



# Climate Change Steering Committee's *Draft* Climate Change Report

**September 9, 2008**

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## COG Board Action on April 11, 2007: MWCOCG's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



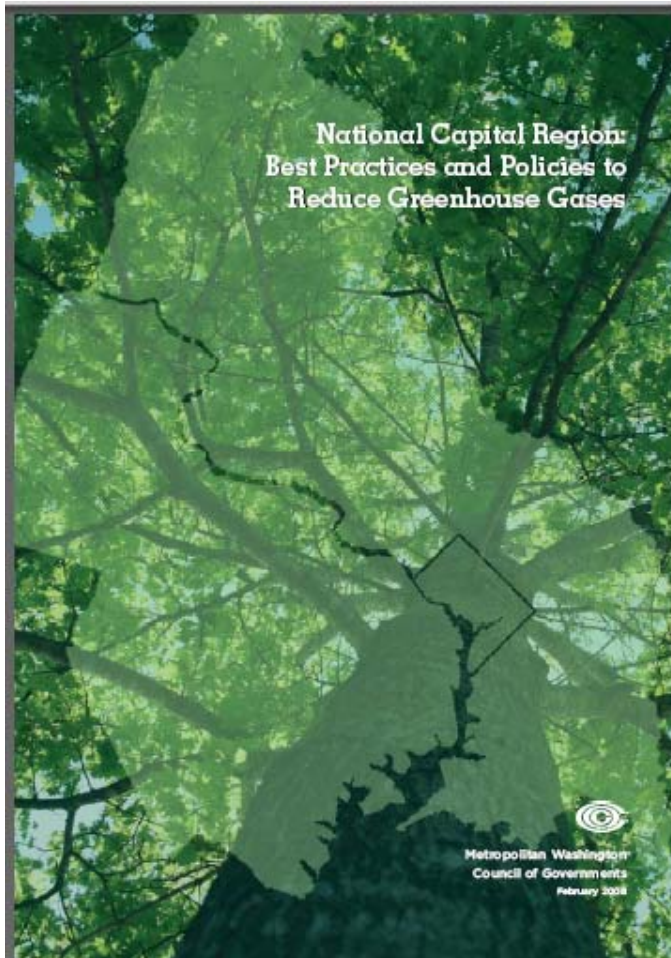
- **R31-07 creates COG Climate Change Initiative and establishes Steering Committee to:**
  - ❖ Prepare regional inventory of greenhouse gases
  - ❖ Identify best practices and policies
  - ❖ Examine climate change impacts
  - ❖ Recommend Regional greenhouse gas reduction goal(s)
  - ❖ Recommend governance structure for climate change initiative
  - ❖ Propose advocacy positions
  - ❖ Prepare report to COG Board



# Climate Change Steering Committee

- 18 members
  - Primarily elected officials from the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia local governments
  - State environmental representatives from Maryland, Virginia and DC
  - Regional transit agency (METRO), Greater Washington Board of Trade

# 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.



# Energy and Climate Change 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

## Regional Climate Program

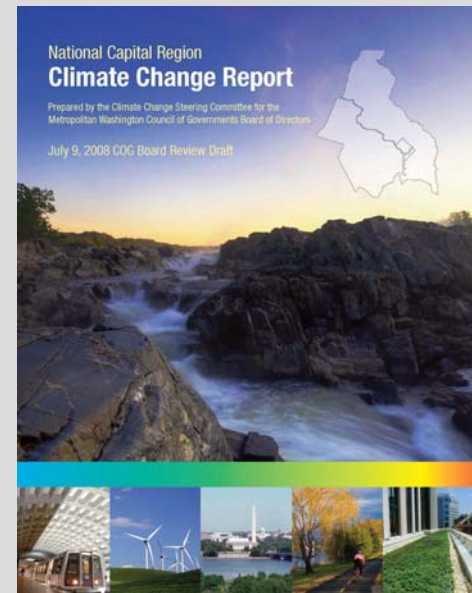
- Endorsed Cool Capital Challenge
- Sent letter of concern re proposed coal-fired power plant in Wise County, Virginia

