



ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION AGENDA:

September 3, 2025

Municipal Building 15 South College Ave. Oxford, Ohio 45056 First Floor Conference Room
7:00 PM

Jon Ralinovsky, Chair; Chantel Raghu, Vice-Chair and City Council Representative; Jason Bracken, Planning Commission Representative and City Council Member; Peggy Branstrator; Jim Vinch; Michael Vanni; Ken Vincent
Reena Murphy, Sustainability Coordinator

Approval of Agenda

Approval of Minutes

1. Approval of the August 6th, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Old Business

1. Commercial Recycling Mandate

New Business

1. Member Updates:
City Council
Planning Commission
OPTAB
Climate Action Steering Committee
2. Staff Updates

Adjournment



**MINUTES
OXFORD ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

Municipal Building 15 South College Ave. Oxford, Ohio 45056 First Floor Conference Room

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 6, 2025 AT 7:00 PM

Approval of Agenda

Members present were: Jon Ralinovsky, Chantel Raghu, Jason Bracken, Peggy Branstrator, Jim Vinch, and Ken Vincent.

Staff present: Reena Murphy

Members of the public present: Kate Kozak, Green Umbrella Fellow

The meeting began at 7:03.

Motion to approve the agenda: Mr. Bracken

2nd: Ms. Branstrator

Vote: Unanimous approval

Approval of Minutes

1. June 4th Meeting Minutes

2. June 17th Meeting Minutes

3. Summary of the July 2nd 2025 Meeting

Motion to jointly approve both minutes and summary: Mr. Vinch

2nd: Mr. Bracken

Vote: Unanimous approval

Old Business

New Business

1. 2023 Greenhouse Gas Inventory (Reena Murphy, Sustainability Coordinator)

Reena presented the 2023 greenhouse gas inventory, conducted in partnership with PCFO. Slides are attached.

The commission briefly discussed the reporting requirements for the Global Covenant of Mayors and its nuances with clean energy purchasing.

2. Green Umbrella Climate Action Fellowship Presentation (Kate Kozak, Climate Action Fellow)

Kate presented the work that she and Oluwaseun have completed throughout their summer fellowship in Oxford. Slides are attached.

The commission discussed the importance of addressing stormwater and flooding in our community, as it related to the fellows research for a stormwater revenue fund. Mr. Vinch said he believes the most cost-effective way to address stormwater is to require buffer strips for construction near stream banks.

3. Member Updates:
City Council
OPTAB
Planning Commission
OCASC

City Council discussed Deer Management in a work session on August 5th.

OPTAB shared that they are working through the bike and pedestrian safety plan and that there will be an open house in the fall.

Planning commission shared that there is a zoning subcommittee that is actively exploring ways to advance our climate goals through zoning.

OCASC had the same presentation from the Fellows at their last meeting.

4. Staff Updates

No additional staff updates beyond the content of the presentations.

Adjournment

Motion: Ms. Raghu

2nd: Mr. Vincent

Vote: Unanimous approval.

The commission adjourned at 8:04pm.

RED BRICK
ROAD TO **ZERO**

A red dashed circle graphic composed of several thick red segments, positioned to the right of the text 'ROAD TO ZERO'.

BY 2030
BY 2040
BY 2045



50% Reduction in GHG emissions over 2019 baseline



90% Reduction in GHG emissions over 2019 baseline



Community-wide net neutrality

*Excluding MU

2023 Greenhouse Gas Inventory

This analysis was provided as part of Power a Clean Future Ohio's no-cost technical assistance program.

The analysis uses US EPA's Local Greenhouse Gas Inventory Tool.

This inventory assesses emissions for activities that occurred within the city limits. When data were not available, estimates were used if a certain level of confidence could be achieved. Data were provided by the city or estimated by UNPREDICTABLEcity.

Lastly, this analysis considers both net and gross emissions for our community.





**Power A Clean
Future Ohio**
LOCAL COMMUNITIES LEADING THE WAY

1 Metric Tons of Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) equivalent


This is equivalent to greenhouse gas emissions from:

0.233 gasoline-powered passenger vehicles driven for one year 

0.883 electric-powered passenger vehicles driven for one year 

2,547 miles driven by an average gasoline-powered passenger vehicle 

This is equivalent to CO₂ emissions from:

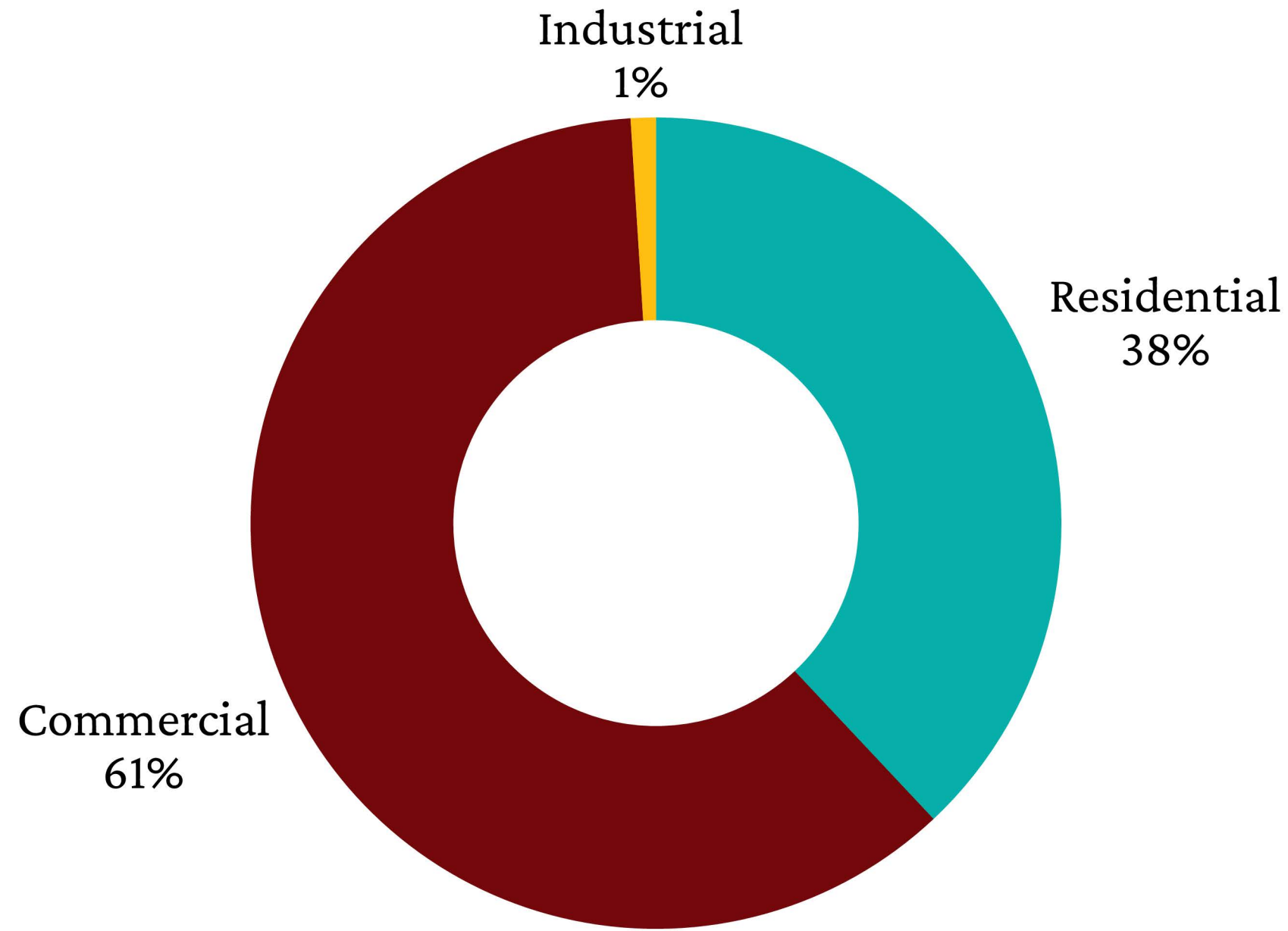
113 gallons of gasoline consumed 

98.2 gallons of diesel consumed 

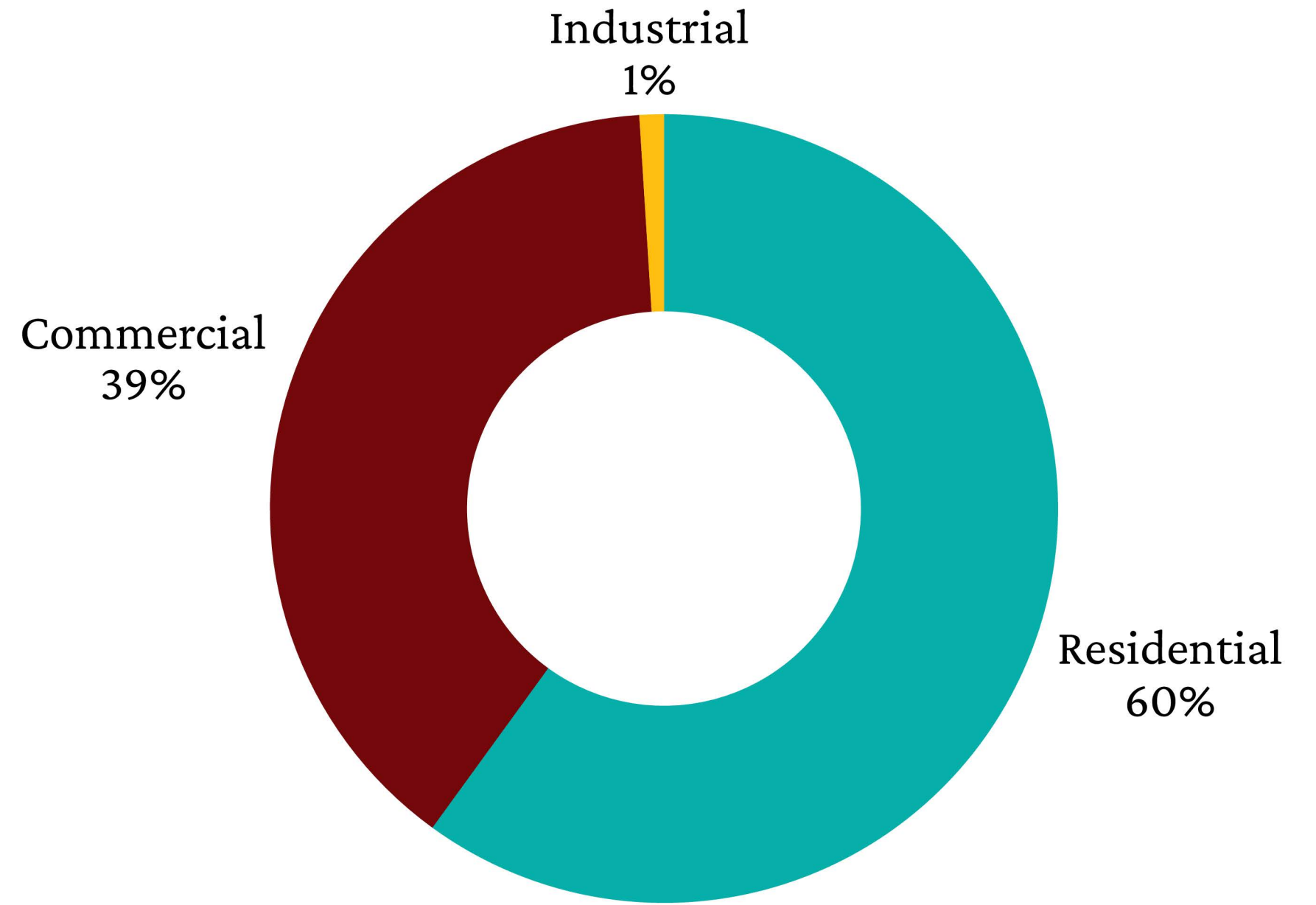
An aerial photograph of a university campus during the day. The scene features a large, well-maintained green lawn in the foreground, surrounded by paved walkways and several multi-story brick buildings. People are seen walking on the paths and sitting on the grass. In the background, more campus buildings and a line of trees are visible under a clear sky. The overall atmosphere is bright and active.

