



ECEEE Workshop on Energy Sufficiency, Copenhagen, 20th February 2020

Sufficiency and Sustainable Prosperity: *Challenges and Opportunities for Local Government*

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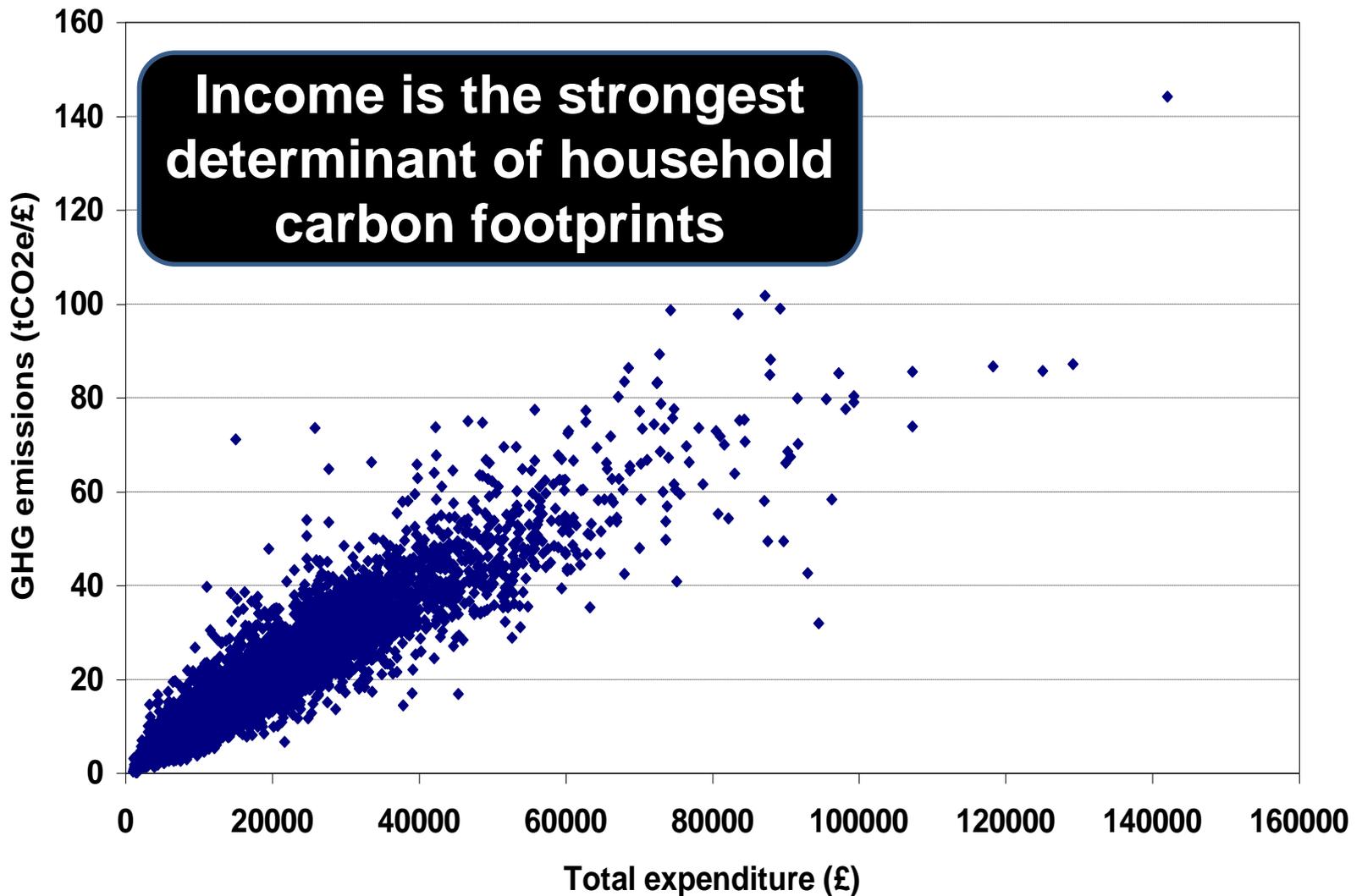
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Sustainable prosperity:
“Living well within the Earth’s limits”

Jackson (2017) and O’Neill et al (2018)

