

Climate Change Initiative and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory for the National Capital Region



by
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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



Accomplishments to date

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



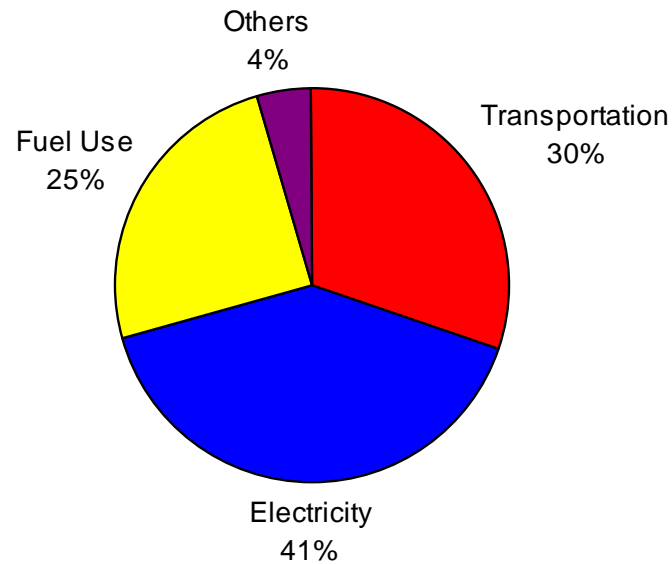


Greenhouse Gas Emissions in the Metropolitan Washington Region



Greenhouse Gas Emissions by Sector – Metropolitan Washington, DC, region 2005

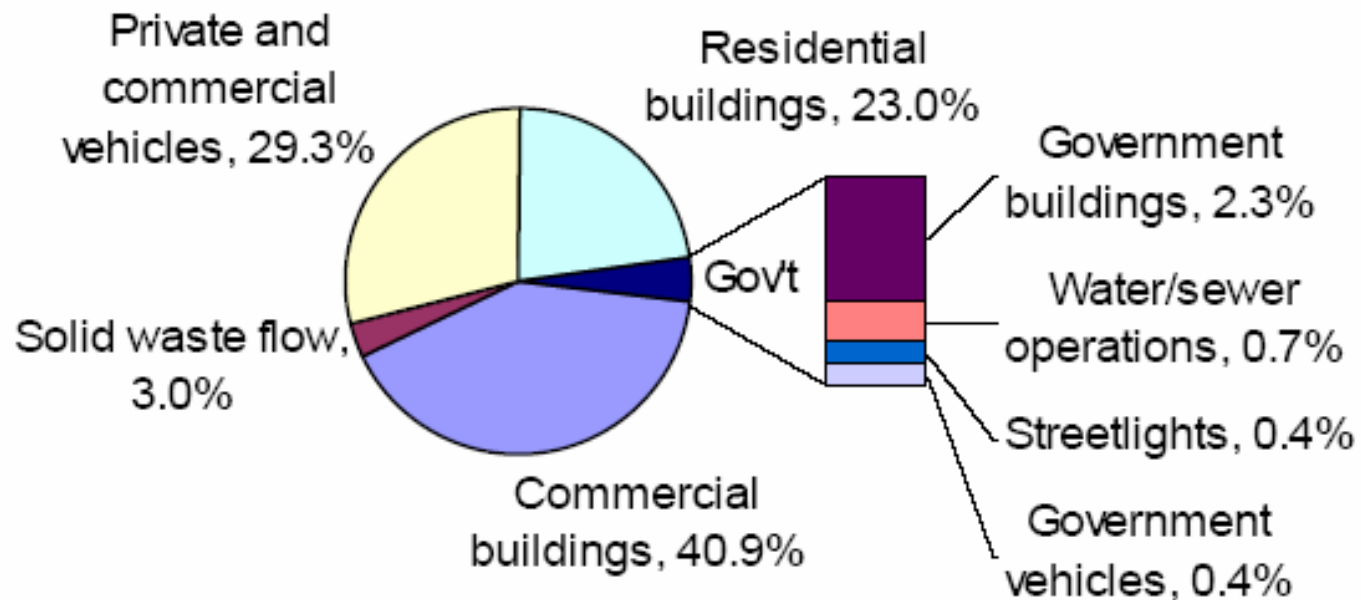
**CO₂e Emissions by Sector for the Washington,
DC-MD-VA Region (2005)**



