# Milwaukee's Climate and Equity Plan

Summary of Working Group Recommendations

March 7, 2022

# Climate Threats: A Warming Planet

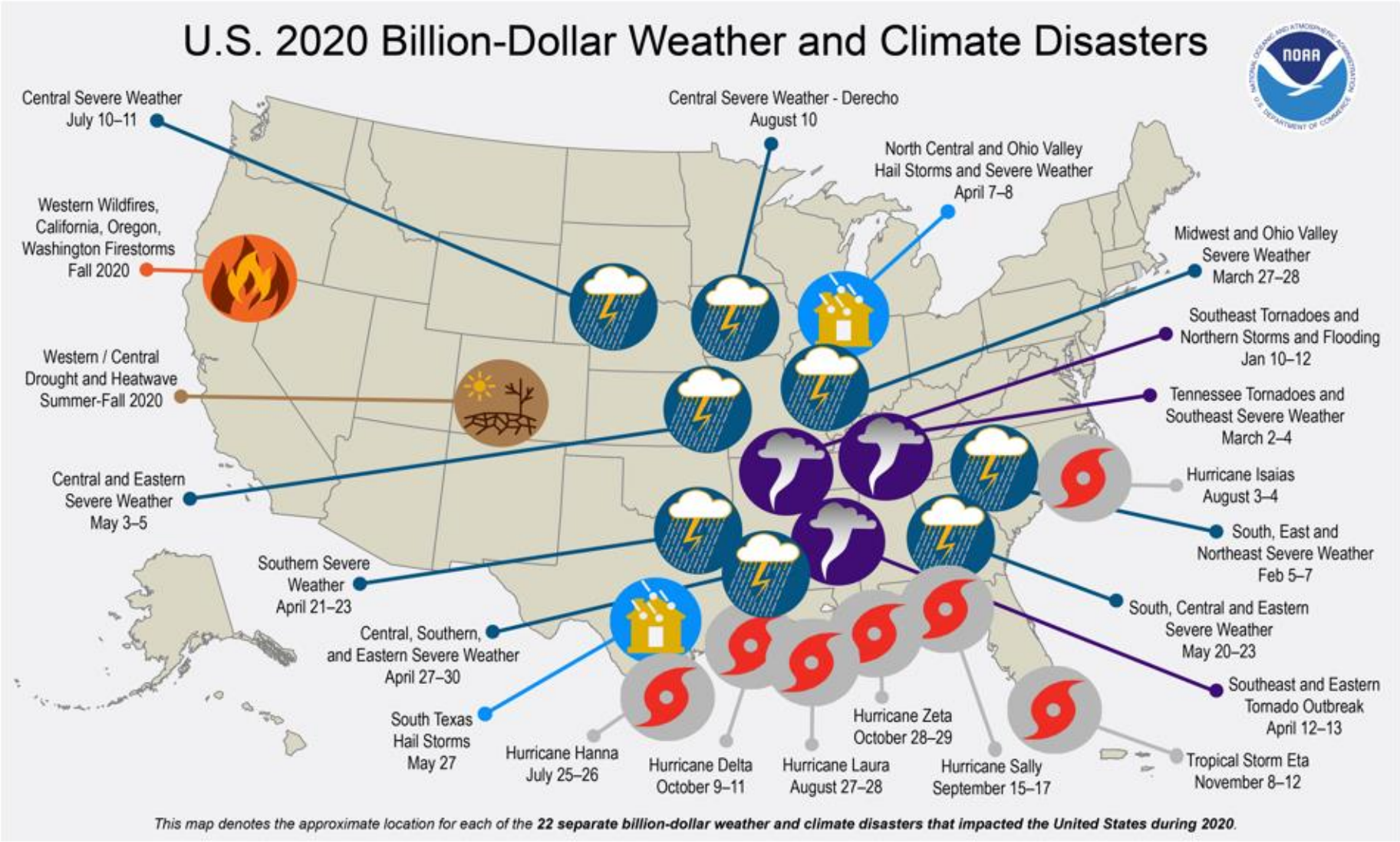
- 3 Big Causes
  - Overuse of fossil fuels
  - Deforestation
  - Lack of sustained political action

- Threats
  - Extreme Storms & Flooding
  - Heat Waves and Urban Heat Islands
  - Health risks, including asthma
  - Wild Fires in the West
  - Food Supply Disruptions
  - Climate Refugees
  - National Security
  - Loss of Biodiversity

