

# Scope 3 for SMEs: simply overwhelming or overwhelmingly simple?

**83rd LCA Discussion Forum**

**Carbotech AG**

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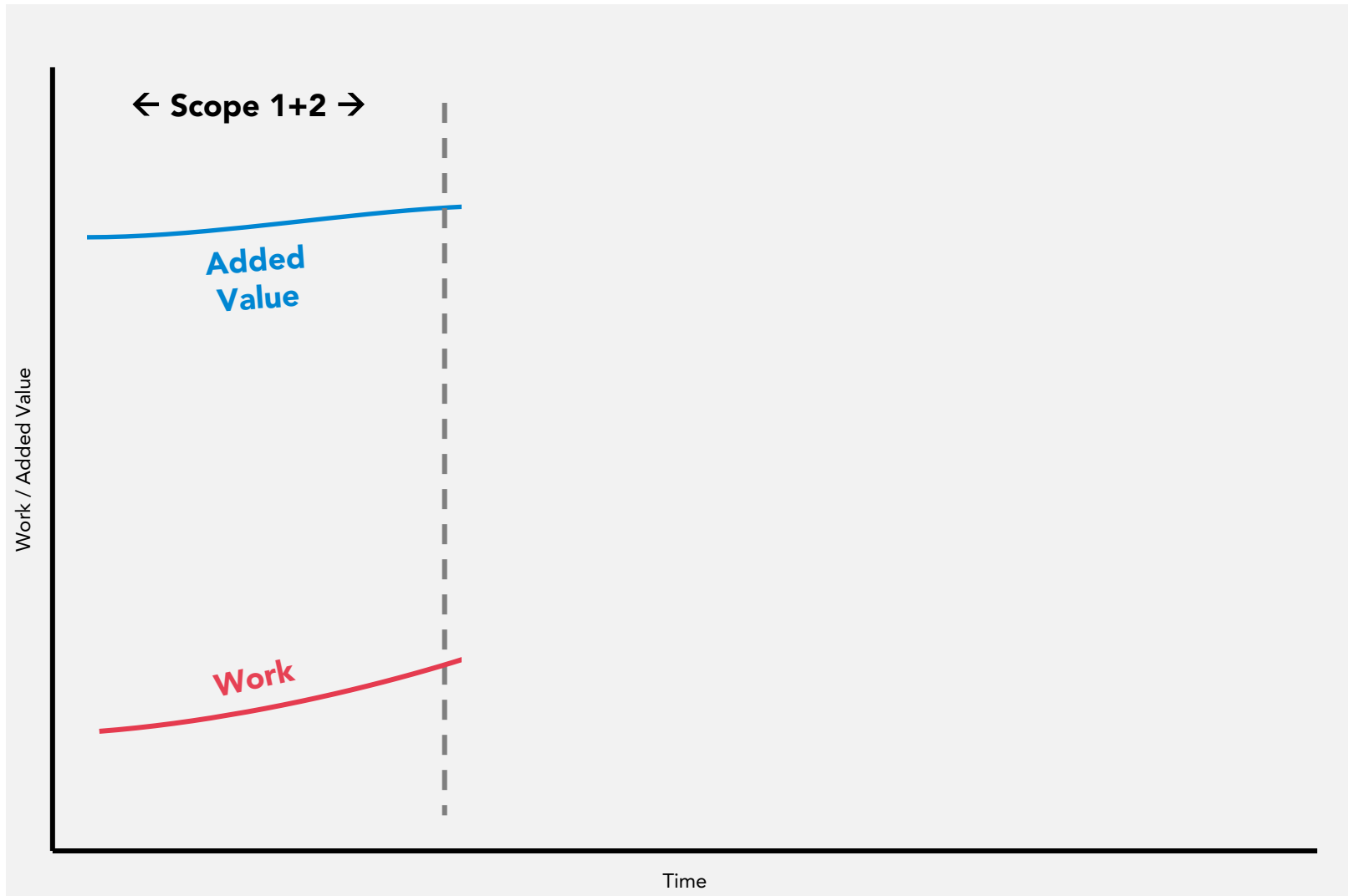
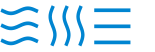


