

Climate Change Steering Committee's *Draft* Climate Change Report

Presented to Metropolitan Development Policy Committee
July 9, 2008

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COG Department of Environmental Programs





COG Board Action April 11, 2007



- **R31-07 creates COG Climate Change Steering Committee to:**
 - ❖ Prepare regional inventory of greenhouse gases
 - ❖ Identify best practices and policies
 - ❖ Examine climate change impacts
 - ❖ Recommend Regional greenhouse gas reduction goal(s)
 - ❖ Recommend governance structure for climate change initiative
 - ❖ Propose advocacy positions
 - ❖ Prepare report to COG Board



Climate Change Steering Committee

Officers:

Chair: Hon. Nancy Floreen, Montgomery County Council

Vice-Chair: Hon. Gerry Connolly, Chairman, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

Vice-Chair: Hon. Mary Cheh, Council of the District of Columbia

District of Columbia - Members

Emeka Moneme, District Dept. of Transportation

George Hawkins, District Dept. of the Environment

Harriet Tregoning, District Office of Planning

Maryland - Members

Tad Aburn, Director, Air and Radiation Management,
Maryland Dept. of the Environment

Hon. Roger Berliner, Montgomery County Council

Hon. Judith Davis, Mayor, Greenbelt

Hon. Camille Exum, Prince George's County Council

Virginia - Members

Hon. Paul Ferguson, Arlington County Clerk of the Circuit Court

Mercury Payton, Manassas Park City Manager

Hon. Andrea McGimsey, Loudoun County Board of Supervisors

Hon. Redella Pepper, Alexandria City Council

Hon. David Snyder, Falls Church City Council

Other Regional/State Organizations - Members

John Catoe, General Manager, Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority

Robert Grow, Director, Government Relations, Greater Washington Board of Trade

Nikki Rovner, Deputy Secretary of Natural Resources, Commonwealth of Virginia

Alternates to Members:

Zach Dobelbower (alternate to Ms. Tregoning)

Mark Rawlings (alternate to Mr. Moneme)

Rick Rybeck (alternate to Mr. Moneme)

Jack Werner (alternate to Mr. Hawkins)

Elizabeth Entwisle (alternate to Mr. Aburn)

Hon. John Foust (alternate to Mr. Connolly)

Nat Bottigheimer (alternate to Mr. Catoe)

COG Staff:

Department of Environmental Programs:

Stuart Freudberg, Director

Joan Rohlfs, Jeffrey King

George Nichols, Leah Boggs

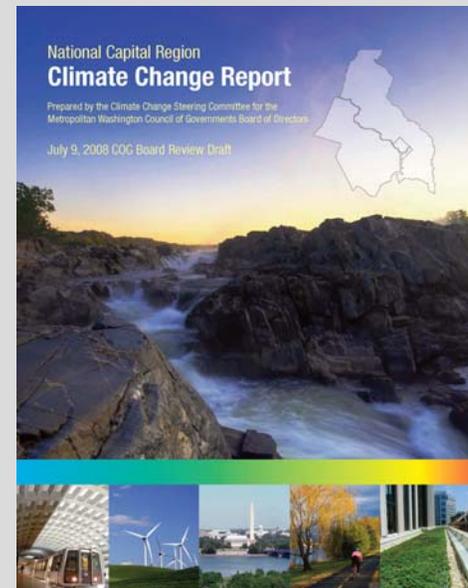
Ted Graham, Tanya Spano

Naomi Friedman, Assistant Executive Director

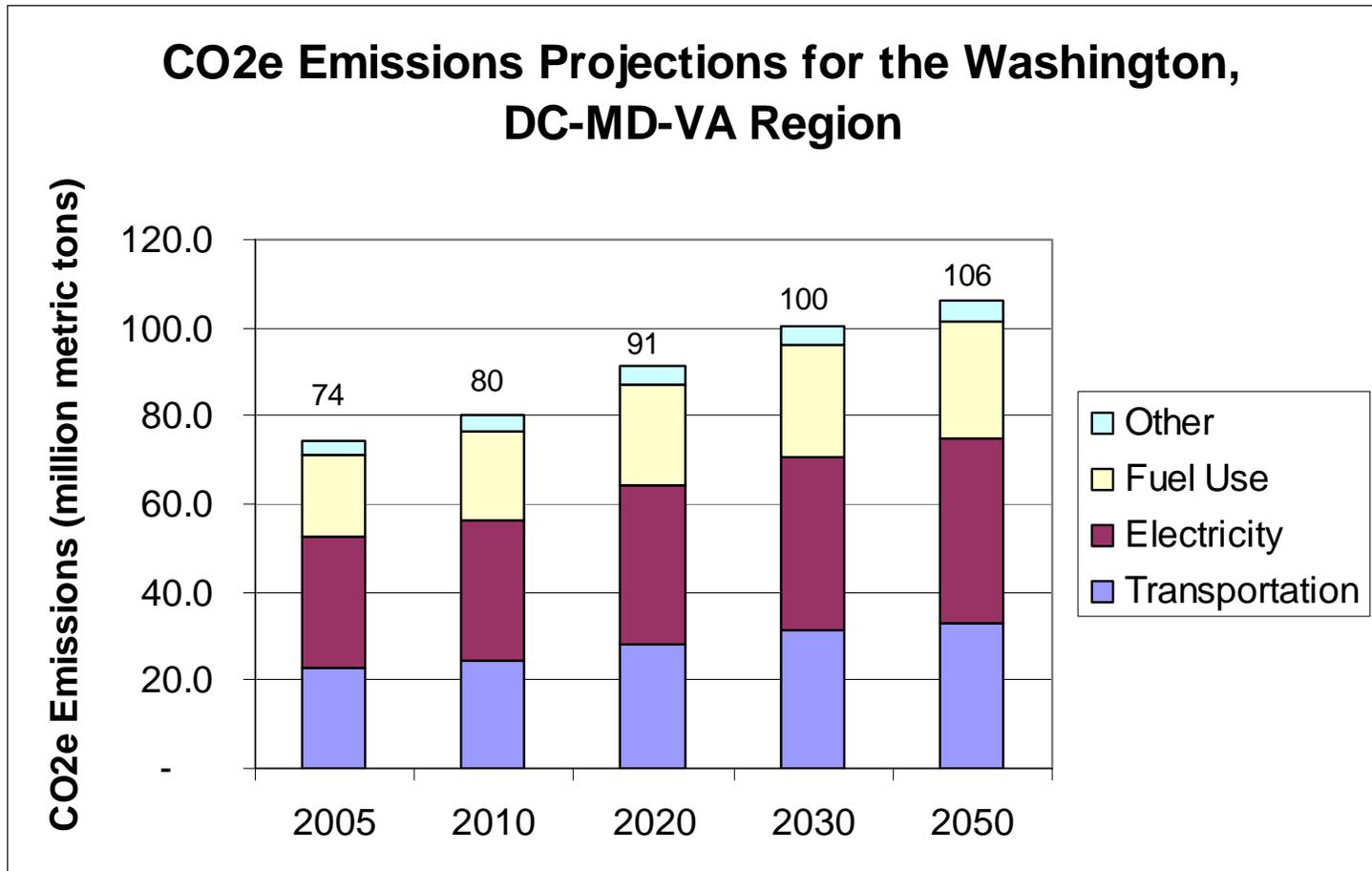


Climate Change Report

- I. **Facing Facts, Taking Stock and Taking Aim**
*Climate Change, Potential Impacts on Region;
Current & Projected Regional Greenhouse Gas
Emission Inventory;
Regional Targets*
- II. **Taking Action**
*Energy Consumption;
Transportation and Land Use;
Economic Development; Preparing for Impacts,
Financing; Outreach and Education.*
- III. **Moving Forward**
COG Climate Change Program
- IV. **Reference Information**

