

MONROE COUNTY



Climate Action Plan

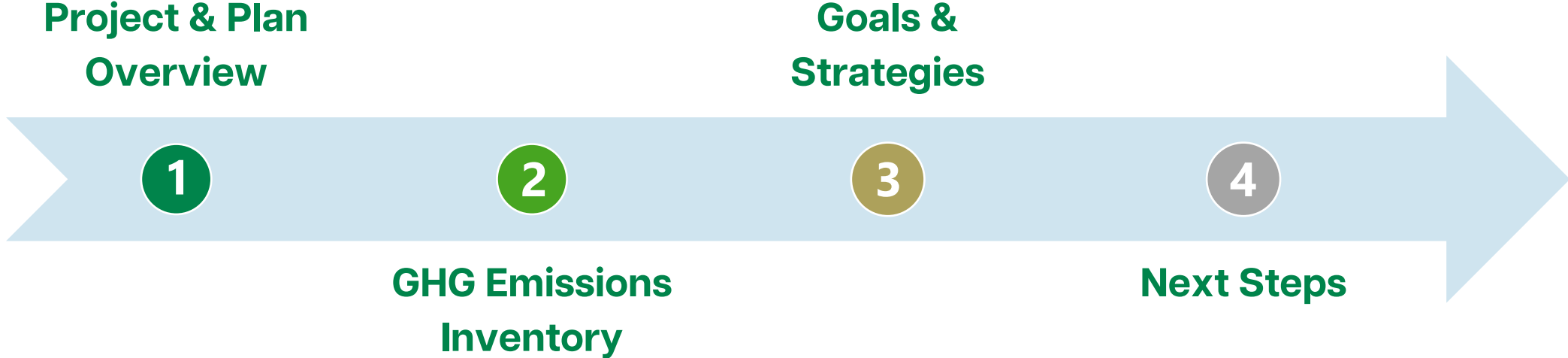
**Phase II.
Community-wide
CAP**

PUBLIC WORKSHOP #3

May 8, 2024



AGENDA





MONROE COUNTY



Climate Action Plan

1. PROJECT & PLAN OVERVIEW

PROJECT INTRODUCTION

The Climate Action Plan will develop effective actions for **community-wide** climate mitigation, climate adaptation initiatives, and alignment towards the Climate Smart Communities Program. The Plan will aim to minimize emissions of Greenhouse Gases (GHGs), advance NYS policy goals, such as energy efficiency and conservation, renewable energy, waste reduction and recycling, and support smart and sustainable economic growth. **This Plan will be completed in 2 Phases.**



PHASE 1 TO PHASE 2

Phase 1. County Operations

- Started May 2020; Adopted Sept 2022
- Focus is on GHG emissions from **County-owned facilities, infrastructure, and operations**
- Includes goals and actions county has direct control over
- First step for County to be a leader and example for climate action in our region

Phase 2. Community-Wide

- Anticipate adoption by Summer 2024
- Focus broadened to GHG emission **sources throughout the county** – housing, private industry operations, transportation infrastructure, etc.
- Includes more community outreach and engagement with implementation partners
- Intended to serve as a community guide and resource

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Matthew O'Connor, Co-Chair, Citizen Appointment

Hon. Michael Yudelson, Co-Chair, Legislator
Appointment

Hon. Richard B. Milne, Legislator Appointment

Hon. Sue Hughes-Smith, Vice Chair, Legislator
Appointment

John Botelho, Citizen Appointment

Akilah Skerrette-Banister, Citizen Appointment

Kathryn Walker, Citizen Appointment

Alden Smith, Student Appointment*

Anna Yatteau, Student Appointment*

Lola D'Ascentiis, Student Appointment*

Madison Quinn, Secretary

Michael Garland, DES Director*

*Ex Officio

COUNTY INTERNAL WORKING GROUP

Clement Chung, DES Deputy Director

Joseph Vankerkhove, DES

Patrick Gooch, Planning & Development

Madison Quinn, Sustainability Coordinator

CONSULTANT TEAM

BERGMANN (NOW COLLIERS)

Molly Gaudioso, Project Manager

John Steinmetz, Planning Principal

Tom Robinson, Landscape Architect

Hanna Quigley, Landscape Designer

Kiernan Playford, Planner

ANCHOR QEA

Lena DeSantis, Senior Managing
Environmental Planner

Emily Manuel, Environmental Database Analyst

Josh Bartlett, Air Quality & GHG Specialist

SUSTAINABLE PLANNING & DESIGN

Allison Harrington

2023 – 2024 TIMELINE

Jan –
Mar 2023

KICK-OFF

- Advisory Committee Meetings
- Public Workshop #1 & Ideas Wall
- Stakeholder Meetings



Mar – May
2023

CASE STUDIES & COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

- Advisory Committee Meetings
- Stakeholder Meetings
- Virtual Community Engagement



Jun – Sept
2023

GHG EMISSIONS REPORT

- Advisory Committee Meetings
- Public Workshop #2 & Online Survey



Oct 2023 –
Mar 2024

GOAL & STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT

- Advisory Committee Meetings
- Stakeholder Meetings



Apr – Jul
2024

DRAFT & FINAL CAP

- Advisory Committee Meetings
- Public Workshop #3
- Online Draft Review
- County Legislature Adoption



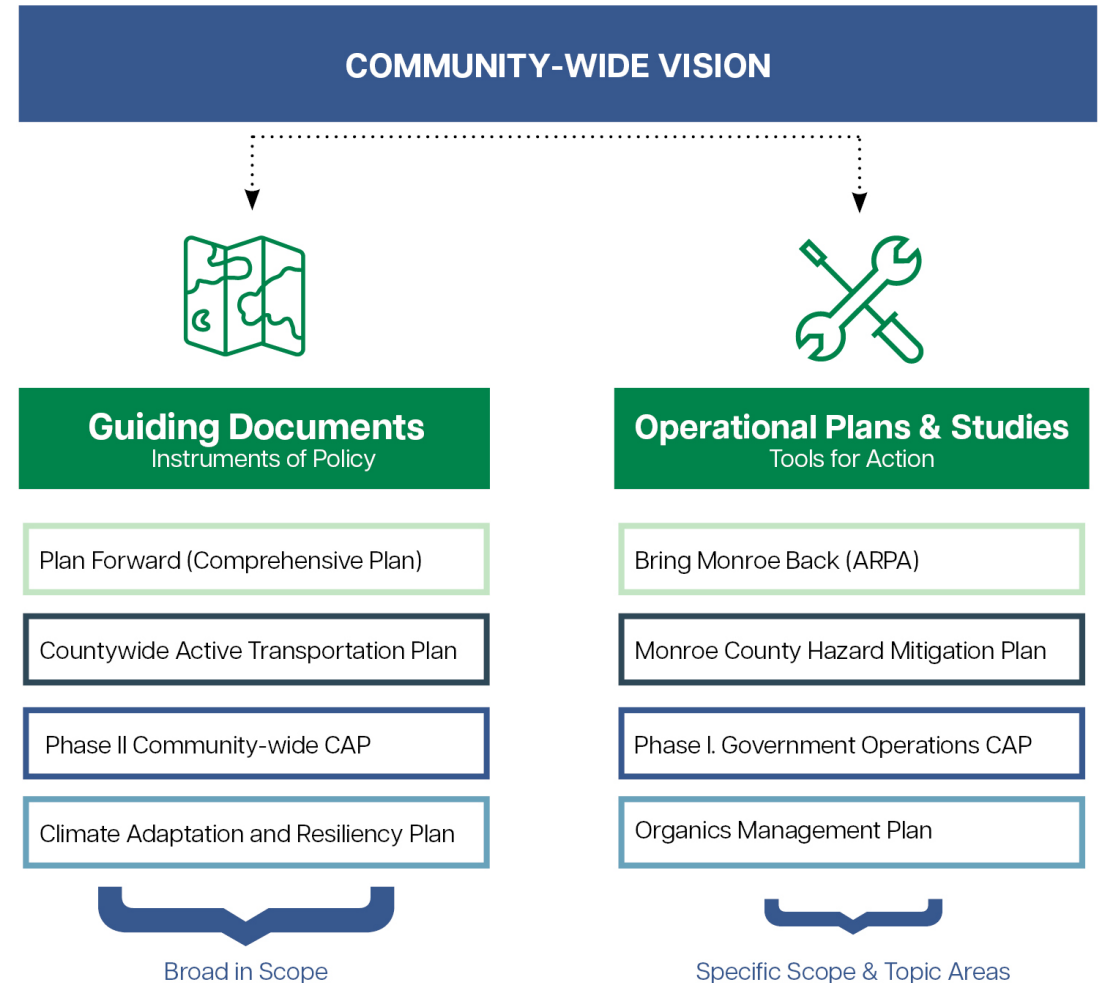
Project Website

www.MonroeCountyClimateAction.com

ONE PIECE IN PLANNING FOR MONROE COUNTY'S FUTURE

Guiding documents are broad in scope but light in specific details, like a roadmap.

Operational Plans & Studies are centered more on a singular topic or project, like a blueprint for future actions.



THE ROLE OF THE COMMUNITY-WIDE CAP

Focused on MITIGATION (GHG emissions reduction)

What will it do?