# We all know it's there «hiding in plain sight» ≡ ≡ ≡



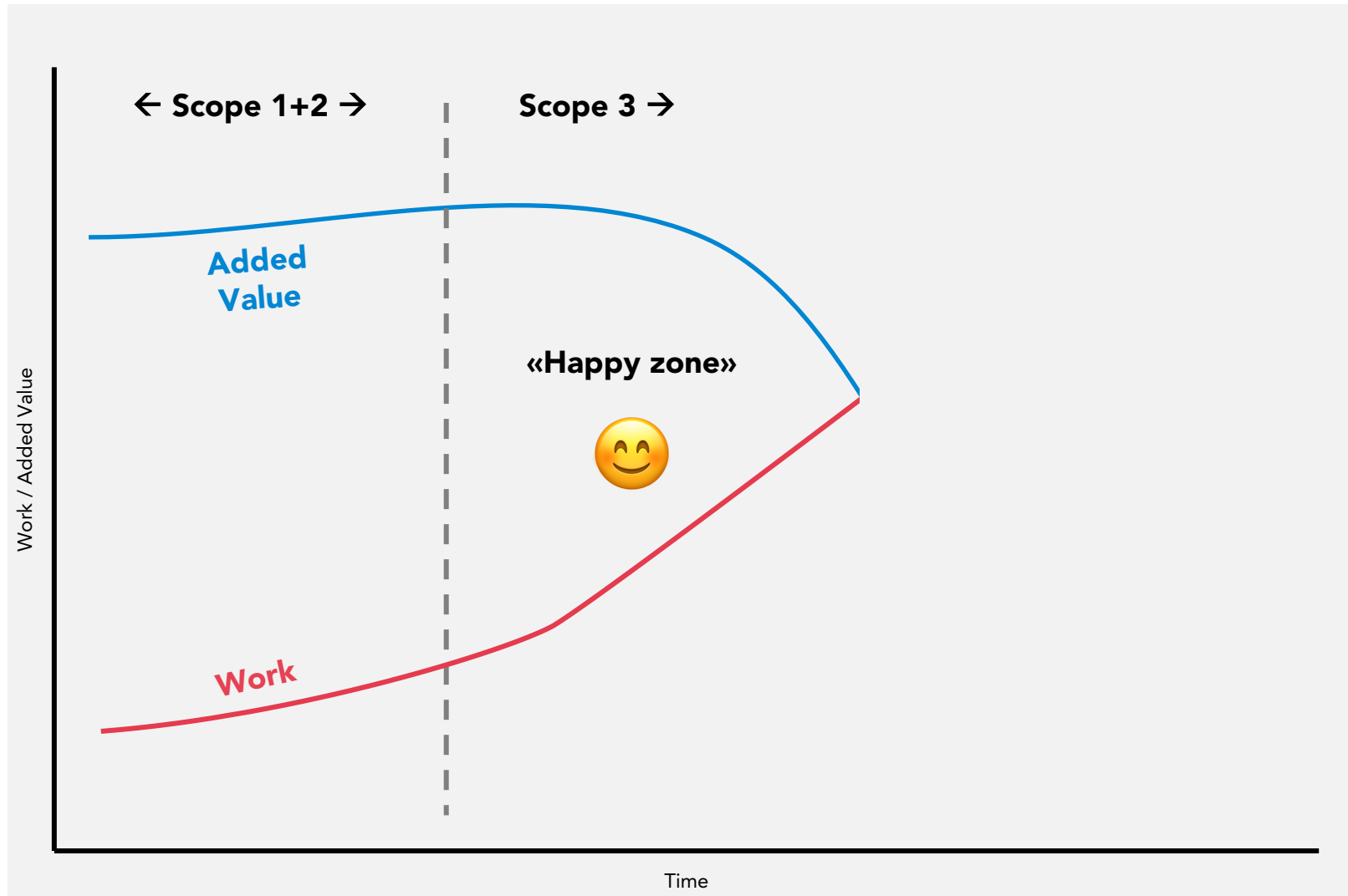
1. Scope 3 is often a **big part** of the emissions, but it is somehow **nebulous/hard to pin down**.
2. Most clients **start from zero** and don't know what to expect.
3. **Where** and **how** to start?

