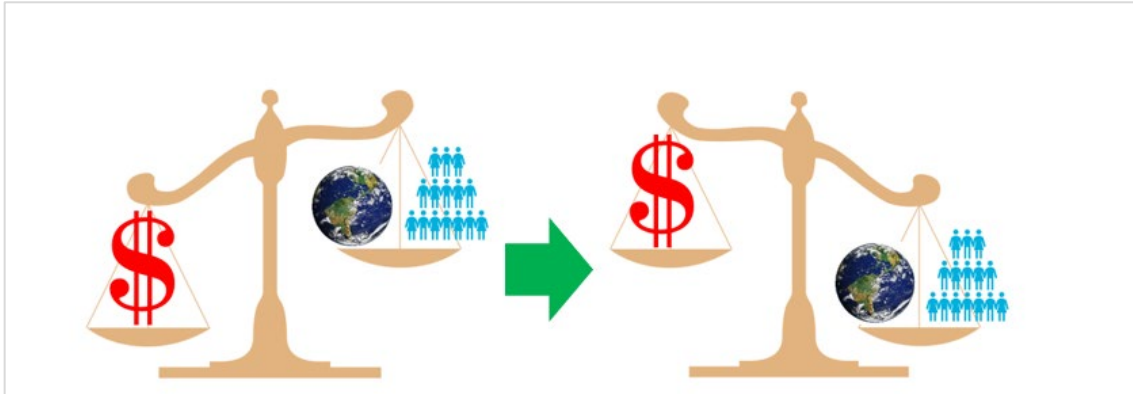


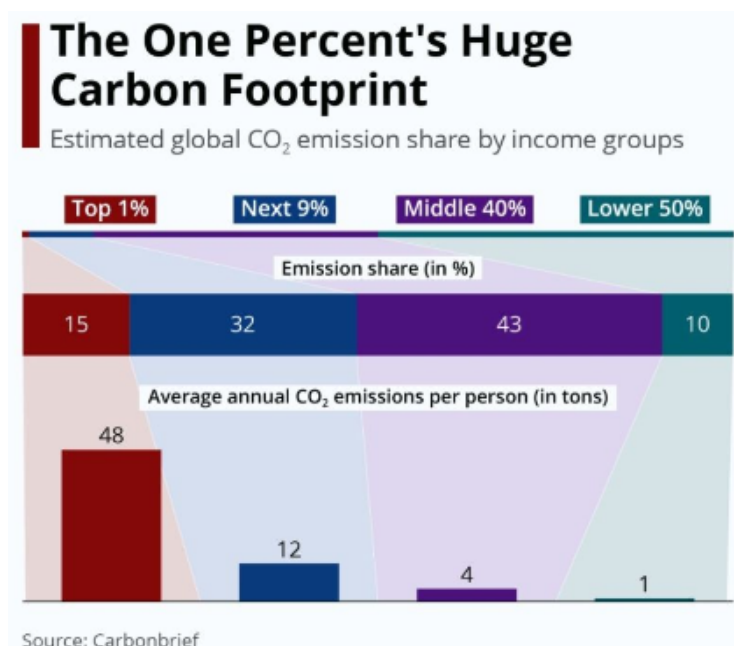
Why we need to re-balance our economy



It is clear to the majority of people (aside from those involved in the fossil fuel industry who are in self-denial mode) that something fundamental needs to be done if we are to avert catastrophe caused by our way of life which means that we consume far more resources than the planet can afford, while at the same time managing to damage those resources we do have through exploitation, pollution and mis-management.

What we need to do is "re-balance" the economy so less weight is put on money, and more on people and the planet. This means re-balancing the distribution of wealth and resources, whilst also re-balancing our lives so that we are more in harmony with our planet and stop treating it as a resource to exploit. It means putting more emphasis (and value) on the natural world and less on 'things' like the latest phone or gadget.

As pointed out by Omar AL-Ajaji a large proportion of emissions are concentrated in the hands of a relatively small proportion of the population, so the worst 1% each generated 48 times the emissions of the best 50%. This means that the changes needed will have to fall disproportionately on the high spenders and high polluters.



As [Erin Remblance](#) has said this does mean #degrowth but it will need to be targeted degrowth so those who can affect the planet are the ones making changes. This also means not expecting people who are already struggling to make more sacrifices.

A tricky message to get across is that a re-balanced economy can actually enable everyone to be happier, since inequality is a source of unhappiness, while being in-touch with nature is known to improve mental wellbeing. Although we are brought up to think that money and possessions are a sign of success and will make us happy, this is a myth which needs to be busted.