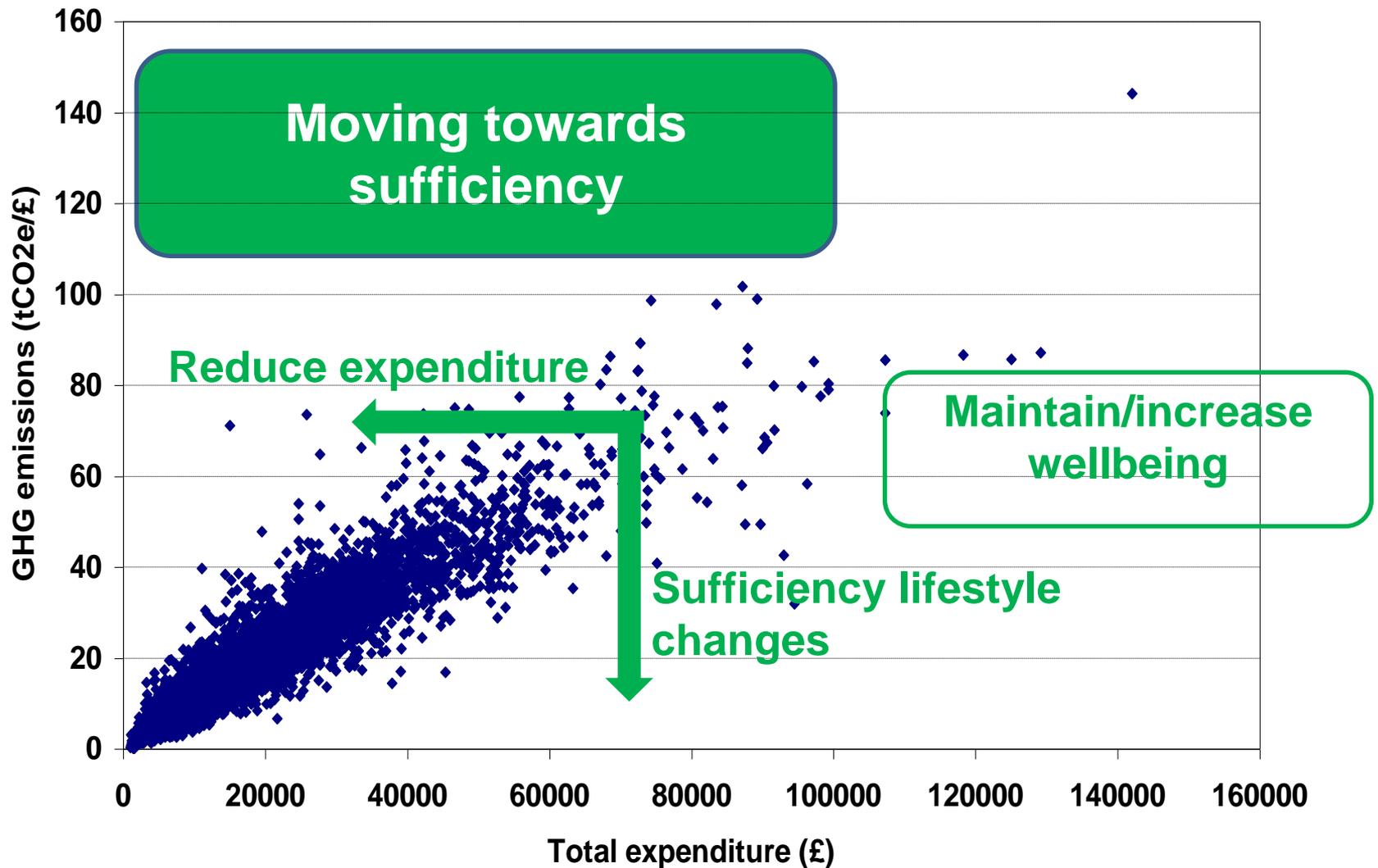
Aim

- How can local government encourage reducing environmental impacts through supporting sufficiency lifestyles?
- Can sufficiency lifestyles be publicly acceptable?
 - Win-wins between sufficiency lifestyles and high wellbeing (physical and mental)



UK Household GHG emissions versus total expenditure (2009)

Source: Chitnis, M., S. Sorrell, A. Druckman, S. K. Firth and T. Jackson (2014). "Who rebounds most? Estimating direct and indirect rebound effects for different UK socioeconomic groups." *Ecological Economics* **106(0): 12-32.**



