

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

Presented to COG Board of Directors  
July 9, 2008

Honorable Nancy Floreen  
Chair, Climate Change Steering Committee

Stuart Freudberg, Director,  
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

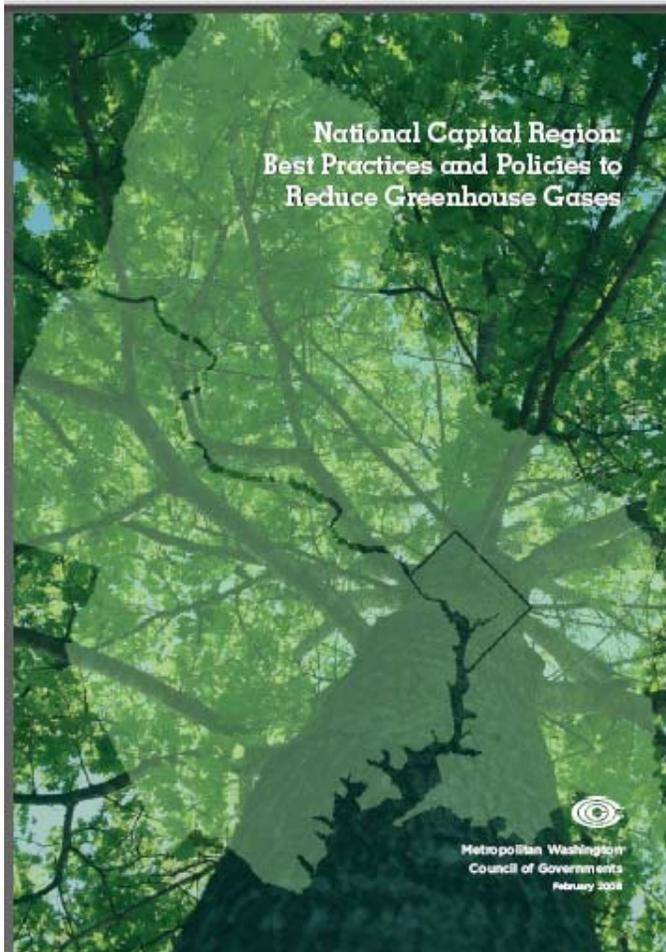
Joan Rohlfs, Jeffrey King

George Nichols, Leah Boggs

Ted Graham, Tanya Spano

Naomi Friedman, Assistant Executive Director

# Best Practices Guide



## HIGHLIGHTS:

- Over 2/3 of local governments in the region purchase renewable energy
- Over 1/2 of the jurisdictions have adopted energy efficiency measures
- Nearly 90% of the communities in the region have embarked on transit oriented development and over 80% have “walkable community” initiatives
- About 70% of communities have green space protection and green infrastructure programs
- All communities in the region have recycling programs.



# Advocacy Positions

## Federal Energy Legislation

- Promoted strengthening CAFÉ standards
- Supported “green collar” job programs
- Supported Energy efficiency block grants to local governments

## Federal Climate Legislation

- Promoted the role of local governments/regional entities

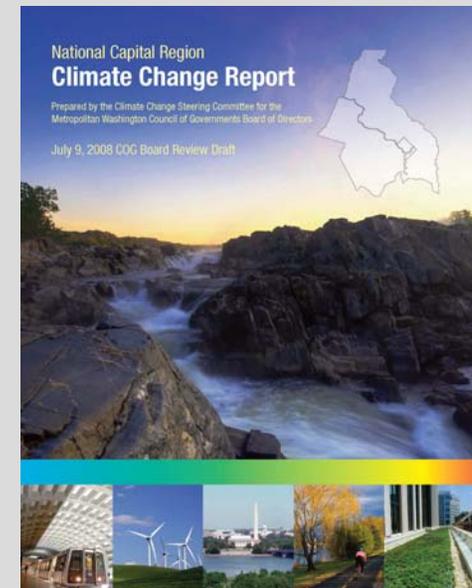
## COG Climate Program

- Endorsed Cool Capital Challenge
- Sent letter of concern re proposed coal-fired power plant in Wise County, Virginia



