



# City of Fitchburg Sustainability Action Plan

## Community Presentation and Input

January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024



# Agenda

Introduction

The Project

Planning Process

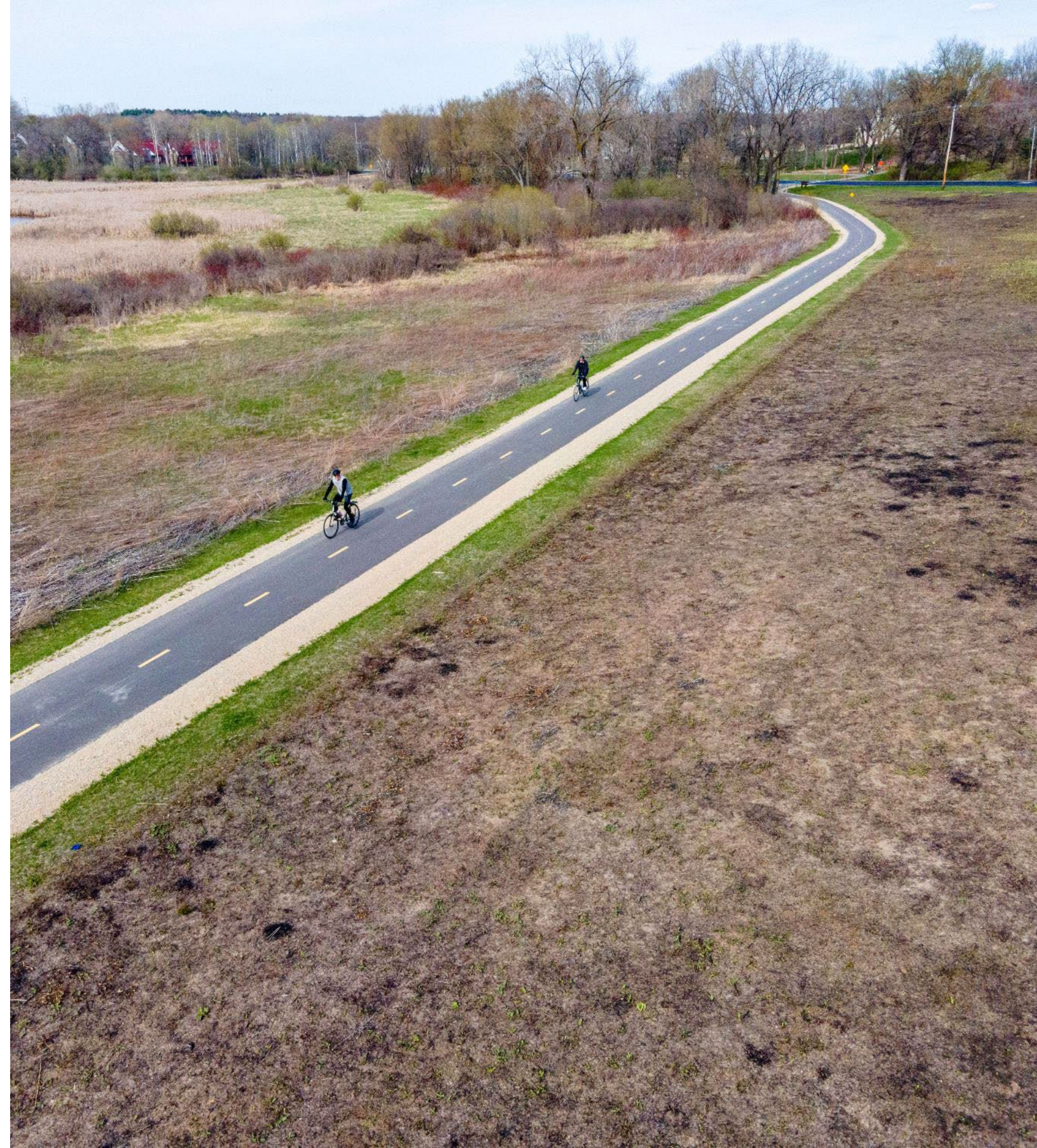
Climate Action Baselines

Ways to Get Involved

Q + A

Preliminary Draft Strategic Goals

[\(please add your thoughts!\)](#)



# Introduction



## Our mission:

To hasten the transition to an authentically sustainable, no carbon economy and to elevate the public discourse.

## Services:

climate planning

sustainability + resilience consulting

renewable energy + net zero planning



**Colleen**

**Educator  
Community  
Engagement  
Consultant  
Climate Planner**



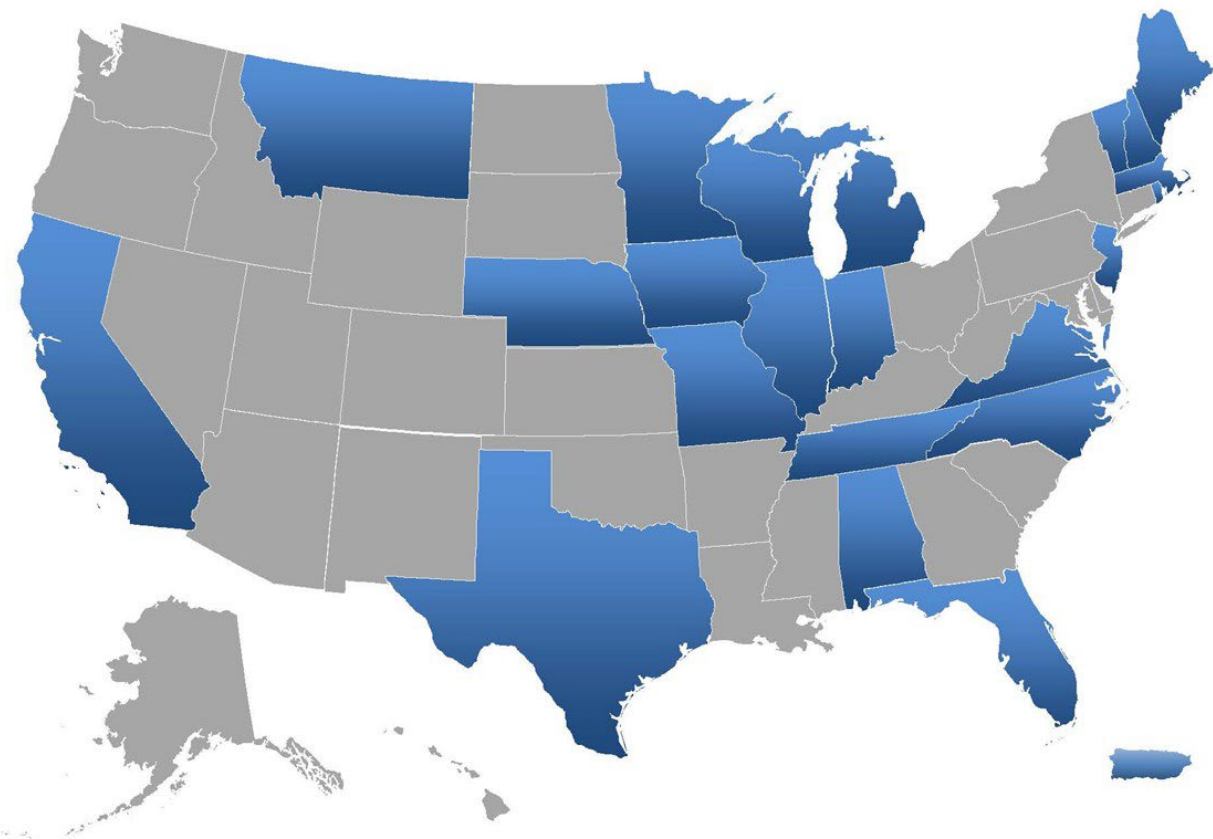
**Ted**

**Architect  
Urban Planner  
Renewable Energy  
Consultant  
Climate Planner**



# Introduction

70+ Projects in 22 states  
**Midwest: 55 Communities**



Sustainability, Climate and Energy Planning  
 experience in last 3 years (partial):



CITY OF BLOOMINGTON



## Climate and Energy Planning Clients

(Since 2018)

### Municipal Clients

- Aekely, MN
- Albert Lea, MN
- Ames, IA
- Bloomington, IN
- Brainerd, MN
- Brooklyn Park, MN
- Burnsville, MN
- Chattanooga, TN
- Chisholm, MN
- Crookston, MN
- Dallas, TX
- Dubuque, IA
- Duluth, MN
- Eau Claire, WI
- Edina, MN
- Elk River, MN
- Fairfax, MN
- Faribault, MN
- Granite Falls, MN
- Hartford, VT
- Kelliher, MN
- La Crosse, WI
- LaFarge, WI
- Maplewood, MN
- Marion, AL
- Middlebury, VT
- Morris, MN
- Mountain Iron, MN
- New Brighton, MN
- Northbrook, IL
- Northfield, MN
- Oakdale, MN
- Peterborough, NH
- Ranier, MN
- Roseville, MN
- Saint Charles, MN
- Sandy Springs, GA
- Skokie, IL
- St Louis Park, MN
- Tuskegee, AL
- Warren, MN
- Winnebago, MN
- Winthrop, MN
- Wise, VA

### County Clients

- Addison County, VT
- Hennepin County, MN
- Kane County, IL
- Ramsey County, MN
- Becker County, MN
- Clay County, MN
- Douglas County, MN
- Grant County, MN
- Otter Tail County, MN
- Polk County, IA
- Pope County, MN
- Stevens County, MN
- Traverse County, MN
- Wilkin County, MN

### Tribal Nation Clients

- Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe
- Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community
- White Earth Nation

### State Clients

- State of Minnesota
- State of Missouri
- State of Montana

# The Project

**Why Are We Here:**

## **The Project**

Develop a **Sustainability Action Plan** (SAP) for the City of Fitchburg. The plan is intended to guide action **community-wide as well as municipal operations**.

The planning process will review and establish overall goals as well as establish strategies and actions to achieve the goals.



# The Project

## What Is a Sustainability Action Plan:

Sustainability plans are comprehensive roadmaps that outline the specific Strategies and Actions that a community will implement to increase overall community sustainability and resilience. Sustainability plans typically also include climate mitigation and adaptation as a consideration of resilience.

The Fitchburg plan is anticipated to address mitigation and adaptation:

**Mitigation** – reducing climate change – involves reducing the flow of heat-trapping greenhouse gases into the atmosphere (supporting goals of joint declaration).

**Adaptation** – developing ways to protect people and places by reducing their vulnerability to climate impacts (supporting guiding principals).