# Where and how to start?



- When to start?

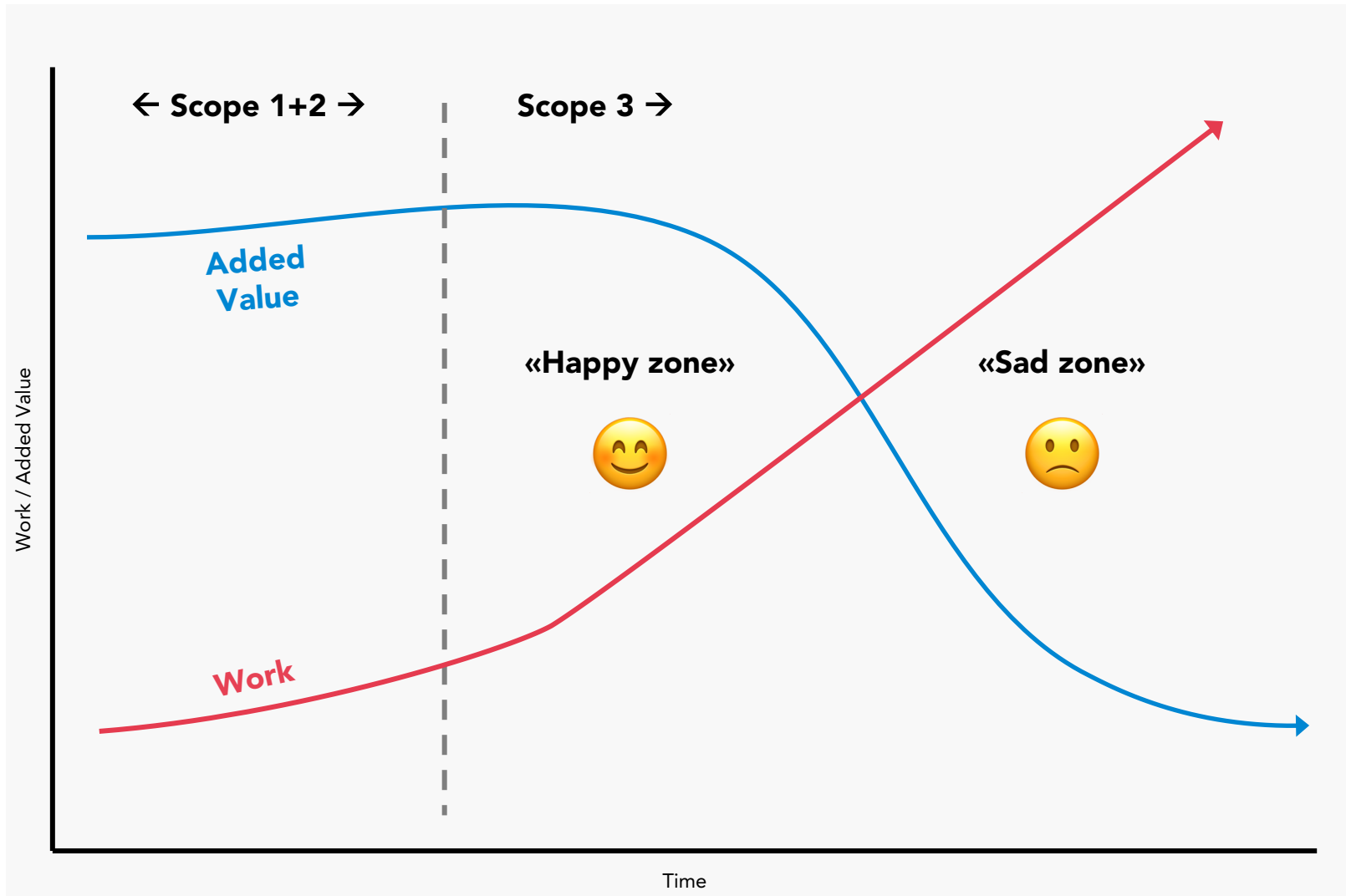
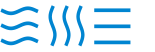
# Where and how to start?