# 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**

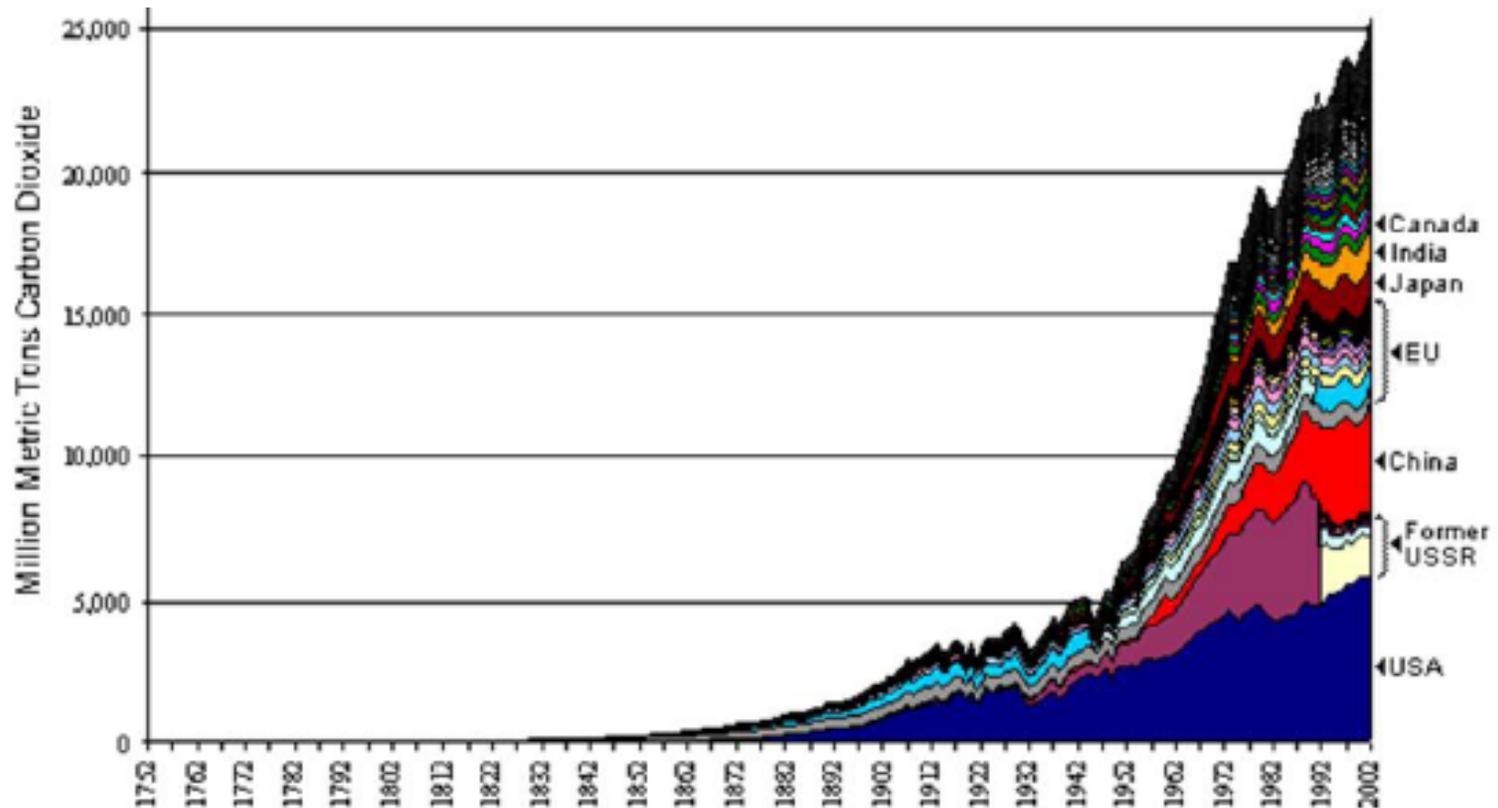




# Facing Facts, Taking Stock and