Source: Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments



Emission Contribution from Local Governmental Operations: Arlington County, Virginia



Community Total: 96.2%

Government Total: 3.8%

Source: Arlington County, Virginia (Estimate for the year 2000)

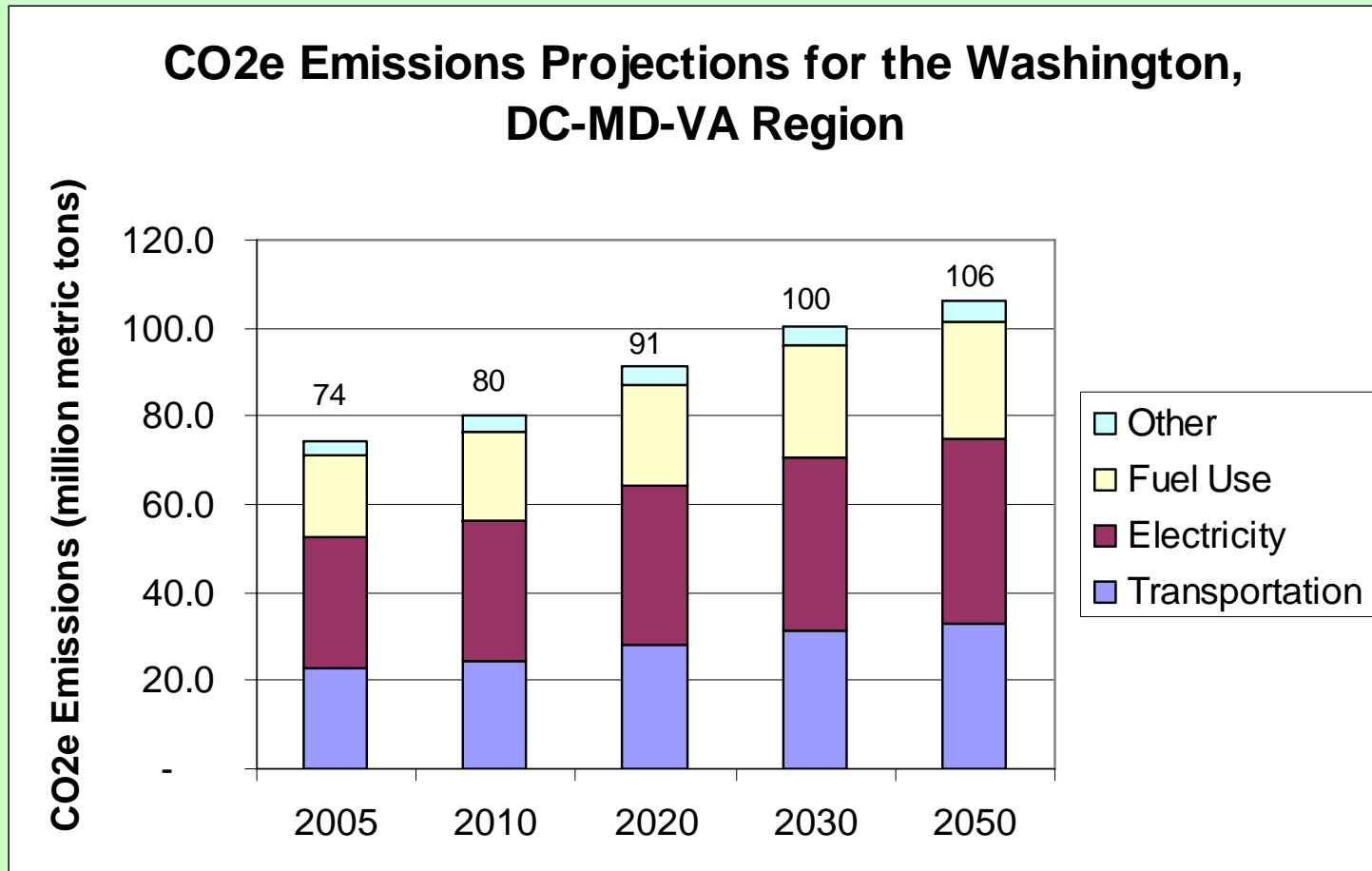


Emission Projections

- Growth Rates 2005-2030
 - Population 33%
 - Households 35%
 - Employment 39%
 - VMT 38%
 - Electricity 31%



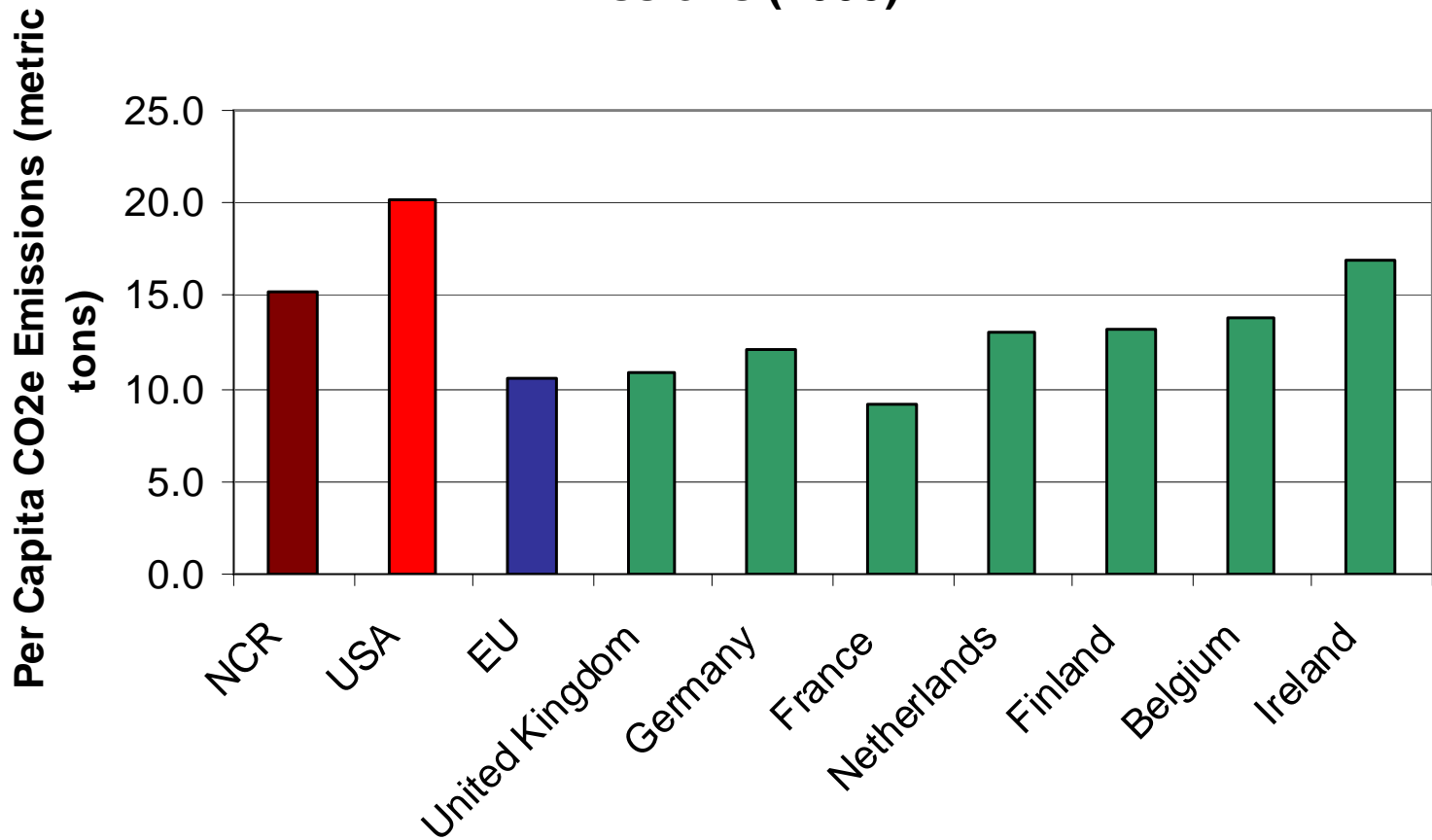
Greenhouse Gas Emissions: 2005-2050 for the Washington DC region



