DISCUSSION ON CARBON NEUTRALITY GOALS

October 2026

AGENDA



Greenhouse Gas Emissions



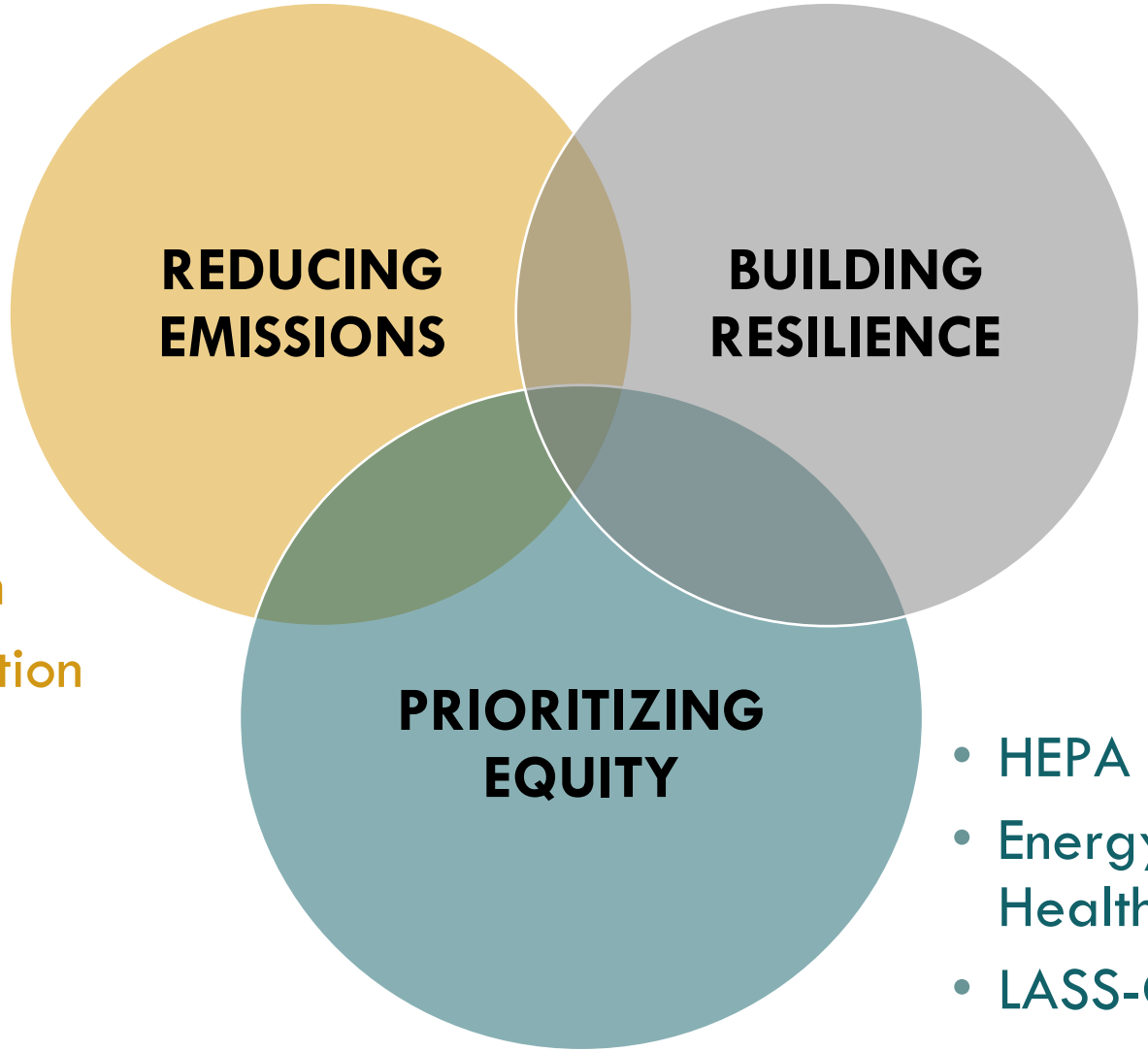
Funding

THE 2020 CLIMATE EMERGENCY DECLARATION

1. Dramatic increase in ambition to combat climate change
2. Commits to City-wide climate emergency mobilization
3. Commits to educating residents and especially youth
4. Underscores the need for full community participation
5. Commits to keeping vulnerable communities at the forefront of decision making
6. Joins a nationwide call for mobilization
7. Advance the Climate Action and Adaptation Plan's goals to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030
8. Calls on all governments to initiate a transition