Taking Aim

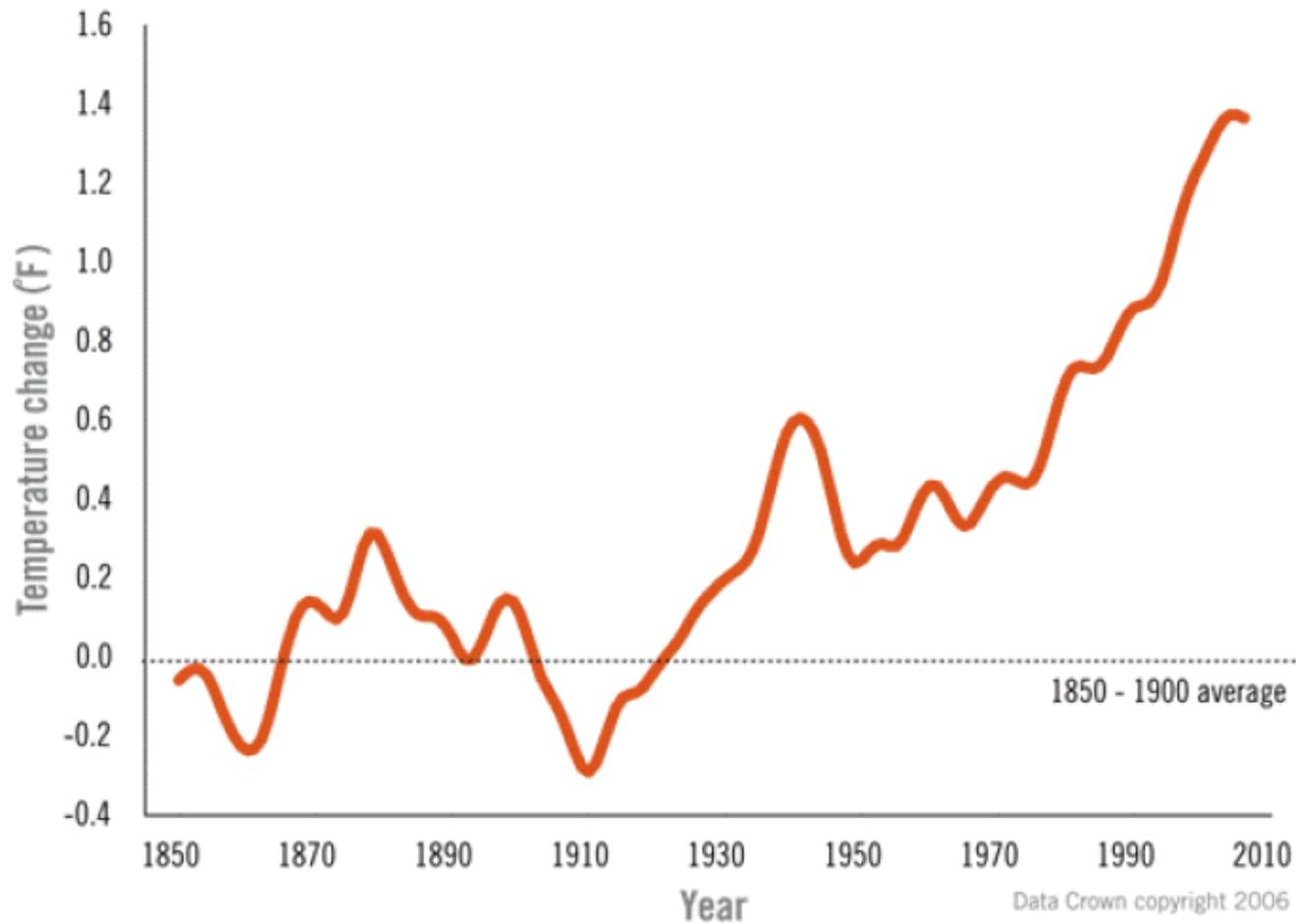


# Global CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions Since 1752

