



**WORK SESSION  
RICHFIELD MUNICIPAL CENTER, BARTHOLOMEW ROOM  
MAY 23, 2023  
5:45 PM**

Call to order

1. Consider recommended Climate Action Plan (CAP) prioritized actions for implementation in 2023-2025

Adjournment

**Auxiliary aids for individuals with disabilities are available upon request. Requests must be made at least 96 hours in advance to the City Clerk at 612-861-9739.**



## **WORK SESSION STAFF REPORT NO. 19**

### **WORK SESSION**

**5/23/2023**

REPORT PREPARED BY: Rachel Lindholm, Sustainability Specialist

DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR REVIEW: Amy Markle, Recreation Services Director  
5/16/2023

OTHER DEPARTMENT REVIEW:

CITY MANAGER REVIEW: Katie Rodriguez, City Manager  
5/17/2023

### **ITEM FOR WORK SESSION:**

**Consider recommended Climate Action Plan (CAP) prioritized actions for implementation in 2023-2025**

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

Richfield's CAP identified over 70 actions for City staff to undertake in efforts to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, increase community sustainability education, and develop the City's sustainability efforts. For over 3 years, staff have been working on various actions according to the timelines identified in the CAP and as capacity and funding allows. Over time, it became clear that the City would benefit from a GHG inventory and working with a consultant to hone in on the most beneficial actions to focus on.

Pale BLUE dot LLC has worked with staff for over 6 months on conducting the inventory, analyzing results, and working together to identify high priority actions. These focus on both emission reduction and feasibility of implementation from a staff/city perspective.

The overarching staff recommendation is to have Council and leadership "establish clear guidance and direction for the participation in and support of the CAP implementation actions by all City of Richfield departments". Under this umbrella, the three recommended actions (not in any order) are: 1) to continue and fully implement recommendations from the municipal building energy audits (CAP Action 1.2.2); 2) Conduct an Electric Vehicle Suitability/Fleet Assessment (CAP Action 1.3.2) and continue evaluating fleet for EV/PHEV replacement opportunities; and 3) Establish a coordinated communication and education campaign for all sections of the CAP (aligned with Strategic Plan initiative 3.3.1 and multiple CAP actions).

### **DIRECTION NEEDED:**

**Staff is seeking feedback before bringing the final recommended actions to a Council meeting for official adoption and inclusion into the City's strategic plan.**

**Please send any questions prior to the work session to Rachel Lindholm at [rlindholm@richfieldmn.gov](mailto:rlindholm@richfieldmn.gov).**

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

#### **A. HISTORICAL CONTEXT**

- Richfield's CAP was written by staff and ratified by Council in October 2020.

- Richfield's Strategic Plan (ratified in 2022) identified specific sustainability-related actions: Implement prioritized CAP initiatives and Create CAP education strategy for staff and public.
- Staff started working with pale BLUE dot LLC in late 2022 to create a timeline for CAP review, conduct a greenhouse gas emissions inventory, .
- In early 2023, city staff and pale BLUE dot LLC worked together to identify the biggest opportunities for emissions reduction and actions that would have fewer barriers to implementation.
- These recommendations will be presented to Council and officially adopted at a future council meeting if approved.

**B. POLICIES (resolutions, ordinances, regulations, statutes, etc):**

These actions come from the City's adopted Climate Action Plan. Individual actions are related to various city ordinances and resolutions. This information will be detailed as these actions are worked on by staff and shared with Council.

**C. CRITICAL TIMING ISSUES:**

The recommended actions will take varying amounts of time to implement. In order to meet the 2025 deadline in the Strategic Plan, staff would like to start working on the actions as soon as possible.

**D. FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

None at this time. Financial information will be detailed as these recommended actions are undertaken by staff and shared with Council via work sessions and other communications. Staff know that implementing some of these actions will require funding and have already identified potential funding sources like grants, franchise fees, and existing budgets. Other actions do not have costs associated or are covered by partner organizations.

**E. LEGAL CONSIDERATION:**

None at this time. Any legal information will be detailed as these recommended actions are worked on by staff and shared with Council.

**ALTERNATIVE(S):**

Council can recommend alternative actions to prioritize.

**PRINCIPAL PARTIES EXPECTED AT MEETING:**

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Description	Type
▢ Climate Action Plan Prioritization PPT	Presentation





# City of Richfield GHG Inventory and 2023- 2025 CAP Action Prioritization

## Council Work Session

5/23/23





# Agenda

Introduction

The Process

Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory

Climate Action Plan (CAP) Goal Suggestions

CAP Action Prioritization Suggestions

Q+A / Discussion



# Introduction



## Our mission:

To hasten the transition to an authentically sustainable, no carbon economy and to elevate the public discourse.