CLIMATE EMERGENCY GOALS

- Clean energy infrastructure
- Energy efficiency and electrification
- Active Transportation Master Plan
- Waste prevention

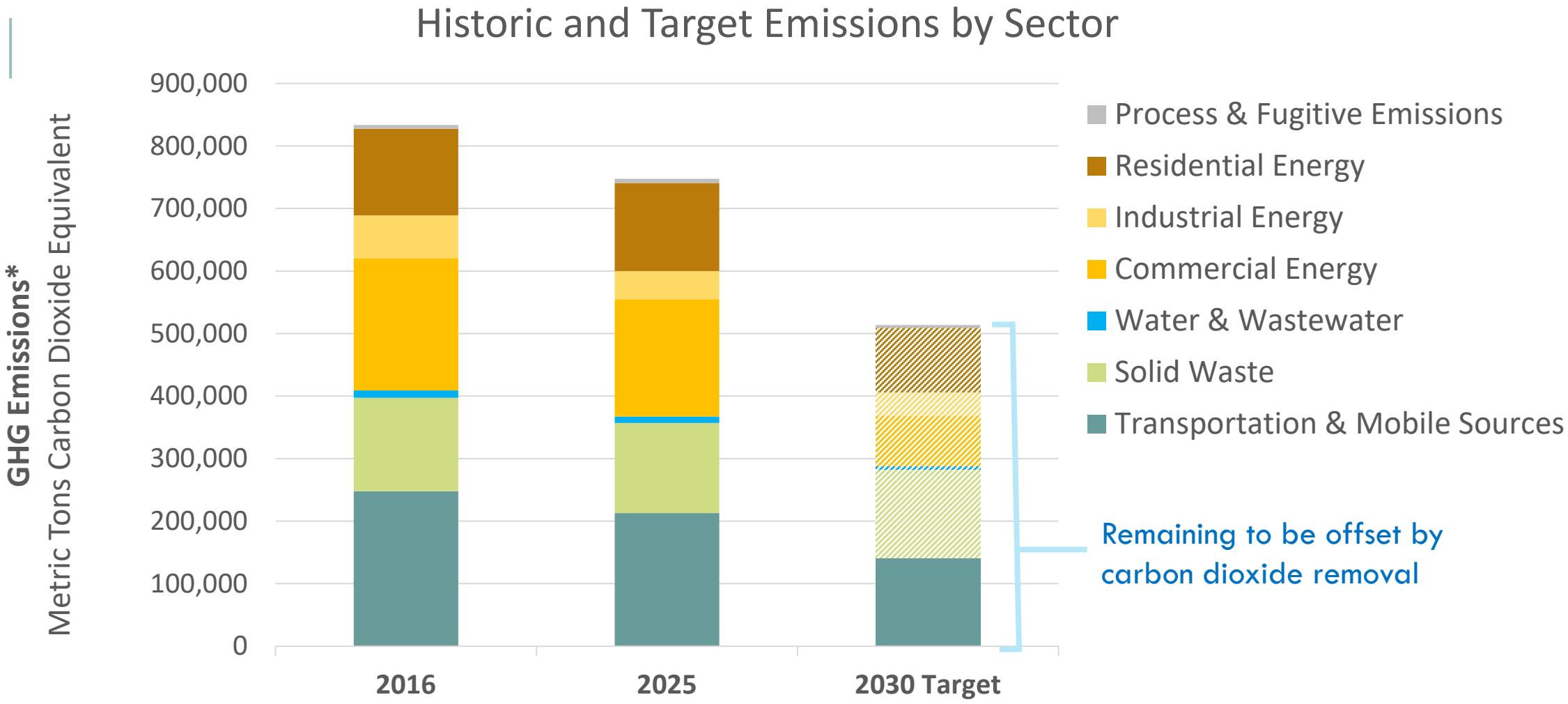


- Flood prevention grants
- Wildfire Resilient Home Initiative
- Resilience Hubs

- HEPA filter distribution
- Energy Upgrades for Healthy Homes Program
- LASS-CAP

GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

TARGET REDUCTIONS – CARBON NEUTRALITY BY 2030

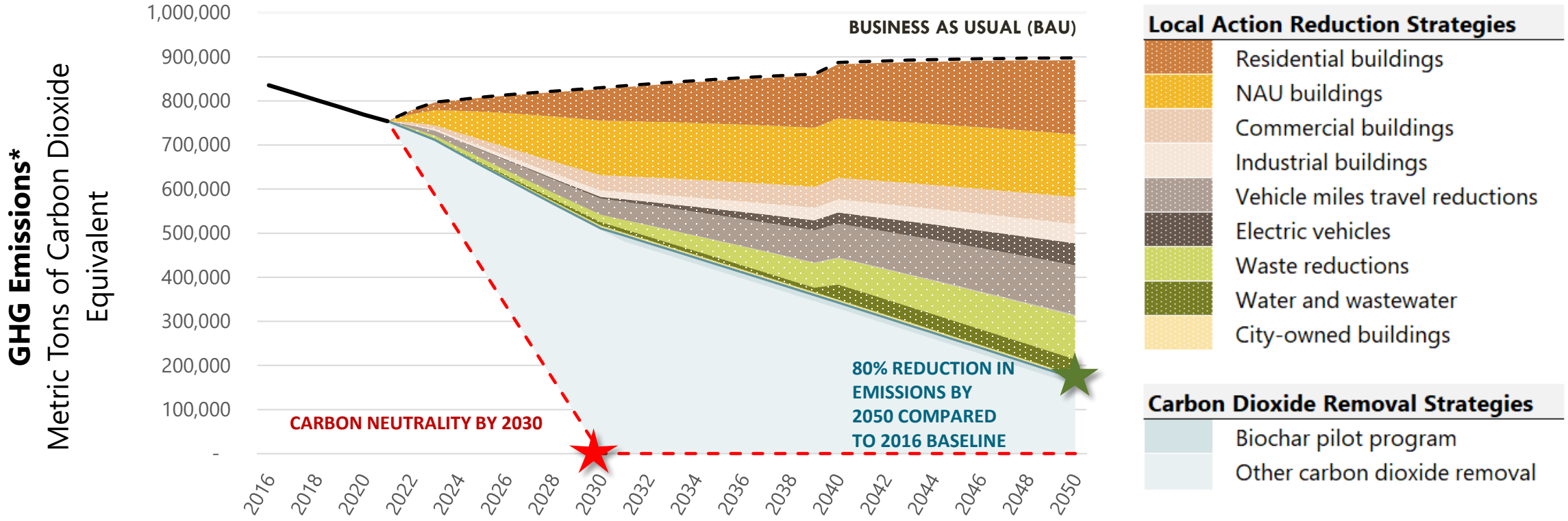


*Emissions are calculated using the Global Protocol for Community-Scale Greenhouse Gas Emission Inventories (GPC) and best available data from state and local sources.

