



# PATHWAYS TO IMPLEMENTATION

## CAP STAKEHOLDER CONVENING

### DECEMBER 11, 2025



**PRESENTED BY:**

**CT DEEP - Office of Climate  
Planning, Office of Equity and  
Environmental Justice  
and Emerald Cities Collaborative**









# AGENDA OVERVIEW

- ❑ Welcome and Opening Remarks
- ❑ Climate Action Plan Update and Icebreaker
- ❑ Voices from the Field Panel
- ❑ Breakout Activity: From Roots to Results
- ❑ Reflections
- ❑ Closing: DEEP Commitments and Next Steps

# ZOOM PARTICIPATION GUIDELINES

- Rename your Zoom profile to include Name and Affiliation
- Please mute your mic unless speaking. 
- Turn your video on when interacting in the breakout rooms. 
- If you would like to speak, use the raise hand function under the "React" option. 
- To ask questions or share comments, please utilize the chat feature. 
- You can rejoin the meeting at any time, if the meeting is still in progress.
- If you are having difficulty hearing, please let us know in the chat and we will do our best to address the issue.



# TODAY'S COMPASS

## Purpose:

This session will focus on three key sectors — transportation, buildings, and natural and working lands (NWL) — and will serve as a platform for knowledge-sharing and feedback on long-term actions the state could pursue to achieve Connecticut's climate goals.

## Desired Outcomes:

- ✓ Learn about proposed implementation strategies outlined in CAP
- ✓ Learn about current examples of initiatives and projects that align with CAP priorities
- ✓ Collaborate to identify potential state agency actions for key sectors





# Welcome and Opening Remarks

# ABOUT US



The **Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP)** is charged with conserving, improving and protecting the natural resources and the environment of the state of Connecticut as well as making cheaper, cleaner and more reliable energy available for the people and businesses of the state. The agency is also committed to playing a positive role in rebuilding Connecticut's economy and creating jobs – and to fostering a sustainable and prosperous economic future for the state.



**Emerald Cities Collaborative (ECC)** is a national nonprofit organization founded in 2009 that advances racial, economic, and climate justice to build communities that are more equitable, economically just, and sustainable. Headquartered in Washington, DC, ECC implements replicable place-based strategies in community and worker powerbuilding, economic inclusion, and equitable implementation, in five regions (Northwest, Northern California, Southern California, Northeast, and DMV (D.C./Maryland/Virginia) and select cities throughout the US.



# OPENING SPEAKERS



**Sarah Huang, Ph.D.**

*Director Office of Equity and  
Environmental Justice  
CT DEEP*

Sarah leads the Office of Equity and Environmental Justice at the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP). Her deep expertise in environmental health and justice, coupled with her policy fluency, positions her as a leading voice in ensuring that state-led climate action is inclusive and just.



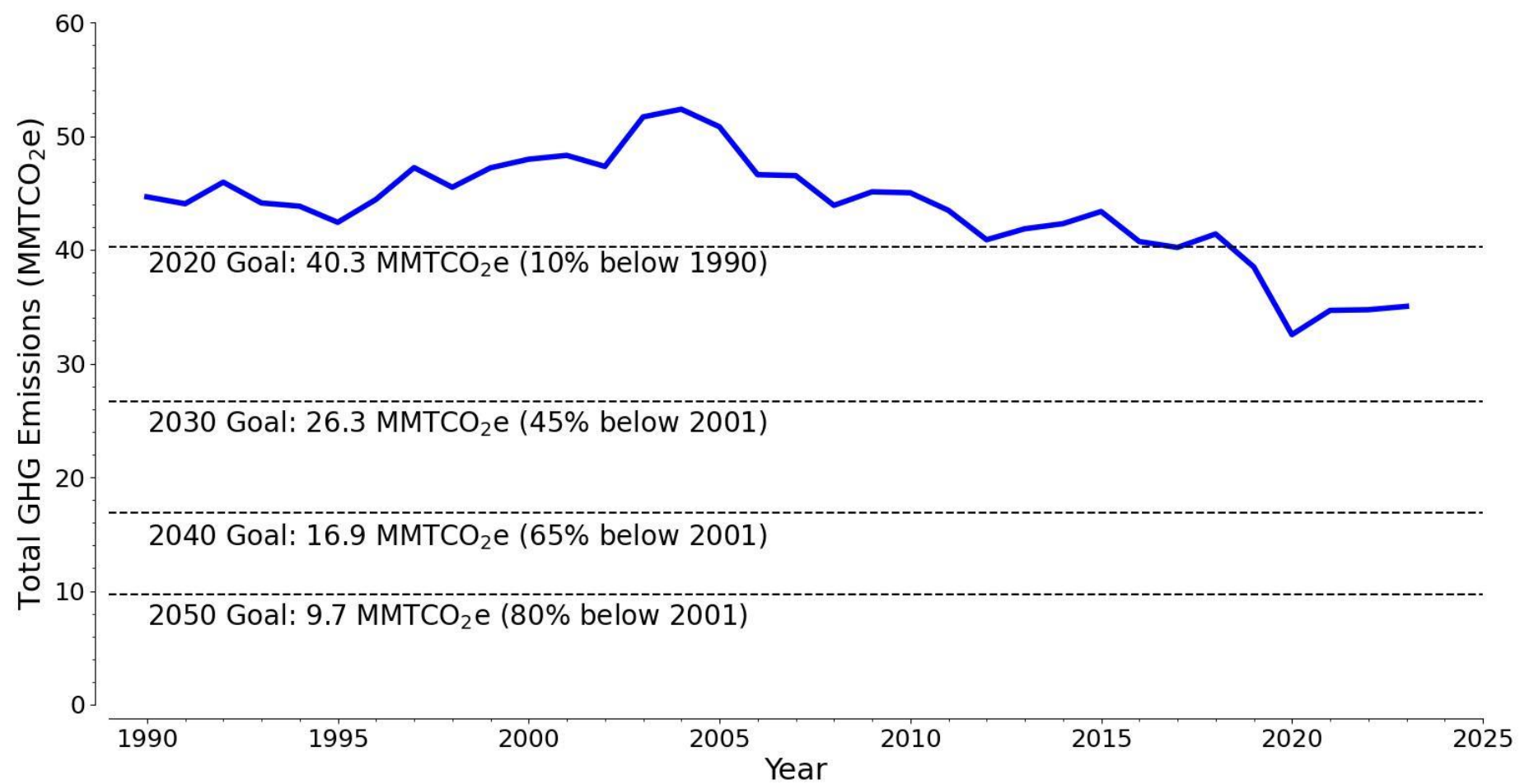
**Rebecca A. French, Ph.D.**

*Director Office of Climate  
Planning  
CT DEEP*

Rebecca is the director of the Office of Climate Planning at the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. Dr. French advises the DEEP Commissioner on mitigation, adaptation and resilience plans across all divisions of the agency, including administering the Governor's Council on Climate Change and implementing its recommendations.

