



Sustainability Workplan Update

March 19, 2024
AB6434





Agenda

- Sustainability Program Background
- Overview of Climate Action Plan
- 2023-2024 Implementation Progress
- 2025-2026 Priority Workplan Items
- Questions

Sustainability on Mercer Island

- **2007** – City adopted GHG reduction targets of 25% by 2020, 50% by 2030, and 80% by 2050 (compared to a 2007 baseline)
- **2011** – MI became a founding member for the King County-Cities Climate Collaboration (K4C)
- **2021** – MI 2050 target is updated to a 95% reduction, in accordance with a change from the King County Growth Management Planning Council
- **2023** – City adopted its first Climate Action Plan (CAP)



Overview of Climate Action Plan

- 6 Focus Areas:
 - Cross-Cutting & Municipal (CC)
 - Buildings & Energy (BE)
 - Transportation (TR)
 - Consumption & Disposal (CD)
 - Natural Systems (NS)
 - Community Resilience (CR)
- 59 Actions





Climate Action Plan 2023-2024 Implementation Progress





Cross-Cutting & Municipal (CC)

- Joined PSE's Strategic Energy Management program's City cohort to earn incentives for reducing energy usage in municipal buildings
- Sustainability Program Analyst participating in Capital Improvement Project budget planning for 2025-2026 to apply a sustainability-lens to upcoming projects (CC3.2)



GOALS

Reduce overall community and municipal GHG emissions, integrate climate considerations into City reporting and decision-making, and encourage community members to participate in local climate action.

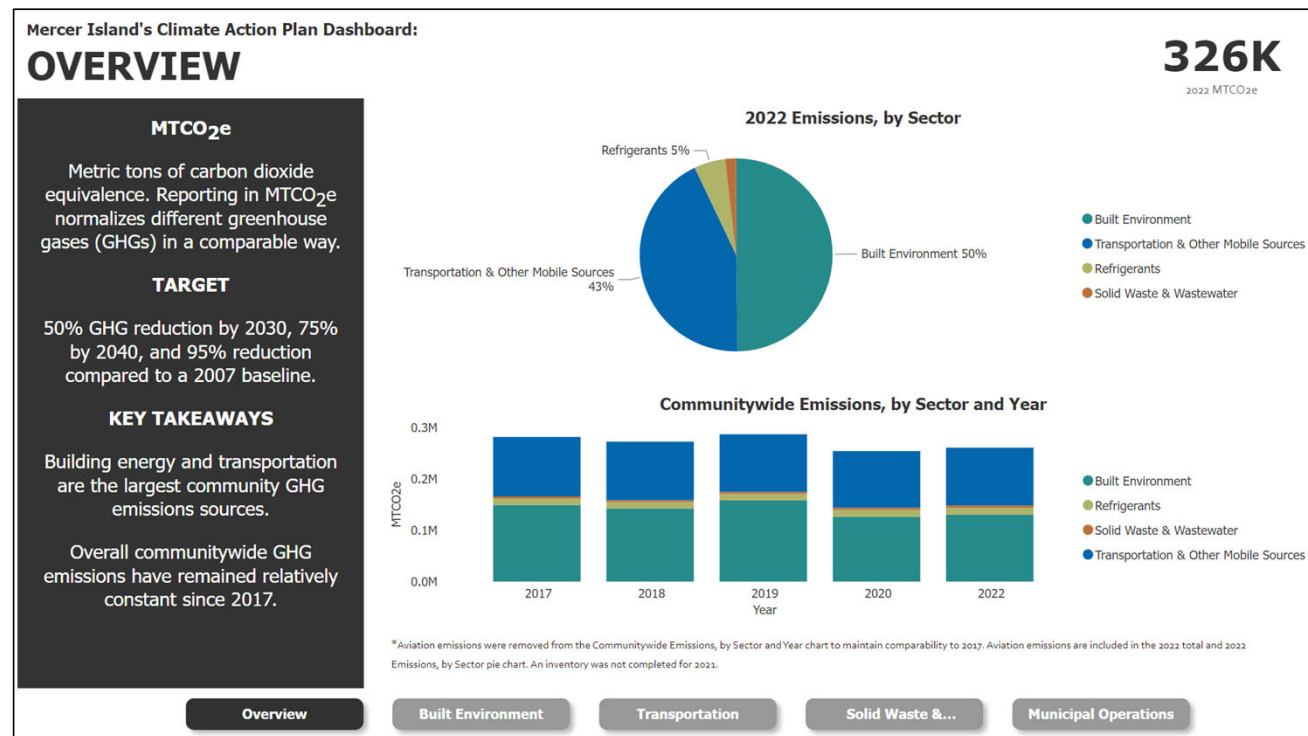
2030 TARGETS

- *50% reduction in community-wide greenhouse gas emissions*
- *100% reduction in municipal operations emissions (i.e. carbon-neutral)*



Cross-Cutting & Municipal (CC)

- Completed reporting on 2022 Greenhouse Gas emissions (CC3.1)
- Published an interactive dashboard on the [City website](#) (CC3.1)





Buildings & Energy (BE)

- Installed 2 heat pumps for income-qualified Mercer Island residents as a part of the Energy Smart Eastside program (BE1.1)
- Helped 4 Islanders switch to heat pumps through the Energy Smart Eastside \$500 Mitsubishi discount (BE1.1)

GOALS

Reduce GHG emissions from buildings by reducing energy use, electrifying buildings, and transitioning to clean and reliable renewable energy sources.