2023 COMMUNITY WIDE EMISSIONS

Gross Emissions by Sector

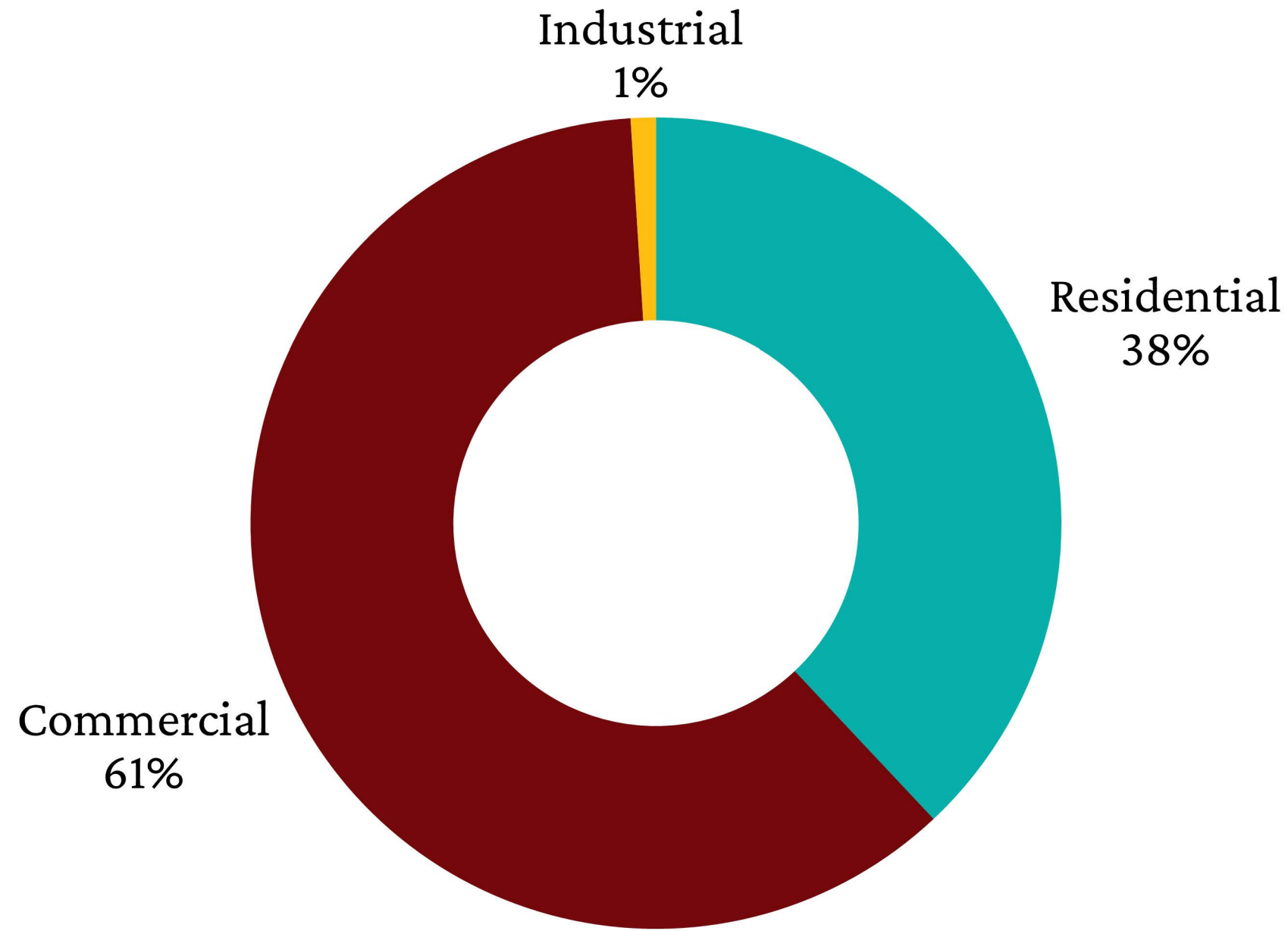


With MU; 173,081 MT CO₂e

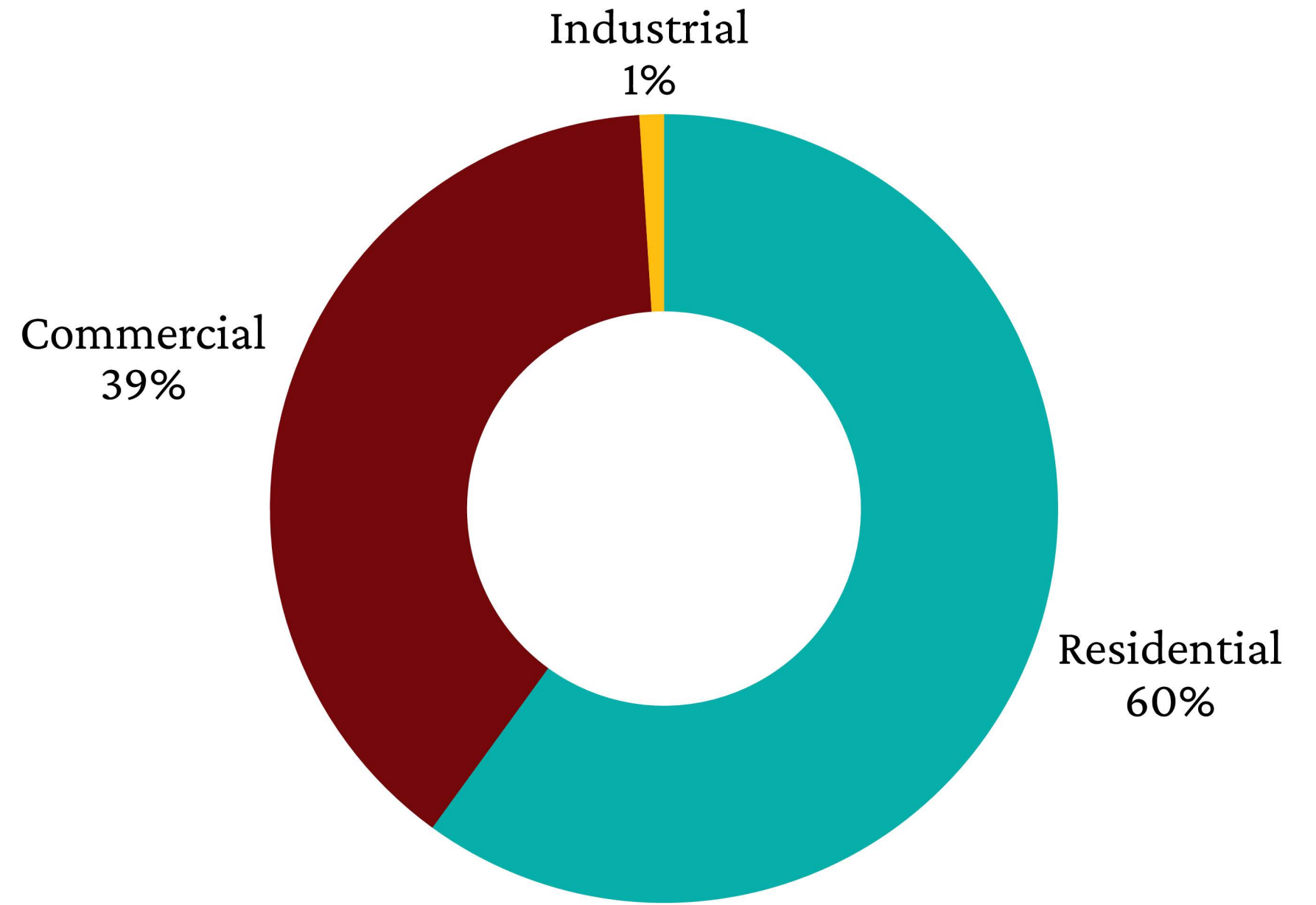


Without MU; 110,678 MT CO₂e

Gross Emissions by Sector

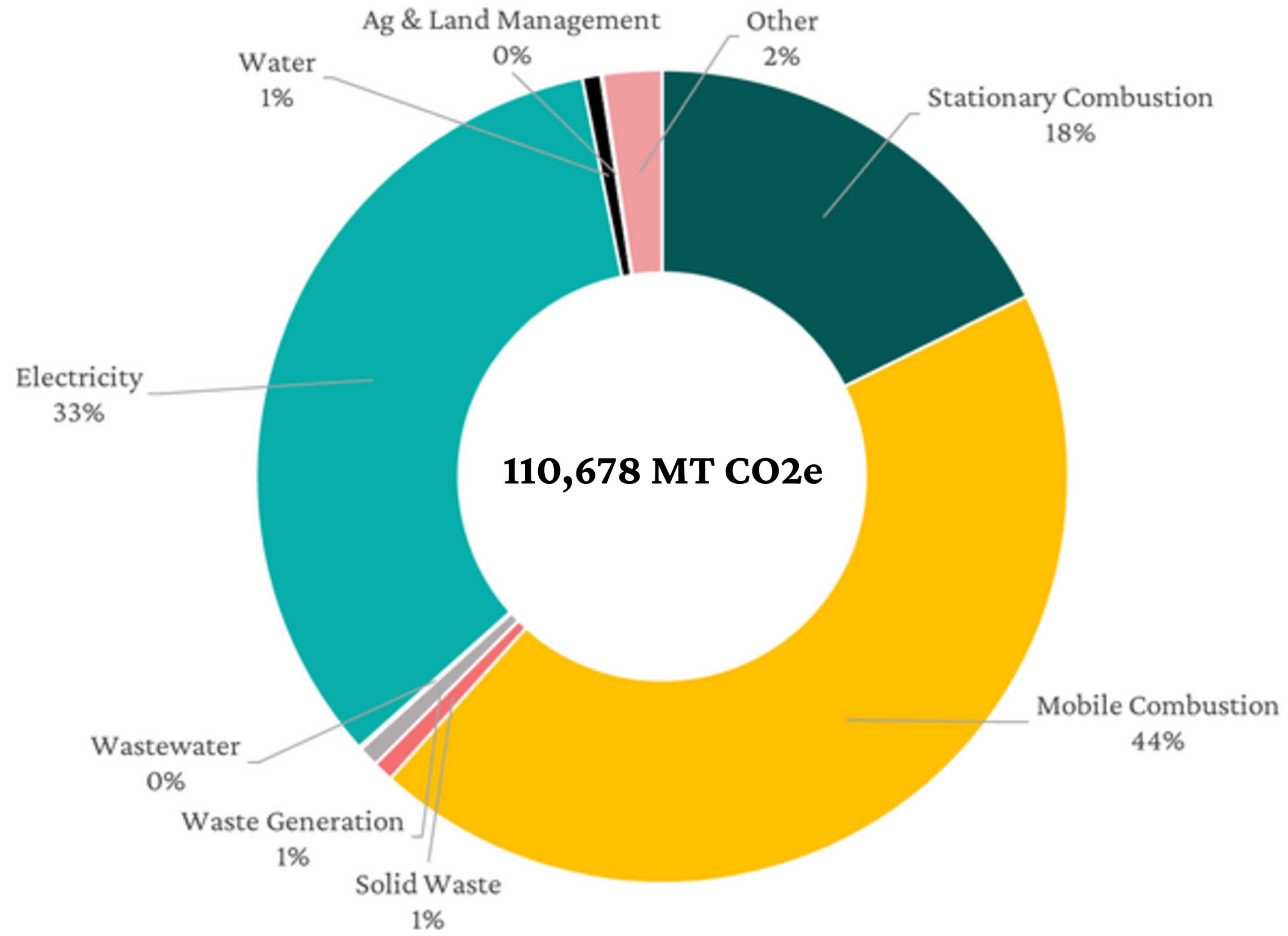


With MU; 173,081 MT CO₂e

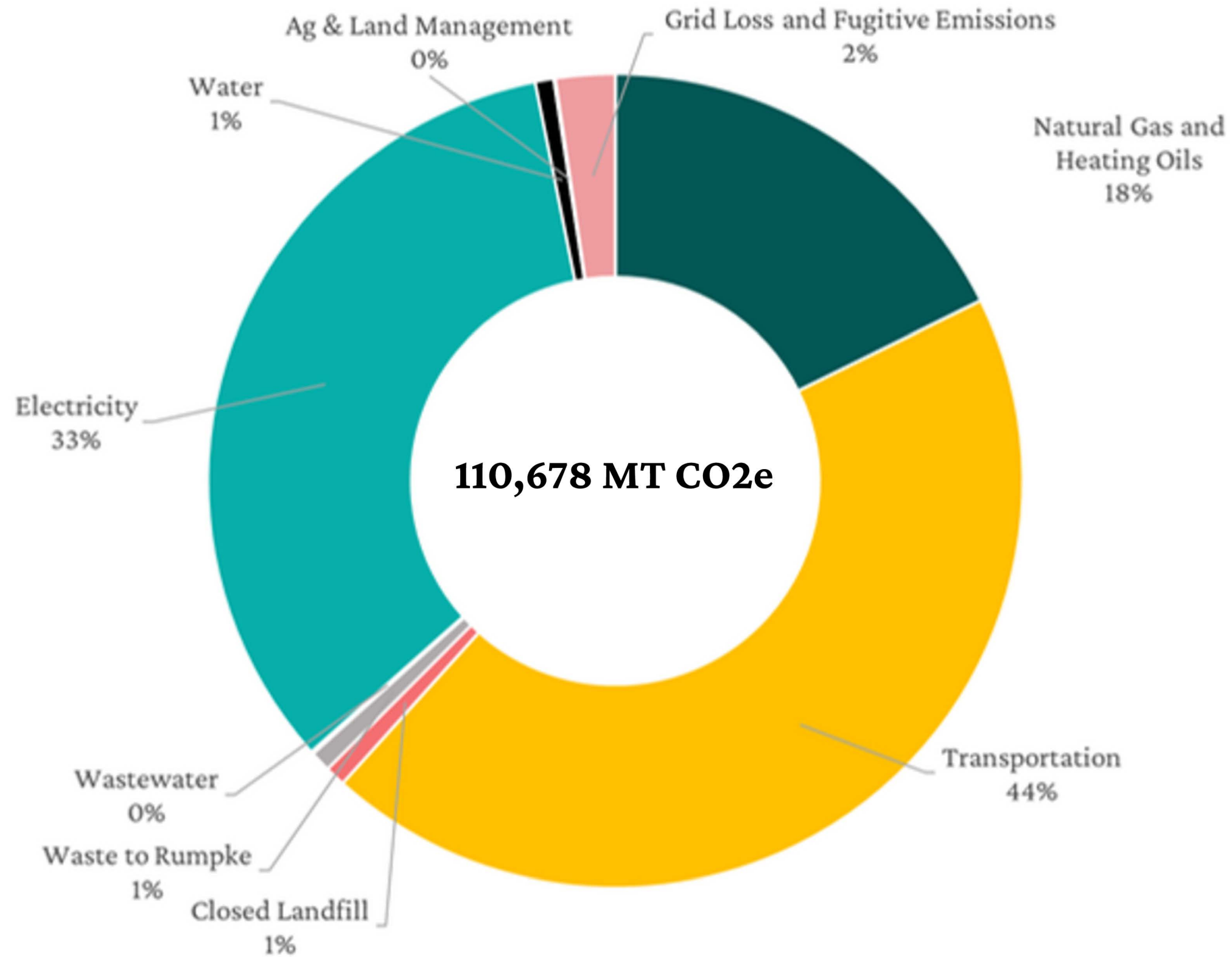


Without MU; 110,678 MT CO₂e

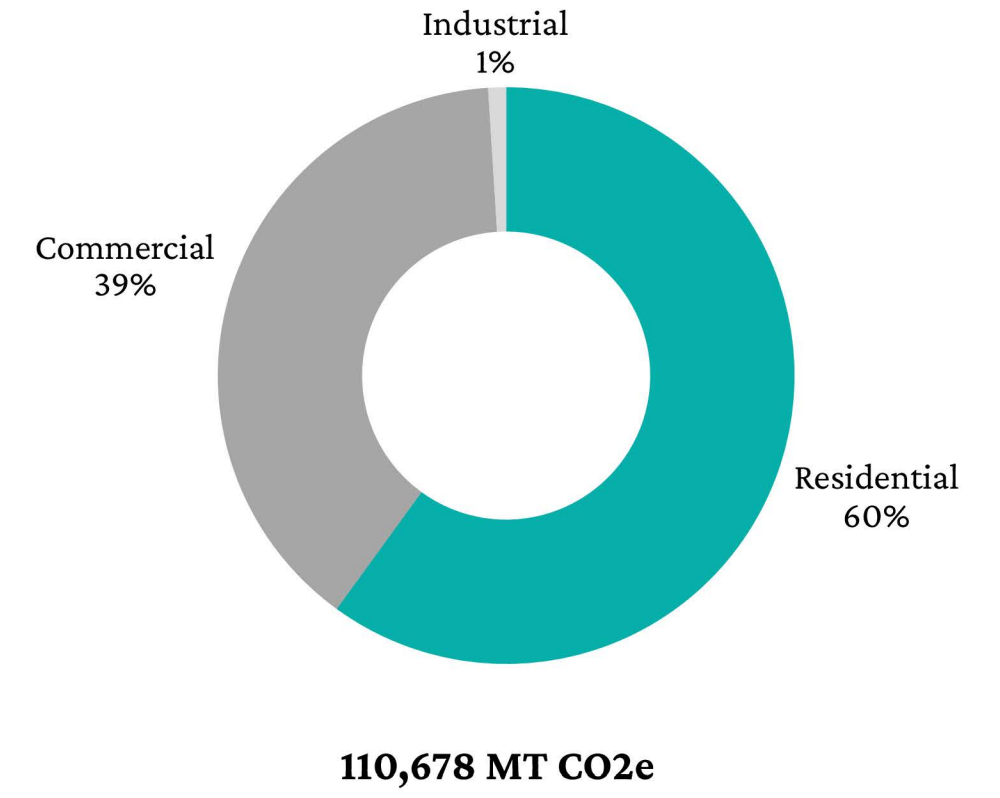
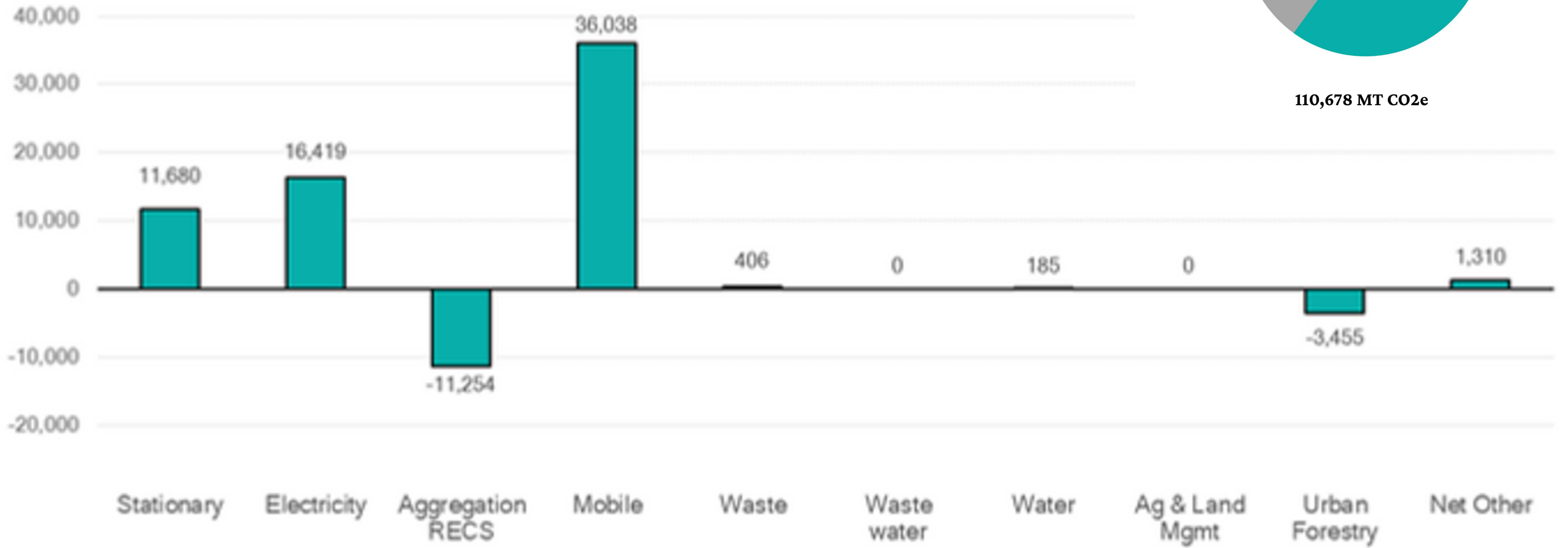
Community Wide Emissions by Source