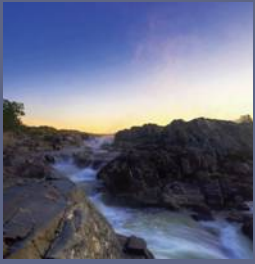




# Climate Change Report – July 9, 2008

- I. **Facing Facts, Taking Stock and Taking Aim**  
*Climate Change, Potential Impacts on Region;  
Current & Projected Regional Greenhouse Gas  
Emission Inventory;  
Regional Targets*
- II. **Taking Action**  
*Energy Consumption;  
Transportation and Land Use;  
Economic Development; Preparing for Impacts,  
Financing; Outreach and Education.*
- III. **Moving Forward**  
*COG Climate Change Program*
- IV. **Reference Information**

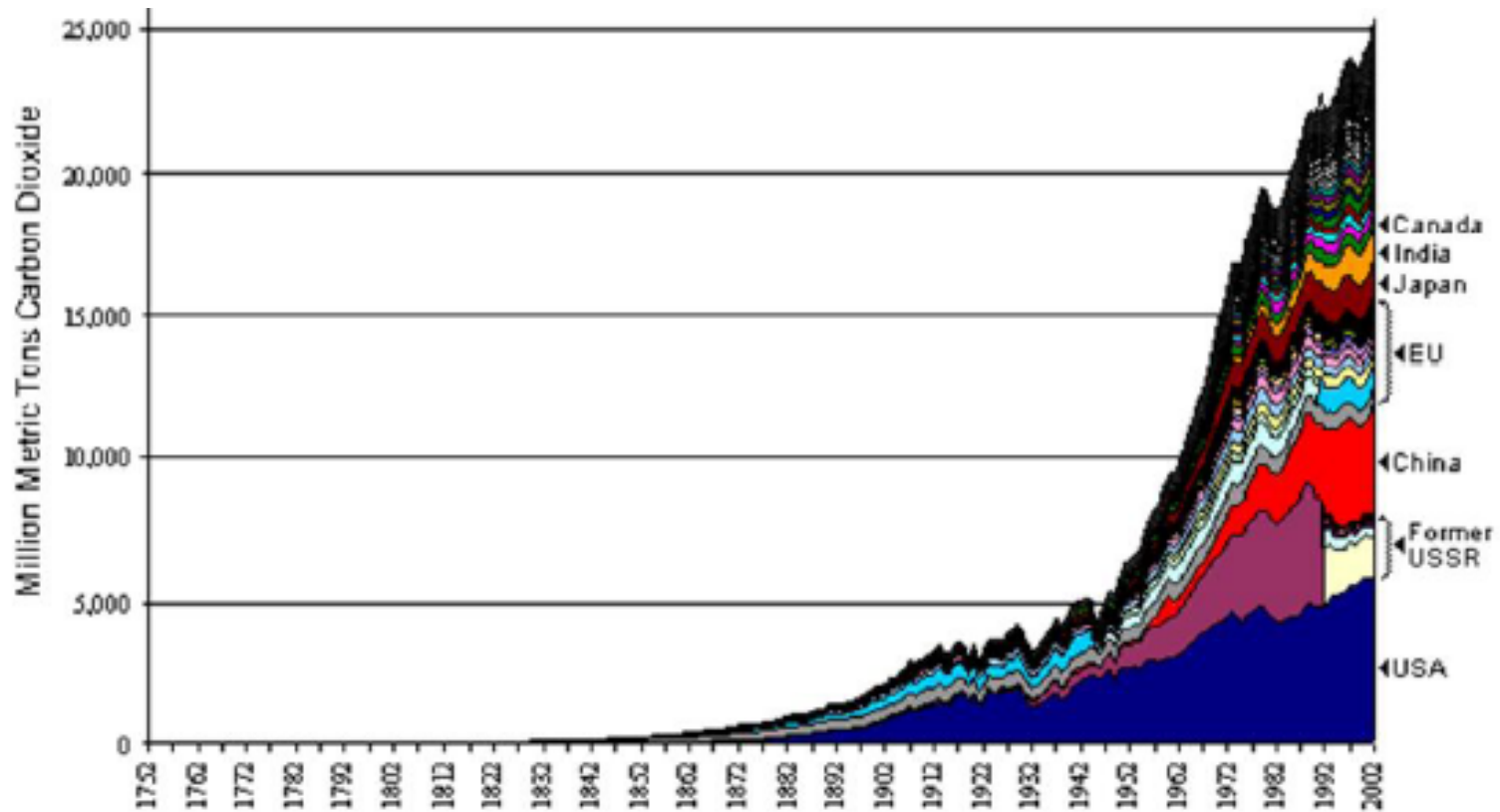




# Facing Facts, Taking Stock and Taking Aim



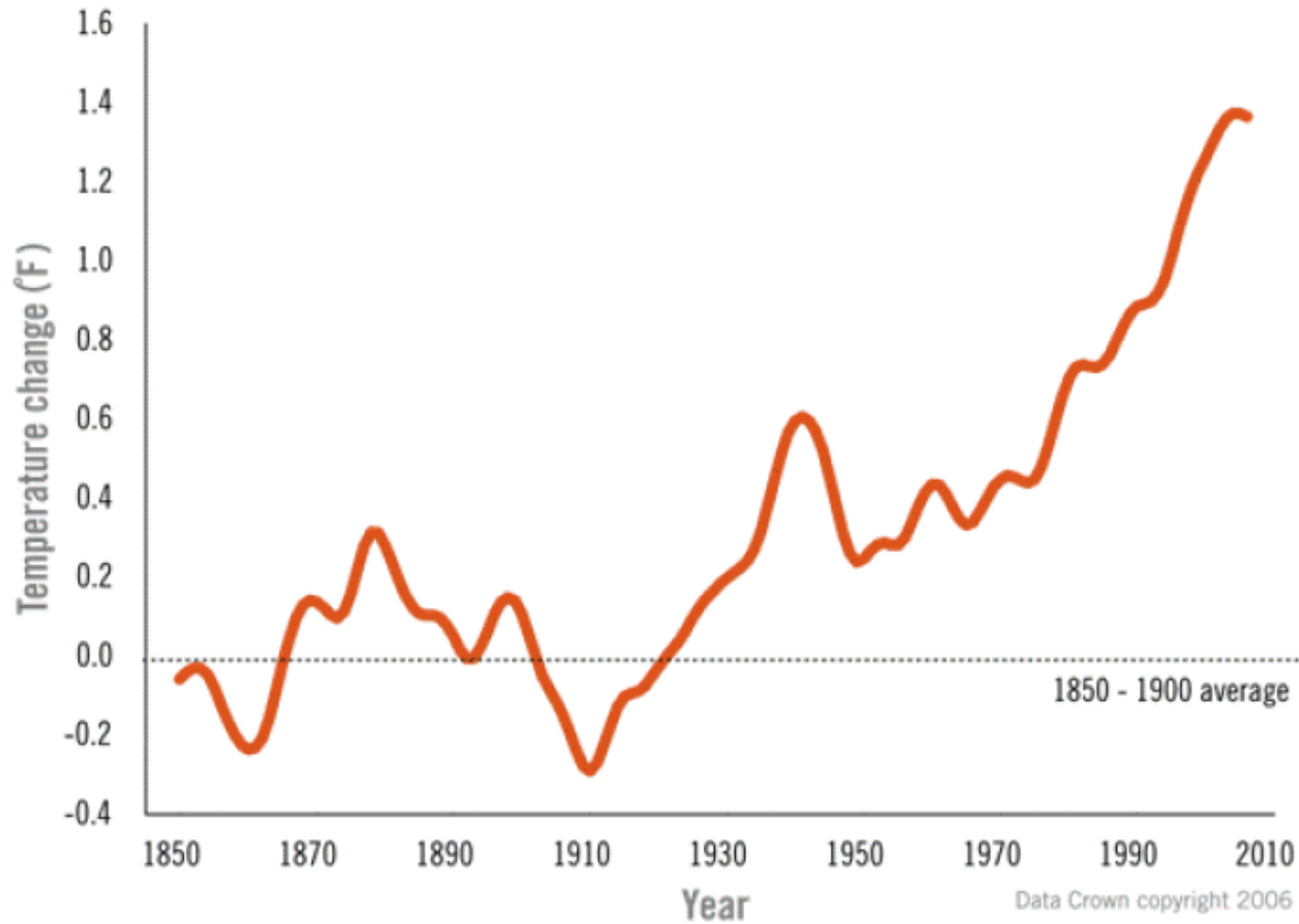
# Global CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions Since 1752