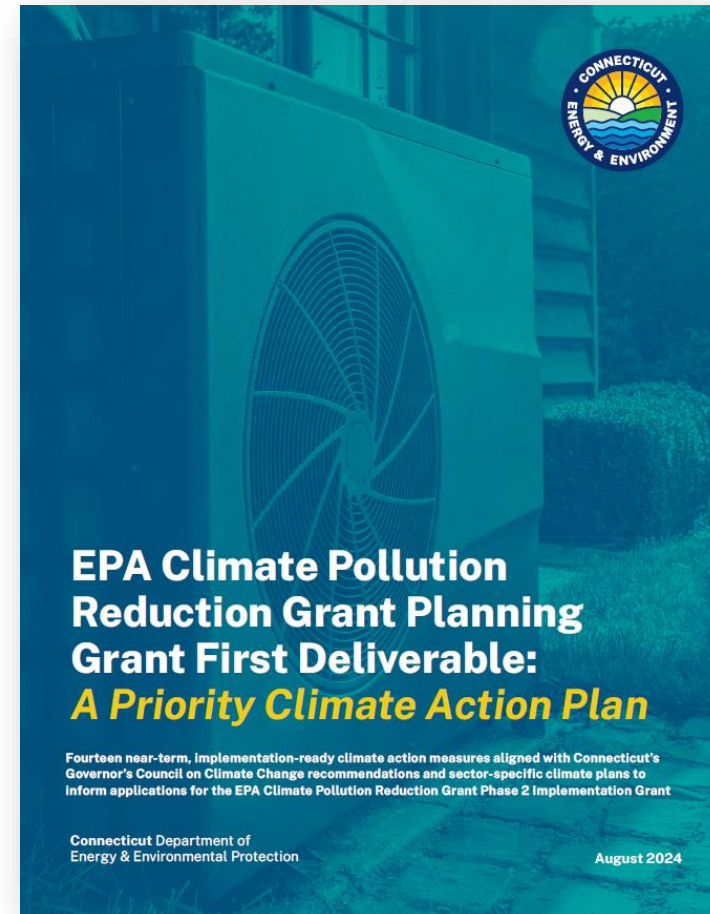
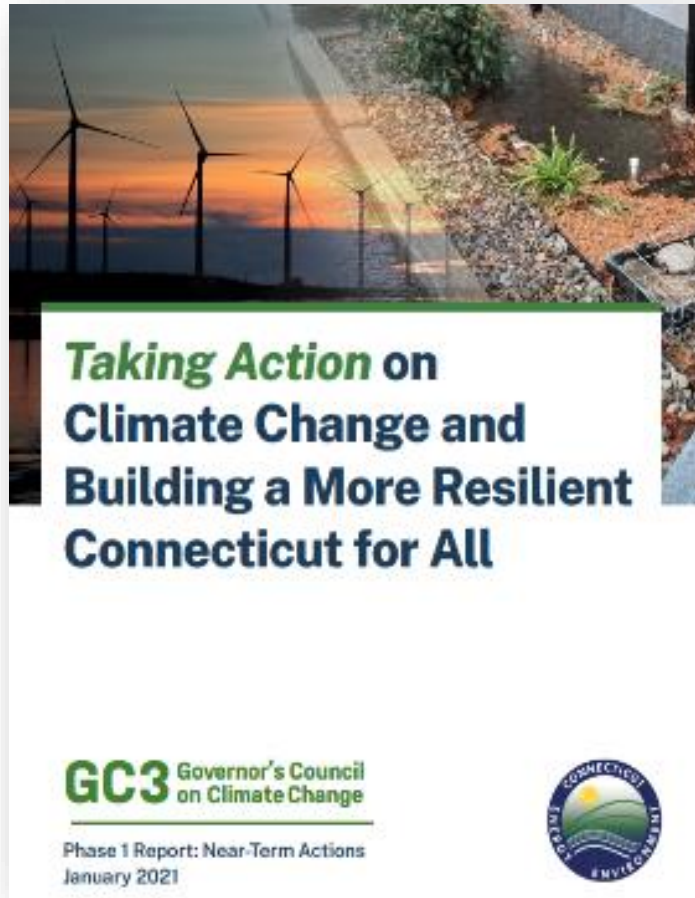
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# CONNECTICUT'S CLIMATE PROGRESS





# STATE CLIMATE ACTION PLANNING





# Overview of CAP Priorities

# TERMS AND ACRONYMS



**BAU** = Business-As-Usual



**PCAP** = Priority Climate Action Plan



**CAP** = Climate Action Plan

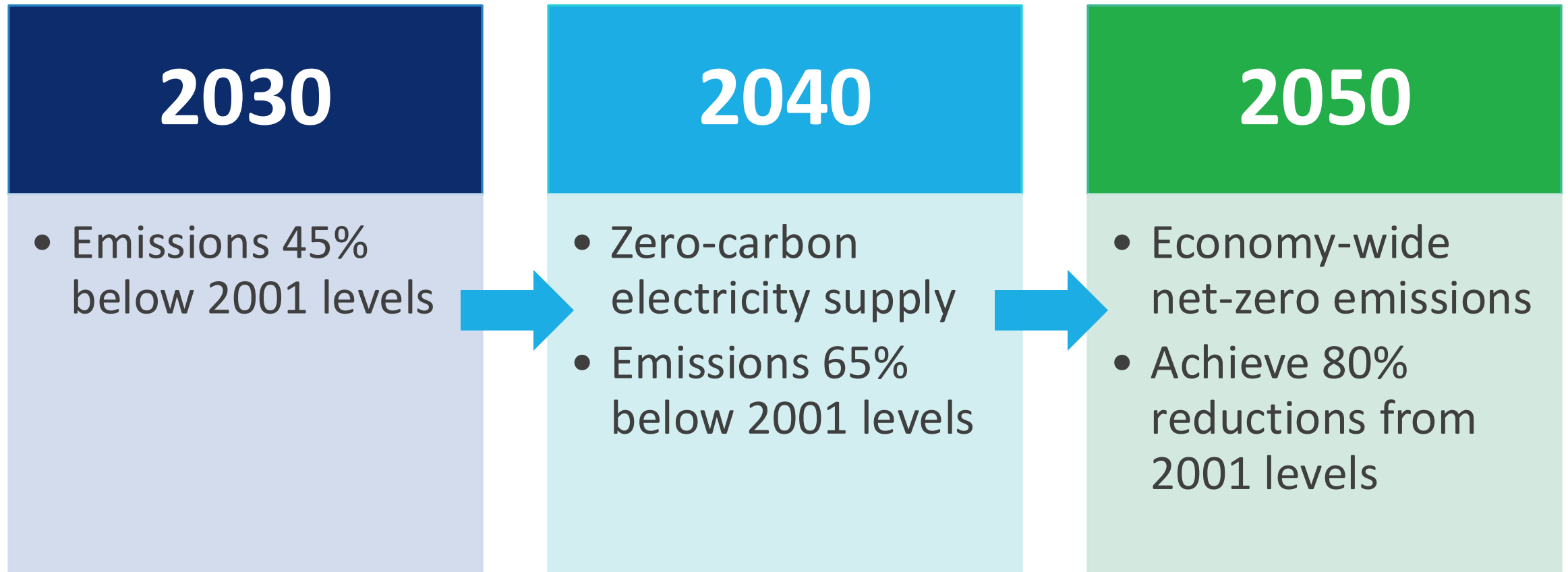


**Measure** = A specific, tangible initiative that will reduce emissions or enhance carbon removal. Measures must be quantifiable with clear responsible parties.



**Action** = Activities that need to occur to implement a measure and realize the associated emission reductions and benefits.

# CONNECTICUT'S CLIMATE GOALS



CT Public Act No. 25-125



# CONNECTICUT'S CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

The CAP will serve as a roadmap to reach the state's statutory greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction targets, focusing on measures that simultaneously provide cost savings and increase community resilience.

CAP components:



# BUSINESS-AS-USUAL (BAU) PROJECTIONS

- The BAU provides a baseline from which to model GHG reduction measures and develop "what would it take" policy scenarios and pathways to be tested
- Builds off the most recent inventory estimates and best available data on future trends based on existing policies and programs
- Helps identify areas of focus based on not only emissions today, but also what we expect them to be in the future
- May align with but also can differ from historical trends

# BUSINESS-AS-USUAL (BAU) METHODOLOGY

- **Methodology:** Project forward activity data and/or emission factors using sector-specific forecasts, tools, models, socio-economic data, and/or historical trends