2030 TARGETS

- *78% reduction in building GHG emissions*
- *22% reduction in community-wide energy use*
- *35% reduction in building natural gas, propane, and fuel oil consumption*



Transportation (TR)

- Submitted applications for 2 grant opportunities for installing electric vehicle charging stations
- Purchased 3 backpack and 3 handheld electric leaf blowers for a pilot with the City's Parks Operations crews (TR1.6)



GOALS

Reduce GHG emissions from transportation by transitioning to electric vehicles (EVs), expanding multimodal transportation options, and improving cycling and pedestrian networks; decarbonize off-road equipment.

2030 TARGETS

- *65% of new vehicles are EVs*
- *20% of registered passenger vehicles are EVs*
- *20% reduction in overall VMT*
- *56% reduction in on-road emissions*
- *5% reduction in regional air travel fuel use*



Consumption & Disposal (CD)

- Established an on-Island battery recycling box at the Mercer Island Thrift Shop that has collected over 1,200 lbs of batteries from residents and diverted them from the landfill (CD2.2)
- Signed the King County Re+ Pledge
- Conducted an audit of municipal waste generation across City buildings and parks to identify areas for improvement
- Applied for and received a grant for I-90 ramp litter clean up



GOALS

Reduce community waste and the GHG emissions associated with the consumption and disposal of goods and materials.

2030 TARGETS

- *70% diversion rate*
- *Zero waste of edible food*
- *11% reduction in tons of landfilled waste*
- *85% diversion of construction & demolition (C&D) waste and other recyclables*



Natural Systems (NS)

- Consultant hired to complete an assessment of all City open spaces to establish a baseline for monitoring and maintenance restoration phase (NS2.5)

GOALS

Foster climate resilient natural landscape by protecting vital habitats, ecosystems, and conserving water resources.

2030 TARGETS

- *Tree replacement ratio for public lands is 5:1*
- *5% increase in tree canopy cover on private land*
- *10% of public open space transitions from active restoration to monitoring & maintenance*

