

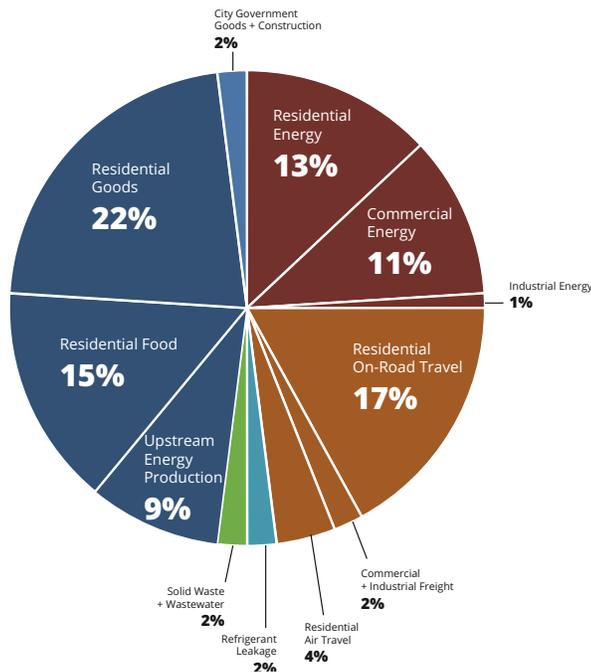
Executive Summary

WHY A CLIMATE AND ENERGY PLAN?

Climate change is already affecting Ashland and the surrounding region, and its impacts are projected to become much more severe in the coming decades. To minimize harmful impacts and play its part in curbing global carbon pollution, Ashland needs to take bold steps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and build resiliency. This plan lays out a foundation for the City of Ashland to reduce its emissions and improve its resilience to future impacts of climate change on its environment, infrastructure, and people.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

According to the City's 2015 greenhouse gas inventory, The vast majority (83%) of Ashland's emissions stem from five main sources: production of residential goods and food, residential travel, residential and commercial energy use, and upstream energy production. In 2015, Ashland's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions footprint was approximately 300,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MT CO₂e), representing 0.5% of Oregon's total emissions.



Climate Impacts

The impacts of climate change will have tangible effects on public health and quality of life for Ashland's residents and visitors. In addition to the direct dangers of wildfires, flooding, and extreme weather events made worse by climate change, secondary effects of more extreme temperatures, snowpack declines, and wildfire smoke include health and livelihood impacts to sensitive and exposed populations, heightened threats to species and habitats, and consequences for local natural resources and economies such as agriculture, outdoor recreation, and tourism.

**BY THE 2080S,
ASHLAND WILL
LIKELY SEE...**



An **86% decrease** in winter snowpack



90 more days of extreme heat annually

A **7 to 12°F increase** in temperature on the hottest day of the year



More than 1" of additional rainfall during heavy storms



More frequent and severe droughts, heat waves, and wildfires

Source: Oregon State University, 2016

HOW DID WE GET HERE?

The Ashland Climate and Energy Action Plan represents the culmination of a year-long process of engagement, input, and review. Many individuals and organizations played a role in shaping this plan. It incorporates input from:

- Over **240 community members** who attended a public open house.
- Over **135 individuals** who responded to an online survey.
- Representatives from over **15 local organizations, businesses, and institutions** who participated in interviews.
- Over **30 City staff members** who participated in facilitated workshops.
- **13 members** of the Mayor-appointed ad-hoc committee.

Formation of the plan was also informed by the following approaches:

- Leveraging and building on **progress to-date** and **existing plans and programs**.
- Emphasizing **equity** and **co-benefits**.
- Customizing strategies to fit **Ashland's unique context**.
- Prioritizing actions that help meet Ashland's **climate goals and vision**.



What will these impacts mean for Ashland's future?

These climate changes will threaten Ashland's people, resources, and economy. Here are some examples of challenges Ashland could face:



PEOPLE

Sensitive and exposed populations like the very young, elderly, those with respiratory illness, and outdoor workers will be at risk from wildfire smoke and heat-related illnesses.



ENVIRONMENT

High elevation plants and wildlife will need to adapt to shifting or diminishing habitats.



RESOURCES & ECONOMY

Seasonal and climate-dependent industries such as agriculture, outdoor recreation, and tourism will be threatened under changing conditions.

ASHLAND'S CLIMATE VISION FOR 2050 IS TO BE A RESILIENT COMMUNITY THAT HAS ZERO NET GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS, EMBRACES EQUITY, PROTECTS HEALTHY ECOSYSTEMS, AND CREATES OPPORTUNITIES FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS.

GOALS AND TARGETS

The plan's overarching goals and targets focus on addressing climate change risks by reducing Ashland's emissions of climate pollution ("climate mitigation") and preparing the city for unavoidable impacts ("climate adaptation"):

1

Reduce Ashland's contribution to global carbon pollution by reducing greenhouse gas emissions associated with City, residential, commercial, and industrial activities.

