



Climate Action Work Plan

Annual Report

Metropolitan Council

July 22, 2026



Climate change impacts all Met Council services



Transportation



Parks



Wastewater



Housing

Climate Action Work Plan structure

A five-year plan (2023-2027)

6 commitments: Directional statements that describe the desired end states for climate action in our operations and planning services.

20 strategies: Overarching tactics to achieve commitments. The strategies are often cross-divisional in nature.

73 actions: Specific actions and projects with defined timelines, outcomes, and divisional responsibilities.

Our climate vision

We reduce our contributions to greenhouse gas emissions in the region and **make our services and facilities resilient** to the impacts of climate change.



CLIMATE ACTION⁺ WORK PLAN

Our vision for the Metropolitan Council is that we reduce our contributions to greenhouse gas emissions in the region and make our services and facilities resilient to the impacts of climate change.



Our core commitments



1. We will incorporate **environmental justice principles** as we plan, implement, and evaluate our climate action work.



2. We will **accelerate emissions reductions from our operations** to achieve carbon neutrality



3. We will accelerate **regional emissions reduction** through existing and new partnerships.



4. We will **reduce risks and impacts of climate change** hazards to our facilities and services.



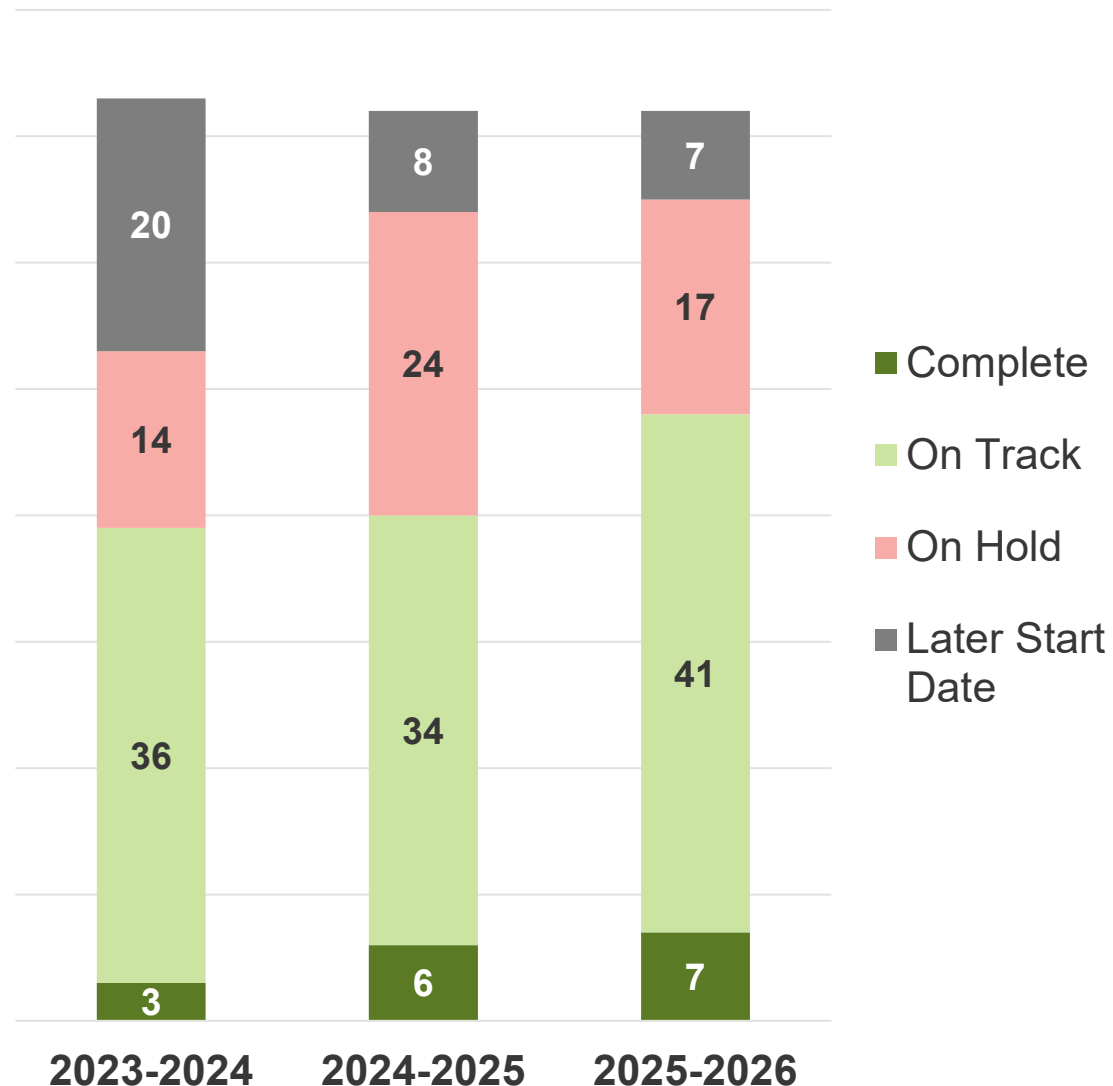
5. We will support and collaborate with partners to **advance regional climate adaptation efforts.**



6. **Cross-cutting:** Expand staffing and training dedicated to climate work

2025 Theme: Steady progress

Action Progress Over Time



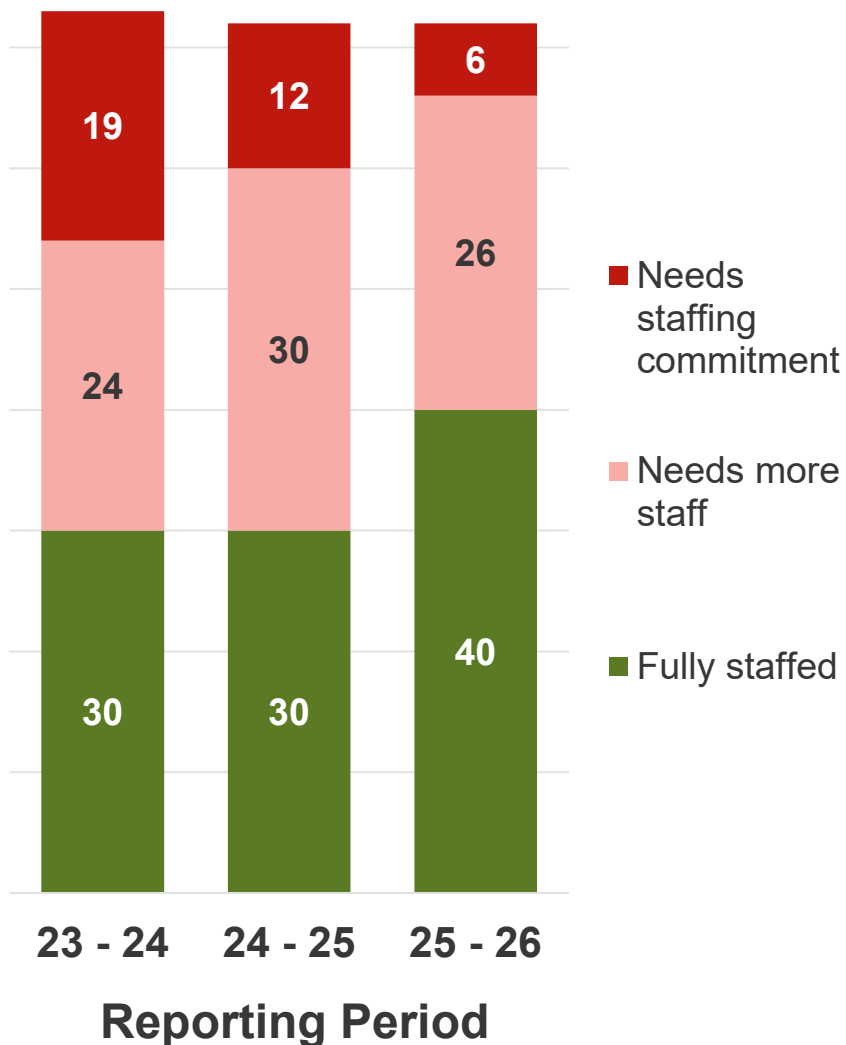
Over half of the 73 CAWP actions are on track or complete