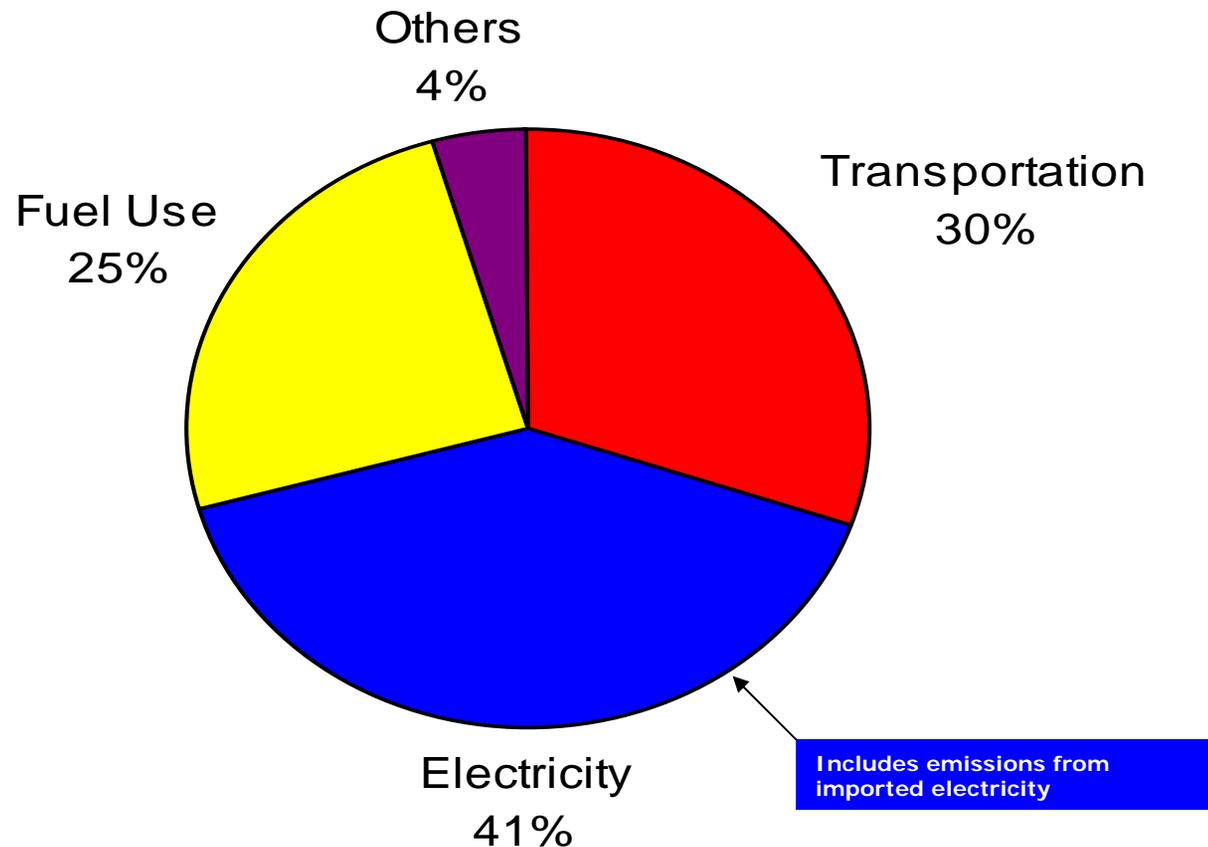


Projections of Regional Greenhouse Gas Emissions: 2005-2050



Source: Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments

Major Sources of Washington Region's Greenhouse Gas Emissions





Recommendations for Taking Action:

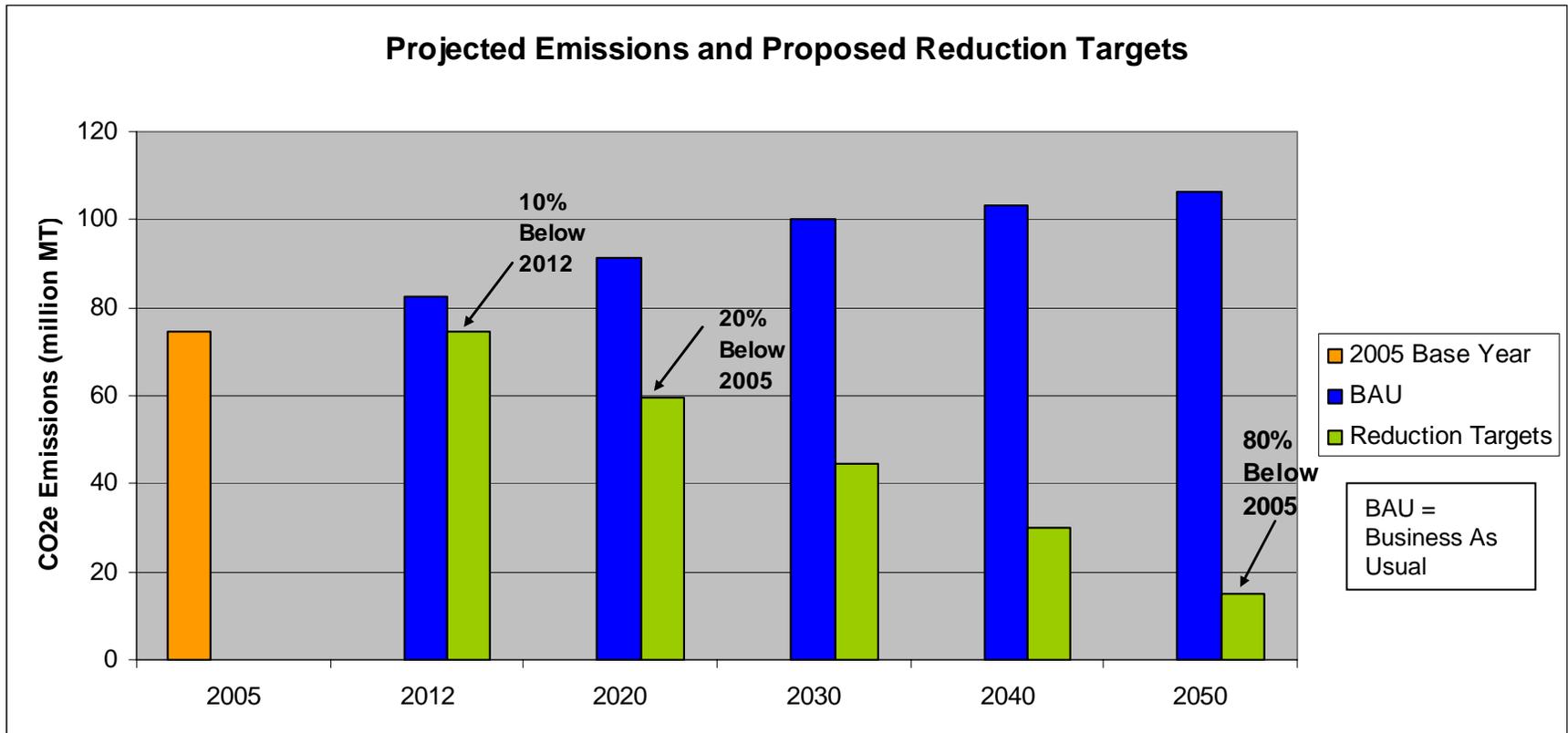
- ❖ Regional Reduction Goals
- ❖ Energy
- ❖ Transportation and Land Use
- ❖ Economic Development
- ❖ Adaptation
- ❖ Financing
- ❖ Outreach & Education
- ❖ COG Climate Change Program

Proposed Regional Reduction Goals

2012: 10% Below Business as Usual

2020: 20% Below 2005

2050: 80% Below 2005





Energy

Improve Energy Efficiency

- **Regional Example:** Identify best practices for improving energy efficiency of existing buildings.
- **Local Government Leading By Example:** Regional Green Building Policy – LEED Silver for all new local government buildings

Reduce Energy Demand

- **Regional Example:** Explore regional energy audit and retrofit program
- **Local Government Leading By Example:**
 - Reduce Energy Use by 15% by 2012
 - Regional Street Light Replacement Program

Develop Clean Energy Alternatives

- **Regional Example:** Support 20% Renewable Portfolio Standard
- **Local Government Leading by Example:** Adopt 20% Renewable Energy Purchase by 2015



Transportation

Increase Fuel Efficiency

- **Regional Example:** Support California Low Emission Vehicle Standards
- **Local Government Leading by Example:** Promote transit supportive street designs

Reduce Vehicle Miles Traveled

- **Regional Example:** Shift short trips (less than 3 miles) from car to other modes
- **Local Government Leading by Example:** Fully fund bicycle/pedestrian paths as outlined in regional plan

Use Alternative Fuels

- **Regional Example:** Promote adoption of regional Green Fleet goal
- **Local Government Leading by Example:** Accelerate adoption of efficient clean fuel vehicles



Land Use Planning Recommendations

Collaborate with Regional Planning Activities

Comprehensive Planning

Evaluating and Mitigating GHG Emissions

Smart Growth

Alternative Modes of Transportation

Tree Canopy Preservation



Collaboration with Regional Planning Activities

- Collaborate with TPB to evaluate how a regional process modeled after the current regional conformity process for air quality planning might be adapted to address greenhouse gas emissions.
- **Quantify projected greenhouse gas emissions from major new transportation and other new capital projects.**
- **Make greenhouse gas reduction a stated goal of regional transportation planning activities**, including the newly launched multi-stakeholder *Greater Washington 2050 Initiative*, poised to generate additional growth scenarios, a growth compact, and quality growth strategies.



