

# Milwaukee County Climate Action 2050 Plan Update

**City-County Advisory Board on Climate and Economic Equity**  
**July 16, 2025**

Grant Helle, Director  
Office of Sustainability  
DAS – Facilities Management



# (CA50) 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. 25-262](#)

Board of Supervisors approval of the Milwaukee County Climate Action 2050 Plan to achieve carbon neutral operations by 2050.  
*Signed by County Executive David Crowley on April 25, 2025.*





**CEED Committee  
Presentation of  
Proposed CA50 Plan**  
*-April 14, 2025*



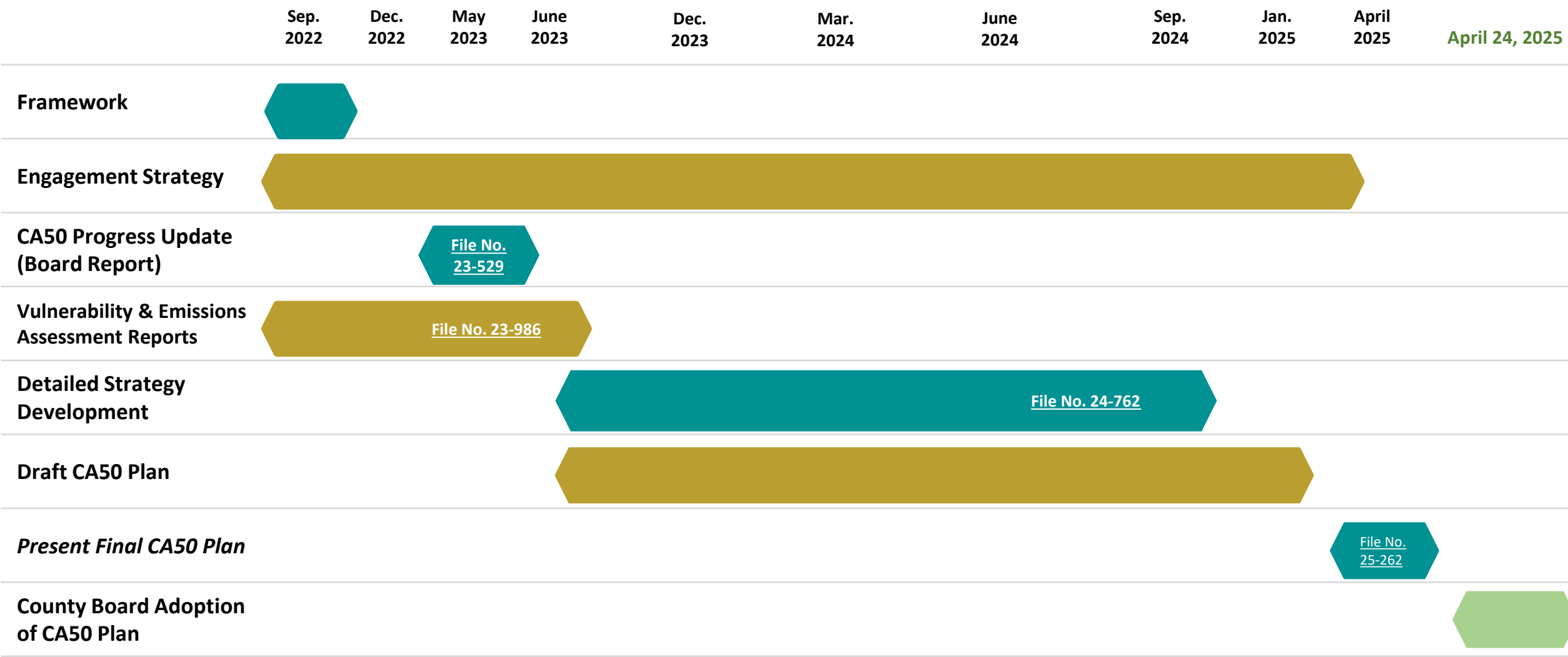




**County Executive David  
Crowley Signing of File  
No. 25-262, adopting  
CA50 Plan.**  
*-April 25, 2025*

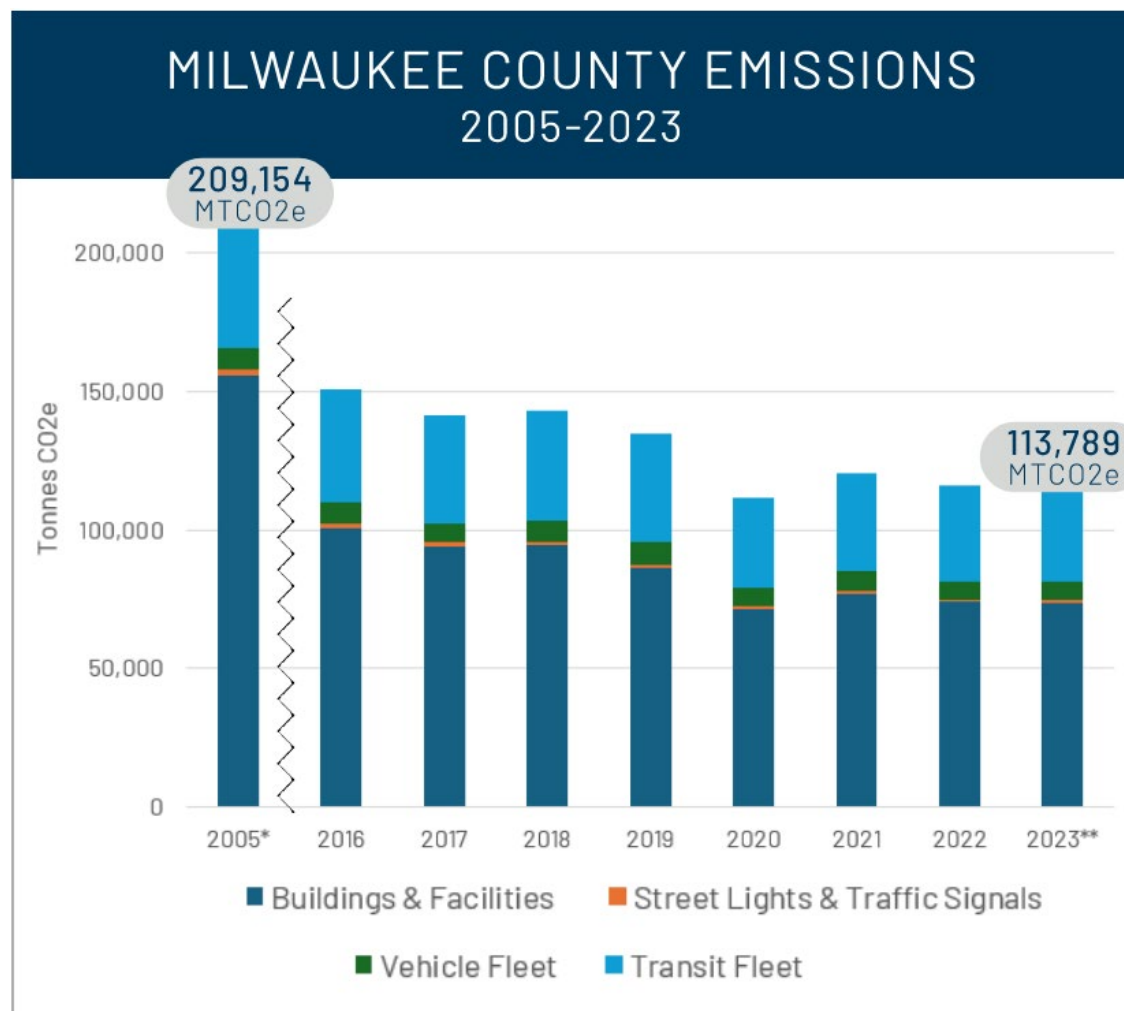


# (CA50) Planning Timeline



★ Now: Implementation!

