

COG's Climate Change Initiative: GHG Emissions Inventory & More



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COG Board Action April 11, 2007

- On April 11, 2007, COG's 50th Anniversary, the COG Board of Directors adopted R31-07:
 - Creates COG Climate Change Initiative
 - Calls for:
 - Conducting regional inventory of greenhouse gases
 - Establishing regional reduction goal and method for measuring progress
 - Identifying best practices and policies to reduce GhGs
 - Examining impacts from climate change
 - Developing advocacy positions
 - Establishes Interdisciplinary COG Climate Change Steering Committee



Accomplishments to date

- Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory and forecast
- Best Practices guide
- Regional reduction goals
- Climate Impacts/Adaptation
- Advocacy
- Preliminary Recommendations



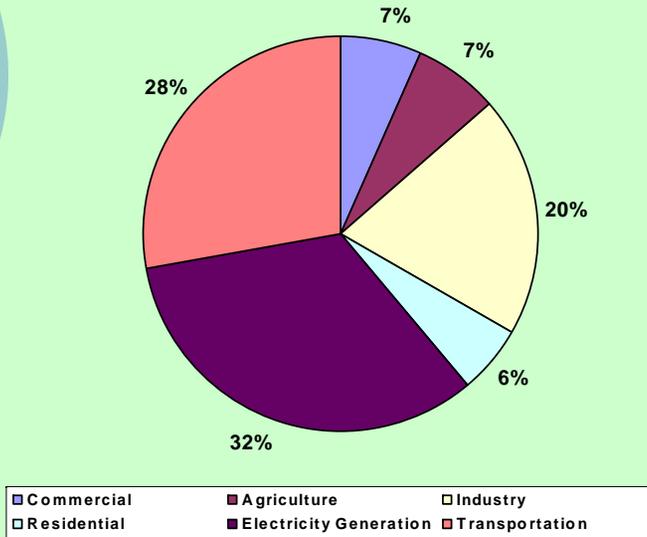


Greenhouse Gas Emissions in the Metropolitan Washington Region



National (2004)

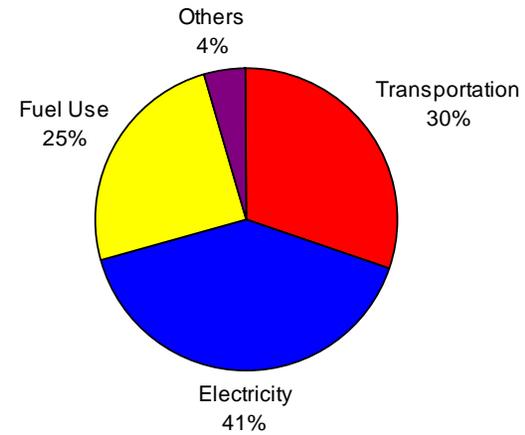
US Greenhouse Gas Emissions by Sector (Million Metric Tons CO2 Equiv)



Source: EPA 2004 National GHG Inventory

Regional (2005)

CO2e Emissions by Sector for the Washington, DC-MD-VA Region (2005)



Source: MWCOG estimates.

Prepared by COG DEP, 3/25/08.