Examples

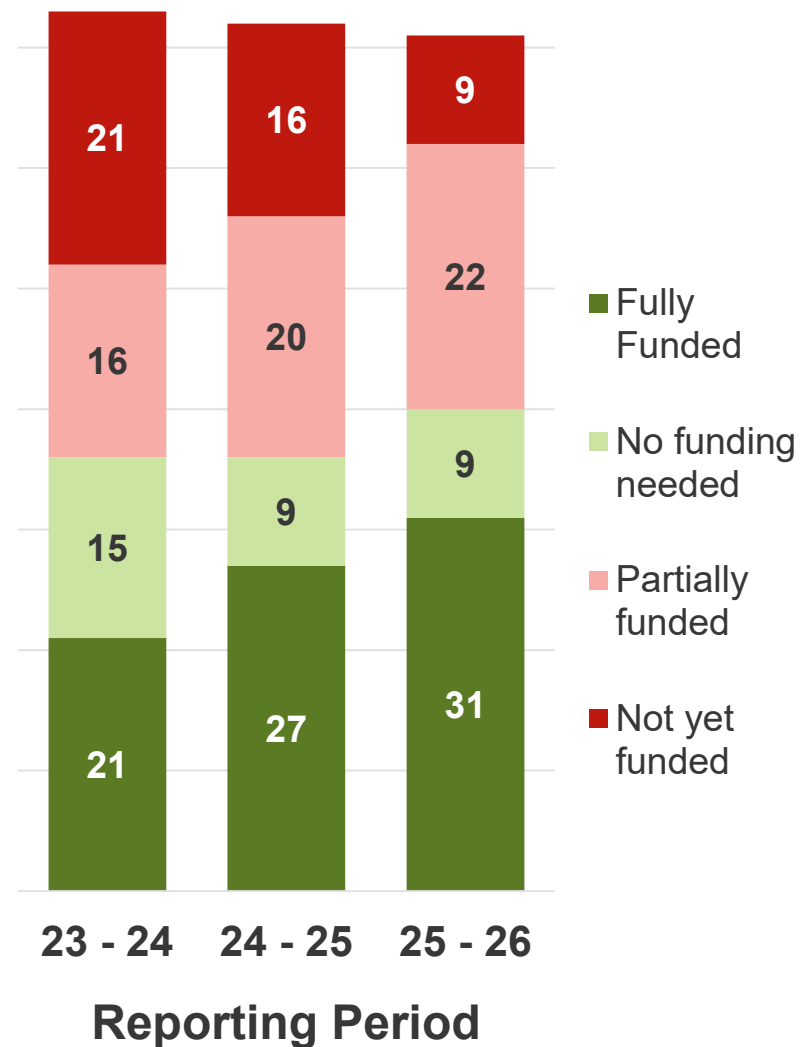
- **Complete:** Designate a division-level Energy Manager in Metro Transit and Environmental Services
- **On track:** Provide technical assistance on the electrification of city, county, and other agency fleets
- **On hold:** Develop tools and processes to ensure capital projects maximize lifecycle GHG emission reduction opportunities
- **Start 2026 or later:** Work with regional partners to assess the climate vulnerability of regional transportation systems (highways, transit, bike, pedestrian).