# (CA50) Carbon Neutrality Commitment



## Includes:

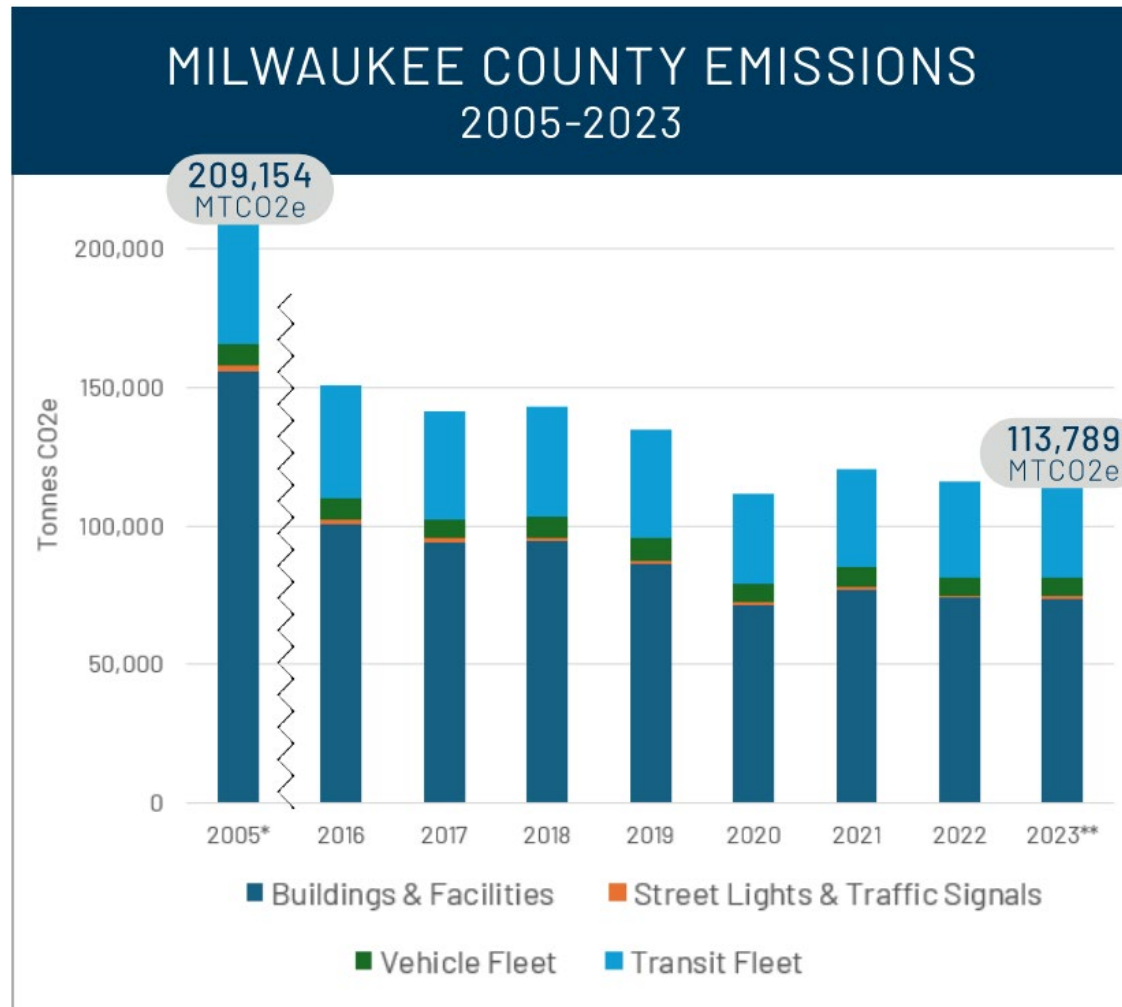
- Scope 1 and 2 emissions
- Specifically attributed to County operations

## Excludes:

- Scope 3 emissions
- Non-County operations (including Community Emissions)



# (CA50) Carbon Neutrality Commitment



Includes:

- Scope 1 and 2 emissions
- Scope 3 emissions attributed to County operations

**47% reduction!**

***50% reduction goal for 2030 – ahead of the curve!***

Excludes:

- Scope 3 emissions
- Non-County operations





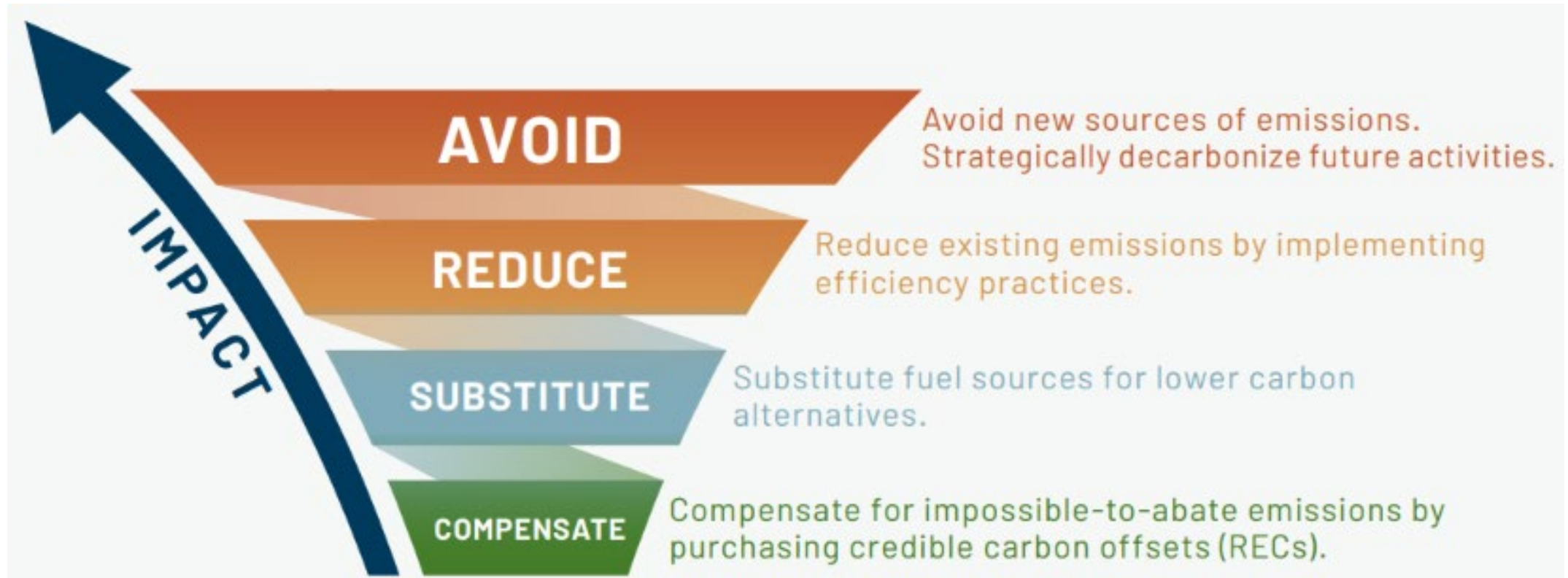
# (CA50) Why?

- **Community Well-Being**
- **Local Job Creation**
- **Efficiency, financial responsibility**
- Energy Independence
- Community Education and Leadership
- Avoided Employee Turnover
- Avoided Penalties
- Future Emergency Backup Power
- Tourism: “Green Destination”