TARGET REDUCTIONS – CARBON NEUTRALITY BY 2030

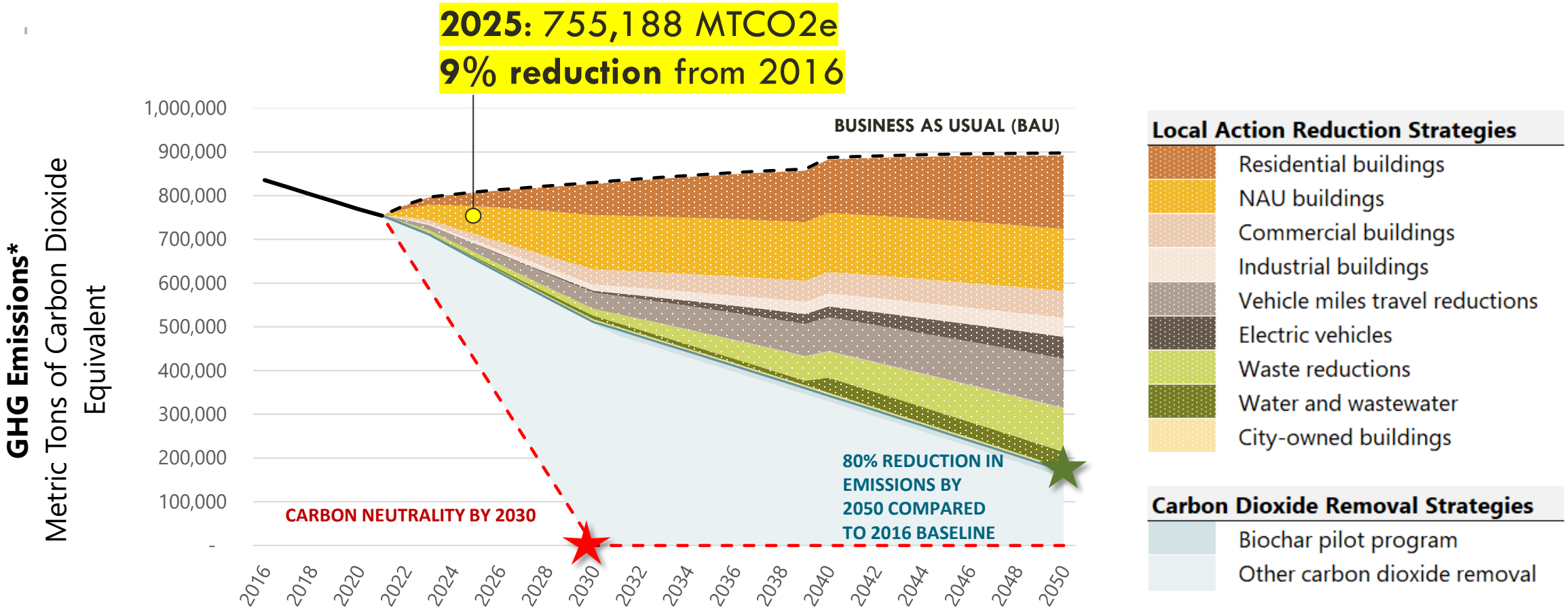
2030 Goal	2050 Goal
38% emission reduction compared to 2016	80% emission reduction compared to 2016

Remaining to be offset by carbon dioxide removal



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WHERE WE ARE



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BARRIERS

WHY ARE CLIMATE PLANS NOT REACHING TARGETS

ClimateNav conducted a qualitative analysis of the failures of the existing climate planning paradigm.

Their report investigated why we've arrived at this point in the first place.

They concluded that the typical planning model fails due to fundamentally different assumptions about climate mitigation efforts

https://www.climatenav.com/report.pdf

Findings	
1.	Cities lack the jurisdictional authority to tackle climate change, relying upon federal and state intervention to directly regulate most of the major sources of emissions.
2.	Local climate programs are severely underfunded, lacking resources and staff to accomplish ambitious emissions reductions goals.
3.	Almost all climate plans lack concrete, actionable goals which can be implemented in a straightforward manner.
4.	Climate plans lack a mechanism to track ongoing progress, leaving the public and elected officials with little visibility into the success of the climate program.
5.	Climate plans are designed to be static documents and are unable to evolve to meet changing circumstances.
6.	Climate plans are not data-driven or scientifically rigorous enough to reduce emissions by the required amount.