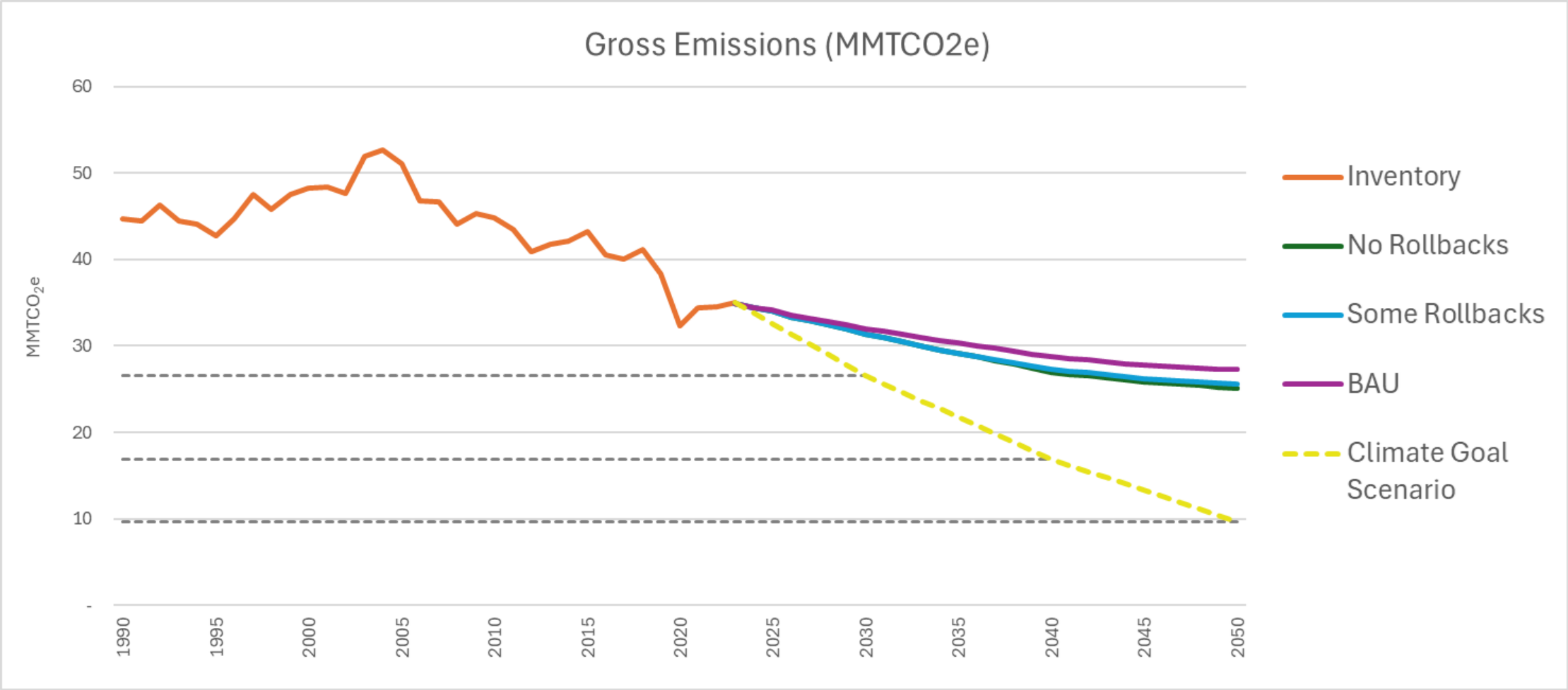
- **Key sources**

- EPA's Motor Vehicle Emission Simulator (MOVES)
- RMI's Energy Policy Simulator
- EIA's 2025 Annual Energy Outlook (AEO)
- DOE's 2022 Industrial Decarbonization Roadmap
- EPA's State Inventory and Projections Tool
- ICF's Energy Codes Tool
- ICF's Integrated Planning Model (IPM)

- **Modeled Three Scenarios**

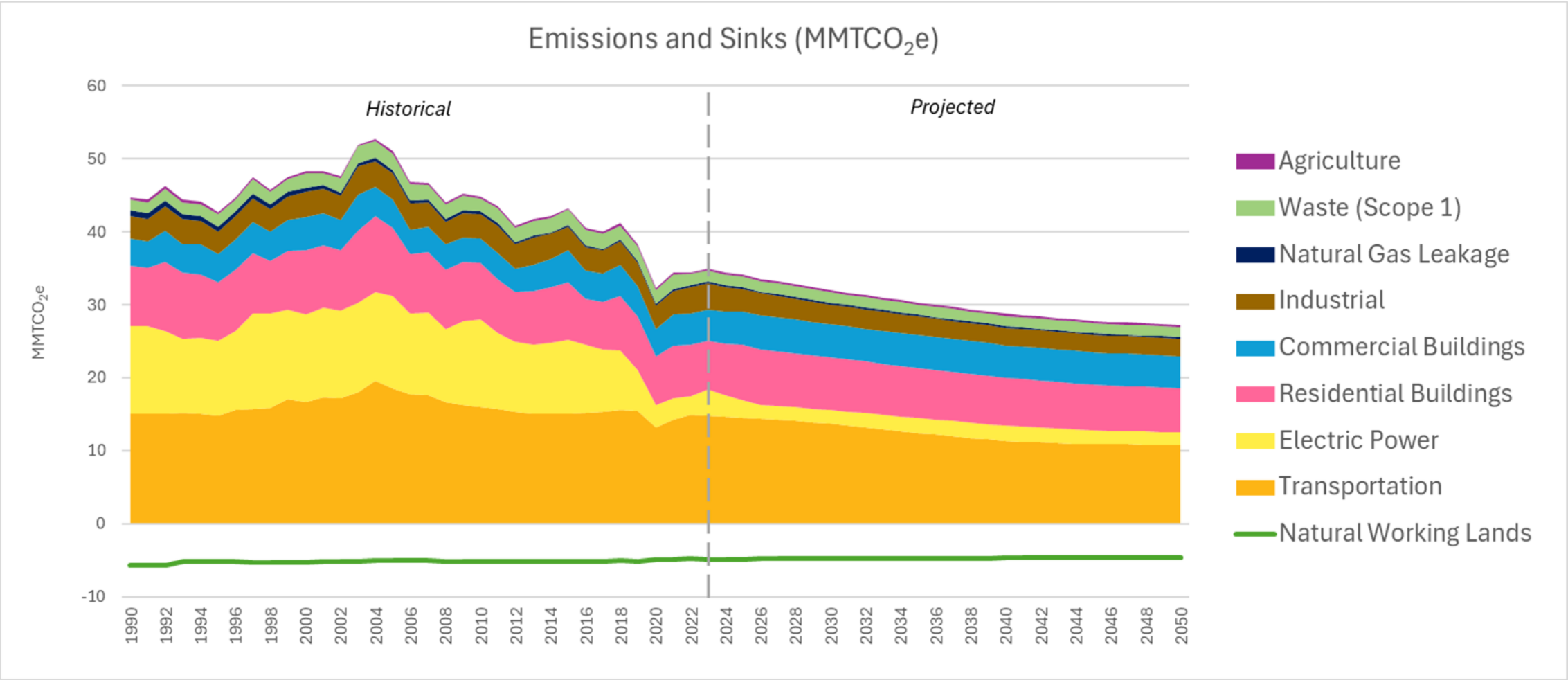
1. **BAU Scenario:** Reflects recent and anticipated changes to climate policies, including rollbacks to electric power and electric vehicle tax incentives, offshore wind projects, CAFE standards, and 111(d) regulations
2. **Some Rollbacks (sensitivity analysis):** Assumes no rollbacks to electric vehicle tax incentives, CAFE standards, and 111(d) regulations
3. **No Rollbacks (sensitivity analysis):** Assumes the IRA tax incentive schedule for electric power and electric vehicles, and no rollbacks to offshore wind projects, CAFE standards, and 111(d) regulations

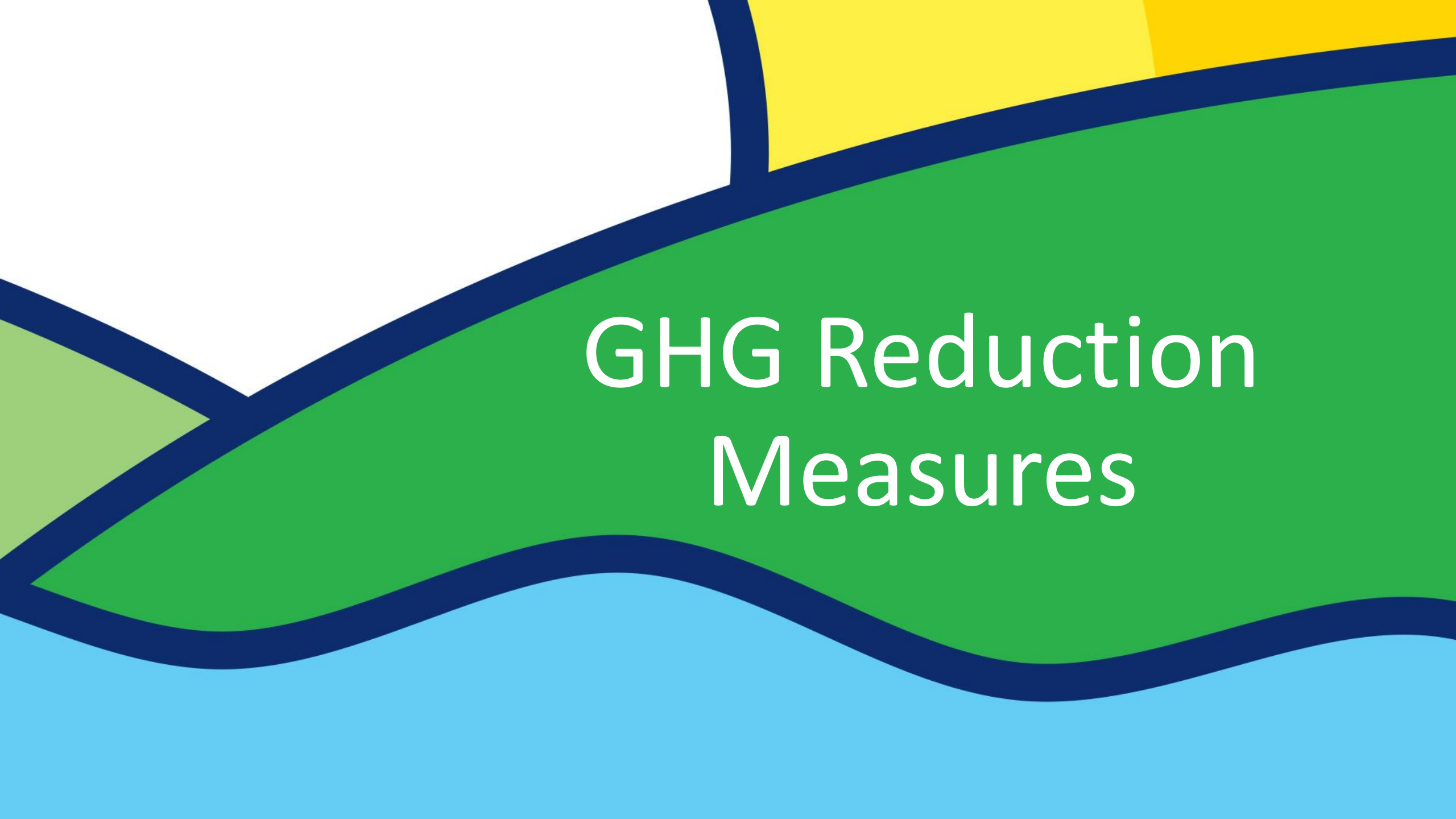
# BUSINESS-AS-USUAL (BAU) PROJECTION RESULTS





