



UK Health  
Security  
Agency

# Climate Change and Public Health

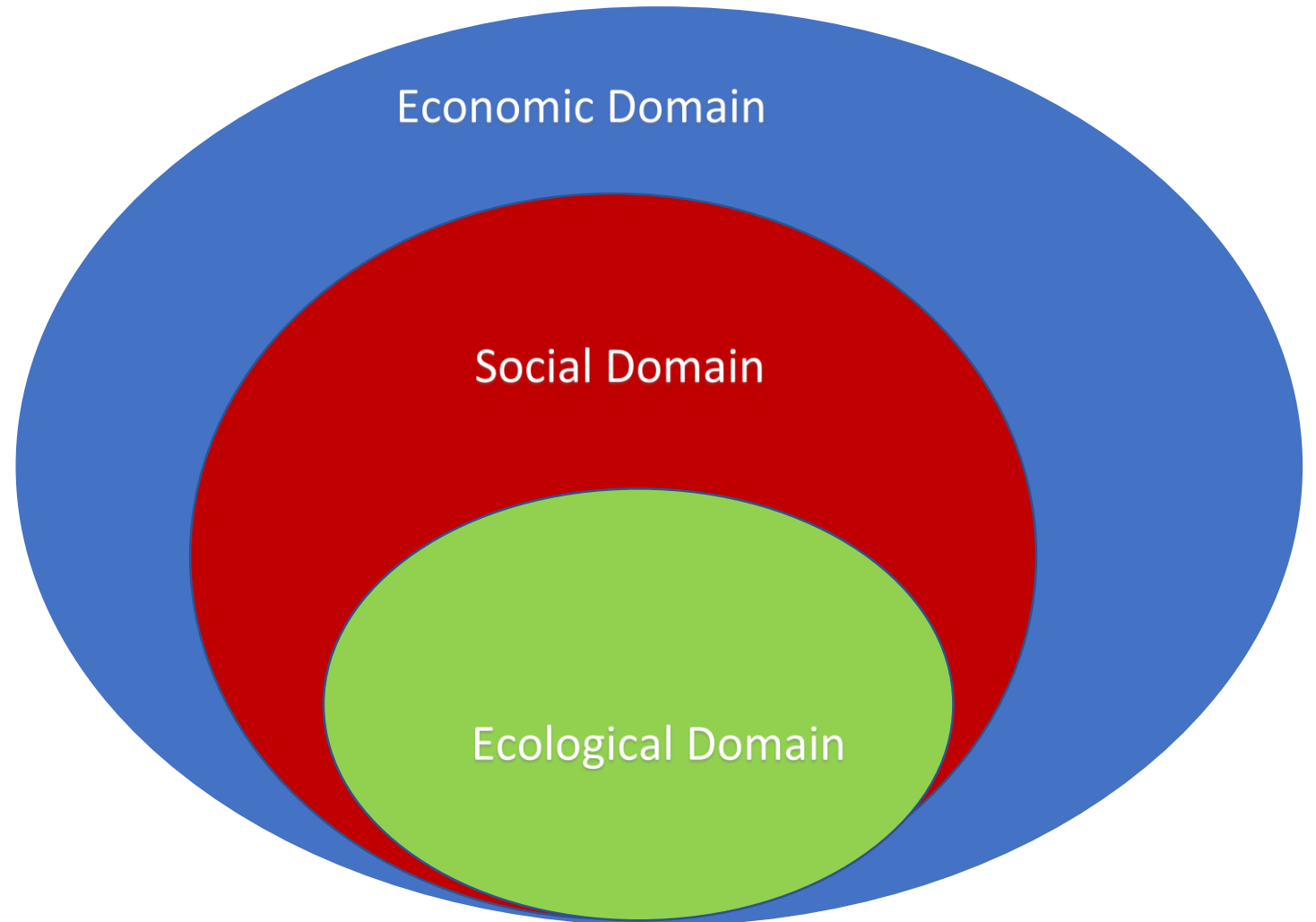
Mike Gent, Regional Deputy Director, UKHSA

# Overview

- Threats and opportunities
- Links
- Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- Narrative
- Optimism