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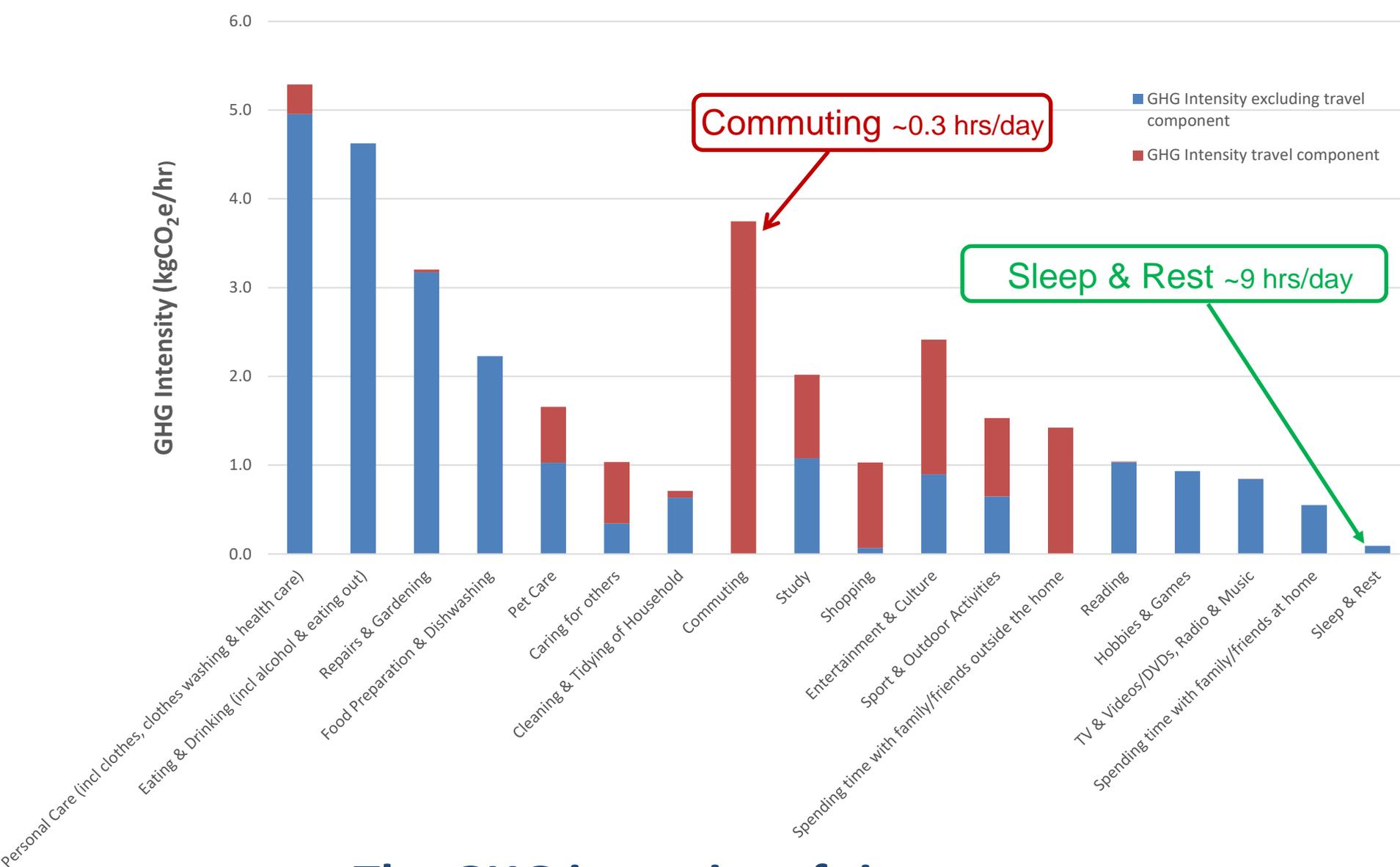
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Sufficiency is an egalitarian concept