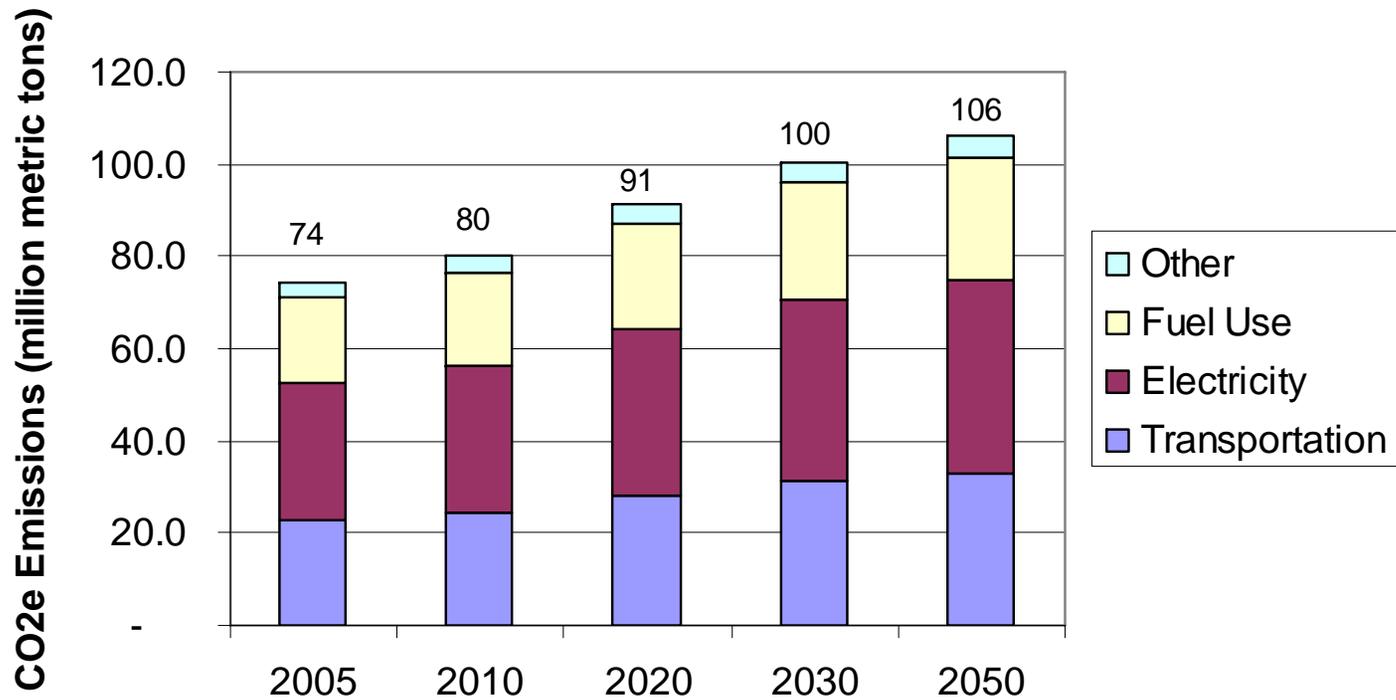
Emission Projections

- Growth Rates 2005-2030
 - Population 33%
 - Households 35%
 - Employment 39%
 - VMT 38%
 - Electricity 31%



DRAFT

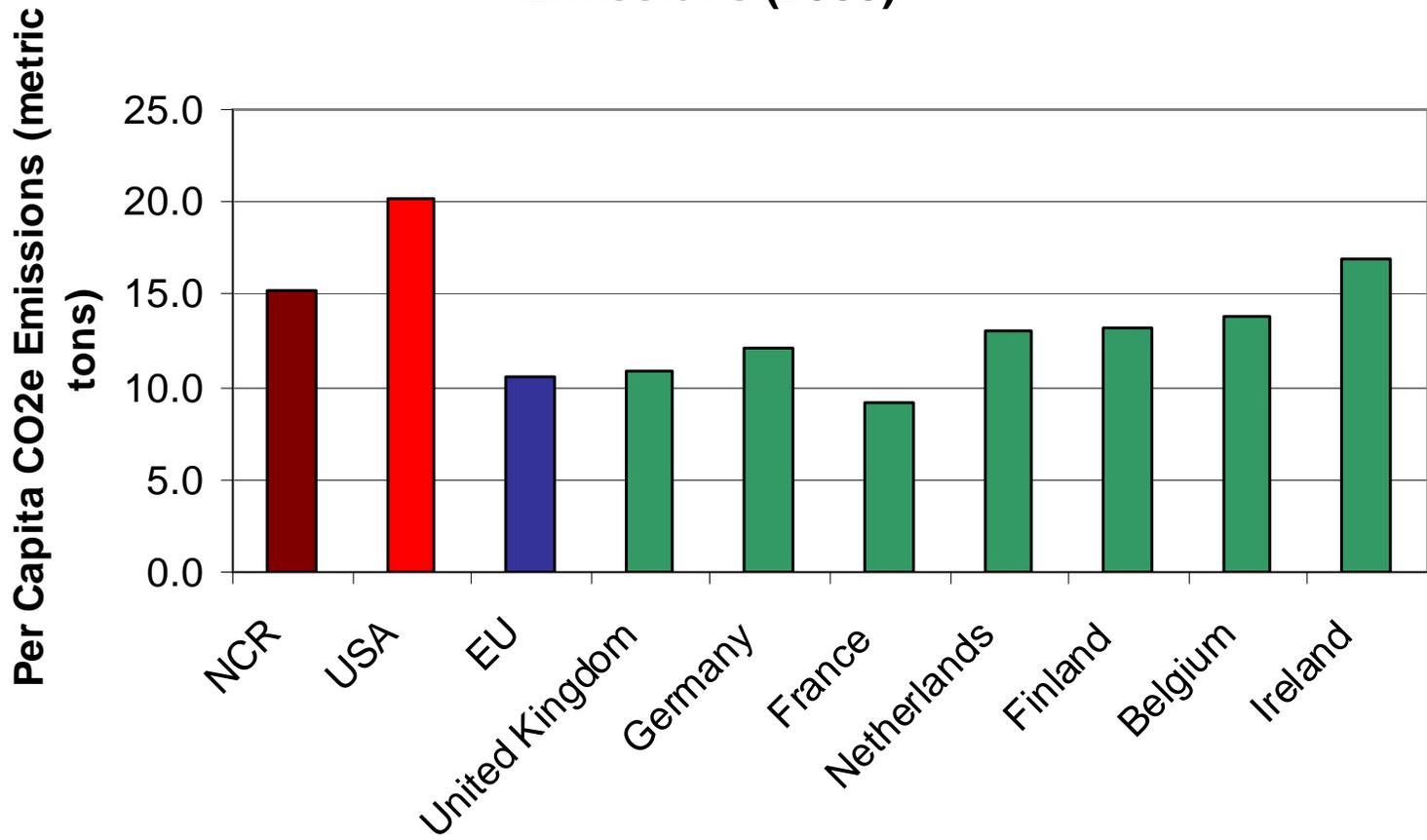
CO2e Emissions Projections for the Washington, DC-MD-VA Region