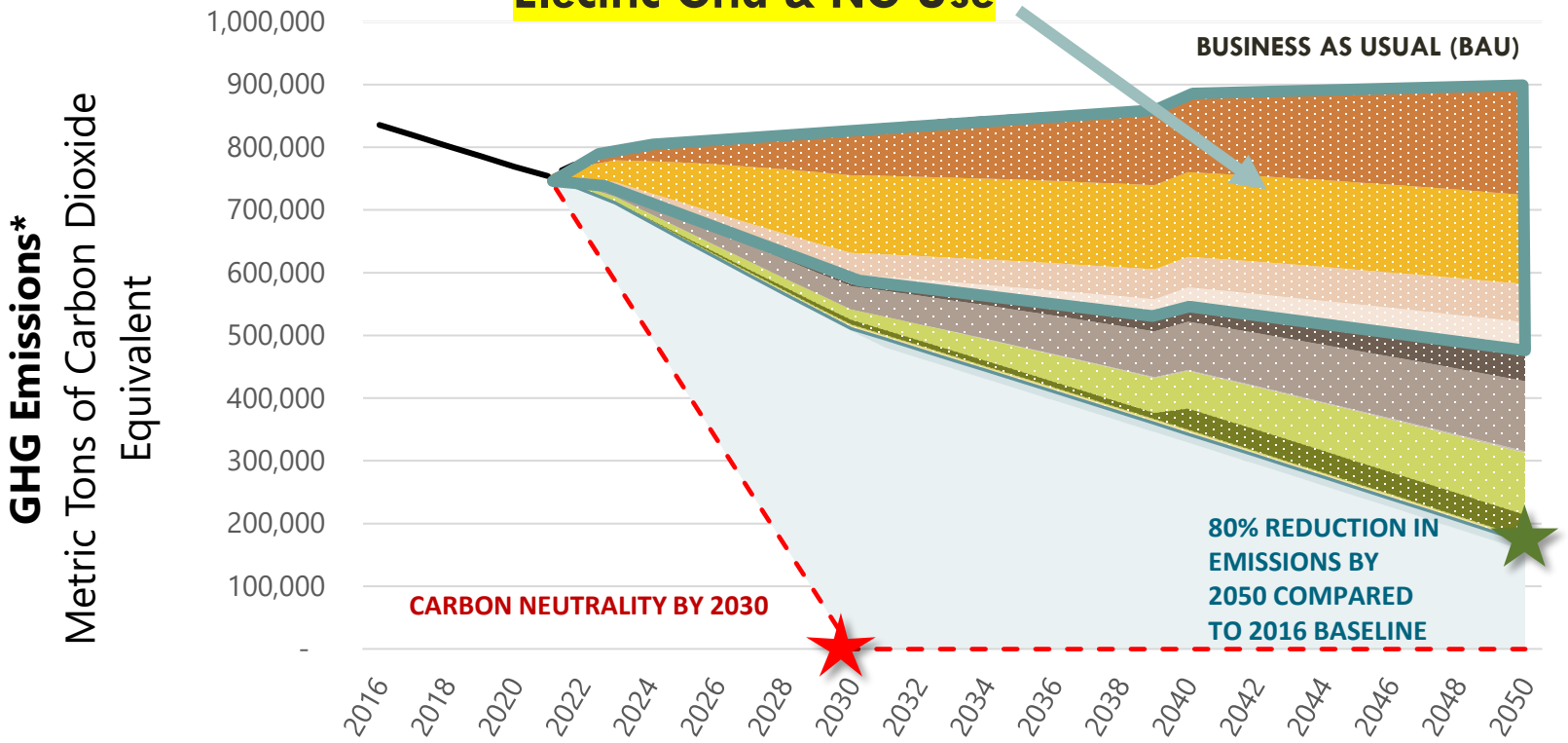
FLAGSTAFF IS NOT ALONE

Cities across the globe are struggling to meet their climate goals. Cities cite a lack of funding, large projects that did not materialize or political obstacles.