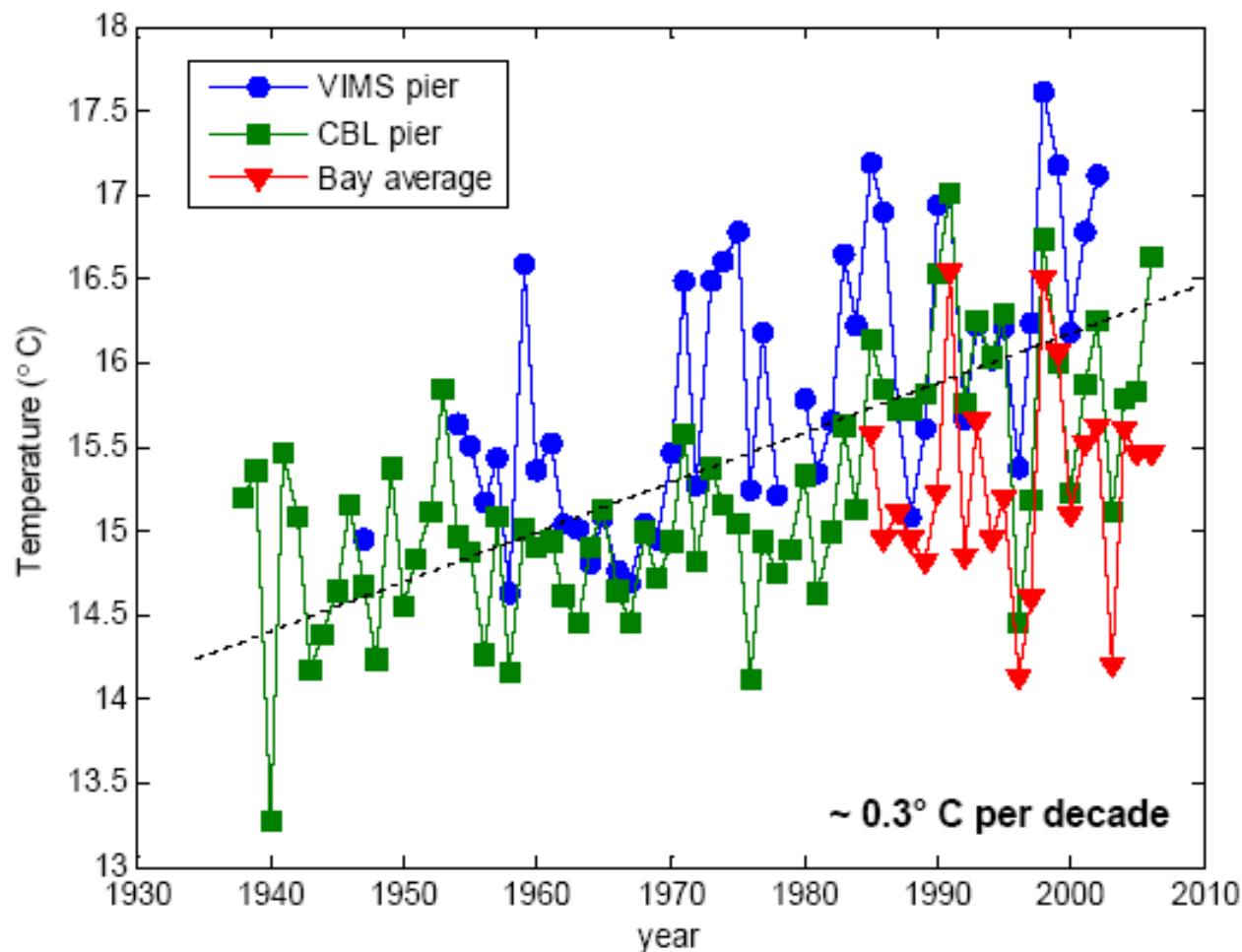
Source: Carbon Dioxide Information Analysis Center, U.S. Dept. of Energy