Source: Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments



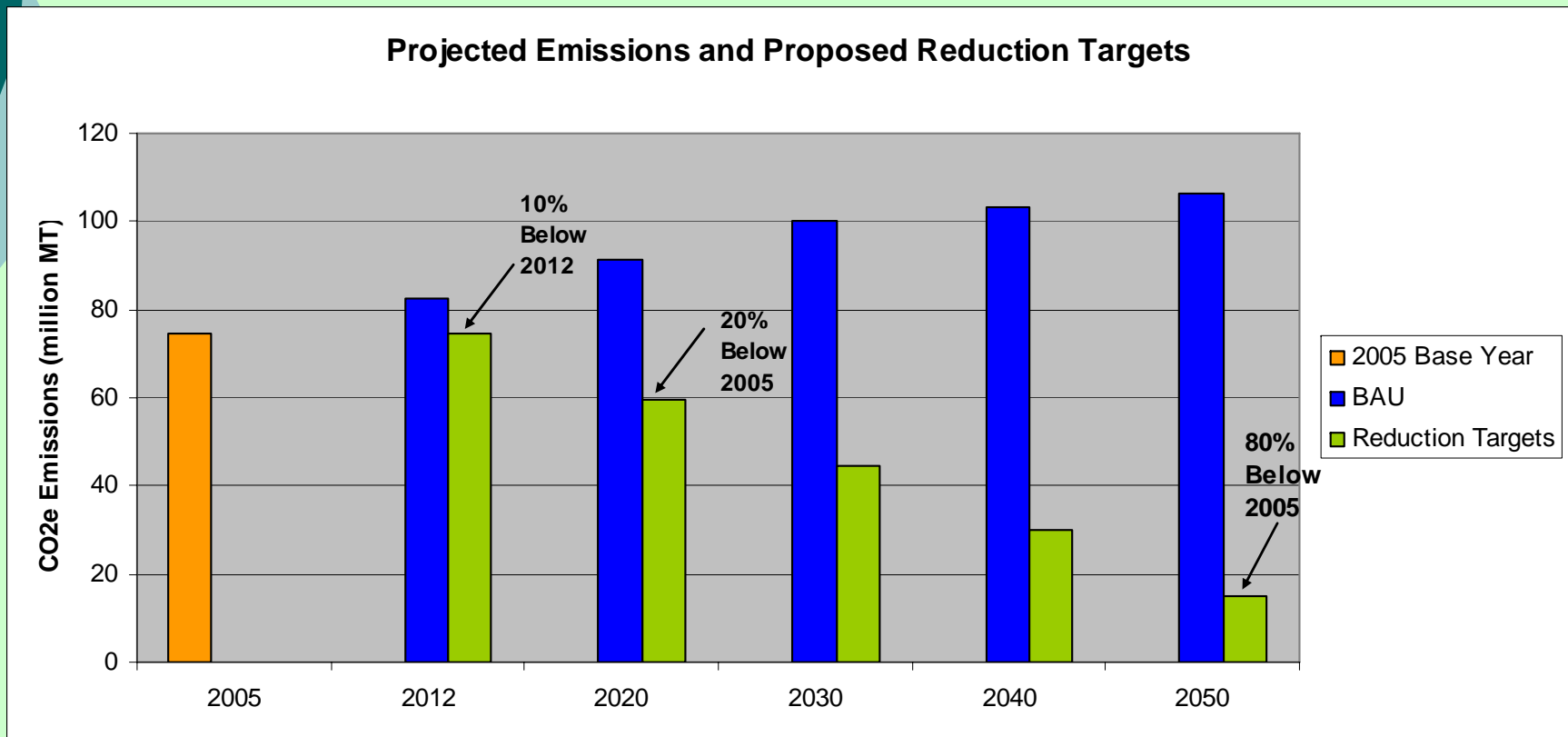
Comparison of Per Capita Greenhouse Gas Emissions (2005)