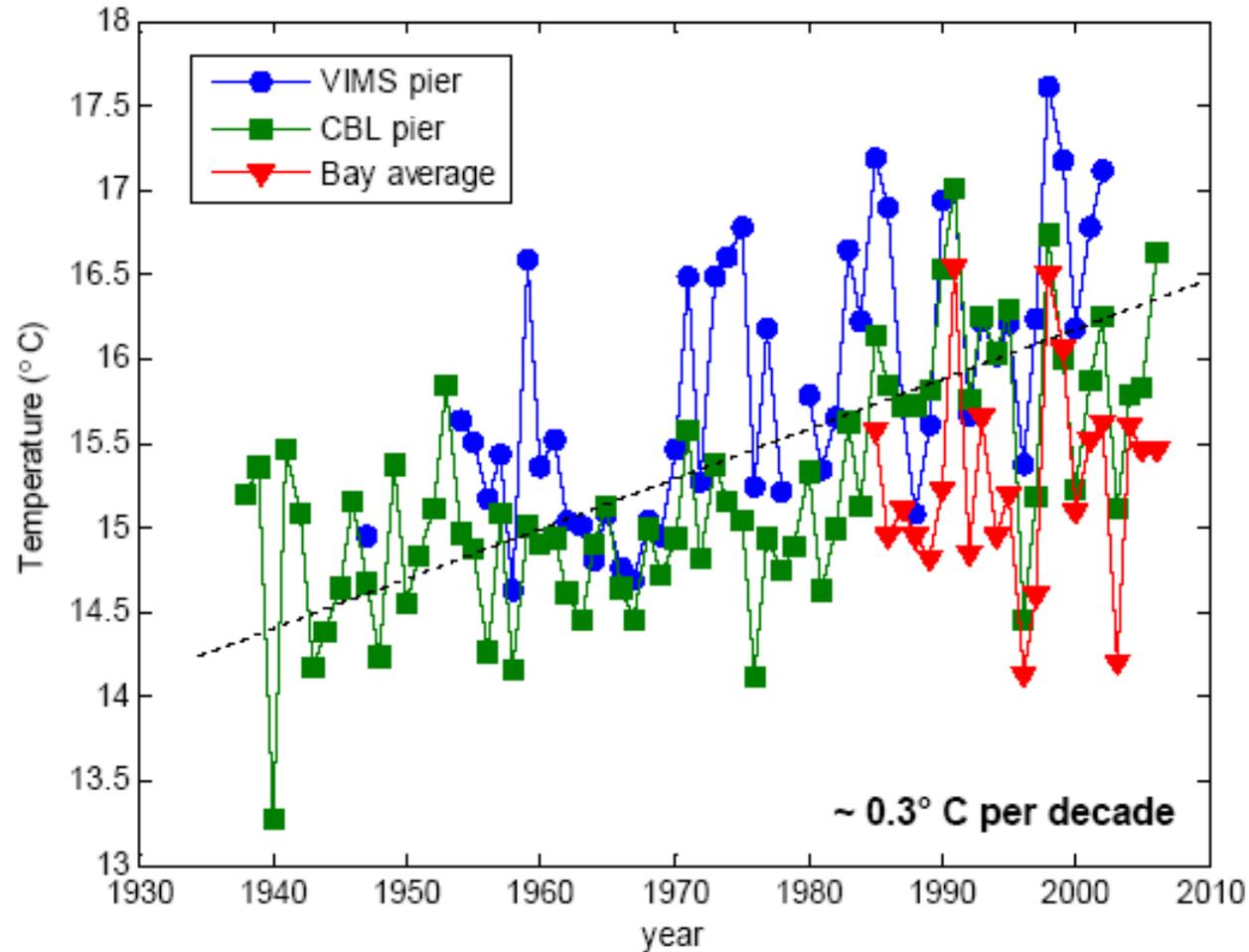


Source: Carbon Dioxide Information Analysis Center, U.S. Dept. of Energy

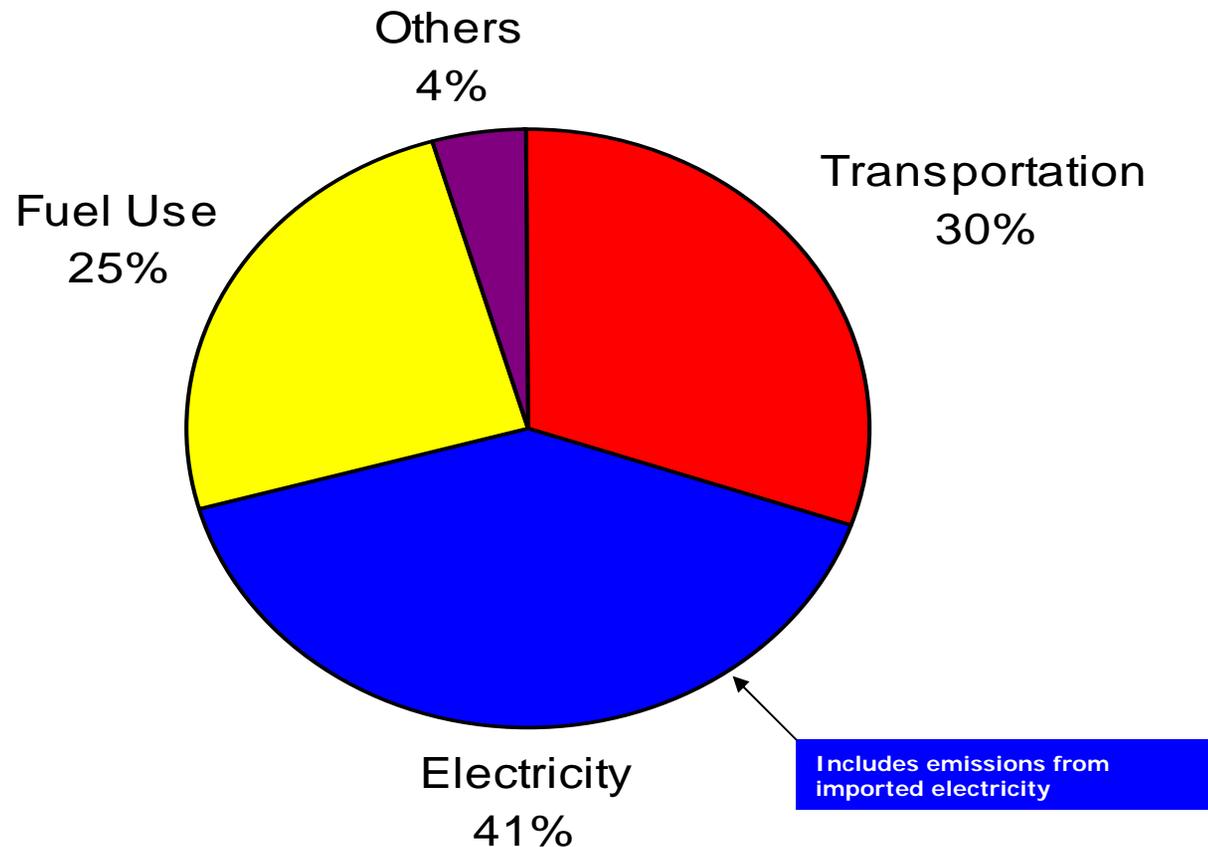