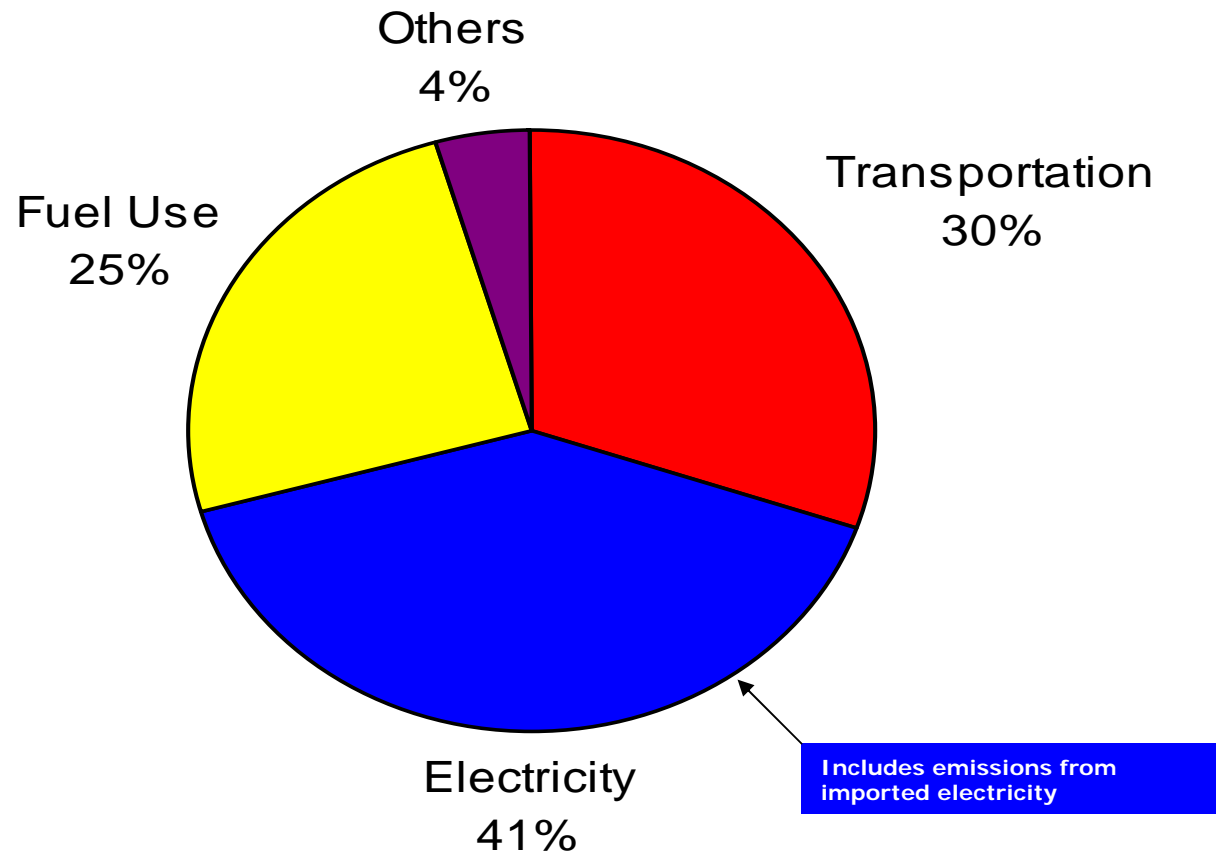
# Increasing Global Surface Temperature