# The Project

## What Is a Sustainability Action Plan:

They address broad sustainability action sectors:



Buildings and Energy



Transportation and Land Use



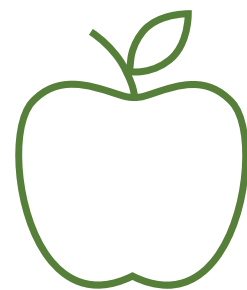
Solid Waste and Recycling



Water, Wastewater and Flooding



Health and Safety



Local Food and Agriculture



Greenspace, Trees, and Ecosystems



Sustainable Economy

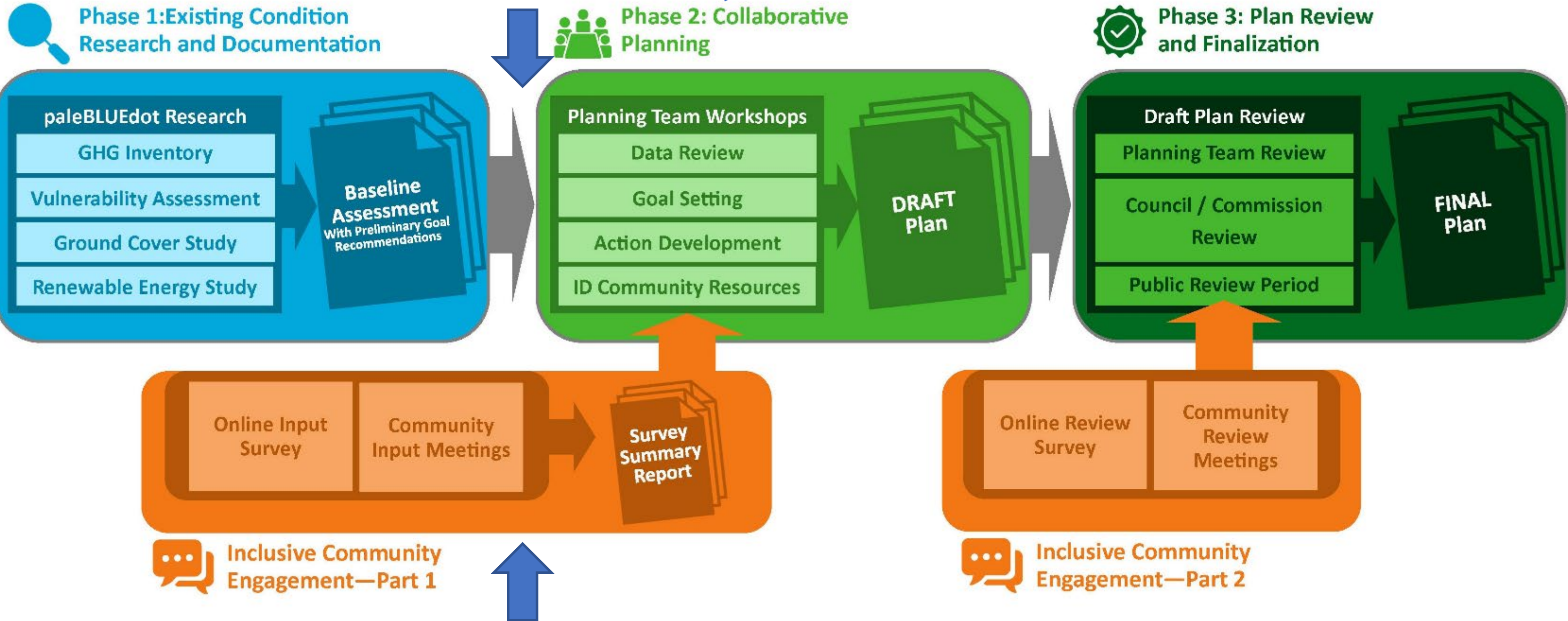
Mitigation  
(and some adaptation)

Adaptation  
(and some mitigation)



