

# SINGAPORE'S CARBON TAX

PMR Technical Workshop  
26 September 2018

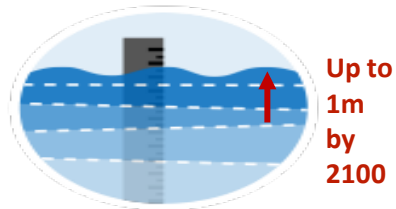
Jansen Toh  
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Strategy Group, Prime Minister's Office



# Projected impacts of climate change in Singapore

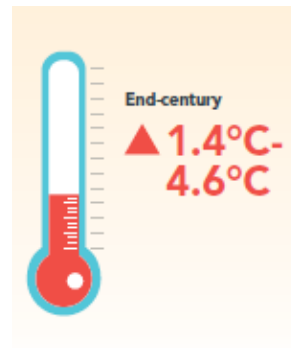
As a small, low-lying island city-state, Singapore is vulnerable to the effects of climate change

## SEA LEVEL RISE



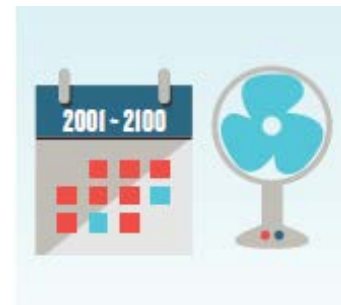
Projected increase in mean sea level rise of up to 1m by 2100.

## DAILY TEMPERATURE



Increase in daily mean temperatures by 1.4 – 4.6°C.

## HOT & HUMID WEATHER



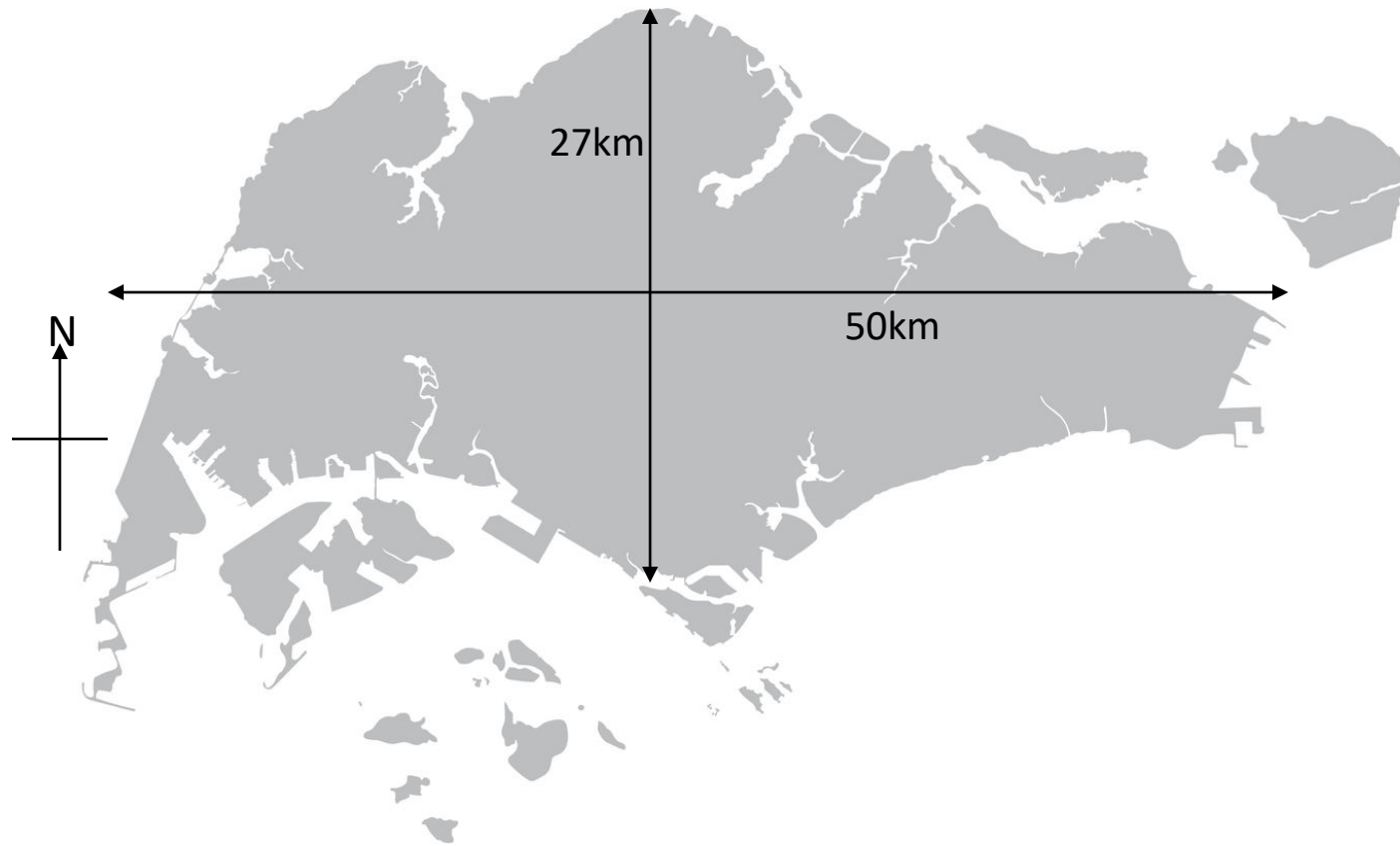
Approx. 300 days of hot and humid weather annually compared to 30 days now.

