

Climate Action 2050 Plan Updates

**Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
Committee on Community, Environment, and Economic Development (CEED)
September 16, 2024**

Grant Helle, Interim Director
Office of Sustainability
DAS – Facilities Management



Policy

[File No. 21-389](#)

Commits Milwaukee County to achieving carbon neutral operations by 2050 and requests the Sustainability Director to develop and administer a strategic plan to achieve carbon neutrality in Milwaukee County facilities and operations by 2050.

[File No. 24-652](#)

Requests that the DAS – Office of Sustainability and SPB – Project Management Office to collaborate with the City of Milwaukee and other applicable entities to apply for, and accept if awarded, grants to help effectuate climate action goals.



CA50 Planning Timeline

Sep.
2022

Dec.
2022

May
2023

June
2023

Dec.
2023

Mar.
2024

June
2024

Sep.
2024

Jan.
2025

April
2025

EARTH DAY
April 22, 2025

Framework



Engagement Strategy



CA50 Progress Update
(Board Report)



Vulnerability & Emissions
Assessment Reports



Detailed Strategy
Development



Draft CA50 Plan



Present Final CA50 Plan

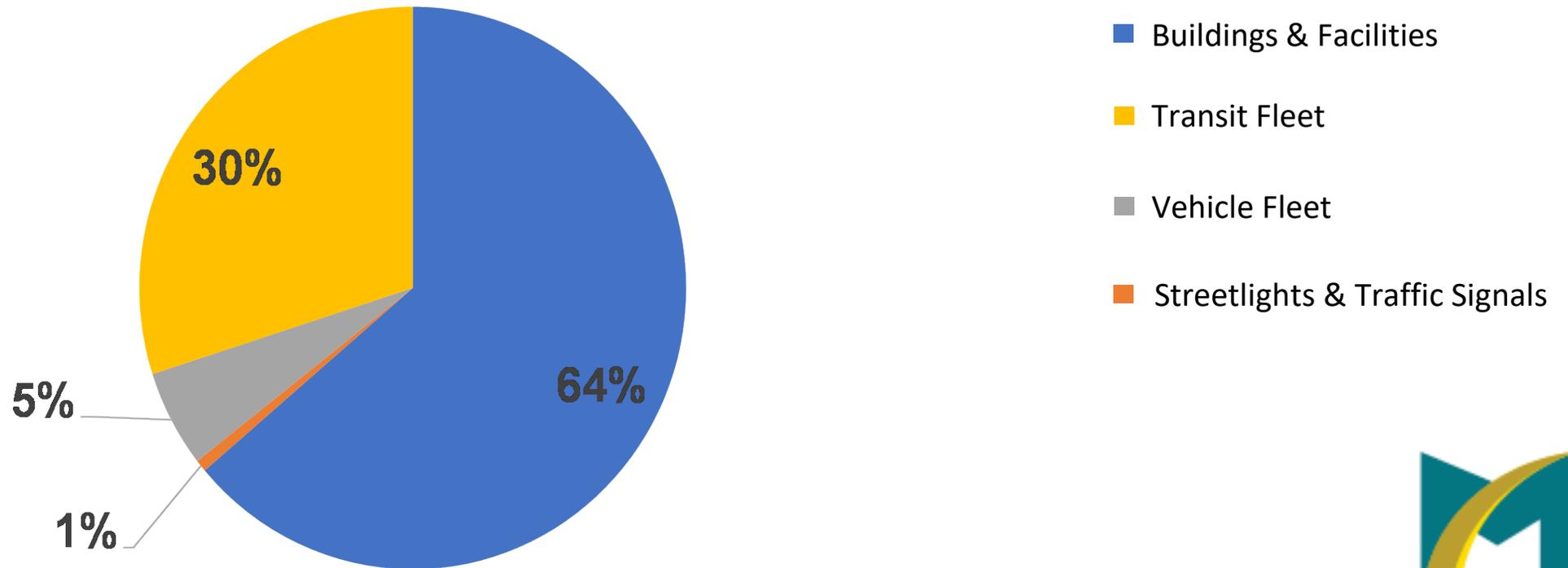


Proposed Board
Adoption Date for
CA50 Plan



Climate Action Baseline

2022 Milwaukee County Operational Emissions



116,226 MTCO₂e (equivalent to 27,662 gasoline-powered passenger vehicles driven for one year)



Climate Action Strategy Development

Sustainability Task Force

- GUIDING PRINCIPLES (2021-22)
- Ongoing monthly meetings to track and guide progress

Community Engagement

- Community workshops
- Presentations at variety of community meetings
- Online Survey

*16 internal groups and 37 external groups

County Department Engagement

- Align climate action strategies with Department strategic plans



Guiding Principles for Climate Action 2050

Achieving Net Zero Emissions while Advancing Equity, Justice & Community Resilience

1. Create Intentional Inclusion

1a: Identify and involve Stakeholders and Partners in each phase of the project (Research, Planning and Implementation)

1b: Increase involvement of minority and women-owned businesses in implementation of action plans.