*Milwaukee Climate Vulnerability Report*

available at Milwaukee.gov/ClimatePlan

# 2020: 22 weather events causing $1B+ in damage each

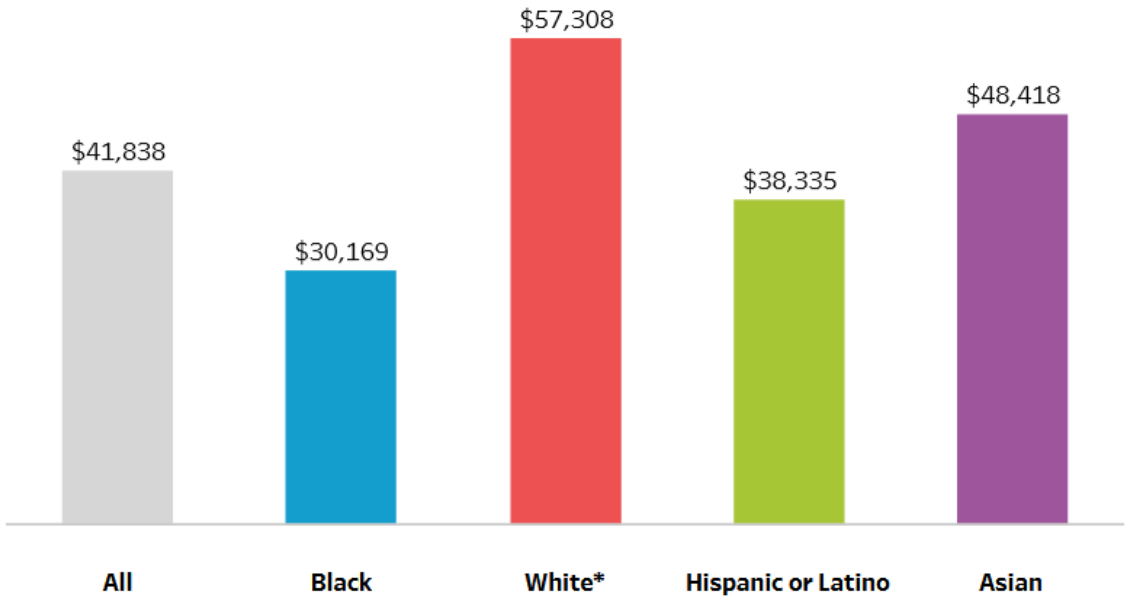



www.ncdc.noaa.gov/billions/

# Racial Equity: We've got work to do

**Median household income in past 12 months**

City of Milwaukee, 2015-2019 Estimate (in 2019 dollars)




| | All | Black | White* | Hispanic or Latino | Asian |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2015-2019 | $41,838 | $30,169 | $57,308 | $38,335 | $48,418 |
| 2010-2014 | $38,362 | $28,178 | $51,818 | $34,494 | $42,795 |
| Change | +$3,476▲ | +$1,991▲ | +$5,490▲ | +$3,841▲ | +$5,623▲ |

**Not Hispanic or Latino*

*Data source: US Census Bureau, 2010-2014 and 2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates*

Milwaukee has unacceptable racial disparities in every economic category including employment, incomes, home ownership, and energy burden.

This is a city and *metropolitan* problem.

*city.milwaukee.gov/Equity-and-Inclusion/Racial-Equity/Data*

# City-County Task Force on Climate and Economic Equity

Common Council established the Task Force in 2019 (CCFN 190445) to address the ongoing climate crisis and mitigate racial and economic inequity through "green" jobs.

## Members Organizations

- Milwaukee Common Council
- Milwaukee County Board
- Citizen Action of WI
- Community Advocates Public Policy Inst.
- Milwaukee Area Labor Council
- Wisconsin Climate Table
- NAACP
- Sierra Club
- Clean Wisconsin
- Environmental Collaboration Office

