

Climate Action 2050 Plan

**Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
Committee on Community, Environment, and Economic Development (CEED)
April 14, 2025**

Grant Helle, Director
Office of Sustainability
DAS – Facilities Management



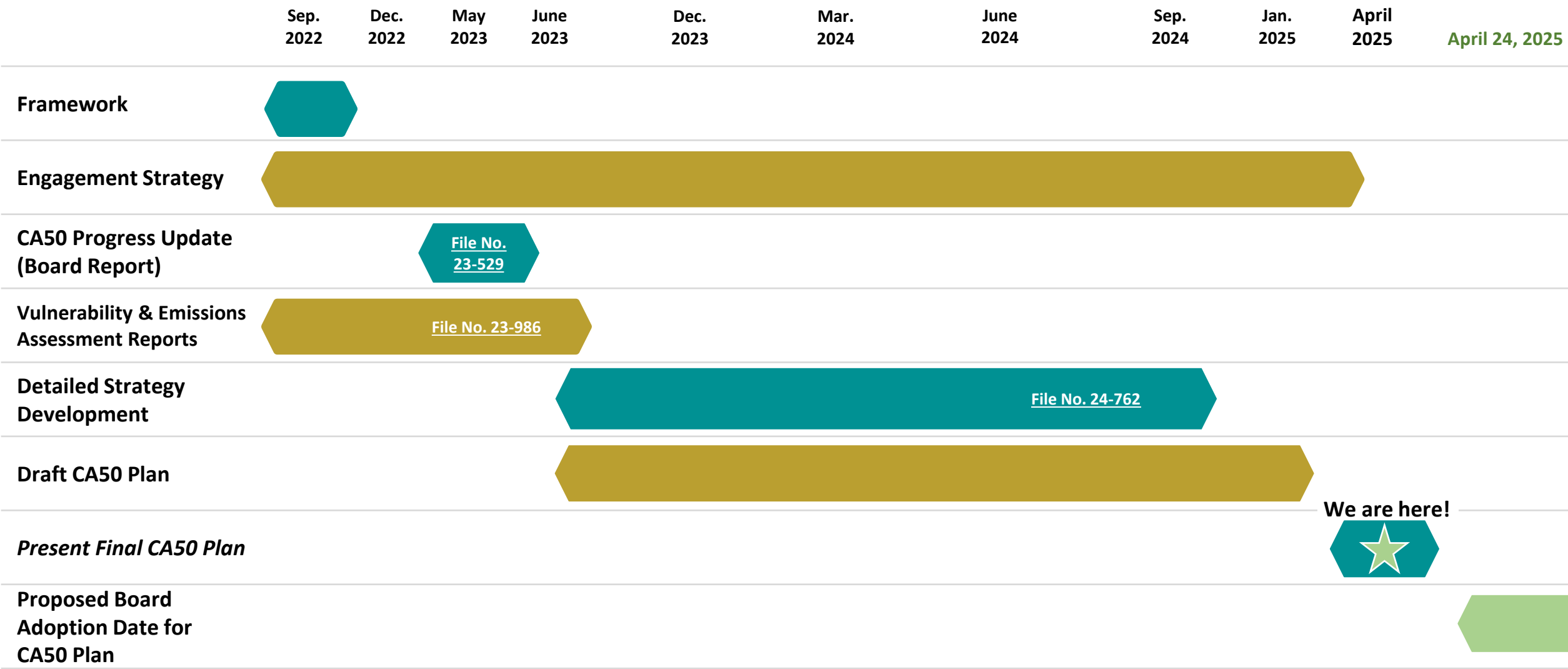
Policy

[File No. 21-389](#)