## Services:

climate planning

sustainability +  
resilience consulting

renewable energy +  
net zero planning



**Colleen**

**Educator  
Community  
Engagement  
Consultant  
Climate Planner**



**Ted**

**Architect  
Urban Planner  
Renewable Energy  
Consultant  
Climate Planner**

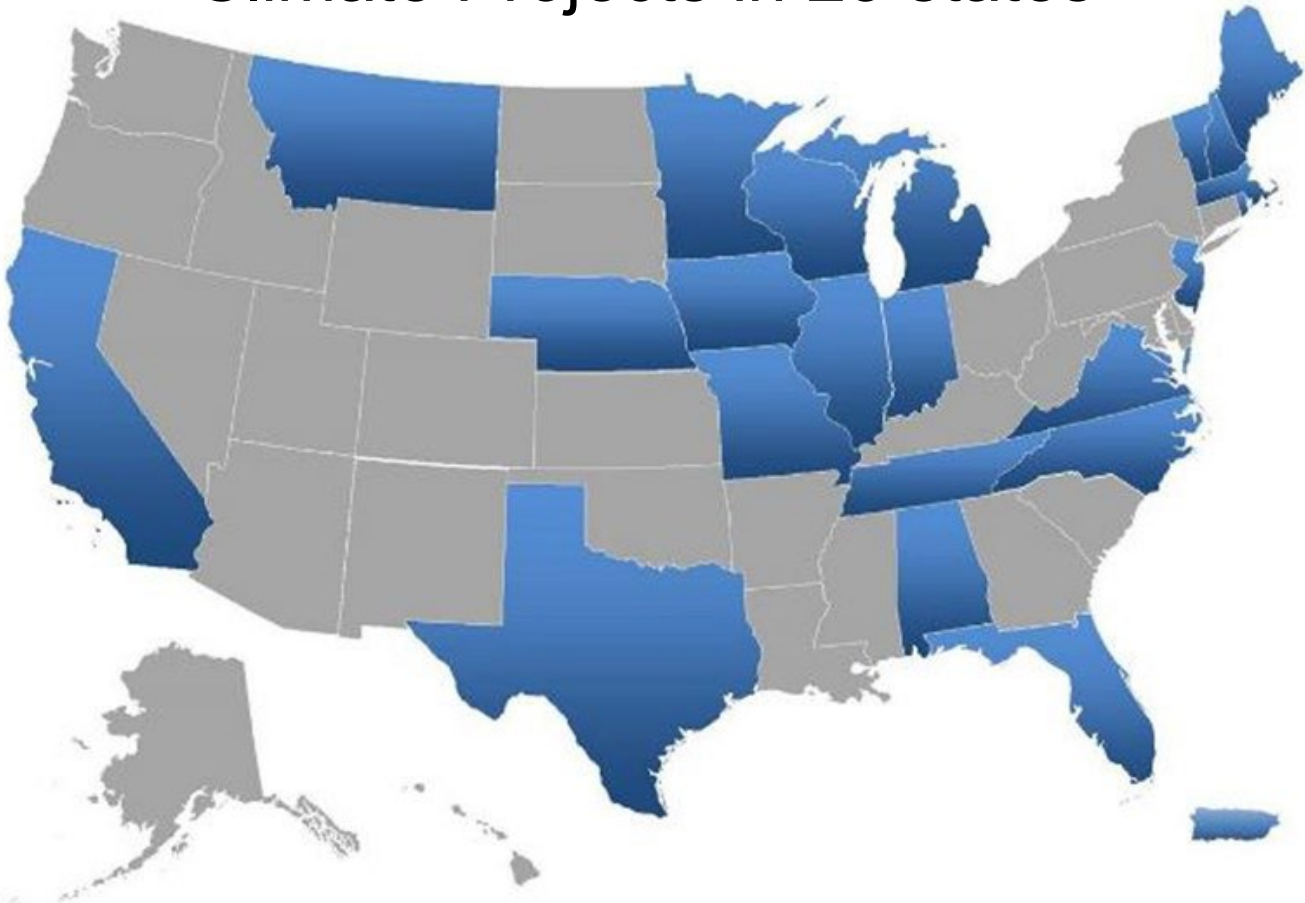




# Introduction



60+ Energy, Sustainability, and Climate Projects in 23 states



Planning experience in last 5 years:



# The Process

To support on-going Climate Action Plan (CAP) implementation, paleBLUEdot:

1. Conducted Community-Wide GHG Emissions Inventories for years 2013, 2017, and 2021
2. Identified suggested CAP goal refinements to support on-going measurement and progress tracking
3. Reviewed all CAP Actions
4. Held two workshops with City staff
5. Identified suggested CAP Action priorities for 2023 – 2025 implementation





# Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory






## 2013By The Numbers

 **GHG Emissions**  
**257,810**  
 7.15 MT Per-Capita  
 17.25 MT / Job  
 0.0766 MT / \$1,000 GDP

 **Population**  
**36,049**

 **GDP**  
**\$3,366,944,189**  
 \$93,399 GDP Per-Capita

 **Employment**  
**14,948**

## 2021By The Numbers

 **GHG Emissions**  
**204,632**  
 5.55 MT Per-Capita  
 13.77 MT / Job  
 0.0541 MT / \$1,000 GDP


 **Population**  
**36,899**

 **GDP**  
**\$3,781,090,068**  
 \$102,47 GDP Per-Capita  
 1

 **Employment**  
**14,865**

## 8Year Trend Dashboard

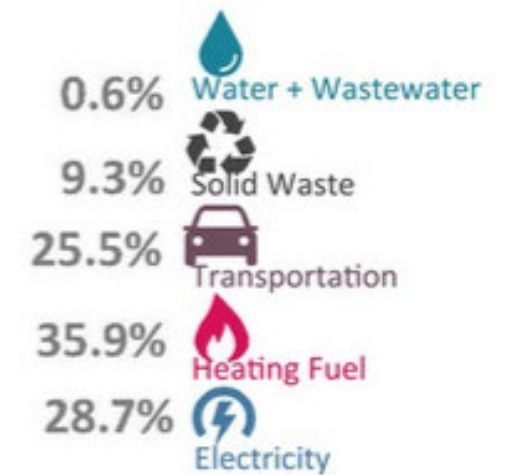
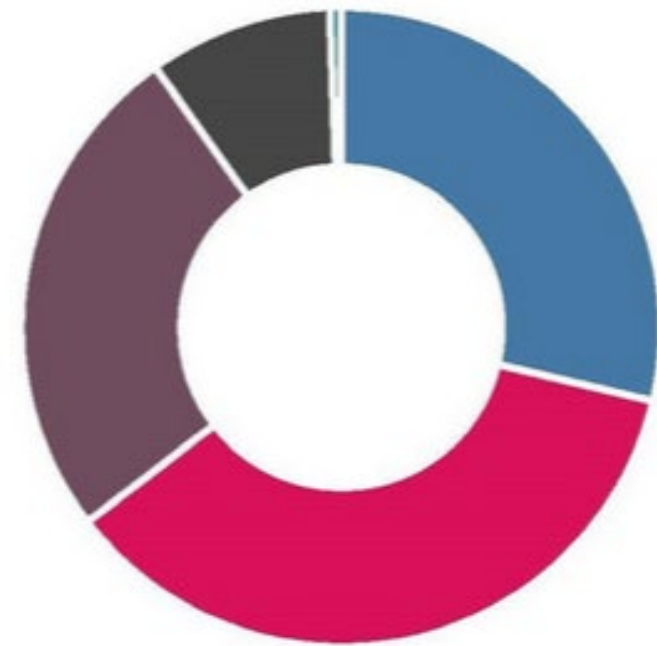
 **GHG Emissions**  
**-53,178** **-20.63%**  
 -1.61 MT Per-Capita  
 -3.48 MT / Job  
 -0.02 MT / \$1,000 GDP

 **Population**  
**+850** **+2.36%**

 **GDP**  
**+\$414,145,879** **+12.30%**  
 +\$9,072 GDP Per-Capita

 **Employment**  
**-83** **-0.56%**

## City-Wide GHG by Sector



## City of Richfield GHG Emissions Overview

Community wide total emissions for City of Richfield decreased from 257,810 metric tons in 2013 to 204,632 metric tons in 2021, a 20.6% reduction. Over the same period, the City's population increased 2.36% from 36,049 to 36,899, making the per-capita emissions trend a reduction of 22.5% per person. The City of Richfield's community-wide employment decreased slightly while GDP increased 12.3% during the same timeframe, clearly indicating economic growth can happen in City of Richfield while GHG emissions decrease.