## RAINFALL



Increase in both intensity and frequency of heavy rainfall. More pronounced contrast between the wet months and dry months.

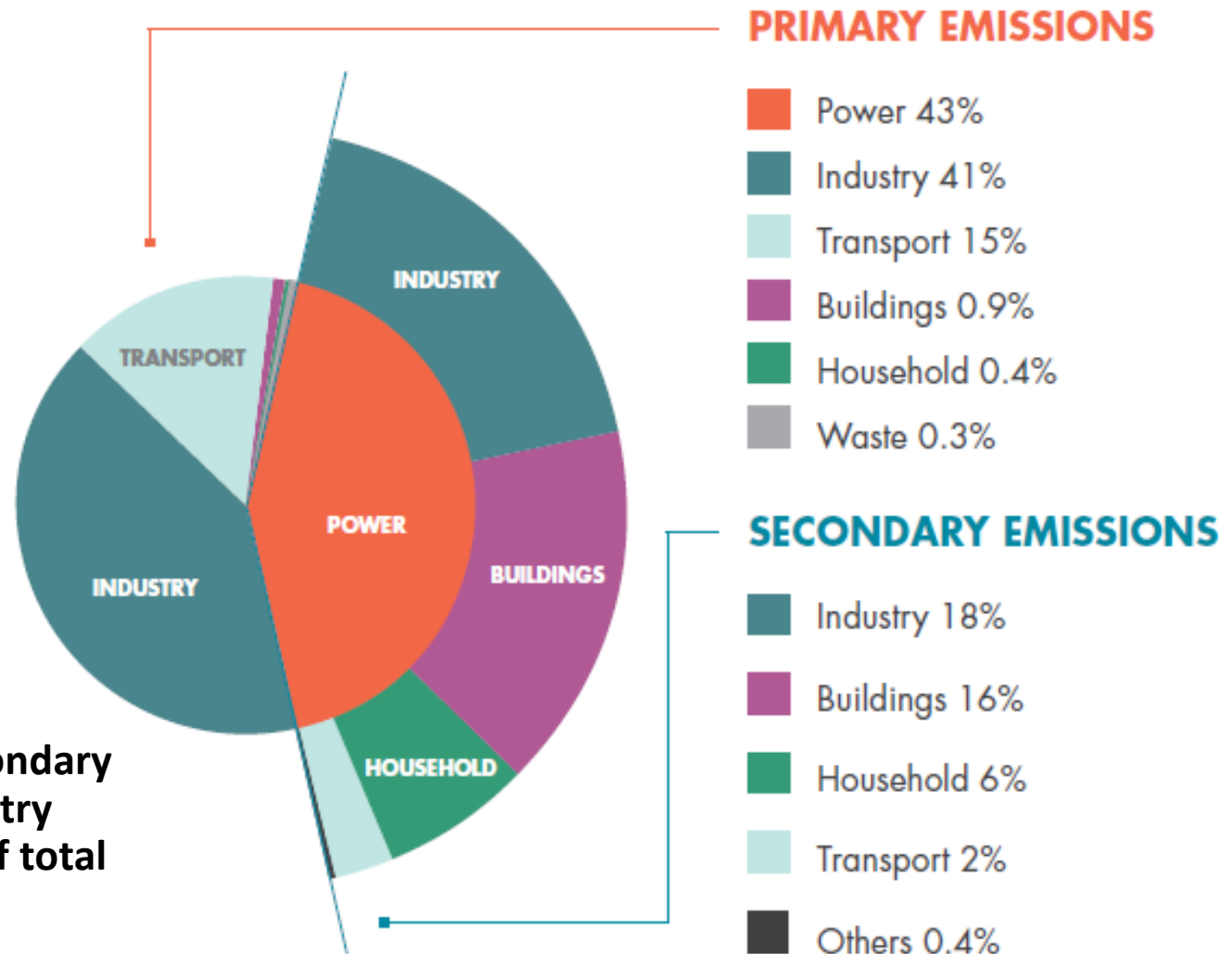
# Singapore's National Circumstances



- Lack of Access to Alternative Energy Options
- Export-oriented and Open Economy

# Singapore's Emissions Profile

49 MT GHG emissions in 2012 (0.1% of global)



Factoring in secondary emissions, industry makes up 59% of total emissions

# Institutional Structure

## Inter-Ministerial Committee on Climate Change (IMCCC)

*Chair: Deputy Prime Minister Teo Chee Hean*

### IMCCC Executive Committee

International  
Negotiations Working  
Group

Long-Term Emissions &  