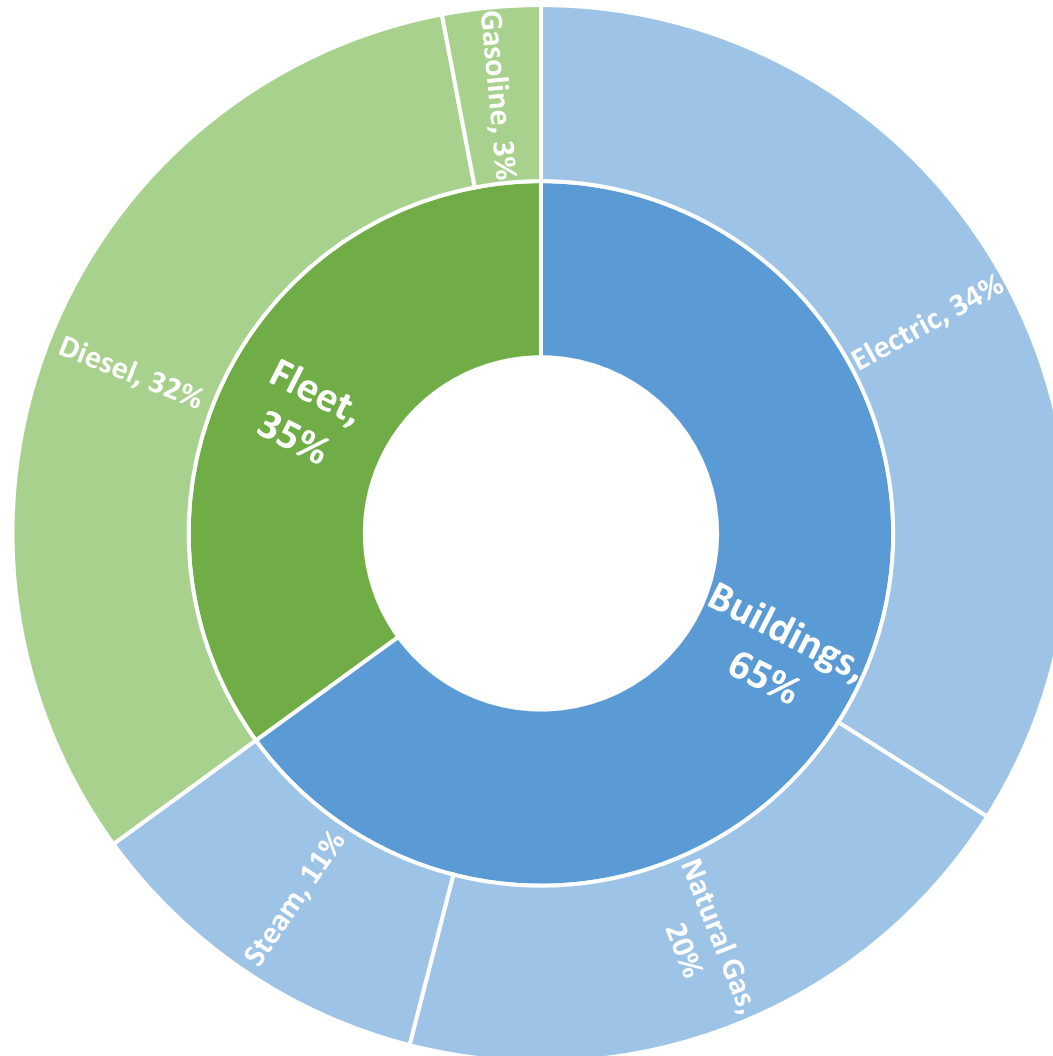




# (CA50) How?



# (CA50) Current Emissions Sources



- 1/3 of County emissions attributed to vehicle fleet
- 2/3 attributed to buildings and related operations

# (CA50) Emissions Reduction Strategies

STRATEGY	EMISSIONS REDUCTION POTENTIAL		COST SAVINGS <sup>3</sup> (\$/YR)	COST <sup>1</sup>	PAYBACK (YRS)
	MTCO <sub>2</sub> e	%			
Retro-commissioning	4,400	4%	\$787,000	\$3,580,000	4.5
Energy Efficiency Upgrades	19,500	17%	\$3,463,400	\$54,140,000	15.6
Building Electrification	10,100	9%	-\$342,500	\$111,700,000	—
Fleet Upgrades	24,100	21%	\$7,293,510	\$220,200,000	30.2
On-Site Solar	6,600	6%	\$1,768,300	\$51,810,000	29.3
Off-Site Carbon-Free Energy <sup>2</sup>	44,200	39%	\$0	\$0	—
Carbon Offsets	4,300	4%	-\$86,000	\$0	—
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>113,200</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$12,883,710</b>	<b>\$441,430,000</b>	<b>34.3</b>