- Include a refined picture of GHG emissions in Monroe County
- Tie into existing plans & initiatives
- Identify specific actions the County can take
- Serve as a resource for residents and stakeholders

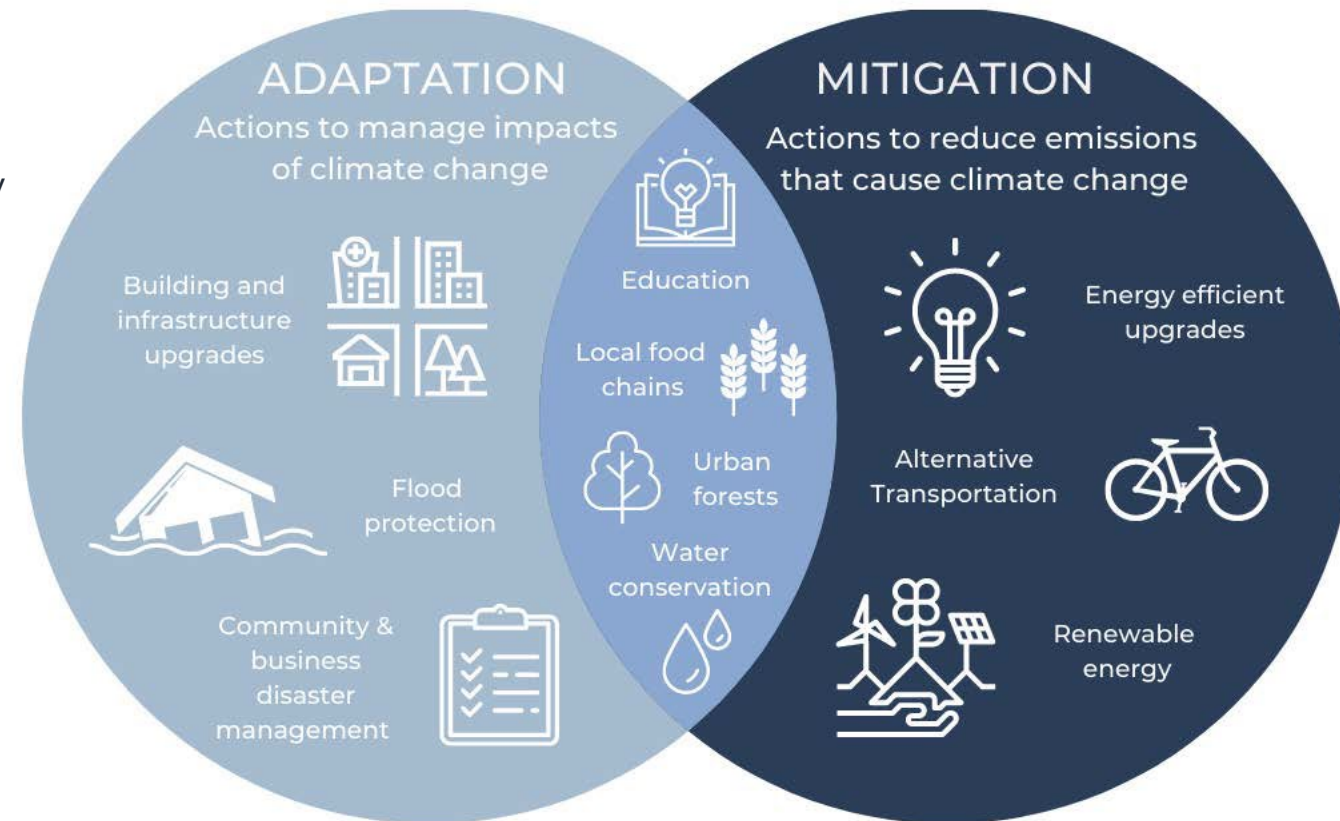
What won't it do?

- Serve as a mandate or law

What shouldn't it do?

- “Sit on a shelf”

This is a starting point!
We have had many lessons learned and connections made.



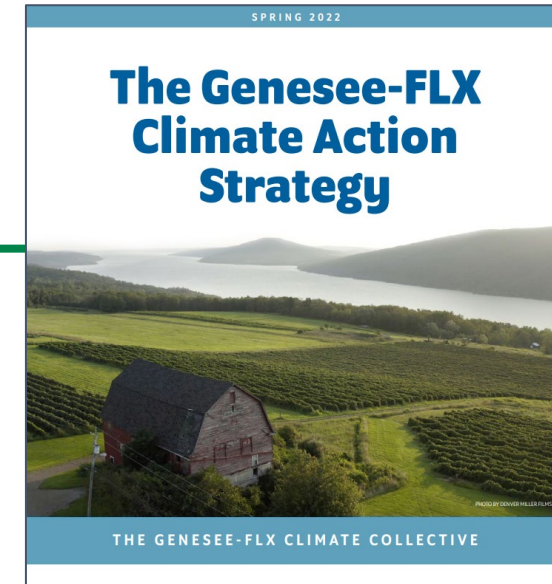
LEVERAGING EXISTING EFFORTS & PARTNERS

Existing Plans & Studies

- Climate Solutions Accelerator – Genesee-FLX Climate Action Strategy
- Town of Brighton CAP
- City of Rochester CAP
- Finger Lakes Regional Sustainability Plan
- Etc.

Partners & Stakeholders

- Municipalities
- State Departments & Agencies
- Economic Development Agencies
- Educational Institutions
- Color Your Community Green Groups
- Community & Nonprofit Organizations
- Industry & Employment Leaders
- Etc.



PHASE II. COMMUNITY-WIDE CAP OUTLINE

Part 1	
INTRO TO PHASE II. COMMUNITY-WIDE CLIMATE ACTION	1
Phase I & Phase II	2
What is a Community-Wide Climate Action Plan?	2
Why Do We Need a Community-Wide Plan?	4
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What are the Benefits of Taking Action?	8
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Part 2	
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Science of Climate Change	14
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Partnerships, Education, & Economy	73

Highlights of Key Topics & Case Studies Throughout!

FOCUS AREAS PHASE II

TRANSPORTATION



LAND & WATER RESOURCES



BUILDINGS & HOUSING



SUSTAINABLE MATERIALS
MANAGEMENT



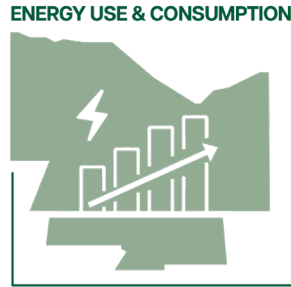
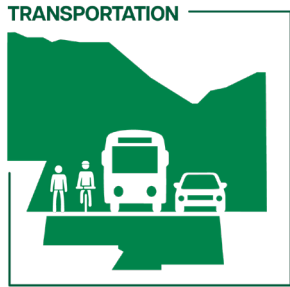
ENERGY USE & CONSUMPTION



PARTNERSHIPS, EDUCATION
& ECONOMY



PRIORITY FOCUS AREAS (BASED ON PUBLIC INPUT)



Highest



Lowest

Rank	Transportation	Buildings & Housing	Energy Use & Consumption	Land & Water Resources	Partnerships, Education & Economy	Waste & Recycling
1	26%	15%	21%	23%	6%	9%
2	21%	30%	11%	11%	13%	15%
3	13%	15%	30%	26%	6%	11%
4	17%	11%	19%	21%	19%	13%
5	11%	15%	15%	15%	28%	17%
6	13%	15%	4%	4%	28%	36%



MONROE COUNTY



Climate Action Plan

2. GHG EMISSIONS INVENTORY

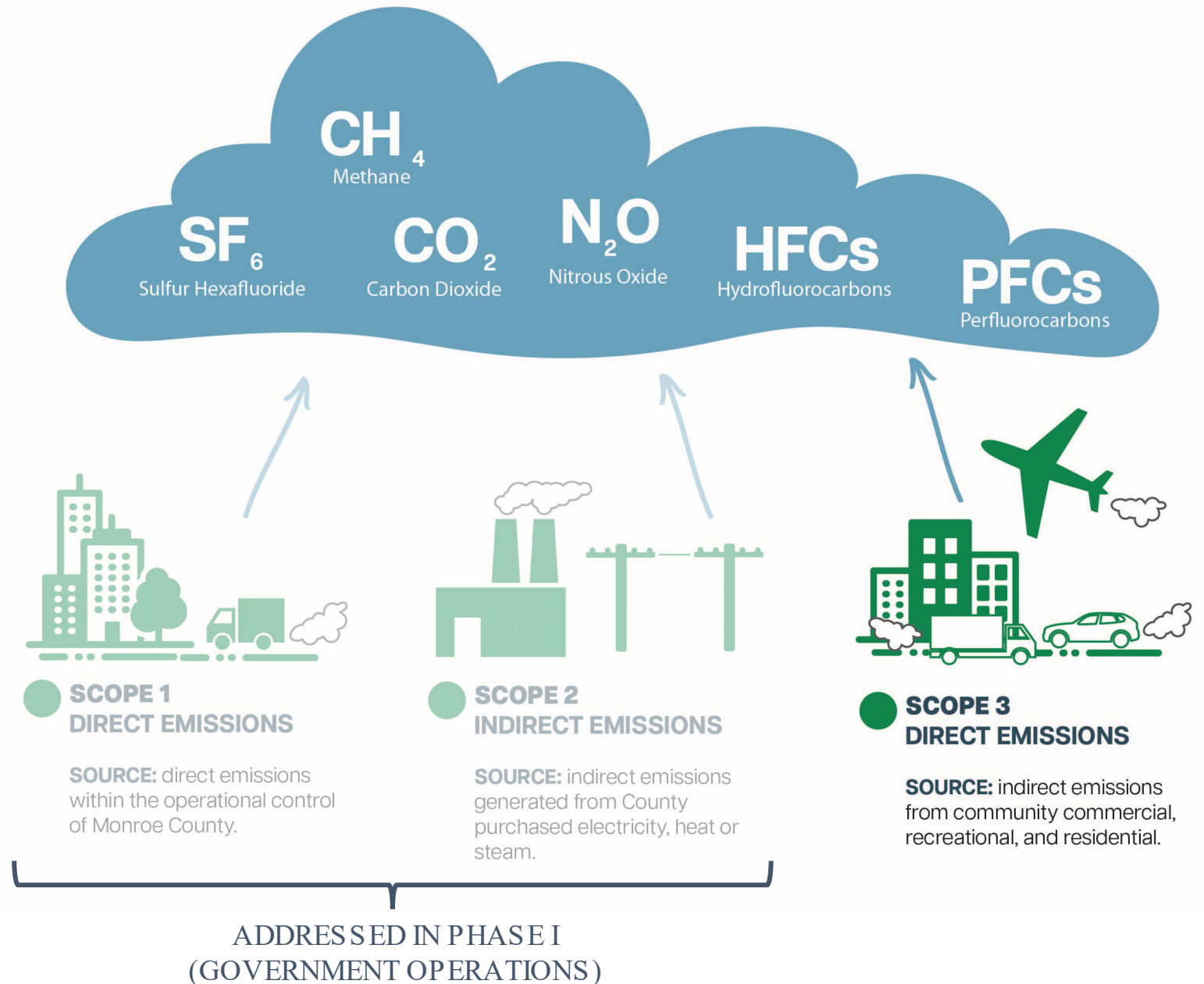
SCOPE 3 - GHG EMISSIONS INVENTORY

CONTEXT:

- Scope 3 are all GHG emissions that occur inside the County boundary but outside of the County's control

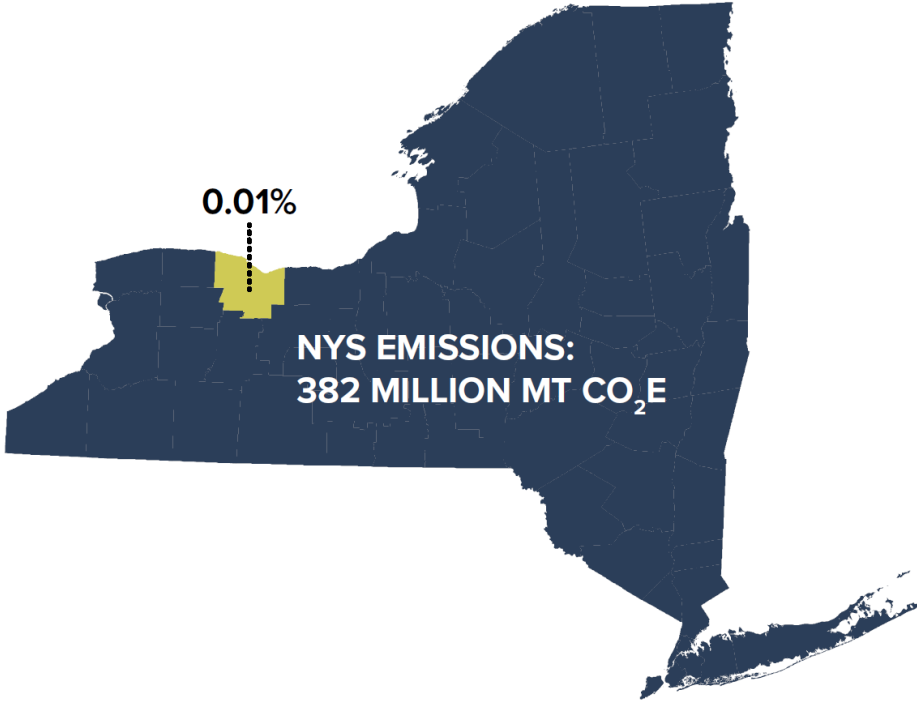
APPROACH:

- Identify target areas
- Consistent with Phase 1
- 2019 Emissions Inventory
- ICLEI ClearPath Tool

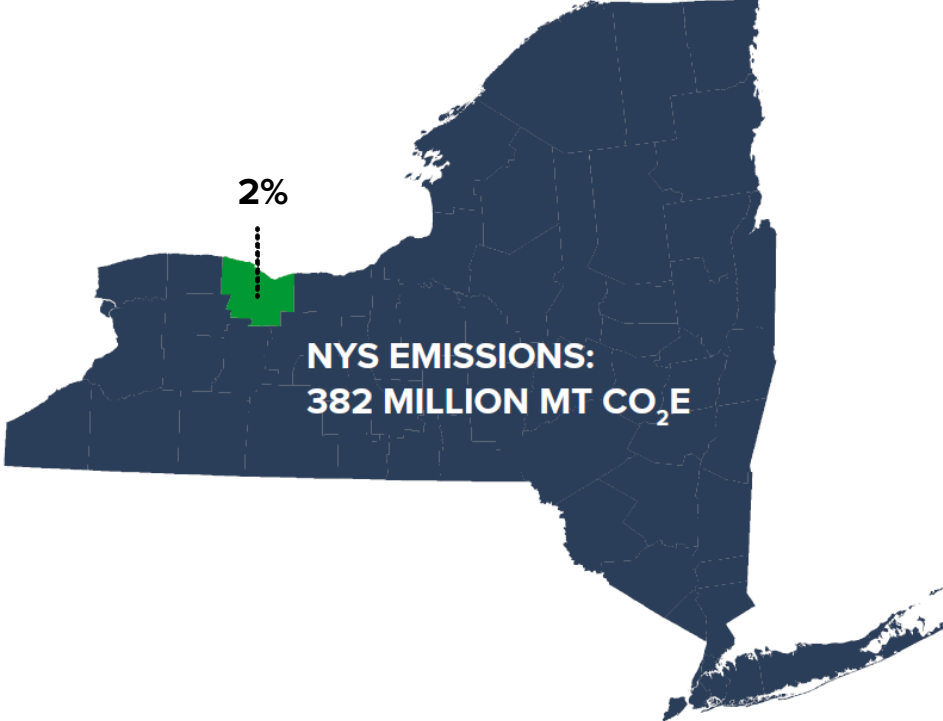


COUNTY EMISSIONS IN CONTEXT OF NYS

Source: 2022 NYS Draft Scoping Plan



PHASE I (GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS)
Scope 1 & 2 Emissions
45,632 MT CO₂E



