



**CITY OF NOVATO**  
CALIFORNIA

**Sustainability Commission**

**AGENDA**

**Thursday, May 16, 2024 - 6:00 p.m.**

Novato City Hall, 901 Sherman Avenue

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**Chair**

Bob Brown

**Vice Chair**

Chris Yalonis

**Members**

Tim Blofeld, Zach Brownstone, Pablo Paster, Dhanya Subramanian, and Nicole Tai

**Staff Liaison**

Gretchen Schubeck

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The Sustainability Commission welcomes your attendance at its meetings, which are held on the third Thursday of each month at 6:00 p.m. Your interest is encouraged and appreciated.

**Public Participation Options**

Members of the public may provide public comments and participate in Sustainability Commission meetings as follows:

- **Written Public Comments:** May be submitted via [sustainability@novato.org](mailto:sustainability@novato.org). Written public comments received more than 3 hours before the start of the meeting will be distributed to the Commission prior to the meeting. Written public comments will not be read during the meeting.
- **In-person Public Comments:** May be made during the meetings, which are held at Novato City Hall, 901 Sherman Avenue.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the City Clerk at (415) 899-8986. Notification at least 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable accommodation to help ensure accessibility to this meeting. The Sustainability Commission may discuss and/or take action on any or all of the items listed on the agenda irrespective of how the agenda items are described.

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**A. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

**B. APPROVAL OF FINAL AGENDA**

**C. PUBLIC COMMENT**

*There is a three-minute time limit to speak, although the Chair may shorten the time based on the number of speakers or other factors. A speaker may not yield their time to another speaker.*

*For issues raised during Public Comment that are not on the published agenda, except as otherwise provided under the Ralph M. Brown Act, no action can legally be taken. The Commission may direct that the item be referred to the Staff Liaison for action or may schedule the item on a subsequent agenda.*

**D. CONSENT ITEMS**

**D.1 Approve minutes of meeting held on April 18, 2024**

**E. CONTINUING ITEMS**

*This section is for items that have previously been discussed at a Commission meeting.*

**E.1 Review FY 2023/24 Workplan Progress and Discuss FY 2024/25 Goals** (Gretchen Schubeck, Sustainability Coordinator)

**E.2 Subcommittee Updates** (Gretchen Schubeck, Sustainability Coordinator)

**F. COMMISSIONER & STAFF LIAISON REPORTS**

*This section is used for Commissioners and the Staff Liaison to orally report on topics that can be considered for discussion at a future meeting.*

**F.1 Commissioner Reports**

**F.2 Staff Liaison Reports**

**G. ADJOURNMENT**

*Materials that are submitted to members of the Commission after the distribution of the meeting's agenda packet will be available upon request.*

**AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING**

I, Gretchen Schubeck, certify that on May 13, 2024, the agenda was posted on the City Community Service Board at 922 Machin Avenue and on the City's website [www.novato.org](http://www.novato.org).

/ Gretchen Schubeck /

Gretchen Schubeck, Sustainability Coordinator



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**CITY OF NOVATO**  
CALIFORNIA

**Sustainability Commission**

**MINUTES**

**Thursday, April 18, 2024 - 6:00 pm**  
Novato City Hall, 901 Sherman Avenue, Novato

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**Chair**

Bob Brown

**Vice Chair**

Chris Yalonis

**Members**

Tim Blofeld, Bob Brown, Zach Brownstone, Pablo Paster, and Dhanya Subramanian

**Staff Liaison**

Gretchen Schubeck

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**A. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

Commission Chair Brown called the meeting to order at 6:02pm.

**Commissioners Present:** Tim Blofeld, Bob Brown (Chair), Pablo Paster, Dhanya Subramanian, Nicole Tai, and Chris Yalonis (Vice Chair)

**Staff Present:** Jessica Deakyne, Assistant City Manager and Gretchen Schubeck, Sustainability Coordinator

**Others Present:** Christine O'Rourke, O'Rourke & Associates

**B. APPROVAL OF FINAL AGENDA**

*Upon a motion of Commissioner Tai and second by Commissioner Blofeld, the Commission voted 6-0-1 to approve the final agenda.*