# Planning Process

Where We are Today

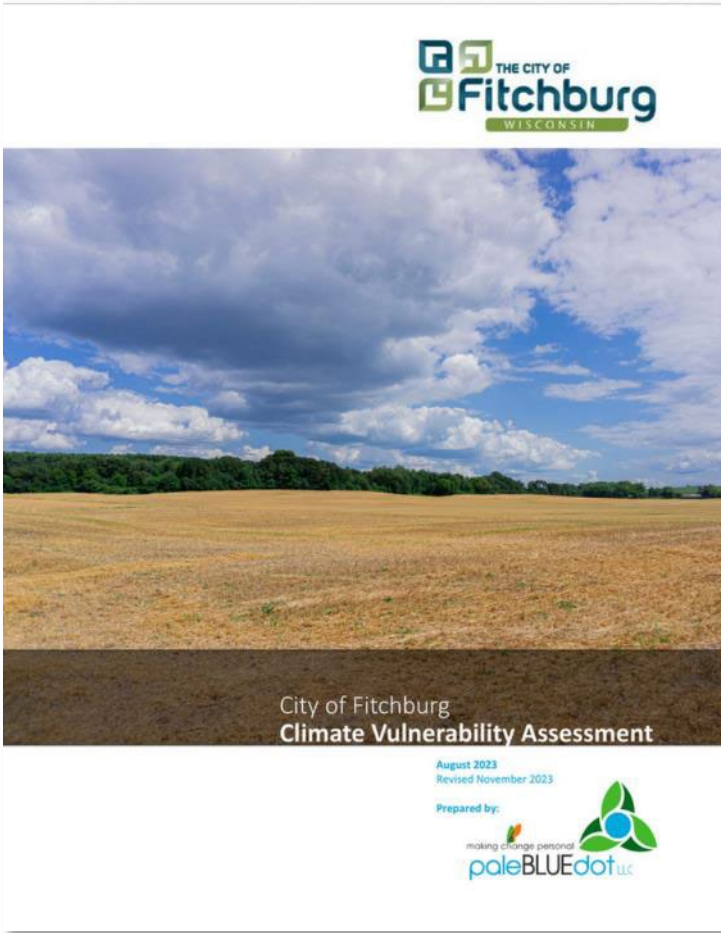




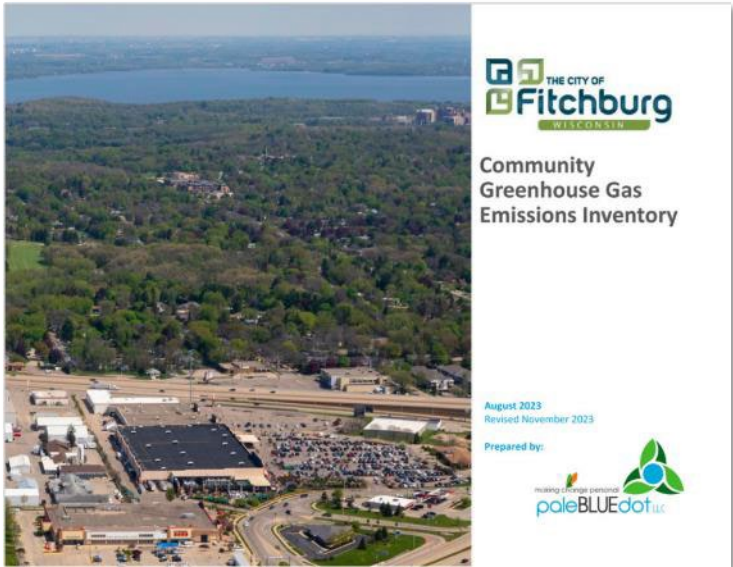
# Planning Process

## Sustainability Baseline Documents

Vulnerability Assessment



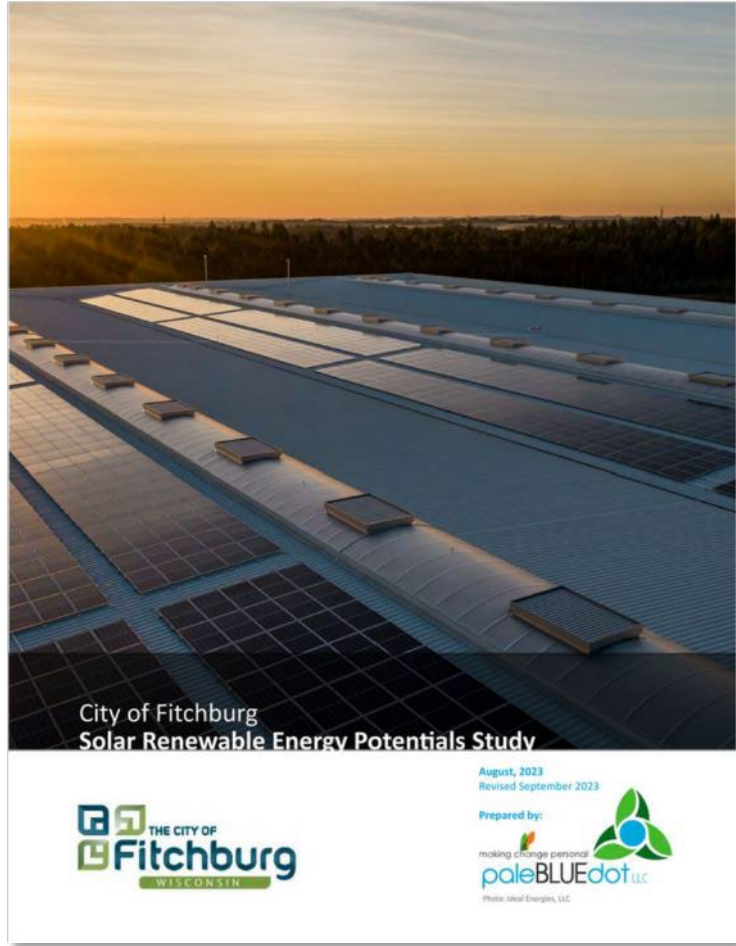
GHG Inventory and Forecast



Ground Cover Survey



Renewable Energy Potential



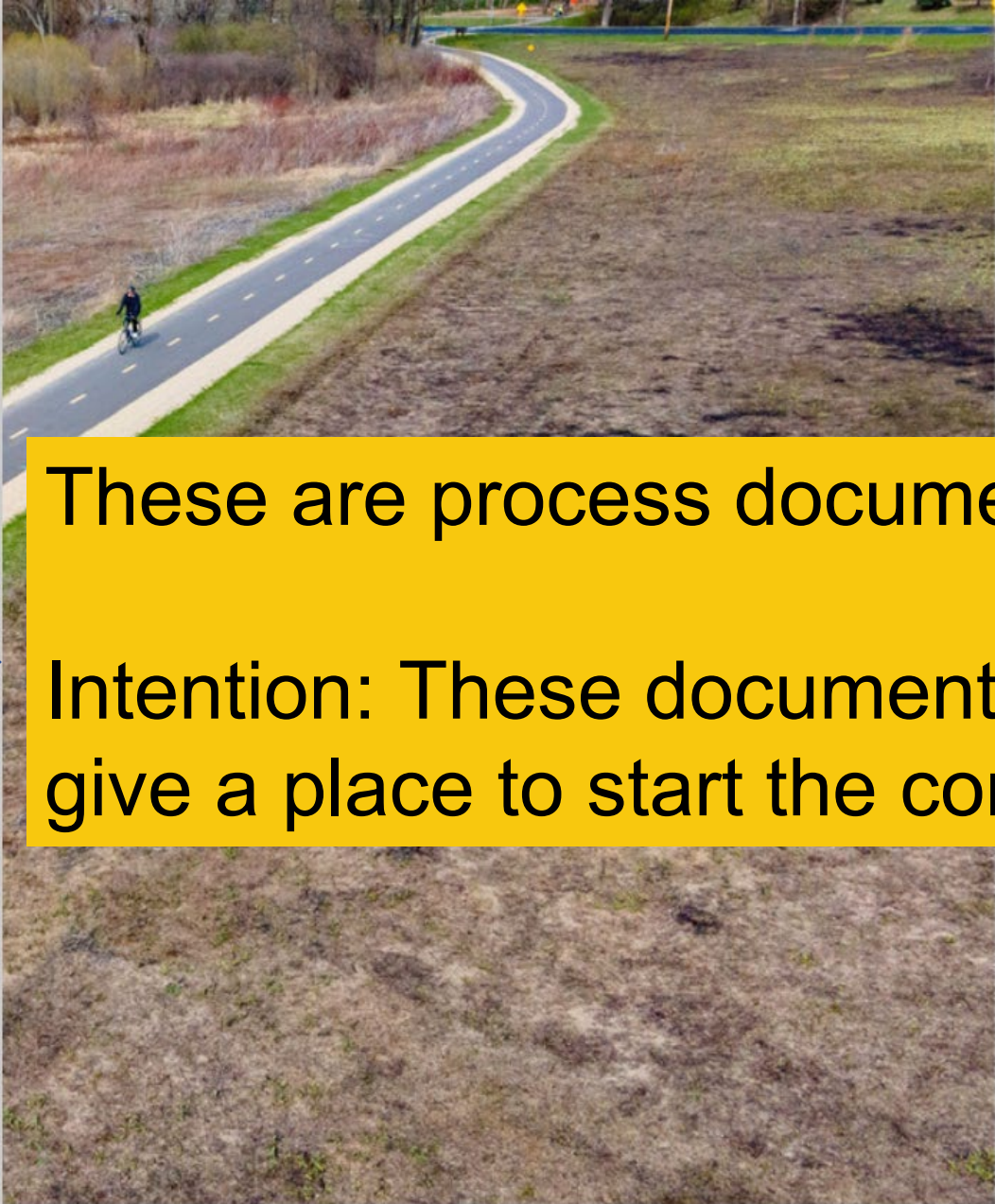
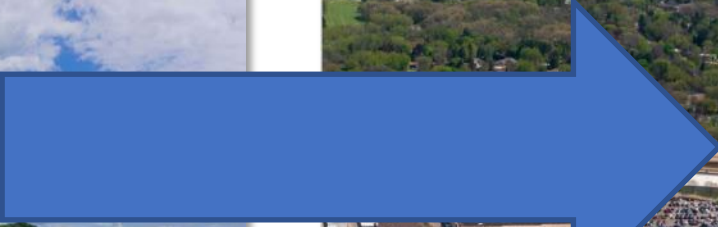
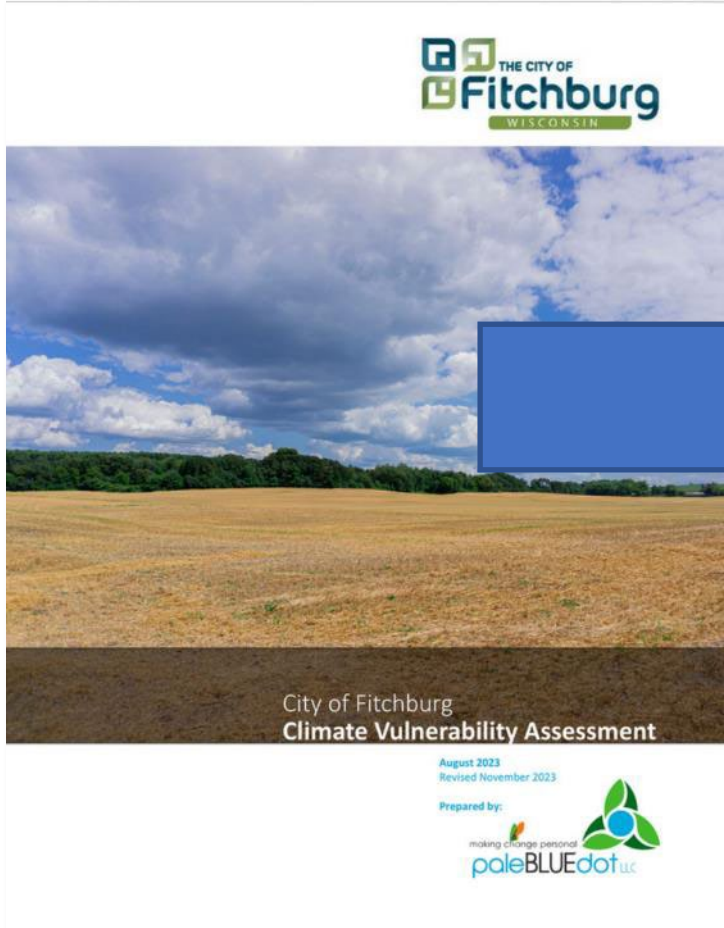
View these process <https://palebluedot.llc/fitchburg-sustainability>

# Planning Process

## Sustainability Baseline Documents

Vulnerability Assessment

GHG Inventor  
Forecast



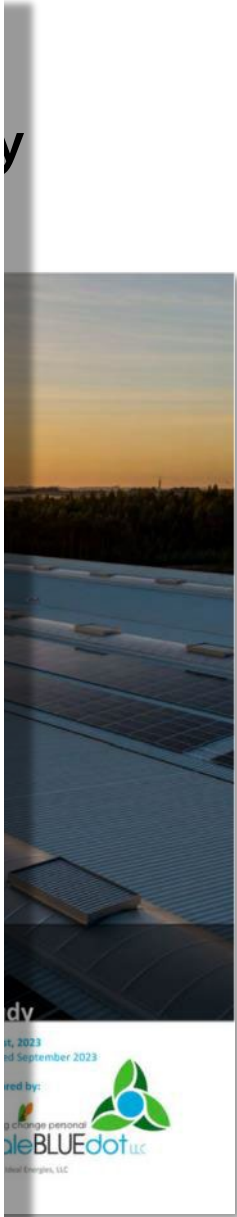
Sustainability Baseline  
Assessment and  
GHG Forecast

These are process documents.

Intention: These documents seek to just give a place to start the conversation!

August 2023  
Revised November 2023

Prepared by:  
making change personal  
paleBLUEDot LLC

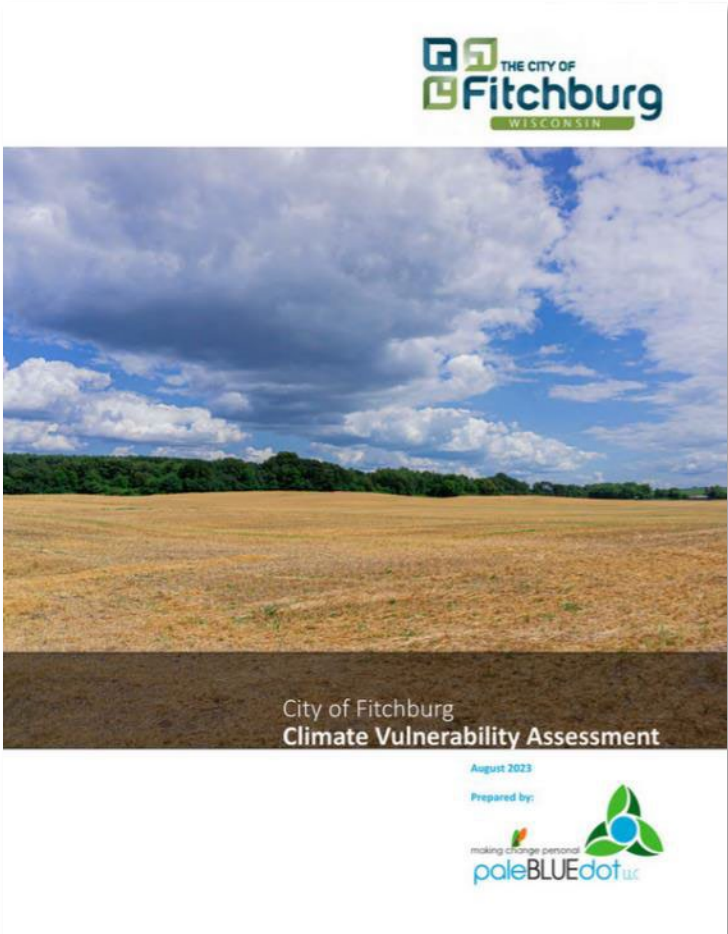


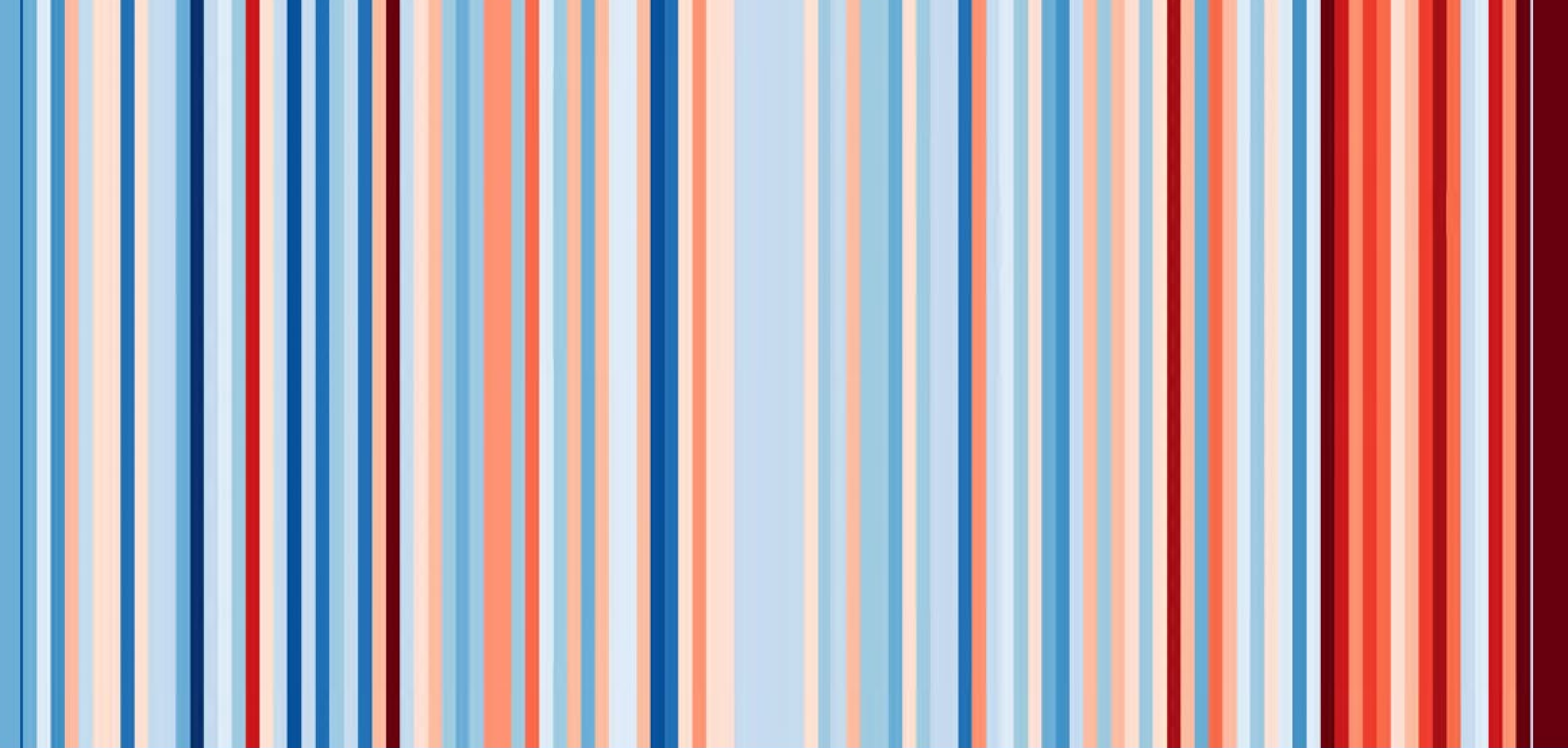
View these process <https://palebluedot.llc/fitchburg-sustainability>

# Foundational Document Review

## Sustainability Baseline Documents

### Vulnerability Assessment





← 1895

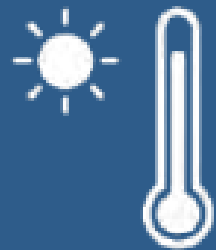
### Wisconsin's Annual Temperature Trends

2021 →

Each stripe represents the temperature Wisconsin averaged over a year. Blue = Below Average Red = Above Average

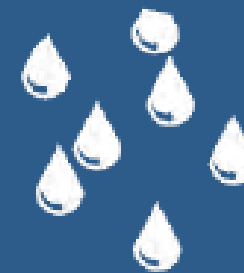
# The City's Future Climate

By 2050, without successfully reducing global GHG emissions, City of Fitchburg's climate can be expected to be:



**+3-5°F**

warmer average annual temperature than now.



