MIDCOURSE REVIEW REPORT AND NEXT STEPS

Regional climate action progress

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COG Board of Directors
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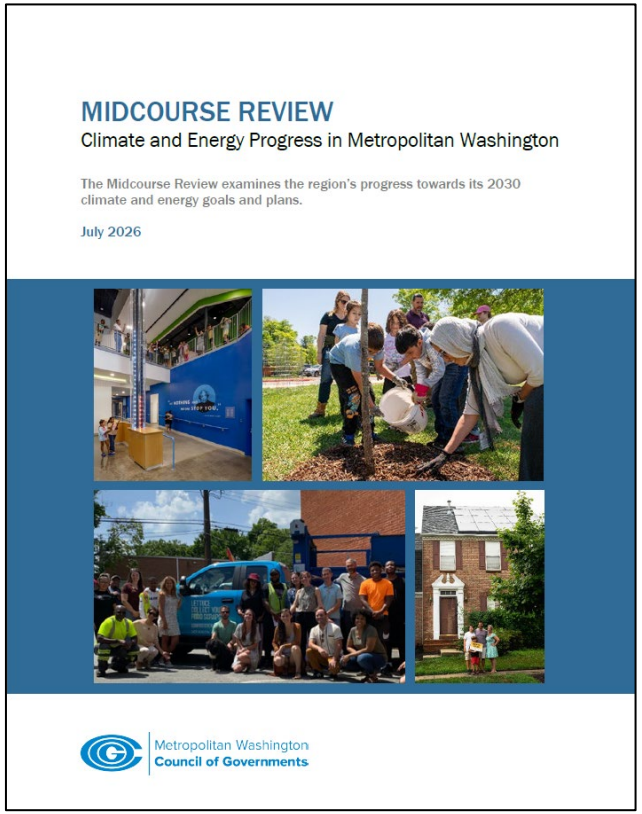
Midcourse Review (MCR)

- COG Board Resolution R45-2020 directs the Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC) to report back a mid-point evaluation of the progress towards these goals and make recommendations for any new actions needed.
- The MCR is a *technical report evaluating trends* of goals and key performance indicators to support decision making and next step actions. Many local climate action highlights!
- At its May meeting, CEEPC approved the MCR going to the COG Board for Board endorsement to publish the findings and discuss next steps.
- Board is asked to consider adopting Resolution 33-2026.



COG Board Goals and Priorities

The COG Board adopted greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction goals to **reduce GHG emissions 20 percent below 2005 levels by 2020 and 50 percent below 2005 levels by 2030**.

The COG Board also endorsed additional goals and priorities to guide the climate work of the region and its members:

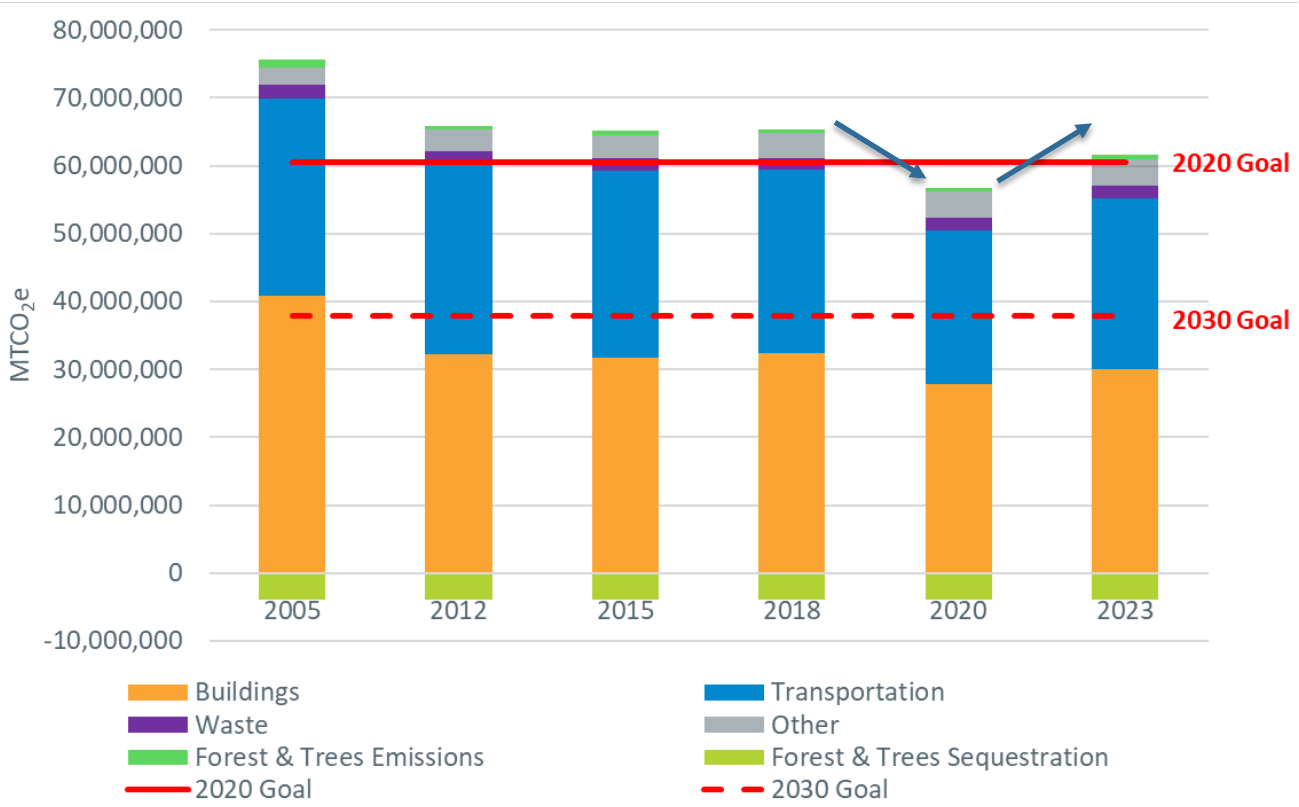
- In 2022: **electric vehicle (EV) deployment** as a regional priority.
- In 2023: a goal of **250,000 solar rooftops** in the region by 2030.
- In 2024: a goal of maintaining a **minimum tree canopy coverage of 50 percent** across the metropolitan Washington region.