Useful to approach sufficiency through the lens of time use

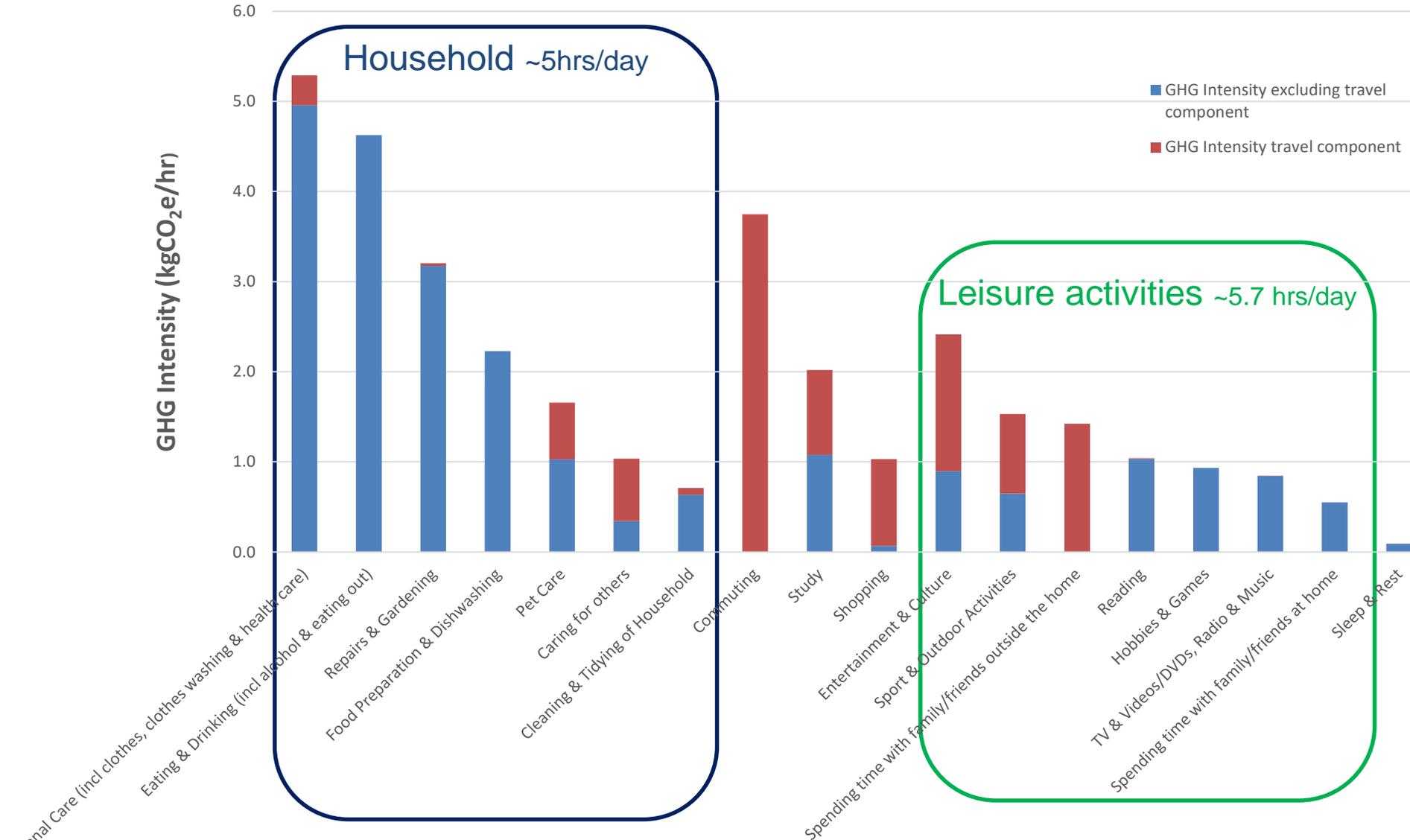


What is the carbon intensity of household activities?



