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Regional consequences of the global two-degree target

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The two-degree target has been defined to identify pathways of greenhouse gas emissions that constrain the global temperature rise to two degrees above the pre-industrial level. The aim is to obtain a view of 'avoided climate change' with respect to the current pathway that would result in a much higher global temperature rise. The the presentation will (i) deal with the often overlooked fact that almost half of the conceded temperature rise since pre-industrial times has already occurred, (ii) show the different time horizons for which the two-degree threshold will likely be reached, according to different SRES scenarios and (iii) show that the global two-degree target may result in even higher increases locally. Results from studies in several German regions will be used as examples.