# BUSINESS-AS-USUAL (BAU) PROJECTION RESULTS

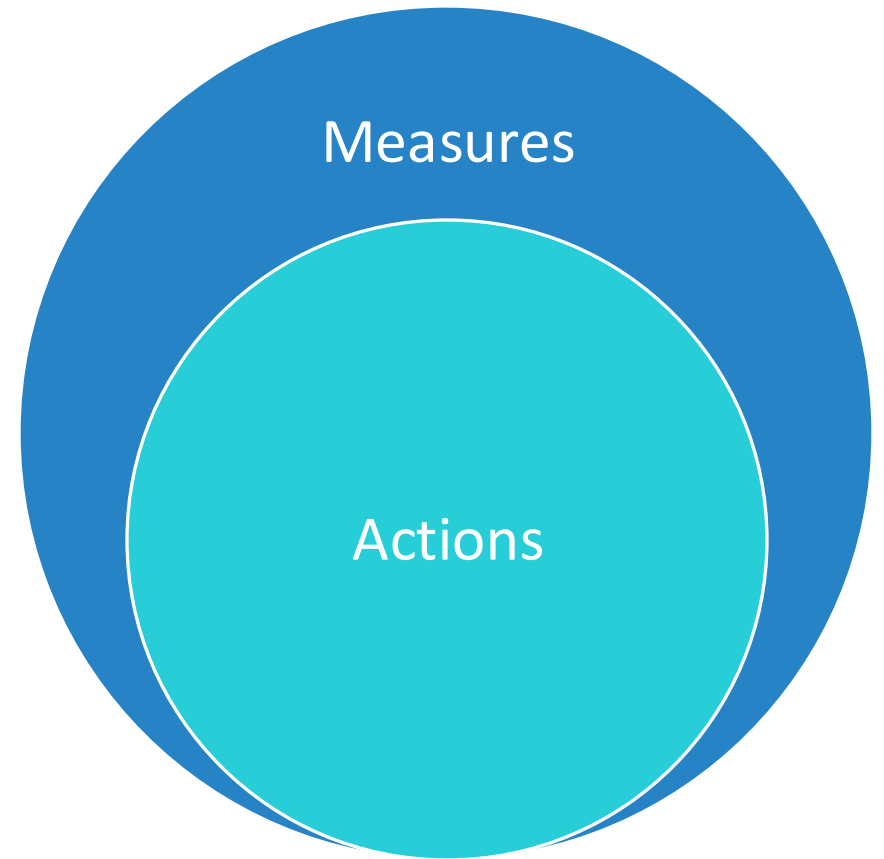




# GHG Reduction Measures

# GHG REDUCTION MEASURES AND ACTIONS

- **Measure.** A specific, tangible initiative that will reduce emissions. Measures must be quantifiable with clear responsible parties.
- **Actions.** Activities that need to occur to implement a measure and realize the associated emission reductions and benefits.
  - **Note:** *The actions presented are illustrative and remain under development. They do not constitute formal recommendations from DEEP.*



# GHG REDUCTION MEASURES AT A GLANCE



**Reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT)**

**Expand vehicle electrification, electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure, and zero- and low-carbon fuels in the on-road transportation sector**