**+5% higher**

Annual average rainfall than now



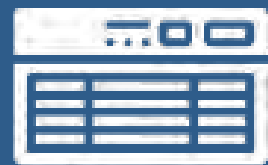
**+12-15 more days**

annually with a high temperature over 95°F.



**+20% more**

Days with heavy precipitation events (1" or more) annually



**+45% more**

air conditioning demand and energy needed than now.

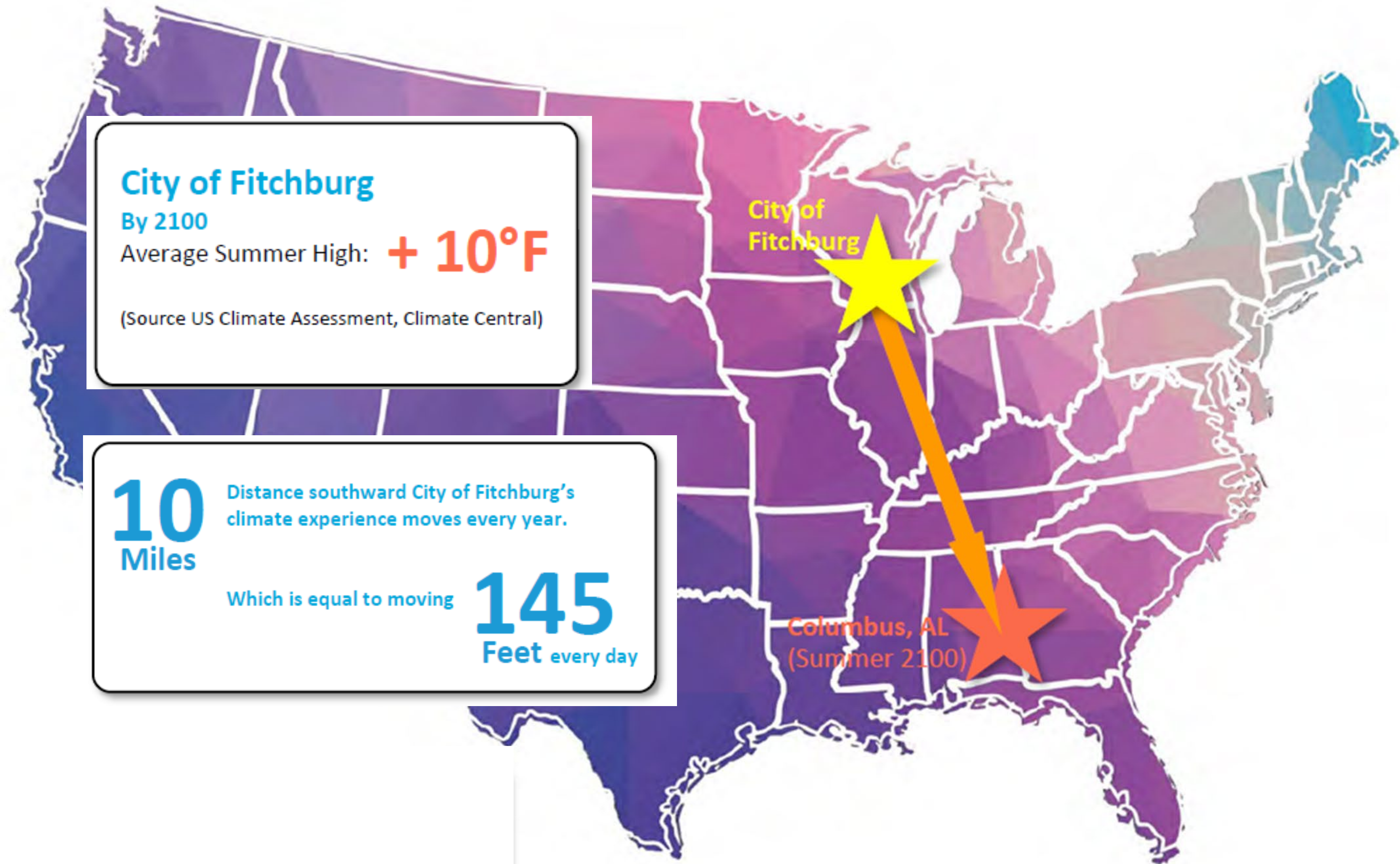


**+11-20 days longer**

Growing, allergy, and mosquito season (days with minimum temp >32)



If we do not succeed in reducing our GHG emissions globally, most of these numbers will double (*or more*) by the end of the century.

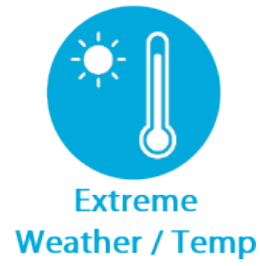


**City of Fitchburg**  
By 2100  
Average Summer High: **+ 10°F**  
(Source US Climate Assessment, Climate Central)

**10 Miles** Distance southward City of Fitchburg's climate experience moves every year.  
Which is equal to moving **145 Feet** every day



