

**COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION**

DATE: November 2, 2020

TO: Supervisor Marcelia Nicholson, Chairwoman, County Board of Supervisors

FROM: Gordie Bennett, Sustainability Director, DAS-Facilities Management

**SUBJECT: Milwaukee County Community Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory
(Informational Only)**

Introduction

The Office of Sustainability respectfully submits the attached inventory of community-wide greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) for Milwaukee County. The inventory accounts for emissions occurring in Milwaukee County during 2018 calendar year. This information provides a basis for Milwaukee County to develop GHG reduction strategies and track progress toward its community emissions reduction targets.

Previous Legislation

This report complements the GHG inventory for Milwaukee County government operations shared with the County Board earlier this year (see File No. 20-318).

Additionally, the report is intended to support the following related County legislation:

- File No. 07-111: Creating an environmental and conservation “Green Print” initiative for Milwaukee County government operations.
- File No. 17-506: Establishing that County government will support the principles and targets of the Paris Climate Agreement to keep global temperature increases below 2°C (3.8°F).
- File No. 19-582: Co-creating the Milwaukee City-County Joint Taskforce on Climate and Economic Equity that will develop a roadmap to reduce community-wide emissions by 45% relative to 2010 levels by 2030, and to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

Key Findings

During 2018, Milwaukee County residents, businesses, and visitors generated approximately 11,127,231 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MTCDE). This is roughly equivalent to the greenhouse gas emissions generated by 2,403,967 passenger vehicles driven for one year¹.

¹ U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (2020). Greenhouse Gas Equivalencies Calculator. Accessed 10/28/20 from <https://www.epa.gov/energy/greenhouse-gas-equivalencies-calculator>.

Industrial energy use represents the largest source of emissions in Milwaukee County (37% of total emissions in 2018), followed by transportation (33%), and residential energy use (16%).

Per File No. 20-318, Milwaukee County government operations produced around 146,678 MTCDE of emissions in 2018. This means that County government generates just over 1 percent of all emissions within our community. As a result, in pursuing its emissions reduction targets, Milwaukee County should pursue and promote initiatives that have community-wide environmental, economic, and health benefits.

Future Activities

In completing this greenhouse gas emissions inventory, Milwaukee County has taken an important step towards reducing climate change impacts in our community. The next logical step is to develop and implement a plan for reducing community GHG emissions while creating green jobs and improving racial equity ('Climate and Equity Plan'). In fact, local governments across the country – including Hennepin County, MN and Cuyahoga County, OH – are undergoing a similar planning process.

The City-County Task Force on Climate Change and Economic Equity² is charged with developing a Climate and Equity Plan for Milwaukee. The Office of Sustainability is serving on the Task Force's Emissions Work Group, and we actively participate with Task Force meetings. We encourage the County Board to remain informed of and engaged with the Task Force to help ensure the final plan addresses Milwaukee County's climate and equity priorities and long-term goals.

Committee Action

This is an informational report only.

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Approved by:

Stuart Carron

Stu Carron, Director

Facilities Management Division, Department of Administrative Services

Attachment: Milwaukee County 2018 Community GHG Emissions Inventory

Cc: David Crowley, County Executive
Mary Jo Meyers, Chief of Staff, County Executive's Office
Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, County Board
Julie Landry, Director, Department of Administrative Services

² For more information about the Task Force, visit <https://city.milwaukee.gov/climate/Climate-Plan>.