PHASE II (COMMUNITY-WIDE)
Scope 3 Emissions
8,174,961 MT CO₂E

SCOPE 3 INVENTORY

MAJOR GHG SOURCES

Transportation

- Cars and Trucks, Employee Commutes
- Rail, Air, Marine
- Off-road Equipment

Energy

- Electricity Use, by sector
- Fuel Combustion, by sector

Process and Fugitive

- Natural Gas and Refrigerants Losses

Waste Generation

- Landfill
- Compost and Recycling

Water

- Wastewater
- Water supply

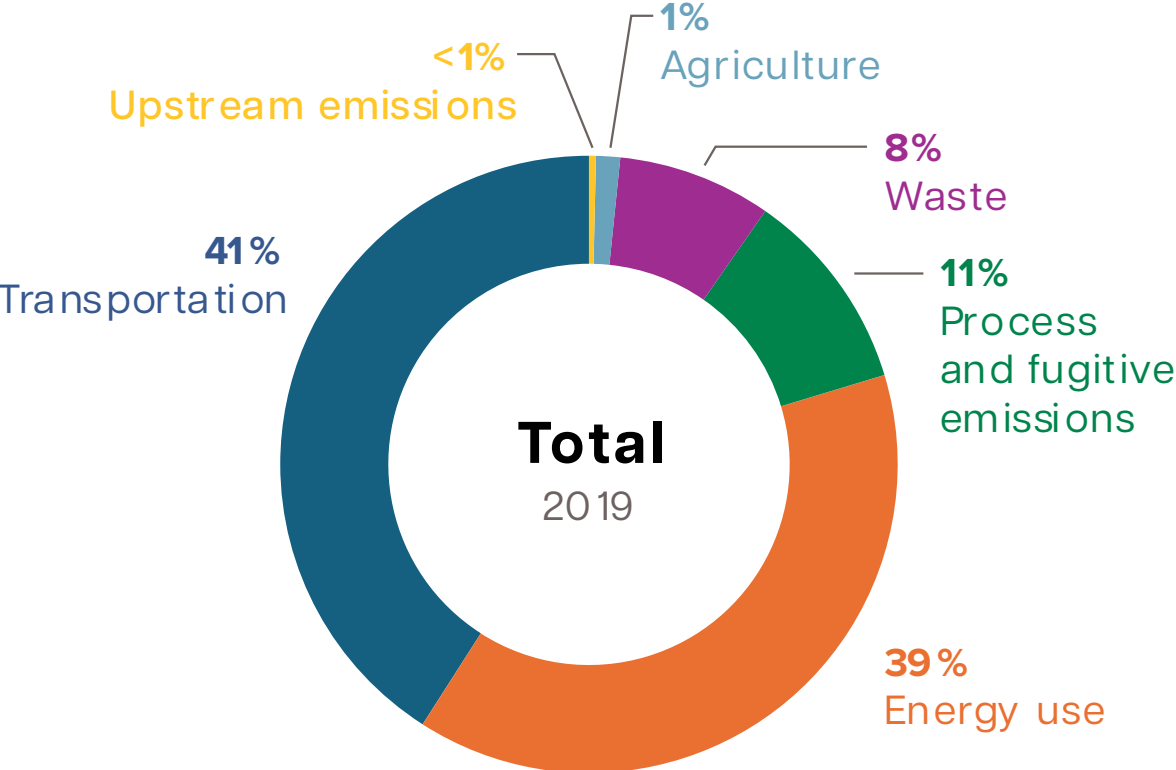
Agriculture, Forestry, and Land Use

- Land Use Changes
- Agriculture: Livestock/Fertilizer

Upstream

- Transmission and distribution

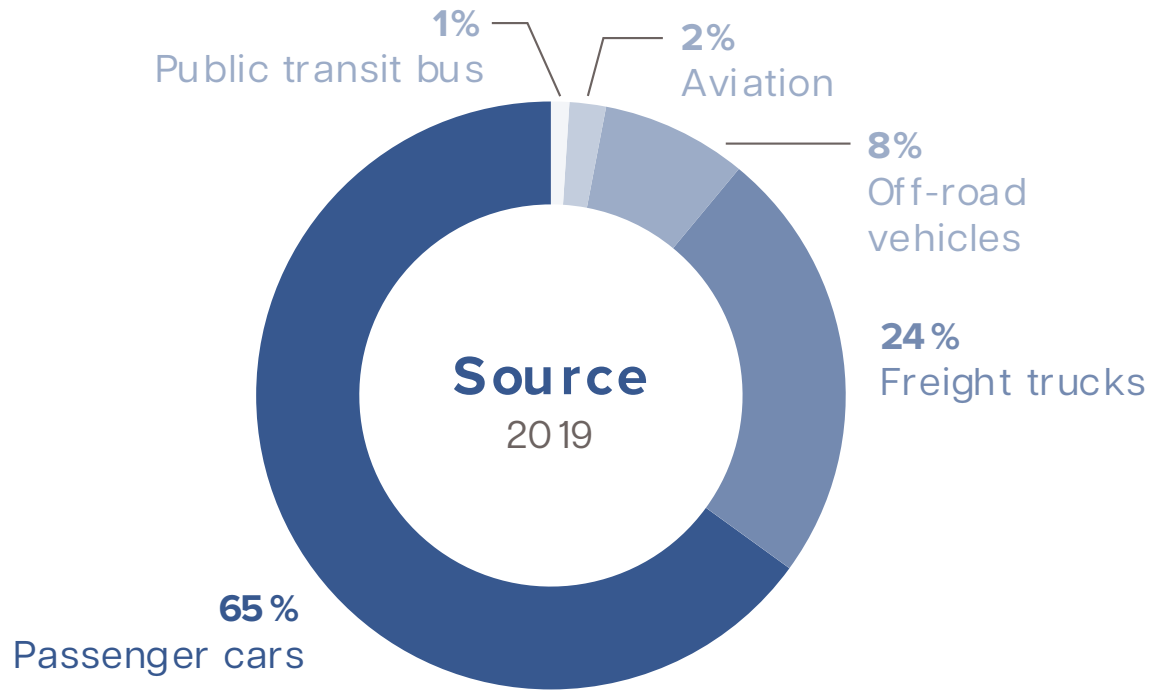
SCOPE 3 INVENTORY EMISSIONS BY SECTOR



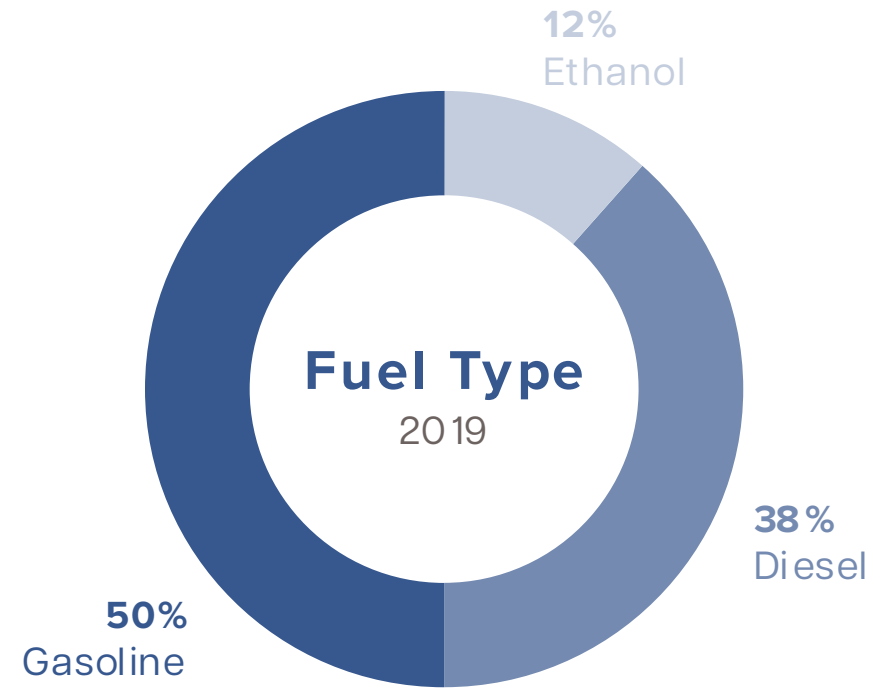
2019 Emissions (CO ₂ e MT)	
Transportation (41%)	3,347,100
Energy Use (39%)	3,166,408
Process and Fugitive Emissions (11%)	870,589
Waste Generation and Water Supply (8%)	658,199
Agriculture, Forestry, and Land Use (1%)	102,917
Upstream Emissions (<1%)	29,748
Total:	8,174,961

TRANSPORTATION

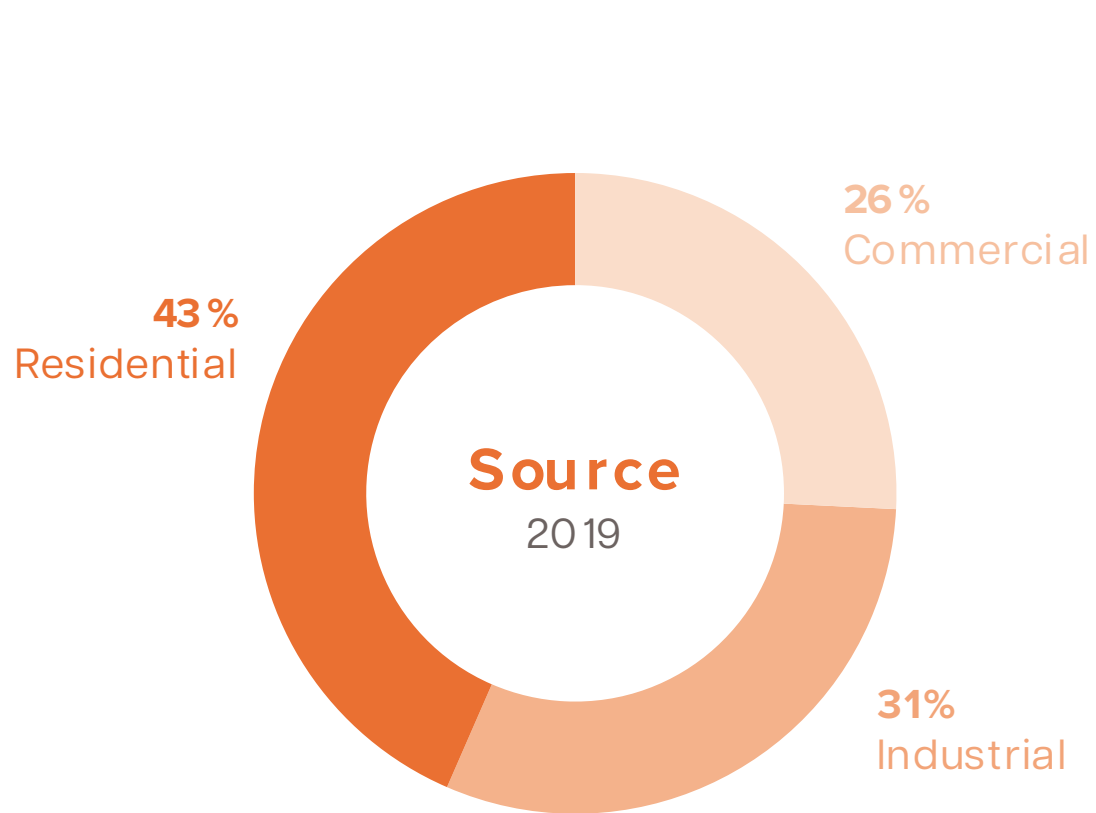
41% OF TOTAL



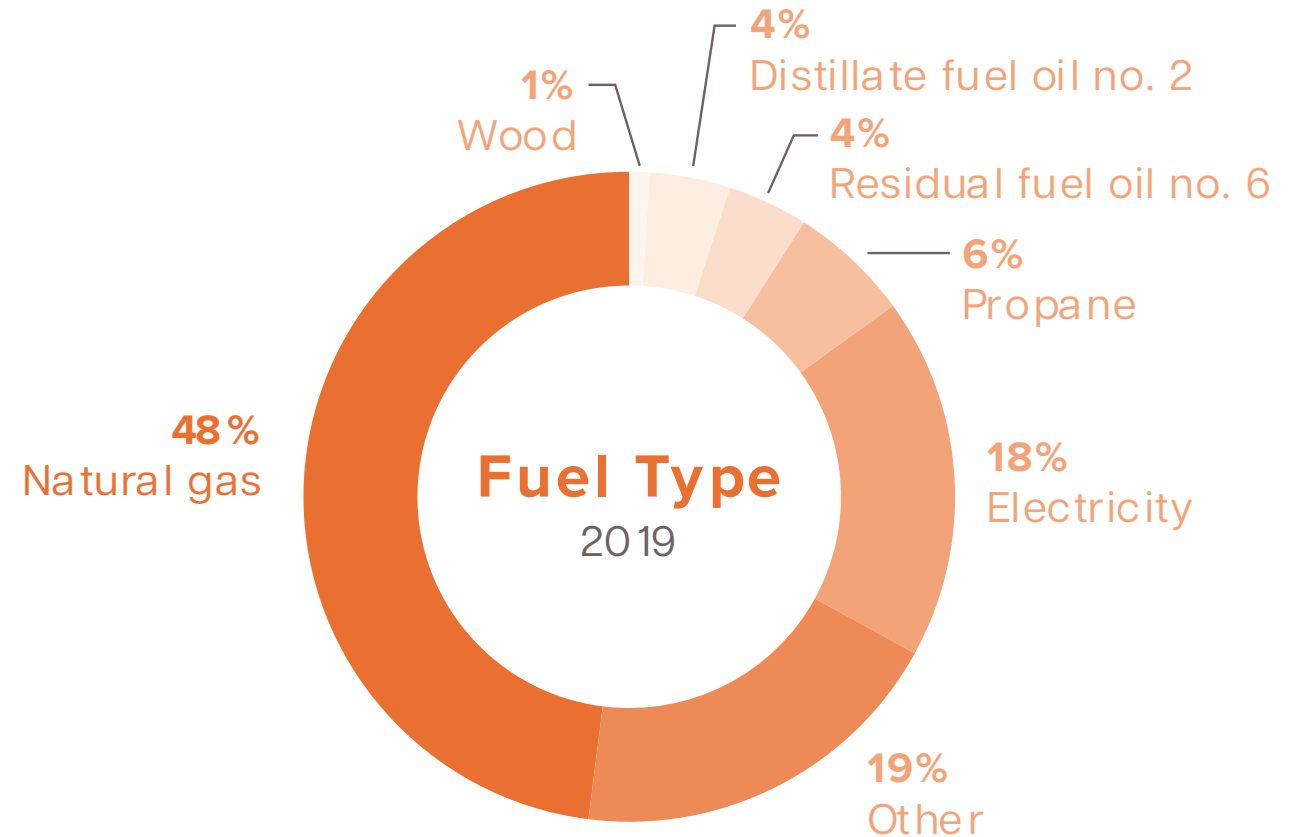
Most transportation emissions come from **passenger cars (65%)** and **freight trucks (24%)**.