# Increasing Global Surface Temperature



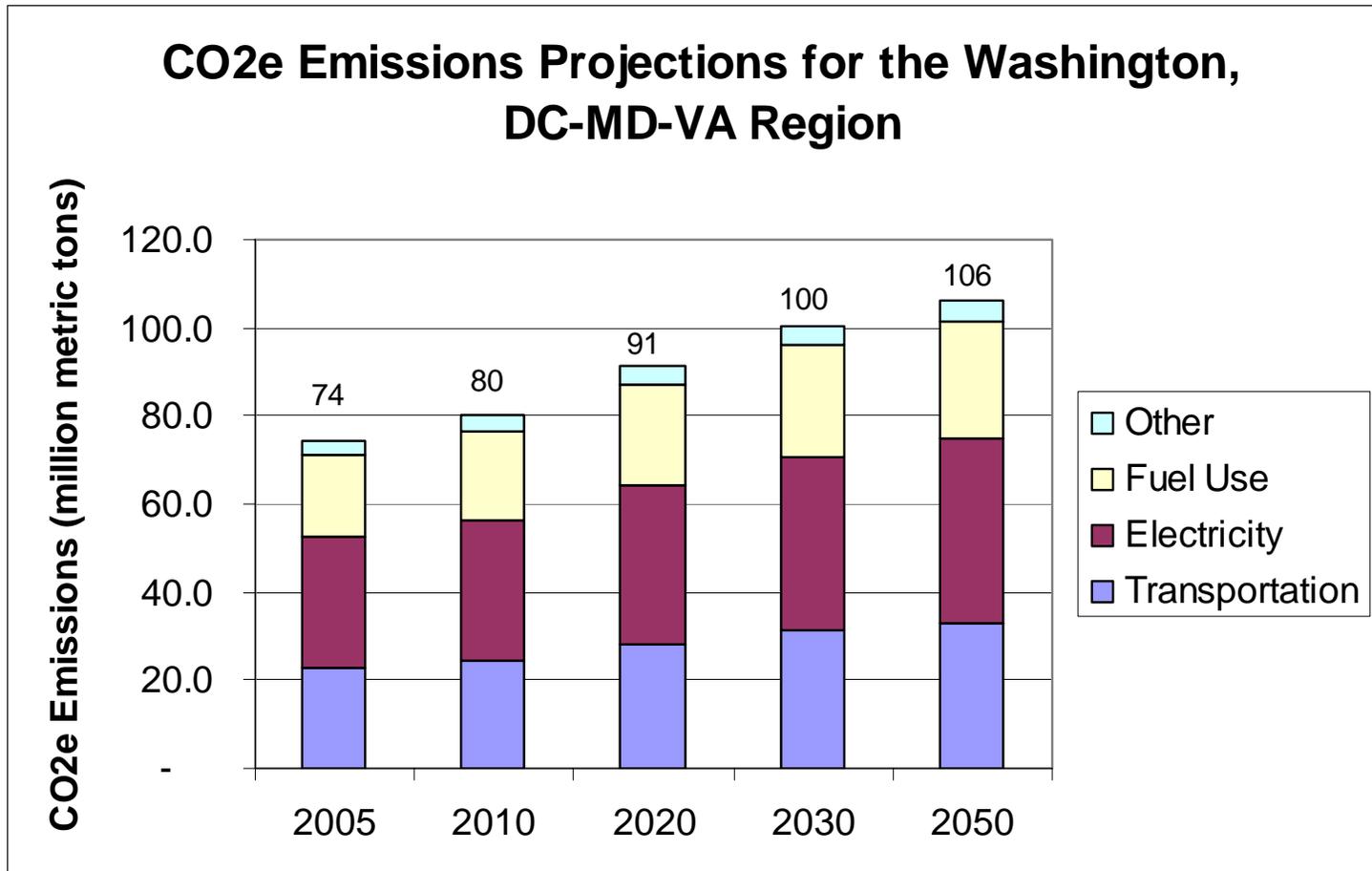
# Measured Temperature Changes in Chesapeake Bay Surface Waters



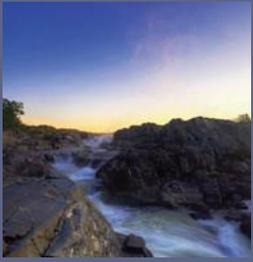
# Major Sources of Washington Region's Greenhouse Gas Emissions