2025 Themes: Staffing and funding

Actions by Staffing Need



Actions by Funding Status

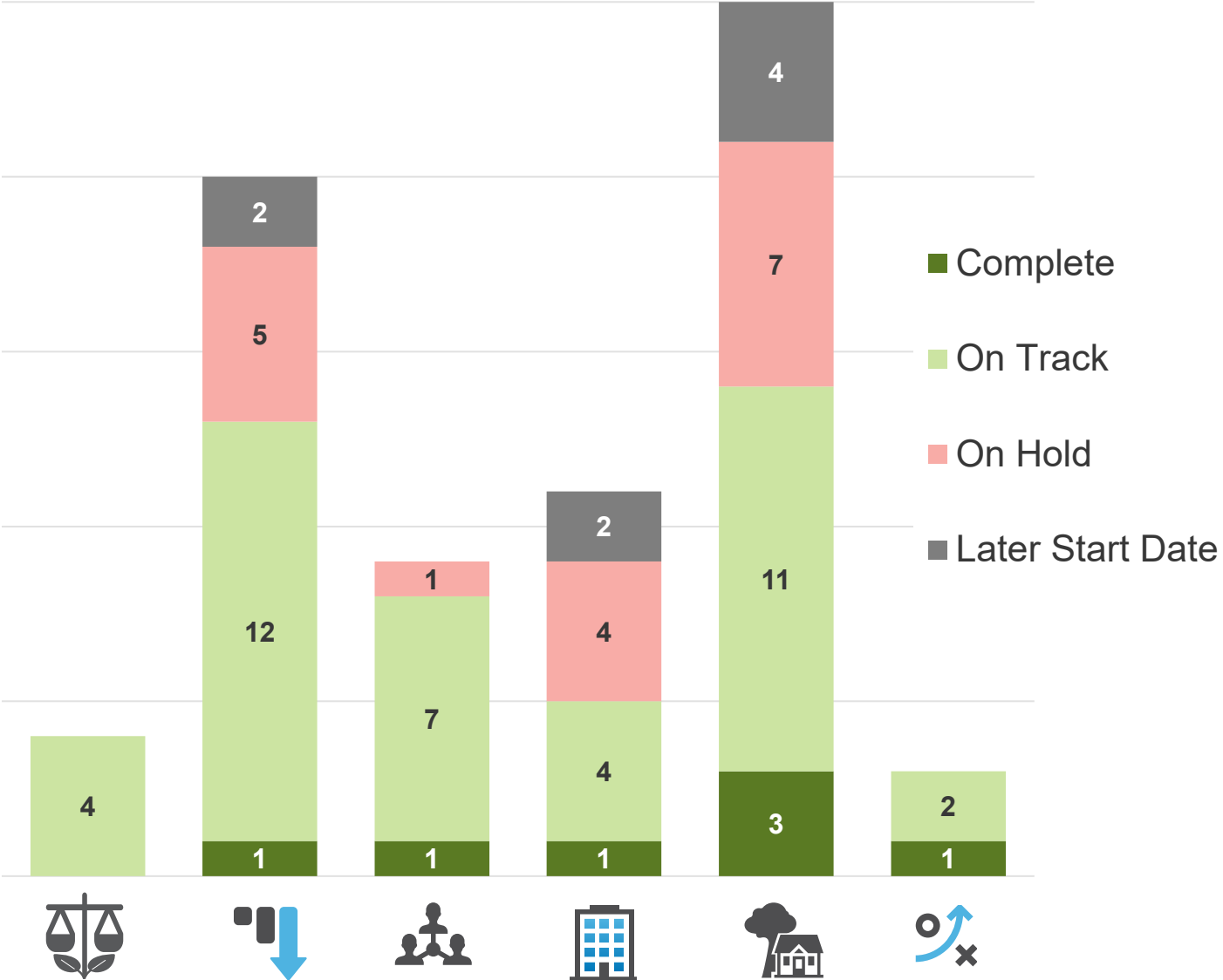


More than half of the CAWP actions are now fully staffed or fully funded

- Staffing increases in 2025-26 led to notable progress.
- More than 50% CAWP actions are now fully staffed, compared to ~35% fully staffed in 2025.
- More than 50% of CAWP actions are funded.
- Funding gaps may occur for various reasons, such as:
 - Funding relies on another action to occur first and will be requested when appropriate.
 - Lacking staff to implement action, so funding will be requested when staff availability increases.

2025-26 Theme: Consistent progress across commitments

Action Progress by Commitment



Commitment 1:
Environmental justice



Commitment 2:
Reduce operational emissions



Commitment 3:
Reduce regional emissions



Commitment 4:
Adapt our operations

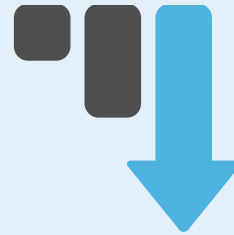


Commitment 5:
Advance regional climate adaptation



Commitment 6:
Cross-cutting actions

Commitment 2: Operational emissions reduction



We will **accelerate emissions reductions from our operations** to achieve carbon neutrality.

Why reduce GHG emissions?

As large emitters, reducing our emissions by even a small amount makes a difference.

- **The Met Council's operations are part of the fabric of emissions** from the transportation, electricity, building fuel, and waste sectors in our region.
- Reducing our emissions ensures that we aim to make our service as sustainable as possible, **meeting Imagine 2050's goal to lead on addressing climate change.**
- Reducing emissions involves reducing our energy use – **saving energy saves money**, which saves costs for our ratepayers and the public.



A 1% reduction from 2025 GHG emissions is equivalent to **taking 933 cars off the road** for one year. What may be small to us is big for a single person, household, or community.