Most transportation emissions come from **gasoline-powered vehicles (58%)**.



Most energy emissions come from **residential energy use (43%)**.



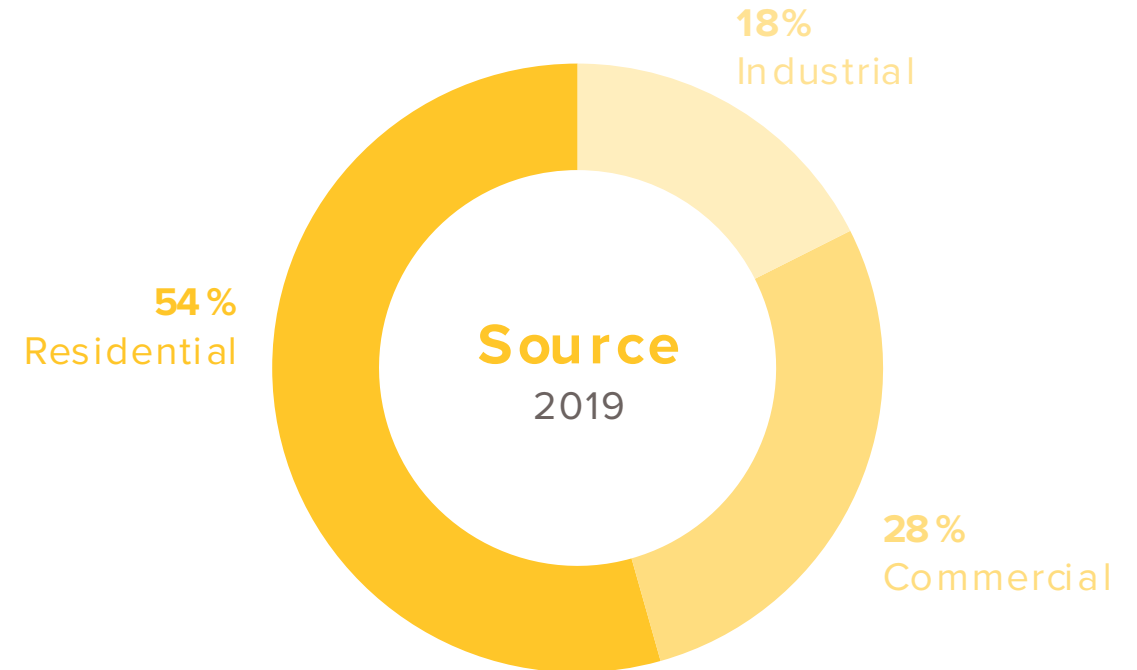
Most energy emissions come from **natural gas-powered sources (48%)**.

UPSTREAM EMISSIONS

<1% OF TOTAL

Generally related to **Buildings & Housing / Energy Use & Consumption**

SOURCES: Emissions from electric power transmission and distribution losses.



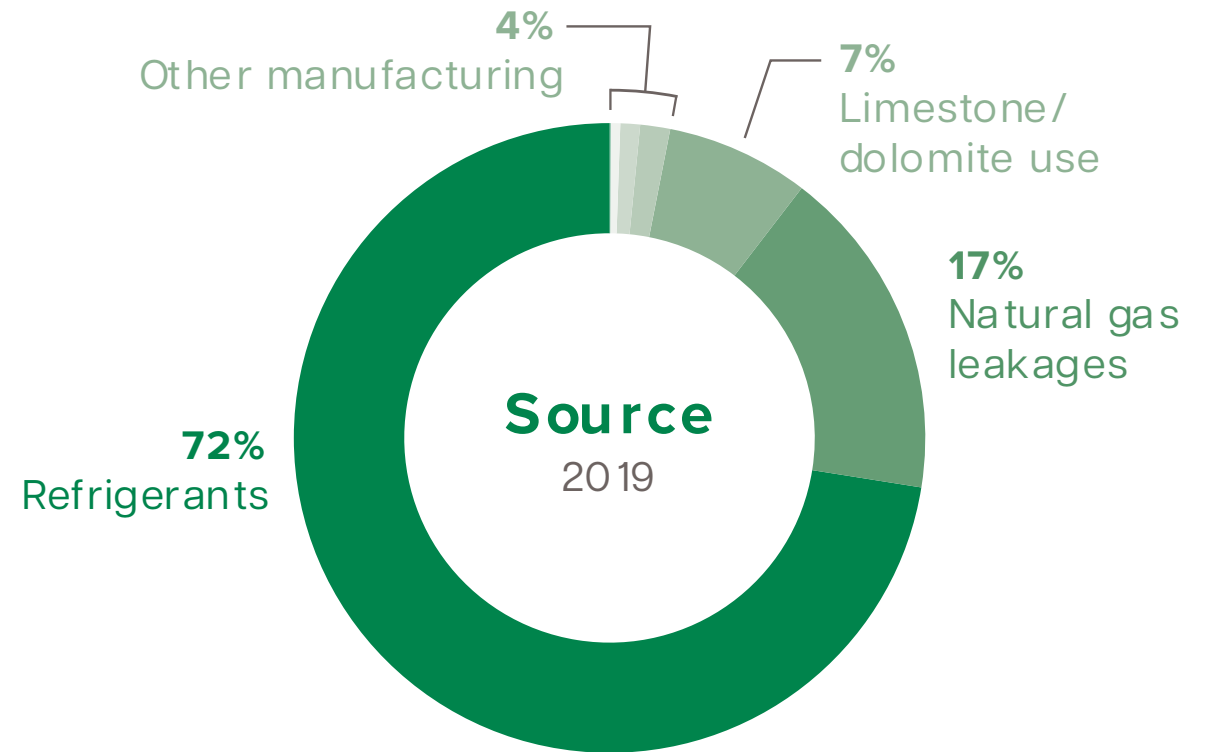
Upstream emissions from distribution to **residential users account for the most emissions (54%).**

PROCESS & FUGITIVE EMISSIONS

11% OF TOTAL

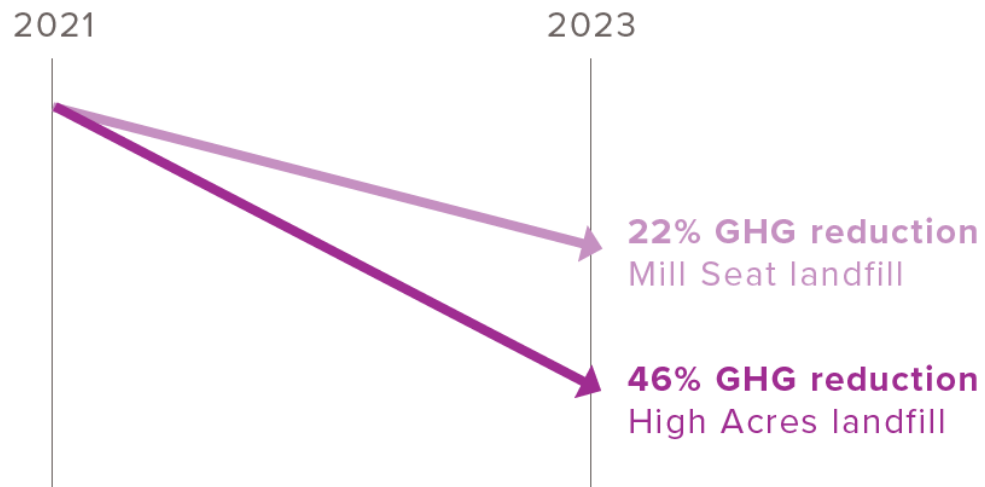
Generally related to **Buildings & Housing / Energy Use & Consumption**

SOURCES: Emissions from HVAC and refrigerant use, natural gas leakages, and emissions from industrial processes

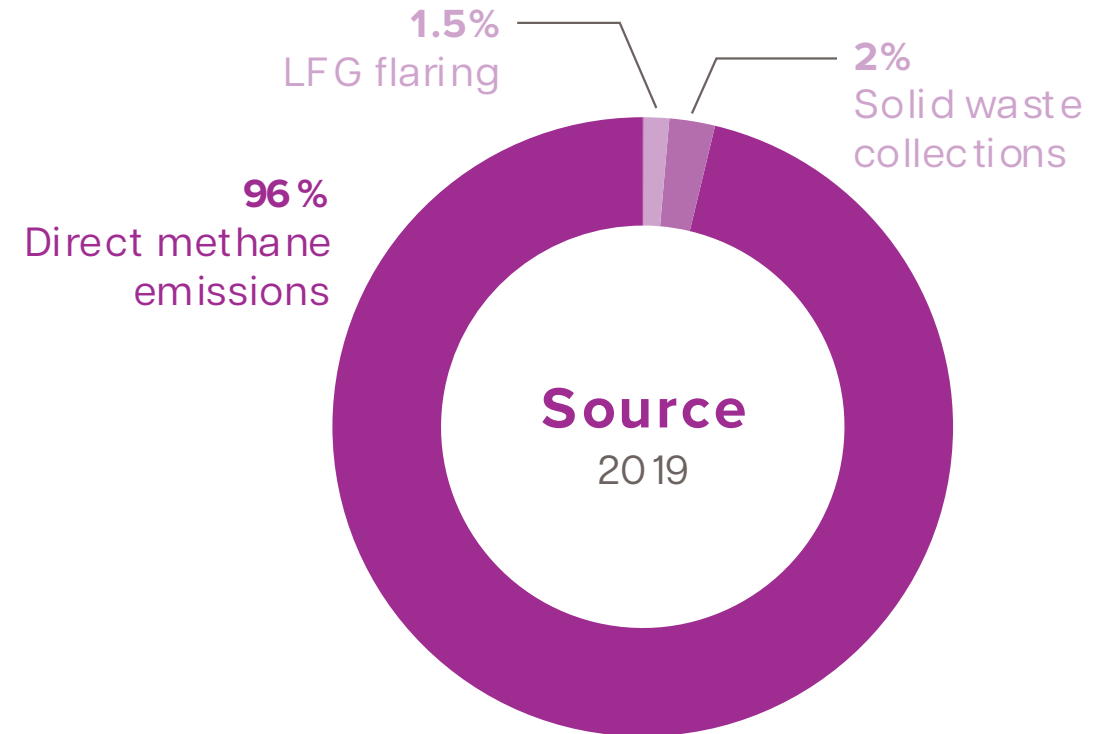


Most process and fugitive emissions come from **refrigerants (72%)** and **natural gas leakages (17%)**.