**Decarbonize the off-road transportation sector, including ports, airports, and rail**



**Increase energy efficiency in existing residential and commercial buildings**

**Increase electrification in existing residential and commercial buildings**

**Maximize efficiency in new residential and commercial buildings**

**Maximize electrification in new residential and commercial buildings**

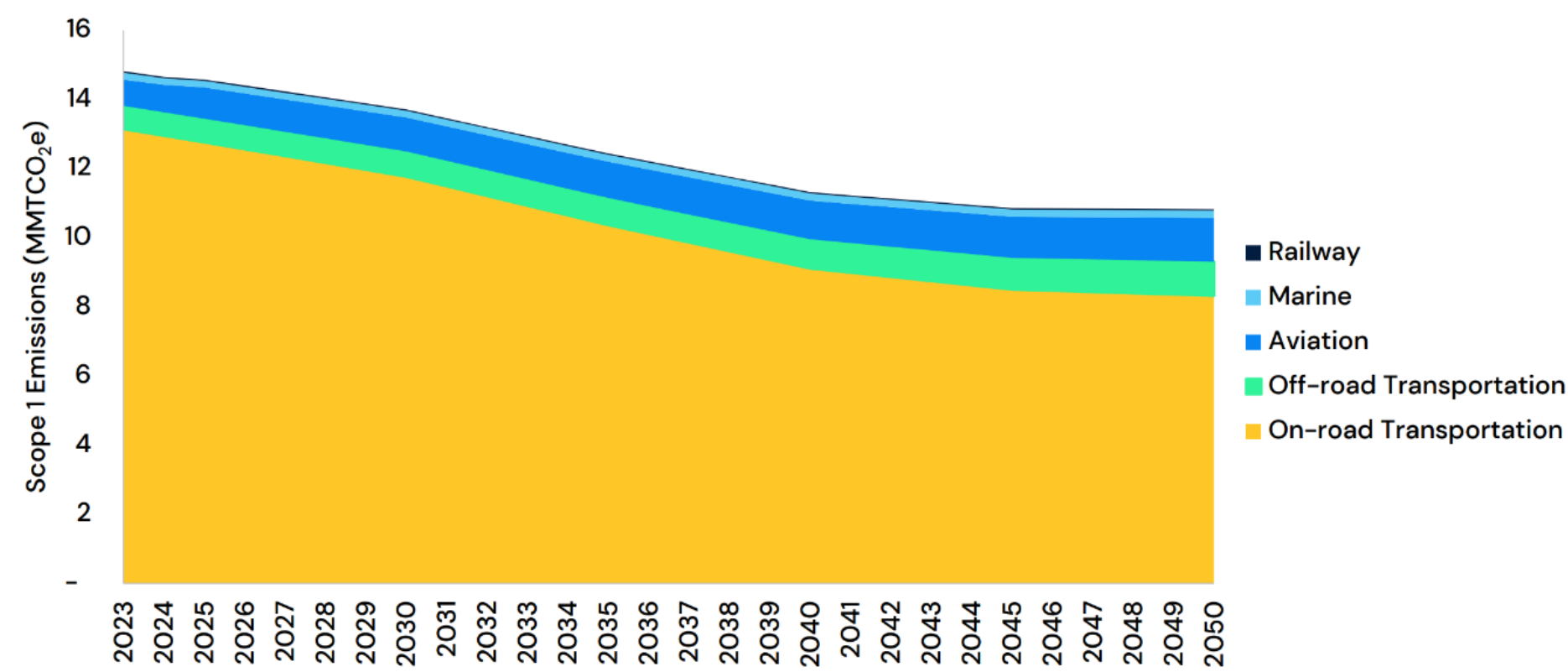


**Increase protection and conservation of high-carbon coastal habitats, wetlands, grasslands, and forests**

**Increase and manage urban tree canopy**

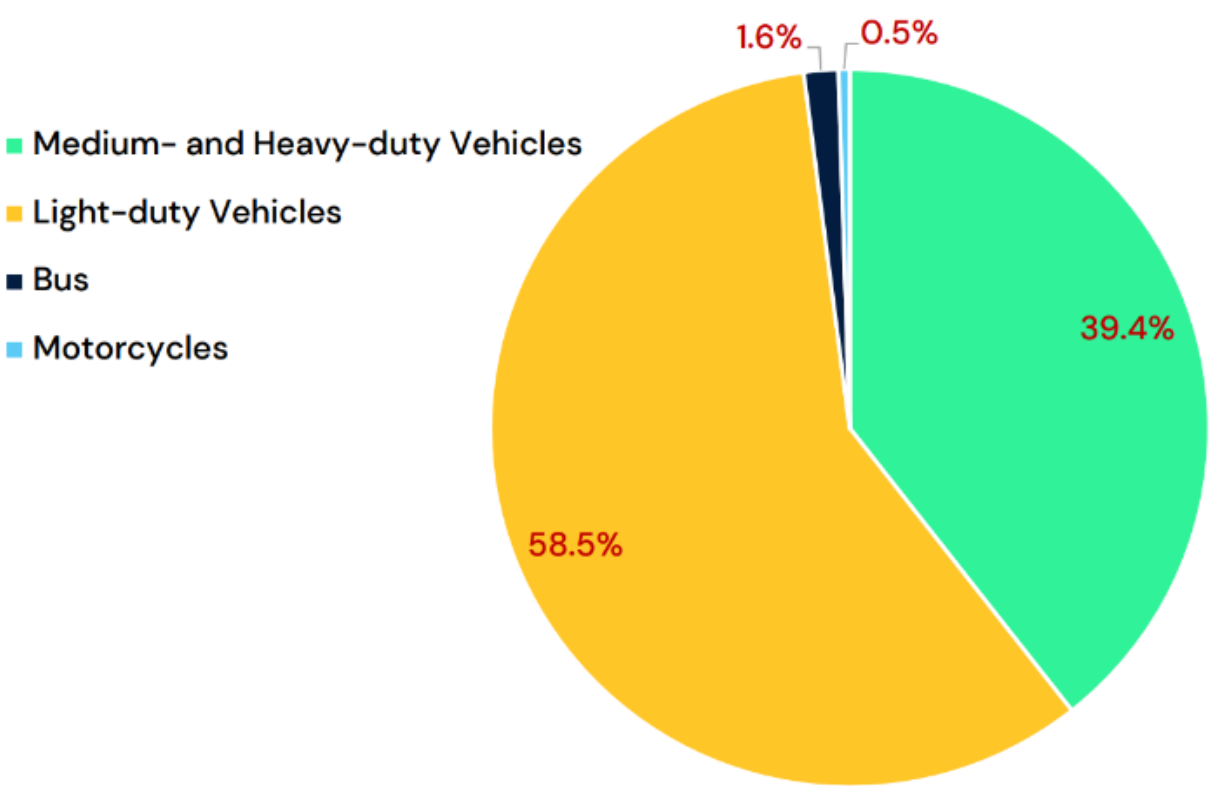


# TRANSPORTATION SECTOR BAU PROJECTION RESULTS

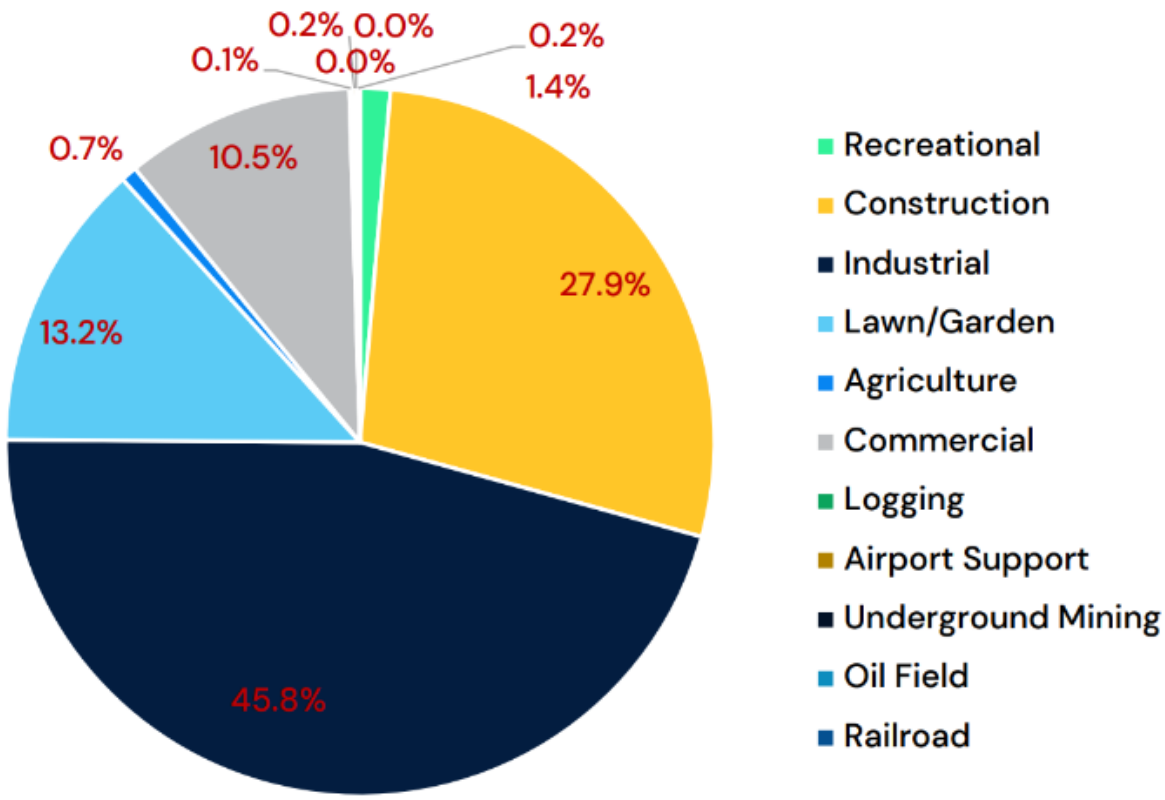


*\*Excludes emissions from electricity consumption, which are accounted for under the power sector.*

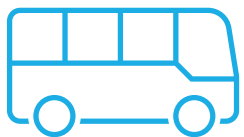
# TRANSPORTATION SECTOR BAU PROJECTION RESULTS



On-road GHG Emissions = 8.3 MMT CO<sub>2e</sub>



Off-road GHG Emissions = 979,979 MT CO<sub>2e</sub>



# TRANSPORTATION

## Reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT)

Expand availability of e-bike or scooter rentals

Expand bike lanes and safe biking infrastructure

Expand sidewalks, crosswalks, and safe walking infrastructure

Expand public transit routes and frequency

Enhance transit passenger experience (tap-to-pay, transit navigation apps, shade and benches, etc.).

