

Realising the potential: just transition, innovation, and multiple levels of action

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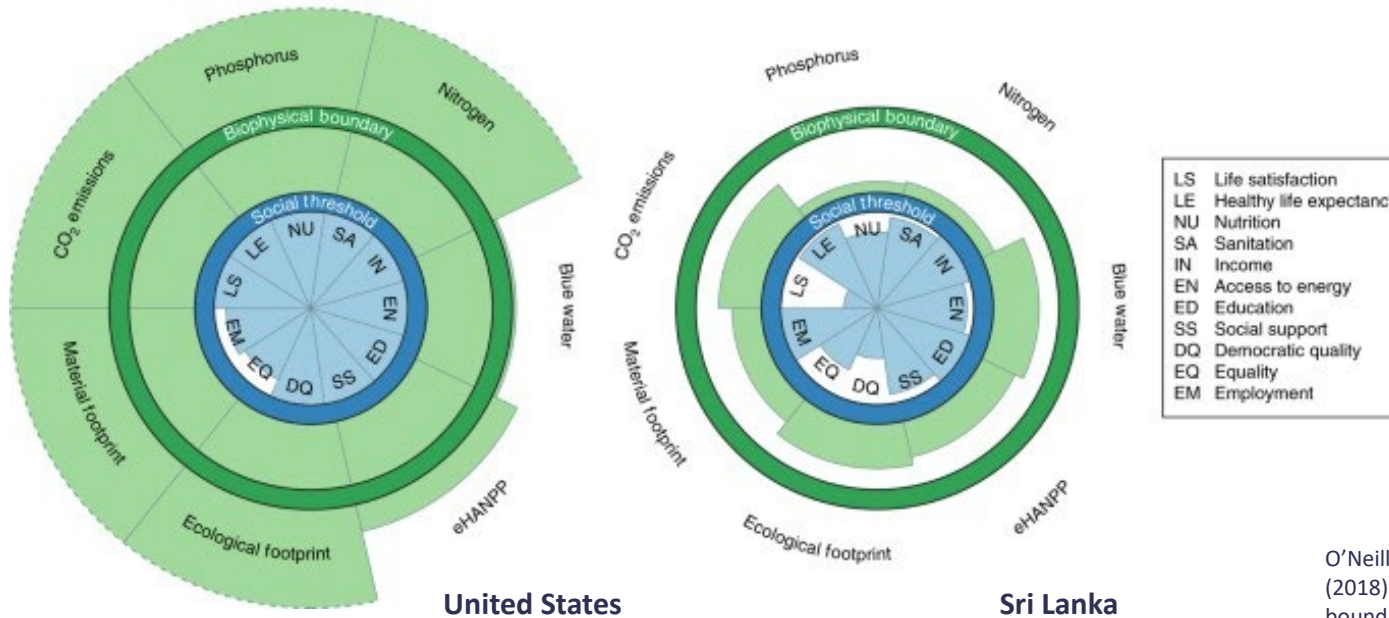
Innovation for Cool Earth Forum 2022: Low-Carbon Innovation in a Time of Crises

October 5th



How can we keep in the 'safe operating space'?

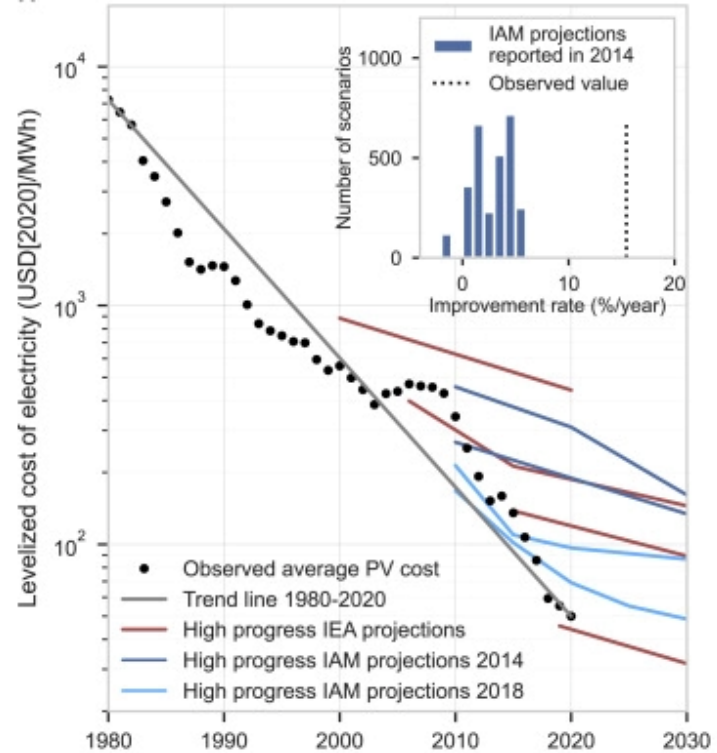
- Importance of equity and efficiency to stay within multiple planetary boundaries and meet social thresholds



O'Neill, D.W., Fanning, A.L., Lamb, W.F. et al. (2018). A good life for all within planetary boundaries. *Nat Sustain* 1, 88–95

Promises and challenges

- Technology is changing more quickly than most anticipate
- Entanglement in extractive, fossil energy economy
- Implicit demand for land and resources => new sites of contest
- Just transition as strategy for durable change



Way, R., Ives, M. C., Mealy, P., & Farmer, J. D. (2022). Empirically grounded technology forecasts and the energy transition. *Joule*.

Keys to a just transition: distribution, inclusion, restoration

- **Distributive** justice: who benefits and who pays?
- **Procedural** justice: how decisions are made – are they inclusive?
- **Restorative** justice: can past damages be addressed?

McCauley, D., & Heffron, R. (2018). Just transition: Integrating climate, energy and environmental justice. *Energy Policy*, 119, 1-7.

Country governments are at the crux but must open and collaborate

International

Finance and support available to pursue SDGs and advance just transition

Agreements over rights, standards and procedures – provide guidance and confidence

National

Paris Agreement invokes country ownership and circumstances

National systems and policy determine social rights, investment, innovation

Subnational / local

Place-specific priorities. Community inclusion and ownership

Public engagement to catalyse and amplify innovation

Example: climate justice in the carbon market?

International

- Finance from commitments in other (often high-income) countries

National

- Govern companies' commitments
- Recipient (often lower-income) countries define carbon market frameworks

Local

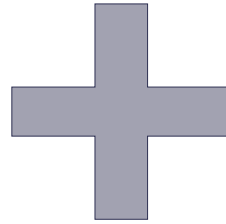
- People participate in project design and see benefits
- Free, prior and informed consent for Indigenous communities

Example: climate justice in the carbon market?

Distributive: voluntary flows advance development goals

Procedural: inclusive project governance and market rule-setting

Restorative: payments from historical emitters for ending environmental and social harm



Innovation...

- Technologies to monitor emissions sources and sinks
- New sustainable business models based on sale of carbon as an asset

Thank you