- When to start?

**«overwhelmingly simple»**

# Where and how to start?

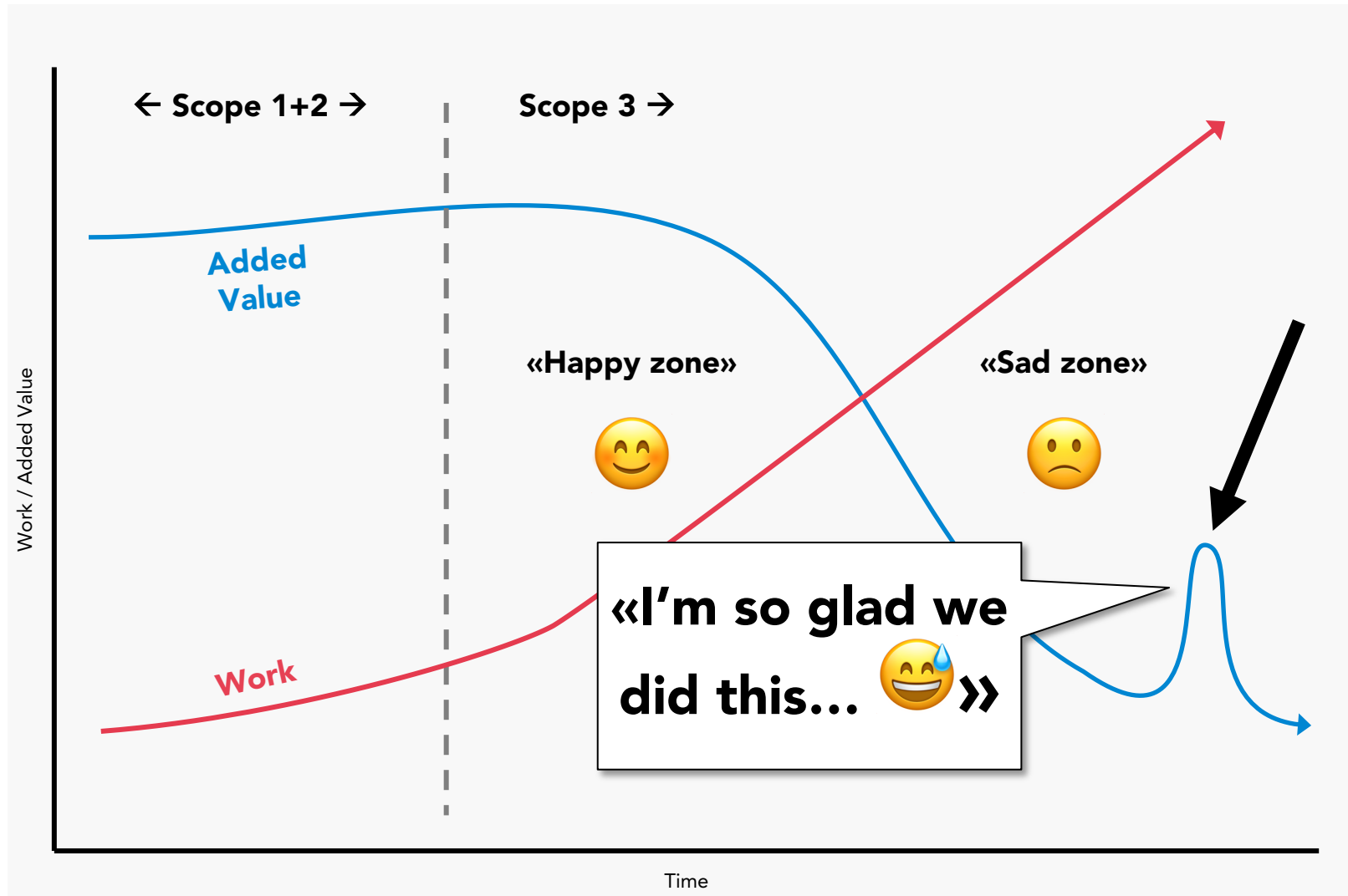


- When to start?
- When to stop?
- Where to focus?