Midcourse Review Findings

- The review finds progress towards the adopted COG Board goals, yet accelerated effort is needed to attain the region's 2030 goals.
  - As of 2023, regional GHG emissions are at 20% below 2005 levels, meeting the 2020 goal of 20% below 2005 levels and 40% toward meeting the 2030 goal of 50% below 2005 levels.
  - Solar rooftop growth in the region has been significant with more than 93,000 systems in 2024, 37% toward the 2030 goal of 250,000 solar systems.
  - Region has prioritized deployment of electric vehicle charging infrastructure with several local, regional and state led initiatives.
  - As of 2021 the region had a 50% tree canopy, equivalent to the regional goal of a 50% tree canopy. Recent trends in loss of tree canopy, however, threatens this achievement.
- Without expanded climate action and a shift in some trends, the region is unlikely to meet its climate goals.

Regional GHG Emission Reduction Results

- Metropolitan Washington **NET** greenhouse gas emissions decreased by **20%** from 2005 - 2023.
- Emission amounts in 2020 represents an anomalous low level due to the disruptions from the COVID pandemic.
- Data centers account for 11 percent of total GHG emissions as of 2023.
- Data centers, part of the buildings sector in the graph, are a high energy intensity industry with projected exponential growth in the region, which could pose a challenge in meeting regional 2030 GHG emission reduction goals.



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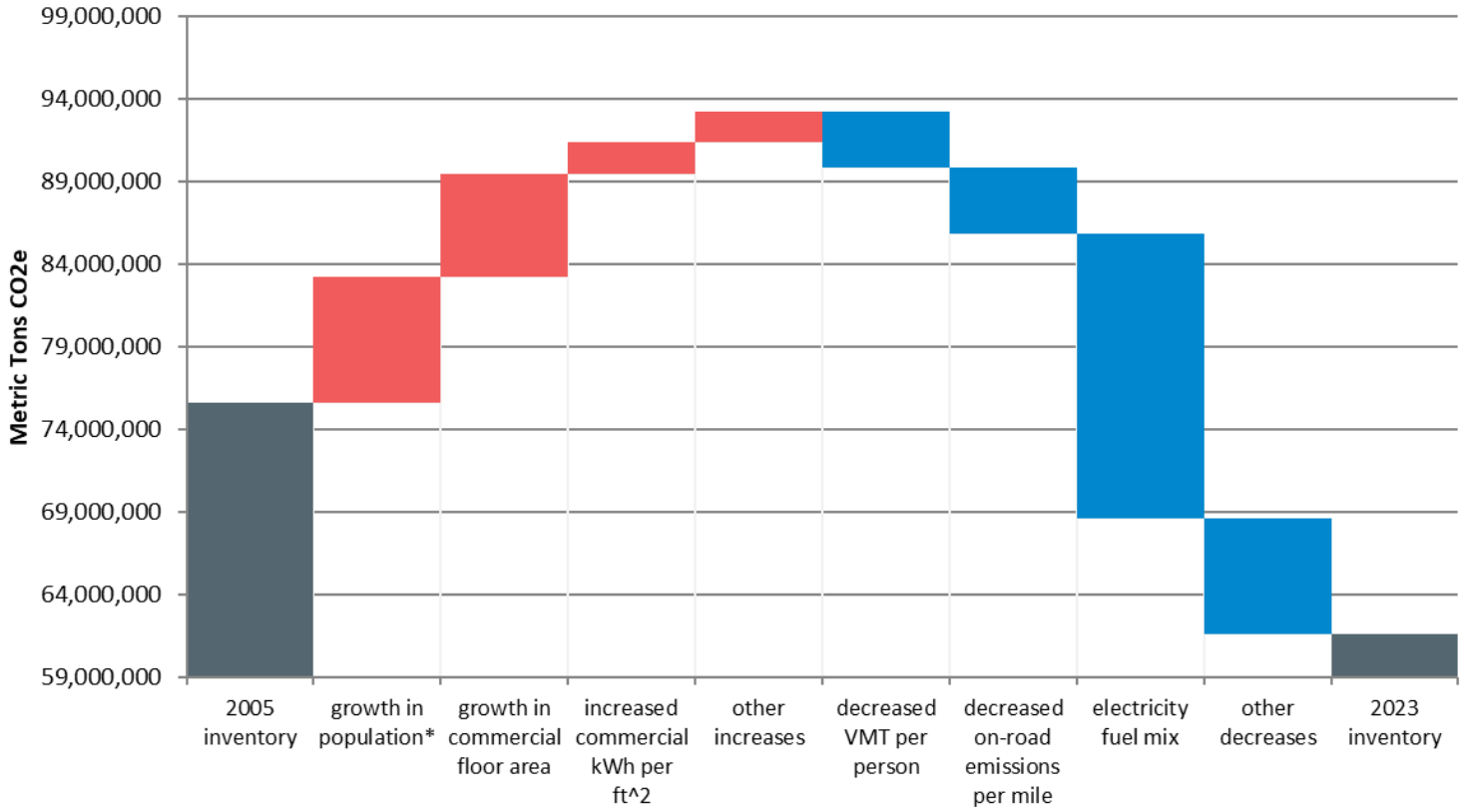
GHG Contribution Analysis: 2005 - 2023