# Climate and Equity Plan Goals

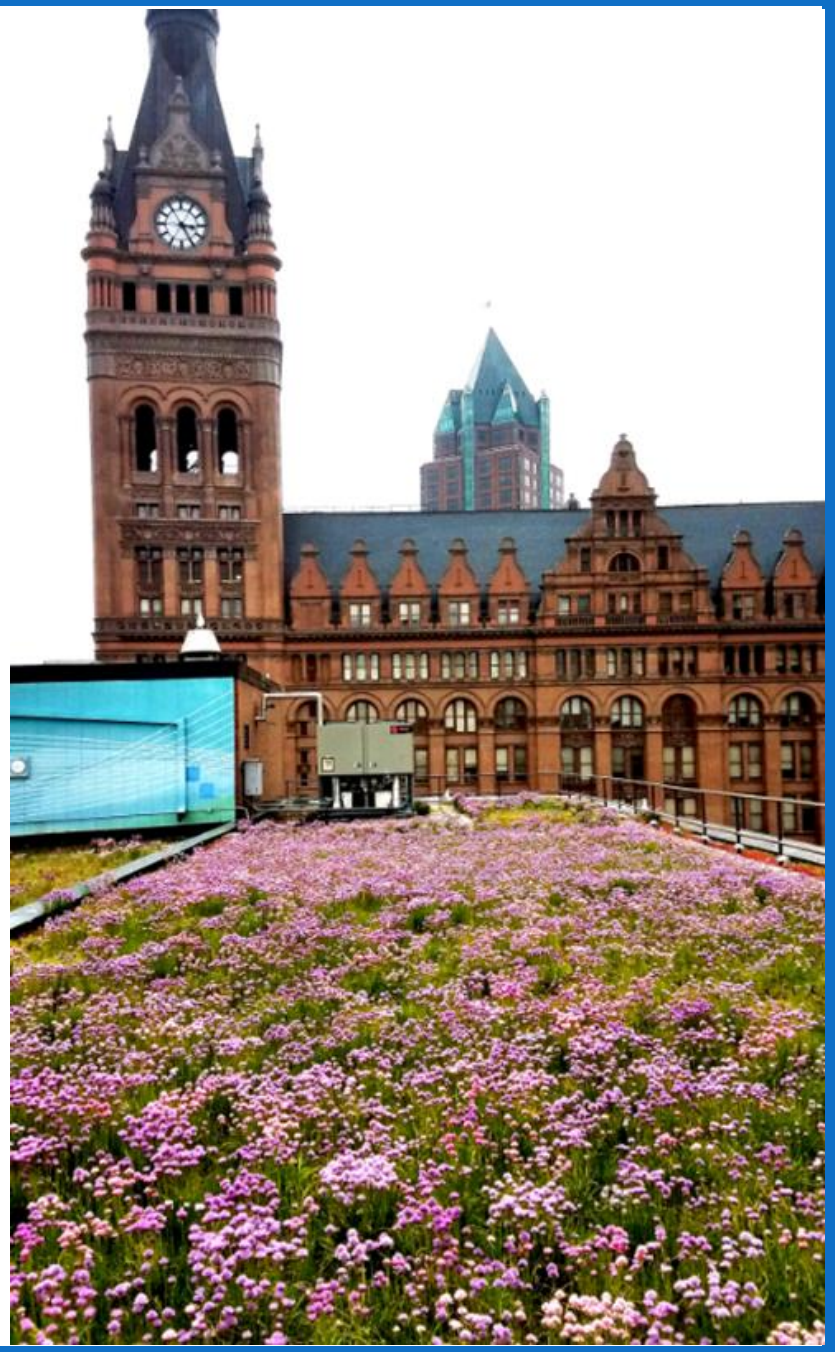
## Milwaukee.gov/ClimatePlan

- Reduce community greenhouse gas emissions 45% by 2030 and achieve net zero emissions by 2050