Met Council emits a large amount of greenhouse gases

2025 Total Met Council Emissions:
~452,000 metric tons CO₂e



OR



~61,000 homes'
energy use for
one year

*Using 2.5 people per
household; slightly smaller
than Scott County*

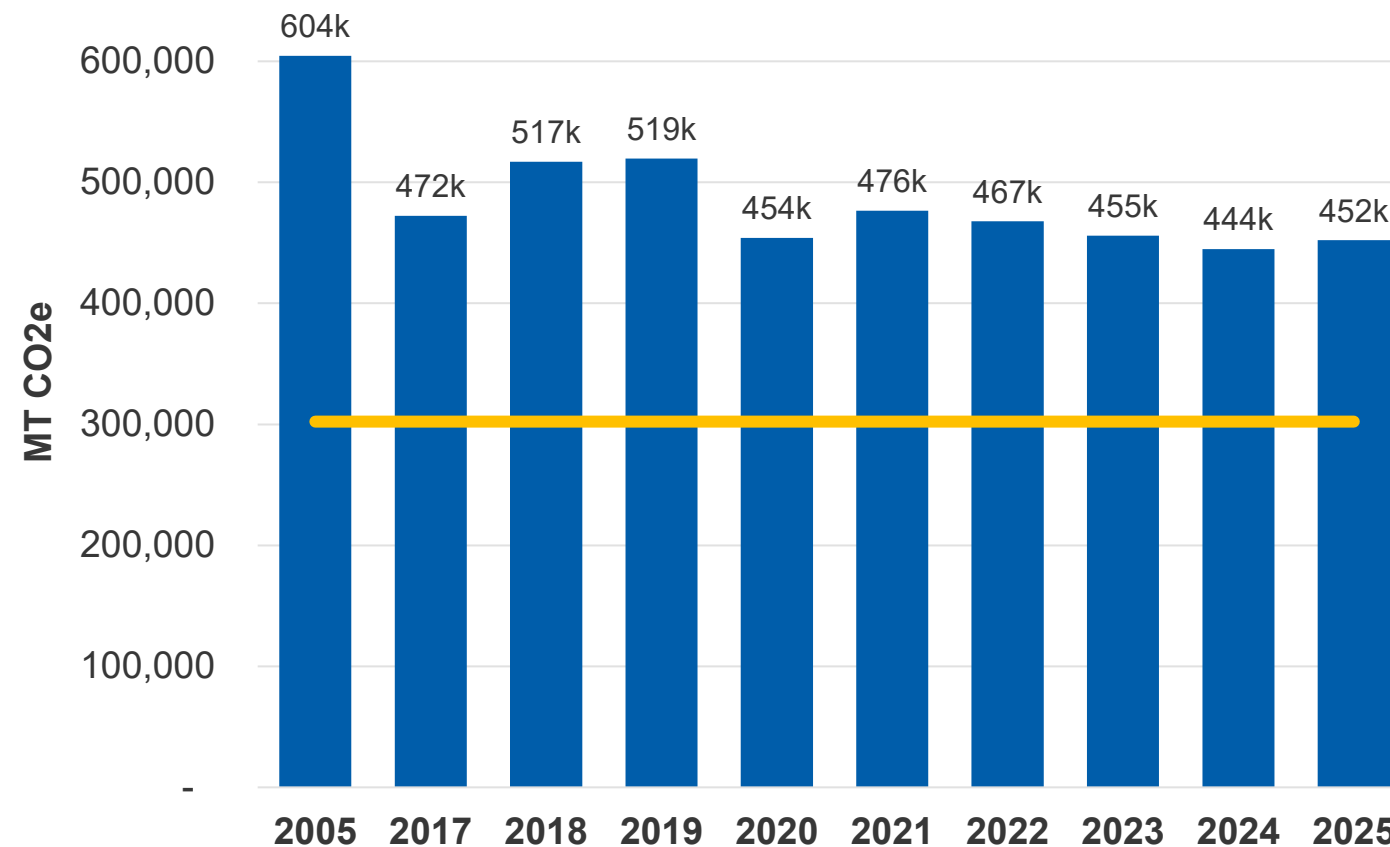
~105,500 cars
driven for one year

*Using 2 cars per household;
slightly larger than Brooklyn
Park, MN*



2025 Council GHG emissions slightly up

Met Council Progress Towards OES
GHG Goal*



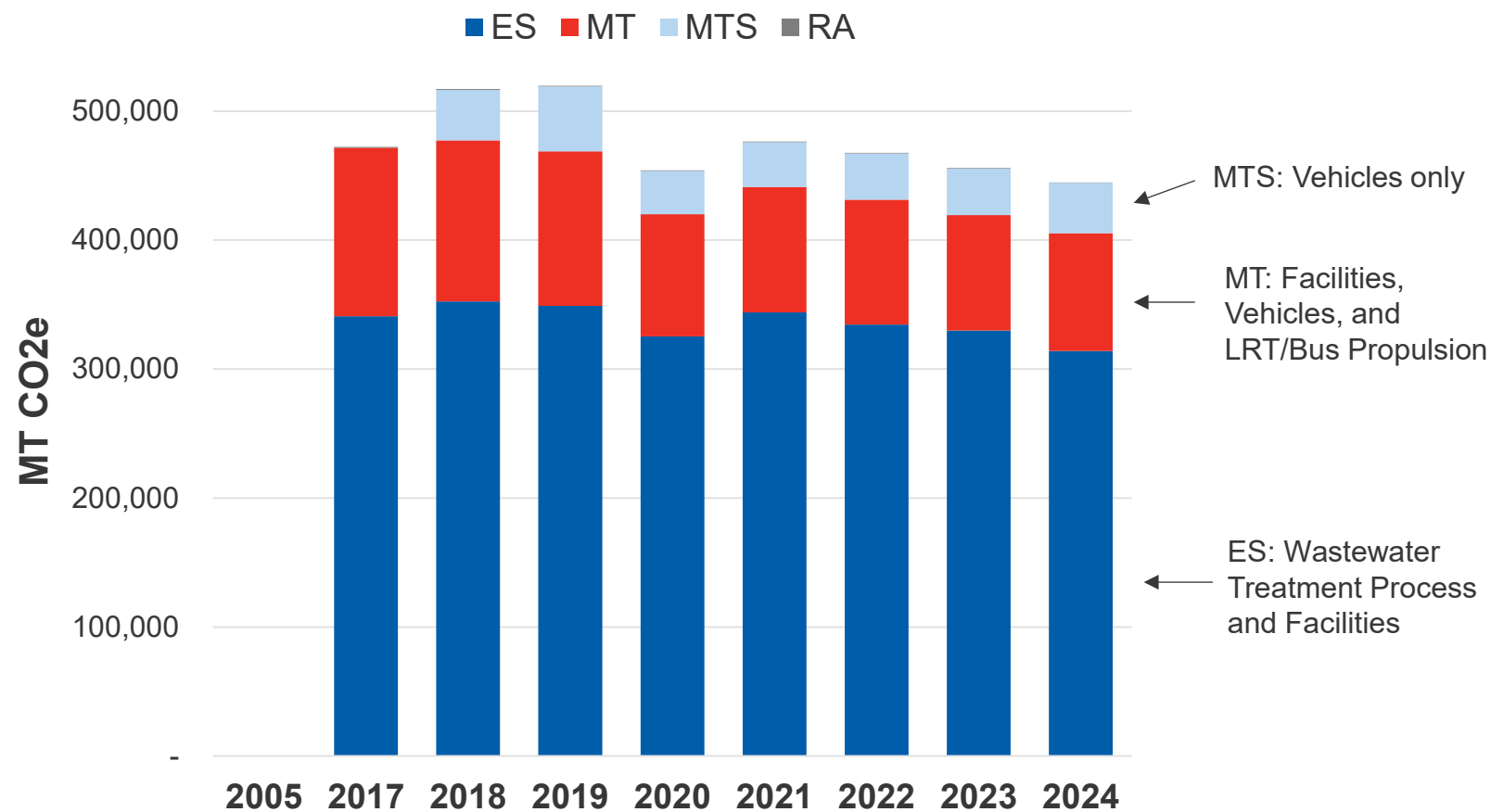
**Office of Enterprise Sustainability (OES) Goal: Reduce greenhouse gas emissions 50% by 2030 from 2005 baseline.*

2025 emissions are ~1.7% higher than 2024 emissions

- This change is likely due to **increased transit service.**
- **Emissions are down ~25% from 2005 baseline**, despite the region's population increasing ~23% since 2000.