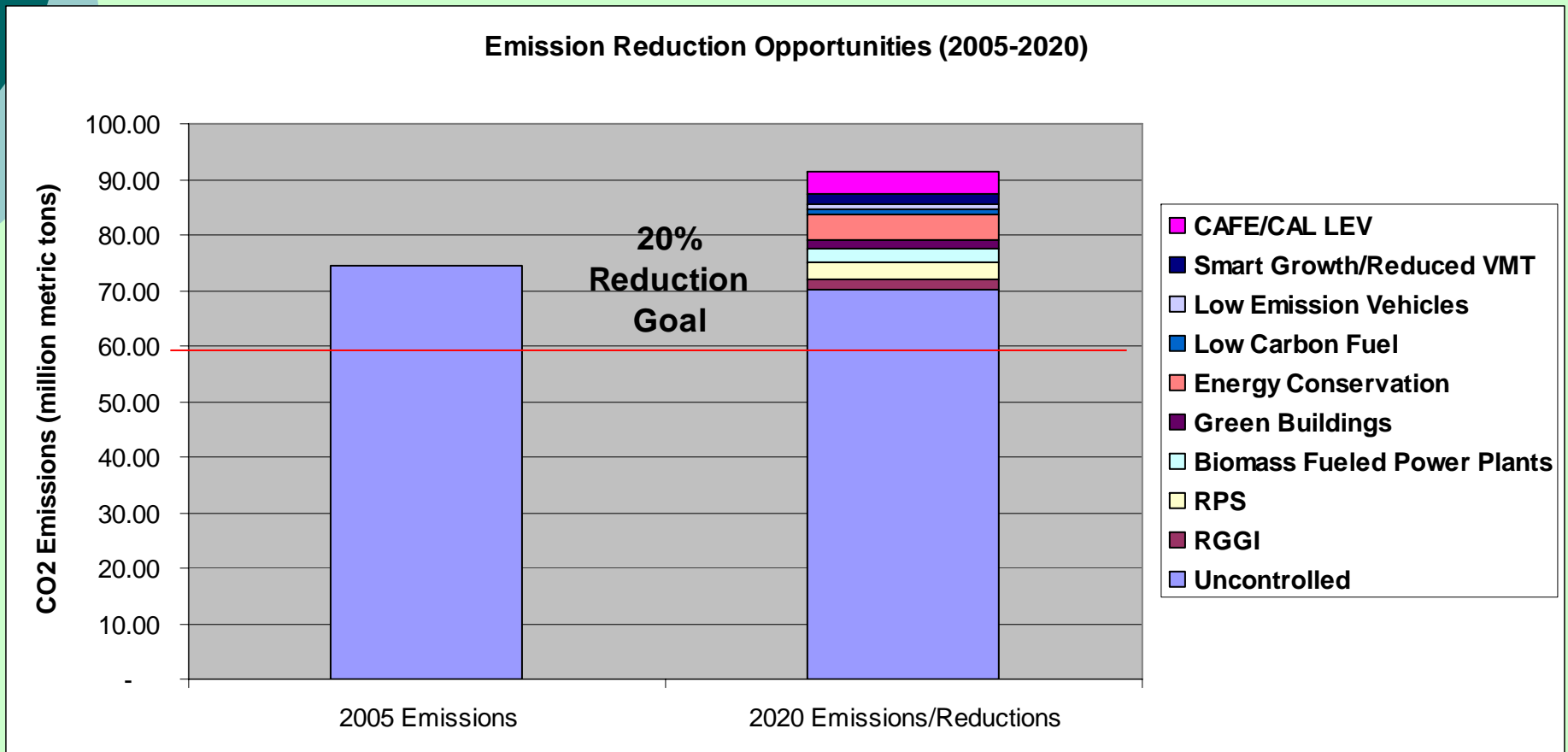
US EPA 2008, European Environment Agency 2008, US Department of Energy 2008, MWCOG 2008, Cooperative Forecasts Round 7.0a.



