



Climate Action Plan

October 2024

Prepared by



verdis
GROUP
climate action that counts



Executive Summary

Guiding Focus Areas

This plan will guide Metro Parks Tacoma in efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change, and build resilience within the organization and the community. This plan, created through a participatory planning process, contains goals, strategies, and actions that fall within four primary focus areas:

Organizational Sustainability

Sustainability and climate resilience are deeply ingrained within Metro Parks Tacoma, where organizational governance, including policies, procedures, staffing, and fiscal prioritization, support MPT's sustainability and climate goals.

Community Resilience

Staff and external community are engaged in sustainability and climate action through education, professional development, incentives, and emotional support.

Resilient Built Environment

Metro Parks Tacoma's built environment is adaptive to the projected climate impacts for the Tacoma region, including extreme heat, heavy rain, rising sea level, landslides, and wildfire.

Resilient Living Systems

Land and animal management practices are sustainable, build local and regional resilience to projected climate impacts, and leverage nature-inspired strategies that support a climate-positive Metro Parks Tacoma.

Tacoma's Changing Climate

Climate change is a global issue that not only threatens the health and safety of our planet, but has significant consequences for our local community. Greenhouse gas emissions released by the burning of fossil fuels trap heat in the atmosphere, causing a blanket-like effect that increases global average temperatures and causes more extreme weather events. Specific impacts of climate change vary by geographic region, and vulnerability of an organization or community depends on a variety of factors.

Recognizing the impacts of global and local climate change, the City of Tacoma has long been engaged in climate action, including the development of its first Climate Action Plan in 2008, and the passing of Resolution No. 40509 in 2019, declaring a climate emergency in Tacoma. In developing its Climate Action Plan and Climate Adaptation Strategy, the City of Tacoma engaged in a process that identified climate hazards and associated risks.

Through review of multiple climate risk assessments and models, it is likely that Metro Parks Tacoma will have to navigate climate impacts that can largely be categorized as follows:

Temperature Alterations

- Extreme Heat
- Extreme Cold

Precipitation Variability

- Severe Storms
- Flooding
- Drought and Fires

Sea Level Rise

Reducing Emissions

Verdis Group measured annual emissions data for 2019, consistent with the baseline established for the Zoological and Environmental Education Department in previously-contracted GHG work. Metro Parks Tacoma produced 9,700 MtCO₂e in 2019 across all scopes included in the analysis (see Figure 1). Select

Scope 3 categories included purchasing, capital goods, employee commute, business travel, waste, and wastewater. The primary source of emissions in 2019 is from operating expenses (24%) followed by employee commute (20%).

