



**Economic
and Social
Research Council**



Centre for **Climate Change**
and **Social Transformations**

Centre for Climate Change and Social Transformations (CAST)

Funded by: Economic and Social Research Council

Research Centre Value: £5 million

Funded by the Economic and Social Research Council, CAST is a £5 million research centre that involves researchers from the universities of Bath, Cardiff, Manchester, York and East Anglia (UKRI project reference: ES/S012257/1).

While there is now strong international momentum on action to tackle climate change, it is clear that critical targets (such as keeping global temperature rise to well within 2 degrees Celsius) will be missed without fundamental transformations across all parts of society.

The Centre's aim is to advance our understanding of how to transform lifestyles, organisations and social structures in order to achieve a low-carbon future.

The Centre partners with practitioners (e.g. Greener-UK, China Centre for Climate Change Communication, Possible), policy-makers (e.g. Welsh Government, Greater Manchester Combined Authority) and companies (e.g. Anglian Water, Wates Construction) to develop and test new ways of engaging with the public, governments and businesses in the UK.



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European Research Council
Established by the European Commission



Deep Decarbonisation: The Democratic Challenge of Navigating Governance Traps

Funded by: European Research Council

Project Value: €2.4 million

DeepDCarb is a collaborative project involving researchers at the University of East Anglia and the University of Heidelberg, funded through an Advanced Grant from the European Research Council (Project number: 882601). It examines how societies are responding to climate change.

The standard advice to politicians confronting such a challenge is to adopt time-consistent commitment devices, such as binding policies. Yet, politicians appear unable to do this and academic research struggles to explain the causes and relevant solutions to this impasse.

Political scientists argue that politicians fear retribution at the next election; psychologists claim that citizens understand what is at stake, but expect politicians to lead. Does this lock politicians and the public into a 'governance trap' which greatly reduces the political feasibility of rapid change?

The DeepDCarb project seeks to significantly advance academic research by directly interrogating the relationship between politicians, citizens/voters and other actors to establish what is causing the impasse and how policy can solve it.