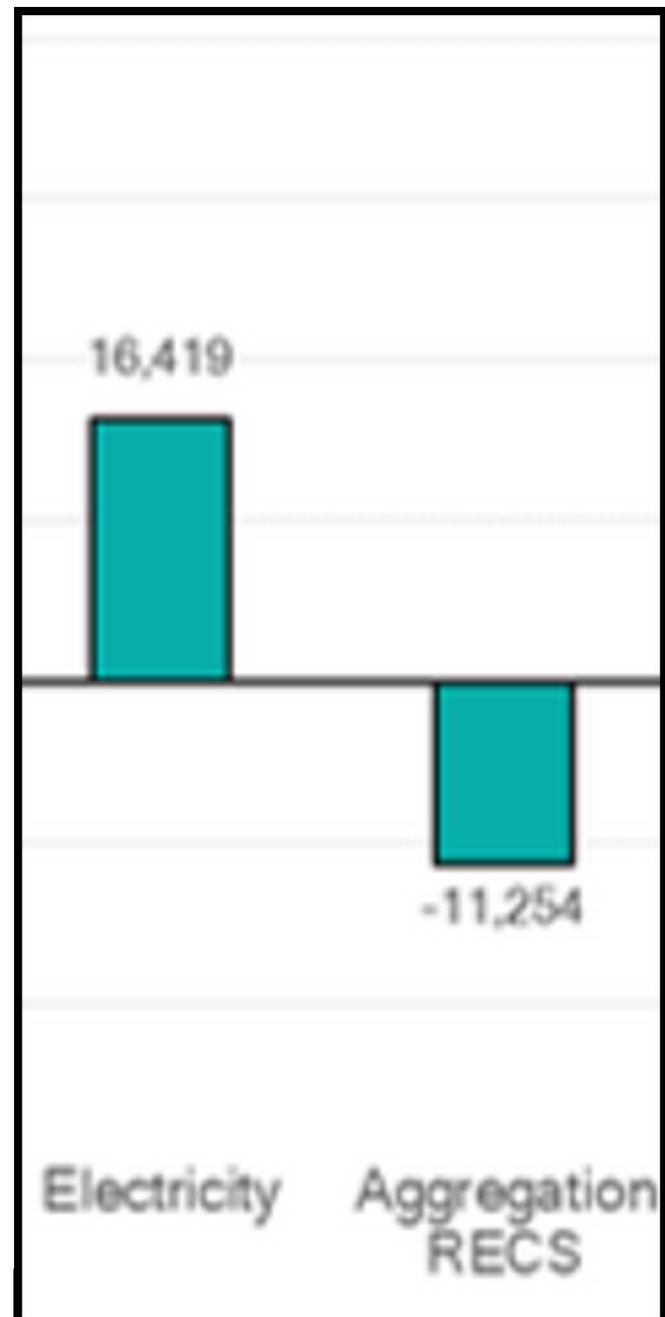
Community Wide Emissions (Non-Technical Terms)



Residential Emissions by Source

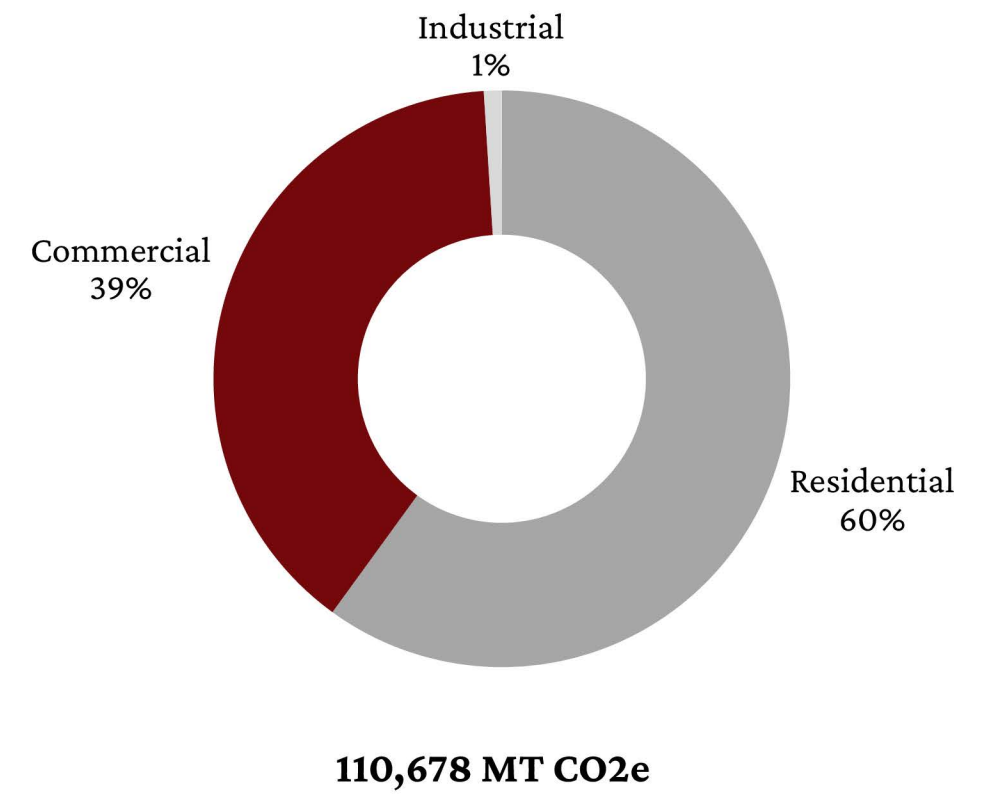
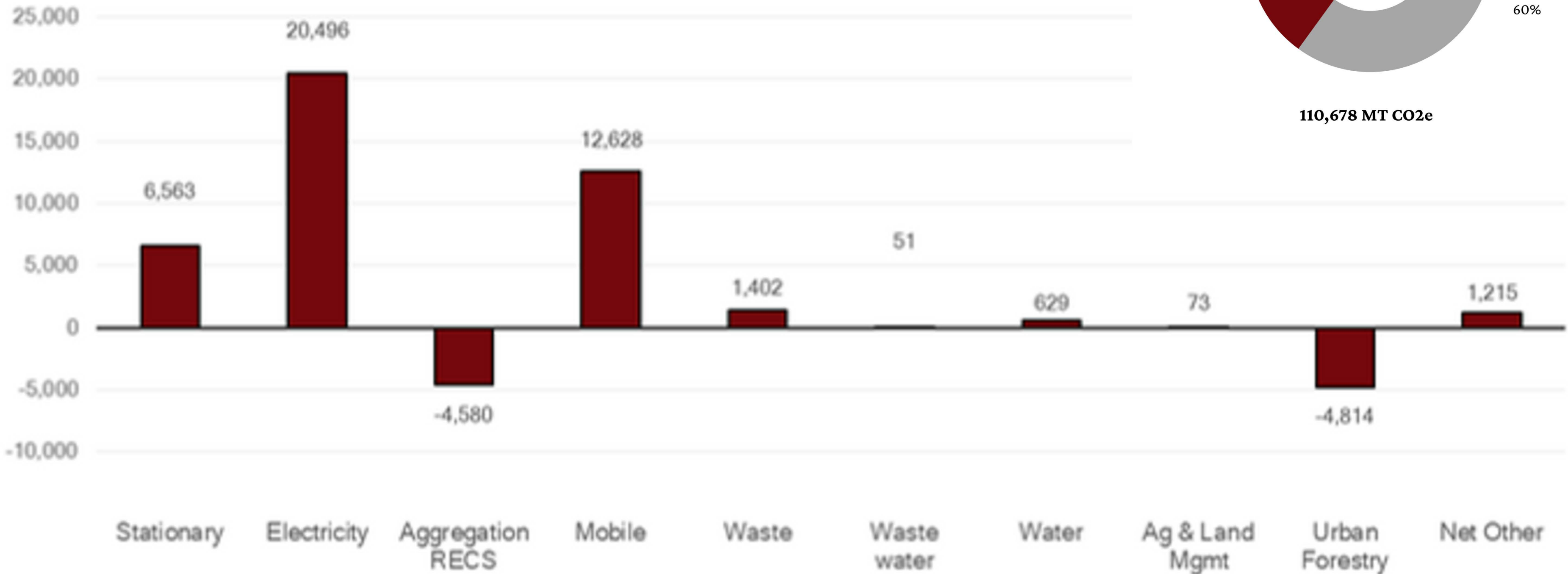


Residential Emissions by Source

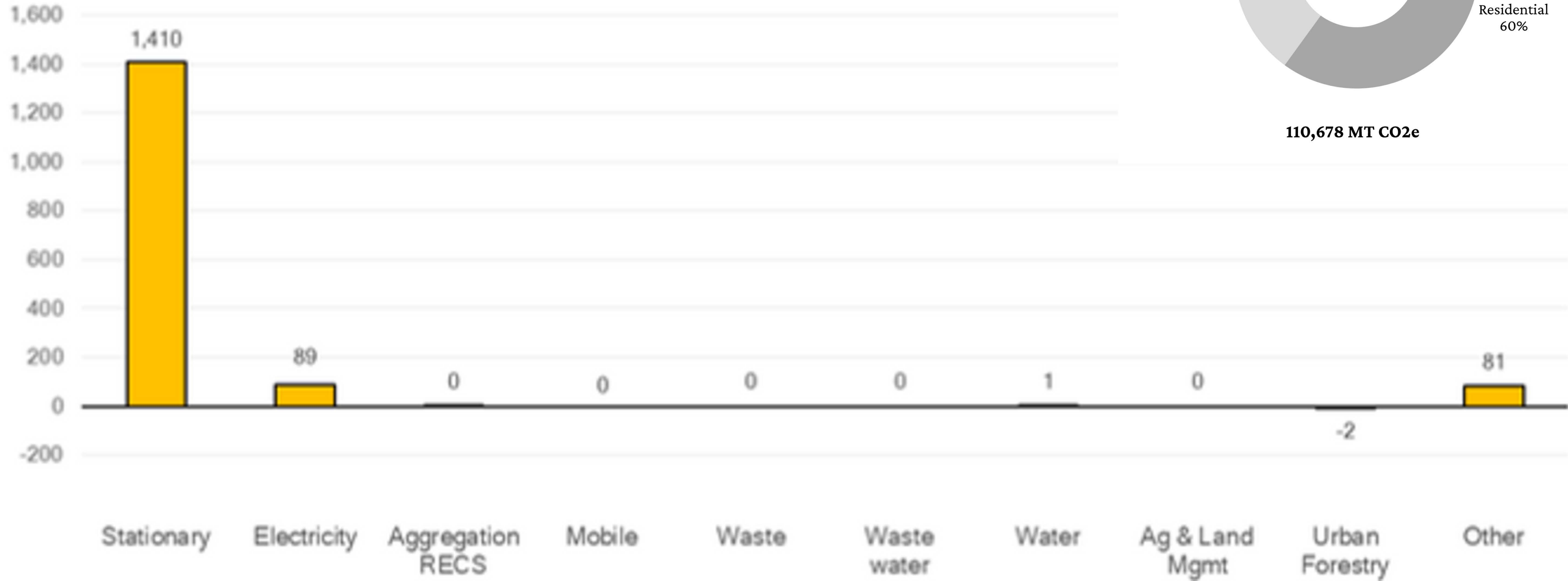


In 2023, Electric Aggregation Program reduced our residential electricity emissions by 68.5% and saved the average residential participant \$318!