Proposed Regional Reduction Goals

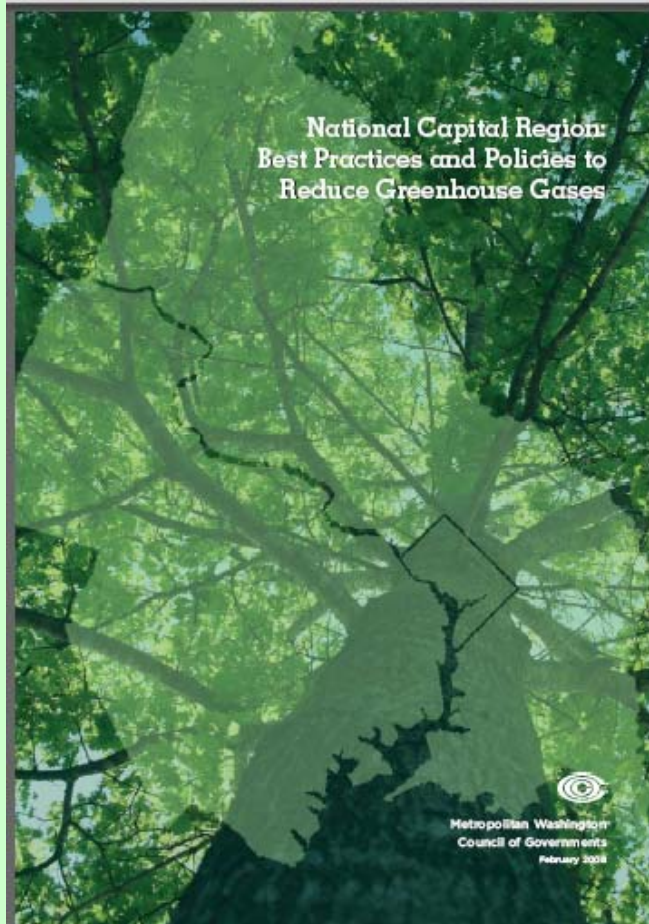


Meeting the 2020 Goal – Initial Assessment



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.



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



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



Sample Recommendations – Local Governments Leading By Example

- Implement COG Green Building Policy.
- Identify Best Practices to Reduce local government Energy Use by 15% by 2012.
- Evaluate feasibility and cost of setting regional green power utilization goals for local governments.
- Evaluate regional cooperative purchase and/or reverse auctions to facilitate green power implementation.
- Examine options for a regional street lighting standard that would utilize energy efficient street lighting across the region.
- Promote regional energy performance contracting to reduce energy use in public buildings.
- Establish Regional Green Fleet Policy with measurable goals and timetables.



Next Steps

- Regional Climate Action Plan Presented to COG Board of Directors in June, 2008
- Development of Implementation Plan for meeting 2012 and 2020 goals over the next 2 years