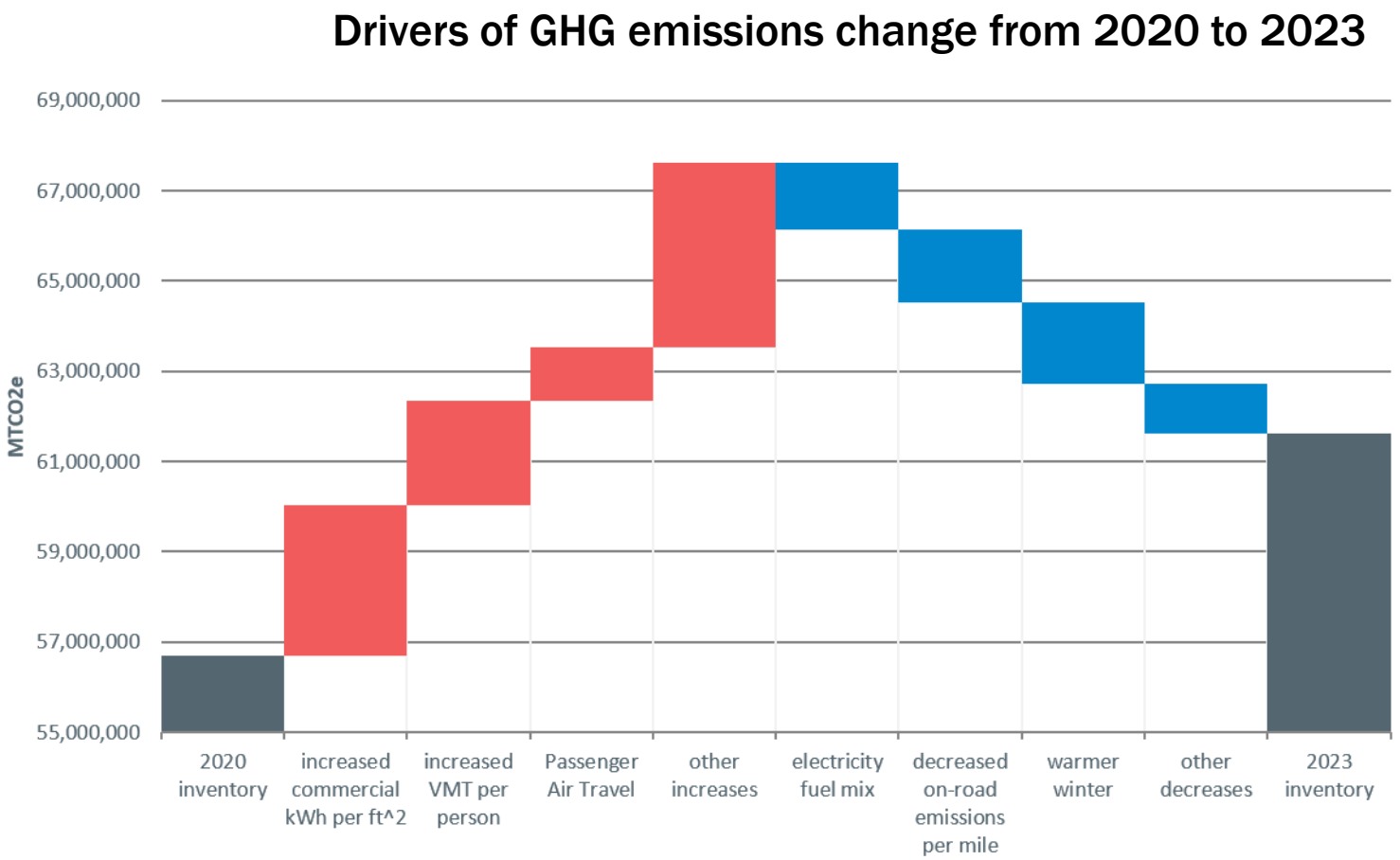
Drivers of GHG emissions change from 2005 to 2023



- The metropolitan Washington GHG Contribution Analysis results show what has driven increases (red bars) and decreases (blue bars) in GHG emissions between inventory years 2005 and 2023.
- The main drivers increasing emissions are growth in population and commercial space as well as increased commercial electricity energy use intensity (EUI = energy use per square foot), including from data centers.
- Driving down emissions between 2005 and 2023 are mainly a cleaner grid, cleaner cars, and reduced vehicle miles traveled (VMT) per person.

GHG Contribution Analysis: 2020 - 2023

- Data centers increased from 30 million sq ft to 54 million sq ft.
- Increased commercial electricity EUI is the #1 main driver of GHG increase.
- That is followed by expected pandemic related bounce-backs including increased VMT per person and air passenger travel. The impacts have been projected to remain a one-time dip in emissions of 4-5% globally.