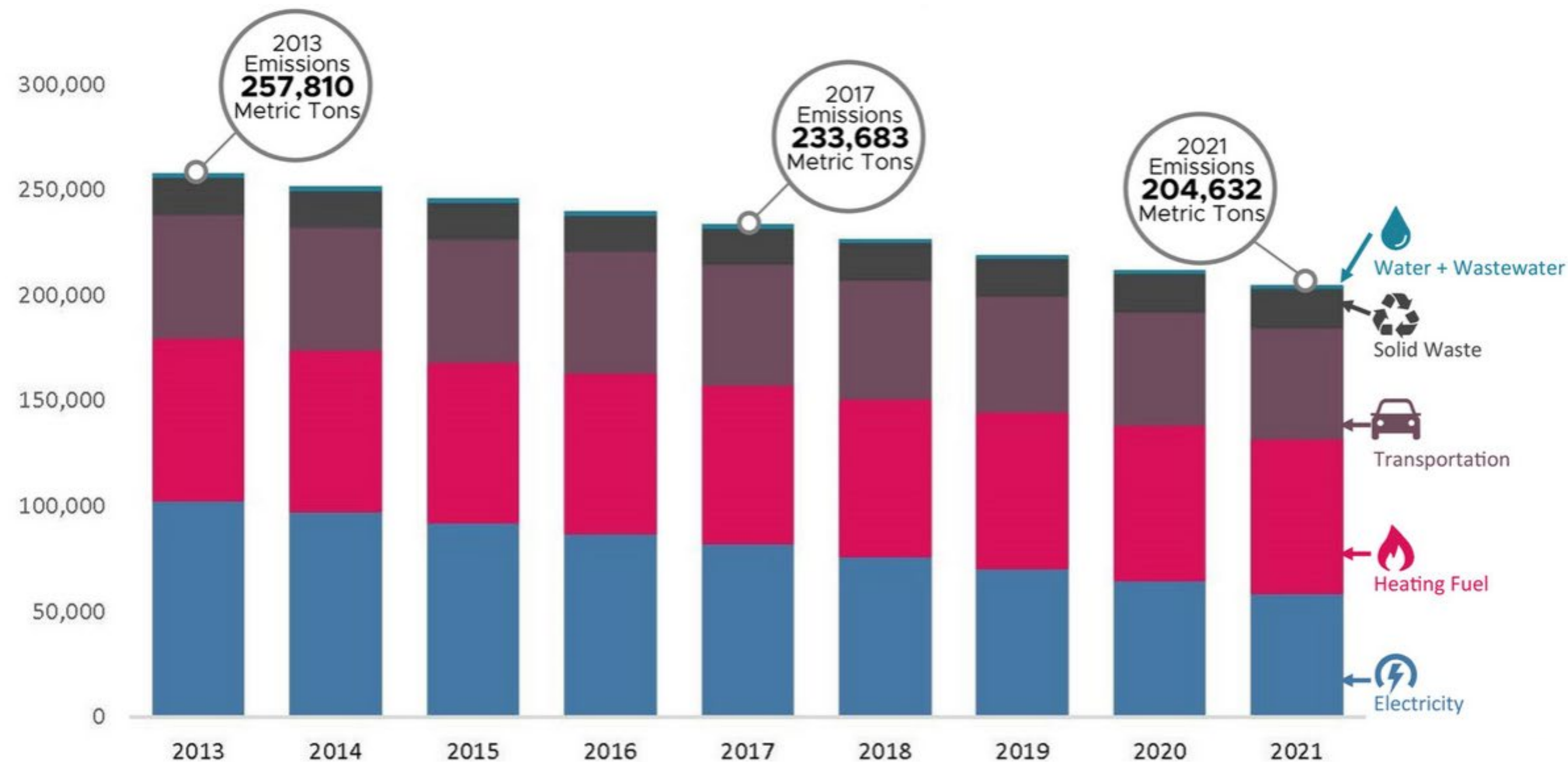


## How Large Are Community wide GHG Emissions?

The City's total emissions for 2021 are equal to **4 Billion** cubic feet of man-made greenhouse gas. This volume of atmosphere is equal to a cube **1,590** feet on each face viewed here from over **1 mile** away.



# Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory

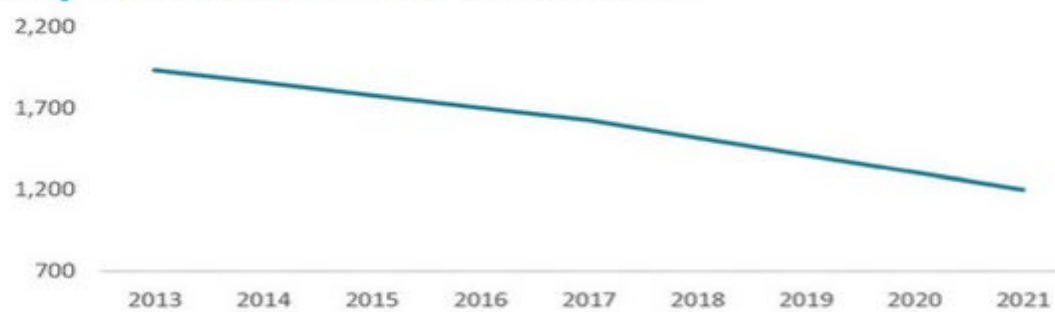




# Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory

City-Wide Sector GHG Trend Lines

  
Water + Wastewater



2013

**1,934**  
Metric Tons

2021

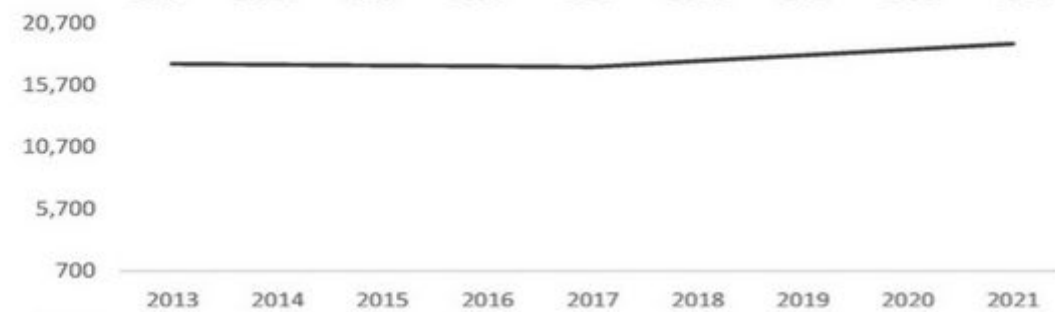
**1,199**  
Metric Tons

Change

**-38.0%**



  
Solid Waste



**17,426**  
Metric Tons

**19,054**  
Metric Tons

**+9.3%**



  
Transportation



**58,758**  
Metric Tons

**52,227**  
Metric Tons

**-12.4%**



  
Natural Gas