**AYES: BLOFELD, BROWN, PASTER, SUBRAMANIAN, TAI, YALONIS**

**NOES: NONE**

**ABSENT: BROWNSTONE**

*Motion carried.*

**C. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Andy Shrader

**D. CONSENT ITEMS**

*Upon a motion of Commissioner Tai and second by Commissioner Blofeld, the Commission voted 6-0-1 to approve the meeting minutes of February 15, 2024.*

**AYES: BLOFELD, BROWN, PÄSTER, SUBRAMANIAN, TAI, YALONIS**

**NOES: NONE**

**ABSENT: BROWNSTONE**

*Motion carried.*

**E. GENERAL BUSINESS**

**E.1 Presentation – 2022 Greenhouse Gas Emission Inventory** (PowerPoint and Inventory Report attached)

- Christine O'Rourke presented Novato's 2022 Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Inventory
- The majority of local GHG emissions continue to come from the transportation sector (64%) and from natural gas used in buildings (28%)
- Focusing on the transportation and built environment sectors present the most significant opportunity for emissions reductions in Novato
- Local emissions are down 31%, compared to 2005 levels and 18%, compared to 1990 levels. The state goal is a 40% reduction in emissions by 2030, compared to 1990 levels

**Public Comment**

David Tetta  
Andy Shrader

*Upon a motion of Commissioner Yalonis and second by Commissioner Subramanian, the Commission voted 6-0-1 to receive the presentation on Novato's 2022 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory.*

**AYES: BLOFELD, BROWN, PÄSTER, SUBRAMANIAN, TAI, YALONIS**

**NOES: NONE**

**ABSENT: BROWNSTONE**

*Commissioner Tai left the meeting*

**E.2 Presentation – Novato Unified School District Electrification Resolution** (PowerPoint attached)

- Commissioner Subramanian gave a presentation on her recent work with another student (Noela De Frenza) on a proposed resolution for Novato Unified School District (NUSD) to electrify their fleet, buildings, and landscape equipment
- The proposed resolution was presented to the NUSD Board on April 2, 2024 and was unanimously adopted

**Public Comment**

Andy Shrader  
David Tetta

## F. CONTINUING ITEMS

### F.1 Review FY 2023/24 Workplan Progress and Discuss FY 2024/25 Goals

This item will be discussed at the May 16, 2024 Commission meeting.

### F.2 Subcommittee Updates

- No updates
- Coordinator Schubeck will review Subcommittee appointments and schedule Subcommittee meetings, as needed
- Commissioner Paster volunteered to serve on the Funding Subcommittee

## G. COMMISSIONER AND STAFF LIAISON REPORTS

### G.1 Commissioner Reports

- Commissioner Blofeld shared that Sustainable Novato will be participating in Unity of Marin's 'Earth Day Appreciation' event on April 20, 2024
- Commissioner Brown noted that the Marin Green Home Tour Planning Committee is struggling to obtain sufficient sponsorship to support the 2024 event
- Commissioner Brown shared that Resilient Neighborhoods Executive Director Tamra Peters has stepped down and a new ED has been appointed
- Commissioner Brown expressed a desire for urgency in prioritizing consideration of an the EV infrastructure reach code
- Commissioner Subramanian shared that the Novato High School (NHS) Sustainability Club will be hosting a Earth Day event on the NHS campus
- Commissioner Paster shared that he has been mentoring STEM students at San Marin High School
- Commissioner Yalonis shared that VenturePad will be hosting Rising Sun's 'Green House Calls' summer cohort at their San Rafael site

### F.2 Staff Liaison Reports

- Coordinator Schubeck shared that she is supporting several Earth Day events focused on volunteering including tree planting, litter clean-up and tree care events
- Coordinator Schubeck shared that the City is hosting a compost giveaway on April 20 at the Corp Yard

## H. ADJOURNMENT

***Upon a motion of Commissioner Blofeld and second by Commissioner Yalonis, the Commission voted 5-0-2 to adjourn the meeting at 7:35pm.***