Commercial Emissions by Source



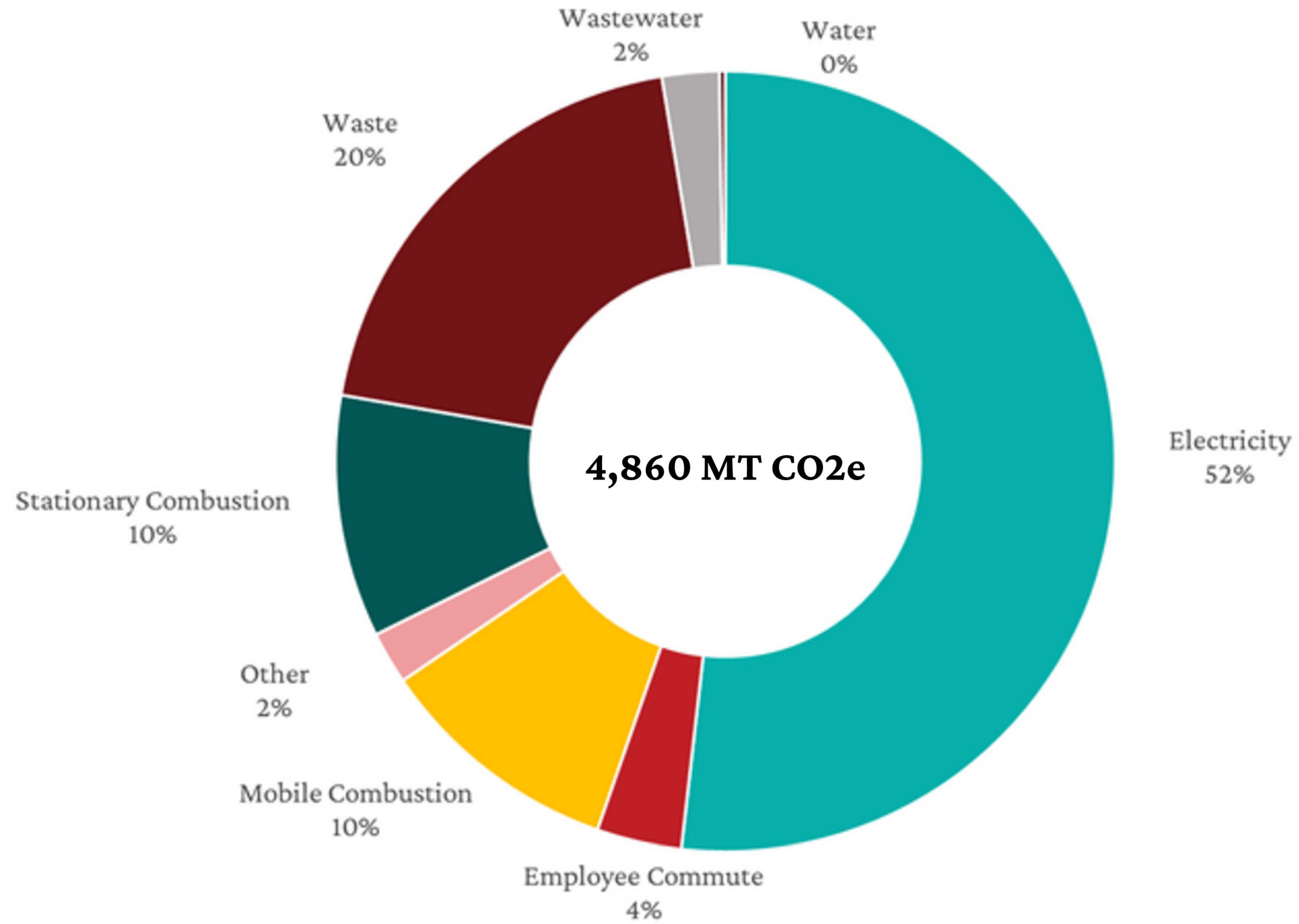
Industrial Emissions by Source



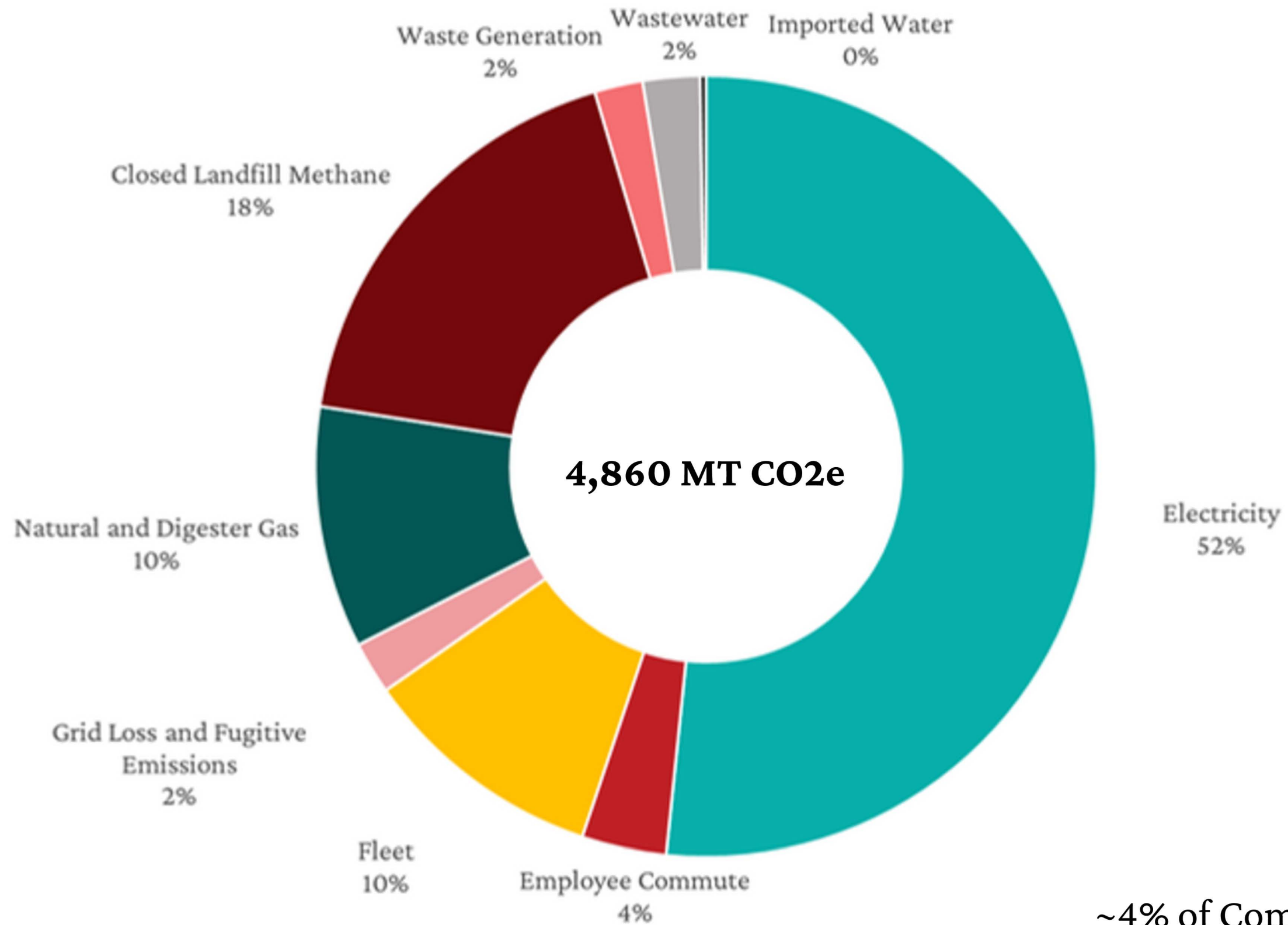
**OXFORD
MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

**2023 GOVERNMENT
OPERATIONS EMISSIONS**

Gross Government Operations by Source

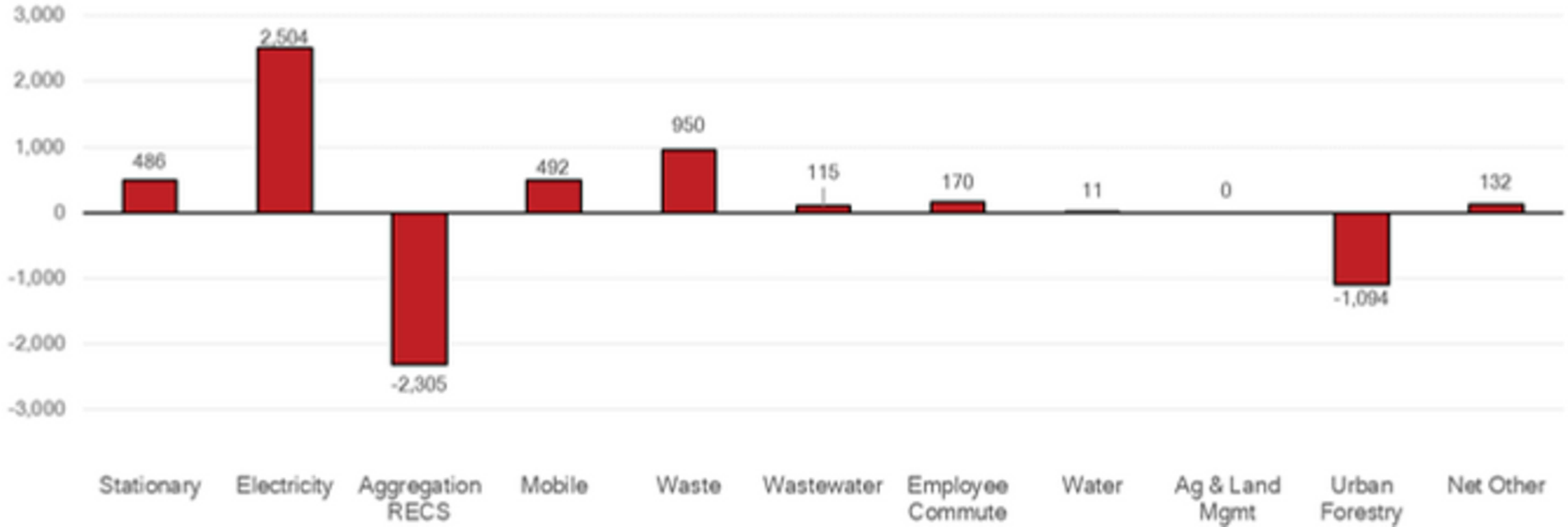


Gross Government Operations by Source (Non-Technical Terms)

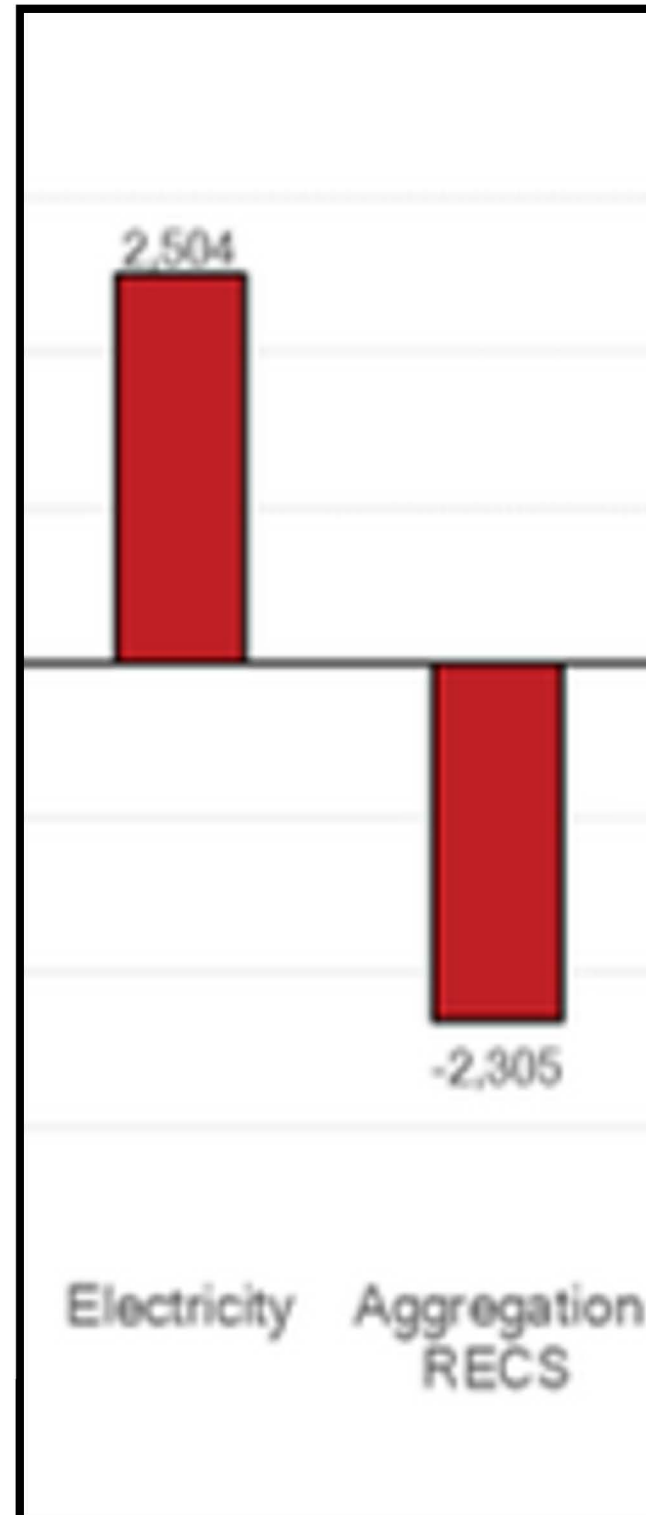


~4% of Community Scale Emissions

Net Government Operations Emissions

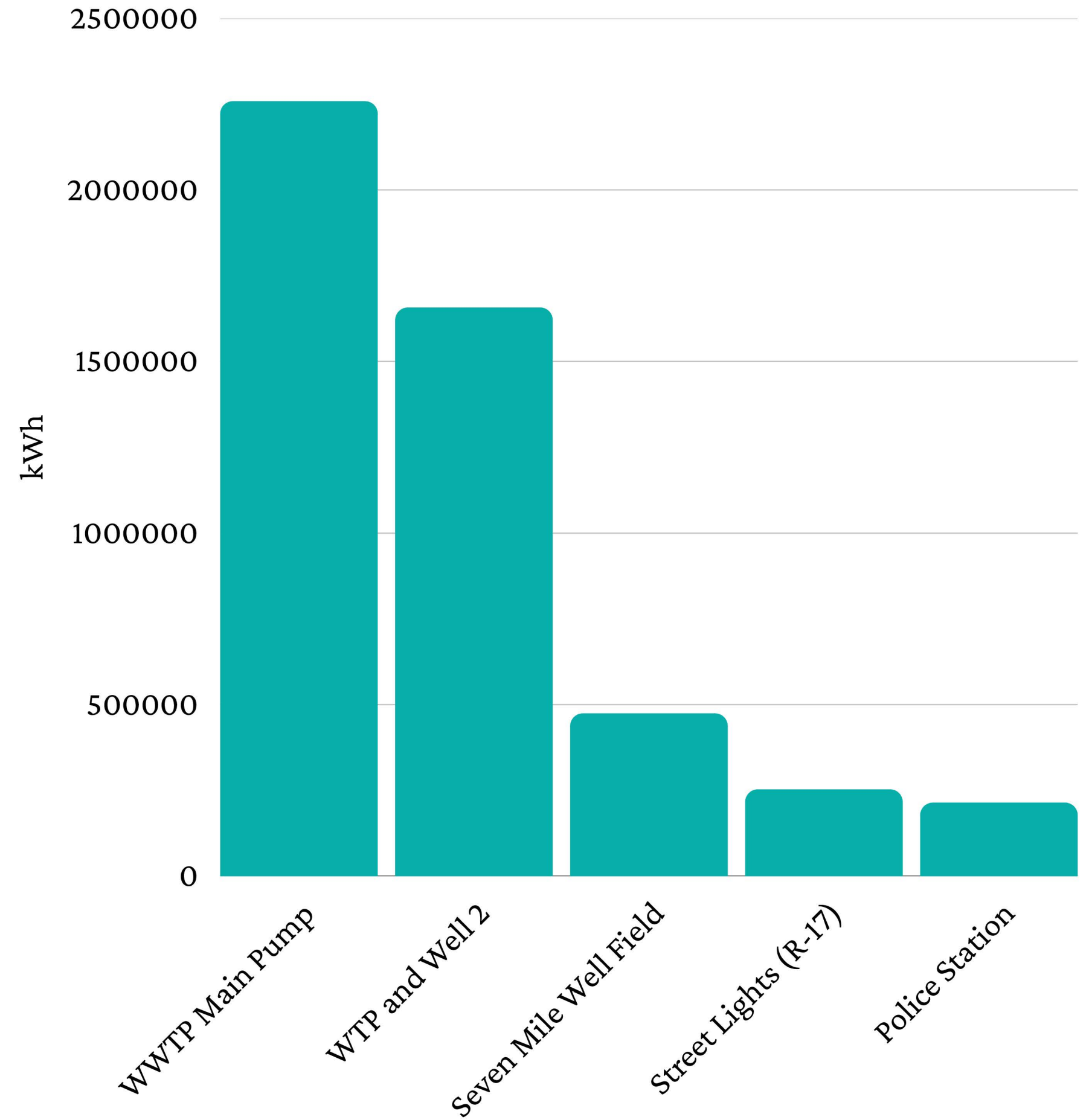
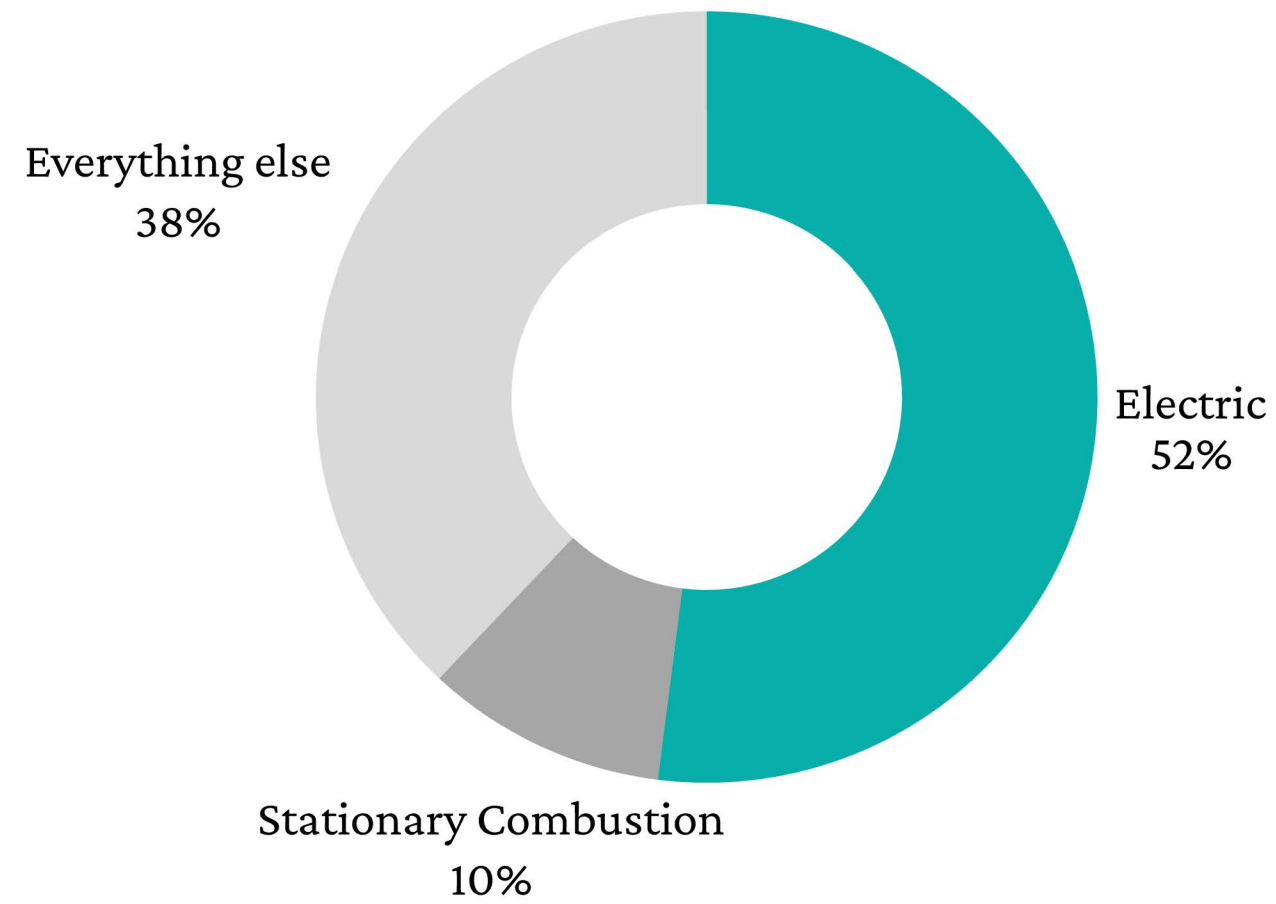