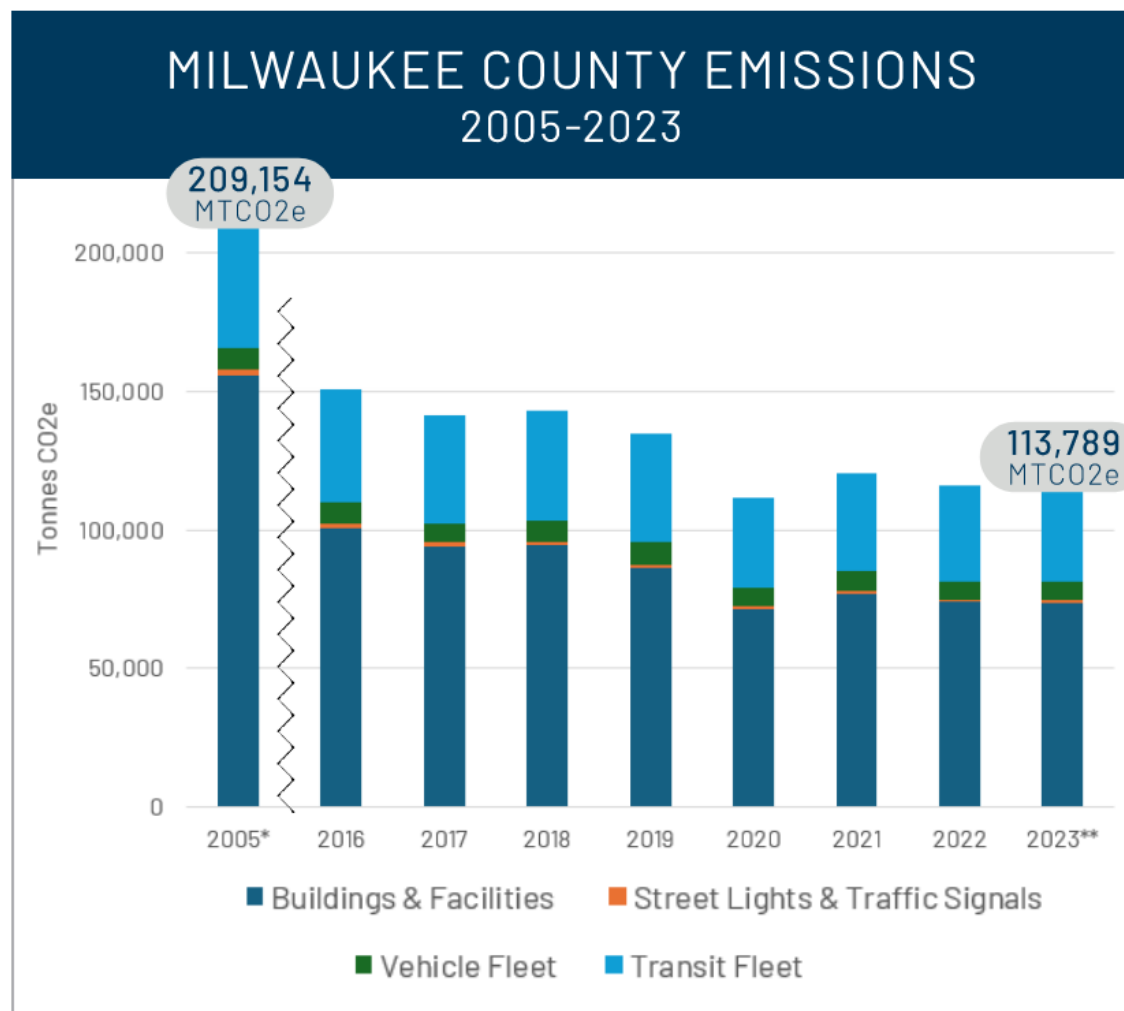
Commits Milwaukee County to achieving carbon neutral operations by 2050 and requests the Sustainability Director to develop and administer a strategic plan to achieve carbon neutrality in Milwaukee County facilities and operations by 2050.



CA50 Planning Timeline



Carbon Neutrality Commitment



Includes:

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

Excludes:

- Scope 3 emissions
- Non-County operations



Why?