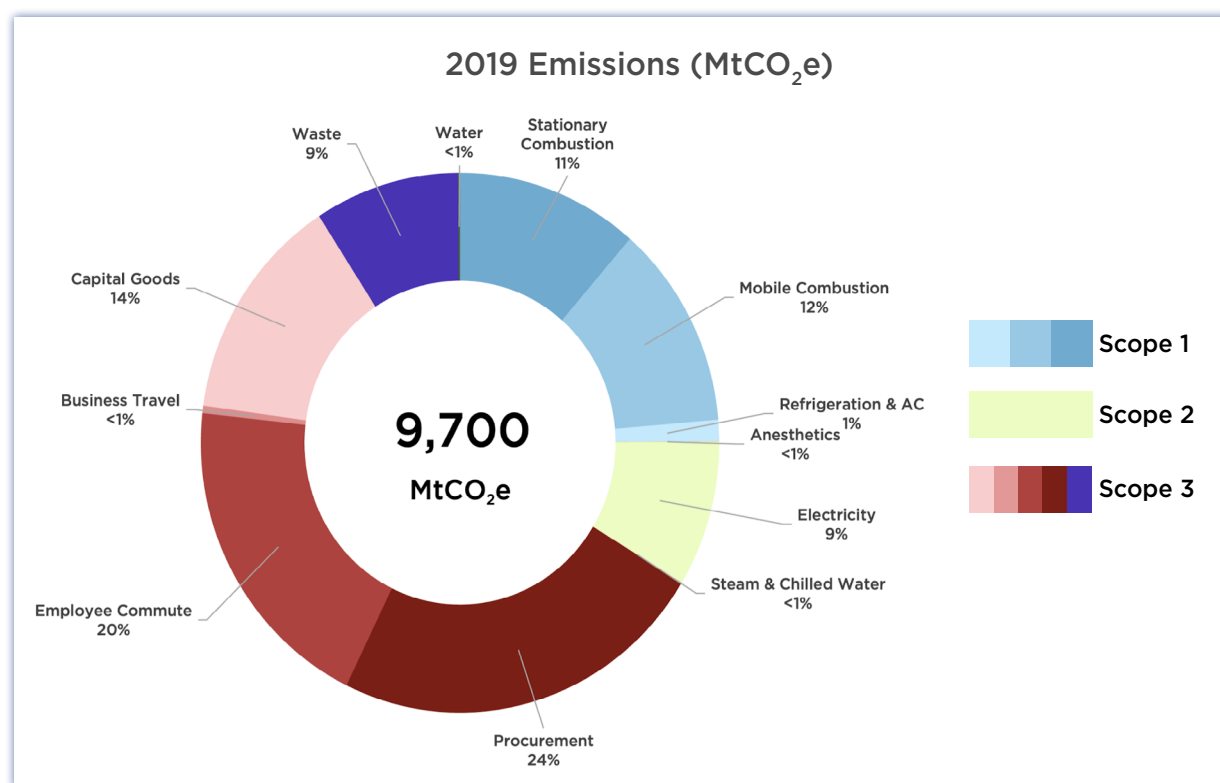


Figure 1. Metro Parks Tacoma's baseline GHG emissions by Scope, 2019

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The following diagram (Figure 2) provides an overview of MPT's pathway to net-zero emissions. This analysis resulted in a plan outlining when and to what extent MPT should implement each strategy for reducing emissions in order to reach its goal.

MPT can have the greatest impact on emissions reduction by investing in renewable energy credits and the electrification of buildings and vehicles. By addressing emission categories as outlined, MPT aims to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050.