**AYES: BLOFELD, BROWN, PÄSTER, SUBRAMANIAN, YALONIS**

**NOES: NONE**

**ABSENT: BROWNSTONE, TAI**

***Motion carried***

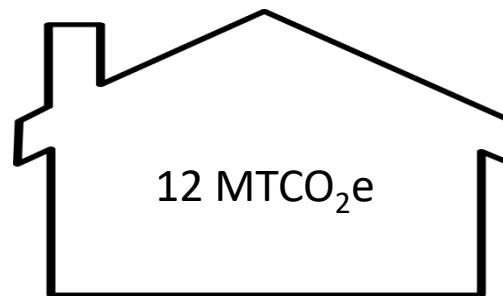


# Novato 2022 GHG Inventory Report

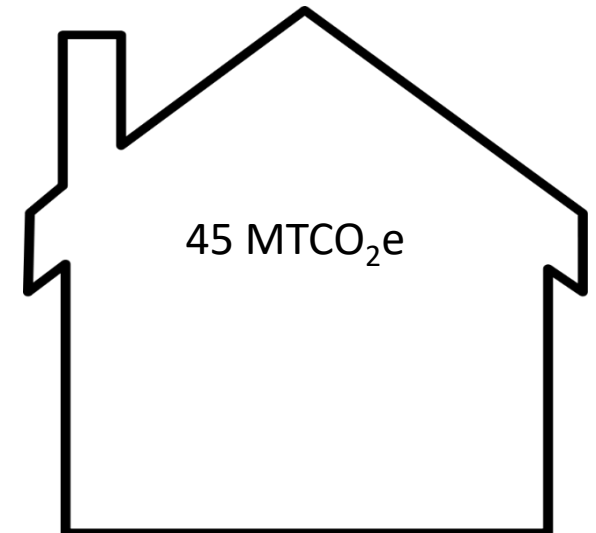
April 18, 2024

# Community-wide GHG Inventory

- Activity-based vs. consumption-based
- Consumption-based:
  - Upstream emissions
  - Mining, growing, producing, packaging, shipping
  - Food production
  - Air travel