99% of Sector Emissions from High Acres & Mill Seat Landfills



WM has recently achieved emissions reductions by upgrading its gas collection and control systems.



Most waste emissions come from **direct methane emissions (96%)**.



MONROE COUNTY'S TREE CANOPY

Almost one-third of Monroe County's land area is covered by trees – that's about 8 million trees! Every year, this tree canopy provides the following environmental benefits:



400,000 MT
of CO₂e sequestered



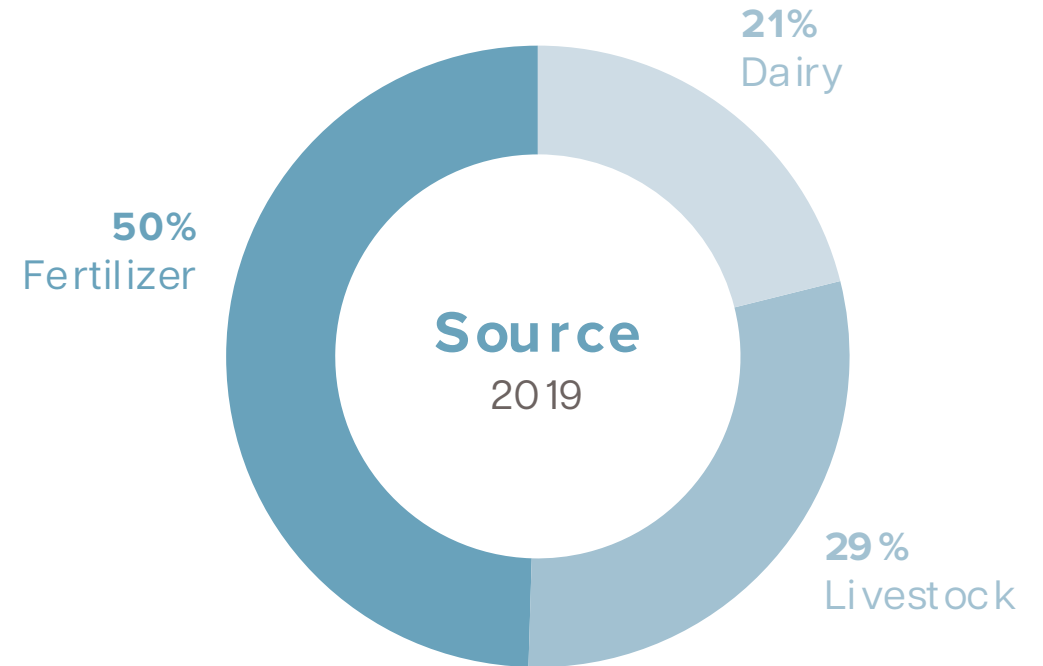
800 mil. gallons
of avoided runoff



3,500 tons
of air pollutants removed



\$41 million
in savings from CO₂ sequestration, air pollution removal, and avoided runoff



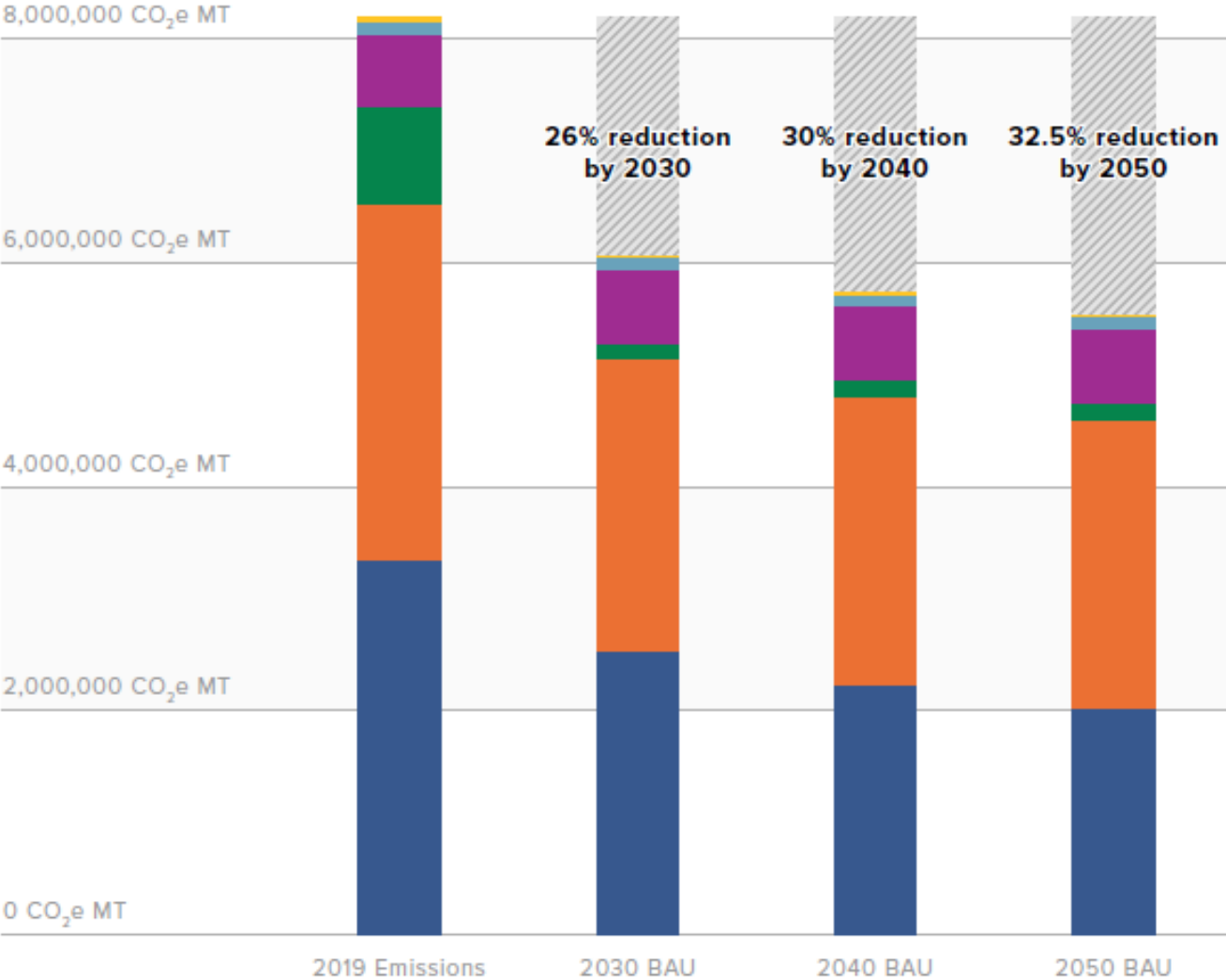
Most agricultural emissions come from fertilizer (50%), followed by livestock (29%), and dairy (21%).

“BUSINESS AS USUAL” BAU FORECAST

Assumptions:

- Projected Population Growth (2050)
- NY Zero-Emission Vehicle Sales/Lease Goals (2035)
- NY 100% Zero-Emission Electricity Grid Goal (2040)
- Federal Zero-Emission Vehicle Transition Goals
- Increase in Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT)