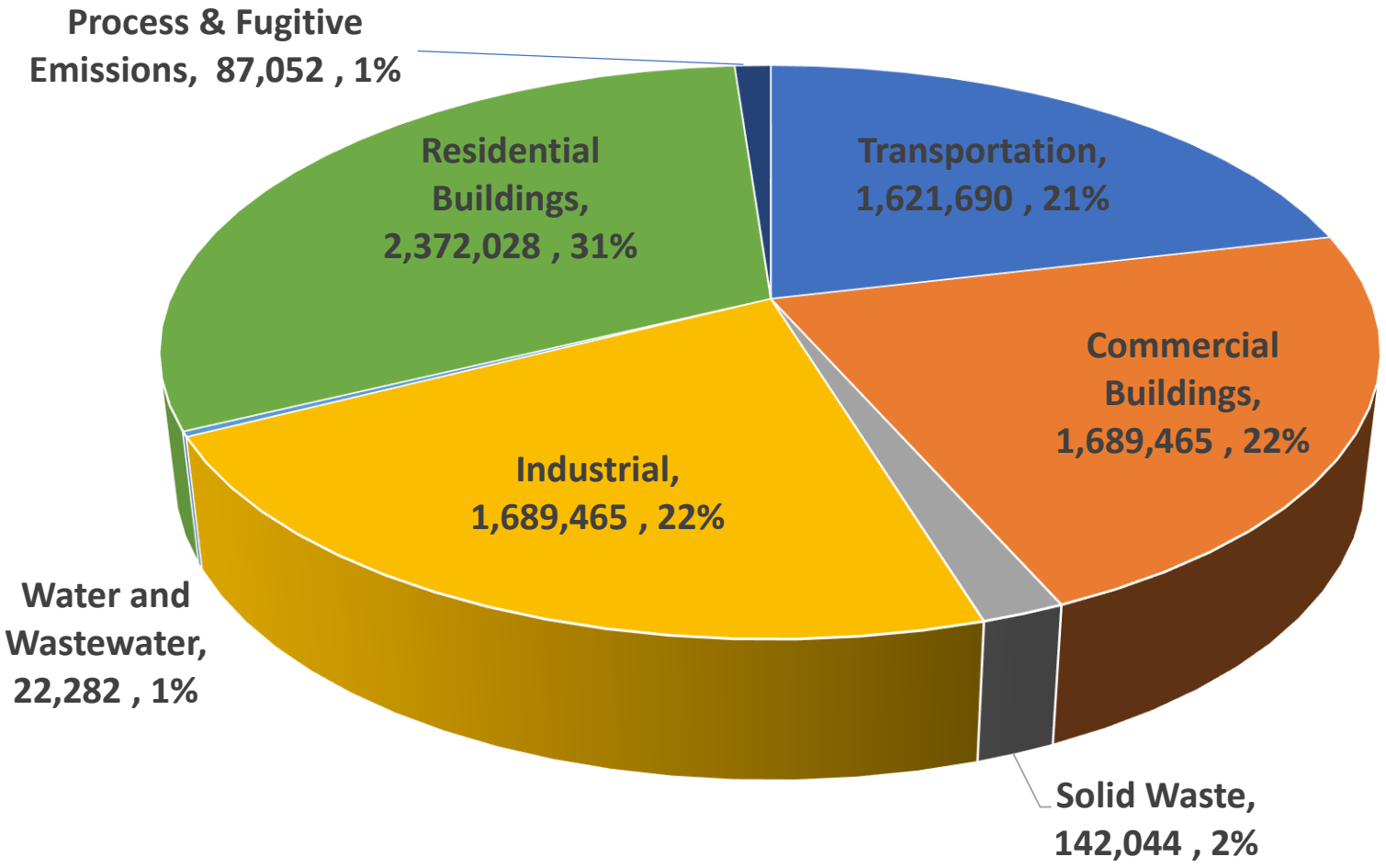
- Improve racial and economic equity by creating green jobs that pay $40,000+; focus recruitment on people of color

# 2020-2021 Progress

- Preliminary report published in March 2020
- Greenhouse gas inventories completed for City of Milwaukee and Milwaukee County
- Stakeholder working group met extensively throughout 2021 to develop recommendations
- General public outreach including video surveys, online surveys, presentations, and events
- Full report to be drafted in 2022, with additional community engagement