Mitigation Working Group

Resilience Working Group



Ministry of the Environment  
and Water Resources



STRATEGY GROUP  
PRIME MINISTER'S  
OFFICE



MINISTRY OF TRADE  
AND INDUSTRY  
SINGAPORE



# Singapore's Climate Pledges

**2020:** Reduction of GHG emissions by 16% below Business-as-Usual (BAU) levels in 2020

**2030:** Reduce emissions intensity\* (EI) by 36% below 2005 levels by 2030 and stabilise our emissions with the aim of peaking around 2030

# Singapore's Suite of Mitigation Measures

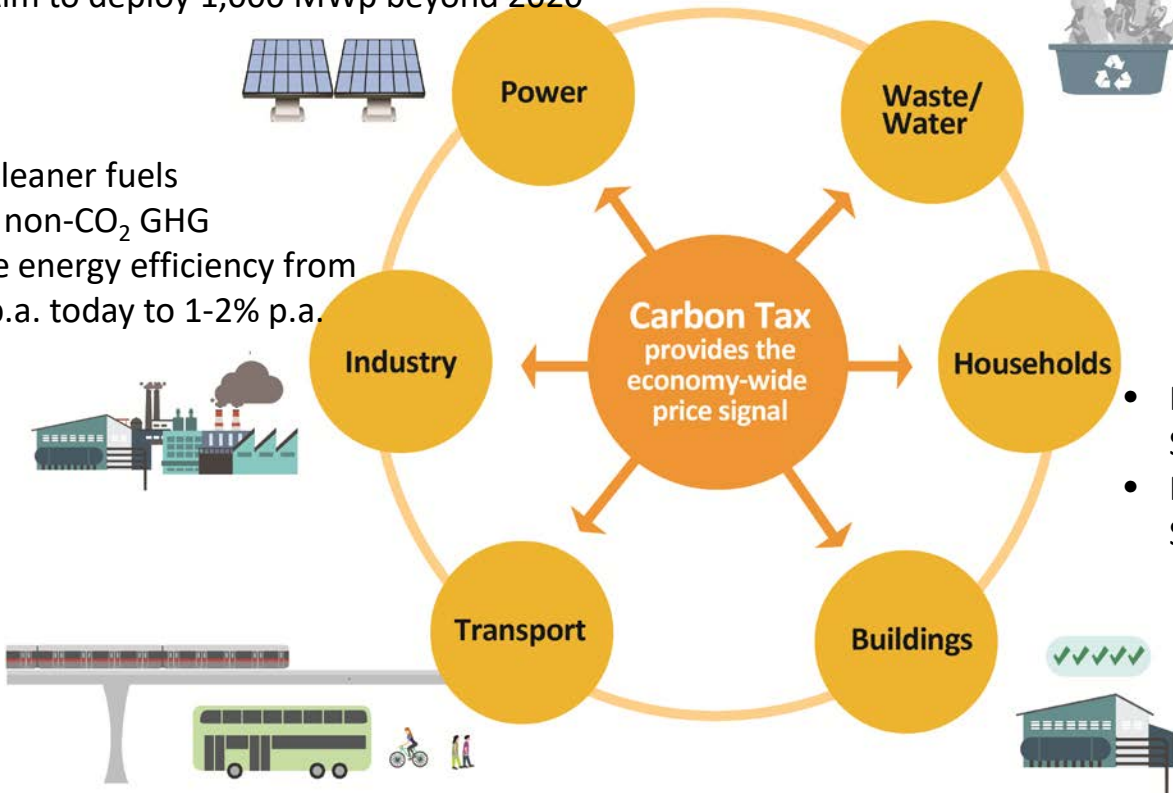
- Increase deployment of solar photovoltaics (PVs)
  - 162 MWp installed capacity (Q1 2018)
  - Aim to deploy 1,000 MWp beyond 2020