San Jose, CA	Established a 2030 carbon neutrality goal in 2021. Saw emissions growth from 2021 to 2023 despite earlier reductions. San Jose has acknowledged that the City is not on track to achieve its ambitious goals, but that they remain committed to continuing their meaningful progress.
Seattle, WA	Established a goal of 58% emissions reduction by 2030. By 2024, Seattle reduced its emissions by 18% - which the City views as a success given population and economic growth. The City is now working on a Plan update to better incorporate adaptation and accelerate the pace of climate action.
New York State	Set a new target of reducing the state's emissions 60% by 2040, a number that the governor's office says is far more achievable than the 40% originally required by 2030.

EXAMPLE OF LIMITING FACTORS

Energy Sector:
Most Heavily Influenced by
Electric Grid & NG Use



Local Action Reduction Strategies

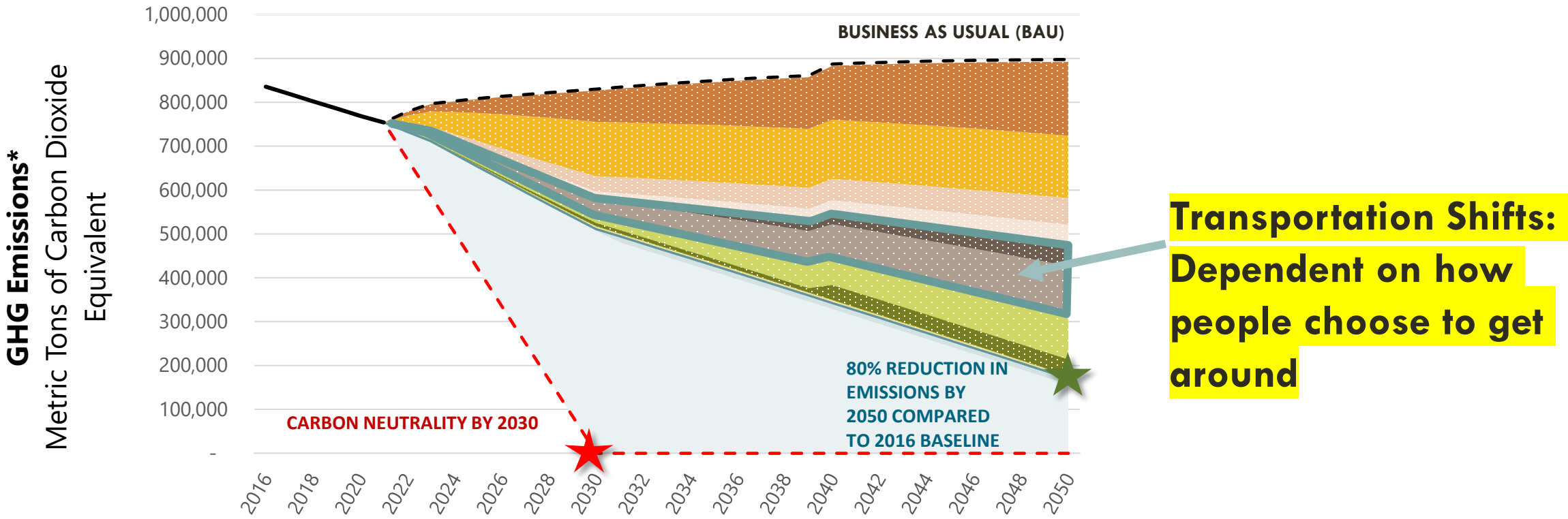
- Residential buildings
- NAU buildings
- Commercial buildings
- Industrial buildings
- Vehicle miles travel reductions
- Electric vehicles
- Waste reductions
- Water and wastewater
- City-owned buildings

