

COG's Climate Change Initiative

Briefing for COG's

Metropolitan Development Policy Committee



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COG Board Action April 11, 2007

- On April 11, 2007, COG's 50th Anniversary, the COG Board of Directors adopted R31-07:
 - Creates COG Climate Change Initiative
 - Calls for:
 - Conducting regional inventory of greenhouse gases
 - Establishing regional reduction goal and method for measuring progress
 - Identifying best practices and policies to reduce GhGs
 - Examining impacts from climate change
 - Developing advocacy positions
 - Establishes Interdisciplinary COG Climate Change Steering Committee
 - COG Climate Change Web site:
<http://www.mwcog.org/environment/climate/about.asp>



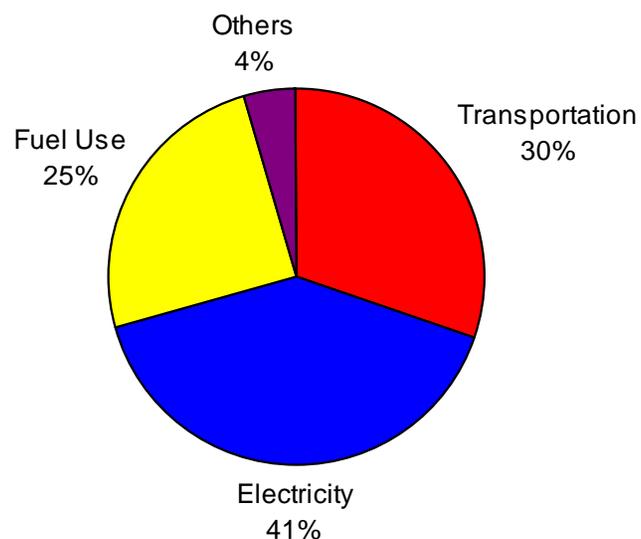
Accomplishments to date

- Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory and forecast
- Best Practices guide
- Regional reduction goals
- Climate Impacts/Adaptation
- Advocacy
- Proposed Recommendations