Emissions by division: A closer look

Met Council GHG Emissions by Division

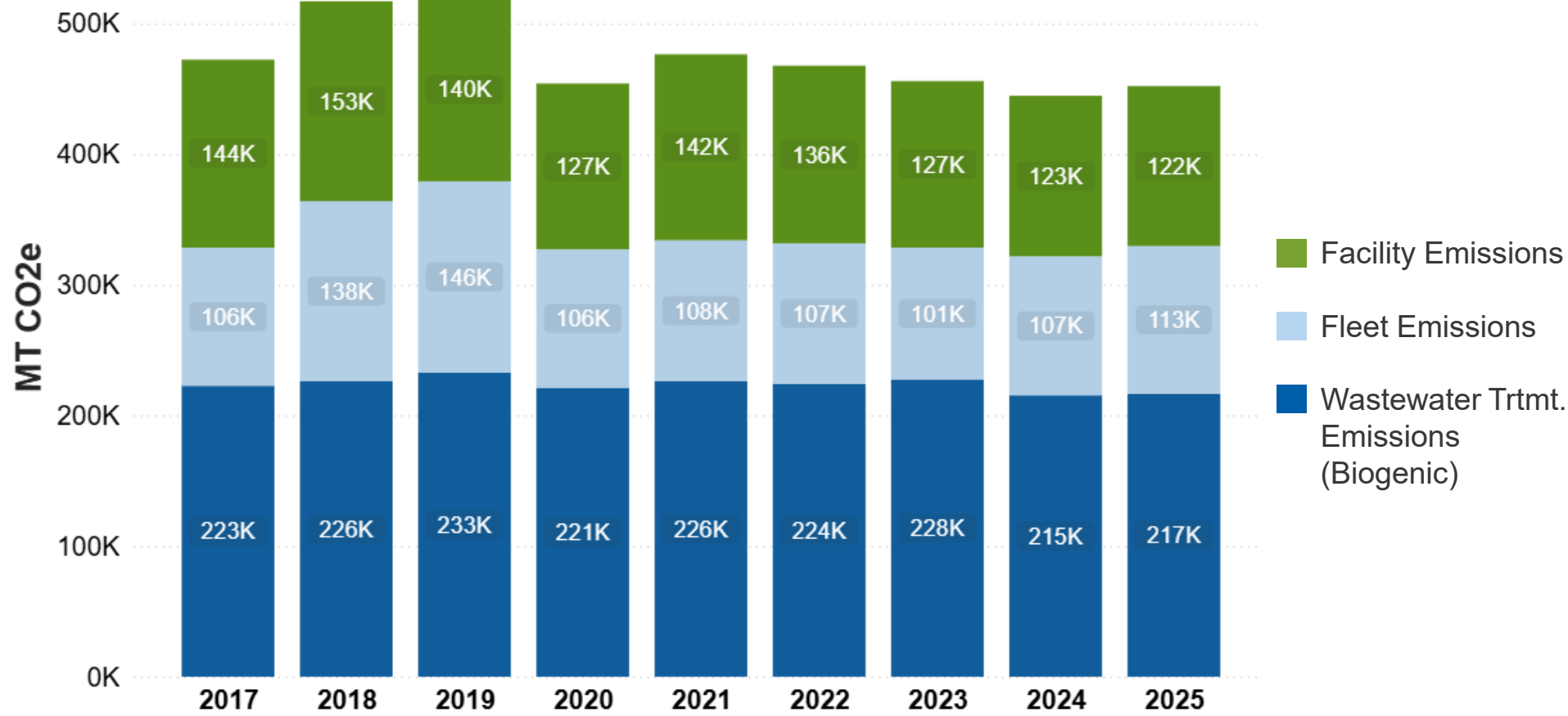


By division, ES and Metro Transit are the largest emitters

- Most of **ES** emissions come from the wastewater treatment process.
- Emissions from **Metro Transit** include bus service, light rail propulsion, and facility operations.
- Emissions from **MTS** only include **vehicle emissions**, not facilities.
- Emissions from **RA** and **CD** come from operating 390 Robert Street, which is a very small portion of total Council emissions.

Emissions by source: A closer look

Met Council GHG Emissions by Source



- Most of the Met Council's GHG emissions come from the **wastewater treatment process**. This includes emissions from nitrification/denitrification and incineration, rather than from energy used to power wastewater treatment facilities.
- Emissions from building energy use **are about the same** as emissions from all Metro Transit (rail and non-rail) and MTS fleets.

Where do Met Council's GHG emissions come from?

We account for our emissions using different categories.

This helps us understand where we **can** reduce emissions and where we **can't**. Emissions are broadly categorized into the following groups:



Wastewater Treatment



Nitrification and Denitrification

Biogenic Emissions



Light Rail and Bus Propulsion



Electricity



Vehicle Fuel



Diesel (Biodiesel)
Gasoline
Propane



Public Facilities



Electricity
Natural Gas



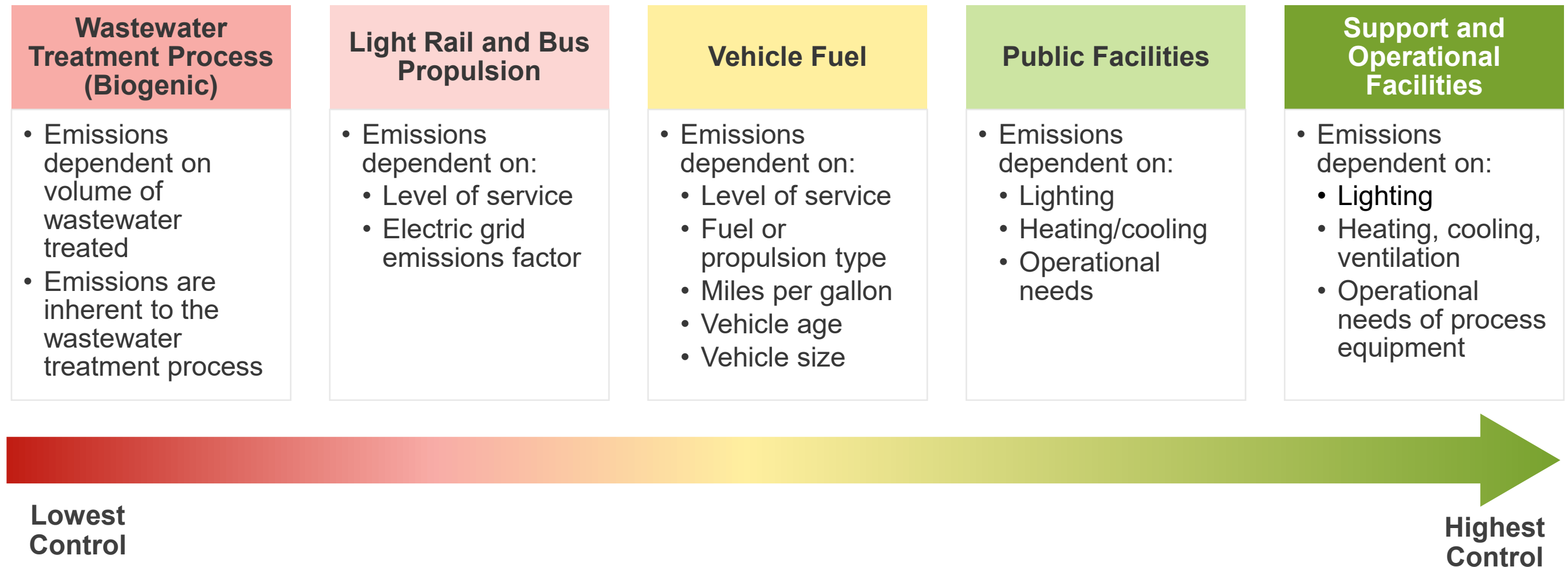
Support and Operating Facilities



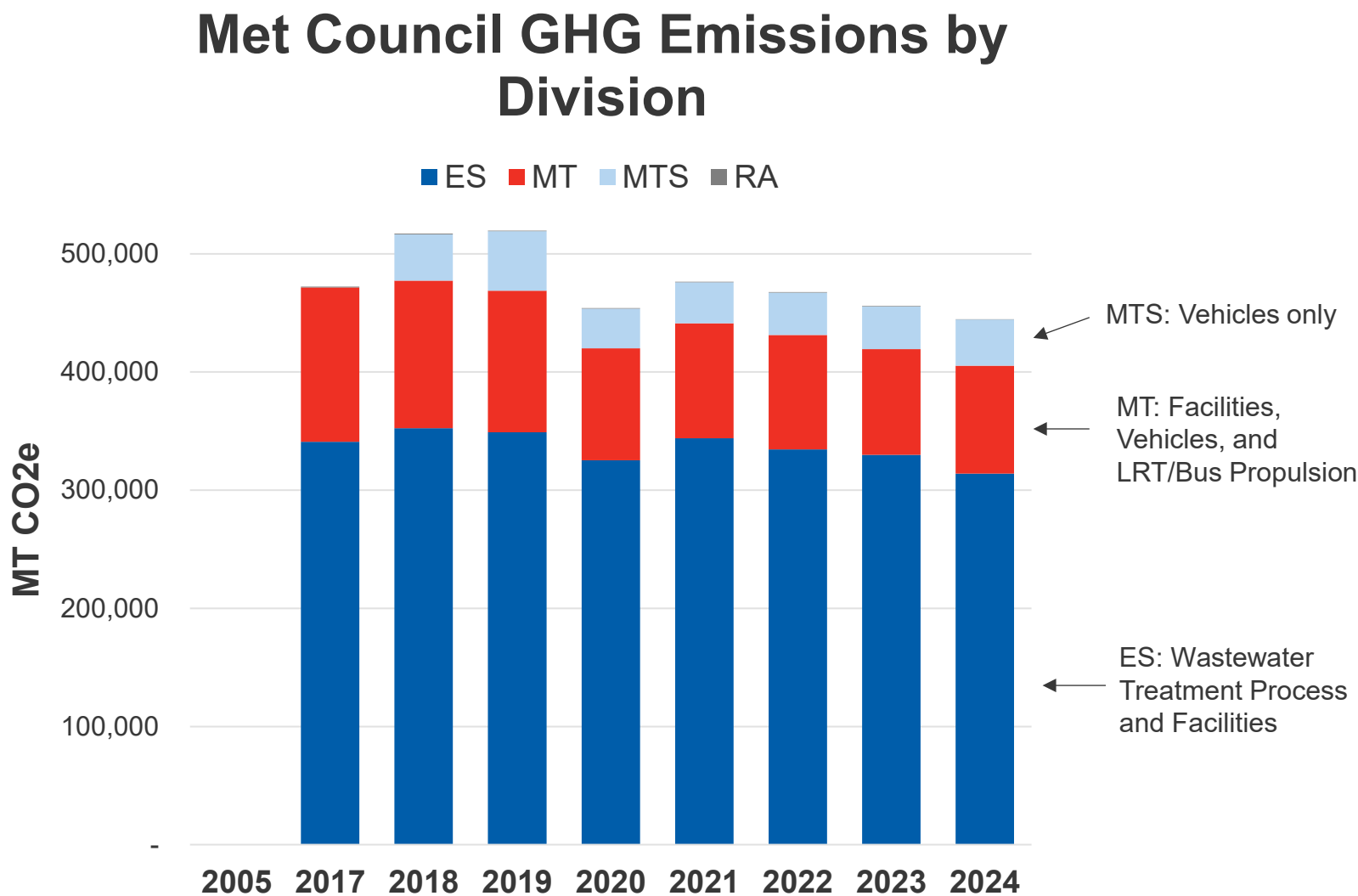
Electricity
Natural Gas
Diesel

Which emissions can we control?

We can control some emissions (like those from buildings) more than others (like those from the wastewater treatment process)



Understanding our emissions by division



Each division has different “levers” to reduce emissions

The following slides will dive into each division’s trends, opportunities, and barriers.

Understanding our emissions: MTS

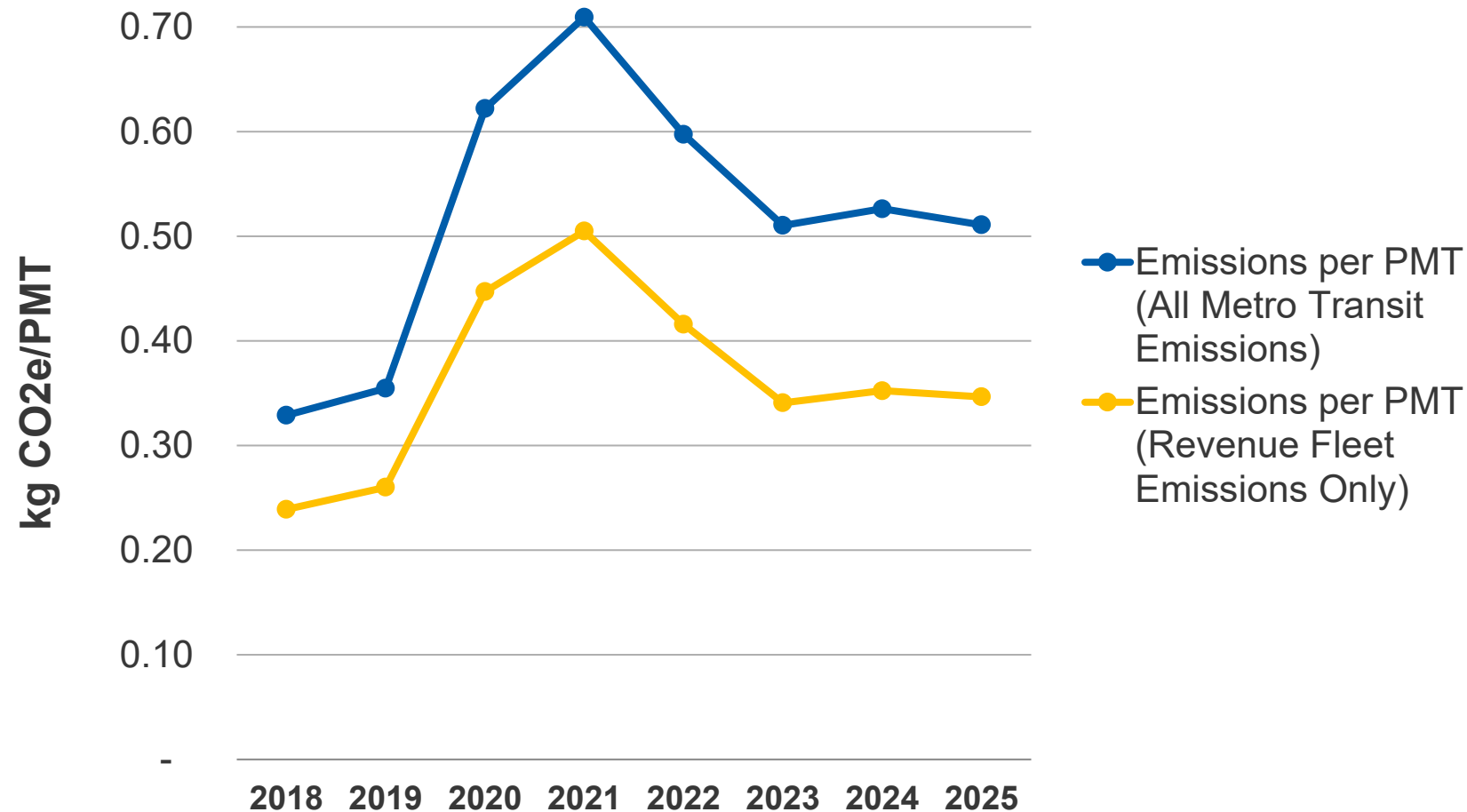
Moving towards lower fleet emissions

- MTS Operations emissions reduction work is focused on decreasing emissions through a **goal of transitioning 20% of the cutaway fleet to SUVs**
- **SUVs are more fuel efficient** than cutaways and include more hybrid and electric options.