2. Bridge the Gap

2a: Identify health disparities caused by climate change and prioritize projects that will positively impact health outcomes.

3. Invest in Equity

3a: Achieve net zero County operations carbon emissions by 2050 with sustainable and fiscally responsible solutions that align with County core functions, missions and priorities.

3b: Prioritize projects that will provide green education and jobs for vulnerable/underserved communities as co-benefits.

3c: Improve ability of vulnerable/underserved communities to adapt to climate change.

Climate Action Strategy Development – Department Alignment

1a: Identify and involve Stakeholders and Partners in each phase of the project



County Internal Stakeholders

Office of Equity

Department of Health and Human Services

Department of Transportation – Fleet/Transit/Hwy

Department of Transportation – Airport

Parks Department

Community Reintegration Center

Milwaukee County Zoo

DAS – Facilities

Office of Emergency Management

Office of Strategy, Budget and Performance

3a: Achieve net zero County operations carbon emissions by 2050 with sustainable and fiscally responsible solutions **that align with County core functions, missions and priorities.**

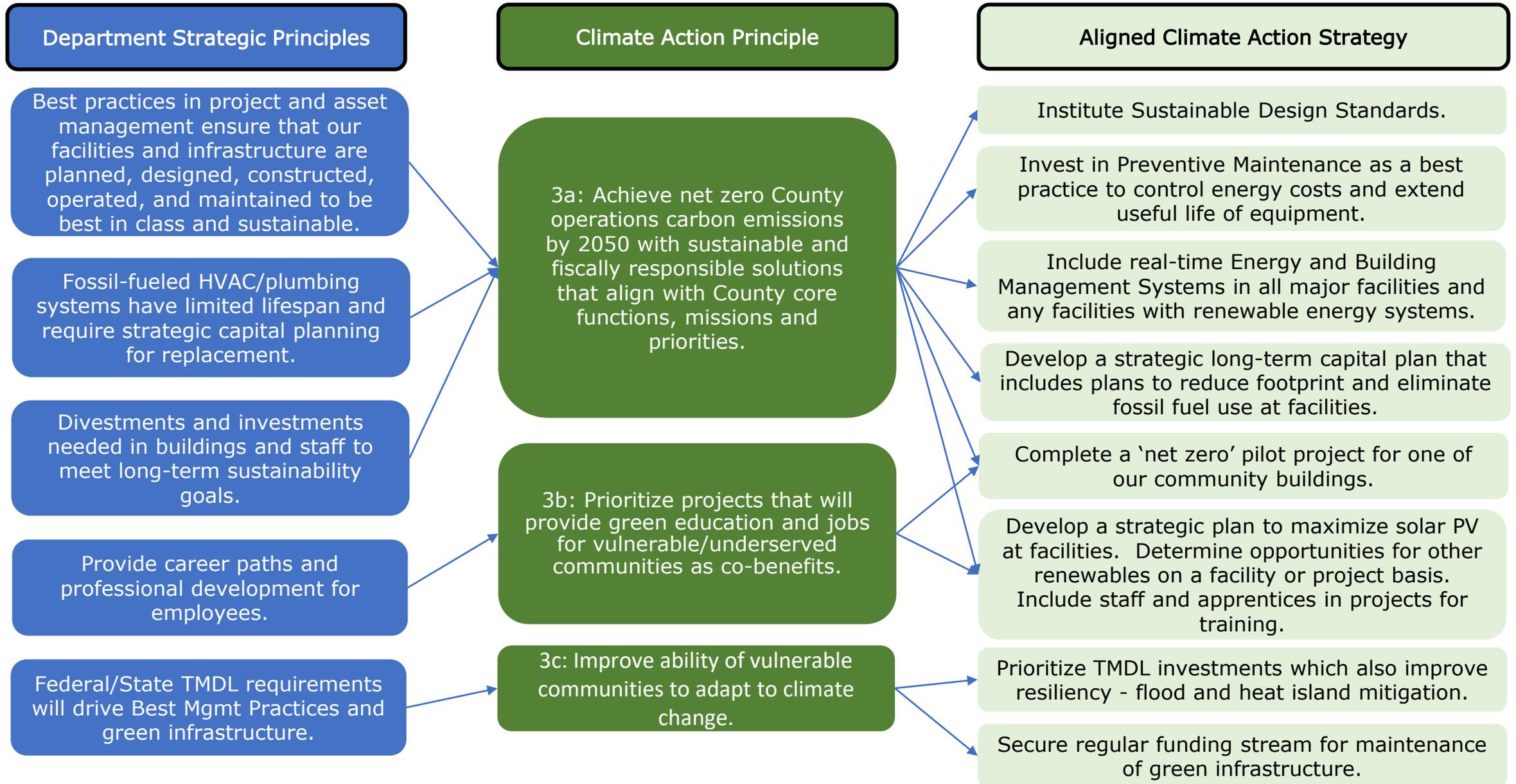


From the 2021 Climate Action Framework

Develop a system for early and frequent briefings and planning sessions with County department leaders with a goal of establishing not just departmental buy-in, but also detailed department action plans that empower department staff to move forward.