- Adopt cleaner fuels
- Reduce non-CO<sub>2</sub> GHG
- Improve energy efficiency from ~0.8% p.a. today to 1-2% p.a.



- Increase public transport mode share from 67% today to 75% by 2030
- Doubling of rail network to 360 km by 2030
- Increase cycling path from 240 km to 700 km by 2030
- Quadrupled sheltered walkway network to 200km



- Improve efficiency of desalination and used water treatment
- Increase overall recycling rate from 61% to 70% by 2030
- Reduce plastics incineration

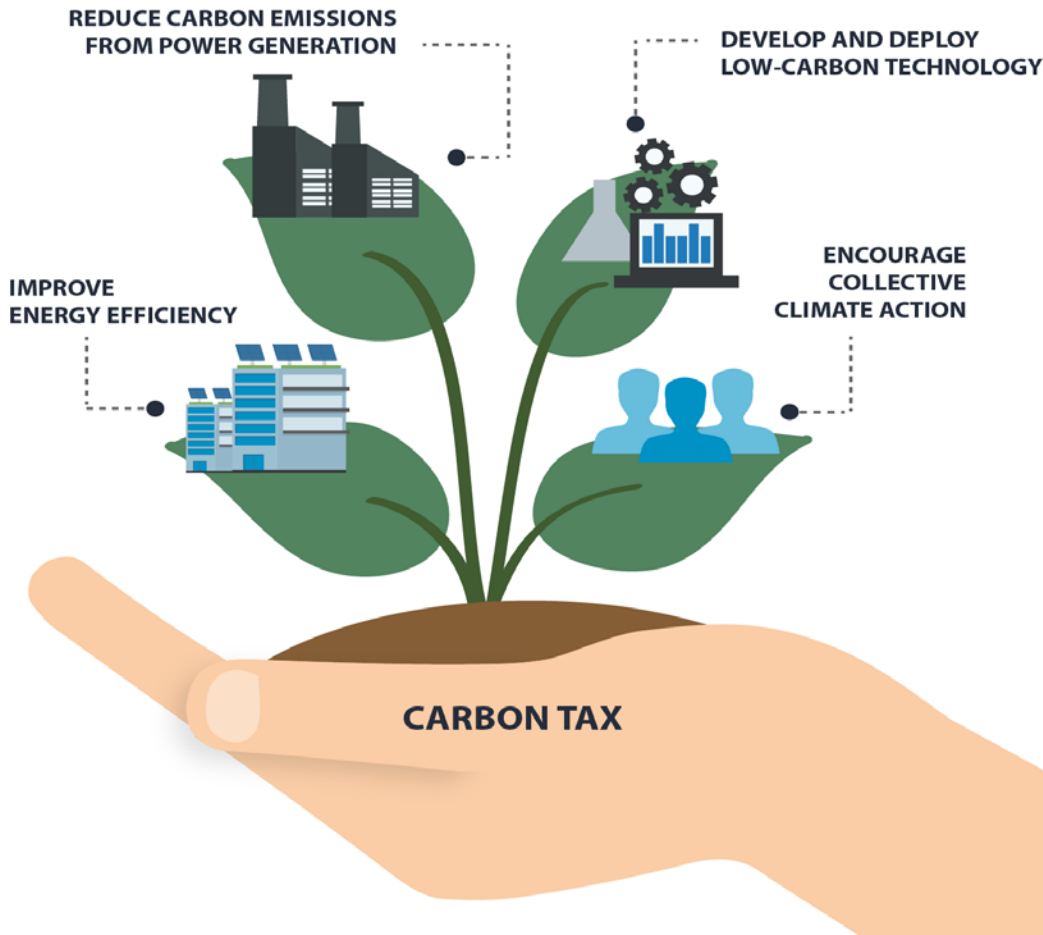


- Mandatory Energy Labelling Scheme
- Minimum Energy Performance Standards



- Green Mark Certification for 80% of buildings by 2030
- Long-term aspiration of Positive Low-rise, Zero-Energy Medium-rise, Super-low Energy High-rise buildings for the tropics

## SINGAPORE'S CLIMATE ACTION PLAN



## HOW A CARBON TAX WORKS

### 1 INTRODUCE A TAX ON EMISSIONS

- Carbon tax will generally be applied upstream, for example, on power stations and other large direct emitters.
- Businesses can choose to reduce emissions or pay a carbon tax.

### 2 ENCOURAGE ENERGY EFFICIENCY & SUPPORT MORE GREEN ACTIONS

- Businesses are motivated to improve their energy efficiency.
- Consumers are encouraged to use less electricity and save energy.
- Carbon tax revenue will help to fund measures by industry to reduce emissions and provide appropriate measures to ease the transition.

### 3 LOWER CARBON, GREENER ECONOMY

- Lower emissions lead to a greener planet.
- Businesses become more resource-efficient and sustainable.
- More opportunities in green growth sectors, such as clean technology.



## Carbon Tax Rate

- S\$5/tCO<sub>2</sub>e (~US\$3.70/tCO<sub>2</sub>e) in the first instance (2019-2023), as a transition period for companies to adopt energy efficiency projects
  - Tax rate to be reviewed by 2023
  - With the intent of increasing it to between S\$10-15/tCO<sub>2</sub>e (~US\$7.40-11.10/tCO<sub>2</sub>e) by 2030
  - The review will take into consideration international climate change developments, the progress of our domestic emissions mitigation effort and our economic competitiveness.
- Applied uniformly without exemption, for a transparent and fair price signal across the economy