Net Government Operations Emissions

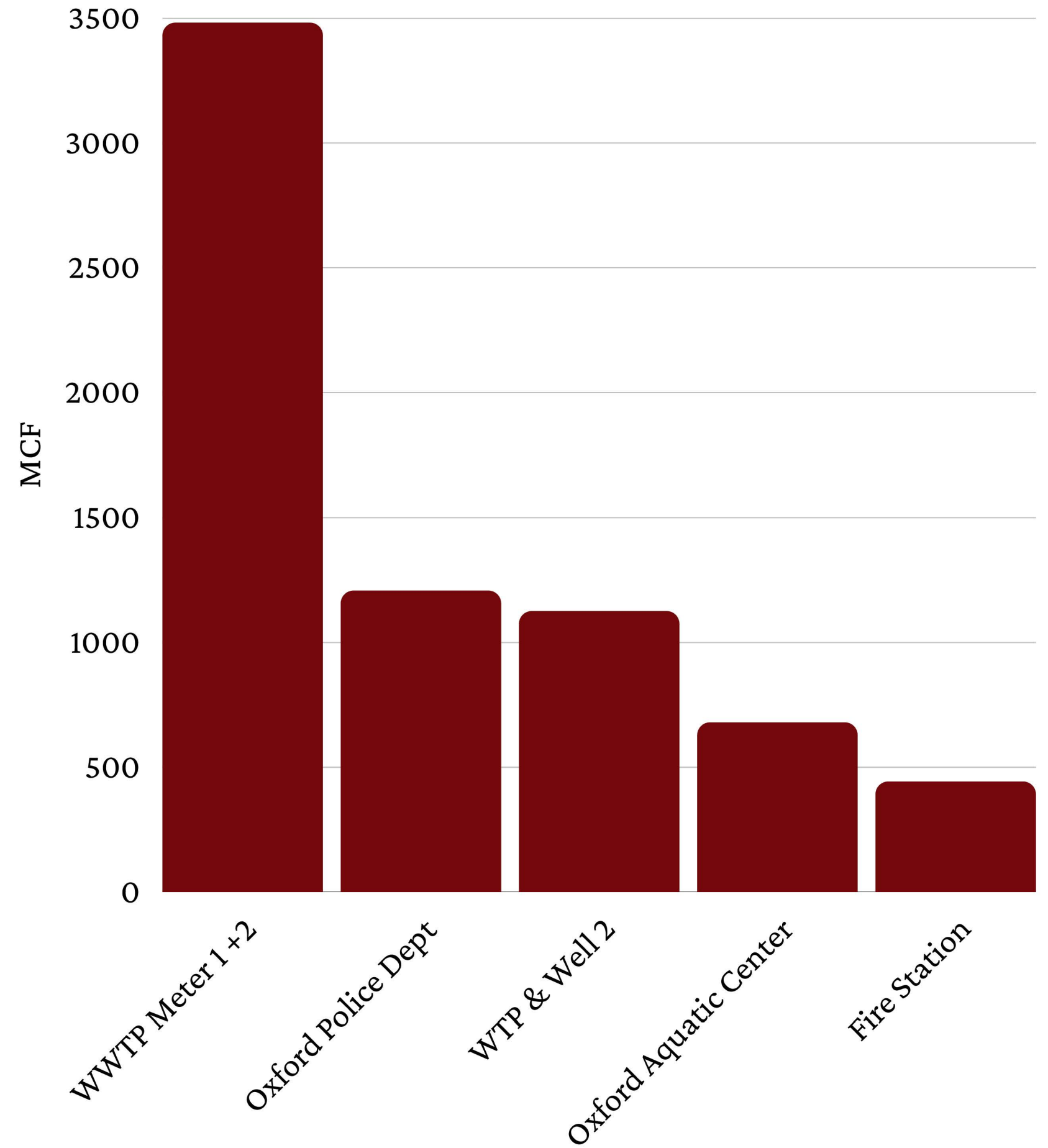
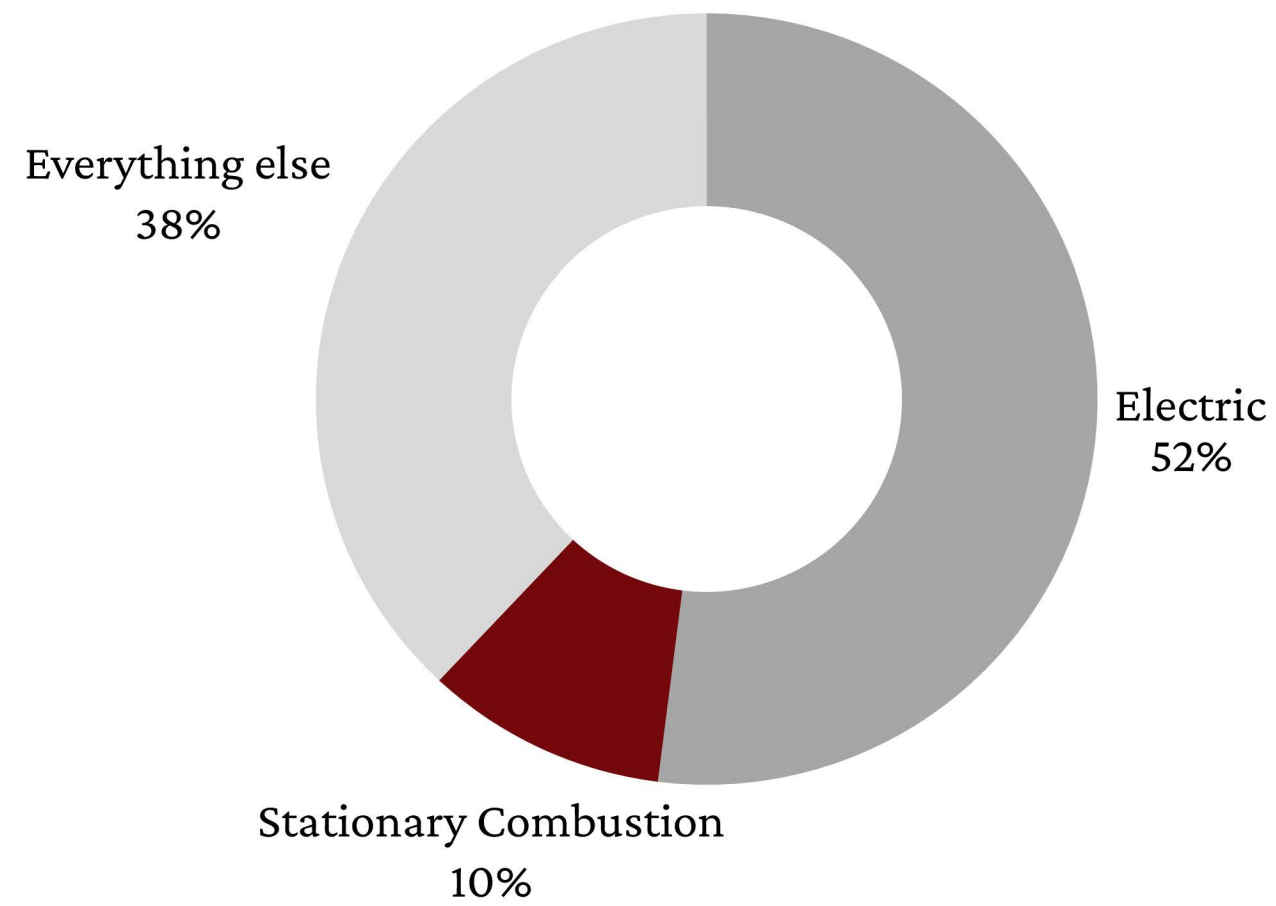