More housing withing walking distance of public transportation options

## Expand vehicle electrification, EV infrastructure, and zero- and low-carbon fuels in on-road vehicles

Tax credits and other incentives for the purchase of an EV

Tax credits and other incentives for the purchase of EV infrastructure

Expand public access to EV charging

Deploy electric buses

## Decarbonize the off-road transportation sector, including ports, airports, and rail

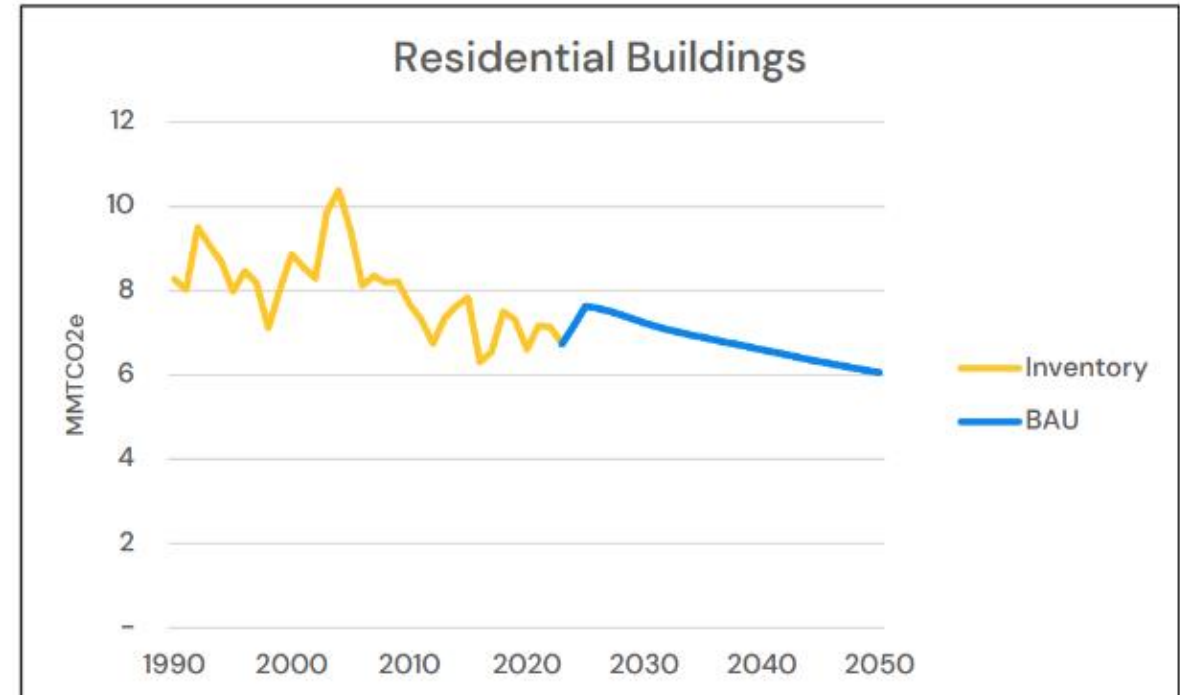
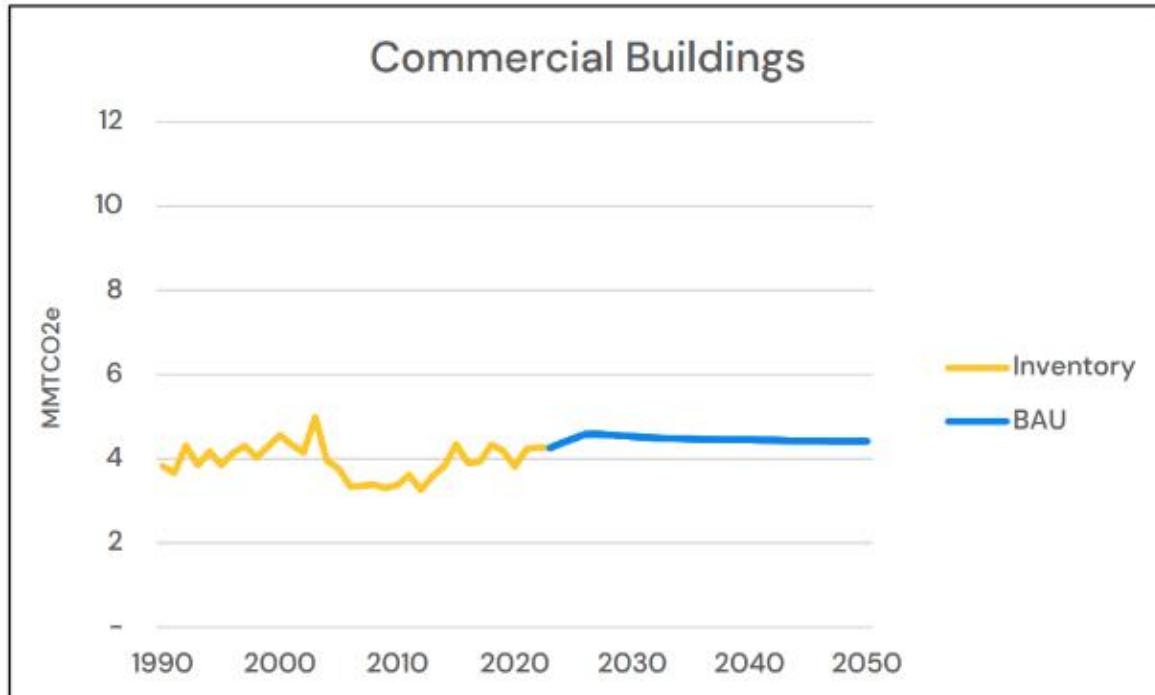
Support development of low carbon aviation fuels

Support decarbonization of ports and ferries

Electrify off-road equipment (lawn, recreational, and industrial equipment)

# BUILDINGS SECTOR BAU PROJECTION RESULTS

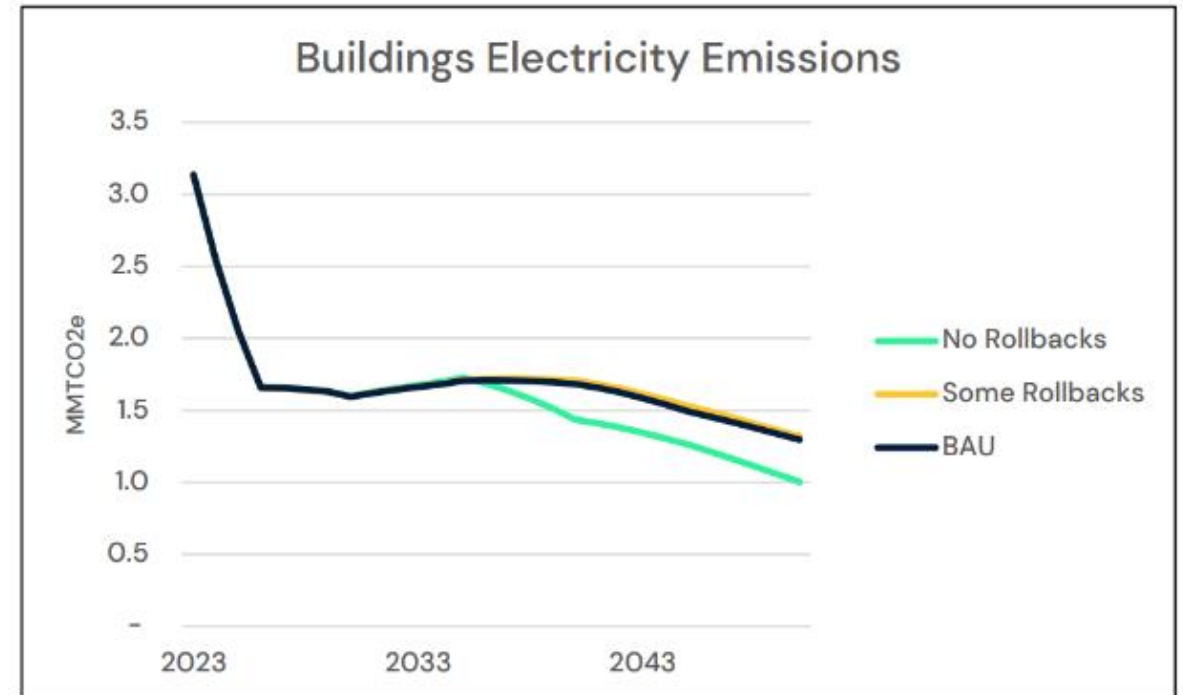
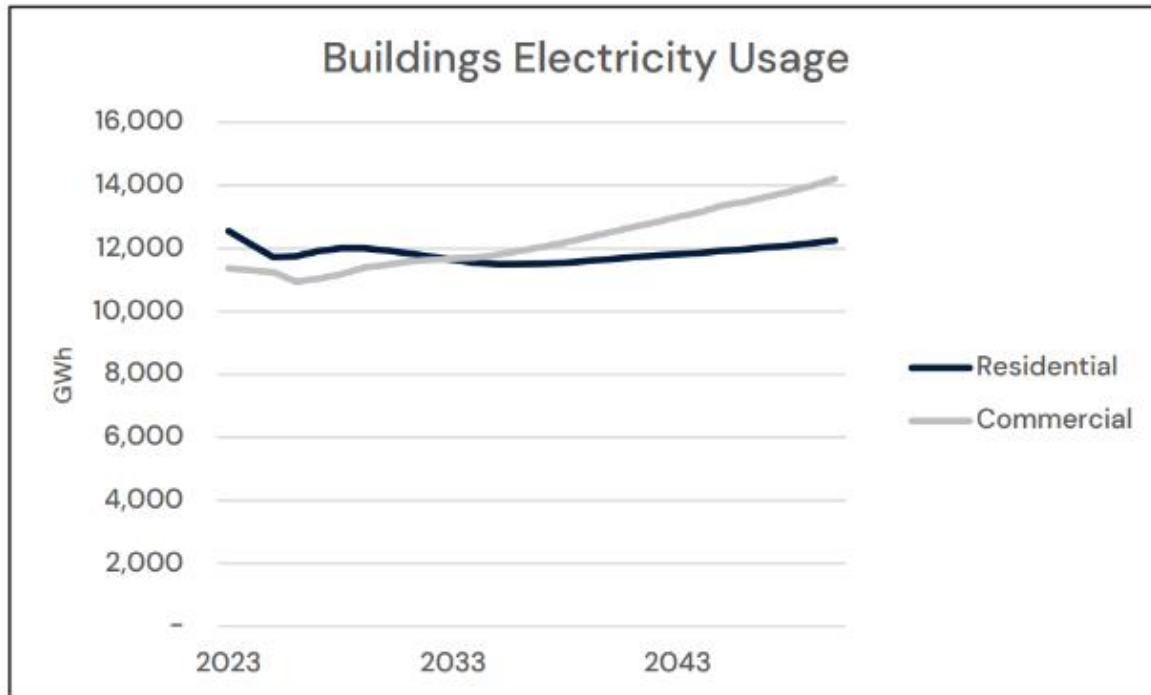
- Emissions from stationary combustion in the residential and commercial buildings sectors totaled 11 MMTCO<sub>2</sub>e in 2023, representing 31% of the state's total inventory
- Emissions decrease through 2050 for residential buildings, reflecting increasing efficiencies and electrification; lower commercial buildings efficiency levels are also offset by higher usage





# BUILDINGS SECTOR BAU PROJECTION RESULTS

- Electricity usage in the BAU is generally flat for residential buildings, with computing driving increases in the commercial sector
- Emissions from building electricity usage (reflected in the Power sector) decrease over time based on expected reductions to grid emissions factors





# RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS

## Increase energy efficiency in existing residential and commercial buildings

Rebates or tax credits to replace inefficient and gas-powered appliances

Free or low-cost building energy audits

Approved lists of installation contractors or dealers of energy efficient equipment

More affordable and accessible weatherization adjustments

## Increase electrification in existing residential and commercial buildings

Rebates to upgrade home electrical systems

Financing opportunities for electrification

Offer incentive programs to encourage transitioning to electrical equipment



# RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS

## Maximize energy efficiency in new residential and commercial buildings

Strengthen building energy codes/establish building performance standards

Increase the adoption of low GWP refrigerants in HVAC and other systems

Adopt refrigerant leakage detection strategies

## Maximize electrification in new residential and commercial buildings

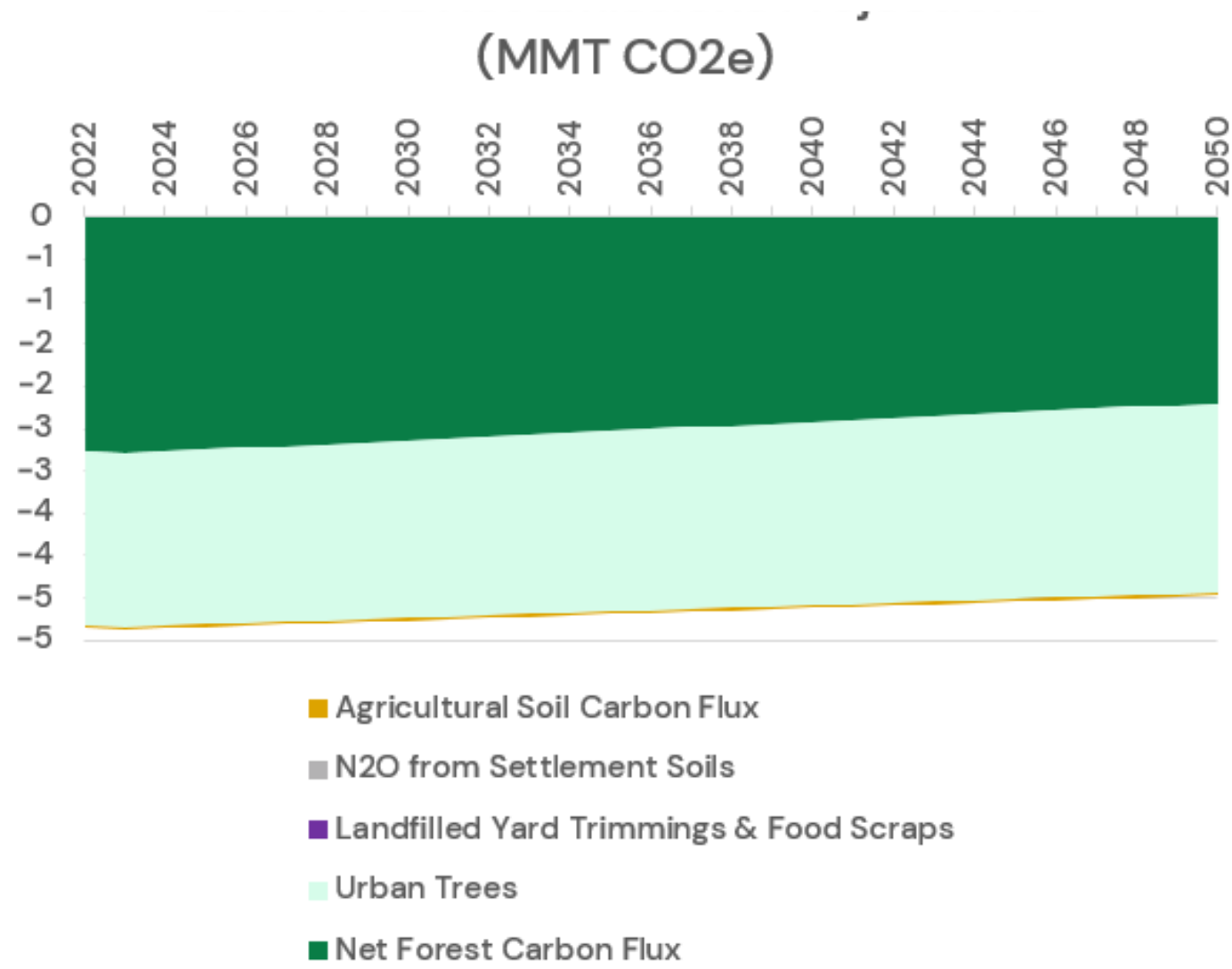
Install on-site renewable energy and energy storage systems

Support increased adoption of heat pumps statewide

Implement zero emission equipment standards

Promote electrification incentive programs

# NATURAL & WORKING LANDS SECTOR BAU PROJECTION RESULTS





# NATURAL AND WORKING LANDS

## Increase protection and conservation of high-carbon coastal habitats, wetlands, grasslands, and forests

Protect 50% of core forests greater than 250 acres by 2040

Increase statewide forest cover from 59% to over 60% by 2040

Reduce impacts of development on natural areas by preserving existing natural working lands and improving land management

Reduce emissions and support carbon sequestration on aquatic natural and working lands

## Increase and manage urban tree canopy

Increase tree canopy coverage in municipalities across the state to match Hartford's goal of 35% coverage by 2070

Plant 5,000 trees in EJ areas and increase urban tree cover by 5% in EJ areas by 2040

Advocate for greater federal funding levels for existing programs as well as increase outreach and technical assistance to municipalities

Identify or develop funding sources to help municipalities restore/expand their tree canopy following loss from storms, invasive pests or utility vegetation management

Encourage the establishment of oak regeneration on appropriate sites to ensure that oak remains an important component of Connecticut's forests



Icebreaker



# ICEBREAKER



menti.com

Use code:  
3563 7616

## Word Cloud Activity

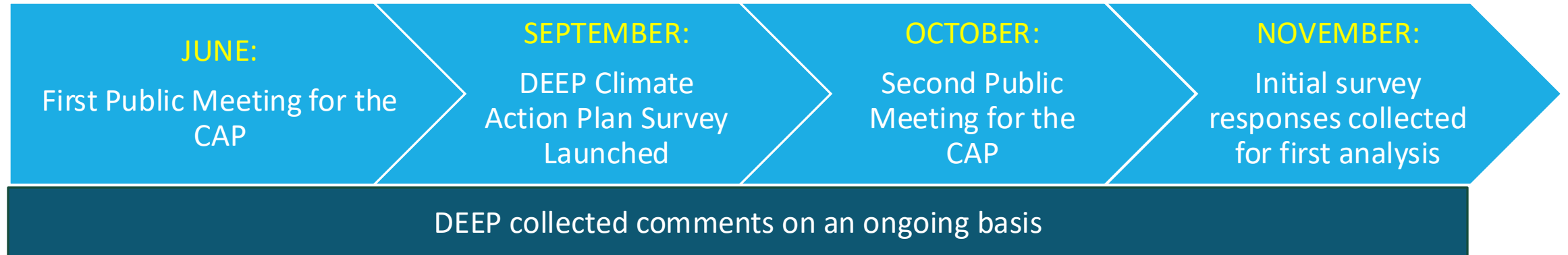
Ways to join:

1. Scan the QR code
2. Type **menti.com** in your browser and enter the 8-digit code
3. Use the link in the chat



# CAP Stakeholder Engagement Recap

# 2025 ENGAGEMENT OVERVIEW



# WRITTEN FEEDBACK PROCESS

Collect comments on an ongoing basis with intermittent analysis of results to date

Most recent survey responses– November 2025

- 125 survey responses so far
- Approximately 20 formal written comments

DEEP's commitment

- Analyze public feedback to inform plan implementation

# SURVEY RESULTS: TRANSPORTATION

## Reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT)

Expand public transit routes

Expand public transit routes

## Electric Vehicles

Implement direct cash incentives for EVs

Increase public access to EV charging

## Off-Road

Electrify lawn equipment

Decarbonize maritime industries (ports, ferries, etc.)



# SURVEY RESULTS: BUILDINGS

## Energy Efficiency and Electrification

Rebates or tax credits to replace gas-powered or inefficient appliances

Rebates or tax credits to replace home electrical systems

More affordable and accessible weatherization adjustments

usable energy  
efficiency standards  
buildings CT  
energy of the traffic  
energy consumption  
energy efficient  
energy network  
energy needs  
home energy  
solar  
thermal energy  
solar and energy  
incentives  
energy assessment  
heat pumps  
people  
costs  
energy is the energy



# SURVEY RESULTS: NATURAL AND WORKING LANDS

## Conservation & Management

Responsible renewable and non-renewable energy siting

Further develop policies that encourage the protection of wetlands

## Urban Forestry

Increase canopy coverage through tree planting and existing tree preservation

Restore loss of trees following storms or due to invasive pests

A word cloud visualization of survey results. The word "tree" is the largest and most central. Other prominent words include "forests", "native trees", "shade trees", "legacy trees", "tree warden", "trees and forests", "removal of trees", "tree removal", "forest cover", "New laws", "free trees", "tree planting", "DEEP", "land", "needed", "commercial", "native plants", "areas", and "Trees and under-canopy". The words are arranged in a circular pattern around the central "tree" word, with varying sizes and orientations.