Prepared by COG DEP, March 25, 2008.



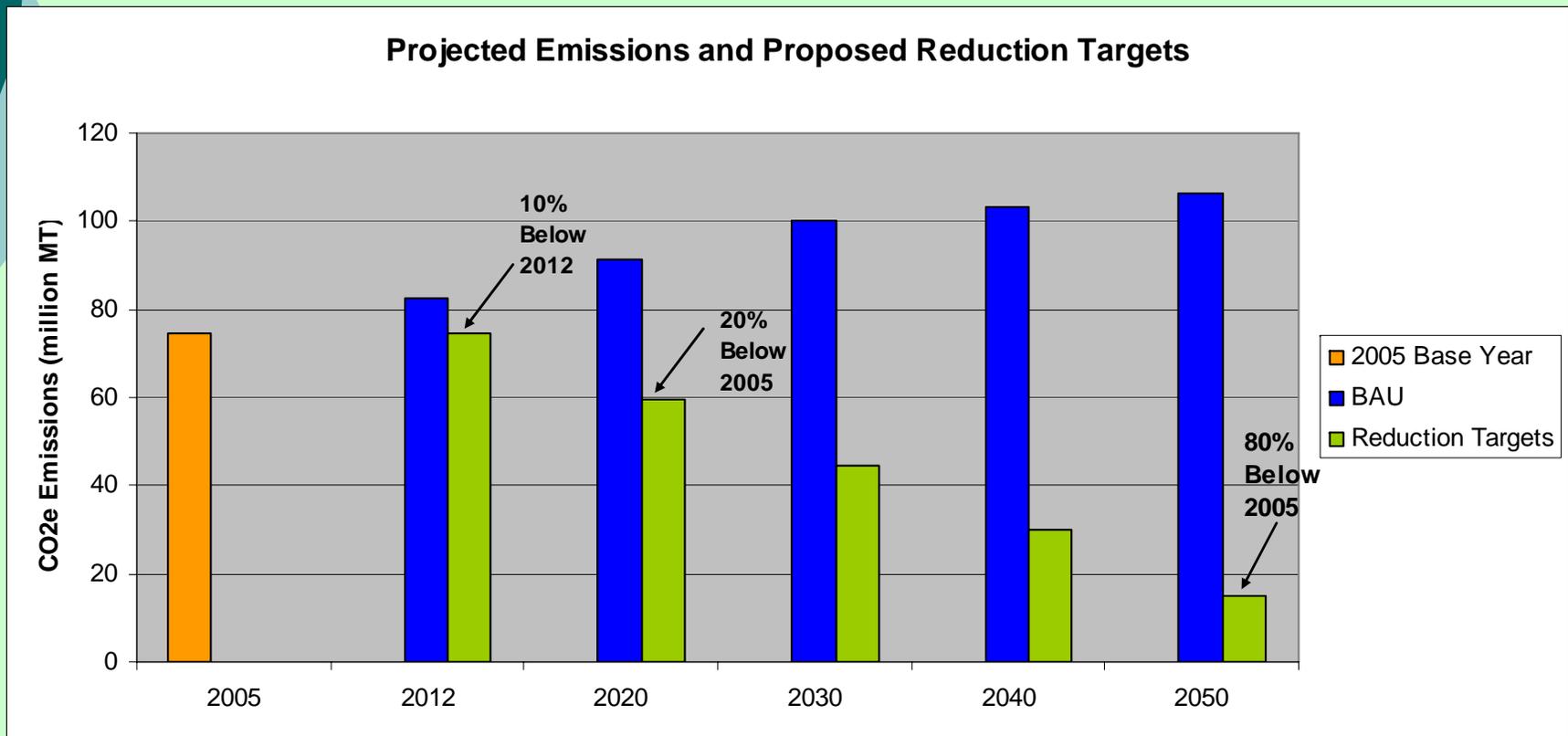
Comparison of Per Capita Greenhouse Gas Emissions (2005)



