

# Climate crisis and human security: saving our soils

Hannah Conway

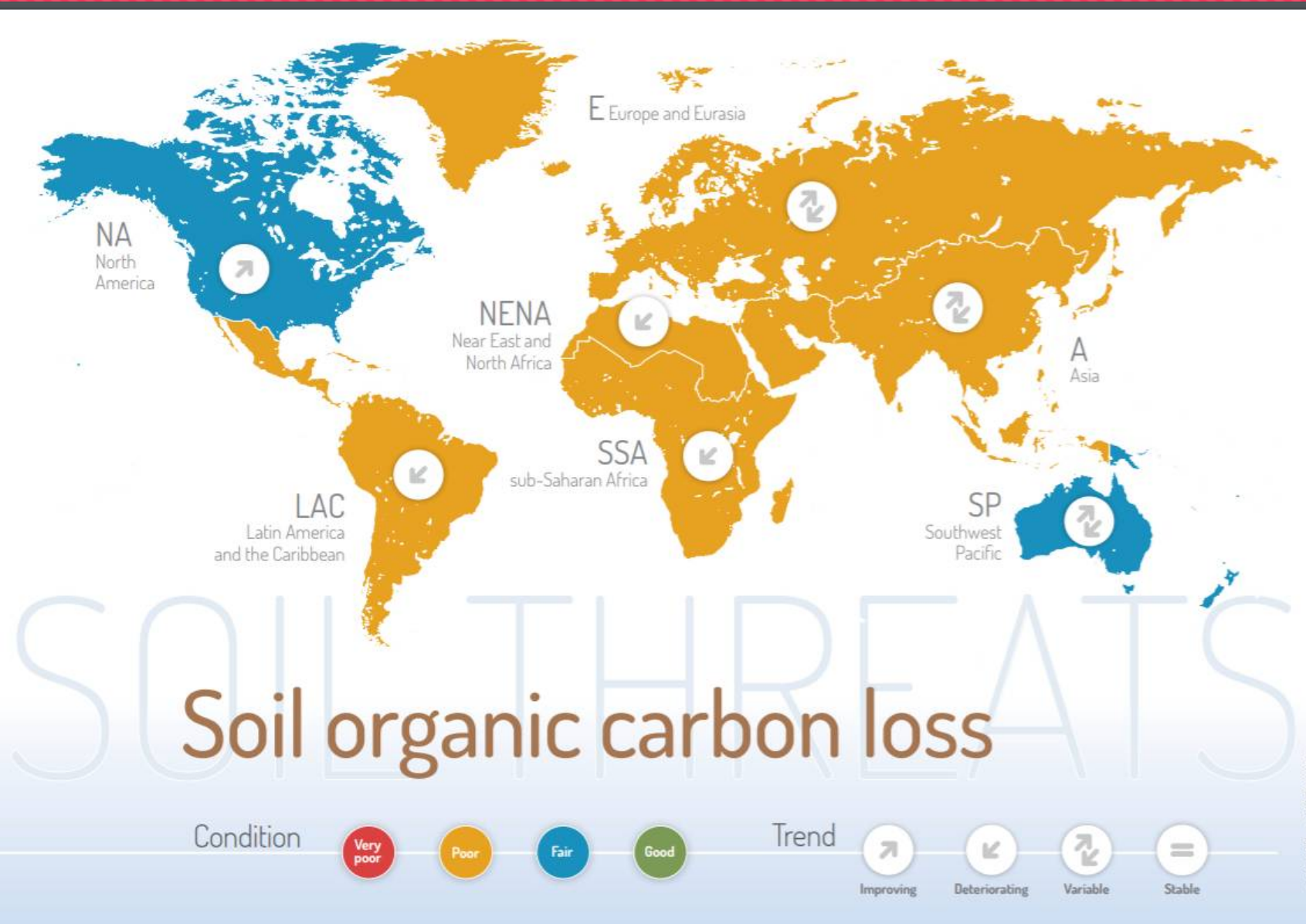
Agricultural Policy Assistant to Molly Scott Cato MEP

- Summary of IPCC report on need to draw carbon out of atmosphere
- Soil and carbon
- Agroforestry
- Estimates of potential capture
- Molly's work
- Progress already made/policy tools