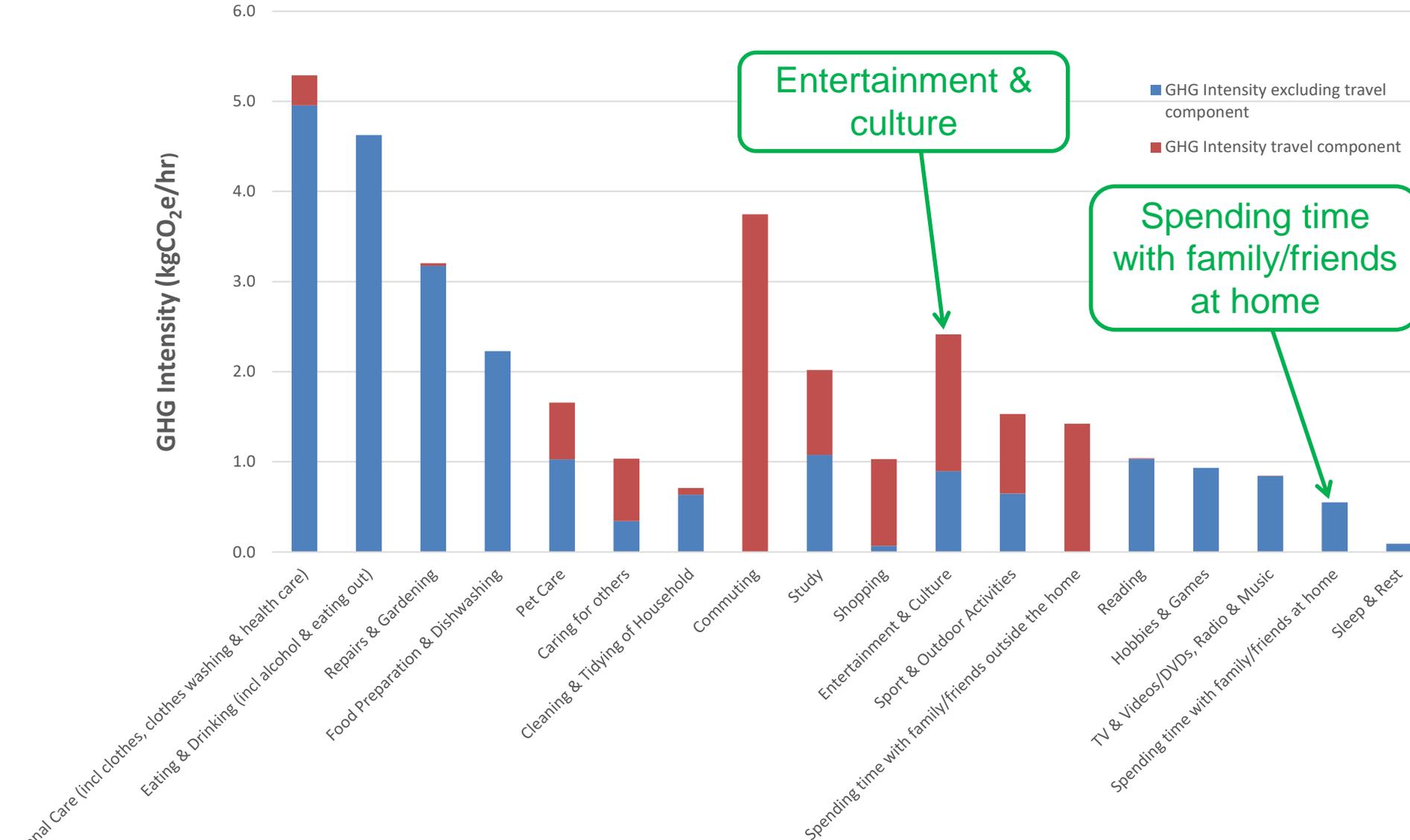
The GHG intensity of time use

Source: Druckman and Gatersleben (2019)



The GHG intensity of time use

Source: Druckman and Gatersleben (2019)



The GHG intensity of time use

Source: Druckman and Gatersleben (2019)

Which leisure activities can be
low carbon 
and good for
physical  and mental  wellbeing?