## Primary Climate Risks

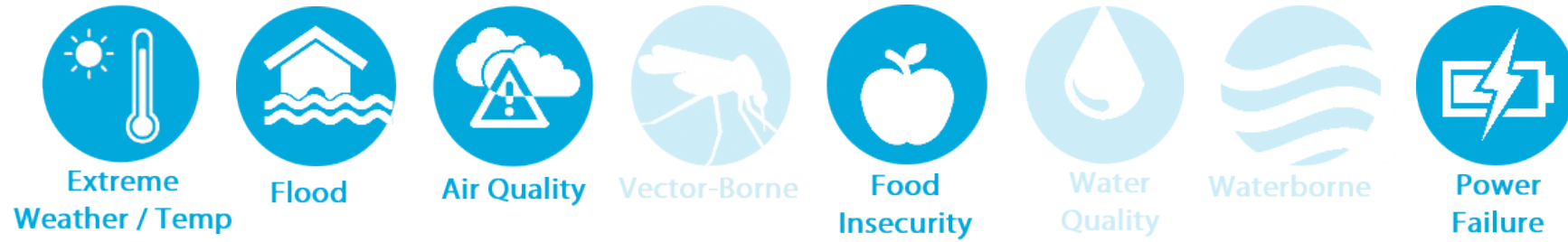


## Climate Related Economic Risks

## Community Groups Most Vulnerable



## Primary Climate Risks



## Climate Related Economic Risks



## Community Groups Most Vulnerable

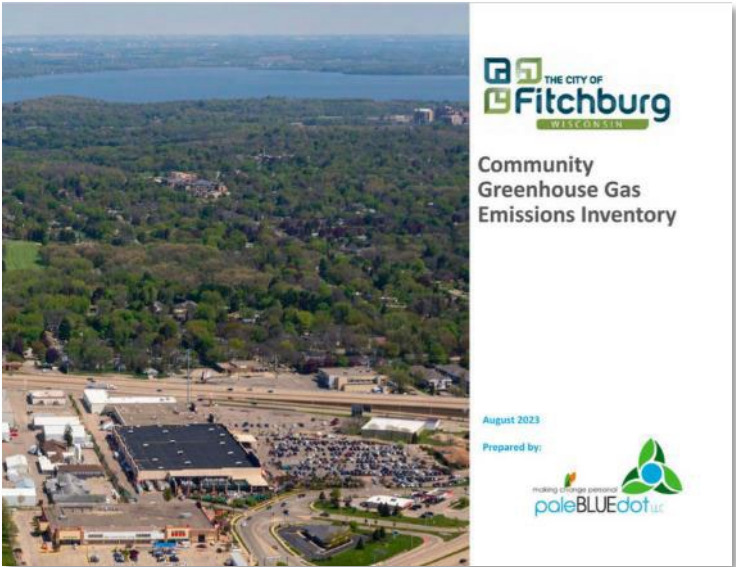




# Foundational Document Review

## Sustainability Baseline Documents

### GHG Inventory and Forecast



### 2014 By The Numbers

**GHG Emissions**  
**446,008**  
 17.12 MT Per-Capita  
 37.55 MT / Job  
 0.2509 MT / \$1,000 GDP

**Population**  
**26,050**

**GDP**  
**\$1,777,953,572**  
 \$68,252 GDP Per-Capita

**Employment**  
**11,877**

### 2022 By The Numbers

**GHG Emissions**  
**419,413**  
 14.17 MT Per-Capita  
 34.01 MT / Job  
 0.1892 MT / \$1,000 GDP

**Population**  
**29,606**

**GDP**  
**\$2,216,582,118**  
 \$74,869 GDP Per-Capita

**Employment**  
**12,332**

### 8 Year Trend Dashboard

**GHG Emissions**  
**-26,595 -5.96%**  
 -2.95 MT Per-Capita  
 -3.54 MT / Job  
 -0.06 MT / \$1,000 GDP

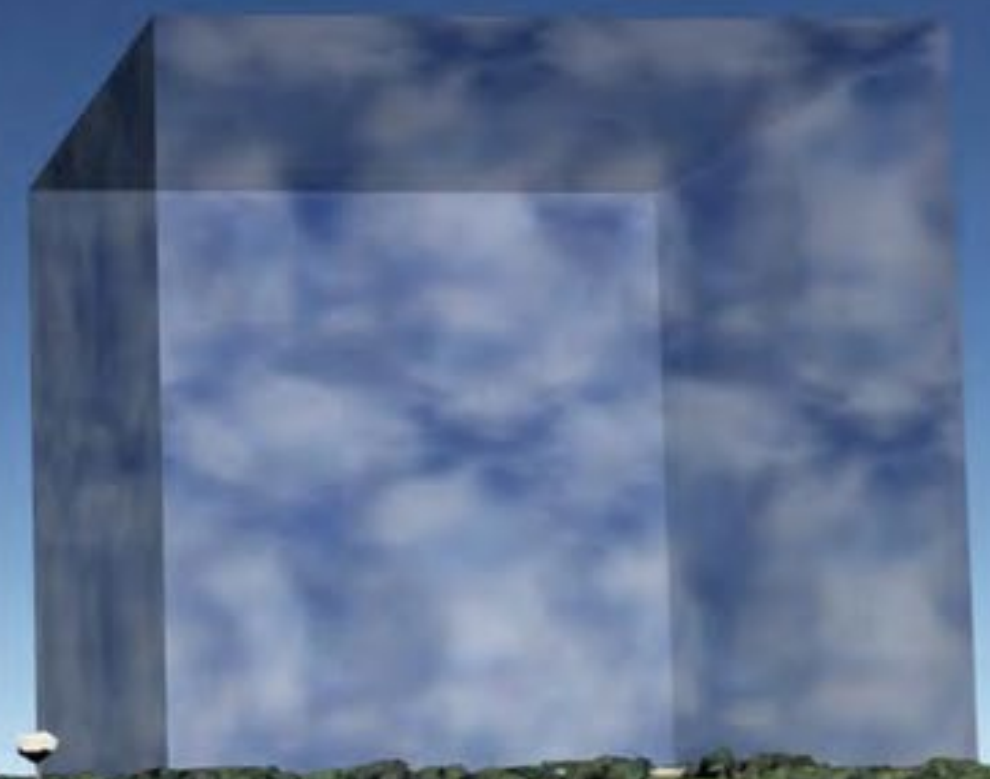
**Population**  
**+3,556 +13.65%**

**GDP**  
**+\$438,628,546 +24.67%**  
 +\$6,618 GDP Per-Capita

**Employment**  
**+455 +3.83%**

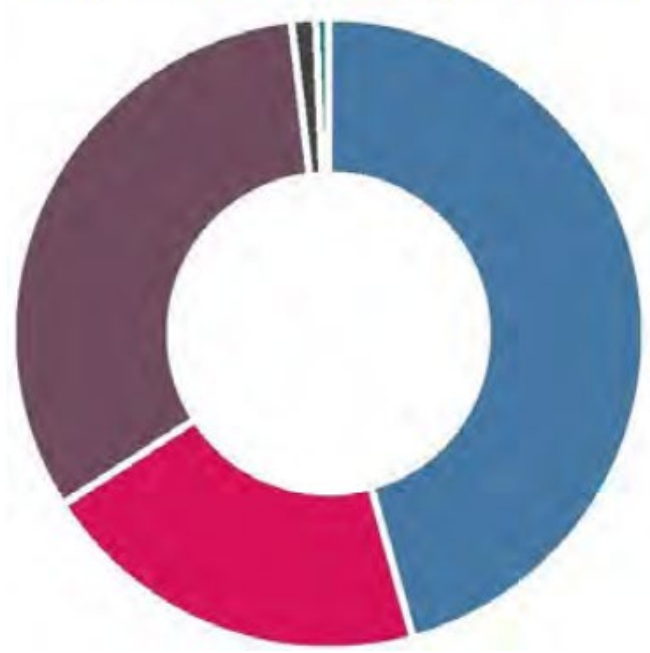
### How Large Are Community wide GHG Emissions?

The City's total emissions for 2022 are equal to **8.18 Billion** cubic feet of human-made greenhouse gas. This volume of atmosphere is equal to a cube **2,014** feet on each face viewed here at McKee Road and South Seminole Highway from over **1 3/4** miles away.



**City of Fitchburg**  
 Community wide total  
 419,413 metric tons in  
 13.65% from 26,050 to  
 The City of Fitchburg's  
 the same timeframe, c  
 emissions decrease.

### City-Wide GHG by Sector

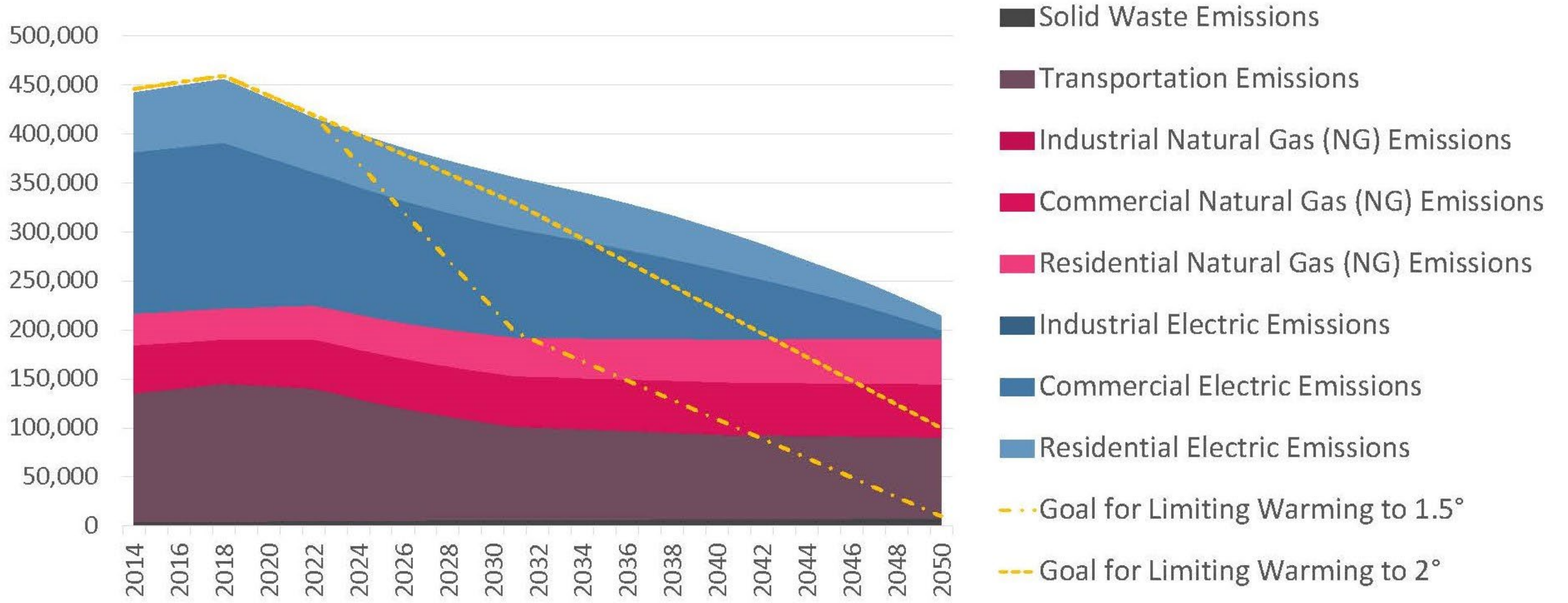


- 0.7% Water + Wastewater
- 1.2% Solid Waste
- 32.2% Transportation
- 20.2% Heating Fuel
- 45.7% Electricity





# GHG Emissions Forecast



# Foundational Document Review

## Sustainability Baseline Documents

### Ground Cover & Heat Island Study



# Section 02

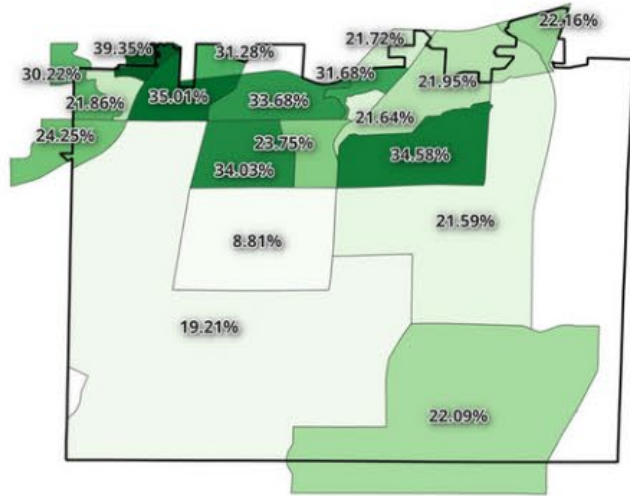
## Land Coverage Characteristics

Click here to return to TOC

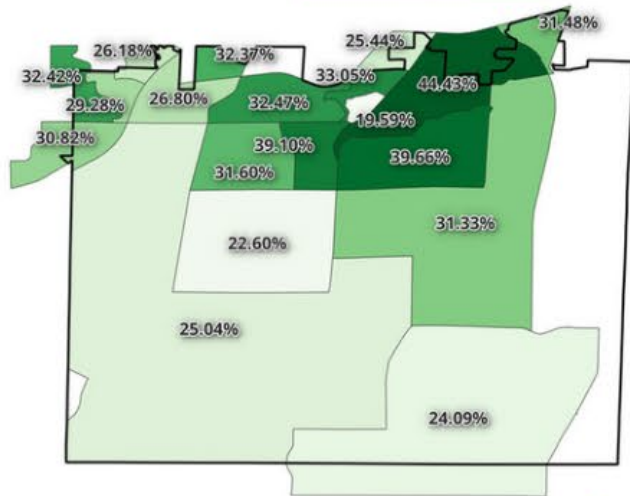
Classification of coverage categories included Tree Canopy, Grass, Water, Impervious Surface Light, and Impervious Surface Dark.



**Tree Canopy Coverage**  
 (See Appendix 3 for census area reference map)  
 City Average: **21.9%**  
 City High: **39.4%**  
 Tract 5.01 bg2  
 City Low: **8.8%**  
 Tract 107.01 bg3



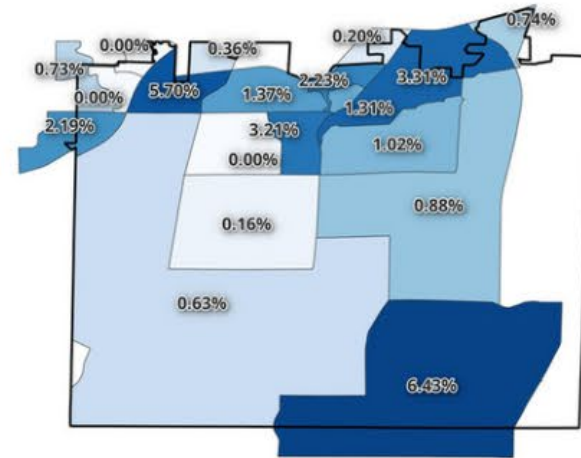
**Lawn and Grass Coverage**  
 (See Appendix 3 for census area reference map)  
 City Average: **30.9%**  
 City High: **44.4%**  
 Tract 14.05 bg2  
 City Low: **19.6%**  
 Tract 14.04 bg 3



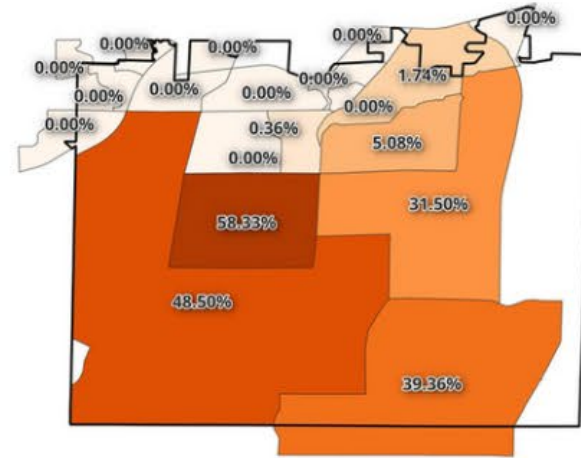
### Land Coverage Characteristics



**Open Water Coverage**  
 (See Appendix 3 for census area reference map)  
 City Average: **2.0%**  
 City High: **5.7%**  
 Tract 6 bg4  
 City Low: **0.0%**  
 multiple tracts

