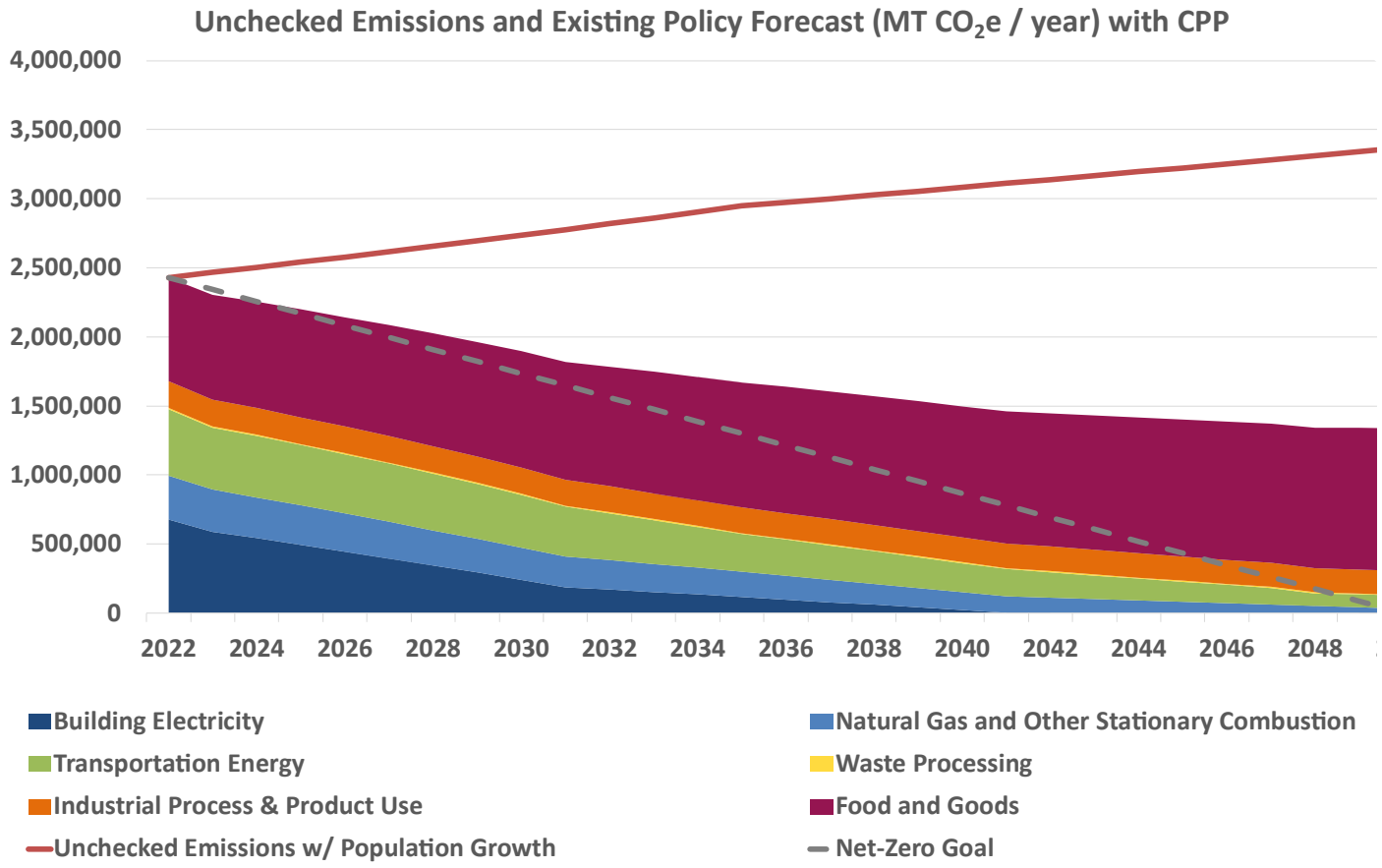
GHG Emissions Reduction Plan Overview

The City of Hillsboro recognizes the urgent need to address climate change and is committed to taking meaningful action to cut greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The City's GHG Emissions Reduction Plan outlines a comprehensive set of actions the City, Hillsboro residents, businesses, and community partners can implement to achieve significant emission reductions while prioritizing equity and other environmental co-benefits.