«**simply overwhelming**»

→ **Hot-Spots**

# And then this happens....



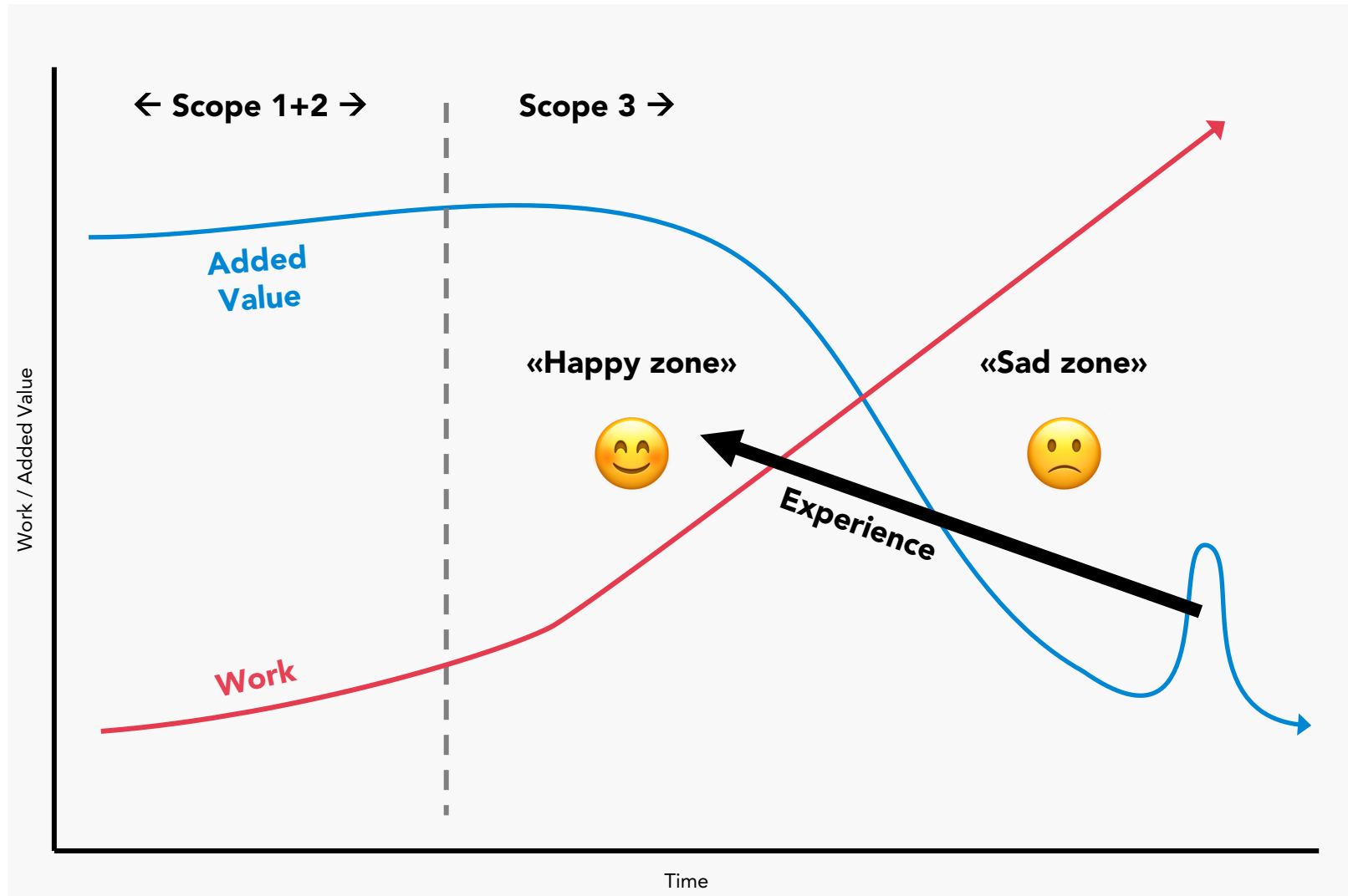
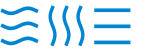
But ... was it "worth" it\*?