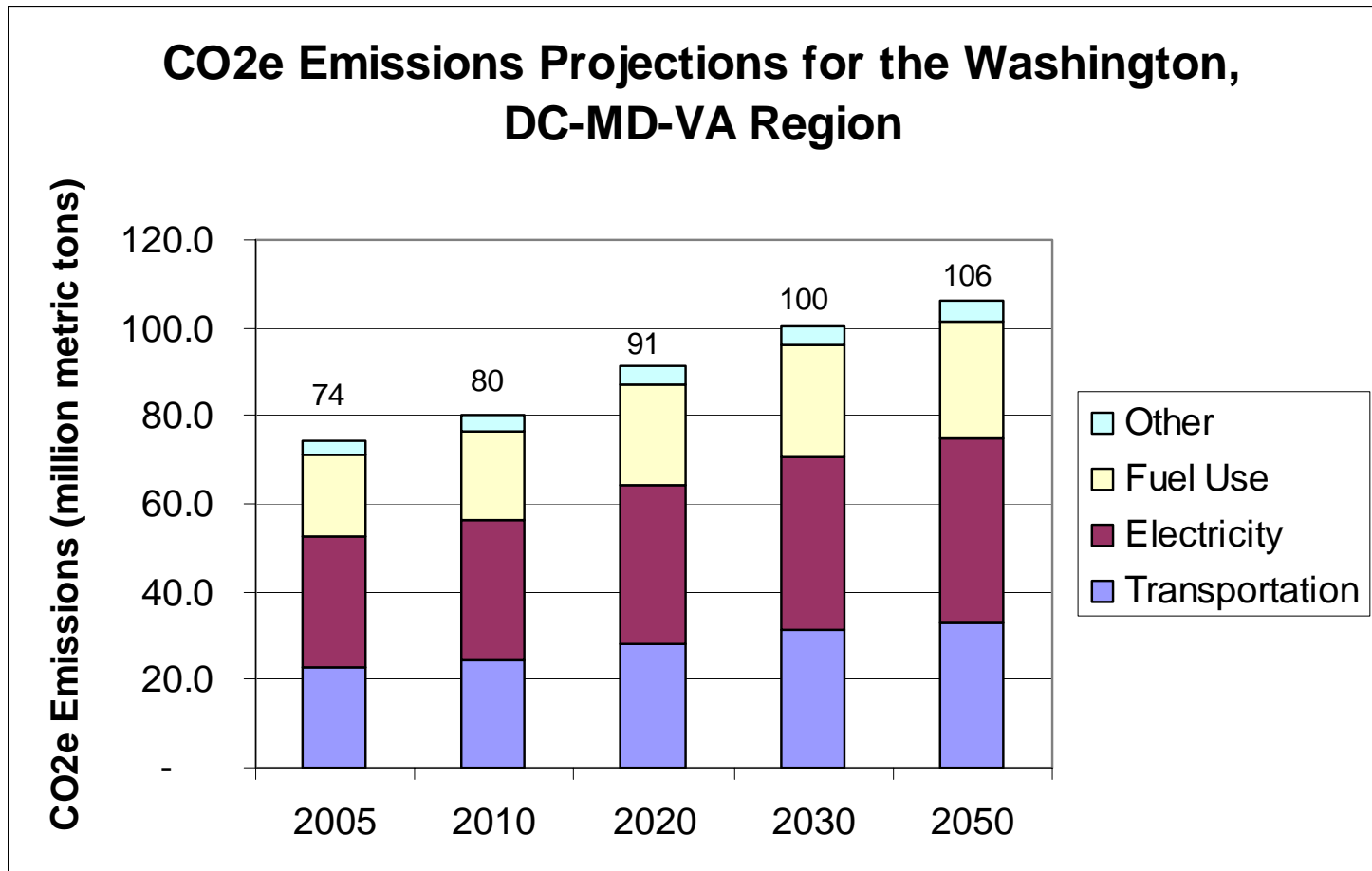
# Measured Temperature Changes in Chesapeake Bay Surface Waters