GHG emissions in Hillsboro are projected to decrease over time, thanks to strong climate action from the State of Oregon. While local emissions (excluding food and goods) are estimated to drop by over 70% in 2050 compared to 2022, that is still not enough to hit the target of 100% GHG emissions mitigation to limit global warming to 1.5°C as seen here:

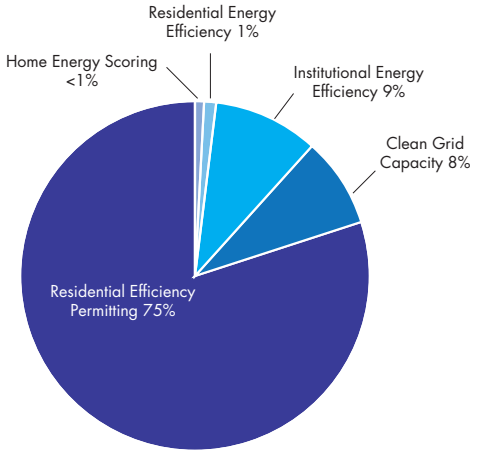


This plan is designed to eliminate 4.6 million metric tons of GHG emissions from the atmosphere over the next 25 years. This includes actions in the three largest sectors identified in the community GHG inventory:

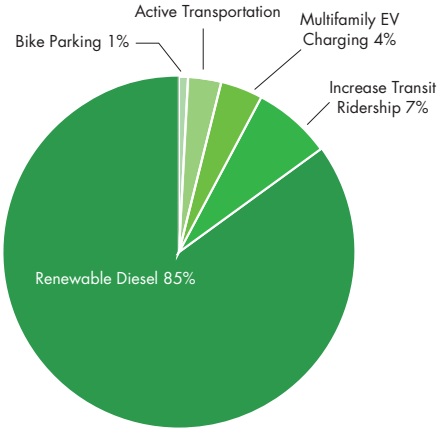
- **Building Energy Actions:** Energy efficiency upgrades, promoting renewable energy sources, and retrofitting buildings to reduce electricity and natural gas consumption
- **Transportation Actions:** Encouraging the adoption of electric vehicles, enhancing public transit options, and promoting biking and walking
- **Consumption and Waste Actions:** Reducing waste generation, increasing composting, and promoting sustainable consumption practices

Building Energy

Building energy is a major source of emissions for Hillsboro, accounting for about 34% of Hillsboro's total emissions. Most of these emissions stem from industrial electricity use, but residential electricity and natural gas consumption also play a role. The plan details estimated emissions reduction based on existing policy and savings with the identified building energy mitigation actions. The strategy with the most potential for GHG reduction is to exempt permit fees for projects supporting electrification and energy efficiency, followed by school energy efficiency, and clean grid capacity.



Transportation



Transportation emissions in Hillsboro primarily come from burning gasoline and diesel. Other mobility fuels and electricity for electric vehicles (EVs) also contribute. The top strategy to cut these emissions is to ensure the community has access to renewable diesel, followed by increasing transit use, and expanding EV charging to more residents as the grid is becoming cleaner due to state requirements.

Consumption and Waste

Consumption emissions are associated with the purchase and use of food and goods. Emissions from this category reflect consumption habits and lifestyle choices of residents, making them challenging to address through policy. The best way to reduce waste is to reduce unneeded consumption, the next best way to reduce waste is to recycle or compost. The top strategy for cutting consumption emissions is to decrease food waste, followed by more reuse and repair, followed by decreasing the amount of beef and cow dairy products eaten. Each recommended strategy is detailed in the GHG Emissions Reduction Plan, including the estimated amount of reduction, the cost effectiveness and the co-benefits.