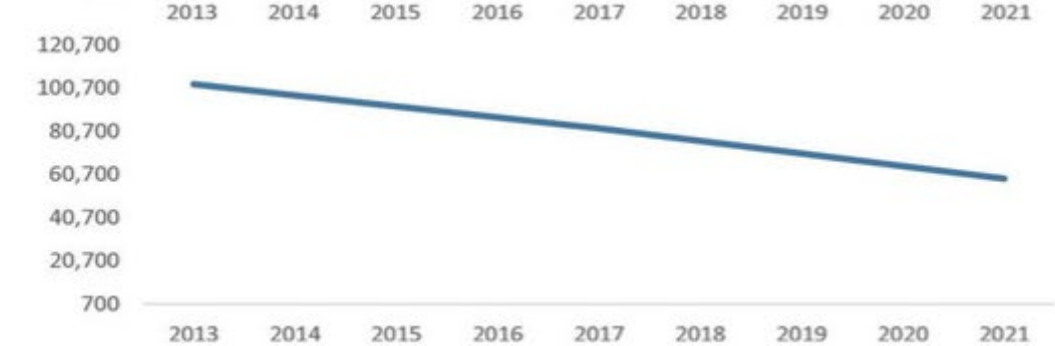
**77,214**  
Metric Tons

**73,416**  
Metric Tons

**-4.2%**



  
Electricity



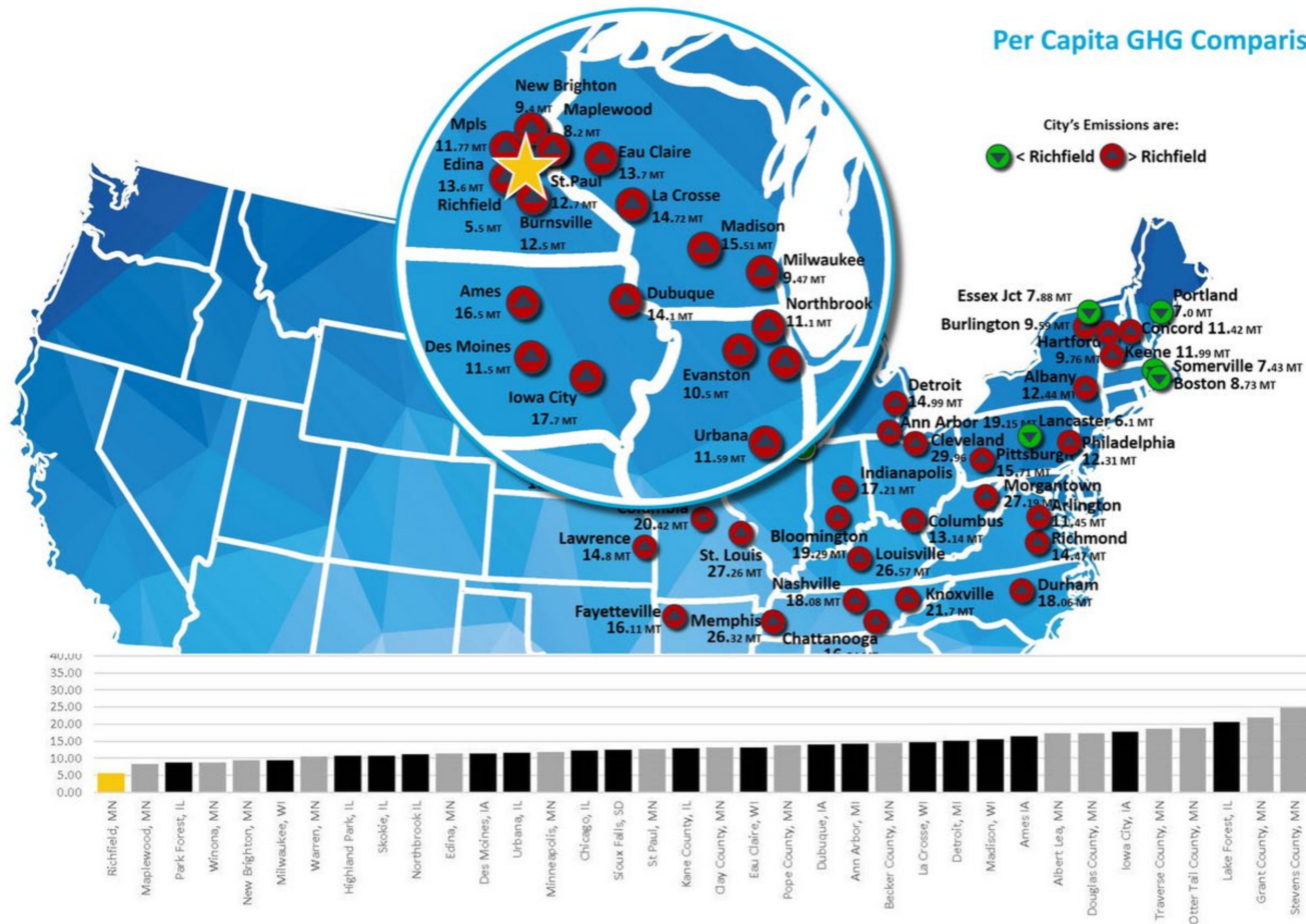
**102,450**  
Metric Tons

**58,736**  
Metric Tons

**-47.2%**



## Per Capita GHG Comparison

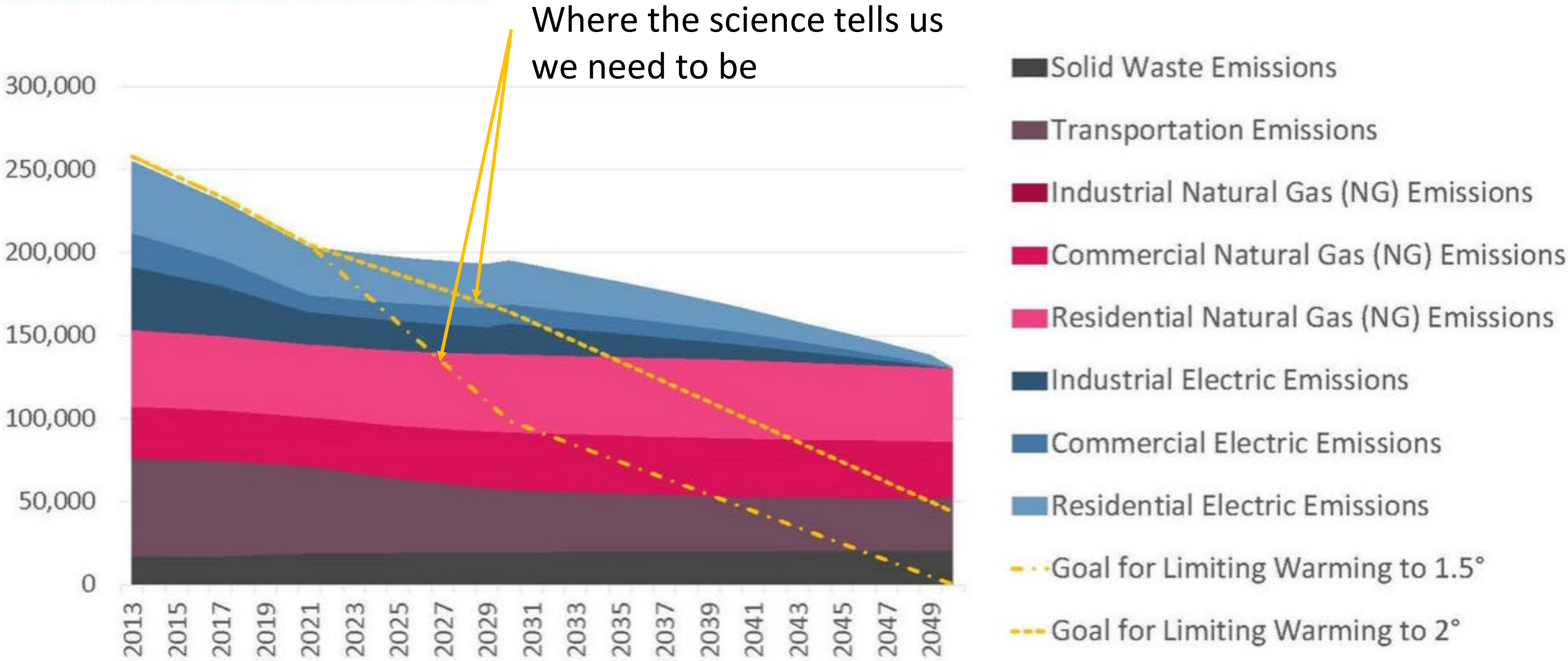




# Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory

## GHG Emissions Forecast

Excluding Interstate and Highway Vehicle Miles Traveled



# Climate Action Plan (CAP) Goal Suggestions

## **Intent:**

Support on-going CAP implementation through identification of quantifiable goals.

Support implementation progress review by establishing metrics

Support prioritization of actions





# Climate Action Plan (CAP) Goal Suggestions

## **BUILDING STRATEGIES**

Increase Community-Wide Energy Efficiency by 5% by 2030

Achieve 1% total High-Performance Building Stock

Community-wide Fuel Switching 5% by 2030

Increased Renewable Electricity (on-site and purchased) to 15%

## **TRANSPORTATION STRATEGIES**

Reduce Community Wide Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) by 3% by 2030