# Greenhouse Gas Emissions by Source - $CO_2e$ (ICLEI-USA Alternative Analysis)




City of Milwaukee 2018 Emissions

~7.7 Million Metric Tons of CO2-equivalents

# Good News:
# We are not starting from scratch

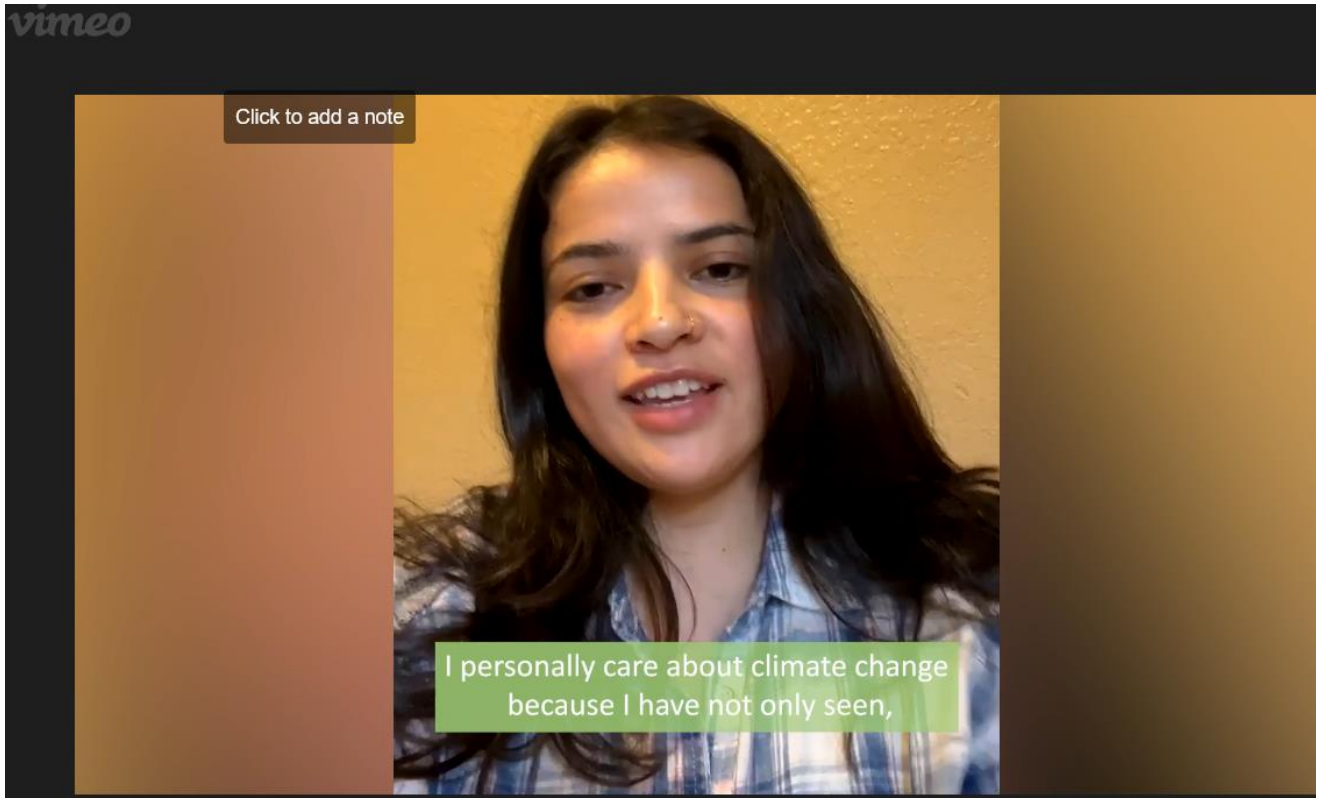
- 2013 ReFresh Milwaukee Sustainability Plan
- 2019 Green Infrastructure Plan
- Existing climate programs
  - Me² Home Energy Efficiency Program
  - Milwaukee Shines Solar Program
  - Sustainability practices in city and county operations
  - Multi-Modal Transportation
- New climate commitments from corporations, including We Energies

HOME GR/OWN | Milwaukee SHINES | Me² | BETTER BUILDINGS CHALLENGE | WATER CENTRIC CITY | eco ENVIRONMENTAL COLLABORATION OFFICE

ecology economy ecommunity | milwaukee.gov/eco

City of Milwaukee

# Milwaukee Climate and Equity Video Survey




https://vimeo.com/tankbrain/review/651338623/fb6e6ec84a

# 10 Big Ideas

Green and Healthy Homes

Commercial Building Energy Benchmarking+

Net Zero Energy New Homes

Greening the Grid

Green Jobs Accelerator

Electric Vehicle Infrastructure

Reducing Vehicle Miles Traveled

Nature in the City

Reducing Food Waste

Resilience Ambassadors

# Process Notes

- Nine working groups developed thorough recommendations and lengthy PowerPoints to describe each proposal in detail. What follows is a summary.

- All of the working groups understand and accept the fiscal constraints that the City has. However, they were instructed to "think big" to position Milwaukee for federal grants and other funding opportunities that are now available to meet the goals established by the Common Council and County Board.