Major Sources of Greenhouse Gas Emissions – Washington Metro Region

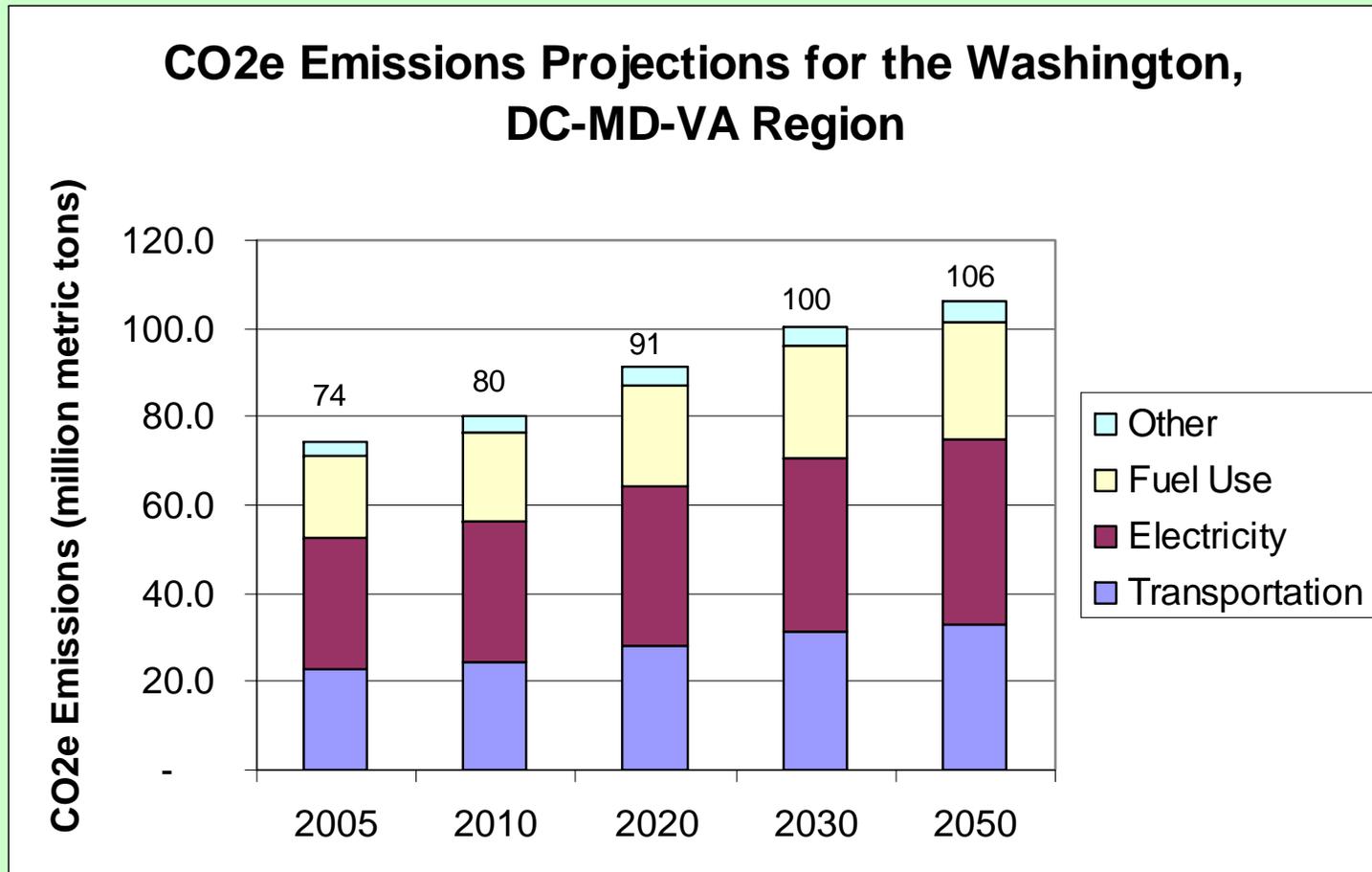
CO₂e Emissions by Sector for the Washington, DC-MD-VA Region (2005)



Source: Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments



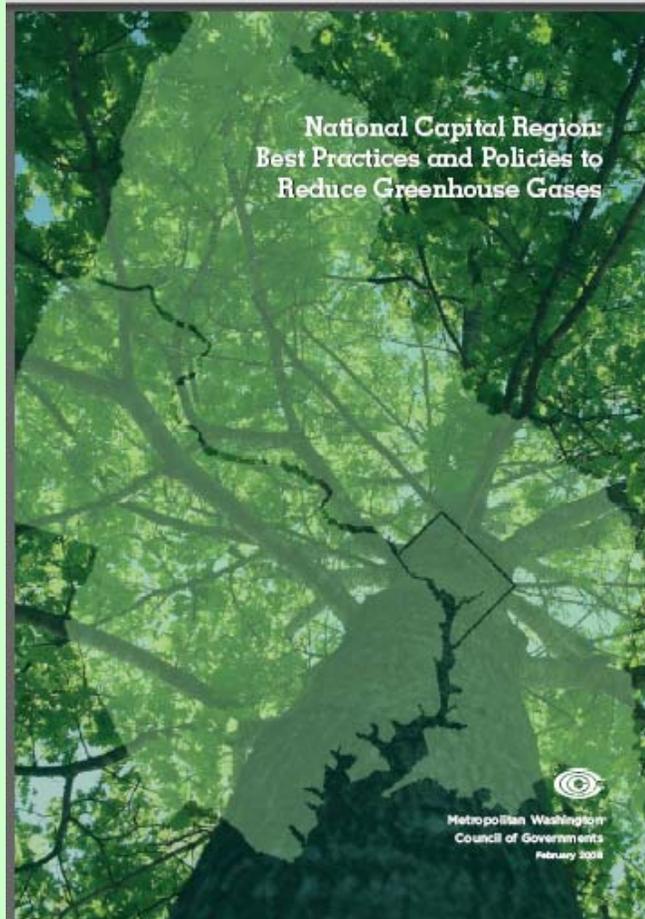
Business As Usual Projections 2005-2050 for Regional CO₂e emissions