## Coverage and Threshold

- 25 ktCO<sub>2</sub>e threshold covers around 40 companies, ~80% emissions coverage
  - Balance between maximising coverage and affecting only large emitters
- Existing excise duties for transport fuels equivalent to implicit tax of S\$37-281/tCO<sub>2</sub>e, effective coverage ~95%

## Carbon Tax Revenue Recycling

- Revenue will be used to help industry reduce emissions
  - Funds set aside to enhance support for energy efficiency through existing grants
  - Prepared to spend more than the revenue collected from the industry in the first five years to support worthwhile projects

## Fixed-Price Credit-Based (FPCB) Mechanism

- A sensible approach while the rules and framework of international carbon market is being finalised and established
  - Open to explore linking our carbon tax framework to external carbon markets will be considered when the rules and framework are established
- Flexibility in the mechanism by putting in place key building blocks to facilitate international linkage and offsets in the future
  - E.g. Credit registry infrastructure
- Participate actively in international carbon market platforms
  - Asia Pacific Carbon Market Roundtable (APCMR)
  - World Bank's Partnership for Market Readiness (PMR)
  - Carbon Pricing Leadership Coalition (CPLC)
  - Ministerial Declaration on Carbon Markets.

# Learning from other Jurisdictions

- Understand the policy considerations and rationale behind the design details
- Adopt the best practices and learn from others' experiences
  - Balance between policy objectives and complexity
  - Took reference from relevant overseas legislations in developing our own Act
- Actively keeping up with international developments and engaging the international community
- Need to better understand not just the explicit carbon prices, but implicit cost of carbon and energy policies e.g. regulations, standards, renewable energy targets, energy efficiency targets and voluntary agreements



**“Our vision for Singapore is a climate resilient global city that is well positioned for green growth... Together, we can ensure that Singapore remains a vibrant and liveable nation for our future generations.”**

*— Deputy Prime Minister Teo Chee Hean*

# THANK YOU