- We are in the process of hiring a consultant that will provide additional analysis and turn the working group recommendations into a cohesive document

# Green Jobs Accelerator

## Background

- Long-standing racial inequities in number of jobs and household incomes
- Good paying job opportunities in the trades and other "green jobs"
- Existing training providers include unions, MATC, MREA, and others. Highest paying jobs require most time and training, e.g. Electricians and Building Automation
- DPW currently struggling to recruit and retain qualified trades people, a problem made worse by the pandemic
- Need to scale up now to prepare for major federal infrastructure investments

## Recommendations

- Clarify pathways & build excitement for green jobs
- Training with supports (including CDL, OSHA-30, basic construction courses, and skilled trades training through registered apprenticeships)
- Transitional jobs with career ladders
  - EDA grant application proposed creating 85 Green Jobs Trainees and Apprentices in DPW, with driver instructors
- Community benefits agreements for publicly funded projects
- MOUs with employers for EDI goals
- Support black and brown employers and foster business development

# Green and Healthy Homes

Making existing homes more energy efficient

## Background

- High "energy burden" in low-income and neighborhoods of color
- Opportunity to help people where they live
- Older housing stock has lots of challenges, with different government programs to fix different things with different eligibility criteria
- More can be done to reach tenants
- Existing programs include Weatherization Assistant Program (WAP), Me², and Focus on Energy

## Recommendations

- Support holistic approach to housing renovations: coordinate lead abatement, energy efficiency, and other healthy home improvements
- Streamlined system and tools to help residents navigate and enroll in housing programs
- Fund and enhance Me² program and Weatherization Assistance
- Support contractor and workforce development
- Develop strategy to begin replacing gas heat and appliances with electric, including cold climate heat pumps

# New Net Zero Energy Homes

## Background

- The City of Milwaukee has approximately 1,750 buildable vacant lots scattered throughout neighborhoods suitable for single-family or duplex development
- Labor productivity in construction has declined since 1968, in contrast to other industries; we are facing shortages in skilled trades and affordable housing units
- Need for manufacturing jobs in Century City
- Mismatch in cost of new construction versus existing home values leads to mortgage finance limitations on new home construction

## Recommendations

- Attract "off-site" building system manufacturer e.g. construct complete wall systems in a factory setting, which can be assembled into homes on vacant lots.
- New homes designed for durability, affordability, and high energy efficiency standards
- ARPA funding and ECO efforts have identified a firm that is working on financing options for Century City
- Supports CDA's Housing Plan

# Commercial Building Benchmarking and Building Performance Standards

## Background

- Commercial buildings include office buildings and commercial space, as well as multi-family apartment buildings with more than 4 units.
- State of Wisconsin controls the building code
- Since 2012, the City of Milwaukee has championed the U.S. Department of Energy's *Better Buildings Challenge*, with voluntary participation of **133 commercial buildings in the city**
- Recommendations supported by leading national climate policy organizations including by ICLEI-USA, IMT, ACEEE, USGBC
- Mayor Johnson joined the Building Performance Standard Coalition, a White House CEQ led effort of over 30 states and local governments to implement building performance standard policies by Earth Day, 2024

## Recommendations

- Establish a Commercial Building Energy **Benchmarking ordinance** (annual energy reporting)
- Phase in a **Building Performance Standard** that requires buildings to meet greenhouse gas reduction targets over time
- Stakeholder engagement process with equity lens to refine a specific policy
- Advocate with the State of Wisconsin to adopt the international model energy code without weakening amendments
- Scale up energy efficiency work in municipal buildings

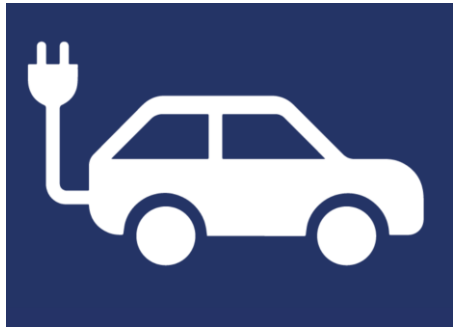
# Reduce Vehicle Miles Traveled

## Background

- Prosperous cities and neighborhoods feature mixed uses, vibrant streets, and are safe for pedestrians and bicyclists
- Designing cities around car travel and highways have contributed to population declines, high-speed reckless driving, disconnected people from jobs, and created the economic burdens of car ownership
- Inequitable transportation access results from a legacy of discriminatory housing, land use and transportation policies that this plan seeks to address.