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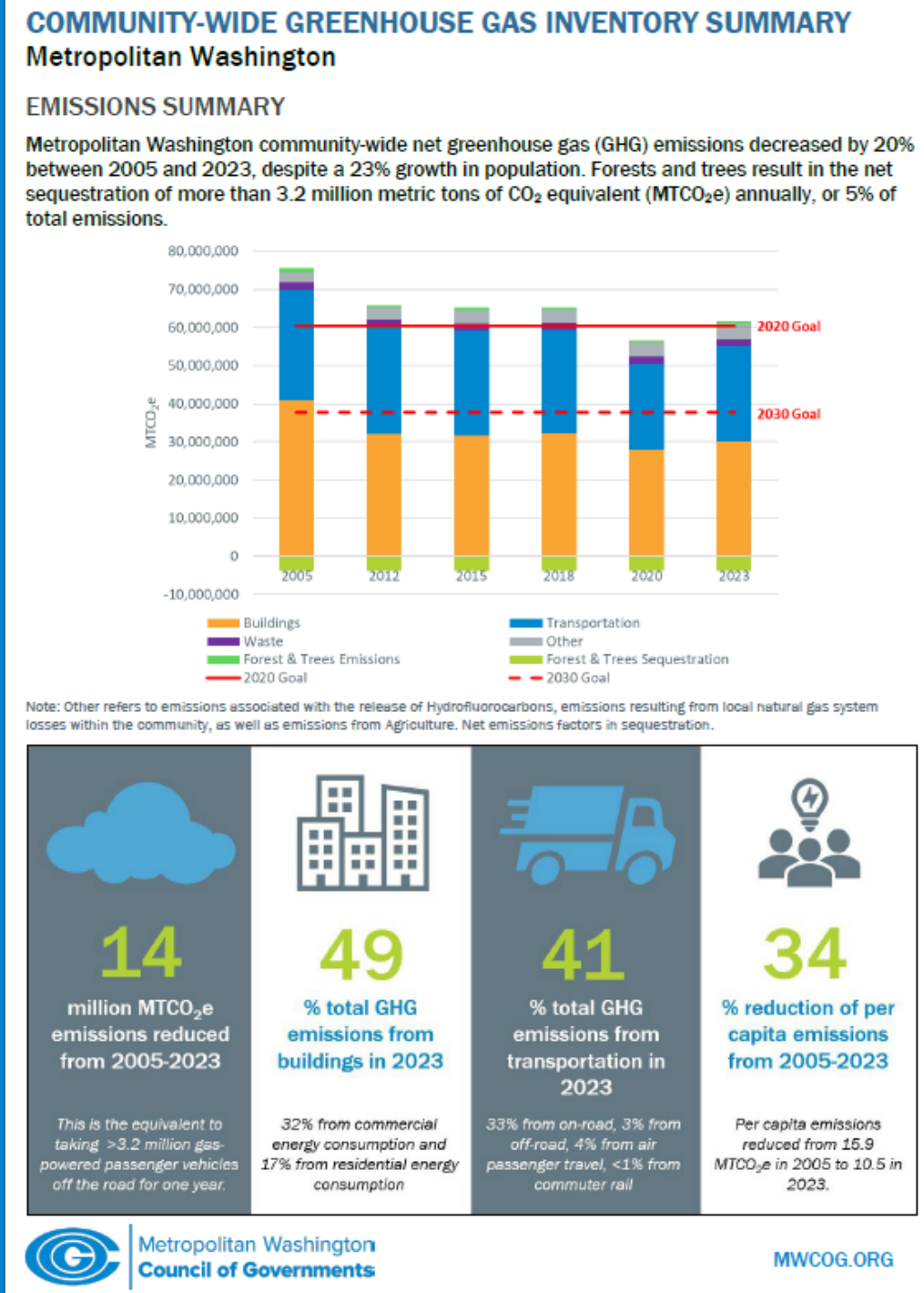

GHG Inventories

GHG inventories have been finalized for all 24 COG member jurisdictions, northern Virginia, and the COG region!

Final GHG Documents:

- GHG Fact Sheets
- GHG Data Summary Excel File
- Contribution Analysis Excel File
- GHG Methodology Report
- GHG Video

Federal Government

EXAMPLE FEDERAL ROLLBACKS

- Endangerment finding
- Vehicle emissions standards
- Refrigerants
- Power plants
- Renewable energy tax income credit
- Electric vehicle consumer tax credit
- Energy efficient home improvement credit
- Rebates for switching from gas to electric appliances

EXAMPLE FEDERAL GRANT IMPACTS IN THE REGION

- **Rescinded**: EPA Environmental Justice Government to Government
- **Rescinded, Delayed, and Reinstated**: FEMA Predisaster Mitigation, USDA Composting, USDA Partnerships for Climate Smart Commodities (case-by-case basis), FEMA Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) (must resubmit), DOE Elective Pay Clean Energy Tax Credits, FHWA National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI)
- **Current Legal Case**: FHWA Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (CFI)

Regional Climate Plan Strategies

COG Region 2030 Climate and Energy Action Plan (CEAP)

published in 2020

Climate Mitigation Action Areas:

- Clean Electricity
- Zero Energy Buildings
- Zero Emission Vehicles
- Mode Shift and Travel Behavior
- Zero Waste
- Sequestration

MSA Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP)

published in 2025

Sector Priorities:

- **Buildings and Energy**: energy efficiency & decarbonization, renewables, data centers
- **Transportation**: zero emission vehicles, VMT reduction
- **Waste**: solid waste and wastewater
- **Land Use**: tree canopy
- **Engagement**: education and outreach

Resolution Reaffirming Goals and Expanding Implementation

1. The COG Board reaffirms its climate mitigation goal of 50 percent greenhouse gas emission reductions below 2005 levels by 2030, including a commitment to Electric Vehicle (EV) planning and deployment, 250,000 solar rooftops, and 50 percent minimum tree canopy coverage across the Metropolitan Washington region.
2. The COG Board accepts CEEPC's Midcourse Review Report on the progress made by the region towards its 2030 goal of reducing GHG gases by 50 percent below 2005 levels; and encourages COG to strengthen the connections between climate, housing and transportation goals, exploring ways to address large load growth with a focus on data centers, and continue working with COG members to support local action
3. The COG Board recognizes COG member jurisdictions and all stakeholders will need to redouble their efforts between now and 2030 to implement the strategies outlined in the 2030 CEAP and the Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP), especially recognizing the scale back of federal government actions and support in this regard. The COG Board urges members to accelerate and expand action in the areas of clean energy, clean transportation, zero energy buildings, and support the regional clean economy.

Next Steps - Policy Discussion

Points for Discussion

1. Addressing the need to accelerate action across all sectors

- How can we strengthen the **connections between goals** for climate, transportation and housing?
- Are we doing everything we can to support **clean energy, clean transportation, zero energy buildings, and the clean economy**?

2. Addressing common challenges impacting our communities

- How can local communities support **energy affordability**?
- How can local communities address large load growth, especially on **data centers**?