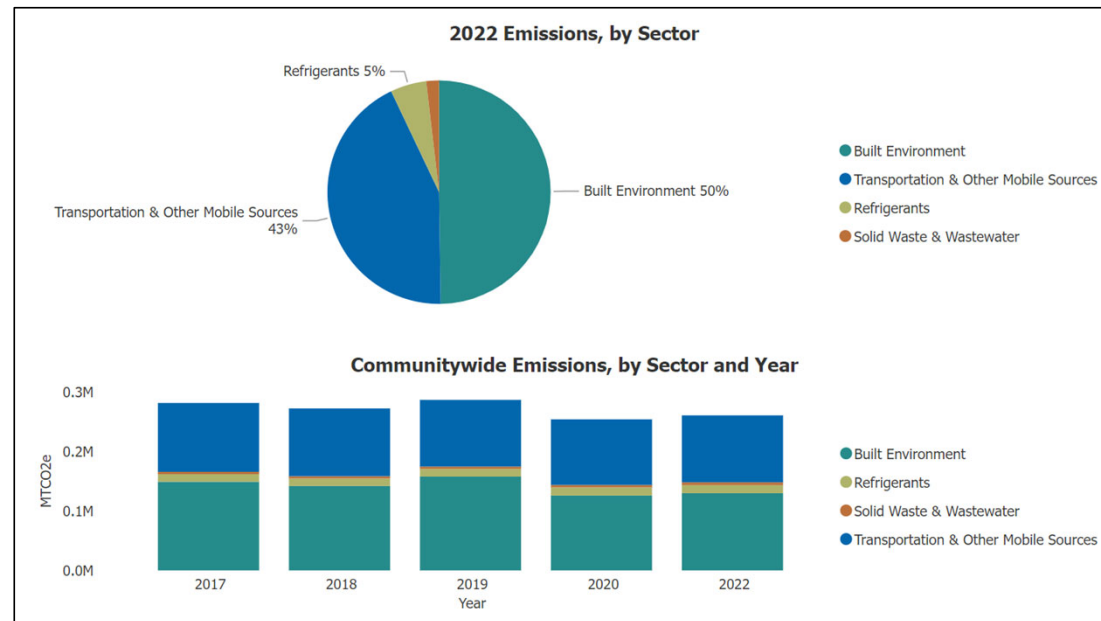


2025-2026 Priority Workplan Items



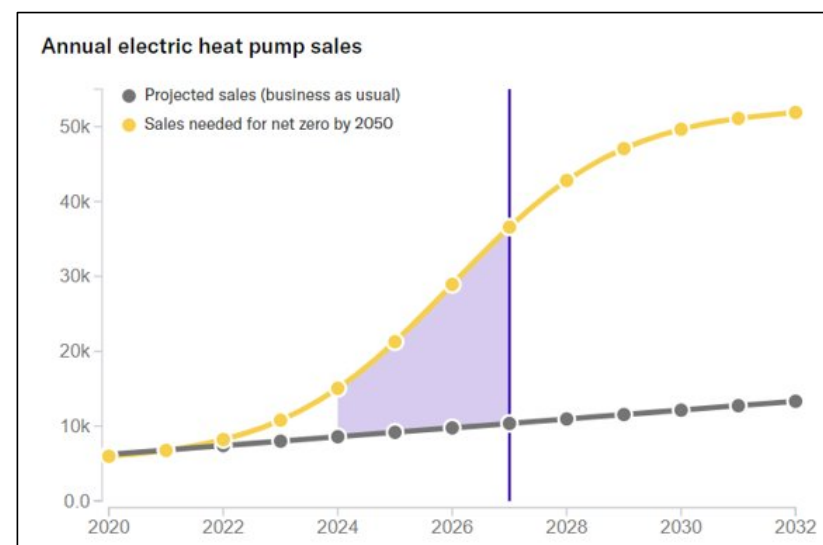
Findings from 2022 GHG Report

- Community emissions have **increased 9%** since 2020, primarily due to an increase in transportation emissions
 - Down 2% from 2007 emissions
 - Goal: 50% decrease by 2030
- Municipal operations emissions have **decreased 8%** since 2020
 - Municipal operations account for 0.5% of Community emissions
 - Goal: carbon-neutral by 2030



2025-2026 Workplan: Community Emissions Reductions

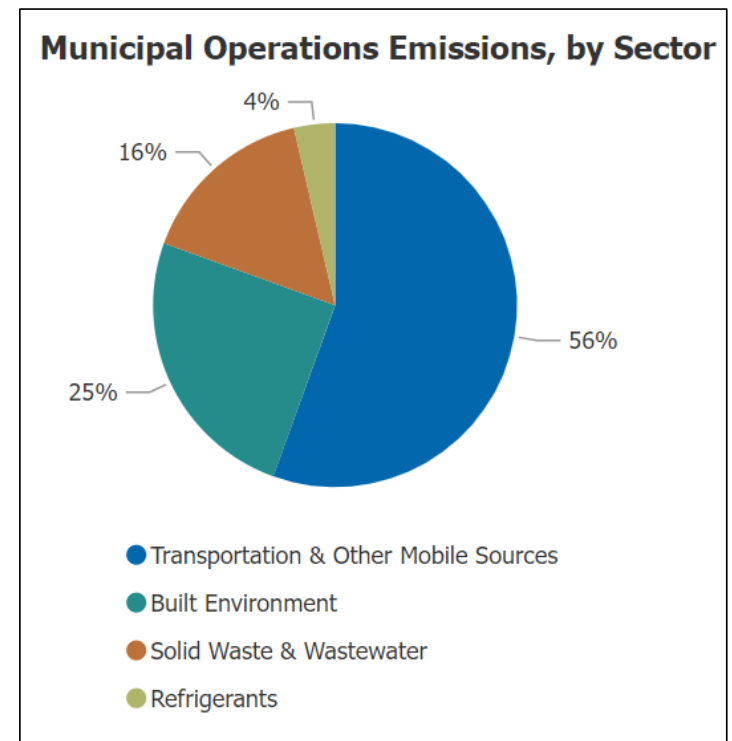
- Continue annual tracking and reporting on GHG emissions and maintain a **public dashboard** (CC3.1)
- Continue to participate in partnerships that promote **residential energy-efficient electrification** (BE1.1)
- Support growth of community **solar energy** generation and storage (BE1.2)
- **EV Charging** Infrastructure Plan development (TR1.1)
- Continue to increase the Island-wide rate of diversion of waste from landfill (CD1.2)
- Implement a **tree planting** incentive program (NS1.1)



King County data shown in graph. Mercer Island must supplement projected sales levels with an additional 270 heat pumps to be on track to hit 2050 targets (From [Rewiring America](#))

2025-2026 Workplan: Municipal Emissions Reductions

- Apply for grants:
 - Energy-efficiency retrofits (CC2.5)
 - Renewable energy generation and storage (CC2.7)
 - Fleet electrification (CC2.4)
- Continued focus on low-cost municipal operations changes
 - Building energy efficiency
 - Minimizing waste to landfill
 - Improving commute options for staff (CC2.2)
- Develop a plan to assess current carbon sequestration of existing public land (NS2.9)





Questions?