Carbon Dioxide Removal Strategies

- Biochar pilot program
- Other carbon dioxide removal

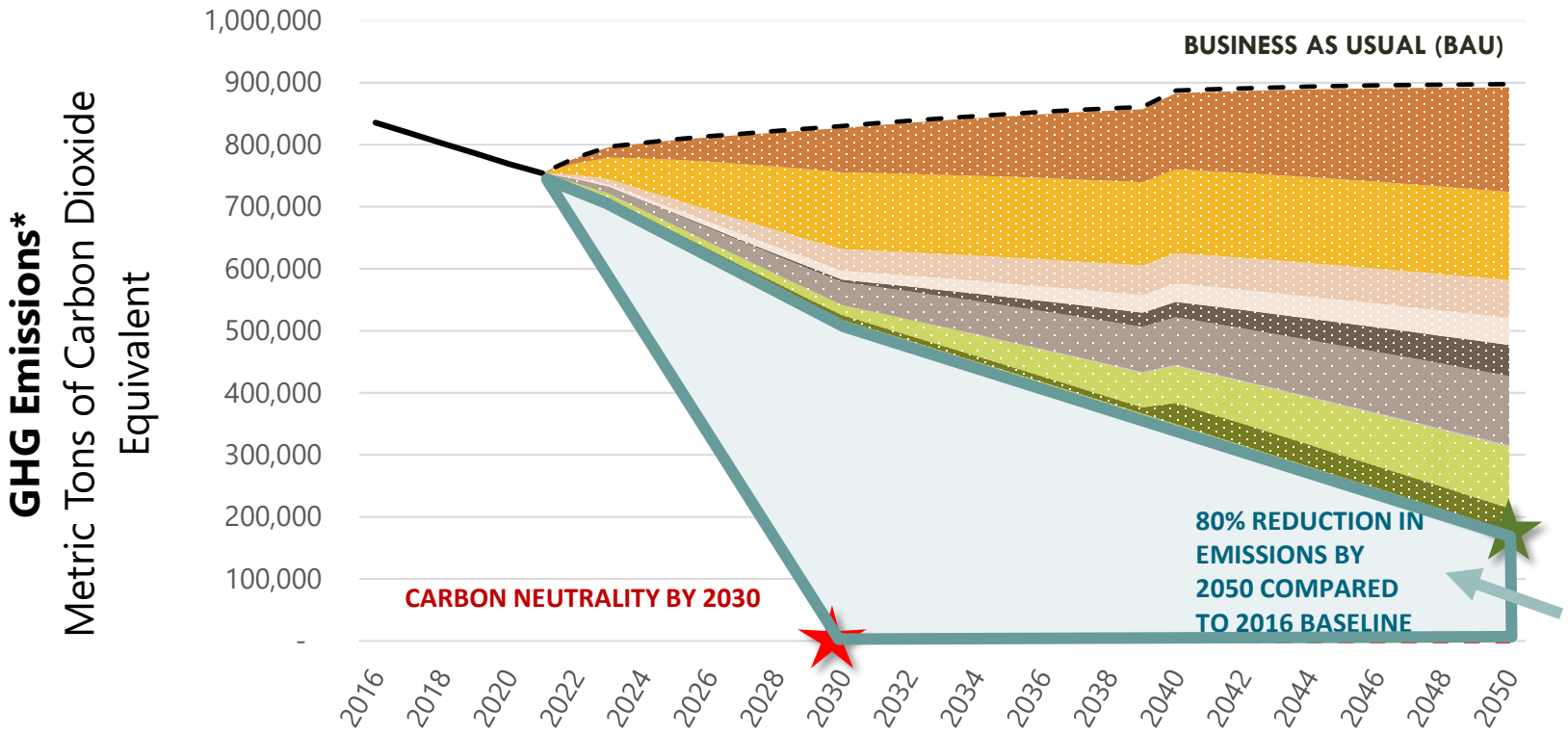
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EXAMPLE OF LIMITING FACTORS