Source: Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments



Best Practices Guide



HIGHLIGHTS:

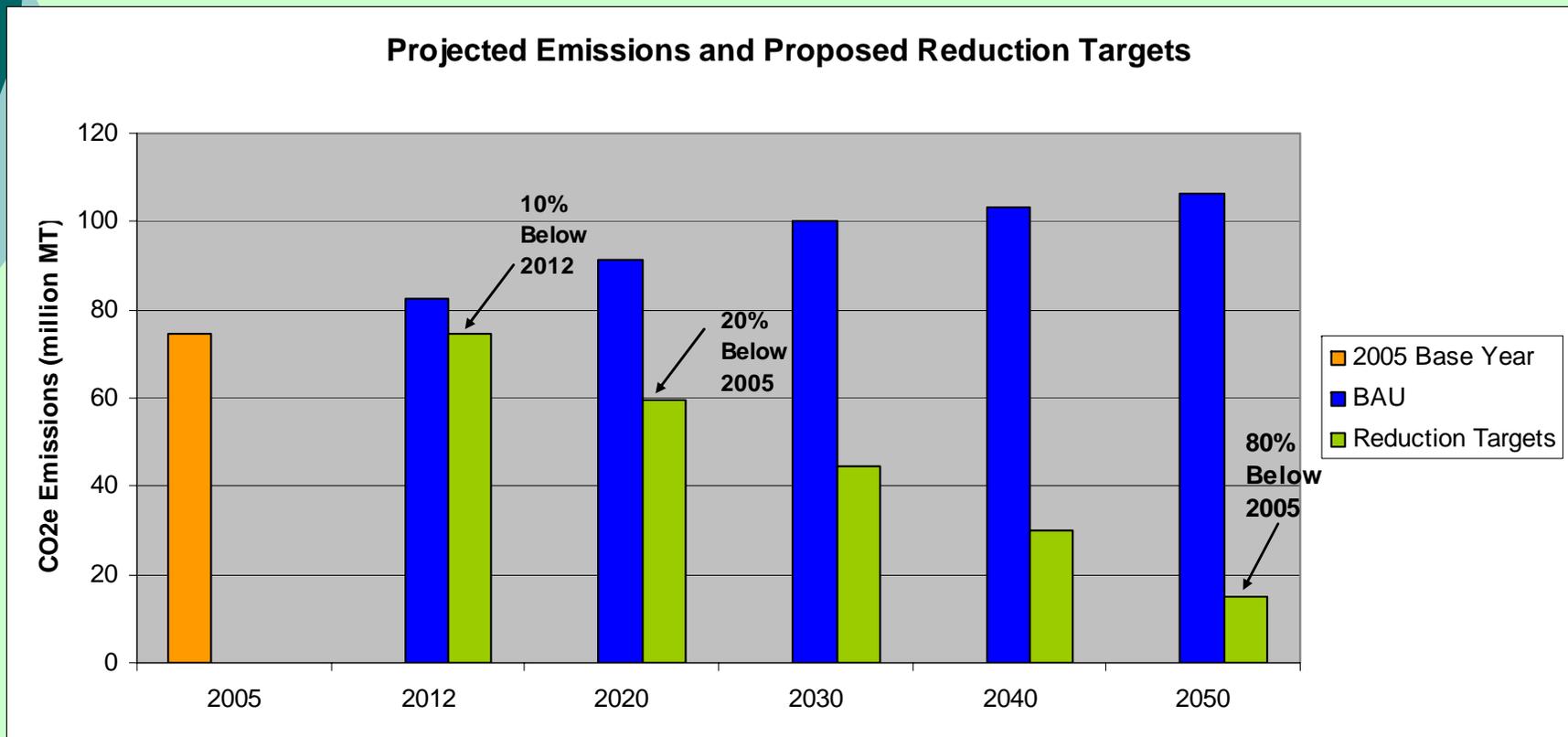
- Over 2/3 of local governments in the region purchase renewable energy
- Over 1/2 of the jurisdictions have adopted energy efficiency measures
- Nearly 90% of the communities in the region have embarked on transit oriented development and over 80% have "walkable community" initiatives
- About 70% of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