How do we know how to stay in the happy zone?

→ **Be practical (80/20)**

Can we know upfront what the hot spots are?

# And then this happens....



But ... was it "worth" it\*?

How do we know how to stay  
in the happy zone?

→ **Be practical (80/20)**

Can we know upfront what  
the hot spots are?

→ **Experience**



# How to tackle Scope 3



Simple for:

- **Service companies** (“standard”) or for
- Companies that produce **few** products with few materials (e.g. plastic parts)

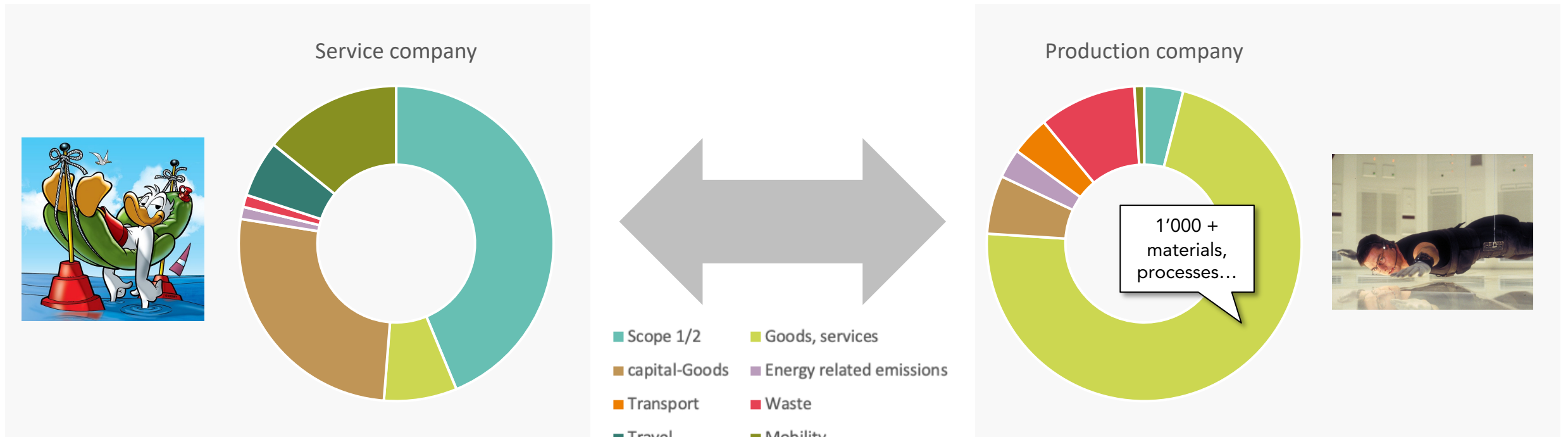
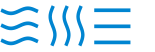


Almost Mission Impossible:

- If e.g. several 1'000 **raw materials** are involved, complex **supply chain, international** activity etc.