# Major Sources of Washington Region's Greenhouse Gas Emissions



# Projections of Regional Greenhouse Gas Emissions: 2005-2050



Source: Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments



# Recommendations for Taking Action:

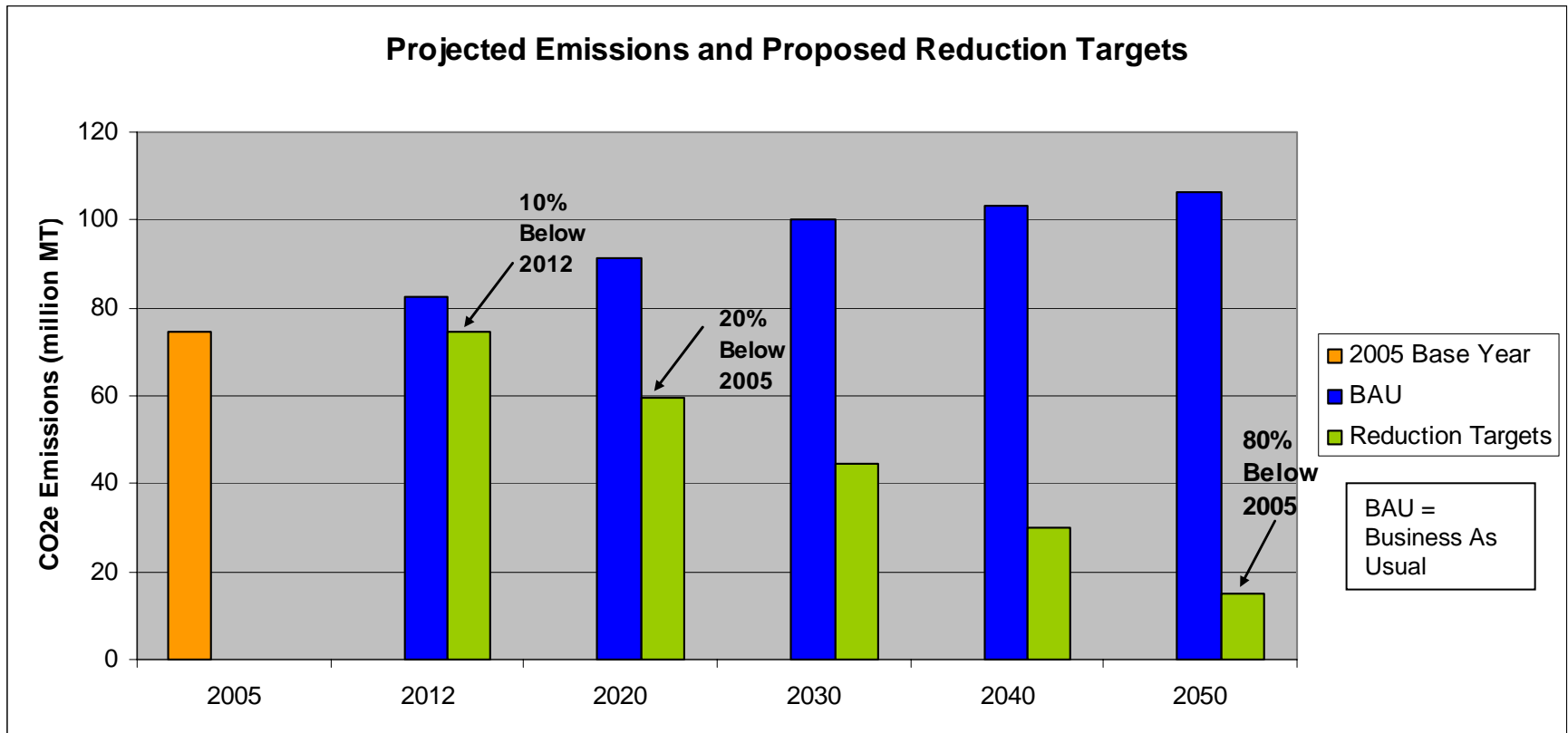
- ❖ Regional Reduction Goals
- ❖ Energy
- ❖ Transportation and Land Use
- ❖ Economic Development
- ❖ Adaptation
- ❖ Financing
- ❖ Outreach & Education
- ❖ COG Climate Change Program