# (CA50) Implementation

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★ = Currently happening

★ = In planning or requested





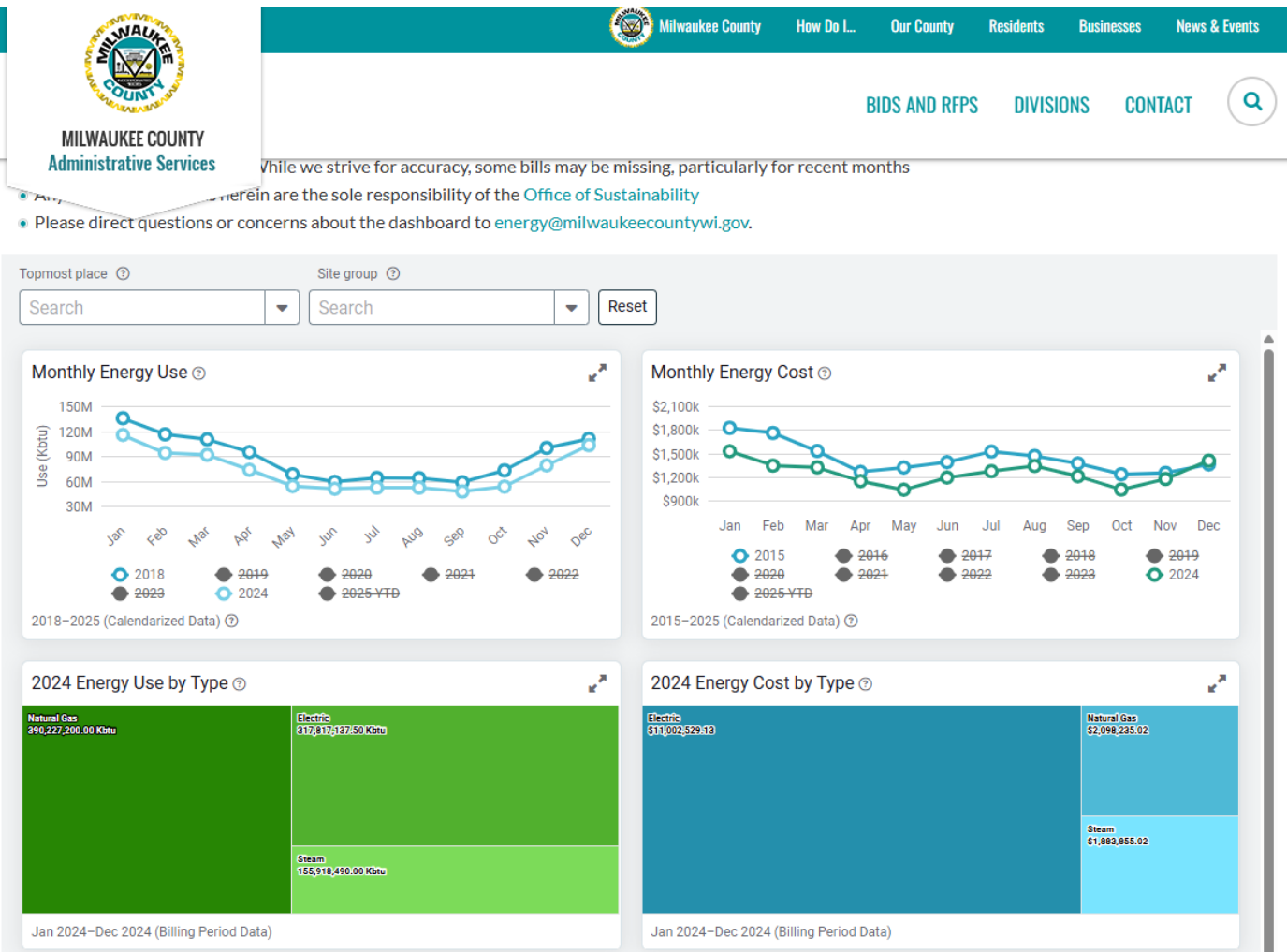
# (CA50) Implementation

The Office of Sustainability is currently re-engaging the Sustainability Task Force (STF). New or existing representatives will be appointed to serve on the STF for implementation and monitoring.