# Examples of first Scope 3 assessments

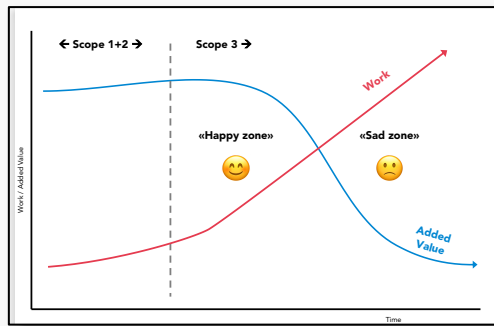


What to take from it?

→ **Scope 3 is important**

→ **And it can look very different!**

## Process related:



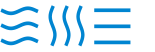
1. From a certain point on: High effort, low added value → Happy zone
2. How do you know what is relevant? → Hot-Spots/Experience

## Data related:

1. Input-data is often not available ... or in CHF instead of physical units
2. Mixing of different databases to include all the needed EF. Databases may not be consistent, however better to use any than no EF
3. Background-data sometimes doesn't fit / is not representative (→ e.g. flight-emissions)

→ **No sufficient answer yet → We need more Scope 3 data/projects/standards/transparency**

# How to cope with scope 3?



**Getting started is better than not starting at all.**



**Everything is OK** in the end; if it's not OK it's not the end.



It's like making pizza: **Even if its "bad", its still pretty good\***.

... and it will be easier and better next time!

Picture 1: "[Start of 80 metres sprint](#)" by [aarti](#) is licensed under [CC BY-NC-SA 2.0](#).

Picture 2: "Dead End - mid" by [bennylin0724](#) is licensed under [CC BY 2.0](#).

Picture 3: Cel Lisboa 2016, [CC0 1.0](#)

\*) «Bad» means: You did a pragmatic hot spot analysis. So you know it's not perfect, but it is good enough.

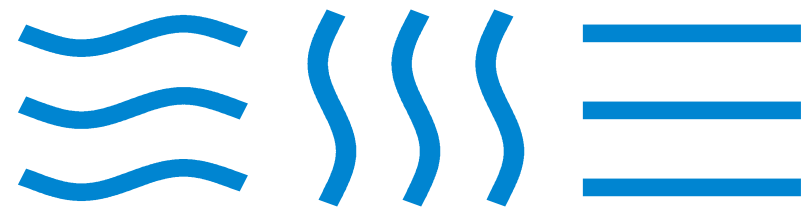


So in the end...?

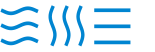
**Is it simply overwhelming or overwhelmingly simple?**

Our favorite answer: **It depends** 🤔 ... who you are, what you do and what your aim is.

... but in the end, nothing is impossible.



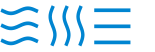
# Carbotech - Solutions for a sustainable livable future



- Founded in Basel in 1987, today a second location in Zurich
- 30 employees
- Organized in a holacracy
- Carbotech is owned by the employees and is independent
- Sustainability strategy consulting: awareness raising, stakeholder dialogue, CO2 balances, action plans, reporting
- Environmental consulting: product life cycle assessments, system modeling, ecodesign, environmental consulting by field, training and audits, international cooperation
- Pollutant consulting: air pollutants, specialist planning of pollutant remediation, building diagnostics, indoor air measurement



# Team Portrait Environmental Consulting



Philipp Bolt



Flora Conte



Lars Blumberg



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Stefanie Conrad



Fabian Elsener



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Tanja Laube



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Mischa Zschokke



Gerrit Vorhoff

## We are...

- ... educated in environmental sciences, sustainable development, economics, business administration, industrial engineering, geography, physics
- ... for 1-20 years with Carbotech
- ... Lecturers at universities of applied sciences and universities
- ... Involved in relevant organisations (MyBluePlanet, Gemeinwohlökonomie, Solafrica, political parties).
- ... Reviewer for other organisations
- ... Involved in the further development of methods (life cycle assessment, forest valuation, social standards)

# Our approach for companies on the way to more sustainability