## Recommendations

1. **Transit**
   - Expand Bus Rapid Transit (7 new routes proposed by SEWRPC)
   - Streetcar expansion; better coordination with County
   - Improve existing route frequency and facilities
2. **Active Modes (Walking and Biking)**
   - 30th Street Corridor Trail project
   - Protected bike lanes
   - Major design changes to 27th St., Fond Du Lac Ave., Capitol Dr., 35th St.
3. **Land Use & Zoning**
   - Less Parking; More Transit-Oriented Development
   - Update zoning code to increase density (e.g. allow accessory dwelling units); eliminate parking minimums on development
   - Advocate State to allow for inclusionary zoning laws



# Electric Vehicles

## Background

- Achieving "mode shift" to walking, biking and public transit depends on long term infrastructure and land use changes, and will take substantial time.
- The bipartisan infrastructure bill allocates $7.5 billion to build EV charging networks.
- EV's have no tail-pipe emissions
- Without intervention, 34% of new light-duty vehicle sales are projected to be electric by 2030

## Recommendations

- Develop and adopt a formal charging network plan for deploying an electric vehicle charging network, including municipally owned stations.
- By 2023, develop a city ordinance that requires EV charging infrastructure at parking lots, multi-family residential buildings, mixed use developments and other commercial properties.
- Advocate for supportive EV policies with State of Wisconsin and utilities
- 50% of new sales should be EVs with better infrastructure

# Greening the Grid
## (Renewable Energy)

## Background

- 25% by 2025 renewable energy goal for city buildings
- The City of Milwaukee and Milwaukee County are in We Energies service territory. We Energies is the sole public electric utility in our area. They are regulated by the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin.
- Fuel mix is still mostly coal and gas, but renewables are growing
- Current state and utility policies regarding rooftop solar lag other states
- We Energies announced plans to eliminate coal by 2035 and be carbon neutral by 2050
- A greener grid underpins other strategies like beneficial electrification for vehicles and buildings

## Recommendations

- Support 1) robust and competitive rooftop solar market and 2) utility-scale investments in renewable energy
- Advocacy at State through Wisconsin Local Government Climate Coalition and direct intervention on PSC cases
- Purchase 25% to 100% of the City's municipal electric needs from We Energies through new proposed "Community Energies" program (DRER-alternative)

# Protecting and Restoring Nature in the City

## Background

- Trees remove carbon dioxide from atmosphere and create oxygen
- Excessive amounts of pavement create urban heat islands, increase flood risk, and reduce biodiversity
- Less tree canopy in communities of color
- City adopted a Green Infrastructure Plan in 2019

## Recommendations

- Protect Environmentally Sensitive Lands (including areas along lakes and rivers)
- Expand the Green and Healthy Schoolyard Redevelopment Program
- Implement the Branch Out Milwaukee Campaign
- Green-Cooling Commercial Lots

# Food Waste Reduction

## Background

- Food and organic materials that decompose anaerobically in landfills create methane, a powerful green house gas
- Food insecurity and health problems related to food are an equity concern.
- US EPA's "Food Recovery Hierarchy" prioritizes preventing and diverting wasted food
- 15% of waste in SE Wisconsin is food according to DNR

## Recommendations

- FEED Milwaukee Collaboration
  - FEED = "Food Excess Equitable Distribution" to rescue surplus food and distribute it to hungry people
  - Continue and evaluate Milwaukee's Fresh Food Access Fund
  - Identify barriers and opportunities for food donation, handling, and distribution, including apps to connect people and food
- Develop reusable food service container system (to wash and reuse takeout containers) + community-wide composting