Understanding our emissions: Metro Transit

Emissions per Passenger Mile Traveled (PMT)

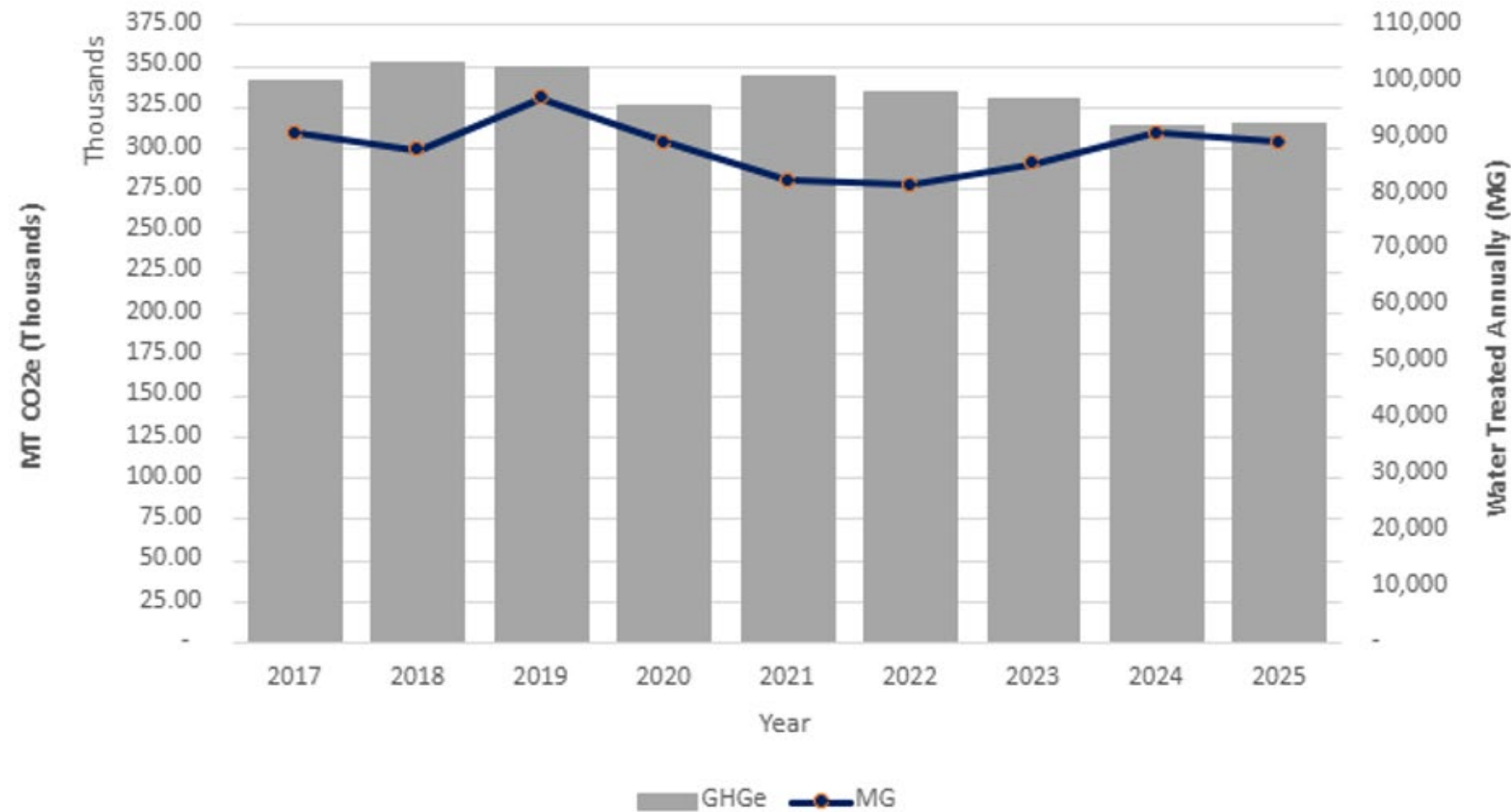


Scaling Metro Transit's emissions to our level of service helps us better understand the connection between emissions and operations.

- New metric: **Emissions per PMT**. Low emissions per PMT = Good
- When service levels are high and ridership is low, emissions per PMT is high (2021). When ridership increases and service levels remain constant, emissions per PMT go down (2025).
- Ridership has increased since 2021, generally **reducing emissions per PMT**.
- What about **emissions avoided due to transit use**? This metric is in process. Many assumptions need to be made in the data that contribute to this metric, and we want to ensure that the metric is defensible, consistent with other methodologies used across the Council, and applies the appropriate level of rigor.

Understanding our emissions: ES

ES Greenhouse Gas Emissions compared to Volume of Water Treated Annually



Despite regionalization, thru-put and energy use have been managed via conservation efforts

- Energy end use breakdowns are intended to be assembled by phases within the treatment process
- KPI's for both energy use and GHGe will be derived specific to end use
- Better evaluate scale of impact and prioritize processes with the most opportunity for improvement

Forthcoming greenhouse gas metrics



We are in the process of developing additional metrics to prioritize opportunities for GHG reduction

Draft metrics include:

1. Setting **targets for facilities** based on historic and predicted energy consumption
2. Emissions **by scope, source, and process end use** in wastewater treatment systems
 - We are continuing to pursue the most effective methods to analyze carbon outputs for wastewater operations.

Project highlights: Facility efficiency



Advancing operational energy efficiency in Met Council-owned buildings

Metro Transit and Environmental Services are focused on **improving building operation efficiency**. Building emissions are ~25% of our total emissions. Increasing efficiency is the result of many projects, including:

- Progressing towards **95% LED conversion** at Metro Transit facilities.
- **Building automation repair and upgrade** project at Metro Transit facilities
 - Allows Metro Transit to operate “smart buildings”, automating temperatures and air flow based on occupancy and saving energy in the process (using technology called a JACE).
- ES project to **pump water more efficiently** at wastewater recovery facilities by changing the speed of motors on the pumps (called Variable Frequency Drives, or VFDs).

Project highlight: Blue Lake WRRF

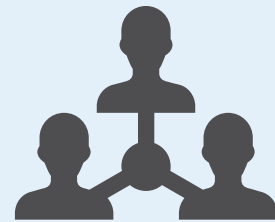


Striving for more energy efficient operations at Blue Lake

The Blue Lake Water Resource Recovery Facility uses digester gas to offset the purchase of natural gas. We installed a new regenerative thermal oxidizer (RTO) unit and improved facility controls.

- **\$161,546 in energy cost savings** per year
- Eliminates 1.68 MT CO₂e per year
- Energy rebate from CenterPoint for \$152,000