Together, the STF and a Third-Party Consultant will:

- Develop progress tracking tools & methods
- Identify ways to communicate progress (internal & external)
- Measure ongoing progress on emissions reduction and achieving strategy milestones

# (CA50) Implementation



[County Energy Dashboard](#) will continue to be updated quarterly and available to access!



# (CA50) Implementation

The Office of Sustainability will check-in regularly on milestones with each Department identified in CA50.

- At minimum, an annual engagement session will take place with each Department's leadership

The Office of Sustainability will continue to assist Departments with their independent climate-adjacent projects.



# (CA50) Implementation

Maintain engagement with the community and organizations to listen and gather feedback.

- Recently partnered with a graduate student intern to gather feedback on climate action narrative from community groups with diverse value sets.
  - 28 participants representing:
  - Harambee, Sherman Park, Roosevelt Grove, Polonia, Lincoln Village

Continue collaborating with municipalities across the county, region and nation to further advance this work.





# (CA50) Implementation

In addition, the Office of Sustainability will...

- Reflect changes in County operations and new technologies for long-term implementation plans
- Build out annual implementation by department
- Monitor changes in policy and funding opportunities



# Milwaukee County Climate Sustainable Design Standards

**City-County Advisory Board on Climate and Economic Equity**  
**July 16, 2025**

Grant Helle, Director  
Office of Sustainability  
DAS – Facilities Management



# Sustainable Design Standards (SDS)



- **Sustainable Design Standards (SDS)** began development in October 2024 and were issued in March 2025 on the County Sustainability webpage
- **Legislation** regarding the SDS was brought forward to the County Board and adopted 05/22 ([File No. 25-315](#))
- SDS will be an **iterative** document and updated
- Projects categorized into two tiers (**Tier 1 and 2**)
- Sustainability requirements based on **best practices** and include **mandatory + optional (encouraged)** measures