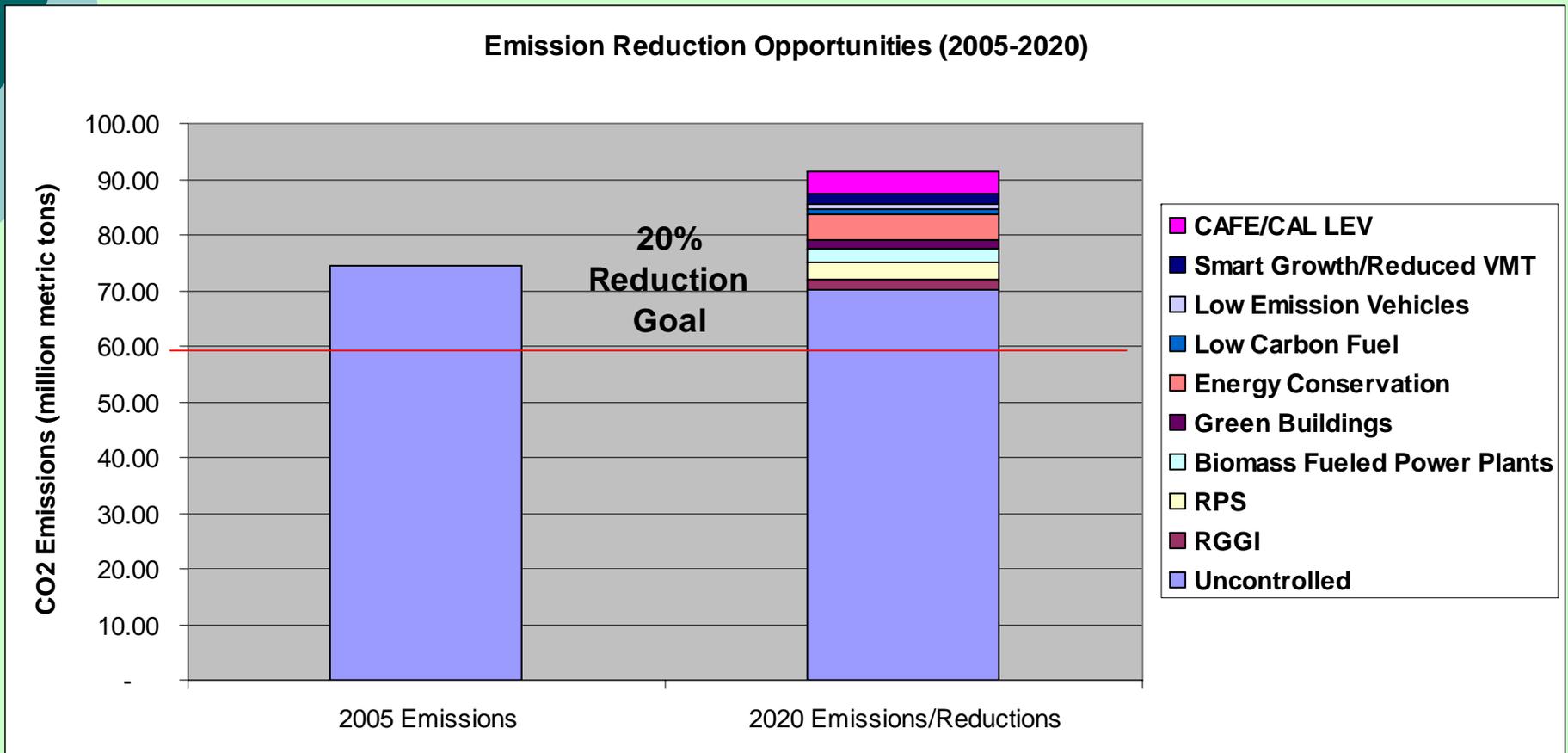
US EPA 2008, European Environment Agency 2008, US Department of Energy 2008, MWCOG 2008, Cooperative Forecasts Round 7.0a.