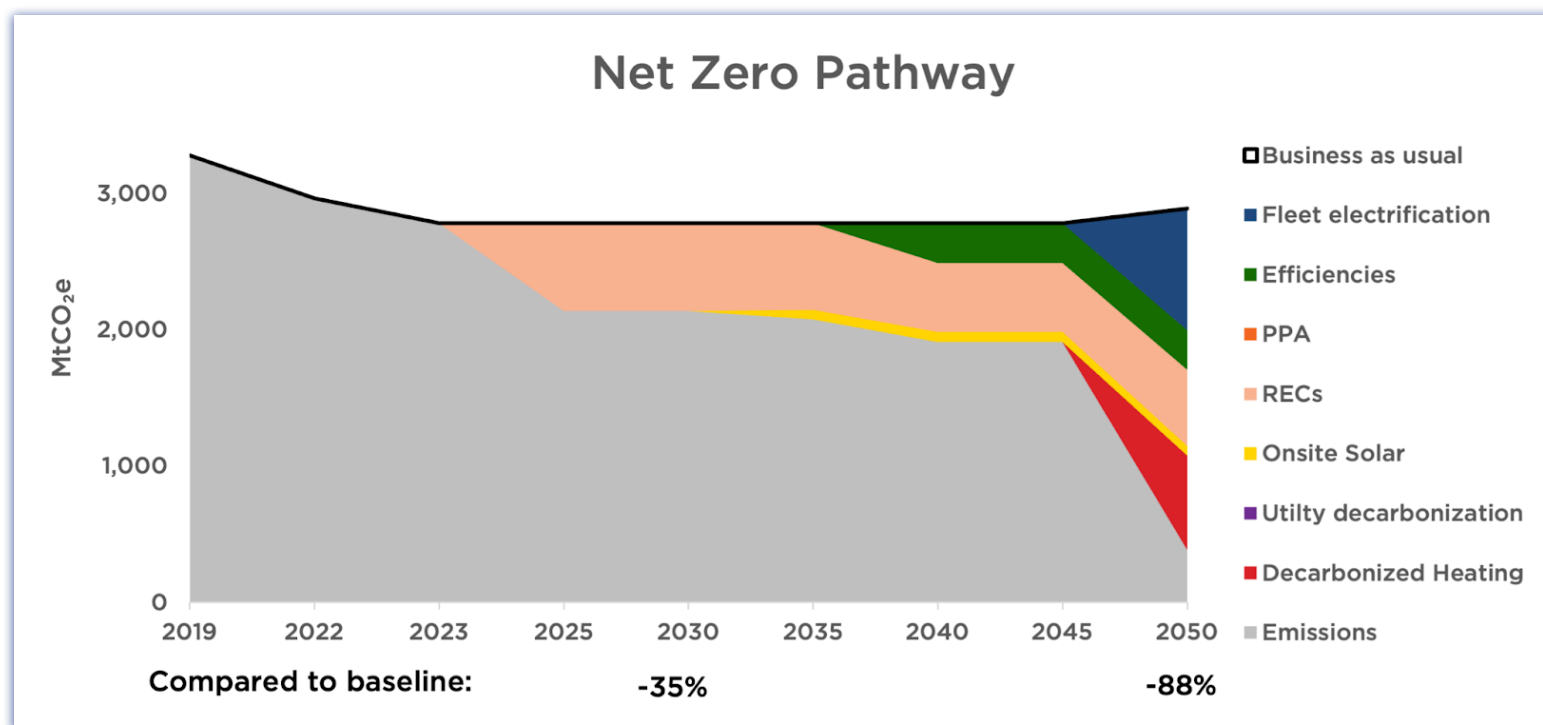


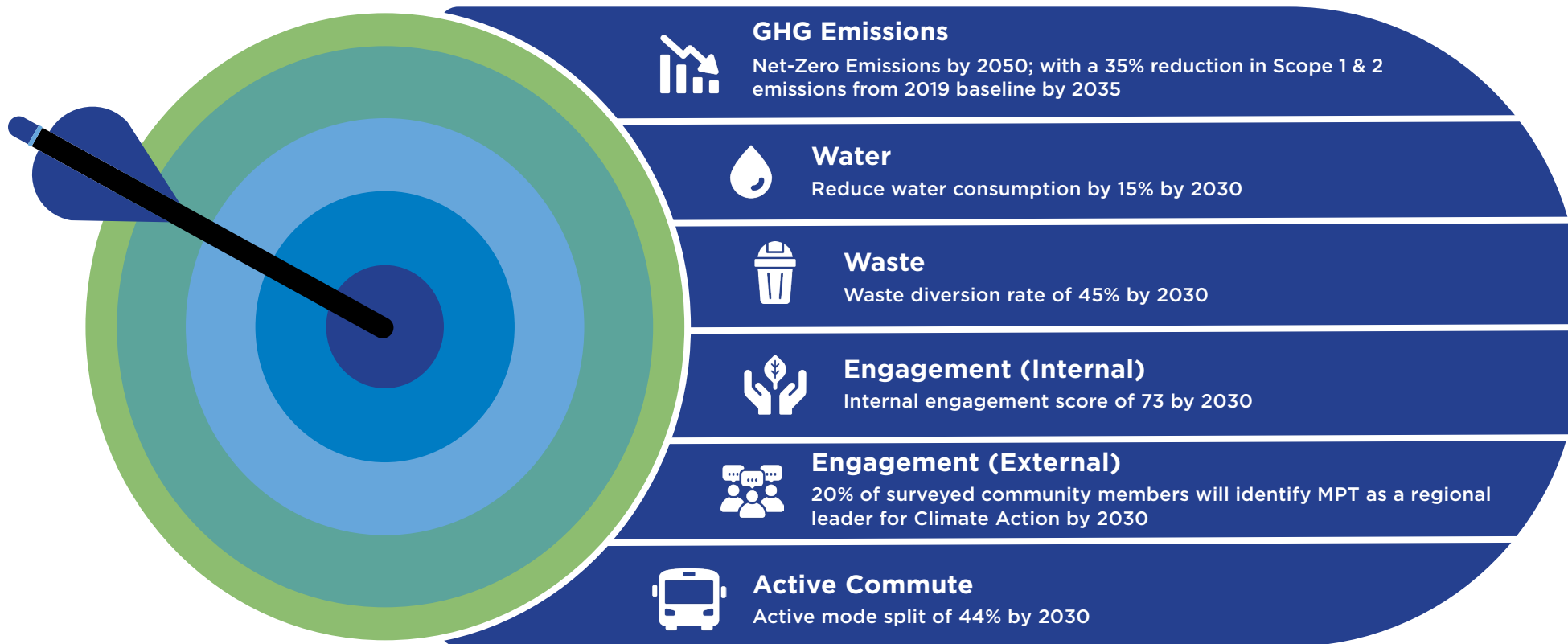
Figure 2. Metro Parks Tacoma's pathway to net-zero emissions

Looking Forward

Goals

Metro Parks Tacoma established the following sustainability and climate action goals through collaborative and evidence-based discussions. MPT leadership reviewed baseline data, peer benchmarking, and subject matter expert input for each of the categories.

Climate Action Goals



Priority Strategies

Using inputs from the entirety of the planning process, Metro Parks Tacoma established four groupings of Priority Strategies:

Organizational Sustainability

- Develop a Climate Action Plan (CAP) team
- Conduct a district-wide utility audit
- Incorporate Sustainability Scoring criteria into organizational decision making processes
- Implement Net Zero Pathway (NZP)

Community Resilience

- Define and communicate decision making, roles, and responsibilities to staff
- Activate district-wide Green Team in 2025-26 biennium
- Create a community Climate Action Plan stakeholder group
- Establish and refine MPT and partner collaborative priorities

Resilient Built Environment

- Develop and implement agency design standards
- Complete a comprehensive inventory of assets and climate risks
- Update Emergency Management Plan with climate disruptions scenarios
- Implement utility redundancy infrastructure

Resilient Living Systems

- Identify and prioritize budget needs
- Align living collections guidelines with project local climate conditions
- Implement nature-based solutions (NbS) for coastal resilience
- Update wildfire mitigation plans