Oxford's Purchase Power Agreement reduces our net electricity emissions by 92%

Government Electricity Usage; Top 5



Government Natrual Gas Usage; Top 5

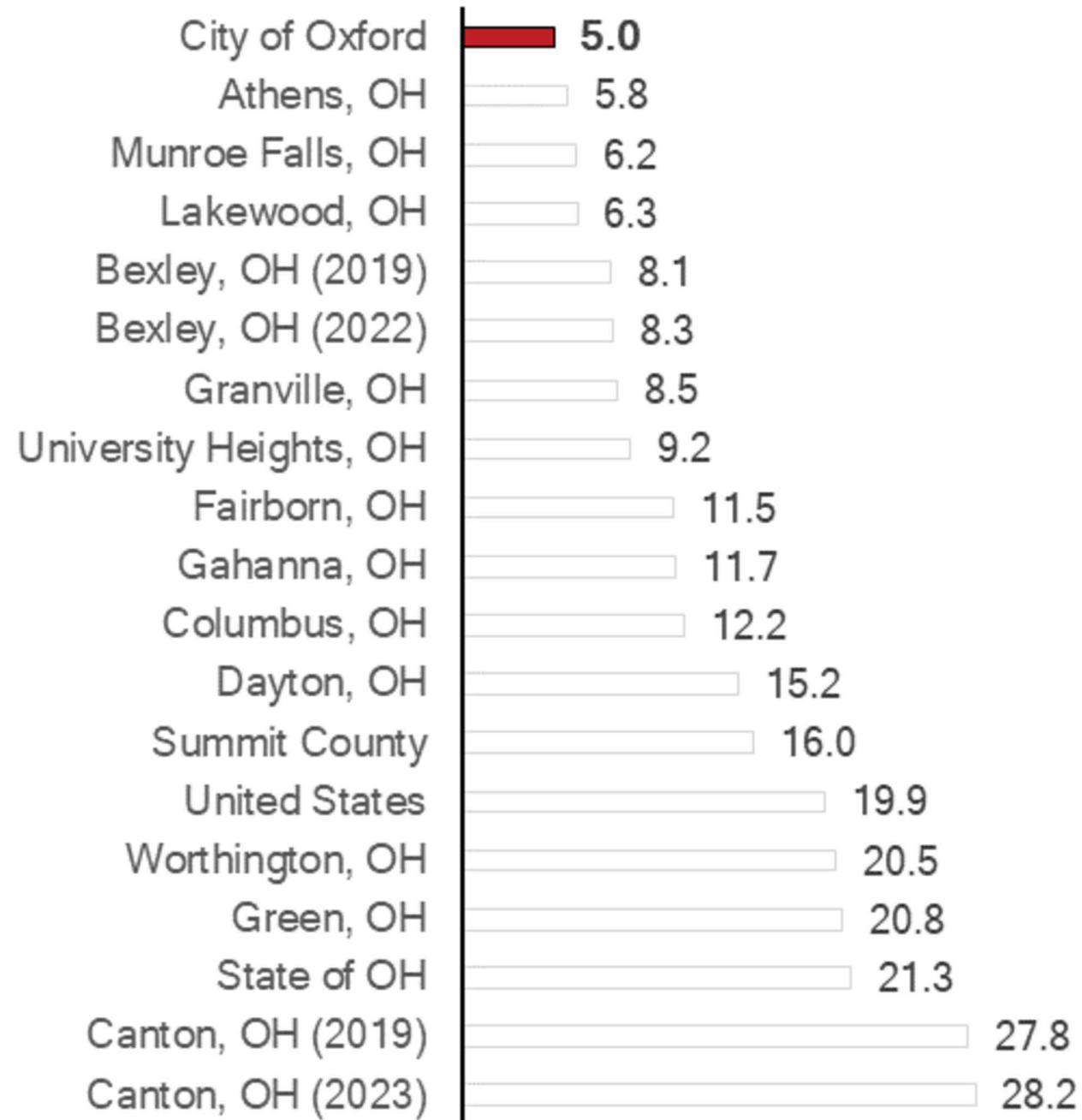


OTHER DATA FROM PCFO

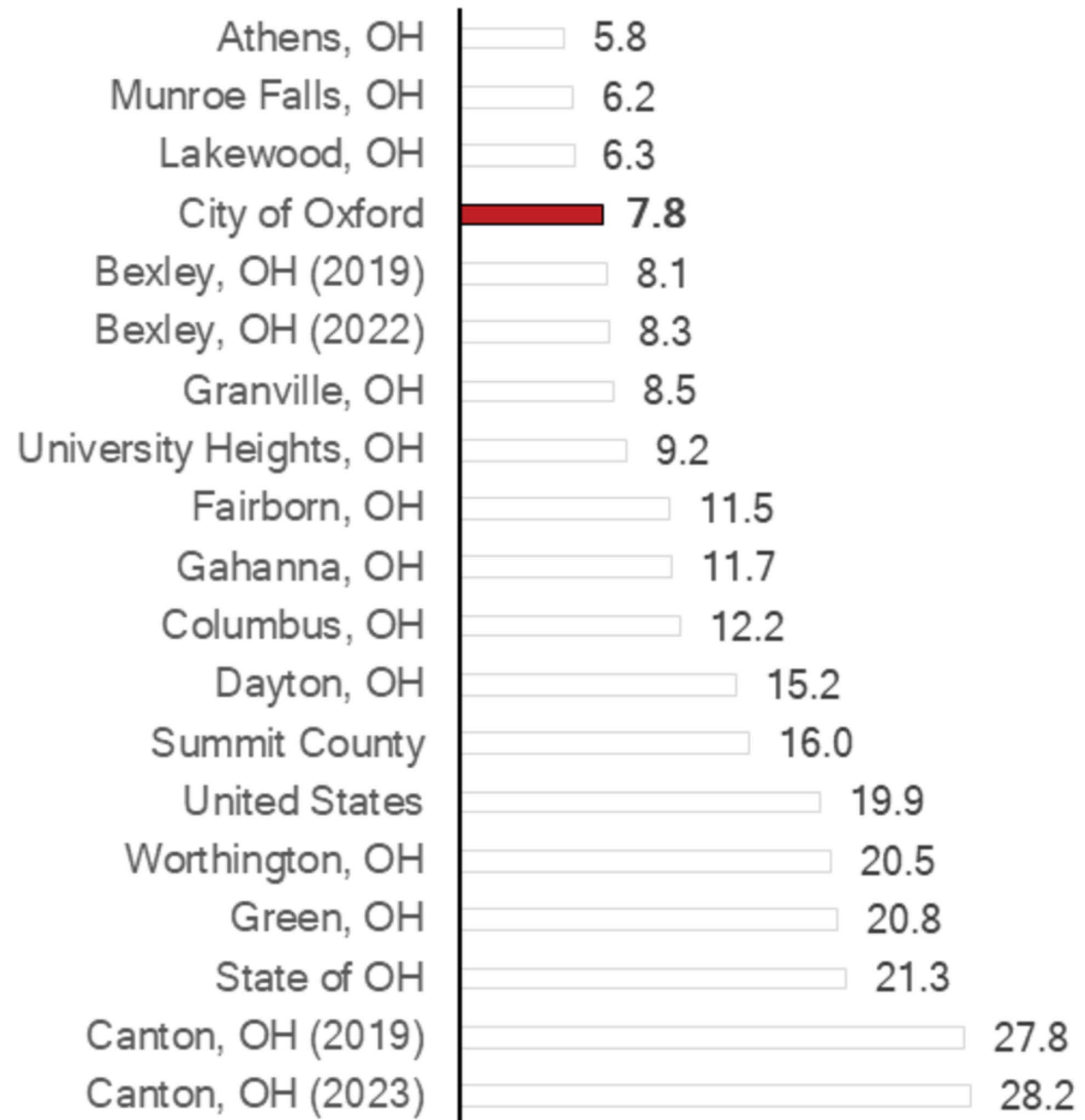


Power A Clean
Future Ohio
LOCAL COMMUNITIES LEADING THE WAY

Gross Emissions (MT CO2e) Per Capita; Community Wide

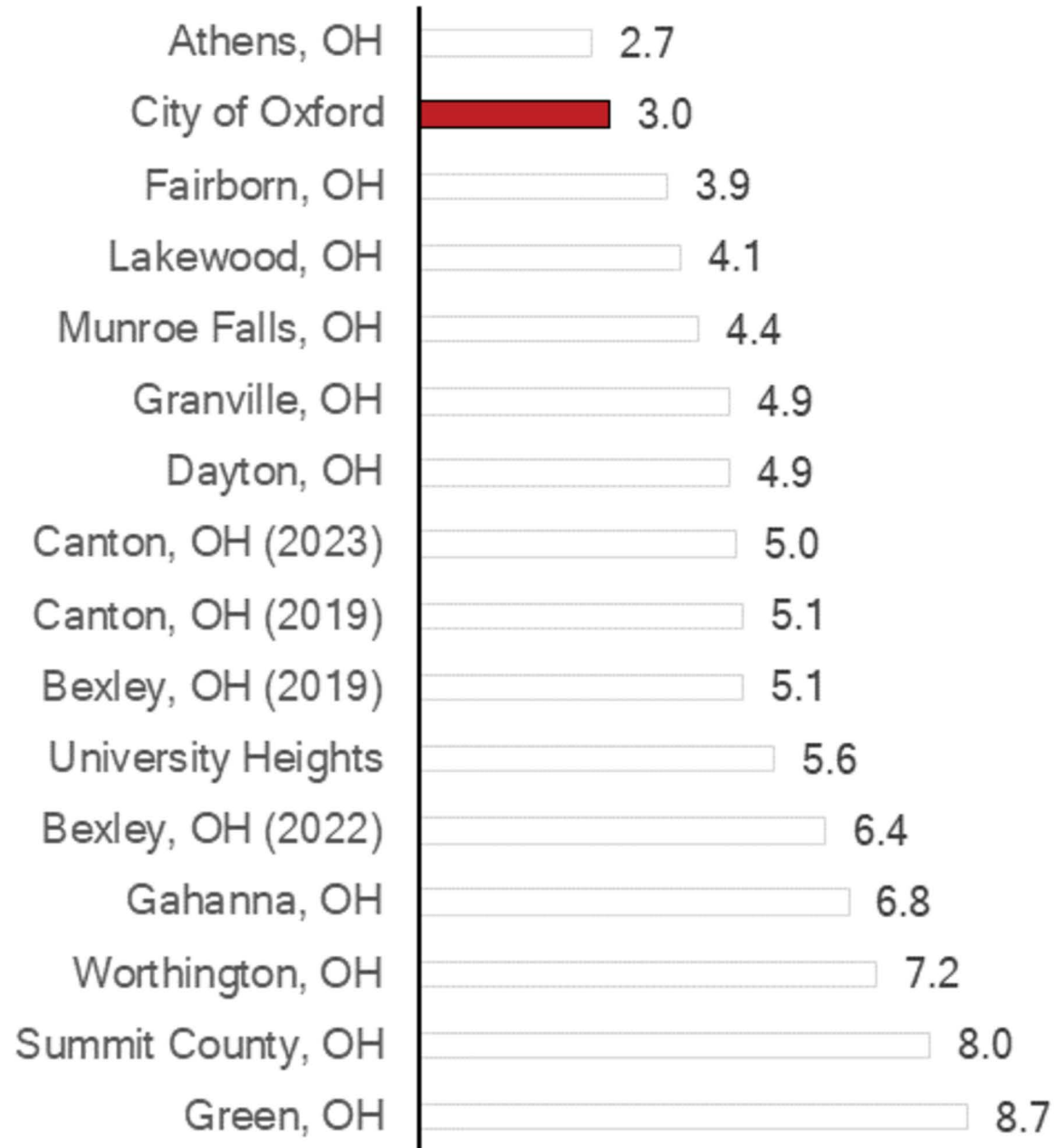


Without MU

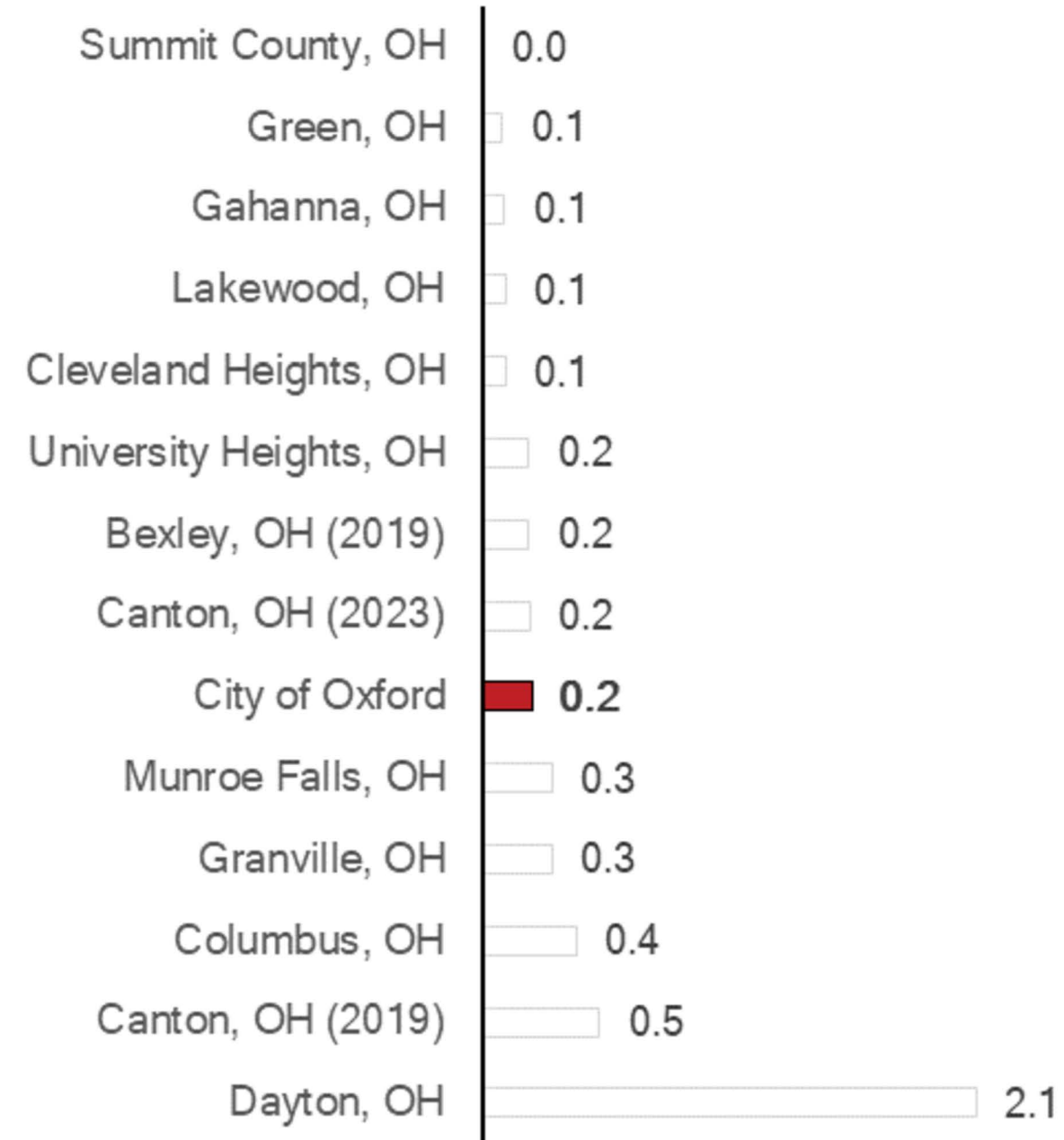


With MU

Gross Emissions Per Capita

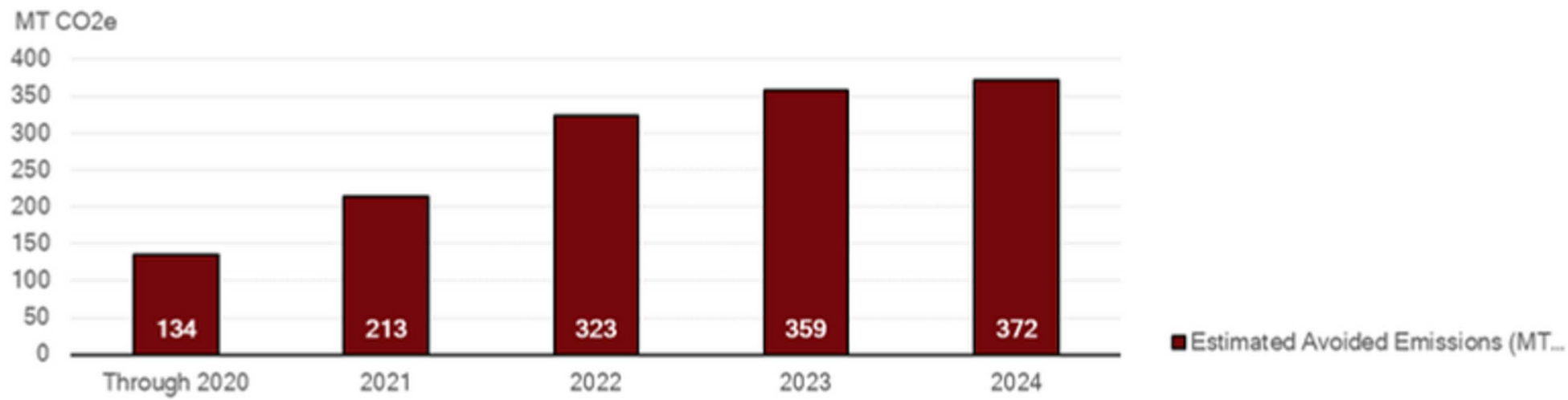
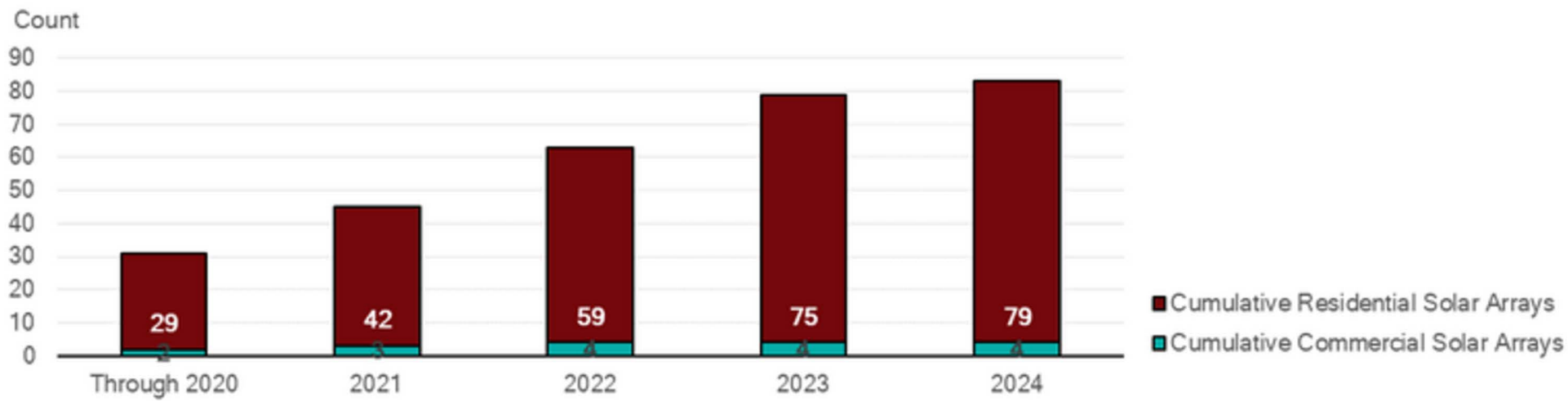
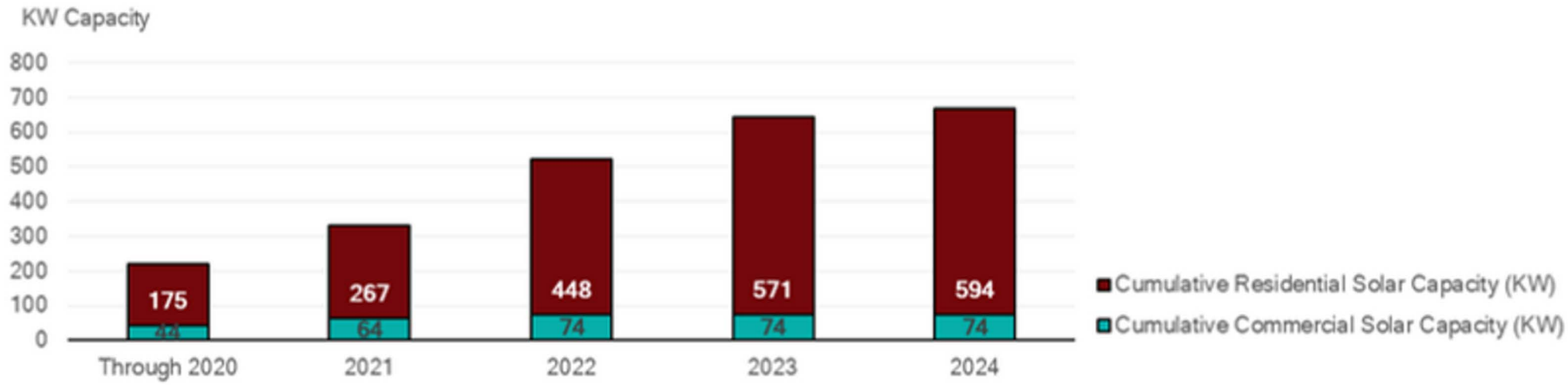


Residential Emissions Only

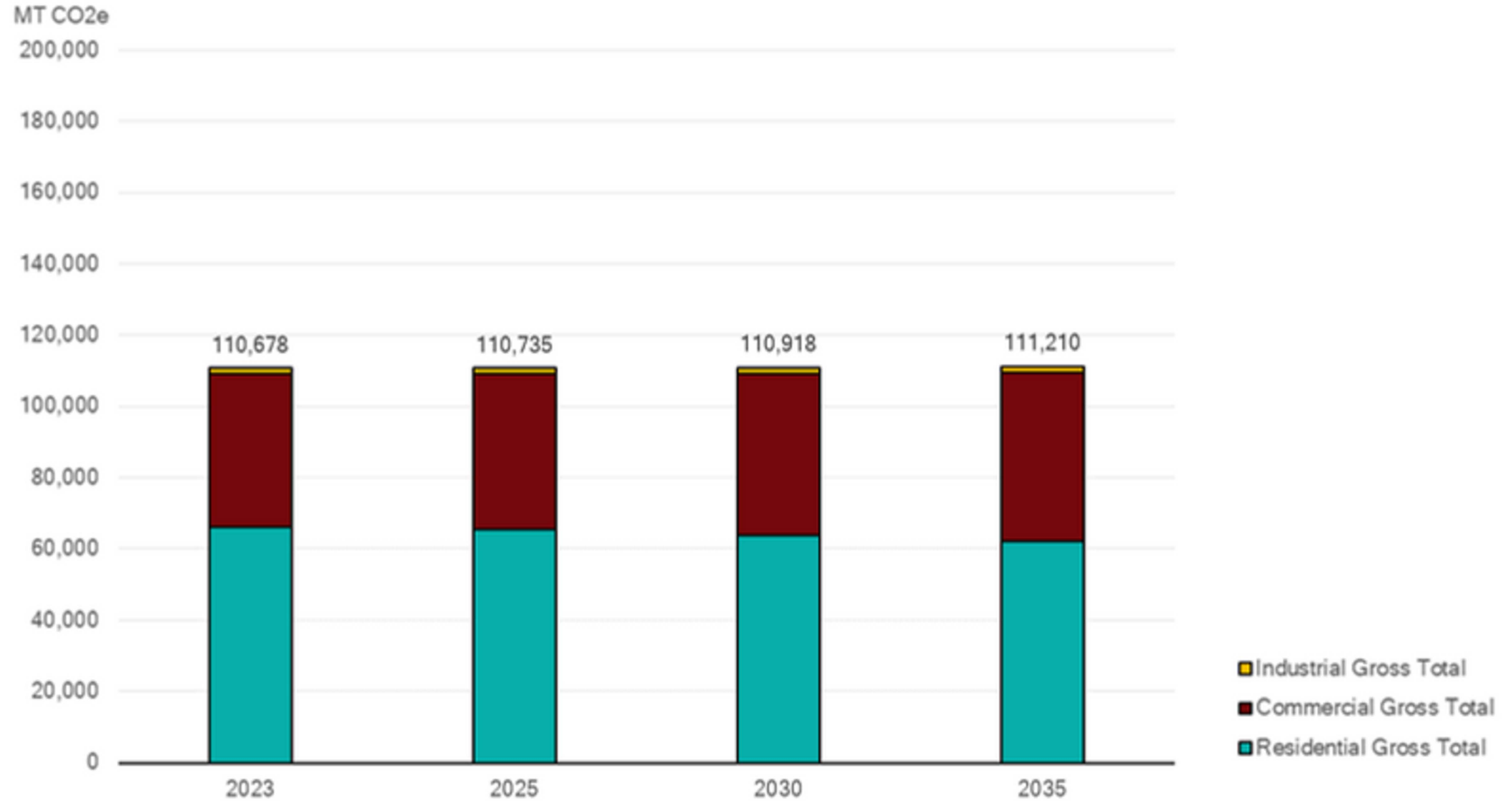


Government Operations

Solar Assessment



Baseline Emissions Forecast (business as usual, w/o MU)