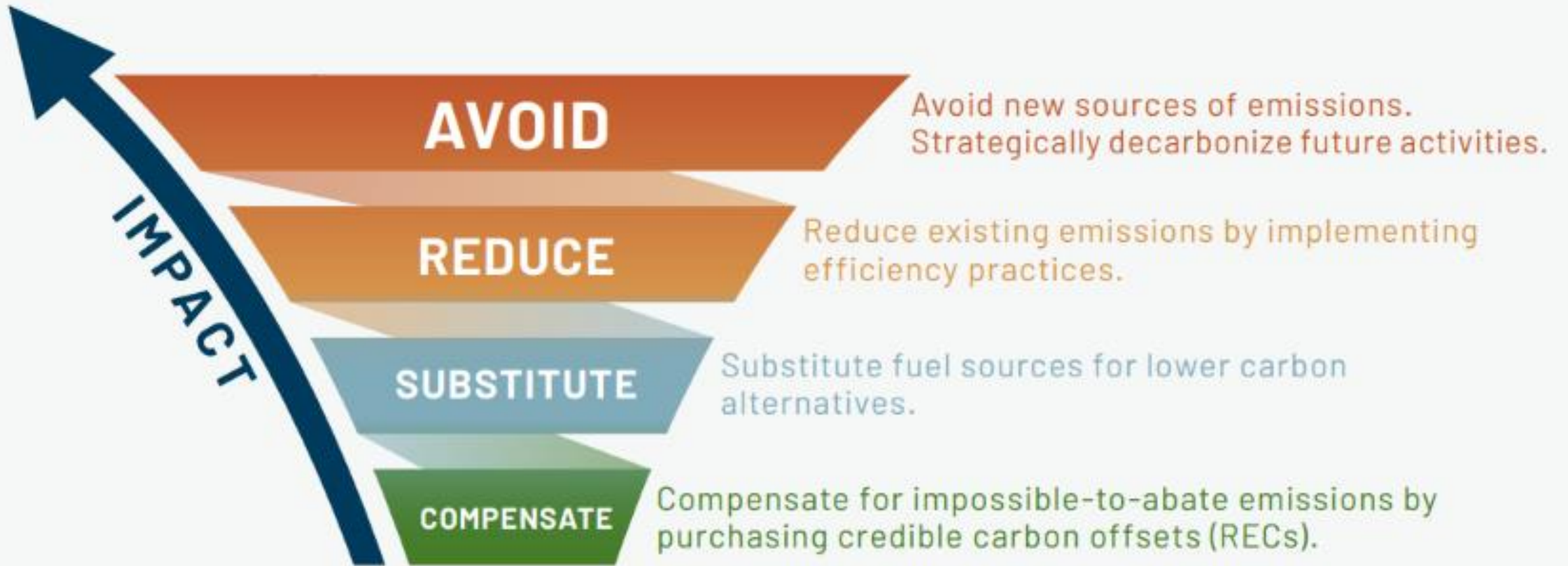
- **Community Well-Being**
- **Local Job Creation**
- **Efficiency, financial responsibility**
- Energy Independence
- Community Education and Leadership
- Avoided Employee Turnover
- Avoided Penalties
- Future Emergency Backup Power
- Tourism: “Green Destination”



