

# Multnomah County FY 2026 Budget Work Session Follow Up

## Office of Sustainability

May 29, 2025



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**Commissioner Brim-Edwards (District 3)** - Please provide/clarify the entire definition of community wide as it relates to the performance measure: Decrease in community wide greenhouse gas emissions over 1990 levels based on trend line analysis.

### Response:

The Board of County Commissioners in Resolution 2015-076, “Adopts the joint Multnomah County and City of Portland 2015 Climate Action Plan,” committed the County to the goal of reducing community-wide greenhouse gas emissions 40% below 1990 levels by 2030, and 80% below 1990 levels by 2050. The Board in Resolution 2017-046 also adopted the goal of meeting 100% of community-wide electricity needs with renewable energy by 2035 and meeting 100% of all community-wide energy needs with renewable energy by 2050.

Multnomah County community-wide scope 1 & 2 greenhouse gas emissions are tracked annually by the City of Portland. Scope 1 refers to emissions from the consumption of fuels like natural gas, gasoline, and diesel at the point of combustion, for example a car engine or home furnace. Scope 2 emissions refers to emissions from the consumption of electricity, where emissions occur outside the County’s borders, but the energy is consumed within the County, for example electricity used at a home or business. This data is collected and compiled for all residential, commercial, industrial and

transportation related energy use within the borders of Multnomah County.

As of 2022, the most recent year for which [data](#) is available, community-wide greenhouse gas emissions were 21.1% below the 1990 baseline level (and 30% below peak communitywide emissions in 2000). The Office of Sustainability's [Program Offer](#) outcome measure reflects the Boards stated commitment to ongoing communitywide greenhouse gas emissions reductions. The FY 2026 Program Offer outcome measure "Decrease in community wide greenhouse gas emissions over 1990 levels based on trend line analysis" sets the target of a 25% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions below the 1990 baseline for the coming fiscal year, or a 3.9% reduction from the current level.

The anticipated reduction in greenhouse gas emissions over the coming year is mainly due to an increasingly clean electricity mix with more clean energy and less fossil-fuel derived electricity. The changing composition of the electricity mix is driven by State policy that the County, through the Office of Sustainability, advocated for and supported, including HB 2021 (signed into law in 2021) that requires both electric utilities that serve Multnomah County to fully decarbonize their supply by 2040, with interim decarbonization goals in 2030 and 2035.

To ensure clarity for the Board and the public, I will work with the budget office to determine if there is a clearer way to present this measure in the program offer (#10018).