Sufficiency activities and wellbeing

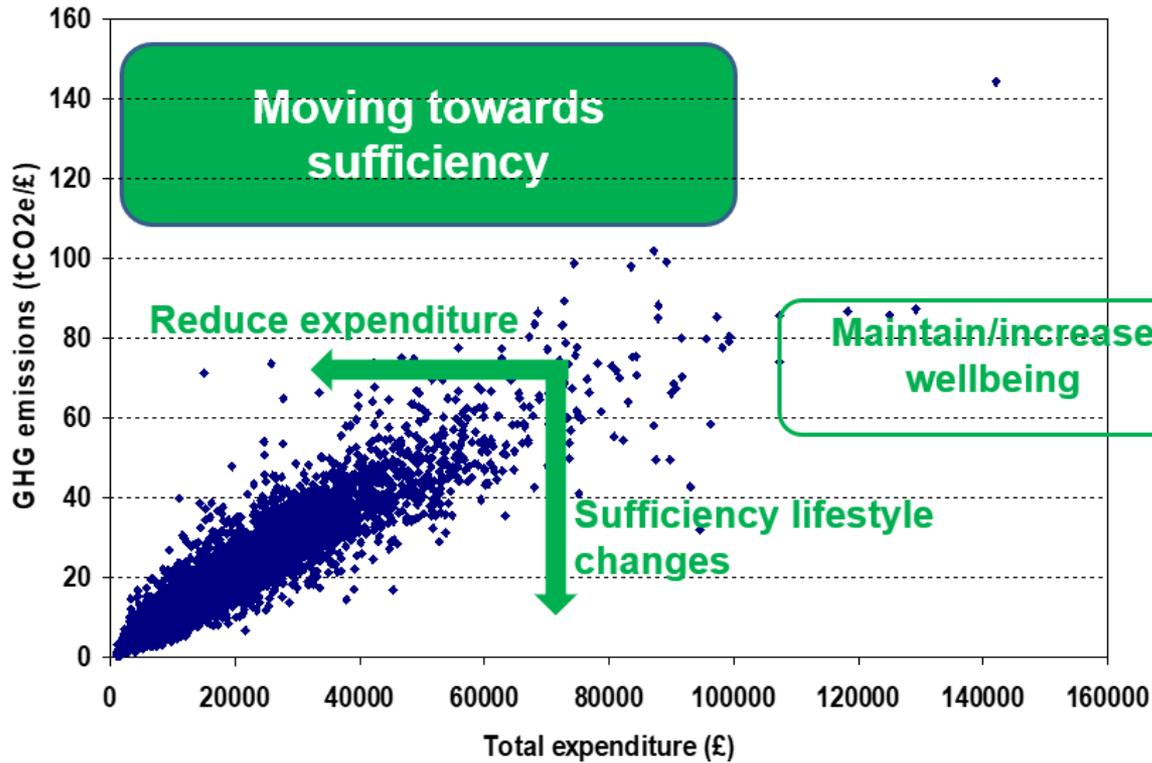
Social activities - conversing with friends and family at home			
Physical activities - walking, exercising, sport			
Goal orientated activities - in the 'flow' - gardening, reading, painting, skiing (Csikszentmihalyi, 2006).			
Volunteering			
Being close to nature			

Sources: Druckman and Gatersleben (2019); Csikszentmihalyi (2006); Holmberg (2012); Kahneman & Kreuger (2006); Kahneman et al (2004); Caprariello and Reis (2012); Gatersleben et al (2008); Haines et al (2009)

Role of Local Government

- Travel
 - Active travel (walking, cycling)
 - Public transport
 - School transport eg 'walking buses'
- Local amenities
 - Open spaces/parks/woodlands
 - Infrastructure (sports, community halls etc)
 - Services (volunteer bureau/community choirs etc)
- Local planning:
 - Proximity of services
 - Co-habitation & Inter-generational housing
 - (Biodiversity corridors, Low energy housing/Passiv Housing etc....)

Reducing household expenditure



- Rebound Effect
 - *if have money, will spend it*

Counteracting the Rebound Effect

- 'Green' investment
- Work time reduction

Work Time Reduction

- In the 1930s Keynes predicted a large increase in leisure time.
- This has not happened
- We've taken gains in productivity over gains in leisure time.



Ramey, V.A. and Francis, N., 2009. A century of work and leisure. *American Economic Journal: Macroeconomics*, 1(2), pp.189-224.

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Theoretical **outcomes** of work time reduction



- Increased time affluence
 - Time available for socialising, exercising, volunteering, community
 - Improved wellbeing
- Reduced environmental burdens:
 - Reduced consumption leads to reduced resource use and carbon emissions
- Reduced unemployment and inequalities
 - Higher subjective wellbeing
- Beware of simplistic assumptions
 - Special measures for low income households

.....but

- Non-linear relationship exists between working time and carbon footprints
- Care should be taken that productivity improvements are taken in the form of more leisure time rather than income;
- In countries which have relatively short working hours but high salaries, leisure time may be used in flying.
- Therefore reduced work time policies will need to be implemented as components of wider policy packages.
 - Role for local government to trial shorter working hours?



Conclusion

- Sufficiency lifestyles can benefit environment and wellbeing
 - Positive message is vital
- Local government has key role in supporting sufficiency lifestyles:
 - Infrastructure
 - Planning
 - Services
- Needs to be part of wider policy changes for substantial benefits to be realised, due to the rebound effect.



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