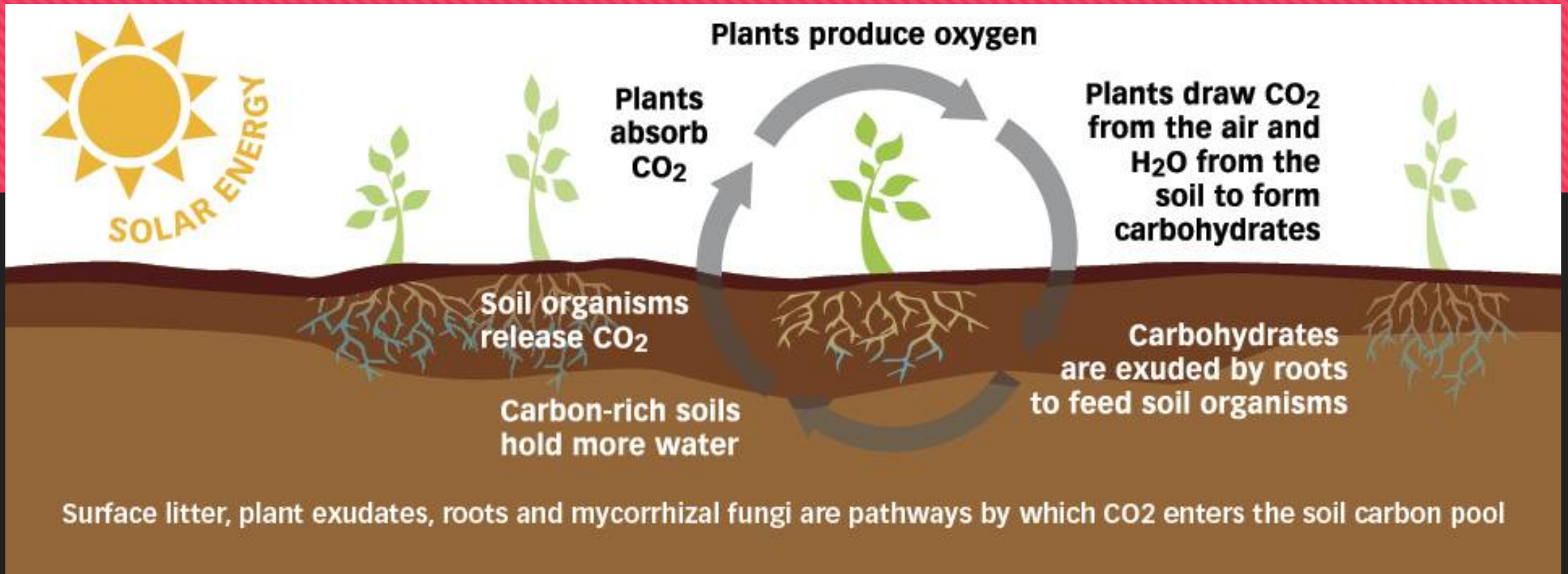
# IPCC report on land use

*"[we must] limit demand for greenhouse-gas intensive foods through shifts to healthier and more sustainable diets"*

- Gives different scenarios which could keep us below 1.5 degrees, all with negative emissions
- Shows clearly that agriculture, forestry and other land use are essential for negative emissions and much more effective than bioenergy (BECCS)
- Diet change and agriculture central part of report



- UK in top four biggest stores of soil carbon. 10 billion tonnes
- UK loses around 2.2 million tonnes of topsoil each year, reducing ability to absorb and store carbon



- With correct management, could sequester up to 100% anthropogenic emissions

<https://soilsolution.org/watch-the-film/>

# Soil and carbon capture

- Soil holds up to 50% of world's organic carbon
- 45% of the soils of Europe have a low or very low organic matter content (0-2% organic carbon)
- Sustainable soil management could produce up to 58% more food
- Conservation tillage without herbicides



# Agroforestry

- Irrigate preventing run-off and reduces exposure
- Draw nutrients and water from deep underground
- Foster biodiversity



# Green Party policies

- Extensive policies to promote soil health and carbon sequestration
- Preserving topsoil
- Recognises fair transition for farmers
- EU level focus, until now...

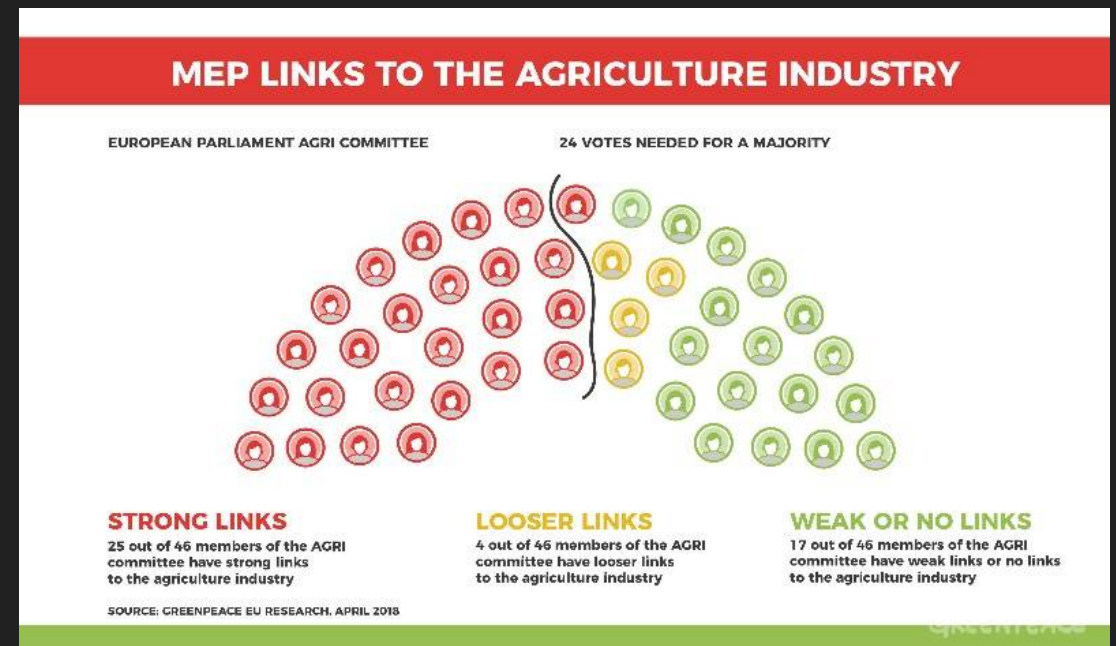


**Green  
Party**



# Molly's work: soil and carbon farming at centre of tackling climate change

- Research study: data on agroecological practices, soils and climate change mitigation with aim of tackling greenwashing and flimsy solutions
- Sustainable use of pesticides + Plant protection products
- Two reports: post-Brexit agriculture
- Trade paper



# Progress and next steps



- 4 per 1000 initiative French government

EU level

- European Soil Framework Directive blocked
- Cross compliance and greening under CAP
- Horizon 2020
- Soil Service project

UK

- Soil security programme DEFRA et al
- Agriculture Bill: of the 36 clauses in the bill, 28 were non-committal
- Will funds be ringfenced?
- What about trade? Need cooperation

**Thank you**