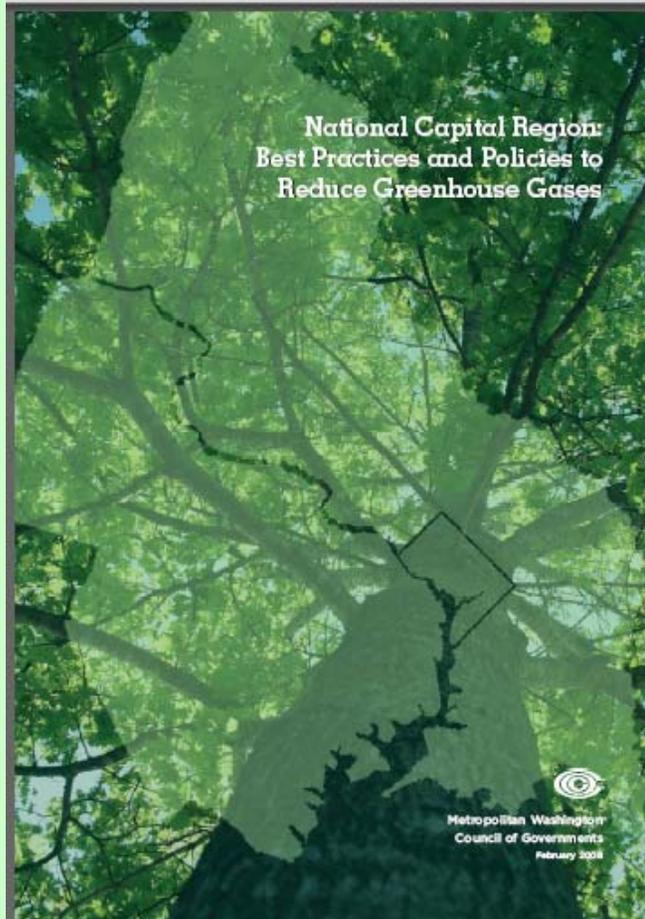
Proposed Regional Reduction Goals



Meeting the 2020 Goal – Initial Assessment



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.



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



Recommendation Areas

- I. Regional Goals
- II. COG Climate Change Program
- III. Economic Development
- IV. Outreach and Education
- V. Local Governments Leading by example
- VI. Energy
- VII. Transportation
- VIII. Land Use
- IX. Financing
- X. Climate Impacts and Adaptation



Sample Recommendations – Local Governments Leading By Example

- Implement COG Green Building Policy.
- Identify Best Practices to Reduce local government Energy Use by 15% by 2012.
- Evaluate feasibility and cost of setting regional green power utilization goals for local governments.
- Evaluate regional cooperative purchase and/or reverse auctions to facilitate green power implementation.
- Examine options for a regional street lighting standard that would utilize energy efficient street lighting across the region.
- Promote regional energy performance contracting to reduce energy use in public buildings.
- Establish Regional Green Fleet Policy with measurable goals and timetables.



Next Steps

- **End of May** – Climate Change Steering Committee complete draft report
- **June 11** – Presentation to COG Board
- **June – August** – Comment Period
- **October 8** – COG Board adopts report