# Proposed Regional Reduction Goals

**2012: 10% Below Business as Usual**

**2020: 20% Below 2005**

**2050: 80% Below 2005**







# Energy Recommendations

## Improve Energy Efficiency

- **Regional Example:** Identify best practices for improving energy efficiency of existing buildings.
- **Local Government Leading By Example:** Regional Green Building Policy – LEED Silver for all new local government buildings

## Reduce Energy Demand

- **Regional Example:** Explore regional energy audit and retrofit program
- **Local Government Leading By Example:**
  - Reduce Energy Use by 15% by 2012
  - Regional Street Light Replacement Program

## Develop Clean Energy Alternatives

- **Regional Example:** Support 20% Renewable Portfolio Standard
- **Local Government Leading by Example:** Adopt 20% Renewable Energy Purchase by 2015



# Transportation Recommendations

## Increase Fuel Efficiency

- **Regional Example:** Support California Low Emission Vehicle Standards
- **Local Government Leading by Example:** Promote transit supportive street designs

## Reduce Vehicle Miles Traveled

- **Regional Example:** Shift short trips (less than 3 miles) from car to other modes
- **Local Government Leading by Example:** Fully fund bicycle/pedestrian paths as outlined in regional plan

## Use Alternative Fuels

- **Regional Example:** Promote adoption of regional Green Fleet goal
- **Local Government Leading by Example:** Accelerate adoption of efficient clean fuel vehicles



# Land Use Recommendations

## Smart Growth

- **Regional Example:** Promote walkable communities and affordable housing near transit
- **Local Government Leading by Example:** Research regional goals for directing development to activity centers

## Tree Canopy Preservation

- **Regional Example:** Establish regional goal of no net loss of tree canopy
- **Local Government Leading by Example:** Consider density and height requirements for buildings to foster tree canopy goal

## Comprehensive Planning

- **Regional Example:** Evaluate LEED-ND Standards for guiding new development
- **Local Government Leading by Example:** ID best practices for including GHG reduction as part of local comprehensive planning



# Additional Recommendations

## Financing and Economic Development

- Clean Energy Fund
- Offset Fund for Tree Planting and Canopy Management
- Funding for Building Retrofits
- Cooperative Purchasing
- Energy Performance Contracting

## Outreach and Education

- Regional Outreach Partnerships: Clean Air Partners and Commuter Connections
- Climate Action Week
- Climate Leaders Awards

## Adaptation

- Partner with university to develop 2050 regional climate impacts report/adaptation strategy

## COG Climate Program

- Establish COG Board *Climate and Energy Policy Committee*
- Prepare plan to achieve 2012 goal by June, 2009.



# Schedule for Review and Final COG Board Action

- **Now through September 30:**
  - Comment Period for COG members, stakeholders and general public
- **November 2008:** COG Board acts on final report



# For further information...

- To obtain an electronic copy of the report:
  - [https://www.mwcog.org/environment/climate/Documents/Climate\\_Change\\_Report\\_Public\\_Review\\_Draft%207\\_9\\_08.pdf](https://www.mwcog.org/environment/climate/Documents/Climate_Change_Report_Public_Review_Draft%207_9_08.pdf)
- To comment on the report:
  - <http://www.mwcog.org/environment/climate/public/>
- Questions?
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