By doing so, climate action supports, rather than competes with, current County objectives and plans, and achieves necessary key leadership support.

Strategy Alignment & Development: DAS - FMD



Strategy Alignment & Development

Four impact categories:

1. FACILITIES

- Largest emissions category

2. FLEET

- Second largest emissions category and direct community impact

3. RESILIENCE

- Achieving Net Zero Carbon Emissions While Advancing Equity, Justice, & Community Resilience

4. COMMUNITY

- In Milwaukee County, the context for climate action is our vision of becoming a healthy community through racial equity



FACILITIES

Energy efficiency is Job #1.

Develop a strategic long-term capital plan that includes plans to reduce footprint and eliminate fossil fuel use at facilities.

Develop a strategic plan to maximize solar PV at facilities. Determine opportunities for other renewables on a facility or project basis. Include staff and apprentices in projects for training.

Institute sustainable design standards.

Invest in Preventive Maintenance as a best practice to control energy costs and extend useful life of equipment.

Fold climate action planning into the long-term department facilities master planning work.

FLEET

Fold climate action planning into the long-term department fleet master planning work.

Develop, plan and deploy non-fossil fuel fleet with supporting infrastructure by 2050.



- Light & medium duty vehicles
- Heavy duty vehicles
- Equipment
- Transit System

RESILIENCE

Prioritize TMDL investments which also improve resiliency - flood and heat island mitigation.

Conduct study to explore non-fossil fuel alternatives for micro-grid development.

Incorporate vulnerability into energy management plans.

Prioritize climate action projects that help vulnerable communities.

Fold resiliency into long-term Parks sustainability studies and plans.

COMMUNITY

Develop external partnerships that will identify and promote green education and jobs. Cooperate to evaluate all climate action projects for opportunities.

Partner with TBE/DBE firms to enhance critical facilities with energy efficient equipment, lighting and other building technologies/systems.

Plant shade trees near community centers and in urban parks to reduce heat island effects.

Collaborate with other communities facing the same challenges.

Score climate action projects by health vulnerability impacts.

Develop department-specific climate action communications, education and engagement plans.

Establish high participation TBE/DBE goals for all climate action projects.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES including incentives + reinvestment

7 OVER-ARCHING THEMES TO CLIMATE ACTION STRATEGIES

1. Address emissions reduction with simultaneous community economic impact.

2. Facilities emissions reductions must start with energy efficiency.

3. Moving fleets away from fossil fuels will require a long-term view.

4. Resiliency must be incorporated into Parks, Airport and County environmental compliance long-term strategic plans.

5. Methods to prioritize climate action projects that address vulnerabilities and health impacts need to be developed.

6. Partnerships and collaborations will be key to successful implementation.

7. Funding opportunities have to be addressed for all of the impact categories.

Collaborative Efforts

1. Municipal Partnerships

- Wisconsin Local Government Climate Coalition (WLGCC)
- City of Milwaukee Efficient Building Benchmarking Ordinance

2. Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG)

- SEWRPC planning grant, unsuccessful proposal for \$10M CPRG grant

3. Other NGOs

- American Lung Association, Citizen Action Wisconsin, others



Funding Opportunities

Strategy 1: Continuous Grant Searching

- Individualized reporting on grant opportunities.
- Currently pursuing two grants with PMO-SBP
 - Environmental & Climate Justice Community Change Grants Program (EPA)
 - Good Jobs in Clean Energy (DOE)

Strategy 2: Elective Pay Tax Credit Incentives under Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)

- Qualifying clean energy projects: solar, wind, geothermal, battery storage, electric vehicles.
- SBP-PMO development of internal process to 1. identify eligible projects and 2. apply for tax credit incentive.

Strategy 3: Collaborating with the City of Milwaukee and Community-based Organizations to Pursue Funding Opportunities

- Communication and collaboration with WLGCC, City of Milwaukee ECO, SEWRPC and Climate Action Wisconsin.

Other Related Climate Action Activities

1. Lighting Jobs Program (ARPA-Funded)
2. Solar Feasibility Assessments
3. E-SWAT Team
4. New Criminal Courthouse Planning and Design
5. Implementation of Additional Emissions Reduction Measures such as:
 - Efficient equipment replacement
 - Lighting retrofits
 - Sustainable new design
 - Electric vehicle pilot testing
 - Resiliency studies
 - Green infrastructure
 - Reforestation



Next Steps

- Implement the internal and external communications and engagement plan, to involve all stakeholders in the details of climate action planning.
- Vigorously pursue external grants to help fund climate action planning and specific projects.
- Take climate action strategies to the next level of detail, providing a multi-year implementation plan with projected costs, benefits, and outcomes.

Present to the Board an actionable Climate Action Plan by April 2025

Alignment to Strategic Plan

- The Climate Action 2050 Plan will support Milwaukee County's strategic plan by creating intentional inclusion and investing in equity.
- The planning team will develop the plan with intentional inclusion of diverse stakeholders.
- In addition, the plan will emphasize strategies and actions that provide racial and health equity co-benefits – not just environmental protection or cost savings.



Questions?

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