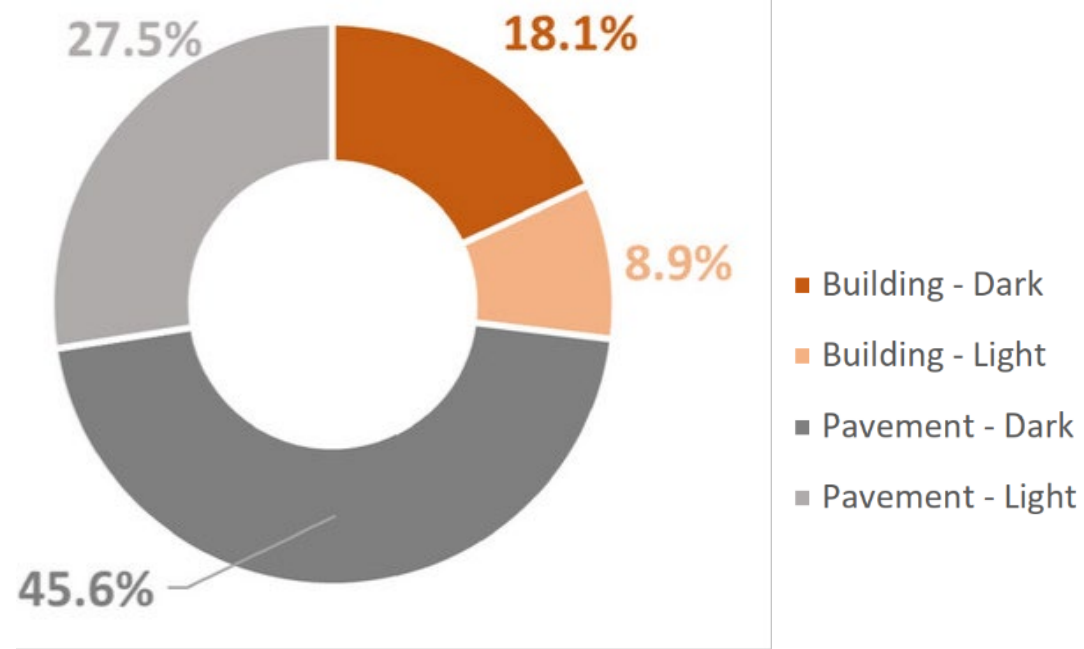
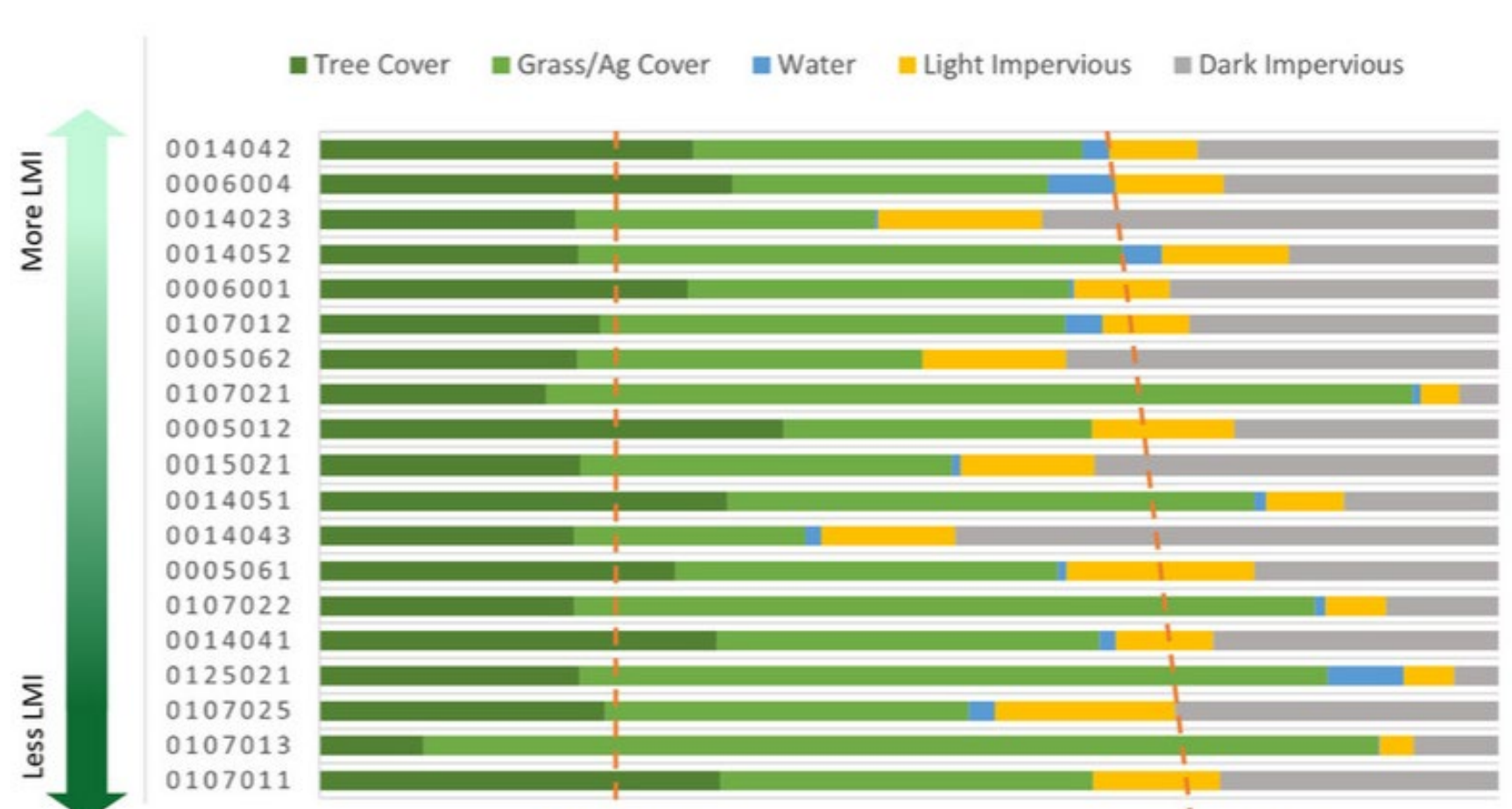
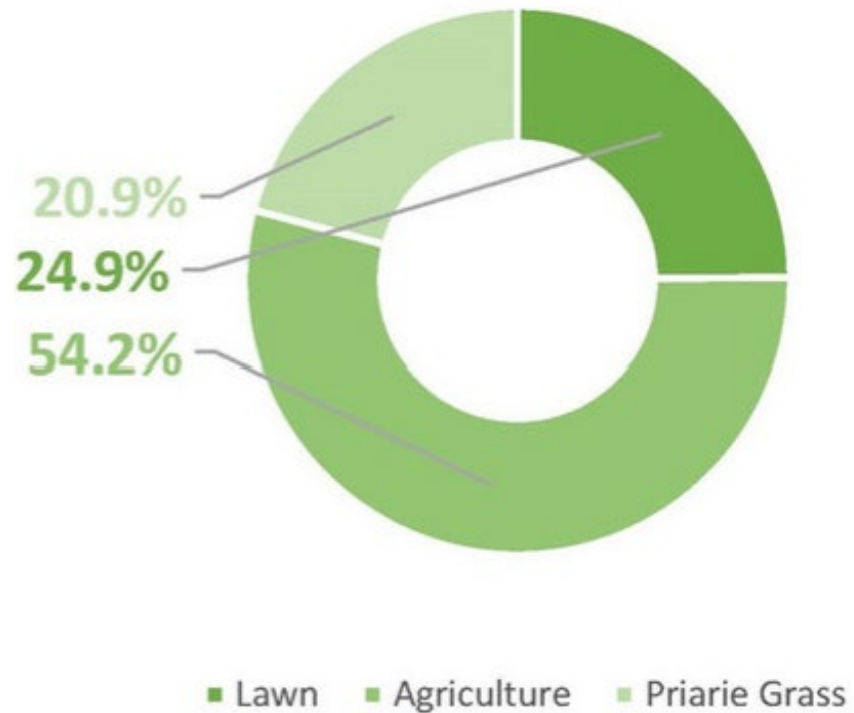
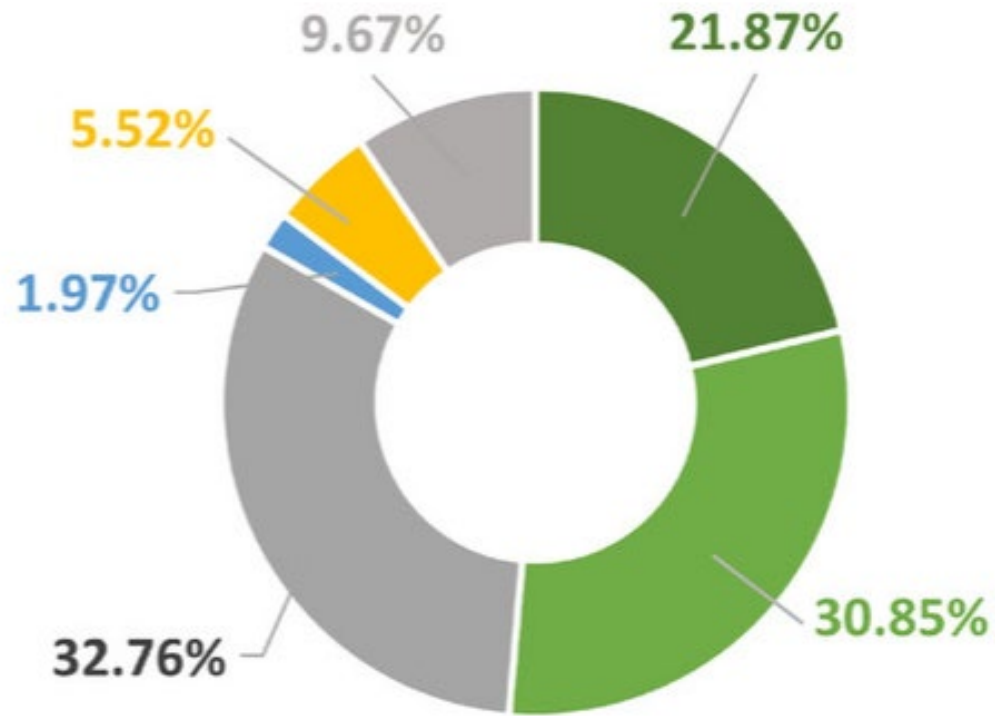


**Agriculture Land Coverage**  
 (See Appendix 3 for census area reference map)  
 City Average: **32.8%**  
 City High: **58.3%**  
 Tract 107.01 bg3  
 City Low: **0.0%**  
 multiple tracts