Comprehensive Planning

- Carefully plan the location and design of new, infill, and redevelopment projects.
 - Promote regional policies that **support walkable communities and affordable housing near transit**, and that protect green infrastructure
- Evaluate the US Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design - Neighborhood Development (LEED-ND) standards for its utility in guiding new development.



Evaluating and Mitigating GHG Emissions

- **Integrate greenhouse gas emissions analyses and climate change considerations** into local government comprehensive planning practices and policies.
 - Identify best practices enabling local governments to **include greenhouse gas reduction and energy efficiency/conservation as elements in their local comprehensive planning.**
 - Include practices that **address climate change risk reduction** and guide local zoning, building codes, site planning, and review.
- In cooperation with COG's Planning Directors Committee and local government environmental and energy planners, **convene a working group to devise a consistent, standardized methodology for evaluating the greenhouse gas emissions from proposed individual development projects.**



Smart Growth

- Evaluate the benefits from achieving a range of possible goals (up to 95%) for **directing new residential and commercial growth to designated regional activity centers**, including growth around transit as well mixed-use higher-density development.
- Encourage local governments to evaluate opportunities to provide **incentives (including zoning changes) to encourage mixed-use development**, including workforce housing at transit stations and hubs to reduce sprawl and VMT.
- Encourage localities to **revisit current land-use plans**, in light of current shifts in the real estate market, coupled with high energy costs.
- Establish **TOD as the region's preferred growth strategy**.



Alternative Modes of Transportation

- Evaluate the greenhouse gas reduction benefits of specific incremental **expansion of transit capacity** and commuter rail service.
- Evaluate the greenhouse gas reduction benefits of expanding existing and establishing **new exclusive bus transit routes**, lanes, on-ramps, corridors, and intercity high-speed rail.
- Consider developing **specific targets for shifting modes** from single-occupancy vehicles to transit, walking, and bicycling for commuting and noncommuting trips. Develop specific targets for shifting modes from single-occupancy vehicles to transit, walking, and bicycling for commuting and noncommuting trips.
- Promote **transit-supportive street designs**.
- Encourage new commercial construction to include a “**travel management plan**.”
- **Fully fund the construction of bicycle/pedestrian paths** in the region, as outlined in the regional bicycle/pedestrian plan.



Tree Canopy Preservation

- Preserve the region's tree canopy.
- Establish a goal and develop a program and plan to achieve “**no net loss**” in the region's tree canopy. Evaluate associated benefits and costs.
- Consider associated issues related to density and height requirements for buildings.



Additional Recommendations

Financing and Economic Development

- Clean Energy Fund
- Offset Fund for Tree Planting and Canopy Management
- Funding for Building Retrofits
- Cooperative Purchasing
- Energy Performance Contracting

Outreach and Education

- Regional Outreach Partnerships: Clean Air Partners and Commuter Connections
- Climate Action Week
- Climate Leaders Awards

Adaptation

- Partner with university to develop 2050 regional climate impacts report/adaptation strategy

COG Climate Program

- Establish COG Board *Climate and Energy Policy Committee*
- Prepare plan to achieve 2012 goal by June, 2009.



Implementation Steps

- External Review by COG Members and Stakeholders
- Development of Detailed Climate Action Work Program
 - ❖ Regional Plan for achieving 2012 goal
 - ❖ Analysis of Immediate Priority Recommendations
 - ❖ Reduction Tracking System
 - ❖ Advocacy Positions
 - ❖ Identification of Funding and/or Partnerships for selected initiatives including outreach and education
- Coordination with Greater Washington 2050



Schedule

- **July 9, 2008:** COG Board to Approve circulating report for comment by COG members and other stakeholders
 - **Comment period through September 30, 2008**
- **October 2008:** Climate Change Steering Committee prepares revised draft
- **November 2008:** COG Board considers final report