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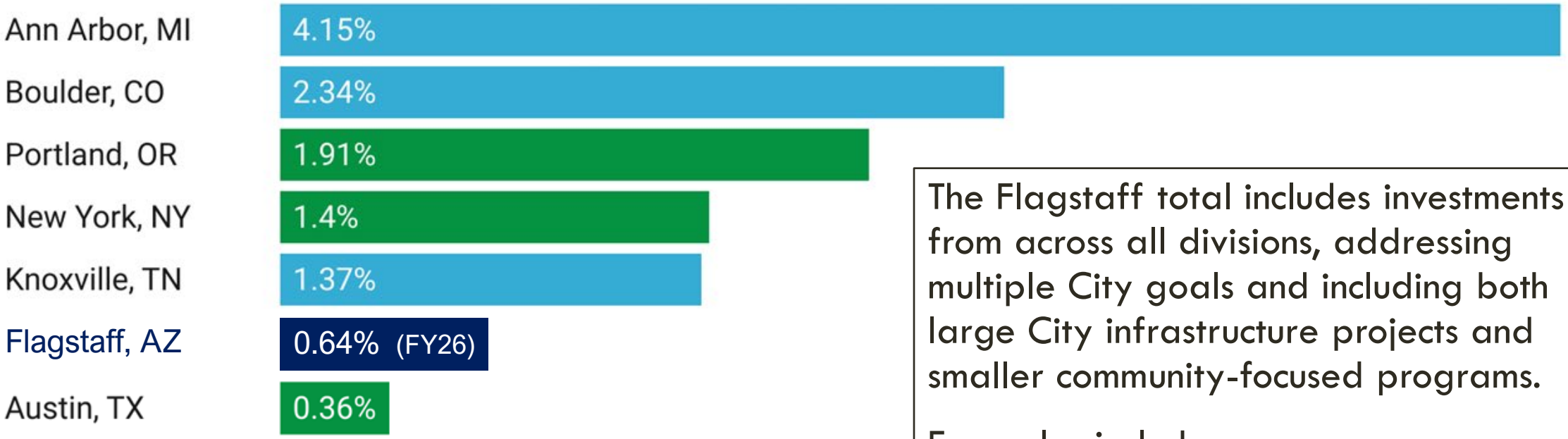
EXAMPLE OF LIMITING FACTORS



Carbon Dioxide Removal: Requires scaling technology innovations, establishing new markets, and large capital investments

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This graph represents the percent of the studied city's most recent operating budget that is invested in climate action.



HOW MUCH DO LEADING CITIES INVEST?

The Flagstaff total includes investments from across all divisions, addressing multiple City goals and including both large City infrastructure projects and smaller community-focused programs.

Examples include:

- Flood mitigation
- Library window replacements
- Community homebuyer assistance program
- Smart irrigation at our Parks

CLIMATE INVESTMENTS DO NOT ALWAYS COME WITH LARGE REDUCTIONS IN EMISSIONS

- **Flood Prevention Grants** to respond to post-wildfire and historic funding
- **HEPA Purifiers** to help residents deal with increasing wildfire smoke
- **Energy Upgrades for Healthy Homes (EUHH)**
  - Equity and resilience focus, in addition to energy efficiency
- **Resilience Hubs**
- **Wildfire Resilient Home Initiative**

WORKING GROUP PROCESS & RECOMMENDATION

WORKING GROUP PROCESS

- The Sustainability Commission voted during the September 2026 meeting to create an informal working group to research and bring forward potential recommendations to update Flagstaff's 2030 carbon neutrality goal in the Carbon Neutrality Plan (CNP)
- The Working Group reviewed research and data compiled by City staff, and met twice to discuss potential updates
- Key considerations
  - Flagstaff's emissions reductions to-date
  - Key emissions reductions dates from international studies and organizations
  - Regional Plan 2045 goals and policies
  - Internal City feedback on the current 2030 goal
  - Updating titile the Carbon Neutrality Plan → Climate Action Plan

WORKING GROUP RECOMMENDATION

The Working Group recommends the Sustainability Commission consider the following update to Flagstaff's emissions reduction goals (below 2016 levels):

- **2035 – 25% reduction**
- **2040 – 50% reduction**
- **2045 – 75% reduction**
- **2050 – 100% reduction**

NEXT STEPS

Today:

- Commission discussion
- Vote to write a letter to Council

Depending on today's discussion and vote:

Over the next month:

- Working group to write the letter to Council

November Commission meeting:

- Vote to accept, revise or reject the draft letter to Council

January:

- Council discussion of the Carbon Neutrality Plan Update: this would include outcomes of today's discussion

THANK YOU!