*Follows Phase I assumptions





MONROE COUNTY

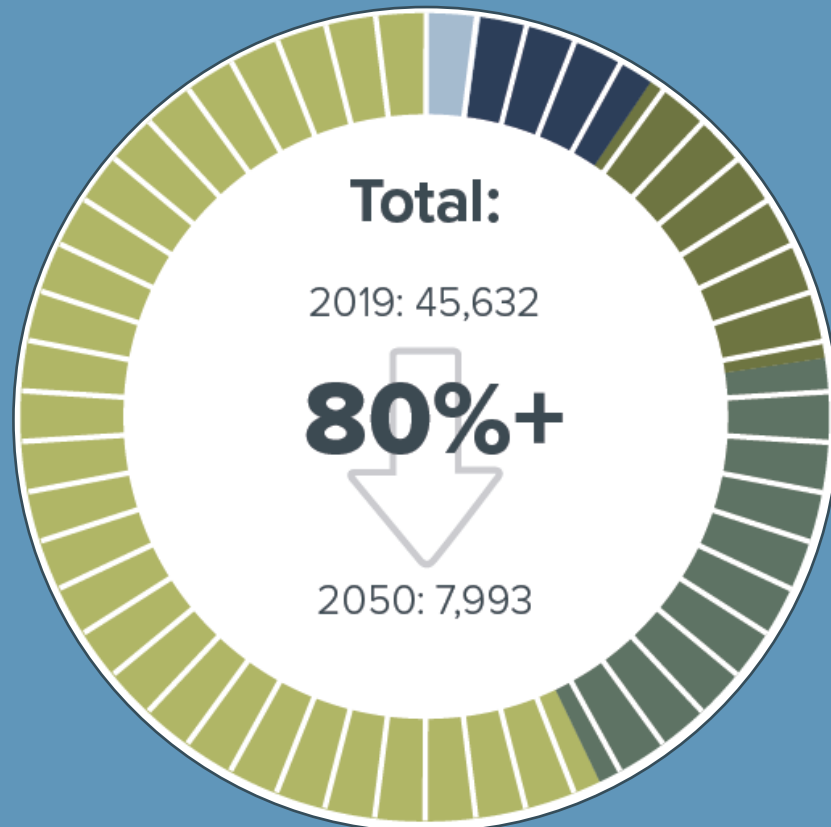


Climate Action Plan

3. GOALS & STRATEGIES

EMISSIONS REDUCTION GOALS

Phase 1. County Operations

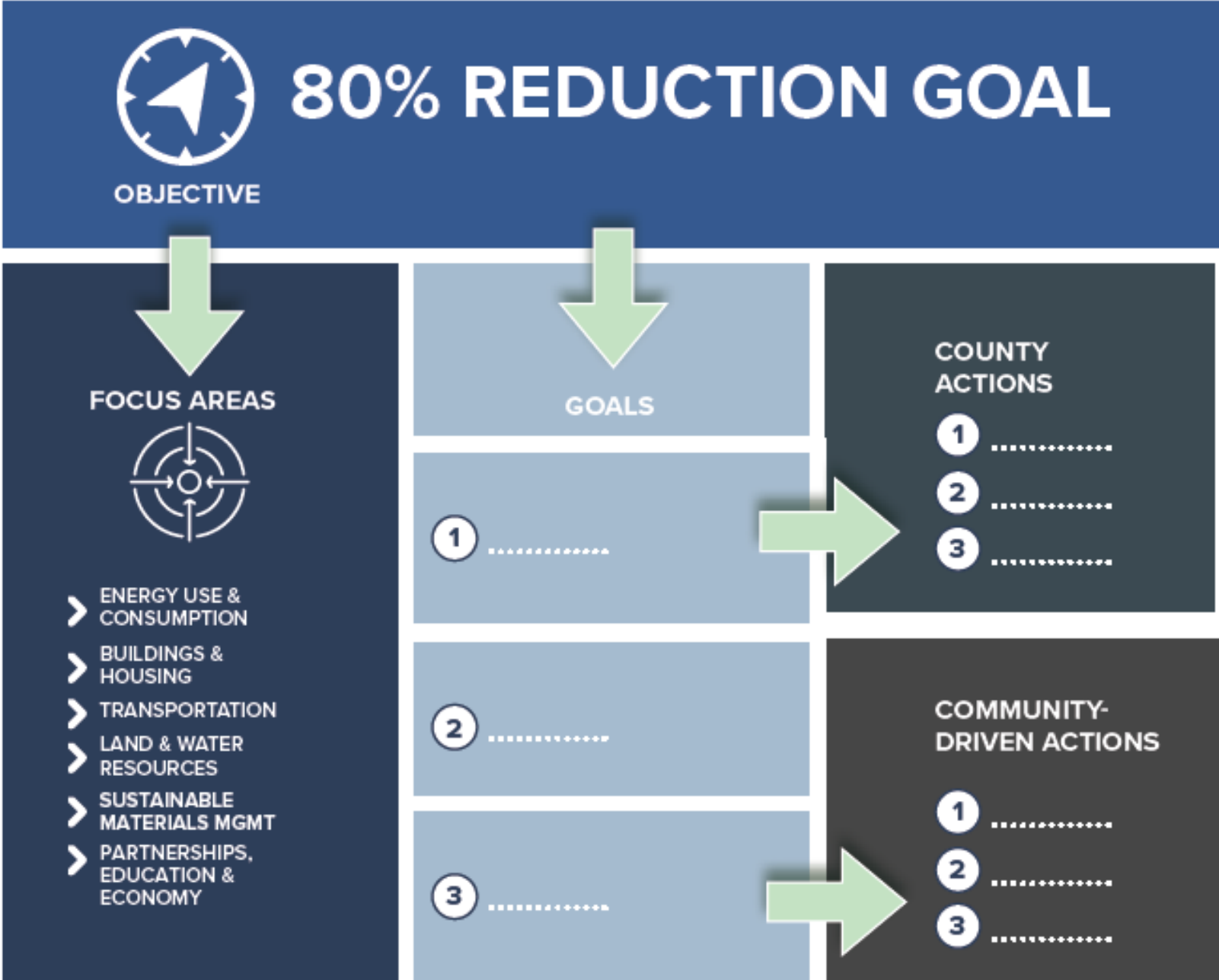


Phase 2. Community-Wide

80% Overall Reduction

- Consistent with Phase I Goal
- Consistent with NYS Goal (85% based on 1990 levels)
- Cannot be achieved by County alone
- Partnerships & Education are key

PHASE II. GOAL FRAMEWORK



TYPES OF ACTIONS

- **Possible County Actions:** Actions that may be **taken directly by Monroe County** to help achieve the goals of a given focus area and reduce GHG emissions, where applicable.
- **Community-Driven / County-Supported Actions:** Potential actions that can be **taken by municipalities, residents, businesses, and other organizations, at their discretion,** which the **County may support as a funder, coordinator, connector, and/or informational resource.**

Goals & Strategies

EXAMPLE

FOCUS AREA

COUNTY ACTION

1

ENERGY USE & CONSUMPTION

1. Solar Energy Initiatives

- Provide resources for zoning and planning boards to consider incentivizing a certain coverage of solar panels above parking areas.
- Incentivize the installation of solar panels above parking areas.
- Identify potential sites that may be suitable for incentivized renewable energy projects

2. Education & Outreach

- Provide educational material on energy conservation, fuel switching, and reduction practices.
- Expand outreach for C-PACE financing and similar programs.
- Encourage the development of a county-wide toolkit that facilitates sustainable practices among local organizations through resources, training, networking, incentives and/or performance tracking tools.

Goals & Strategies

EXAMPLE

COMMUNITY-DRIVEN ACTION

NOTE: The following is a summary of potential actions that may be initiated by County stakeholders with an interest in furthering the goals and strategies of this Community-wide Climate Action Plan. For some actions, the County may be a partner in implementation through supportive measures such as assistance securing funding, serving as a coordinator or connector of stakeholders, and/or providing informational resources and guidance, as appropriate.

1. Education & Resources for Institutions

- Implement a toolkit to public schools (including example School District Sustainability Plans, suggestions for actions/areas of opportunity, available local/state/federal grants to fund energy audits and other activities).

2. Planning & Policy

- Encourage zoning and planning boards to require a certain coverage of solar panels above parking areas.
- Identify targets for new development to connect with renewable energy sources, in line with New York State requirements for advancing zero emission construction in new buildings.

ENERGY USE & CONSUMPTION



**FOCUS AREA
CONTEXT & GOALS**

Energy Use & Consumption

OVERVIEW

- The type and quantity of energy sources used have a direct impact on climate change due to their associated greenhouse gas emissions.
- Transitioning away from fossil fuels (gas, oil, coal) towards more sustainable energy alternatives like solar, wind, and geothermal will reduce climate impacts.
- The practical solution involves shifting to electricity-powered technologies while simultaneously decarbonizing the sources of electricity generation.

ENERGY USE & CONSUMPTION



Energy Use & Consumption

GOALS

- Identify opportunities to reduce energy use and convert to renewable energy sources.
- Support municipalities and connect individuals to potential resources and programs for transitioning from fossil fuels to renewable energy.

County Actions

1. Solar Energy Initiatives
2. Education & Outreach
3. Technical & Financial Assistance
4. Recognition Programs
5. Development & Assessment Tools
6. Environmental Restoration & Infrastructure

Community-Driven Actions

1. Education & Resources for Institutions
2. Planning & Policy
3. Renewable Energy & Infrastructure
4. Consumer & Utility Engagement

BUILDINGS & HOUSING



FOCUS AREA
CONTEXT & GOALS

Buildings & Housing

OVERVIEW

- Includes commercial, industrial, and residential buildings we live and work in.
- Buildings vary in appearance, footprint, and density across rural, suburban, and urban areas.
- The types of buildings, their construction methods, and daily usage patterns impact the environment, energy consumption, and micro-climates.

BUILDINGS & HOUSING



Buildings & Housing

GOALS

- Consider existing development, redevelopment, and new development scenarios to reduce or eliminate GHG emissions.
- Reduce energy use of buildings powered by fossil fuels, and transition to renewable energy sources where possible.
- Implement green building infrastructure and renewable energy generation policies on new development and encourage the retrofitting of existing and redevelopment.

County Actions

1. Urban Planning & Development
2. Workforce Development & Training
3. Educational Campaigns & Community Engagement

Community-Driven Actions

1. Land Use Regulations
2. Renewable Energy & Building Conversions
3. Energy Efficiency in Buildings

TRANSPORTATION



FOCUS AREA
CONTEXT & GOALS

Transportation

OVERVIEW

- The different modes of transportation (driving, public transit, bicycling, walking) connect us to homes, jobs, businesses, and the environment.
- Transportation networks and infrastructure are required to support these varying modes of transport.
- The modes of transportation used, the infrastructure to support them, and the travel distances between destinations directly impact our carbon footprint and greenhouse gas emissions.

TRANSPORTATION



Transportation

GOALS

- Increase connectivity surrounding high trip potential and population centers.
- Reduce vehicle miles traveled.
- Increase zero emission personal and fleet vehicles, equipment, and facilities.

County Actions

1. Education & Awareness Campaigns
2. Active Transportation & Infrastructure Development
3. Facilities & Amenities for Transportation Modes
4. Electric & Alternative Transportation Incentives
5. Transportation Planning & Policy Development

Community-Driven Actions

1. Land Use Regulations
2. Alternative Transportation & Reduction of Car Dependence
3. Public Transit & Active Transportation Infrastructure
4. Sustainable Development Features

LAND & WATER RESOURCES



FOCUS AREA
CONTEXT & GOALS

Land & Water Resources

OVERVIEW

- Monroe County has a wealth of open space and water resources (parks, streams, rivers, canals, Lake Ontario).
- There is a direct link between water quality in Monroe County and the Great Lakes water system.
- Water resources, open spaces, and trees help regulate stormwater, wastewater, and GHG emissions.
- These natural resources are vulnerable to impacts from development and human intervention.

