



Sustainability



On April 15, 2021, Pierce County Executive Bruce Dammeier signed Pierce County's Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Reduction Plan: Sustainability 2030. The plan outlines a ten-year goal and actions to take to reduce GHG emissions across Pierce County government operations and the larger community.

We will conduct an environmental equity assessment to ensure underrepresented communities are engaged in the implementation and updates to this important work.

5 Areas of Focus

and 77 measurable actions will guide this work



Energy & Built Environment



Transportation



Consumption & Waste Management



Carbon Sequestration



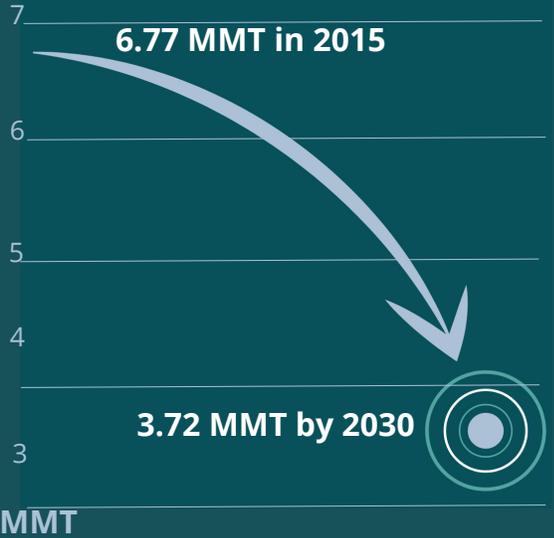
Education & Outreach



Learn more about the plan and subscribe to updates at: piercecountywa.gov/sustainability

Pierce County GHG Reduction Goal

MMT = Million Metric Tons



45%

**decrease in
GHG
emissions by
2030**

Guiding Principles

- ▶ Equity
- ▶ Vibrant Communities
- ▶ Accountability
- ▶ Fiscal Responsibility
- ▶ Economic Development
- ▶ Innovation

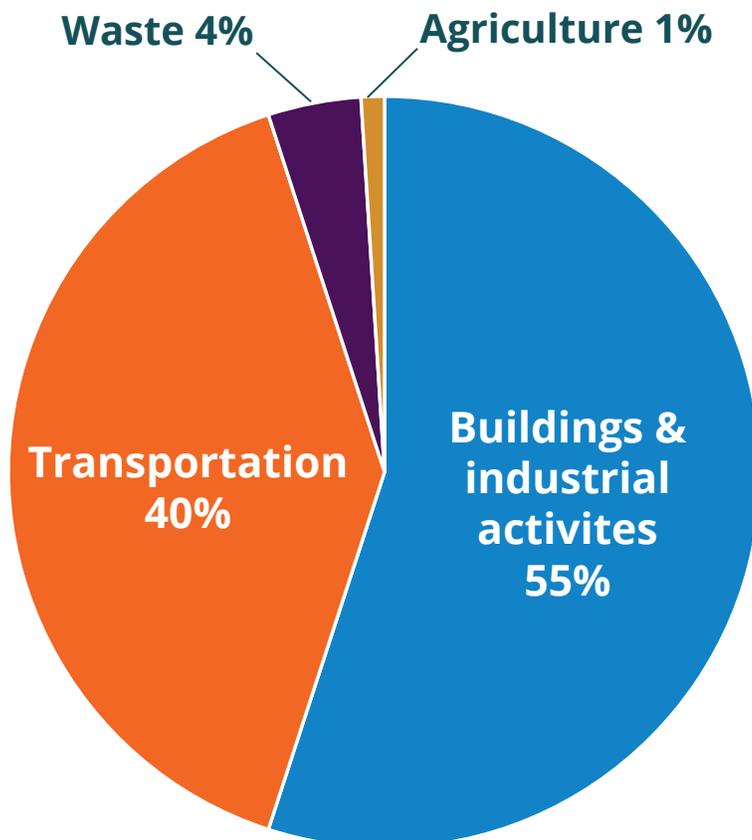
The rapid impact of **climate change** is difficult to avoid. Pierce County is experiencing a higher frequency of wildfires and flooding events due to increased temperatures caused by climate change.

Sources of GHG Emissions in Pierce County

Pierce County's largest contributors of GHG emissions are the heating of homes and commercial buildings, driving vehicles, and industrial combustion.

This does not include emissions generated from imported goods that are created outside County boundaries but used within the County (also known as consumption).

Consumption typically adds 25% - 40% to the carbon footprint of a county.



Source: 2015 Puget Sound Clean Air Agency (PSCAA) GHG Inventory



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Land Acknowledgment

We acknowledge that the land now identified as Pierce County has for thousands of years been the traditional territory and home for the Puyallup, Nisqually, Squaxin Island, and Muckleshoot people.

Today, this land is still home to these four federally-recognized tribes. We commit to working together in stewardship of their homeland where we mutually work and reside.

Definitions

Climate Change

Describes a global shift in weather patterns. Everyday activities such as the burning of fossil fuels (e.g., oil, coal, natural gas), industrialized agricultural practices, and the clearing of forests release large amounts of GHGs into the atmosphere, causing global warming. (UW Climate Impacts Group).

Greenhouse Gases (GHG)

A variety of gases that trap the sun's heat and cause a global greenhouse effect. Most GHGs come from the burning of fossil fuels and chemicals used for refrigeration and cooling. Examples of GHGs are carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide and fluorinated gases. (US Environmental Protection Agency)

Carbon Sequestration

The process of capturing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and storing it long-term in plants, soils and the ocean. Unfortunately, the ocean absorbs a large portion of the carbon dioxide emissions, resulting in ocean water becoming more acidic. Planting more trees, conserving existing forests and kelp beds, and improving soil management to help ease the burden on our oceans. (US Geological Survey)

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