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ADDITIONAL DATA FROM THE MIDCOURSE REVIEW REPORT

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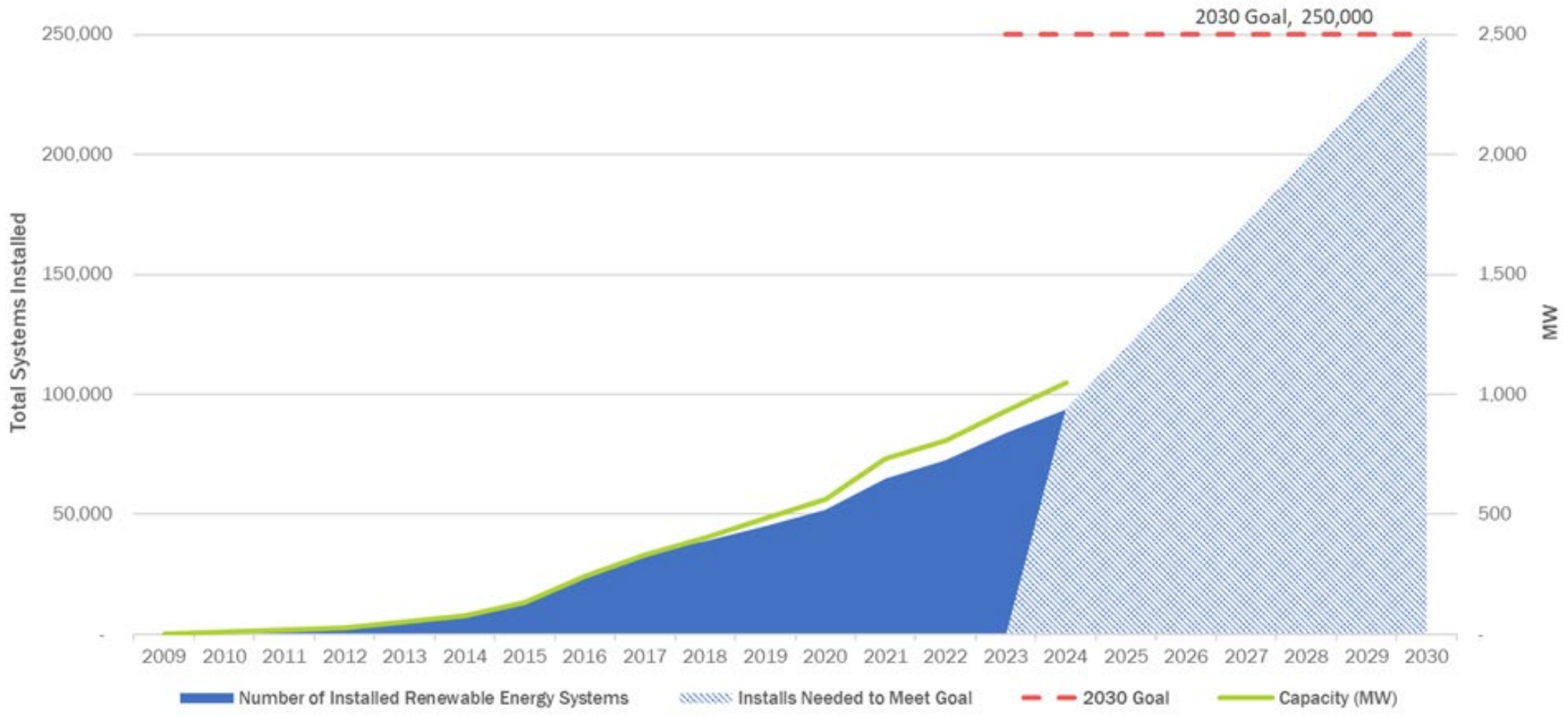
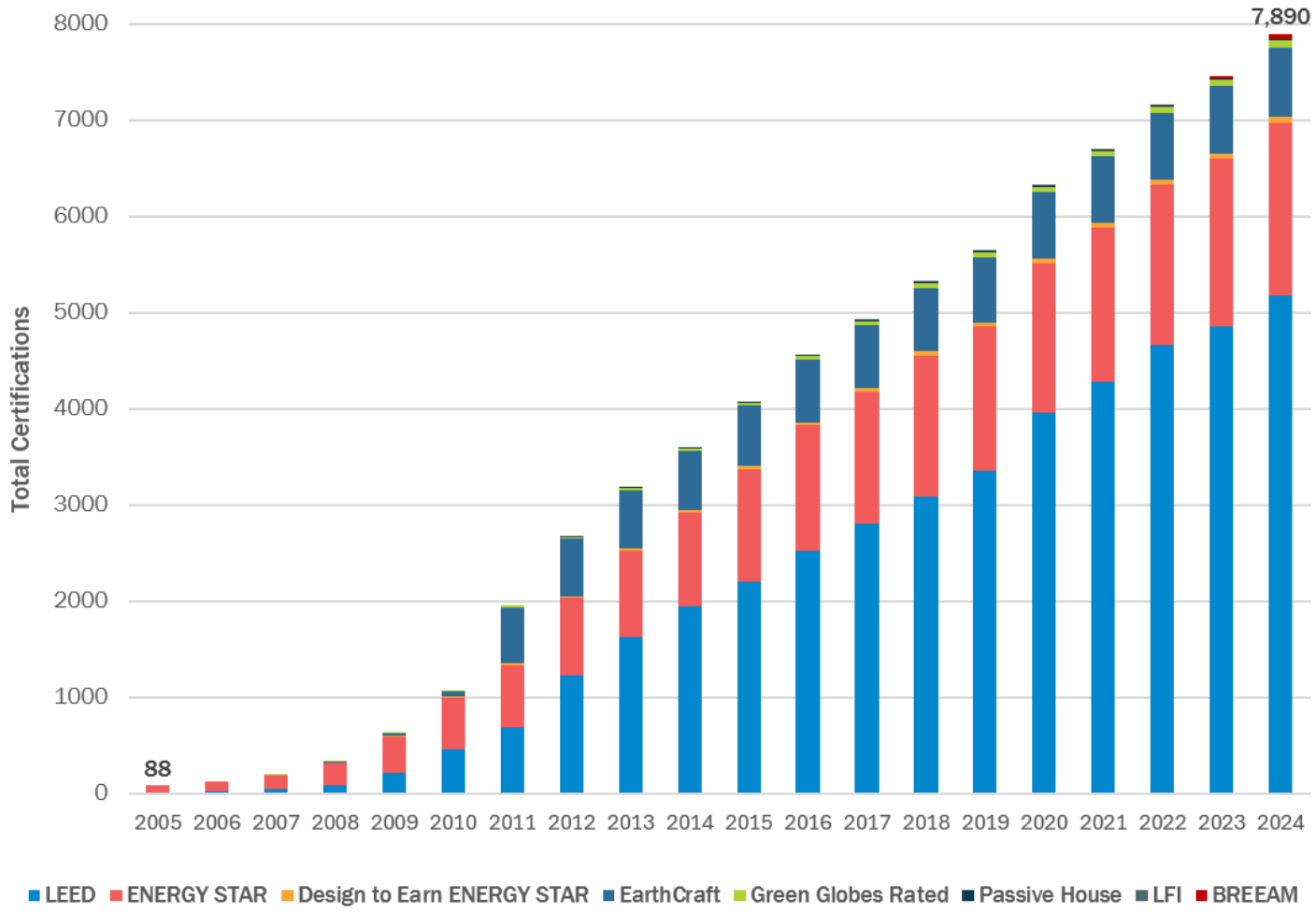
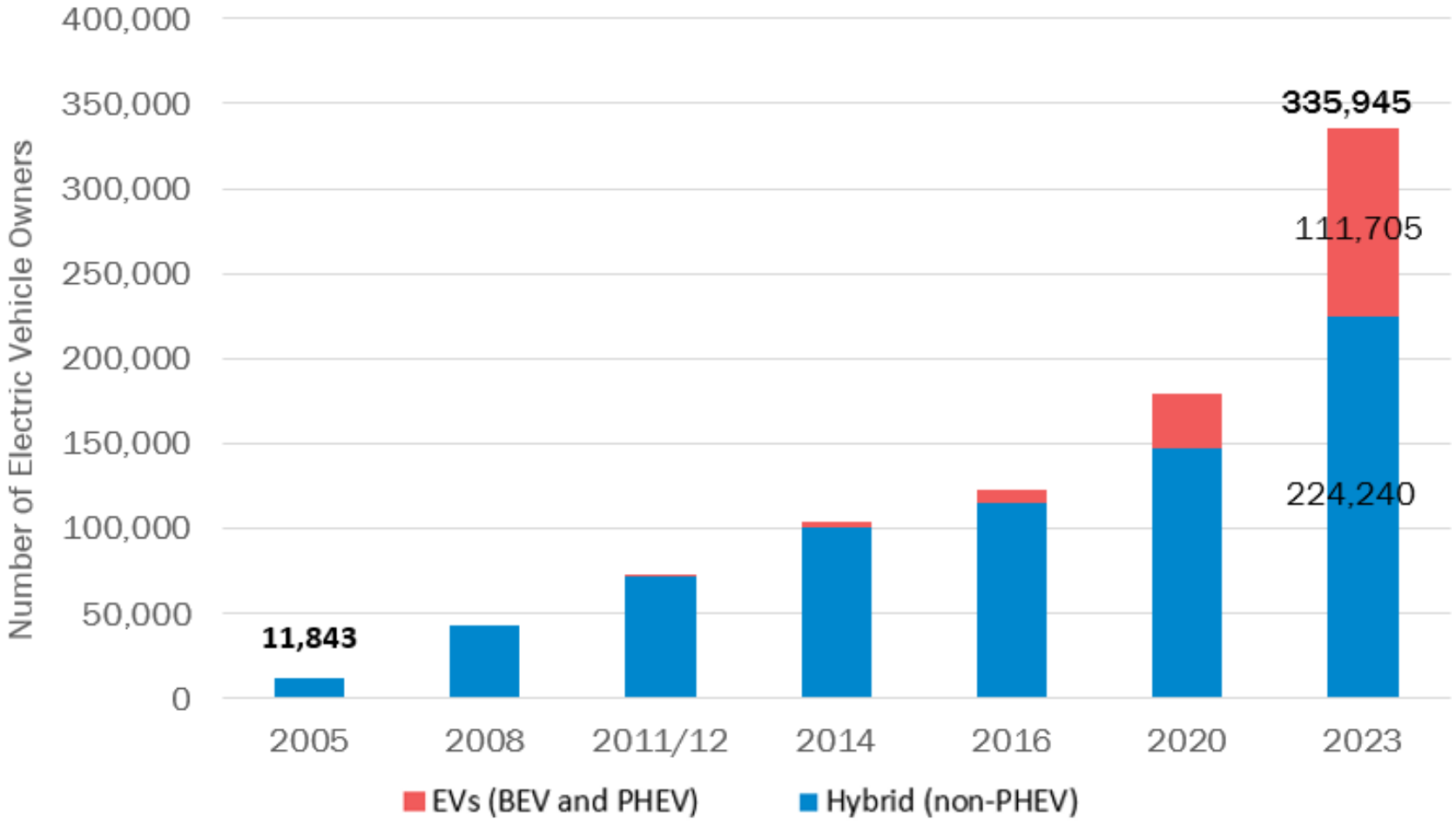
Grid-Connected Renewable Energy Systems