# Projections of Regional Greenhouse Gas Emissions: 2005-2050



Source: Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments



# Recommendations for Taking Action:

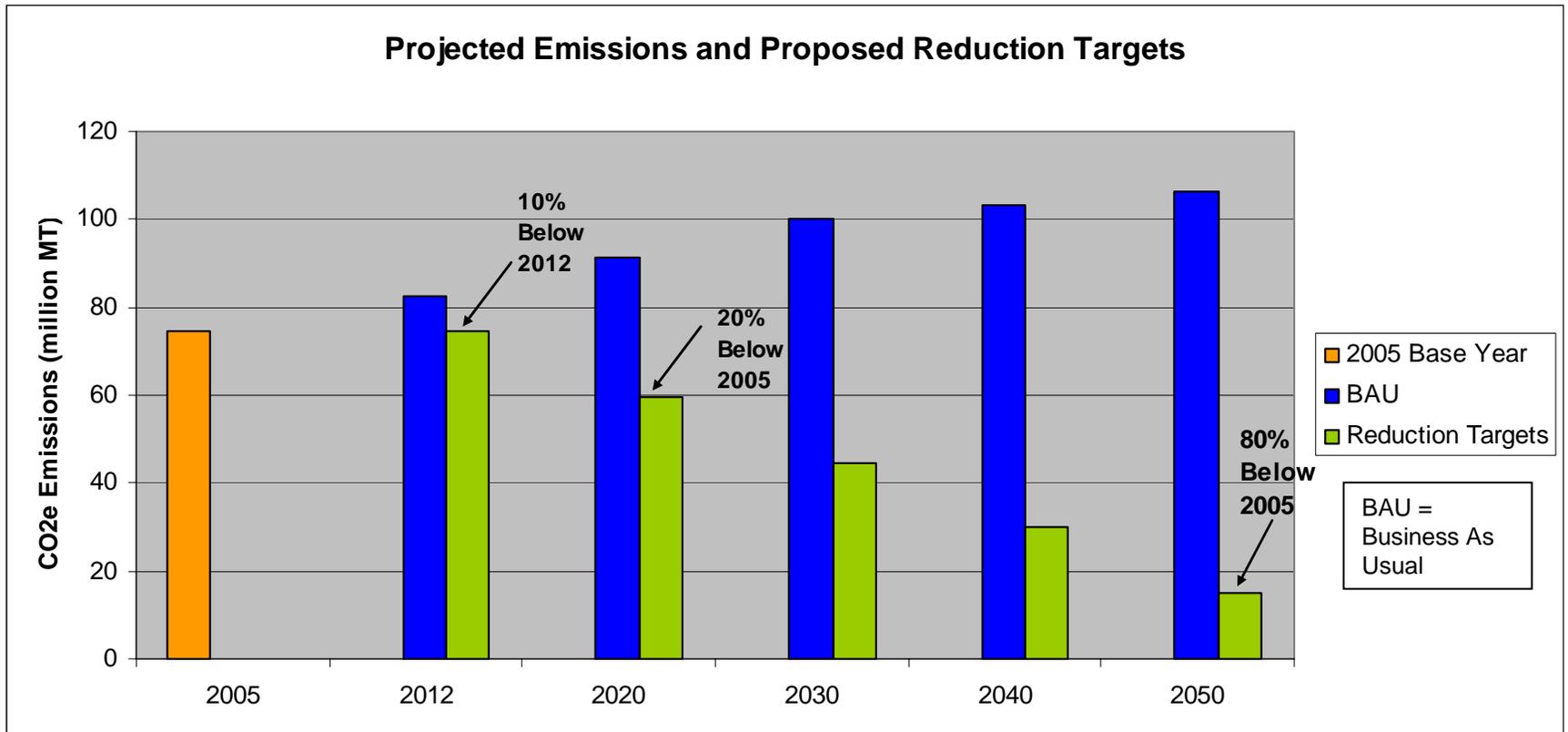
- ❖ Regional Reduction Goals
- ❖ Energy
- ❖ Transportation and Land Use
- ❖ Economic Development
- ❖ Adaptation
- ❖ Financing
- ❖ Outreach & Education
- ❖ COG Climate Change Program

# 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

## Smart Growth

- **Regional Example:** Promote walkable communities and affordable housing near transit
- **Local Government Leading by Example:** Research regional goals for directing development to activity centers

## Tree Canopy Preservation

- **Regional Example:** Establish regional goal of no net loss of tree canopy
- **Local Government Leading by Example:** Consider density and height requirements for buildings to foster tree canopy goal

## Comprehensive Planning

- **Regional Example:** Evaluate LEED-ND Standards for guiding new development
- **Local Government Leading by Example:** ID best practices for including GHG reduction as part of local comprehensive planning



# 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



# Recommended Board Action and Schedule

- 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