Increase public transit commuting by 3.5% by 2030

Increase Electric Vehicle (EV) Utilization to 15% by 2030

## **WASTE STRATEGIES**

Reduce Total Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) by 5% by 2030

Increase Organics Diversion from 0.2% to 10% of MSW by 2030

## **WATER STRATEGIES**

Reduce Water Consumption 5% by 2030

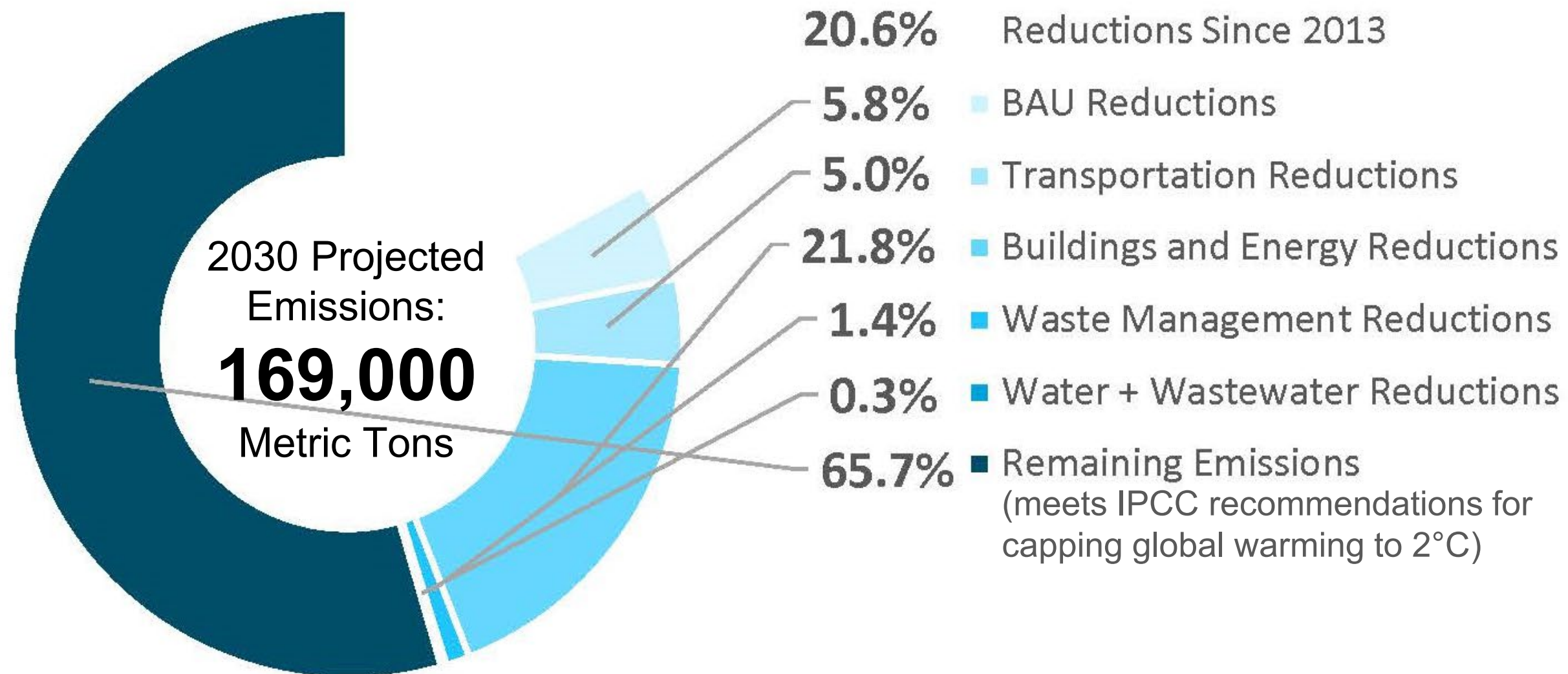
Reduce Wastewater Generation 5% by 2030



# Climate Action Plan (CAP) Goal Suggestions

**Achieving these goal suggestions would result in the following GHG emissions reductions by 2030:**

Community-Wide GHG Emission Reductions of Suggested Goals by Sector





# CAP Action Prioritization Suggestions

## **Intent:**

Support CAP implementation by identifying priority actions and focus areas for 2023 - 2025.

## **How Prioritizations Were Made:**

Through two workshop sessions with City staff:

- all CAP actions were reviewed
- progress to-date was considered
- Anticipated departmental leads for each action were identified

## **Overall Criteria Guiding Prioritizations**

- Balanced workload across anticipated action leads
- Balanced progress in multiple sectors
- Preference for higher impact actions OR actions required to support higher impact actions which follow



# CAP Action Prioritization Suggestions

## **Result:**

We suggest eight priority actions for consideration for 2023 - 2025:

## **Building Energy Efficiency**

### **Goal 1: Develop and Promote Energy Efficiency Efforts Energy Initiatives**

Action 2.2: Conduct municipal building audits to find efficiency opportunities (behavior change and technology implementation). Create building-specific improvement plans, optimizing city operations to best conserve energy and save money.

### **Goal 3: Encourage Sustainable Design and Building Practices**

Action 1.1 : Evaluate projects for sustainable opportunities during Administrative Review Committee (ARC) meetings. For projects with city financial support or regulatory approval, develop an amenity point evaluation system.





# CAP Action Prioritization Suggestions

## Result:

We suggest eight priority actions for consideration for 2023 - 2025:

## Transportation

### **Goal 1: Develop and Promote Energy Efficiency Efforts Energy Initiatives**

Action 3.2: Conduct an Electric Vehicle Suitability Assessment (EVSA) and establish a Fleet Electrification Implementation schedule. Plan should include EV charging station need assessment and implementation plan.

Action 4.1: Work with partners like Move Minnesota and Commuter Services to promote and incentivize alternative transportation for staff and residents.



# CAP Action Prioritization Suggestions

## Result:

We suggest eight priority actions for consideration for 2023 - 2025:

## Greenspace + Ecosystems

### **Goal 4: Strengthen and Expand Natural Resource Management Landscaping and Urban Canopy Initiatives**

Action 1.6: Create and implement natural resource management plans for large greenspaces throughout the parks system.

Action 2.3: Conduct a community-wide ground cover study by census tract / census block group to identify priority areas for increased tree canopy coverage. Based on study, prioritize “target area” increases in tree canopy, prairie restoration, and impervious surface reductions.

Example: <https://cutt.ly/m6Odlw3>





# CAP Action Prioritization Suggestions

## **Result:**

We suggest eight priority actions for consideration for 2023 - 2025:

## **Supporting All Sectors and All Goals**

### **Cross-Pollinating Action Recommendation**

Action CP 1-1: City Council and Administration to establish clear guidance and direction for the participation in and support of the CAP implementation actions by all City of Richfield departments. Encourage continuing education of municipal staff relevant to the Climate Action Plan.

Action CP 2-3: Establish a coordinated communication and education campaign supporting the communication and educational needs of each of the CAP sections.



# CAP Action Prioritization Suggestions

## **Result:**

We suggest eight priority actions for consideration for 2023 - 2025

Within these, we suggest four focus areas:

- 1. Establish clear guidance for participation by all departments in CAP implementation.**
- 2. Municipal Building Audits.**
- 3. Conduct an Electric Vehicle Suitability Assessment (EVSA).**
- 4. Establish a coordinated communication and education campaign.**





# Q+A / Discussion