Trees and under-canopy  
native trees  
shade trees  
legacy trees  
tree warden  
trees and forests  
removal of trees  
tree removal  
forest cover  
New laws  
free trees  
tree planting  
DEEP  
land  
needed  
commercial  
native plants  
areas



# Voices from the Field

# GUEST SPEAKERS



**Emma Cimino**  
*Deputy Commissioner of  
Environmental Quality*  
CT DEEP



**Brenda Watson**  
*Executive Director*  
The North Hartford  
Partnership



**Steven Winter**  
*Executive Director*  
Climate & Sustainability,  
City of New Haven



**Danica Doroski, PhD**  
*Urban Forestry  
Coordinator*  
CT DEEP

**Topic: Moving From Plan to Action**



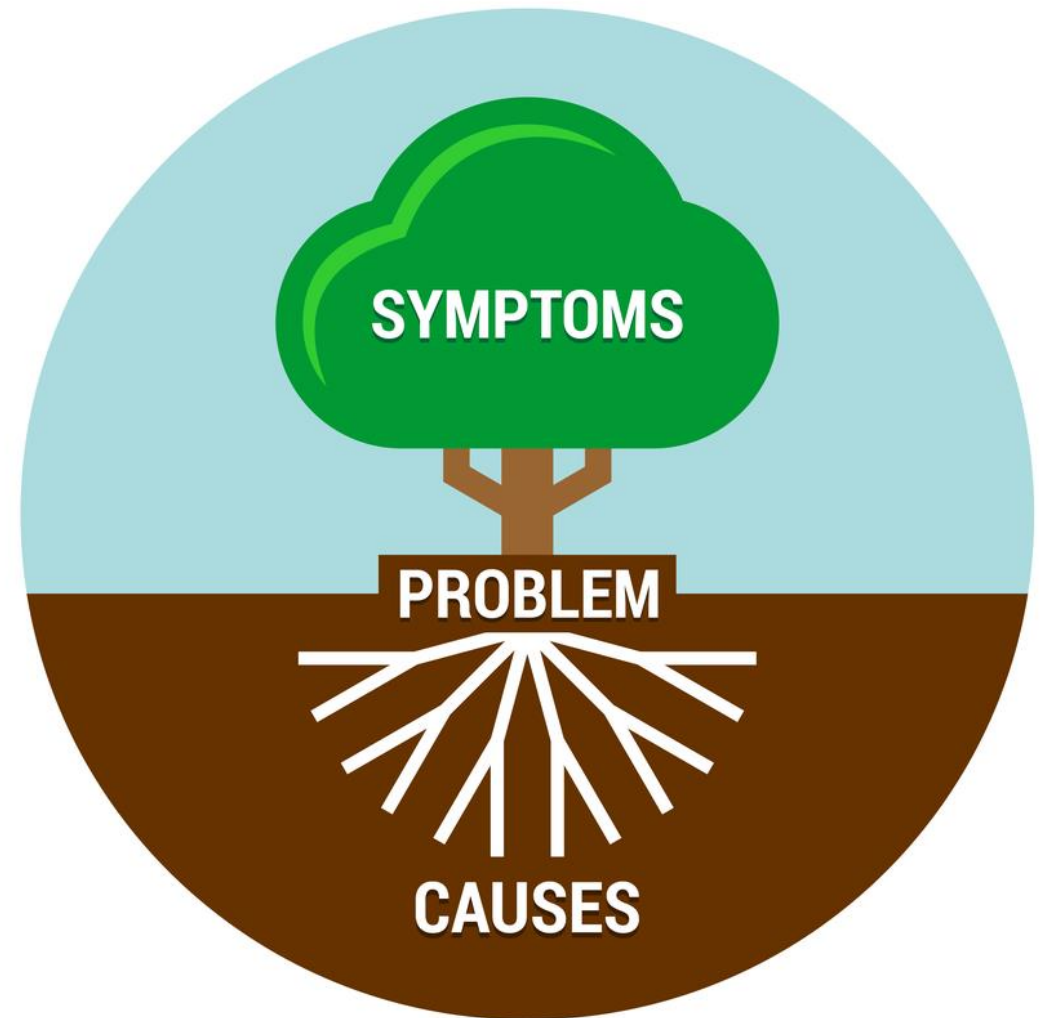
# From Roots to Results

# FRAMING THE CHALLENGE

Participants will work in **sector-based breakout groups**—Transportation, Buildings, and Natural & Working Lands (NWL)—to analyze barriers to achieving core climate goals identified in the CAP. Each group will select one priority barrier and use a structured **Root Cause Analysis (RCA)** process to explore underlying issues and identify leverage points for action.

By the end of the activity, each breakout group will have:

- ✓ Identified a priority implementation barrier
- ✓ Uncovered deeper systemic root causes
- ✓ Highlighted key equity considerations
- ✓ Surfaced early ideas for impactful solutions
- ✓ Contributed sector-specific insights that will help Connecticut's CAP refine implementation pathways



# DIGGING DEEPER: ROOT CAUSE ANALYSIS

**Broad Climate Goal:** Increase organic waste diversion to reduce methane emissions from landfills.

Why	Potential Question	Example Question	Example Answer
1	Why is this barrier happening?	Why is limited organic waste diverted?	Many households and businesses don't separate organics.
2	Why is that happening?	Why don't they separate organics?	There is a lack of convenient collection systems and unevenly distributed local programs.
3	Why does that underlying issue exist?	Why are collection systems inconsistent?	Municipal budgets and infrastructure vary.
4	Why hasn't this been solved yet?	Why are composting facilities unevenly distributed?	High start up costs, significant community education needed, limited incentives.
5	Why are current strategies insufficient?	Why are incentives and investments limited?	Waste management policy focuses more on landfill diversion targets than on upstream infrastructure or producer responsibility.



## BROAD CLIMATE GOALS



### **Natural & Working Lands:**

Increase and manage urban tree canopy; and increase protection, management and conservation of high-carbon coastal habitats, wetlands, grasslands, and forests



### **Transportation:**

Expand vehicle electrification and electric vehicle infrastructure



### **Buildings:**

Increase energy efficiency and electrification in existing residential and commercial buildings

# BREAKOUT SESSIONS

*In your sector breakout group, explore the following questions as you ask your why's.*

## **Breakout Prompts:**

- What does this climate goal look like in your community?
- What barriers make achieving this climate goal difficult?
- What are root causes that we identified?
- Which root causes are within our control or influence? Which are not?
- What types of interventions could address these root causes?
- Which solutions would create the biggest impact and the most equitable outcomes?



# BREAKOUT SESSIONS

- Groups will use Canva as a notetaking tool and visual aid. ONLY Facilitators and notetakers will have access to the Canva tool to streamline that process.
- There is an example slide on Canva for groups to refer to.
- There will be more than 1 group per sector
- ~35 mins in total for the breakout groups
- (5 mins) Intros and instructions
- (15 mins) Surface barriers and pick one barrier to explore more deeply as a group
- (15 mins) Brainstorm interventions to the root issues
- ~5 mins for large group report out





# REFLECTIONS

Breakout group facilitators will share themes and 1-2 key takeaways from their breakout session

Open reflections from the audience





# Next Steps & Commitments

# NEXT STEPS

Take the DEEP Climate Action Plan Survey: [HERE](#)

Stakeholder input from today's session will inform:

- The refinement of long-term strategies in the Climate Action Plan
- More equitable and effective pathways for climate resilience
- Priority actions across transportation, buildings, and NWL
- DEEP's design of future programs, incentives, and regulatory updates

## Stay Engaged!

- Session Materials posted [HERE](#)
- Sign up for newsletters [HERE](#)
- Submit a public comment [HERE](#)
- Explore and join a working group [HERE](#)



# CLIMATE ACTION PLAN SURVEY AND DEEP NEWSLETTER

For additional questions or comments related to the CAP, email us at [deep.climatechange@ct.gov](mailto:deep.climatechange@ct.gov)

Scan the QR code  
to complete the  
Climate Action  
Plan Survey



Sign up for  
DEEP's  
Newsletter!



# THANK YOU!

Your feedback on this event matters!

Take the post-workshop survey being launched via Zoom Polls in this meeting.

If you do not see the poll pop up, click on the “Polls/Quizzes” icon on the banner at the bottom of your screen.

