

NINE PLANETARY BOUNDARIES: BEYOND CLIMATE CHANGE

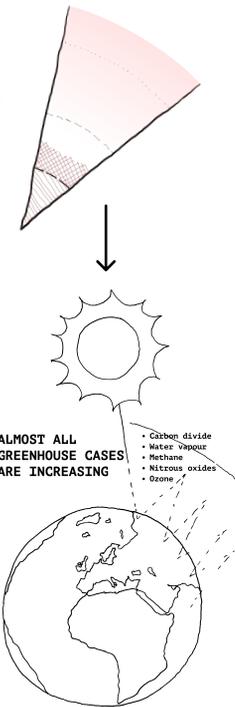
Climate change is not the only environmental impact to consider for humanity, furniture creators included. Science tells us that there are at least eight other planetary boundaries that help define a safe operating space for humanity. Put simply, the planetary boundaries are environmental thresholds within which humanity can survive, develop and thrive for generations to come. Crossing these thresholds come at the risk of abrupt and irreversible environmental change.

As you can see in the illustration, human activities are now pushing our society across 6 of these boundaries with unforeseeable consequences.

When selecting materials it is important to consider the other planetary boundaries beyond climate change. Have a look to the right to see some example questions to be asked for various materials.

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CLIMATE CHANGE

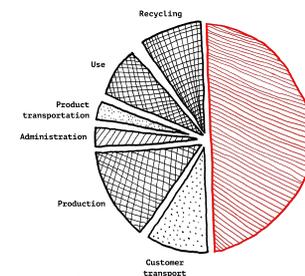


WHEN GREENHOUSE GASES INCREASE, THE TEMPERATURE INCREASES

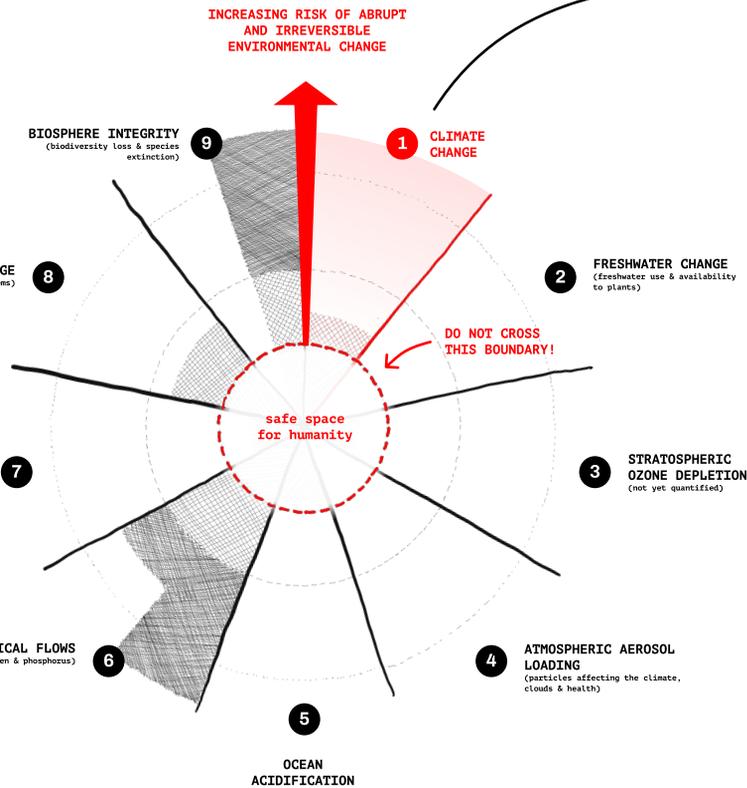
EMISSIONS OF GREENHOUSE GASES ARE MEASURED IN...
CO₂e
(Carbon dioxide equivalents)

SOLUTION: DECREASE AMOUNT OF GREENHOUSE GASES

THE TYPICAL CO₂e FOOTPRINT OF FURNITURE



MATERIALS CHOICES ARE VERY IMPORTANT



EXAMPLE: WOOD

As an industry we love wood, but how much do we love our forests? Across the globe, deforestation is still a big issue and we are in the midst of a huge biodiversity crisis. So, beyond climate change, it is important to at least ask the following when sourcing wood:

- How well is the forest ecosystem managed that the wood comes from?
- Is biodiversity protected?

EXAMPLE: COTTON FABRIC

While cotton might seem to be an innocent enough material, in reality it is a material with many environmental and social issues from farm to finished fabric.

- How are ecosystems, soils and water managed from farm to factory?
- How are pesticides, fertilisers and other chemicals used and managed?
- How is pollution avoided?
- How is worker health and wellbeing safeguarded?