2019 VS 2023
GROSS EMISSIONS

RED BRICK
ROAD TO **ZERO**

Disclaimers

- Oxford's emissions will fluctuate year to year due to weather and advancements in calculating emissions
- We may see our emissions go up or down based on factors outside of our control (i.e. weather and COVID)
- Some data sources have changed between 2019 and 2023, resulting in more accurate data for Oxford
- We utilized a different program for 2023 than 2021 and 2019

Community Wide Gross Emissions

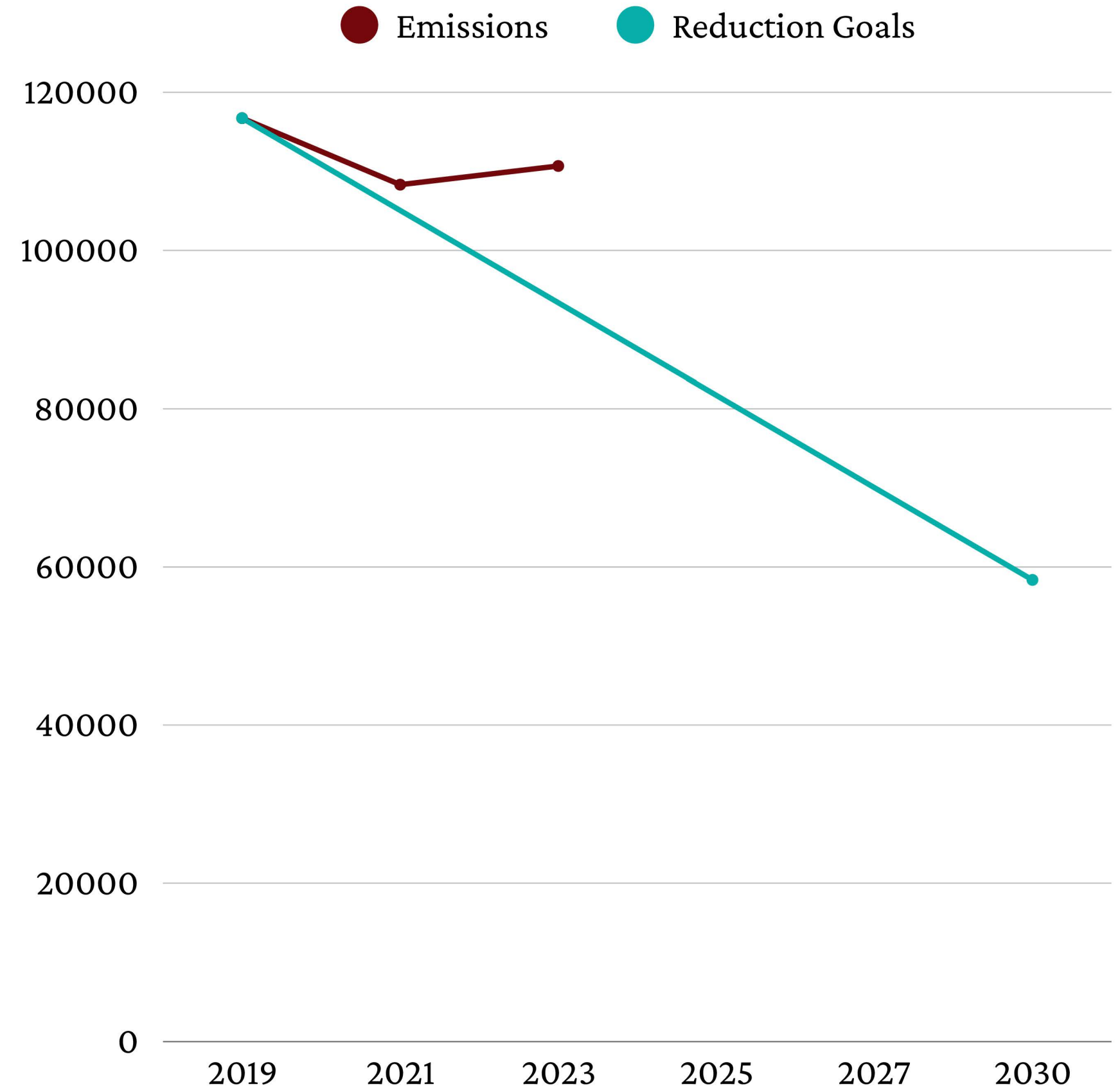
Our top emission sources remain energy and transportation, but at different proportions. This change is partially due to improved data for electricity and transportation.

Energy

55% → 51%

Transportation

26% → 44%



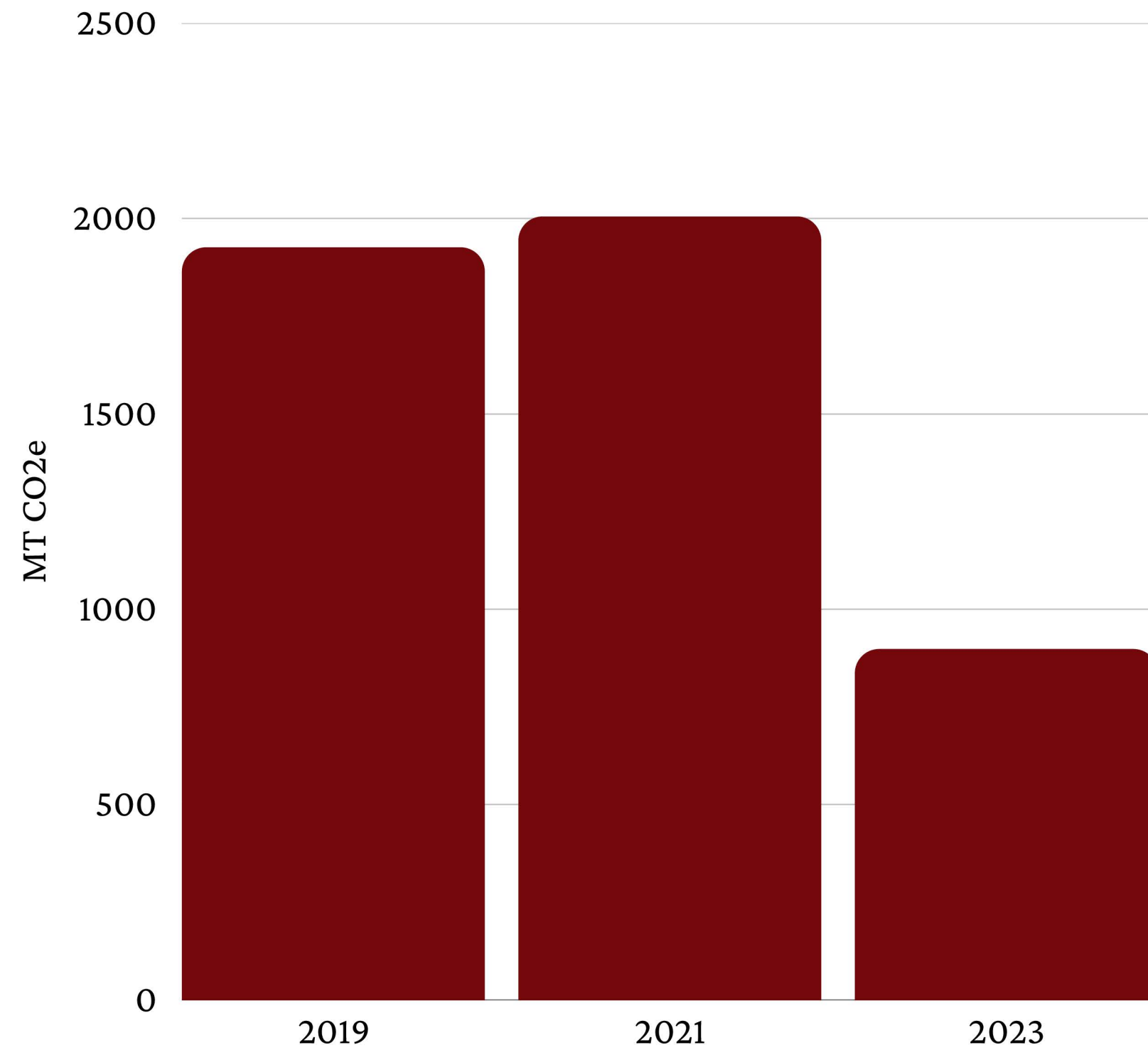
Government Operations Gross Emissions

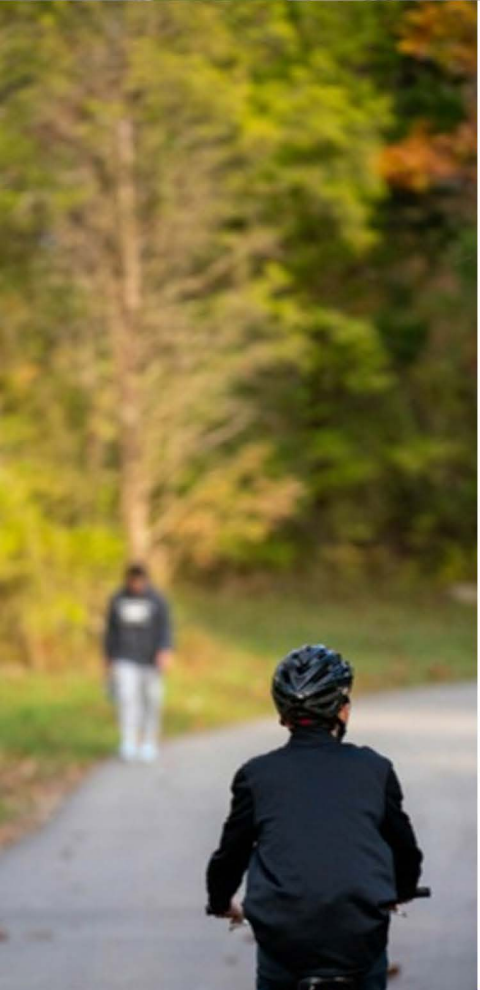
Emissions reduction is largely due to the methane flare at the closed landfill and LED street light conversions.



Closed Landfill Emissions

Methane Flare installed May 2023





RED BRICK ROAD TO ZERO



Green Umbrella Fellows Presentation at the Environmental Commission meeting



Oluwaseun Olubodun & Kate Kozak

Aug 6th 2025



Disclaimer

Recommendations in this presentation are from the Green Umbrella Climate Action Fellows and have not gone through additional staff review.



Green Umbrella Introduction



- A Tri-State area network of people, organizations, and governments
- Host community events, workshops, trainings, conferences
- Oxford is a leading member, and is participating in their 25 Communities program for 2025
- Focused on climate health and community resilience opportunities

Green Umbrella's work is helping to



Reduce greenhouse
gas emissions



Build resilient and
equitable food systems



Create and protect thriving
greenspace



Support local
communities

Fellow Introductions/Backgrounds

Oluwaseun

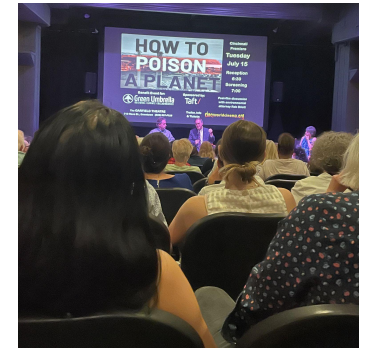
- PhD candidate in EEEB, Miami University.
- Research on water quality in Lake Erie using molecular methods
- Master's degree in Environmental Science and Sustainability, Miami
- Master's degree in Environmental Microbiology, Nigeria
- BSc Microbiology, Nigeria.

Kate

- Junior at Ohio State University
- Majoring in Environment, Economy, Development, and Sustainability
- Specialization in Sustainability and Business
- Certificate in Sustainable Energy and the Economy, minor in GIS
- Students for Recycling, Society for Ecological Restoration, Mill Creek Alliance

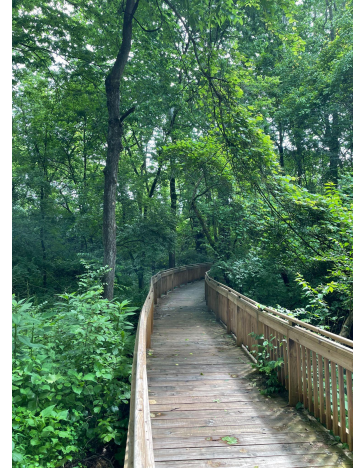
Green Umbrella Activities

- Midwest Regional Sustainability Summit
- Sustainability Breakfast: Metro on the Go
- Green Schoolyards Tours: Aiken High School and Rees E. Price Academy
- How to Poison a Planet film screening with Rob Billott
- Greenspace Planning Training
- Energy Benchmarking 101
- 25 Communities kickoff
- Climate Action 101



Oxford Activities

- Miami University Geothermal Plant Tour
- Climate Action Steering Committee Meeting
- Environmental Commission Meeting
- Regional Stormwater Collaboration Meeting
- Three Valley Conservation Trust visit
- Miami University Solar Array Tour
- Wastewater Treatment Plant Tour
- Freedom Fest
- Miami Fest
- Beach Staycation
- City Council Meeting
- Books on the Bricks



Overview of Projects

Green Umbrella Projects

- Energy Benchmarking
- Climate Budgeting
- Sustainable Procurement
- Community Wealth Building
- Green Workforce

Oxford Tailored Projects

- Stormwater Revenue Fund
→ Oluwaseun
- Waste Management
→ Kate
- Deer Management

Sustainable Procurement

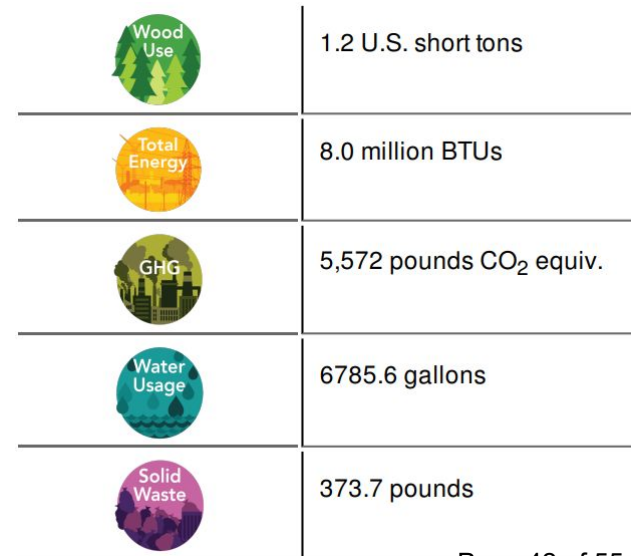
Table 1 - Current Scenario

Type of Paper	% Recycled Content	Cost per Carton
FriendsOffice Value Brand Copy Paper 8.5 x 11	5%	\$39.99
Hammermill Copy Plus Paper 11 x 17	0%	\$78.19
Survivor Expansion Envelopes 10 x 13 x 1.5	0%	\$171.92

- Financial policy review
- Case study cost-benefit analysis on paper purchasing
 - Environmental impact assessment
- Recommendations for increased transparency and environmental consideration

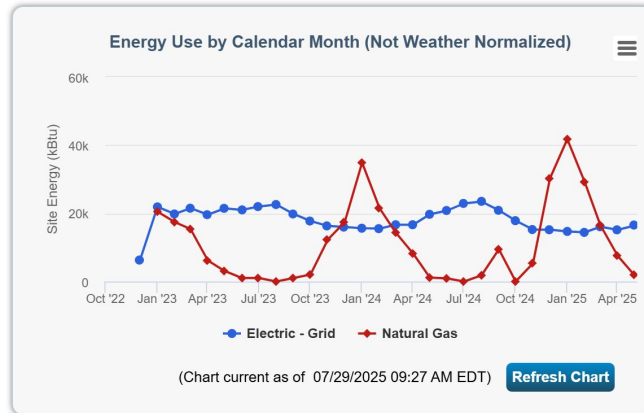
Table 3 - Cost Benefit Analysis

Scenario	CO ² Equivalent Generated (lbs)	Total Cost	Social Cost of Carbon	Total Social Cost
Current	5,572	\$729.99	\$529.34	\$1,259.33
Proposed	4,742	\$1,156.46	\$450.49	\$1,606.95
	<i>17.5% decrease</i>	<i>58.4% increase</i>		



Energy Benchmarking

- 8 buildings
- Updates and quality checks
- Instructions guide
- Organizational system
- 2030 District collaboration



Natural Gas Entry in Energy Star

Reading Dates Usage Amount Due

Display Years: 2025

Start Date	End Date	Usage (kWh (thousand cubic feet))	Percent Renewable Gas	Total Cost (\$)	Estimation	Last Updated	
<input type="checkbox"/>	12/26/2024	12/27/2025	151		1,966.27	<input type="checkbox"/>	7/8/2025 OxfordCH
<input type="checkbox"/>	1/27/2025	2/24/2025	116		1,530.29	<input type="checkbox"/>	7/8/2025 OxfordCH
<input type="checkbox"/>	2/24/2025	3/25/2025	46		609.57	<input type="checkbox"/>	7/8/2025 OxfordCH
<input type="checkbox"/>	3/25/2025	4/29/2025	20		272.62	<input type="checkbox"/>	7/8/2025 OxfordCH
<input type="checkbox"/>	4/29/2025	5/28/2025	5		79.41	<input type="checkbox"/>	7/8/2025 OxfordCH
<input type="checkbox"/>	5/28/2025	6/25/2025	4		66.9	<input type="checkbox"/>	7/8/2025 OxfordCH

[Details Selected Entries](#)
[Add Another Entry](#)
[Learn how to save/waste](#)
[Delete ALL Meter data for this meter](#)

[Enter a new bill](#)

Upload data in bulk for this meter:
Use the [upload meter spreadsheet](#) to:
• Upload the completed file below
• Copy and paste the data into the table above

No file chosen

If you make a mistake, check the box of the entry and delete it.