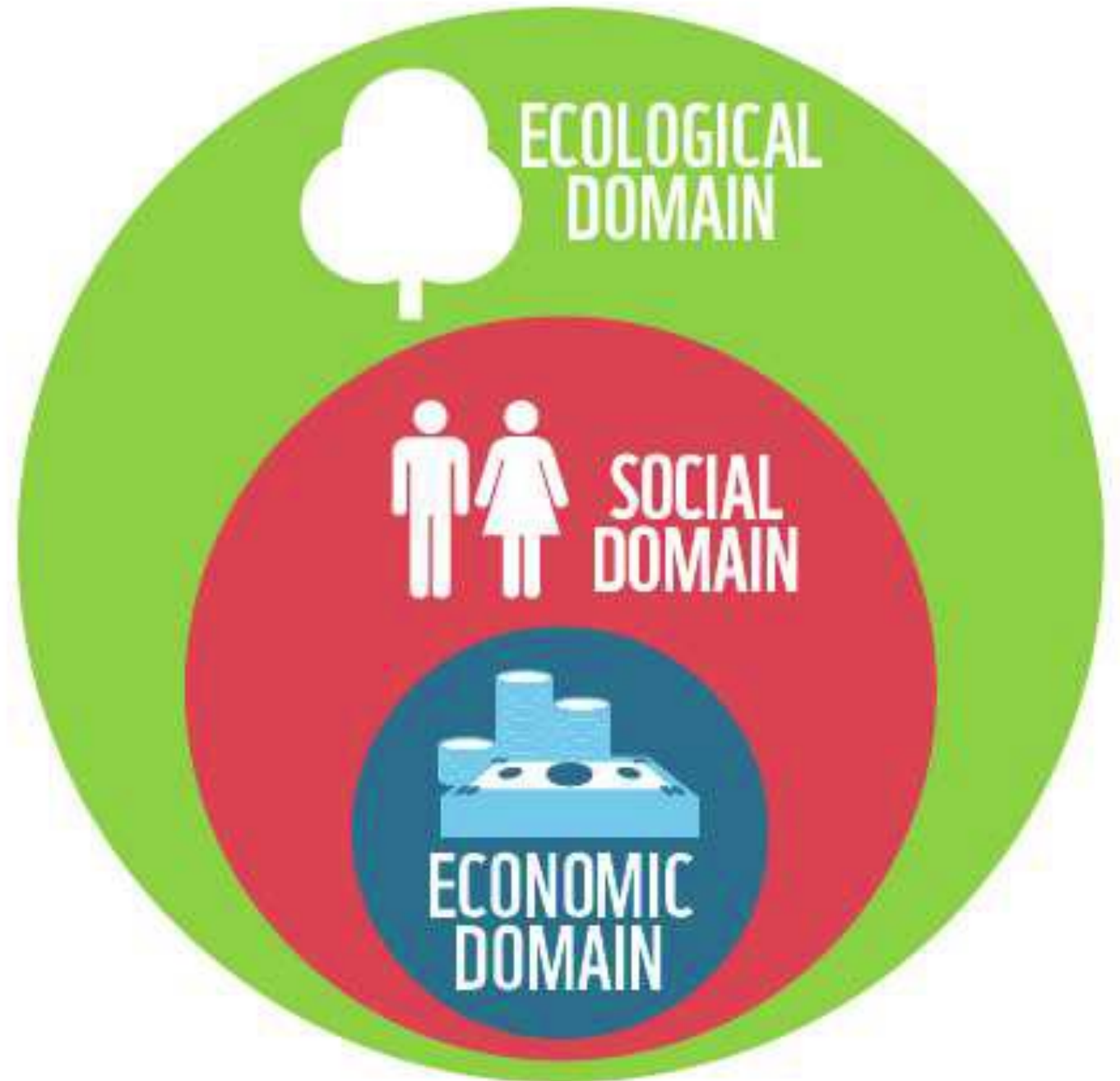
# World view

- Is this how we generally view the world?
- Emphasis on economic growth



In reality it's like this:

- Ecosystems sustain societies that create economies.
- It does not work the other way round.
- World view changing?



# Effects of Climate Change (the negatives)

- Weather
  - Drought and floods
  - Extreme weather events
- Air Quality
- Infectious Disease
  - Vector-borne
- Built environment (indoor and outdoor)
  - Indoor AQ
  - Urban health island effect
  - Over heating
- Radiation (UV)
- Political / economic / social: migration, shortages, unrest

# Climate Change (the (potential) positives)

- Fewer cold related deaths
- Less meat and dairy consumption - better diet
- Increased physical exercise
- Better mental health
- Better AQ
- Better built environment
- More biodiversity and better environment
- More equal society

# Air Quality

Driving  
Public Transport  
Active travel

# Diet / Food Policy

- Plant based
- Meat / dairy

Obesity

Green Space

Mental Health

Biodiversity

Built Environment  
• Planning and Transport  
• Housing

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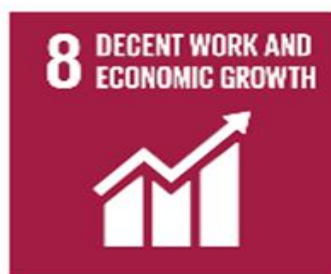
Biodiversity

Built Environment  
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# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



# The narrative is changing



# Positive vision of the future

- Vision of the future (Living in the Past?)
- It's better for us (and the planet)
- Science fiction
- Appeal to younger people
- FOMO
- Can / will still be enjoyable!

# Reasons to be optimistic

- The shift to a more ecologically sustainable society results in health gains from a healthier way of living – it makes sense
- We have successfully helped to create major societal shifts in favour of health before: smoking, air quality, road safety, food safety
- We are making progress, don't just look at individual developments – think of all the things that are happening inc change in awareness and attitudes – diversity, obesity, sugar tax, AQ, green space, mental health
- We are not alone; many people see this also and we have many partners and potential partners
- Momentum has built (and continues to) at societal and political levels

# So, lots to do.....

- No-one can sort this out by themselves
- No single magic bullet – more like magic buckshot
- Need to work together – “collaborate like mad”, “extreme collaboration”
- Develop system leaders, at all levels – we’re all leaders
- Work on multiple action points – SDGs
- Awareness of the links and levers that are available
- Challenge accepted practice / ways of thinking and doing / new norm (green credentials)
- Develop a positive narrative
- Social value and anchor institutions



# CLIMATE SUMMIT

WHAT IF IT'S  
A BIG HOAX AND  
WE CREATE A BETTER  
WORLD FOR NOTHING?

- ENERGY INDEPENDENCE
- PRESERVE RAINFORESTS
- SUSTAINABILITY
- GREEN JOBS
- LIVABLE CITIES
- RENEWABLES
- CLEAN WATER, AIR
- HEALTHY CHILDREN
- ETC. ETC.



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YOUNG PITT