

Austin's Evolving Air Quality and Climate Protection Efforts



EPA "Understanding Pathways to Realize Co-benefits While Reducing Ozone" Webinar

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Agenda

- Why Local Climate Action?
- Austin Climate Protection Plan
- Questions and Discussion



Why Local Climate Action?

- Urban areas have a disproportionate climate change impact.
 - < 1% of global land area but house 50% of global population
 - Consume 75% of global energy and emit 75% of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions
- Urban areas stand to be disproportionately impacted by climate change.
 - Urban heat island effect contributing to heat and air pollution related illnesses and deaths
 - Increased demand for emergency management functions due to extreme weather, changes in vector-borne diseases
 - Economic impacts of changing climate patterns and shifting ecosystems



Austin Climate Protection Plan

➤ Municipal Plan

Goal: Carbon neutral
by 2020

➤ Utility Plan

➤ Homes & Buildings Plan

Goal: 20% < 2005
CO₂ level by 2020

➤ Community Plan

➤ "Go Neutral" Plan

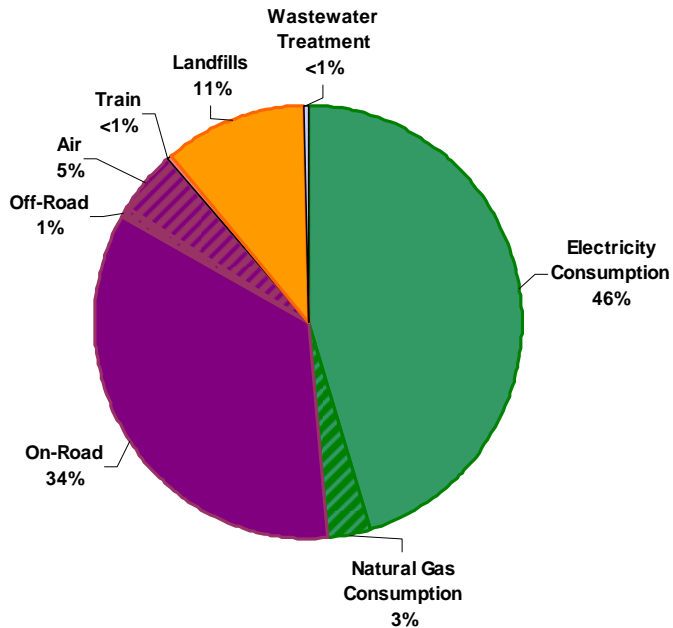
Goal: Carbon neutral
by 2050



Comparison of GHG and O₃ Emissions Inventories

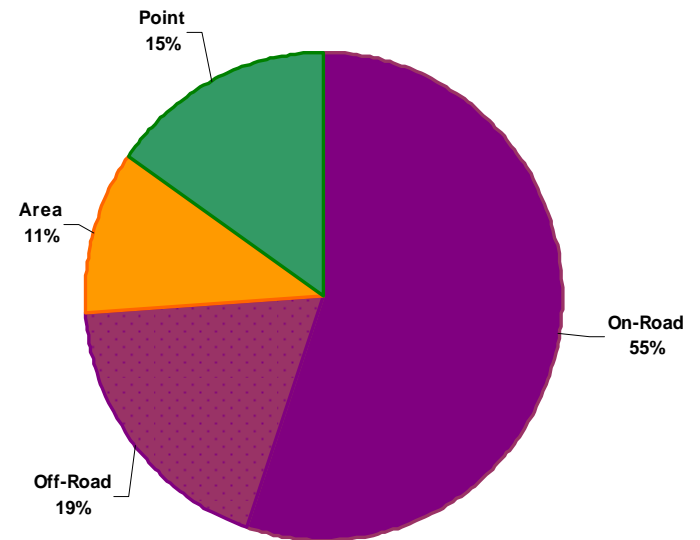
2007 Travis County Greenhouse Gas Inventory

15,697,792 Metric Tons of CO₂-eq.



2007 Austin-Round Rock MSA NO_x Emissions Inventory

44,100 Tons of NO_x





Municipal Plan

Goal: Make municipal operations carbon neutral by 2020

- Top Down:
 - Power 100% of municipal facilities with renewable energy by 2012
 - Make vehicle fleet carbon neutral through efficiency, alternative fuels and electric vehicles (+ offsets?)
 - Climate Action Team to identify universal barriers
- Bottom Up:
 - Departmental Climate Protection Plans
 - Employee education



Utility Plan

Goal: Reduce CO₂ emissions to 20% below 2005 levels by 2020

- Energy Conservation / Efficiency
 - Reduce customer demand for energy by 800 megawatts (MW) by 2020
- Renewable Energy
 - Obtain 35% of energy from renewable resources by 2020
 - Install 200 MW of solar energy capacity by 2020



Homes & Buildings Plan

Goal: Reduce customer demand for energy by 800 MW by 2020

➤ New Buildings:

- Increase energy efficiency of single-family homes by 65% above 2007 energy efficiency levels by 2015 (“zero net energy-capable”)
- Increase energy efficiency of multi-family and commercial buildings by 75% above 2007 energy efficiency levels by 2015

➤ Existing Buildings:

- Require energy audit at point of sale (single-family) or within 2-year window (multi-family, commercial)
- Enhance energy efficiency and green building program offerings





Community Plan

**Goal: Make community (Travis County)
carbon neutral by 2020**

➤ Top Down:

- Increased energy conservation and renewable energy targets via Utility and Homes & Buildings Plans

➤ Bottom Up:

- Community Climate Action Plan (in development)
- Community outreach/education (ongoing)



"Go Neutral" Plan

Goal: Help community measure and reduce carbon footprint

- Individuals / Households:
 - Online Austin-specific carbon calculator
 - Airport and convention center kiosks
 - Green fund to encourage local emission reduction projects
- Businesses / Organizations:
 - Business sustainability leadership organization
 - Environmental recognition program

Thank you!



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