LAND & WATER RESOURCES



Land & Water Resources

GOALS

- Protect and conserve existing open spaces, agricultural lands, and natural areas.
- Improve access to and awareness of local natural resources at both a micro and macro scale to build environmental stewardship community-wide.
- Mitigate and reduce heat island impacts from the built environment.

County Actions

1. Policy Guidance & Support for Municipalities
2. Environmental Conservation & Land Management
3. Biodiversity & Habitat Restoration

Community-Driven Actions

1. Green Infrastructure & Land Use
2. Water Management & Conservation
3. Biodiversity & Habitat Connectivity
4. Community Engagement & Education

SUSTAINABLE MATERIALS MANAGEMENT



FOCUS AREA
CONTEXT & GOALS

Sustainable Materials Management

OVERVIEW

- Products have a life cycle consisting of production, transportation, use, and ultimately disposal.
- The impact of each phase of this cycle may vary from the amount of resources used to produce it, emissions created during production, transportation and use, and the amount of waste created upon disposal.
- Activities that lessen impacts include reducing, reusing, recycling, and composting materials.

SUSTAINABLE MATERIALS MANAGEMENT



Sustainable Materials Management

GOALS

- Support, connect, and enhance access and awareness of diverting waste from landfills by reuse, recycling, or waste reduction.
- Increase innovative re-purposing of waste byproducts and consider opportunities to harvest waste products for energy.
- Waste reduction and minimization, such as composting and organics recycling programs.

County Actions

1. Waste Reduction & Diversion Programs
2. Recycling Enhancement & Education
3. Sustainable Procurement Policies
4. Community Engagement & Reuse Initiatives
5. Restaurant Waste Policies

Community-Driven Actions

1. Business Practices & Corporate Responsibility
2. Infrastructure & Resource Efficiency
3. Community & Consumer Engagement

**PARTNERSHIPS, EDUCATION
& ECONOMY**



**FOCUS AREA
CONTEXT & GOALS**

Partnerships, Education & Economy

OVERVIEWS

- Our quality of life has always been linked to nurturing existing partnerships and fostering new ones.
- Our success in reducing individual and collective climate impacts will be directly related to understanding what initiatives have or are taking place and opportunities for social, educational, and economic sector partnerships for implementation.

PARTNERSHIPS, EDUCATION
& ECONOMY



Partnerships, Education & Economy

GOALS

- Identify and foster connections between private and public organizations, local and county governments, and regional initiatives.
- Increase awareness and access to online platforms, tools, and networks to leverage partnerships between these groups.

County Actions

1. Community Engagement & Forums
2. Business Engagement & Support
3. Educational Development

Community-Driven Actions

1. Partnerships & Collaboration
2. Economic Development & Business Support
3. Community Engagement & Environmental Stewardship
4. Educational & Informational Resources



MONROE COUNTY

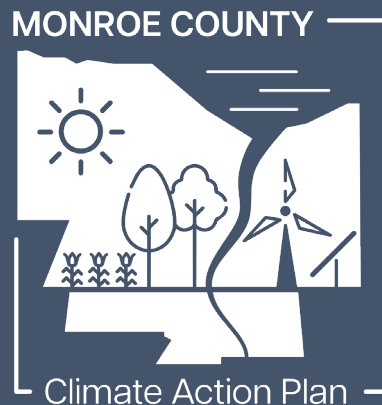


Climate Action Plan

4. NEXT STEPS

HOW TO STAY INVOLVED:

- 1: Submit a comment online!
- 2: Project Email
- 3: Advisory Committee Meeting (June 3rd)
- 4: Legislature Meeting



REVIEW THE DRAFT PLAN!

OPEN THROUGH MAY 12TH

Looking for feedback on:

- Content
- Priorities
- Suggestions to carry plan forward

SCAN THE QR CODE BELOW

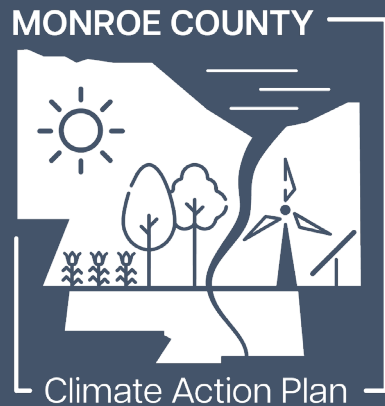


Sustainability@monroecounty.gov

www.MonroeCountyClimateAction.com

HOW TO STAY INVOLVED:

- 1: Submit a comment online!
- 2: Project Email
- 3: Advisory Committee Meeting (June 3rd)
- 4: Legislature Meeting



NEXT STEPS

Revised Plan

May 27th – Will be reposted!

Advisory Committee

June 3rd – Recommendation to County Legislature

County Legislature

June 11th – Referral to Legislature

July 9th – Anticipated Adoption

MONROE COUNTY



Climate Action Plan

THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING 😊

**PUBLIC
WORKSHOP #3**

May 8, 2024



OPEN HOUSE FEEDBACK

- Emissions Summary Boards
- Goals & Actions Boards

BUILDINGS & HOUSING / ENERGY USE & CONSUMPTION EMISSIONS

- **Buildings & Housing:** The built environment includes commercial, industrial, and residential structures where we work and live.
- Building type, construction methods, operations, and daily usage impact our energy consumption and emissions.
- **Energy Use & Consumption:** The type and amount of energy we use has a direct impact on climate change because of the greenhouse gas emissions each energy source produces.
- The reduction and/or conversion of our energy sources and consumption from gas, oil, and coal, to more sustainable alternatives including solar, wind, geothermal, and electric will reduce our climate impacts.

TOTAL EMISSIONS BY SECTOR

Sector	2019 Emissions (CO ₂ e M)
Transportation (41%)	3,247,100
Energy Use (29%)	3,366,408
Process and Fugitive Emissions (8%)	870,589
Waste Generation and Water Supply (8%)	658,999
Agriculture, Forestry, and Land Use (1%)	102,917
Upstream Emissions (<1%)	29,748
Total:	8,774,961

HOW CAN WE REDUCE EMISSIONS?

Most emissions in this sector come from natural gas-powered sources. This suggests that most emissions come from heating our homes and buildings. Mitigating heating demands will have the greatest impact on reducing emissions in this sector.

Key Takeaway
Energy use from most emissions in by industrial (31%)

11% Process and fugitive emissions

Key Takeaway
Process and fugitive total emissions in happen in part due

BUILDINGS & HOUSING GOALS

- **Goal 1:** Consider existing development, redevelopment, and new development scenarios to reduce or eliminate GHG emissions.
- **Goal 2:** Reduce energy use of buildings powered by fossil fuels, and transition to renewable energy sources where possible.
- **Goal 3:** Implement green building infrastructure and renewable energy generation policies on new development and encourage the retrofitting of existing and redevelopment.

YOUR FEEDBACK

Place a sticky note here to leave comments about the goals and actions for this focus area.

COUNTY ACTIONS

Urban Planning & Development
Work with COMIDA (County of Monroe Industrial Development Agency) and MCIDC (Monroe County Industrial Development Corporation) to encourage redevelopment of areas targeted for infill that are within public transit or walkable neighborhoods.
Work with COMIDA to implement a scoring policy to encourage high density development/infill.
Develop a target use of renewable energy sources in new development, retrofits, and rehabilitation projects for projects with COMIDA/IDC support.
Workforce Development & Training
Provide workforce development services to connect community members with jobs in energy efficiency fields (i.e., online job board, training services).
Expand workforce training and education in relevant fields such as vocational programs and apprenticeship programs in skilled trades like Electricians, HVAC/R industries.
Provide support for contractors to complete NYSERDA (New York State Energy Research and Development Authority) paperwork on projects.
Provide support to increase contractor workforce with Building Performance Institute (BPI) certification.
Educational Campaigns & Community Engagement
Provide community-wide education on rebates and incentives related to grant funding for climate-related improvements. Partner with trusted contractors to educate customers on available rebates and incentives.
Consider supporting a county-wide educational campaign on the health benefits of housing upgrades and resources (i.e., Rochester Energy Efficiency and Weatherization program).

COMMUNITY-DRIVEN ACTIONS

Land Use Regulations
Explore the benefits to municipalities of modifying zoning policies to allow multi-family units to be built on single-family lots and increasing mixed-use development zoned areas to create more walkable areas. Assist and incentivize municipalities willing to modify zoning.
Provide resources for municipal zoning codes to increase development density in targeted areas by re-evaluating and reducing minimum lot sizes, required setbacks, and parking requirements.
Renewable Energy & Building Conversions
Increase renewable energy use in municipal buildings, including conversions to heat-pumps and aiming for net-zero municipal buildings.
Incentivize residential renewable energy use (e.g., solar, wind) and electrification of homes.
Energy Efficiency in Buildings
Encourage the accommodation of historic building adaptations in local building and zoning codes to allow for opportunities to increase energy efficiency in historic preservation districts and leverage related funding programs.
Encourage municipalities to increase inspection frequency, thoroughness, and performance requirements of insulation and weatherizing practices in residential homes and apartment buildings.
Consider supporting benchmarking and disclosure programs to help renters and buyers identify energy efficient properties.
Encourage municipalities to share information about state weatherization and energy efficiency programs with local residents, organizations, and businesses.
Support local organizations to educate municipalities and other eligible organizations for green energy grant-funding and assist with grant applications.

YOUR PRIORITIES

Place a dot in the box next to your highest priority action.

PHASE II MONROE COUNTY CLIMATE ACTION PLAN
BUILDINGS & HOUSING