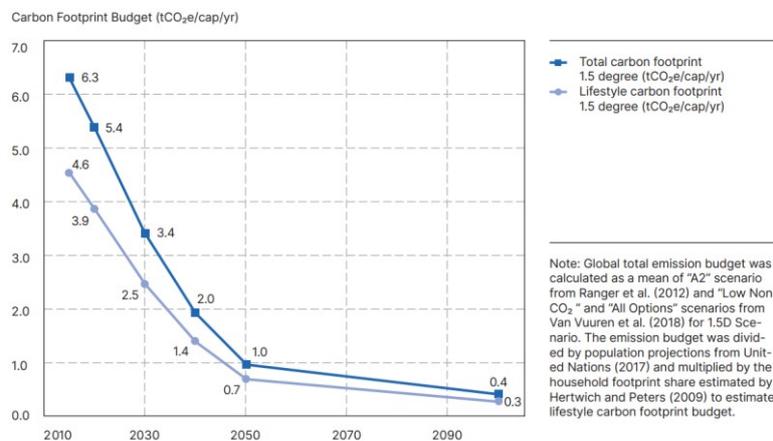




Funders for Sustainable Living Network: Summary Report 2020-2021

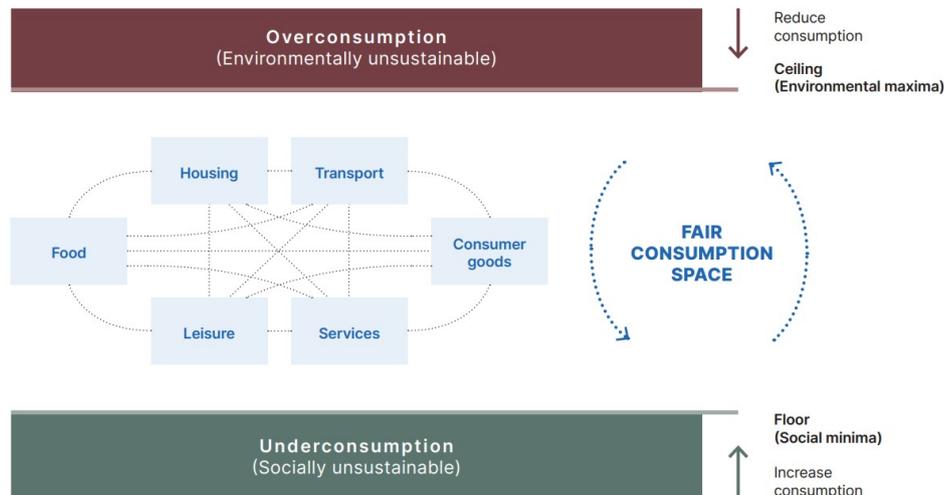
Funders for Sustainable Living is an open network for mutual support, collaboration and knowledge sharing between funders working on or exploring sustainable behaviours.

We are interested in ambitious action for radically equitable and sustainable ways of living, informed by the [1.5 Degree Lifestyles](#) research programme: an equity-based approach to give the 1.5-Degree target a reasonable chance of being achieved – by keeping per capita consumption emissions below 2.5 tons per year by 2030 and 0.7 tons per year by 2050.



Lifestyle carbon footprint budget comparable with 1.5°C target (without or with less use of negative emissions technologies). Source: [Hot or Cool Institute](#)

In a world with a limited and fast-shrinking global carbon budget, coupled with vast inequalities, funders can play a key role in ensuring we distribute the remaining carbon allowance in a manner that is fair: promoting deep and rapid shrinking of our footprints to avoid irreversible ecological damage. To meet the 2050 ambitious Paris target, high-income countries' lifestyle footprints need to be reduced by over 90% (91–95%), upper-middle-income countries need to reduce their footprints by 68–86%, and lower-middle-income countries like India need to reduce footprints by 76%. This approach has profound implications for the need to transform our way of living and organising our societies.



A Fair Consumption Space for Sustainable Lifestyles. Source: [Hot or Cool Institute](https://www.hot-or-cool.org/)

F4SL impacts include co-funding initiatives and increasing overall funding for ambitious sustainable living initiatives. We stay connected and keep up to date with innovative research and practice through our monthly workshops with guest experts.

Examples of workshop themes:

- What are “sustainable living”, “behaviour change”, and “1.5-degree lifestyles”?
- Funder collaboration: agenda-setting for high-ambition work on sustainable living
- Philanthropy behaving sustainably
- Narratives and storytelling to mainstream zero carbon living
- Revitalising Citizenship for Sustainable Living
- Bringing Sustainable Living into the heart of climate policymaking
- Tackling Consumerism
- New economics and the connection to sustainable consumption

What is the relationship between systemic change and individual action?

Funders and change-makers still meet pushback from others in our field, who suggest that individual lifestyle changes are a harmful distraction from systems change. This false dichotomy hinders discussions about how we can ease deep and rapid systemic change.

We need top-down and bottom-up approaches: action at individual, community, institutional and governmental levels. As funders, we can be more aware of the dangers of this false dichotomy and give credibility to all approaches even if our work focuses on aspects more classically described as “systems change” such as advocacy and infrastructure.

Funders are increasingly attuned to inequality in consumption, emissions, and climate impacts - and therefore a discussion of who’s lifestyle should be changing. The urgent need to reduce the consumption emissions of the top 10% of earners has been quoted often in the last 2-3 years, but there is a lack of acceptance of the radical reduction in consumption needed by medium-high income earners, and the political and economic shifts needed to make this a reality.