To download a copy:

<http://www.mwcog.org/uploads/pub-documents/8ldcXQ20080328151326.pdf>



COG Climate Change Steering Committee: Proposed Regional Reduction Goals

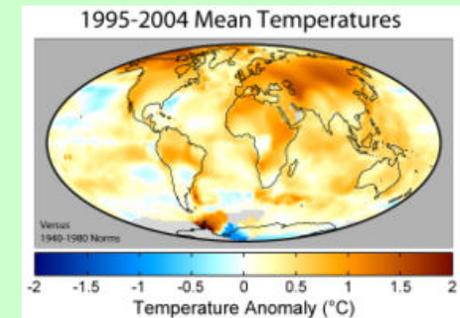
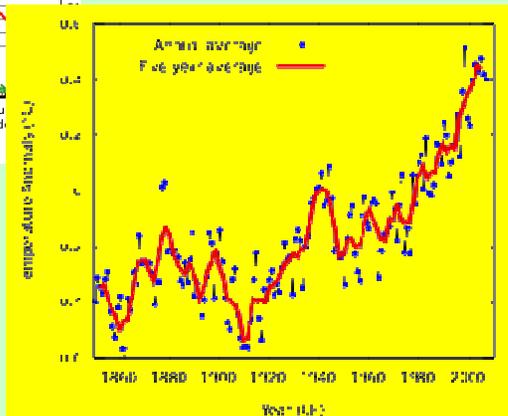
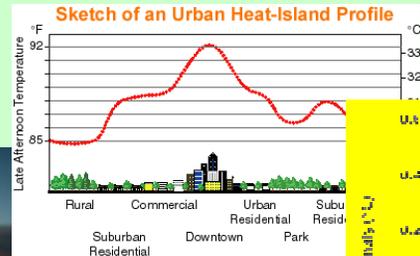


NOTE – GOALS ARE PROPOSED AND HAVE NOT BEEN ADOPTED BY THE COG BOARD OF DIRECTORS.



Climate Impacts/Adaptation

- Altered Weather – intensification of:
 - Droughts
 - Storms – both wind and rain
 - Hot weather extremes
- Other potential changes include:
 - Increases in invasive species
 - Increases in infectious diseases
 - Impacts on forests and urban trees
 - Impacts on wetlands



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



For copies of COG Board resolutions, see:

http://www.mwcog.org/committee/committee/archives.asp?COMMITTEE_ID=12



Recommendation Areas

- I. Regional Goals
- II. COG Climate Change Program
- III. Economic Development
- IV. Outreach and Education
- V. Local Governments Leading by example
- VI. Energy
- VII. Transportation
- VIII. Land Use
- IX. Financing
- X. Climate Impacts and Adaptation



VIII. Land Use Recommendations – *In Draft Report*

- Evaluate the benefits from achieving a range of possible goals (up to 95%) for directing new residential and commercial growth to regional activity centers.
- Identify the percentage of auto trips under 3, 2, 1, ½ mile and develop strategy to shift half of these trips to bike or pedestrian modes.
- Fully fund construction of bicycle/pedestrian paths in the region as outlined in the regional bicycle/pedestrian plan. Provide incentives to developments that speed improvements to bicycle/pedestrian access.
- Establish goal and develop program and plan to achieve a “no net loss” in the region’s tree canopy.

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Land Use Recommendations – *New Proposals*

- Identify best practices for local governments to include greenhouse gas reduction and energy as an element in their local comprehensive planning. Such efforts should include practices that address climate change risk reduction to guide local zoning, building codes, site planning and review.
- The greenhouse gas reduction and energy policies and practices adopted by the local government should be made an explicit element of the jurisdiction's comprehensive plan with a statement that compliance with such policies and practices will be considered at the time of project review.

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Next Steps

- **May 28** – Climate Change Steering Committee reviews draft report
- **June 11*** – Presentation to COG Board
- **July 25-26** – COG Retreat Discussion
- **June – August** – Comment Period
- **October 8** – COG Board adopts report

*COG Board presentation may be scheduled on July 9