Green Building Certifications



ZEV – Regional Total EV Ownership Trends



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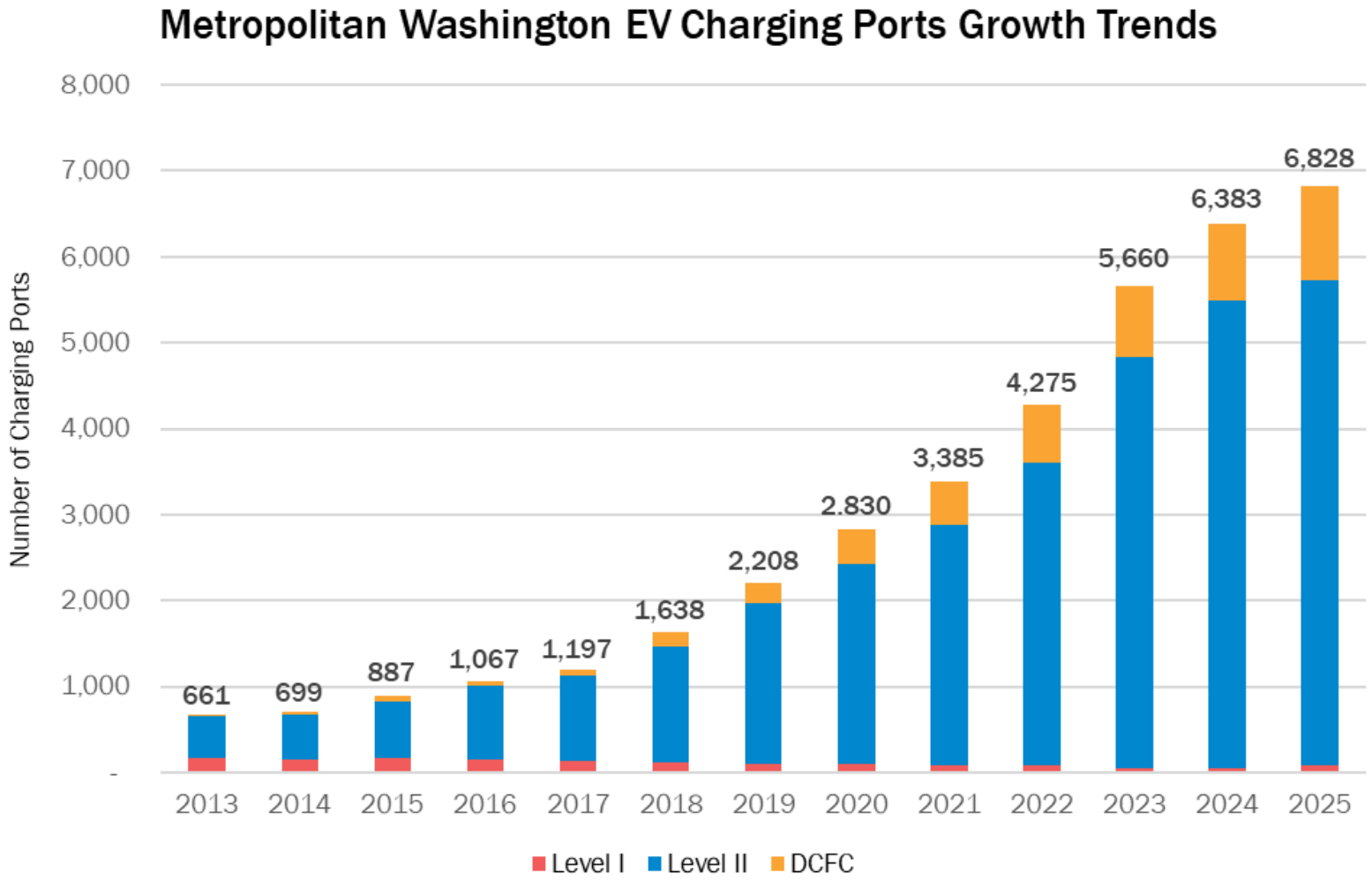
Source: State VIN data, assessed by COG/Transportation Planning Board (TPB) staff