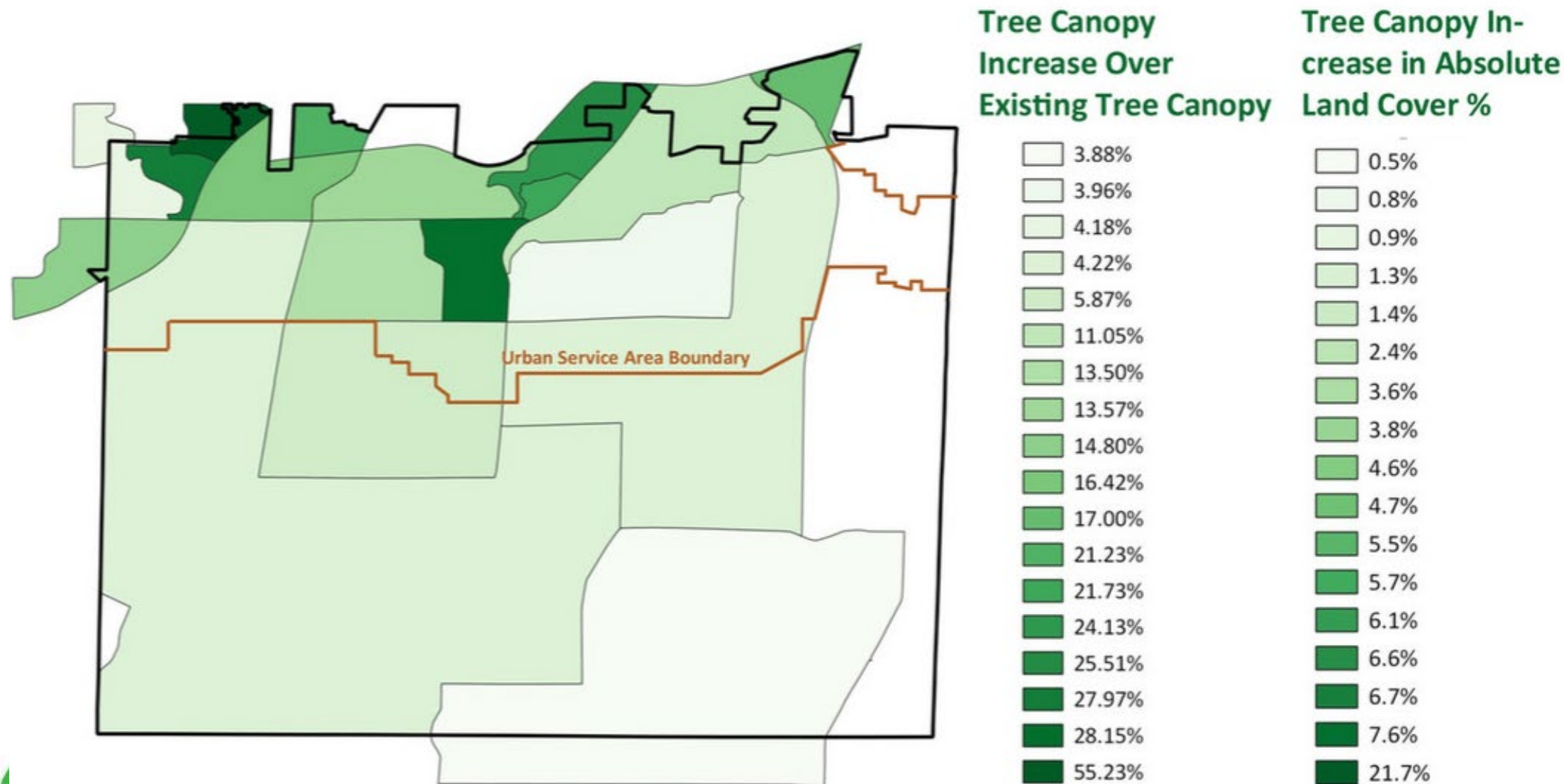
# Ground Cover Breakdown by Type

- Trees/Shrubs
- Grass Cover
- Agriculture Cover
- Water
- Light Impervious
- Dark Impervious



# Preliminary Tree Canopy Increase Recommendation (2040)

Based on tree stock potential (available land not used as buildings, roads, etc) and benefit potential for vulnerable populations, equity, and micro heat island



The recommended Tree Stock increase goals are:

- For areas in the top 1/3<sup>rd</sup>  
Census area Priority Ranking: **12%**
- For areas in middle 1/3<sup>rd</sup>  
Census area Priority Ranking: **7.25%**
- For areas in bottom 1/3<sup>rd</sup>  
Census area Priority Ranking: **2.5%**

**Resulting 2040 Tree Canopy Coverage Goal:**  
 Citywide Average: **23.5%**  
 Urban Service Area Average: **32%**

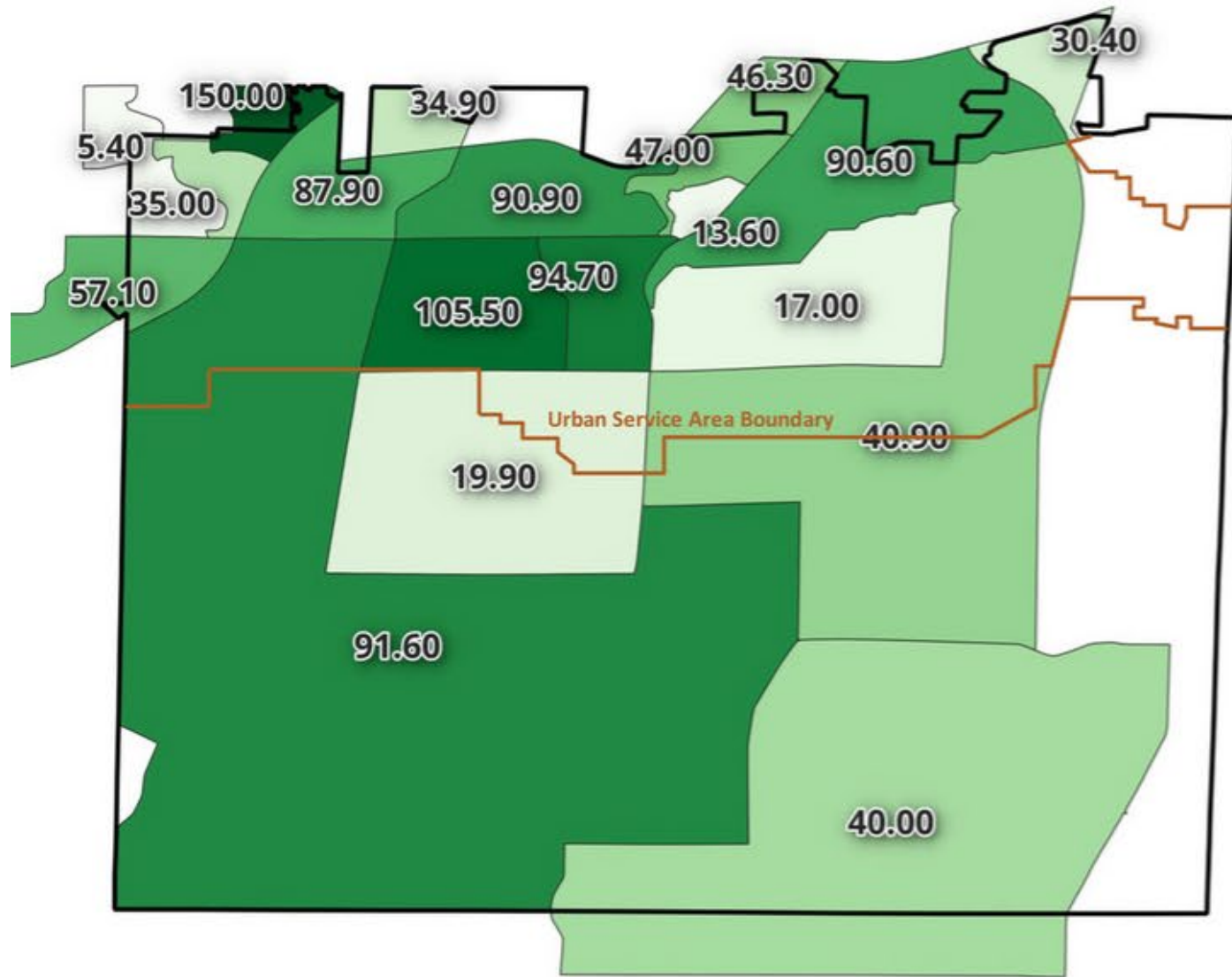




## New Tree Planting Annual Target to Meet 2040 Tree Canopy Goal (CN)

Community-Wide Total (Note, Acreage represents the canopy coverage at year of planting, with an assumed new tree crown radius of 5' planted no more than 22' apart):

**2,800 New Trees**      **31 Acres**



Note, the proposed framework does not include land in use as agriculture in calculations of potential tree canopy increases.

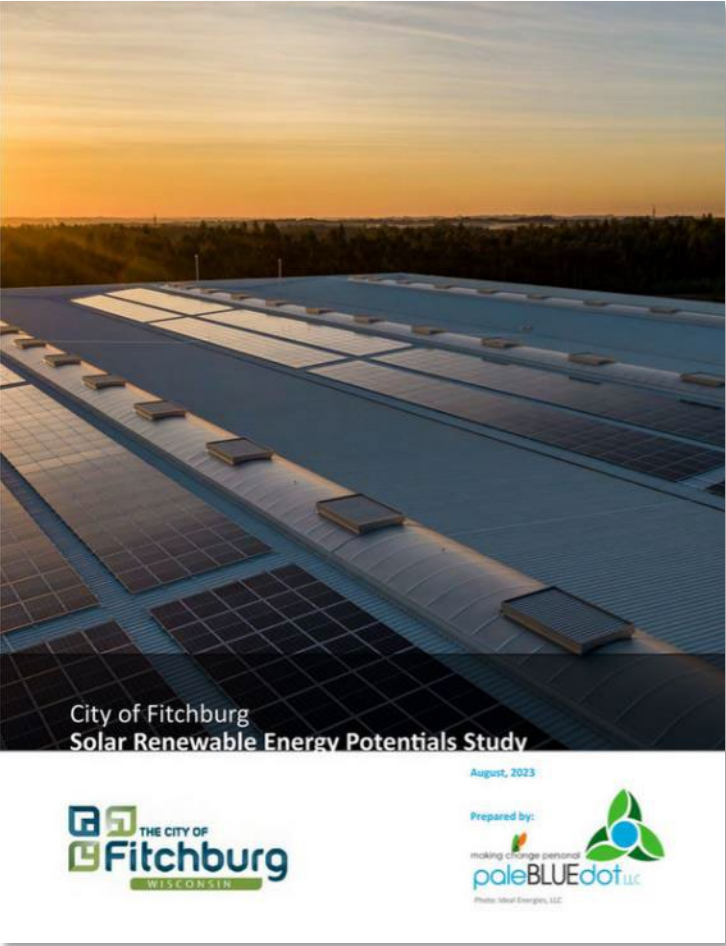
	<b>CB</b> (existing)	<b>CG</b> (growth)	<b>CM</b> (loss)	<b>CN</b> (new)	<b>CT</b> (year goal)	<b>UTC</b> (year end coverage %)
2024	4626 +	202 -	-213 +	31 =	4646	22.0%
2025	4646 +	203 -	-214 +	31 =	4666	22.1%
2026	4666 +	204 -	-215 +	31 =	4686	22.2%
2027	4686 +	204 -	-216 +	31 =	4706	22.3%
2028	4706 +	205 -	-216 +	31 =	4727	22.3%
2029	4727 +	206 -	-217 +	31 =	4747	22.4%
2030	4747 +	207 -	-218 +	31 =	4767	22.5%
2031	4767 +	208 -	-219 +	31 =	4787	22.6%
2032	4787 +	209 -	-220 +	31 =	4807	22.7%
2033	4807 +	210 -	-221 +	32 =	4827	22.8%
2034	4827 +	211 -	-222 +	32 =	4847	22.9%
2035	4847 +	211 -	-223 +	32 =	4867	23.0%
2036	4867 +	212 -	-224 +	32 =	4887	23.1%
2037	4887 +	213 -	-225 +	32 =	4908	23.2%
2038	4908 +	214 -	-226 +	32 =	4928	23.3%
2039	4928 +	215 -	-227 +	32 =	4948	23.4%
2040	4948 +	216 -	-228 +	32 =	4968	23.5%