Commitment 3: Regional emissions reduction

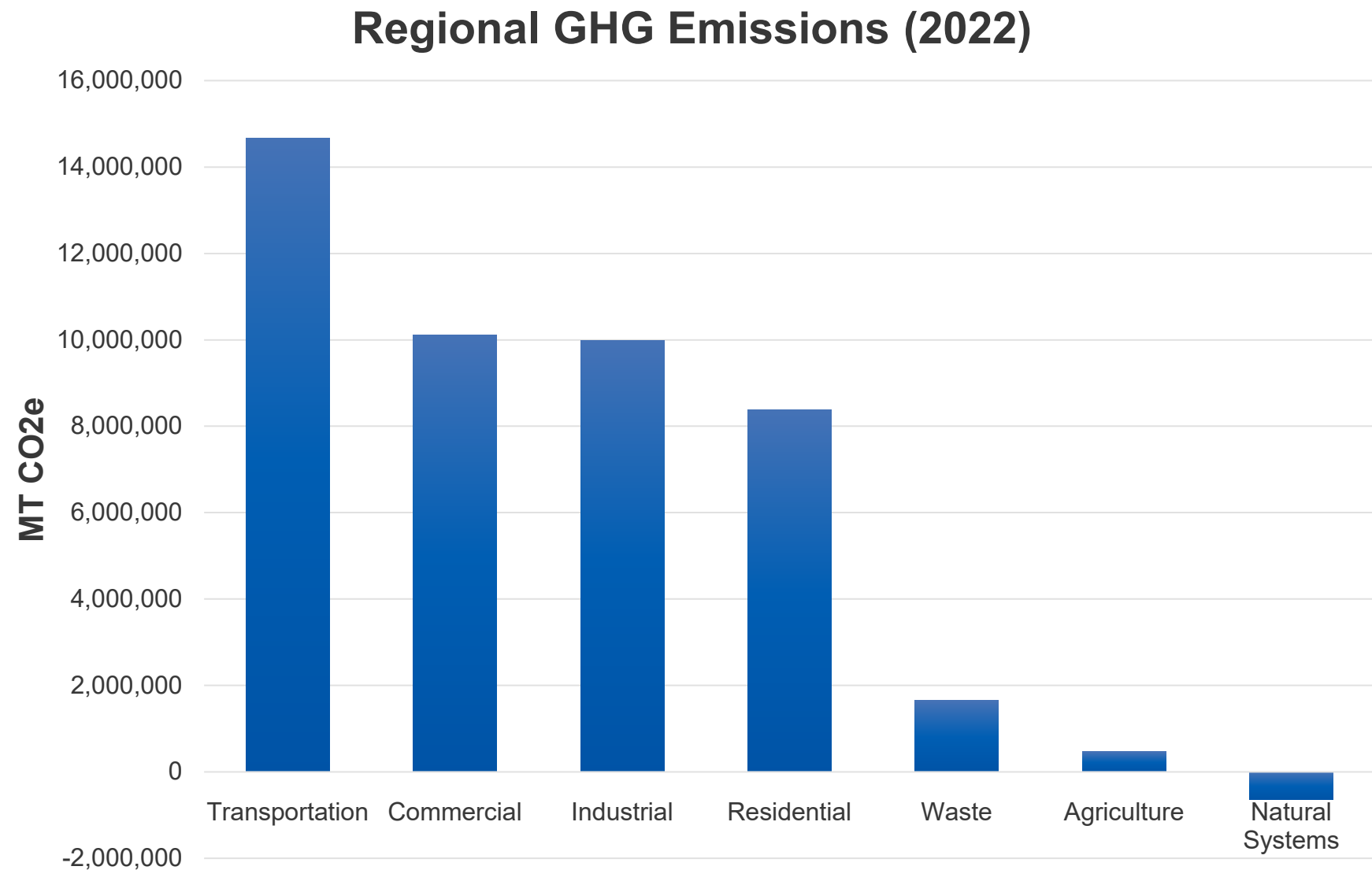


We will accelerate
**regional emissions
reduction** through
existing and new
partnerships.

Regional Emissions

Transportation and energy use drive regional emissions

- **Regional emissions** total over 44 million metric tonnes CO₂e.
- Met Council has indirect influence over regional emissions. However, **our services and technical assistance can support local efforts** and contribute to emissions reductions.



Project highlight: Technical assistance tools

Guiding the region to address climate change in each community

Community Development created **technical assistance tools to advance climate mitigation and adaptation** in the region through 2050 comprehensive planning.

- Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Tool
- Climate Action Toolkit
- Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment (forthcoming)
- Upcoming engagement and technical assistance through PlanIt Conference and winter learning labs



Project highlight: Electric vehicle support

Providing technical tools and education to advance electric vehicle use throughout the region

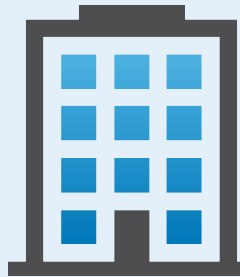
The **EV City Support** project will deliver technical assistance to local governments on vehicle electrification, including:

- Fleet opportunities
- Zoning and permitting best practices
- Direct provision of public charging

Public education is planned for Fall 2026 procurement.



Commitment 4: Adapting our operations to a changing climate



**We will reduce risks
and impacts of
climate change
hazards to our facilities
and services.**

Project highlight: Operational adaptation



Environmental Services is advancing resilient landscapes and improving facilities

Flood Response

- Forecasting floods and surveying flood walls for flood protection at Metro and Hastings.

Sustainable Landscape Improvements

- Native landscape master plans for wastewater recovery facilities

Commitment 5: Regional climate adaptation



We will support and collaborate with partners to **advance regional climate adaptation efforts.**

Project highlight: Community Tree Planting Grant Program



Expanding the regional tree canopy

Grants for local governments to improve the regional tree canopy with priorities on removing and replacing ash trees and **increasing canopy in areas with higher community vulnerability.**

- 2025 Program distributed \$2.5 million to 14 local governments that will plant over 5,000 trees
- **2026 Program will distribute \$3.4 million to local governments** – application opens in September
- 2027 Program will distribute \$3.5 million to local governments

Commitment 1: Environmental justice



We will incorporate
**environmental
justice principles** as
we **plan, implement,
and evaluate** our
climate work.

Project highlight: Environmental Justice Playbook

Environmental Justice Playbook provides resources for staff

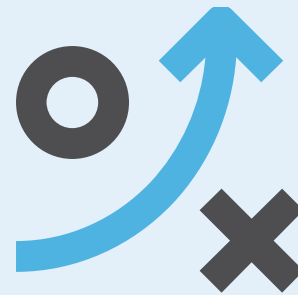
The **EJ Playbook** will be a practical tool for staff to implement the CAWP's EJ actions and Imagine 2050's EJ Framework in climate-related projects.

- The Playbook is nearing completion and will be ready for testing by September 2026.
- Staff will identify pilot projects to test implementation of the EJ Playbook in late 2026 into 2027



Imagine 2050 EJ Framework

Commitment 6: Cross-cutting efforts



Central strategy:
Expand staffing and
training dedicated to
climate work.

Project highlight: Envision training



Expanding training opportunities to achieve our ambitious climate commitments

- **52** Met Council staff completed the Envision Sustainable Infrastructure Training in 2025
- 24 staff are certified ENV SPs
- **Next steps:** Exploring how Envision fits into our work through projects like the new Crow River wastewater recovery facility and Franklin Avenue light rail station redesign.

Looking ahead: 2026-2027



Accelerating and sustaining our climate work

Accelerating our work

- Continued funding streams
- Additional dedicated staff
- High-level staff accountability to our commitments sustaining our work

We are 3.5 years into a 5-year plan

- Starting to plan **CAWP version 2.0**, which we would anticipate in 2027
- 2.0 will continue and enhance actions in the current plan

Continued action at the regional level is key to advancing Minnesota's climate work

Climate Action Work Plan contributors

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**Action or Working Group Leads*

Questions and Reflections



Overall Reflections

- How have we done this past year?
- Would you like to see us go further? If so, which areas of work would you like prioritized?
- Are there metrics you are interested in learning more about?
- What would you like to see in our next report?



Thank You

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