ZEV – Regional Trends in EV Charging

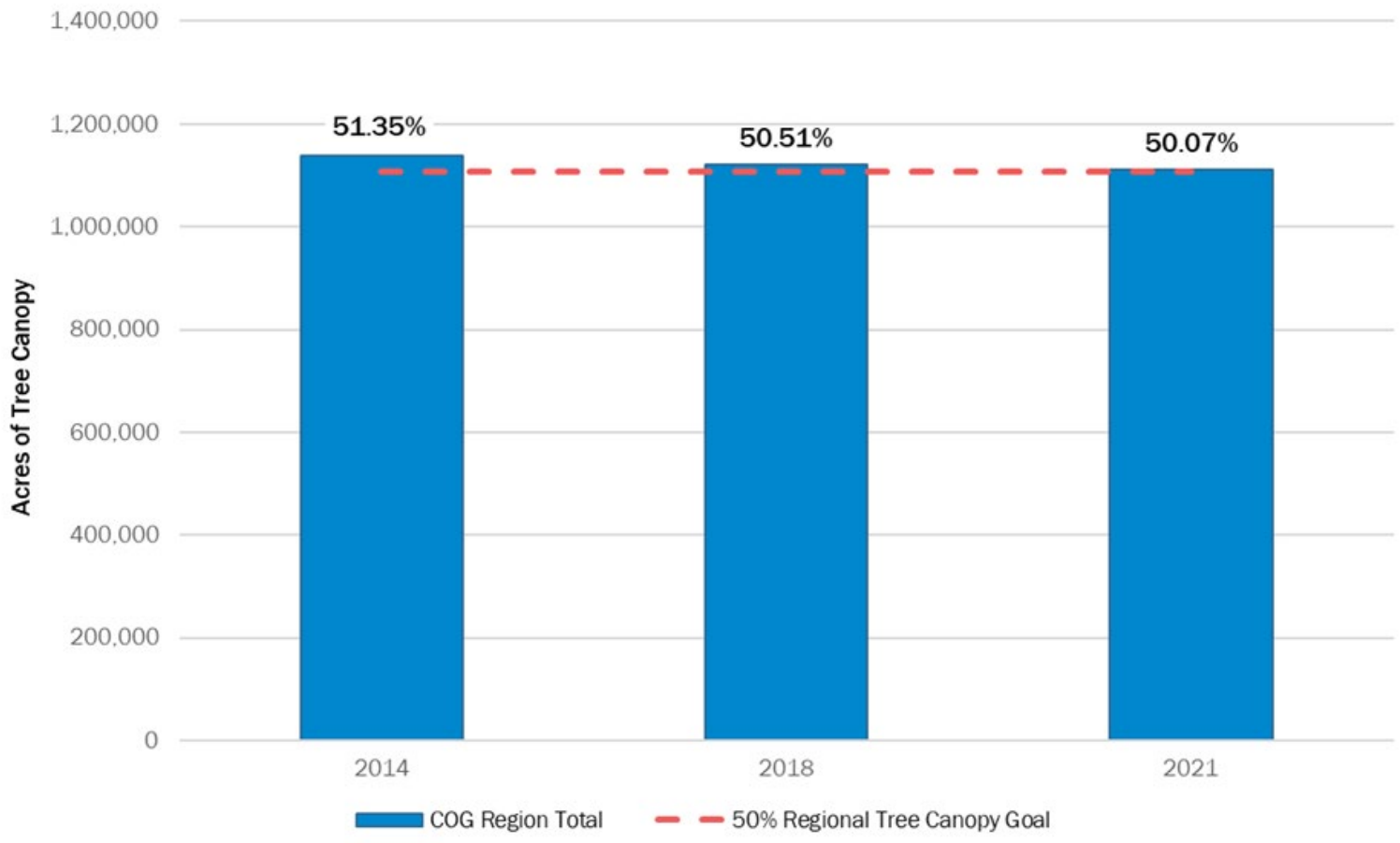


Source: Alternative Fuel Data Center

2014-2021 Change in Tree Canopy Percent

The COG region experienced a net loss of 28,377 acres of tree canopy between 2014 and 2021

If the region continued to experience the same rate of tree canopy loss in 2022, that would already have put the region under the 50 percent tree canopy goal.



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Source: Chesapeake Tree Canopy Network