You don't have to save after every entry, just save when you're going to leave the page.

When you're done!

Senior Center Energy Use

Climate Budgeting

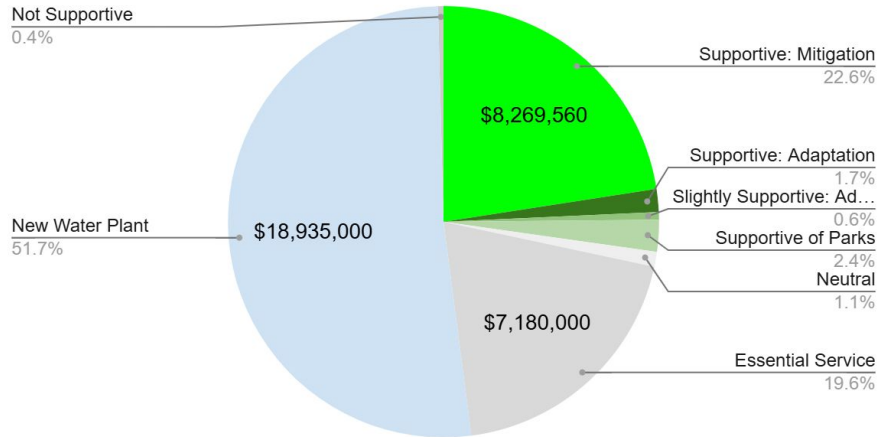
- Created 2 scales of categories
 - Efforts Towards Climate Goals
 - Efforts Towards Carbon Neutrality
- Budget analysis template
- For future budgets
- Charts and colors for storytelling

Climate Budgeting

Efforts Towards Climate Goals

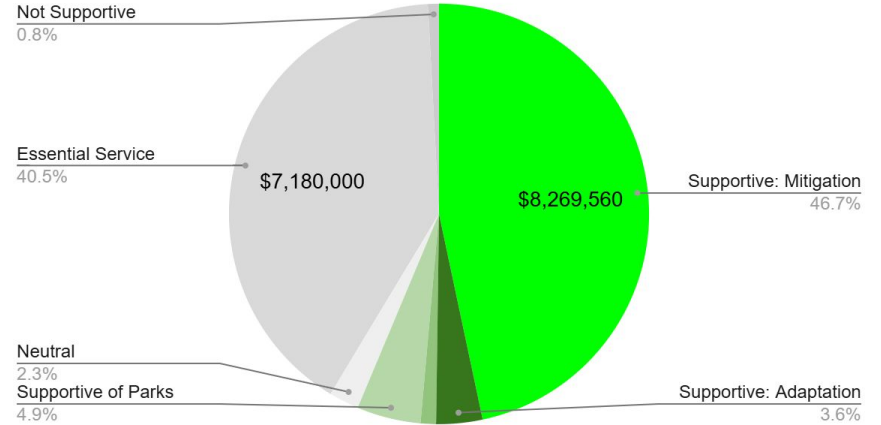
2025 Capital Improvement - \$36,657,060

Efforts Towards Climate Goals



2025 Capital Improvement W/o Softening - \$17,722,060

Efforts Towards Climate Goals



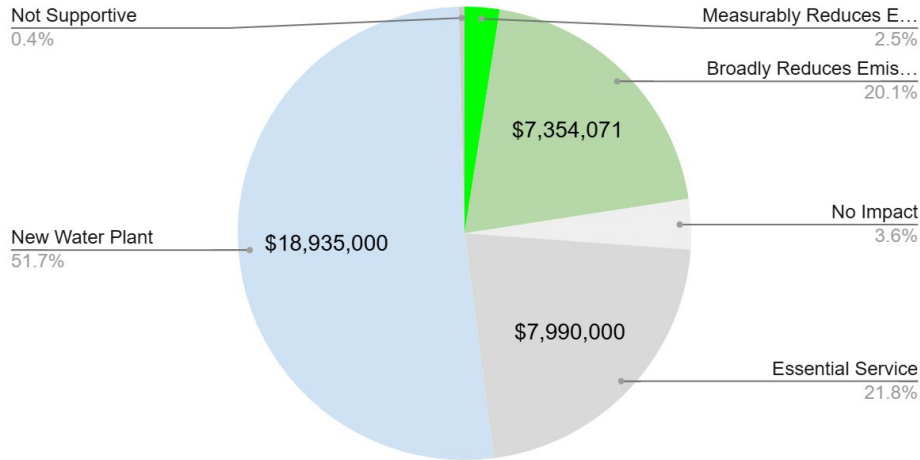
Totals	Amount Spent
Supportive: Mitigation	\$8,269,560
Supportive: Adaptation	\$630,000
Slightly Supportive: Mitigation	\$0
Slightly Supportive: Adaptation	\$210,000
Supportive of Parks	\$873,000
Neutral	\$409,500
Essential Service	\$7,180,000
New Water Plant	\$18,935,000
Not Supportive	\$150,000
Not Supportive: Alternative Recommended	\$0
Total:	\$36,657,060

Climate Budgeting

Efforts Towards Carbon Neutrality

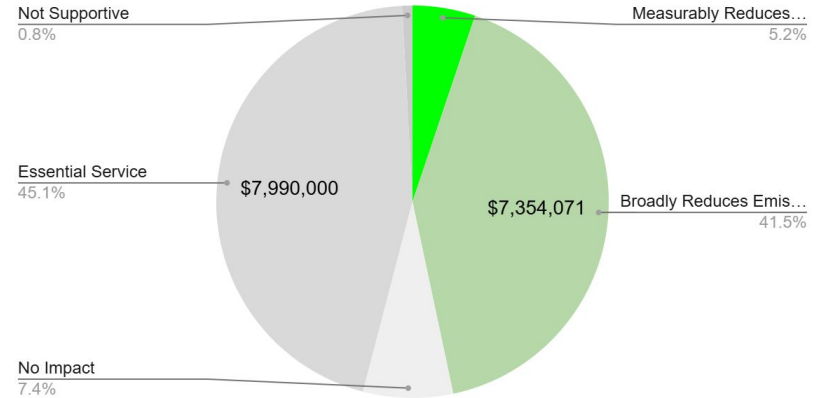
2025 Capital Improvement - \$36,657,060

Efforts Towards Carbon Neutrality



2025 Capital Improvement W/o Softening - \$17,722,060

Efforts Towards Carbon Neutrality



Mitigation Only Totals	Amount Spent
Measurably Reduces Emissions	\$915,489
Broadly Reduces Emissions	\$7,354,071
No Impact	\$1,312,500
Essential Service	\$7,990,000
New Water Plant	\$18,935,000
Not Supportive	\$150,000
Not Supportive: Alternative Recommended	\$0
Total:	\$36,657,060

Climate Budgeting

Efforts Towards Climate Goals

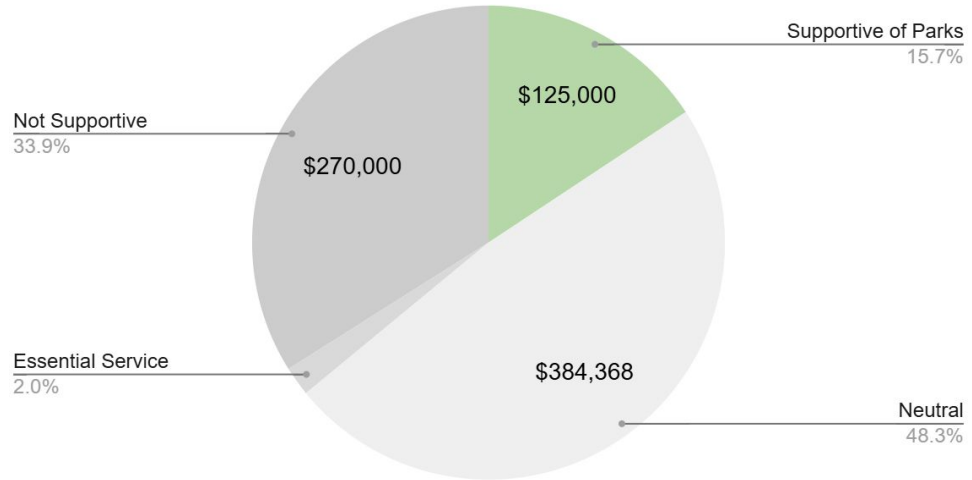
SERVICE					
Engineering projects					
OAT	Oxford Area Trail System - Phase V East - West Connector*(4)		\$6,638,071	Supportive: Mitigation	Broadly Reduces Emissions
General	Construct sidewalk at NE corner of Locust/Spring St & Locust/Brookview*(5)		\$372,000	Supportive: Mitigation	Broadly Reduces Emissions
General	PACO Projects-Locust St. Art wall* (6)		\$50,000	Neutral	No Impact
General	Municipal Buildings/Courthouse Improvements		\$70,000	Neutral	No Impact
Parking	Walnut Street Parking Garage Improvements		\$15,000	Essential Service	Essential Service
General	Storm Sewer Infrastructure		\$50,000	Supportive: Adaptation	Essential Service
General	EV Charging Stations *(10)		\$905,489	Supportive: Mitigation	Measurably Reduces Emissions

Climate Budgeting

Capital Equipment Budget

2025 Capital Equipment Budget - \$795,368

Efforts Towards Climate Goals



Green Workforce

- Create jobs that use resources more efficiently, conserve natural resources, and reduce pollution.
- We investigated the underutilization of vocational school scholarships.
- We have developed a contact list and a list of reading materials to aid in drafting the questions for the survey.

Next Steps

- The City of Oxford has expressed interest in conducting a focus group with Talawanda High School students to determine interest and knowledge of vocational opportunities and green jobs.

Deer Management

- Educational web page
- Q&A

→ “Why is a deer management program needed?”

→ “What is professional wildlife control?”

→ “What is the expected timeline of the project?”

- Recommendations to improve transparency and reporting
- Council work session last night

> Why not use non-lethal methods of deer population control?

Non-lethal methods to control deer overpopulation do exist and have been tried by other municipalities. However, they are not legally or economically viable for the City of Oxford at this time.

Fertility control and sterilization shots are illegal in Ohio without the permission of the Chief of the Ohio Division of Wildlife, and permits are only issued for formal research studies. Additionally, there is scientific evidence demonstrating that fertility control is not an effective management option for controlling large free-ranging white tailed deer populations. Since deer migrate from city to city, sterilization methods are only recommended for cities that are isolated, with little migration. Surgical sterilization can range from \$1,000 to \$3,000 per deer, and a 10-year study sterilizing 90% of the deer population at Cornell University showed almost no population impacts or ecological improvements (Blossey et al.).

Residents can support Oxford’s Deer Management in multiple ways:

- 1) Do not feed wildlife. Feeding wildlife allows populations to grow beyond ecologically sustainable levels due to non-native food sources.
- 2) Volunteer your land. Volunteer your land to be used for Oxford’s Bow Hunting Program and/or professional population control services. [\[LINK\]](#)
- 3) Participate in the Bow Hunting Program. [\[LINK\]](#)

Waste Management

- Event waste station
 - Miami Fest
 - Freedom Fest
 - Beach Staycation (Girl Scout volunteer)
 - Books on the Bricks
- Dumpster consolidation ordinance
 - Materials, examples, draft code (pending Department Head review)



Stormwater Revenue Fund

- Council's 2025 goal on stormwater revenue fund research.
- Meetings with Experts.
- Most municipalities utilize the Equivalent Residential Unit (ERU), which is based on the impervious surface area.
- The City should consider looking into a tiered approach for commercial properties structured based on impervious surface area to encourage equitable cost-sharing.
- Green infrastructure—rain barrels, rain gardens, cisterns—should be encouraged in public spaces, parks, signs, systems to enhance environmental sustainability
- Develop a stormwater management plan that will be accessible and understandable for residents to effectively manage and execute it, especially if a fee is mandated.

Stormwater Revenue Fund examples in other cities

- Other more similar examples
 - Athens: Residential
\$3.00/month,
Commercial
\$6.00/month
 - Oberlin: Tiered based on
impervious surface area
(starting ~\$2.75/month)

No	Community	Sta	Fee Type	ERU (ft ²)	Monthly Fee	Year Created	Population
1186	Broadview Heights	OH	E	4,000	\$4.00	2007	19,247
1187	Brookville	OH	LU		\$4.50	2019	5,874
1188	Brunswick	OH	E	3,500	\$4.95	2011	34,441
1189	Buckeye Lake	OH	E	2,700	\$4.00	2013	2,703
1190	Bucyrus	OH	E	2,506	\$7.20	2000	12,253
1191	Butler County	OH	E	4,000	\$1.08	2003	369,999
1192	Campbell	OH	T		\$3.00	2007	8,235
1193	Canal Winchester	OH	E	3,001	\$3.00	2010	7,191
1194	Canfield	OH	E	3,050	\$3.12	1992	7,464
1195	Celina	OH	E	3,083	\$2.00	2008	10,406
1196	Cincinnati	OH	T		\$8.28	1984	296,223
1197	Columbus	OH	E	2,000	\$4.68	1994	797,434
1198	Cortland	OH	F		\$1.50	2007	7,069
1199	Coshocton	OH	D		\$0.25	2010	11,231
1200	Crooksville	OH	E		\$2.54		2,491
1201	Cuyahoga Falls	OH	E	3,000	\$5.00	1992	49,473
1202	Dayton	OH	F		\$5.03	1997	142,148
1203	Deerfield Regional Stormwater District	OH	E	3,407	\$1.92	2006	

Priority Next Steps

- Include the climate analysis appendix in the 2026 approved budget
- Publish the deer management education website
- Determine ERU for impervious surface area.
- Create a revised stormwater management plan that is accessible to residents.
- Continue to add new city properties to the Energy Star platform



Appreciation

We would like to thank Reena!!

She has been an amazing supervisor, and her knowledge and constant communication across departments is very admirable

Thank you to the City Manager's office for being great hosts and colleagues this summer

Thank you to Green Umbrella for this incredible opportunity!