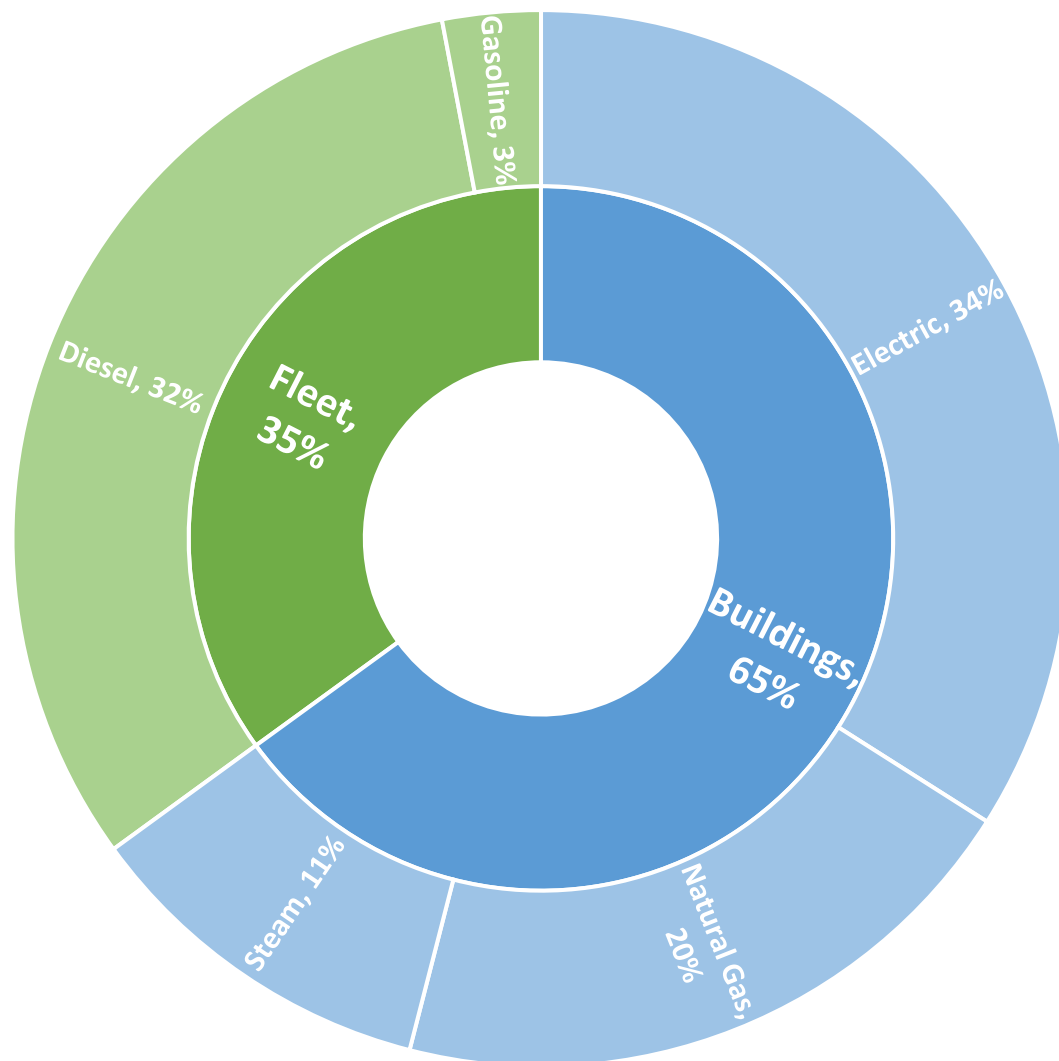
Source: Milwaukee County



How?



Current Emissions Sources



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

Cost Considerations

- Estimates are high-level, rough-order of magnitude
- Investments are spread over next 2.5 decades
- Costs may decrease with technology advancement
- Timing of projects overlap with planned capital projects, deferred maintenance, etc



Emissions Reduction Strategies

STRATEGY	EMISSIONS REDUCTION POTENTIAL		COST SAVINGS ³ (\$/YR)	COST ¹	PAYBACK (YRS)
	MTCO ₂ 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 ²	44,200	39%	\$0	\$0	—
Carbon Offsets	4,300	4%	-\$86,000	\$0	—
TOTAL	113,200	100%	\$12,883,710	\$441,430,000	34.3



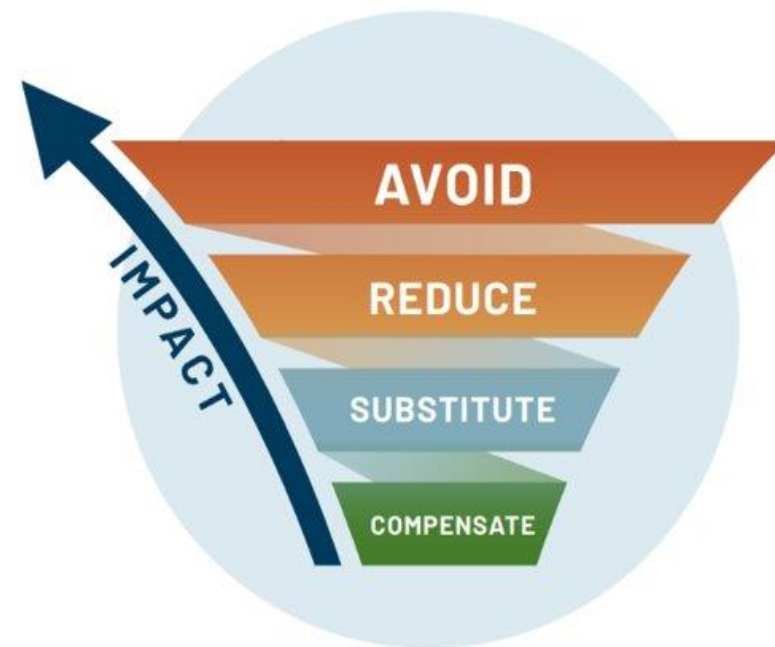
Key Strategies: Fleet

- Right size fleet and vehicle selection
- Continue light-duty EV pilots as proof-of-concept
- Develop multi-year plan for EV transition (2026)
 - Convert light-duty fleet to EVs
 - Improve charging infrastructure
- Potential considerations for Transit Buses
 - Develop transit bus plan (2028)
 - Revisit EV pilot (2032)



Key Strategies: Buildings

- **Avoid** new sources of emissions
 - Sustainable Design Standards
- **Reduce** existing emissions
 - Energy Efficiency projects
- **Substitute** higher emission fuel sources for lower emission sources
 - Building Electrification
- **Compensate** to abate emissions
 - Off-Site Solar



Next Steps

1. Engage Sustainability Task Force
 - Develop progress tracking methods
2. Check-in regularly on milestones
 - Minimum annual connection points
3. Maintain engagement and feedback
4. Reflect changes in County operations and new technologies
 - Long-term nature of plan
5. Build out annual implementation by department
6. Monitor changes in funding opportunities



Questions?

Grant Helle, Director
Office of Sustainability, DAS-FMD
grant.helle@milwaukeecountywi.gov