# Foundational Document Review

## Sustainability Baseline Documents

### Renewable Energy Potential



## City Wide Municipal Solid Waste Plasma Gasification Potential

Exploration of gasification of municipal solid waste (MSW) and beneficial use by-product competition with traditional recycling efforts. Gasification of MSW is an established waste hierarchy: reduce, reuse, recycle and compost. Gasification is a process where harmful greenhouse gases are captured and the energy value of the waste is recovered. Gasification may be a potential for MSW, regardless of whether it is currently landfilled or recycled. For communities that cannot create a gasification plant within their boundaries, exploring partnering with the existing MSW facility is an option.

### What is Gasification?

Gasification can be defined as a process that uses heat and a low-oxygen carbonaceous feedstock such as coal or biomass to produce a gas (syngas) through partial oxidation to release energy. In gasification, oxygen is injected into the feedstock to complete combustion as it does in incineration, but gasification converts the feedstock into gaseous products at high temperatures in a controlled environment. At such elevated temperatures, solid and liquid wastes are broken down into molecules, which are mainly methane and hydrogen (H<sub>2</sub>) known as syngas. Syngas has energy content and can be used as a fuel in fuel cells or as a feedstock after cleaning.

### How Does a Gasification System Work?

Waste is fed into the top of the gasifier vessel. The gasification reaction occurs at 2,200°C (4,000°F). As the waste passes through several reaction zones, it is broken down into carbon char, inorganic materials, and synthesis gas (syngas), comprised predominately of carbon monoxide and hydrogen. This reaction is highly exothermic, meaning that it releases a large amount of energy in the form of heat. The syngas and heat rise through the gasifier, interacting with the waste as it descends through the vessel.

Syngas then exits the top of the gasifier vessel. At the base of the gasifier, inorganic materials and metals collect in a molten state. This molten liquid is periodically tapped out and cools into a vitrified stone that is very similar in appearance to natural stone.

**DRYING**  
Drying occurs in the top of the unit where hot syngas produced at the bottom of the unit is used to dry the waste.



## Plasma Gasification Potential in City of Fitchburg

According to Sierra Energy, based on the City of Fitchburg's total landfilled municipal solid waste, the current waste stream within Fitchburg could support the following gasification derived energy potential:

### Dane County Total

**331,884,614**



**kWh Electricity**  
annually

or

**73,461,793**



**Pounds Hydrogen Fuel**  
annually

Usable as a fuel alternative for fuel cells or engine generator sets

or

**18,326,962**



**Gallons of Renewable Diesel**  
annually

Usable as a fuel alternative for vehicles

or

**413,189,680**



**Pounds of Ammonia**  
annually

Usable as a fuel alternative for fuel cells or engine generator sets

### City of Fitchburg

**3,165,686**

**700,716**

**174,812**

**3,941,216**

**6x**  
Municipal Operations  
Diesel Consumption

collected into the

reaction produces  
up to 2,200°C  
for the thorough  
carbon into syngas.  
at this stage allows  
self-sustaining



Graphic Source: Sierra Energy





### Buildings and Energy

**LEED for Cities and Communities Measures**  
LEED for Cities and Communities is a rating system developed by the US Green Building Council. The rating system is an extension of the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) green building certification program. LEED for Cities measures related to this section have been included in the consideration of the development of the Strategic Goal Recommendations outlined at the end of this section.

The following are measures included in the LEED for Cities and Communities which relate to this section:

#### Green Building Policy and Incentives

- Option: Buildings Owned and/or Operated by the Local Government
- Option: Green Building Policy and Incentives

#### Housing and Transportation Affordability

- Option: Comprehensive Housing Policy
- Option: Housing and Transportation Costs
- Option: Affordable Housing Production
- Option: Affordable Rental Housing Preservation

#### Power Access, Reliability and Resilience

- Case 1. Electricity Access
- Reliability Performance
- Power Surety and Resilience

#### Energy and Greenhouse Gas Emissions

- Measure the annual greenhouse gas emissions for the city

#### Energy Efficiency

- Option: Energy Audit
- Option: Street Lighting
- Option: Water and Wastewater
- Option: District Energy
- Option: Energy Efficiency

#### Renewable Energy

- Option: Renewable Energy in Electricity Supply
- Option: Renewable Energy in Total Energy Consumption
- Option: Renewable Energy Programs and Policies

#### Net-Zero Carbon and Climate Action

- Option: City-wide Carbon Neutrality Accountability
- Option: Climate Action Plan
- Option: Reduction in Carbon Intensity



**Intent of recommendations: Just a place to start!** The Planning team will be discussing, changing, and finalizing these goals through their collaborative process.



### Buildings and Energy

#### Strategic Goal Recommendations— Community Wide

Based on the reviews outlined in this section, we recommend the City of Fitchburg explore establishing the following community-wide Buildings and Energy Strategic Goals:

**BE 1:** Improve total Community wide building energy efficiency (all sectors) by 10% for electricity and natural gas by 2030.

energy poverty from 8% to 4% by 2030.

**BE 6:** Increase resilience of community-wide buildings to potential impacts of climate change. (impacts include increased flooding risk, increased extreme weather events, and increased extreme temperature events).

#### Strategic Goal Recommendations

##### Government Operations

Based on the reviews outlined in this section, we recommend the City of Fitchburg explore establishing the following Buildings and Energy Strategic Goals:

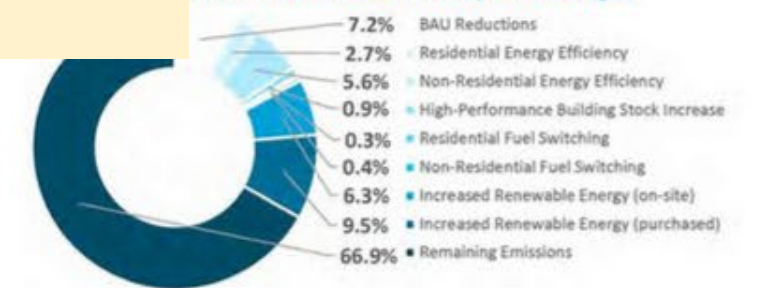
**BE 6:** Improve total government building energy efficiency by 15% by 2030 (electricity and natural gas, including water and wastewater infrastructure).

Improve 15% government building thermal “fuel switching” from fossil fuel combustion to electrification by 2030.

Increase renewable energy to 100% (on-site and green purchase) of government building electric use by 2030.

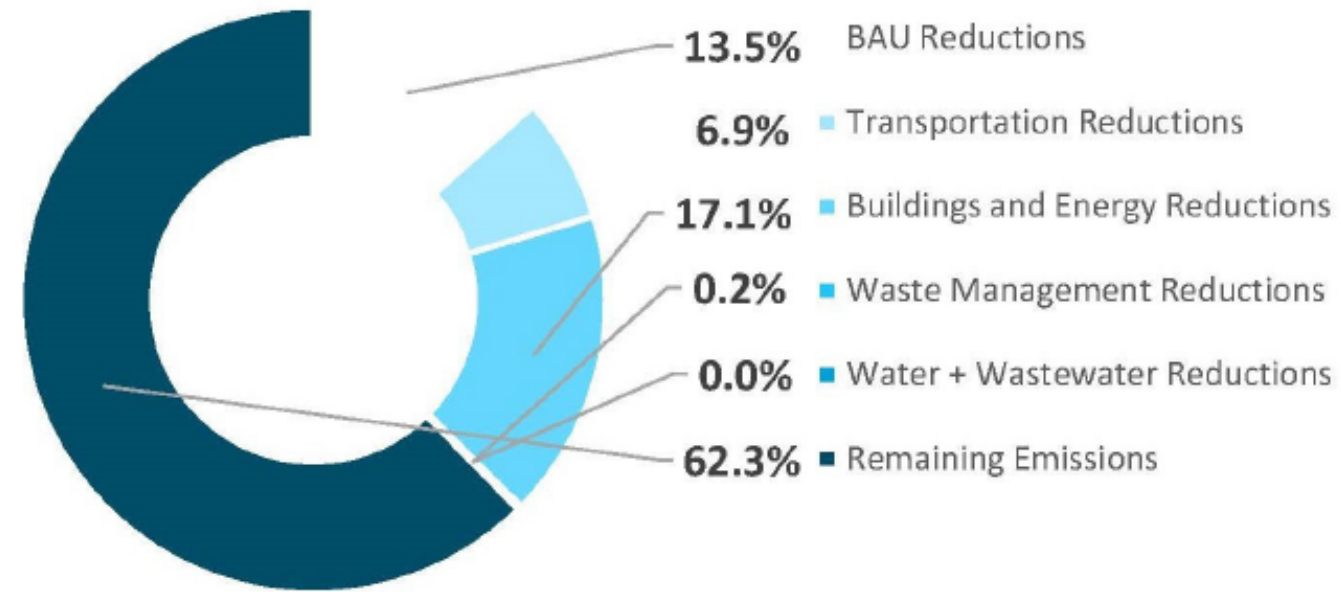
Increase resilience of government facilities to the impacts of climate change.

#### Emission Reductions Achieved by Draft Strategies



# Preliminary Goal / Strategy Overview

Share of Total Projected Potential Emission Reductions by Sector by 2030 from 2022 Baseline (preliminary estimate):



Based on the illustrated potential reductions included in this document, we recommend the following as a preliminary Climate Mitigation goal statement for consideration by the planning team:

Recommended City of Fitchburg GHG Reduction Goal:



**“To reduce city-wide GHG emissions by 35% below 2022 levels by 2030, and achieve carbon neutrality by 2050.”\***

\*2030 goal is equivalent to 40% reduction from a 2018 baseline and within IPCC recommendations



# What Are Your Thoughts



## TAKE THE CITY'S SURVEY

Available through Wednesday February 14th

To take the survey, please go here:

<https://palebluedot.llc/fitchburg-sustainability>



## GIVE INPUT ON DRAFT PLAN GOALS

Available today – please walk around and add your thoughts!

If you are online you can find them here:

<https://1drv.ms/f/s!AjXEmMthmWPLjP0ttunlQdD6LTiy3w?e=vmmqcx>