# Resilience Ambassadors

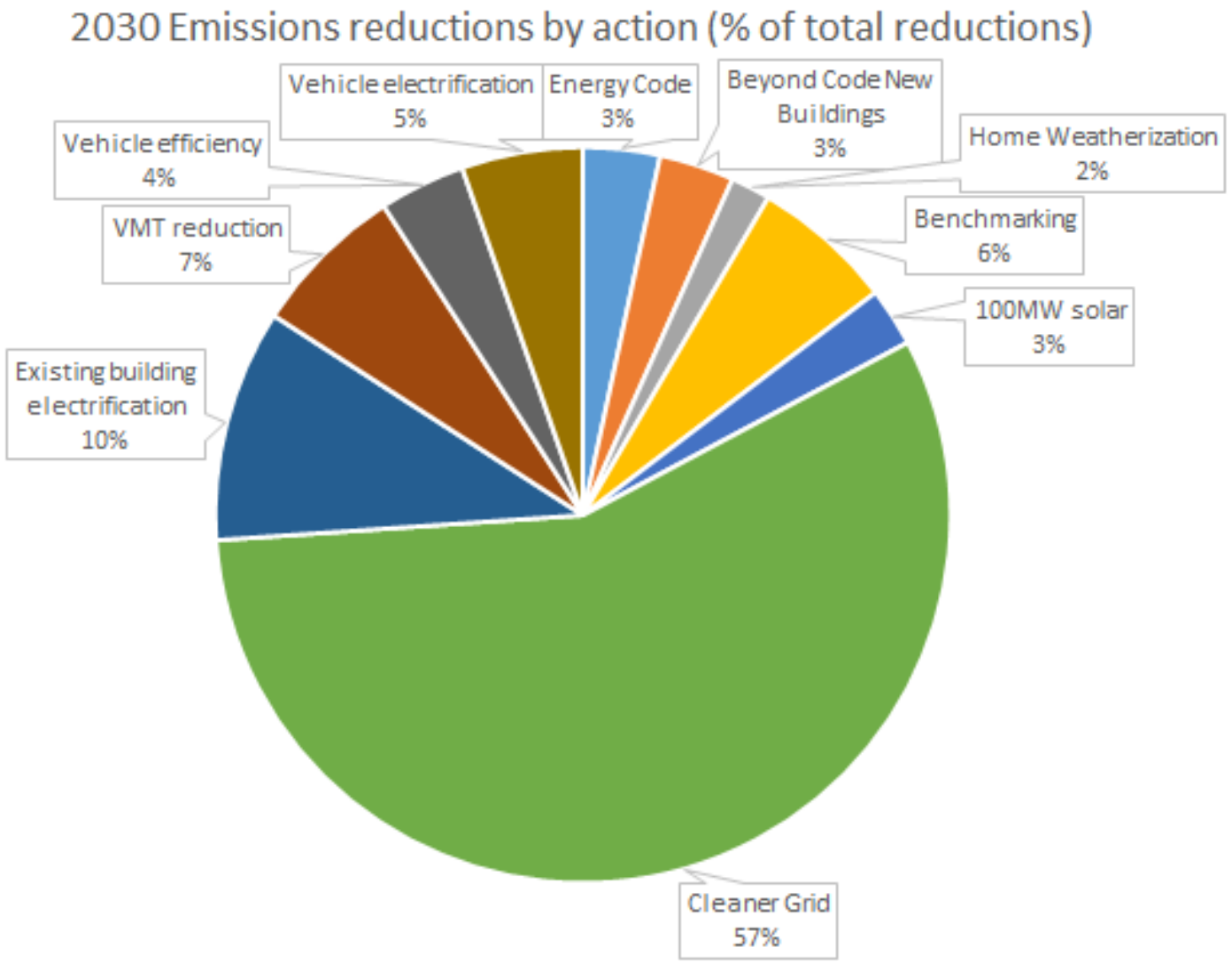
## Background

- How do we prepare residents for climate change impacts that are already happening?
- Risks: Flooding, Heatwaves, extreme cold.
- MMSD Resilience Plan
- ECO EPA Environmental Justice Grant

## Recommendations

- Work with trusted messengers to connect residents with resiliency resources
  - City's housing programs, including lead abatement, energy efficiency, and other programs
  - MMSD Pipe Check program
  - City anti-displacement programs
- Prioritize flood-prone neighborhoods & review floodplains for bigger storms
- Resiliency hubs

# Many Strategies Needed




1. Green the Grid: Replace Coal power plants with renewable energy
2. Energy Efficiency: Save energy through more efficient homes, commercial buildings, and vehicles
3. Electrification: Replace heating and vehicle fossil fuel with electric
4. Drive less

Note: Percentages will be refined with additional analysis

# Communications and Finance

## Communications

- Goal: Informed, Connected, Engaged, & Inspired residents in all neighborhoods
- Three Part Plan
  1. Education/Communications Campaign
  2. Outreach through CBOs, neighborhood groups, and environmental organizations
  3. Actions and Events
- Collaborative communication strategy between government agencies and non-profits that recognize their unique roles with common goals

## Finance

- **Build capacity (staff and/or contract grant writers) to monitor and apply for millions of dollars in federal grants**
- Green and Healthy Homes Fund
- Ensure transportation funding supports climate recommendations
- Climate Capital Campaign
- Whole-of-government alignment (e.g. assess for climate impacts along with equity in financial decisions)
- Green bonds, Energy Saving Performance Contracts

# Next Steps

- RFP for consulting firm has been issued
  - Additional analysis
  - Draft report and public-facing materials
  - Final report drafting after additional public review

- FUSE Fellow to start in April to support additional public outreach on plan

- Scale up City's grant-writing capabilities

THE IUPAT FIGHTS FOR WORKING PEOPLE
sdc
BUILD BACK BETTER WISCONSIN
STAND WITH WORKERS
CO-SPONSOR THE PRO ACT!
UNIONS FOR ALL
SEIU
Climate Action Now
LCV