# (SDS)

## ***SUSTAINABILITY VISION STATEMENT***

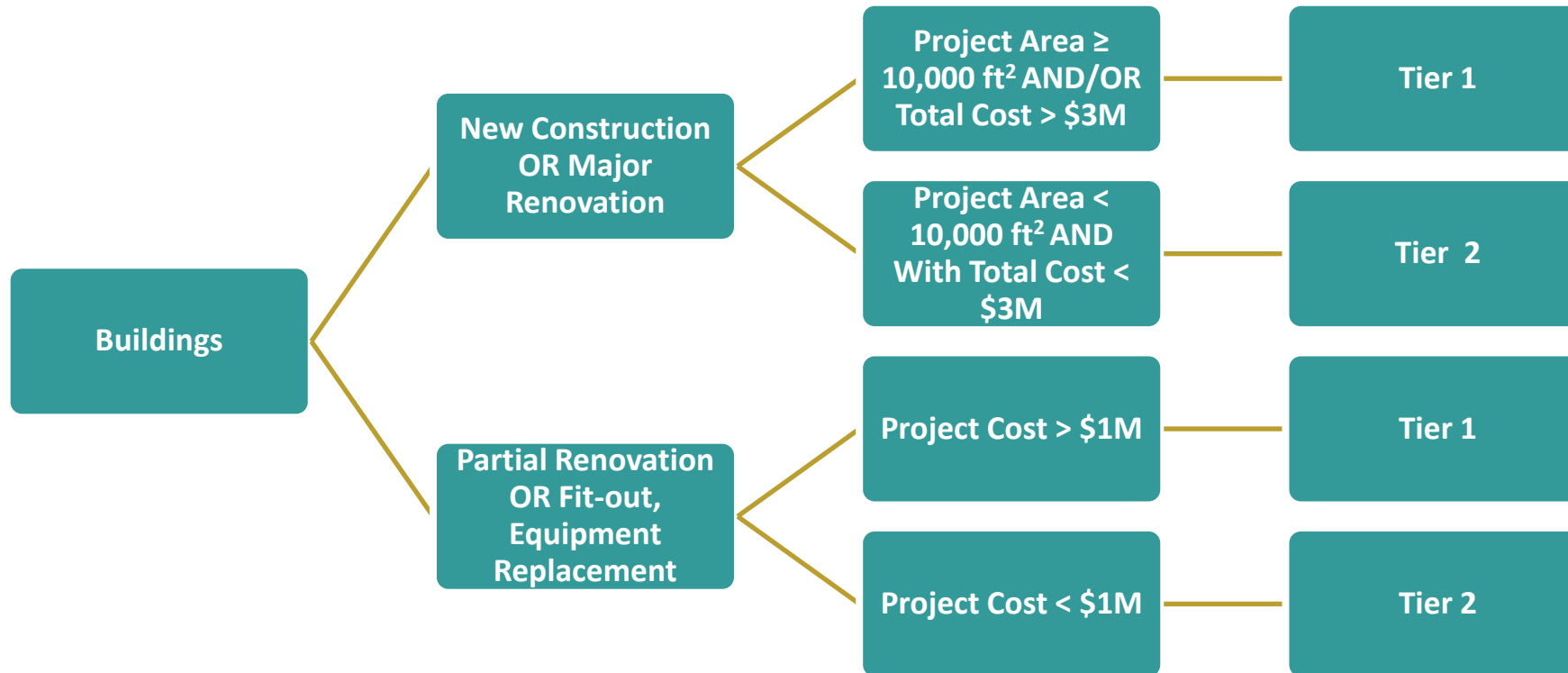
*The Sustainable Design Standards will support Milwaukee County's commitment to achieving zero net carbon emissions by 2050 while advancing Equity, Justice, & Community Resilience. These Standards will facilitate the planning, design, construction and renovation of resilient, net-zero carbon facilities that foster thriving communities and a sustainable future for the community.*

\*Developed by Stakeholders including County Department Leadership through active participation in a visioning workshop.





# (SDS) Tiers



Tier 1

Meet all mandatory requirements ("Mandatory for all projects" and "Better (Tier 1 Mandatory)") where applicable to the project scope.

Tier 2

Meet all mandatory requirements ("Mandatory for all projects") where applicable to the project scope.

# (SDS) Focus Areas



- **Energy Efficiency**
- **Emissions and Pollution Control**
- **Climate Resilience and Adaptation**
- Site
- Water Conservation and Stormwater Management
- Materials and Waste Management
- Occupant Health and Wellbeing
- Education and Community Engagement
  
- **BOLD = mandatory requirements**



# (SDS) Governance

- Projects which require any deviation from the mandatory sustainability requirements must seek written approval from the Director of Sustainability and Director of Architecture, Engineering and Environmental Services (AE&ES) via an Exemption Request Form.
- Included in the AE&ES Annual Report to the County Board of Supervisors, the Director of AE&ES (with support from Director OS), will provide a yearly status update of implementation of SDS.
- Capital Project Charter documents should include a section on applicable SDS requirements in accordance with the most recent approved version. Capital project management teams shall fold applicable sustainable design standards into all capital projects from the **2026 Capital Budget process forward (happening now!)**



# (SDS) Governance

(cont.):

- No later than at the point of substantial completion of a project, the project team shall submit to the Director of Sustainability a SDS Scorecard.
- These standards will be reviewed and formally updated at minimum every four years.

## Resources and documentation as fillable/signable pdfs:

1. Exemption Request Form
2. Scorecard – TIER 1
3. Scorecard – TIER 2





# Questions?

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