For the Ashland community:

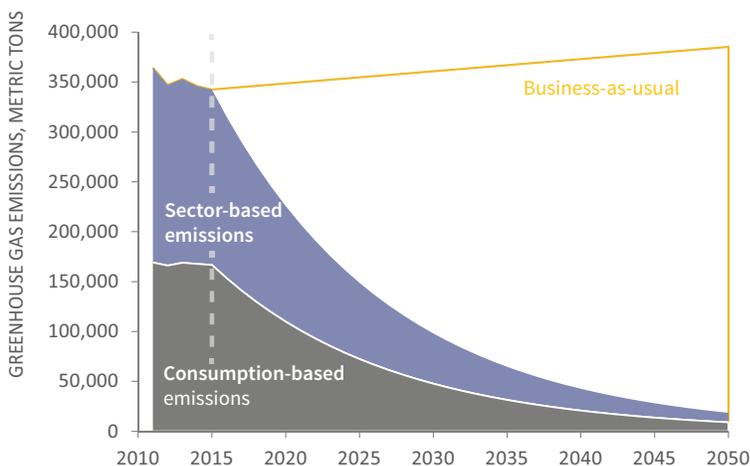
Reduce overall Ashland community greenhouse gas emissions by 8% on average every year to 2050.

For City of Ashland operations:

Attain carbon neutrality in City operations by 2030, and reduce fossil fuel consumption by 50% by 2030 and 100% by 2050.

2

Prepare the city's communities, systems, and resources to be more resilient to climate change impacts.



STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

The following **overarching strategic initiatives** were identified to guide the strategies and actions presented in this plan. While the strategies and actions in this plan are organized by focus areas such as Buildings and Energy, Transportation and Land Use, and Natural Systems, these initiatives cut across these focus areas to emphasize synergistic and integrated solutions for addressing climate in Ashland.

- **Transition to clean energy.**
- **Maximize conservation of water and energy.**
- **Support climate-friendly land use and management.**
- **Reduce consumption of carbon-intensive goods and services.**
- **Inform and work with residents, organizations, and government.**
- **Lead by example.**

STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS

The Climate and Energy Action Plan presents strategies, priority actions, and other potential actions for six focus areas:



Buildings & Energy



Urban Form, Land Use & Transportation



Consumption & Waste



Natural Systems



Public Health, Safety & Well-being



Cross-Cutting Strategies

The plan lays out specific actions within the following strategies:

URBAN FORM, LAND USE + TRANSPORTATION

- Strategy ULT-1.** Support better public transit and ridesharing.
- Strategy ULT-2.** Make Ashland more bike and pedestrian-friendly.
- Strategy ULT-3.** Support more efficient vehicles.
- Strategy ULT-4.** Support more climate-ready development and land use.
- Strategy ULT-5.** Increase the efficiency of City fleet vehicles and employee commuting.

PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY + WELL-BEING

- Strategy PHSW-1.** Manage ecosystems and landscapes to minimize climate-related health impacts.
- Strategy PHSW-2.** Promote a sustainable local economy that minimizes emissions and vulnerability.
- Strategy PHSW-3.** Minimize public health impacts.
- Strategy PHSW-4.** Minimize public safety impacts.

CONSUMPTION + MATERIALS MANAGEMENT

- Strategy CM-1.** Reduce consumption of carbon-intensive goods and services.
- Strategy CM-2.** Support sustainable and accessible local production and consumption.
- Strategy CM-3.** Expand community recycling and composting.
- Strategy CM-4.** Reduce food waste.
- Strategy CM-5.** Improve the sustainability of City operations and purchases.

NATURAL SYSTEMS

- Strategy NS-1.** Promote ecosystem resilience.
- Strategy NS-2.** Manage and conserve community water resources.
- Strategy NS-3.** Conserve water use within City operations.

BUILDINGS + ENERGY

- Strategy BE-1.** Support cleaner energy sources.
- Strategy BE-2.** Encourage increased building energy efficiency and conservation.
- Strategy BE-3.** Maximize efficiency of City facilities, equipment & operations.
- Strategy BE-4.** Improve demand management.
- Strategy BE-5.** Prepare and adapt buildings for a changing climate.

CROSS-CUTTING STRATEGIES

- Strategy CC-1.** Educate and empower the public.
- Strategy CC-2.** Educate and empower City staff.
- Strategy CC-3.** Mainstream and integrate climate considerations.
- Strategy CC-4.** Engage with other governments and organizations around climate policy and action.

NEXT STEPS

This Climate and Energy Action Plan is only the beginning of an ongoing process. The Implementation Plan provides a framework for launching the implementation phase of the plan. This phase will require the City and community to take priority actions—outlining specific plans of action and resource needs among responsible parties—while monitoring and benchmarking progress along the way. As details are outlined during this implementation phase, more specific quantitative goals and milestones will be created, driving the pace of strategy implementation. This plan provides a proposed structure for ongoing plan implementation, monitoring, evaluation, and adaptive management, as well as a list of key actions to be taken in the initial phase of implementation.