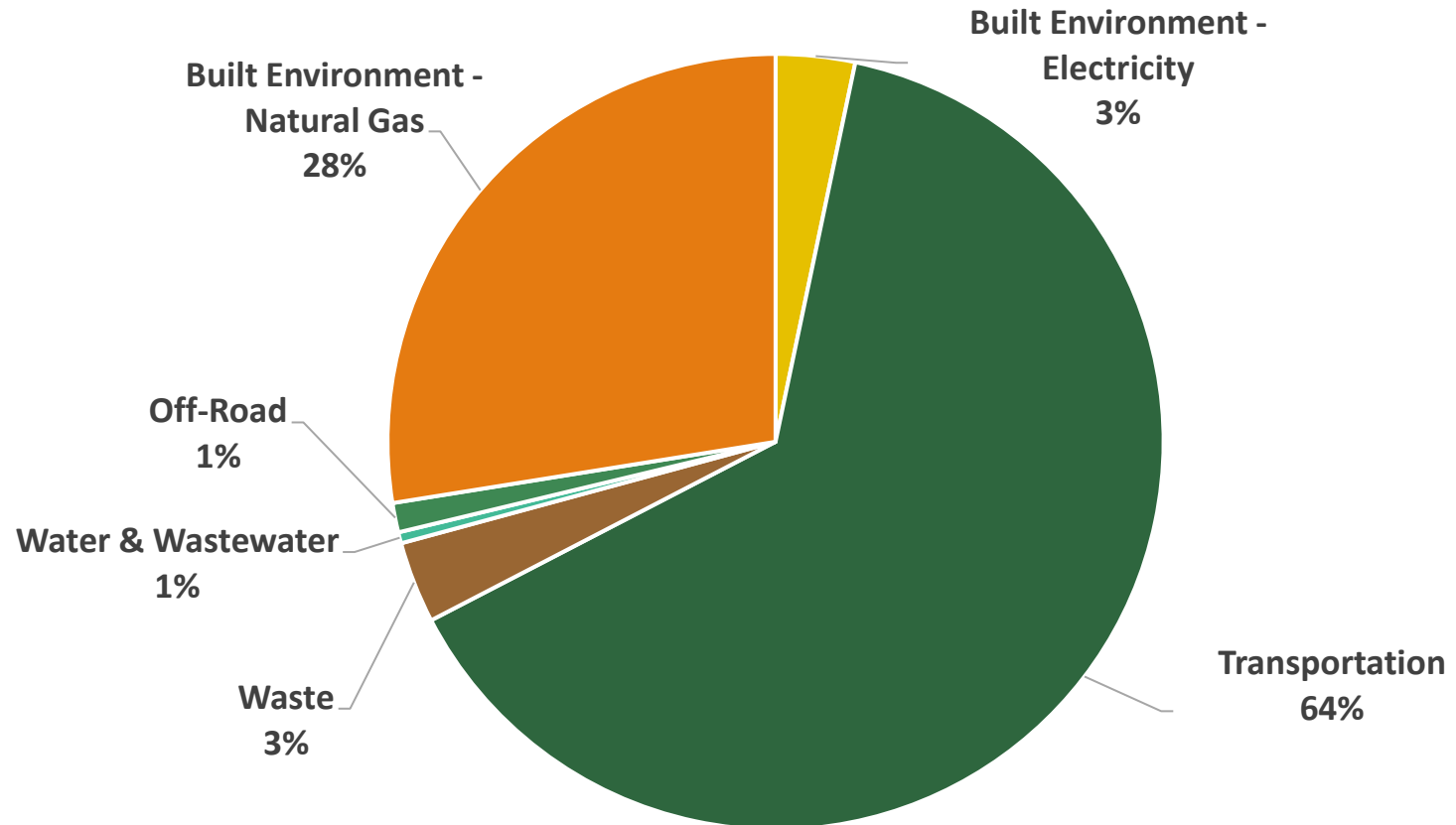


Activity-based



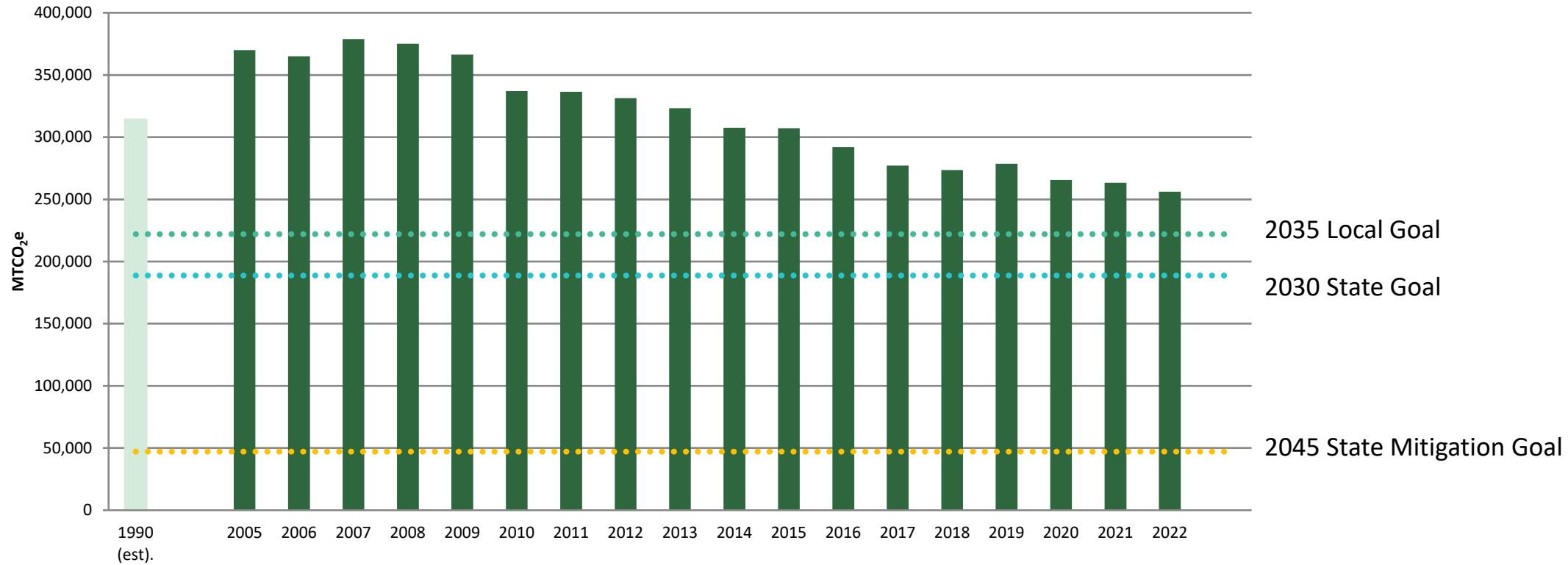
Consumption-based

# Emissions by Source





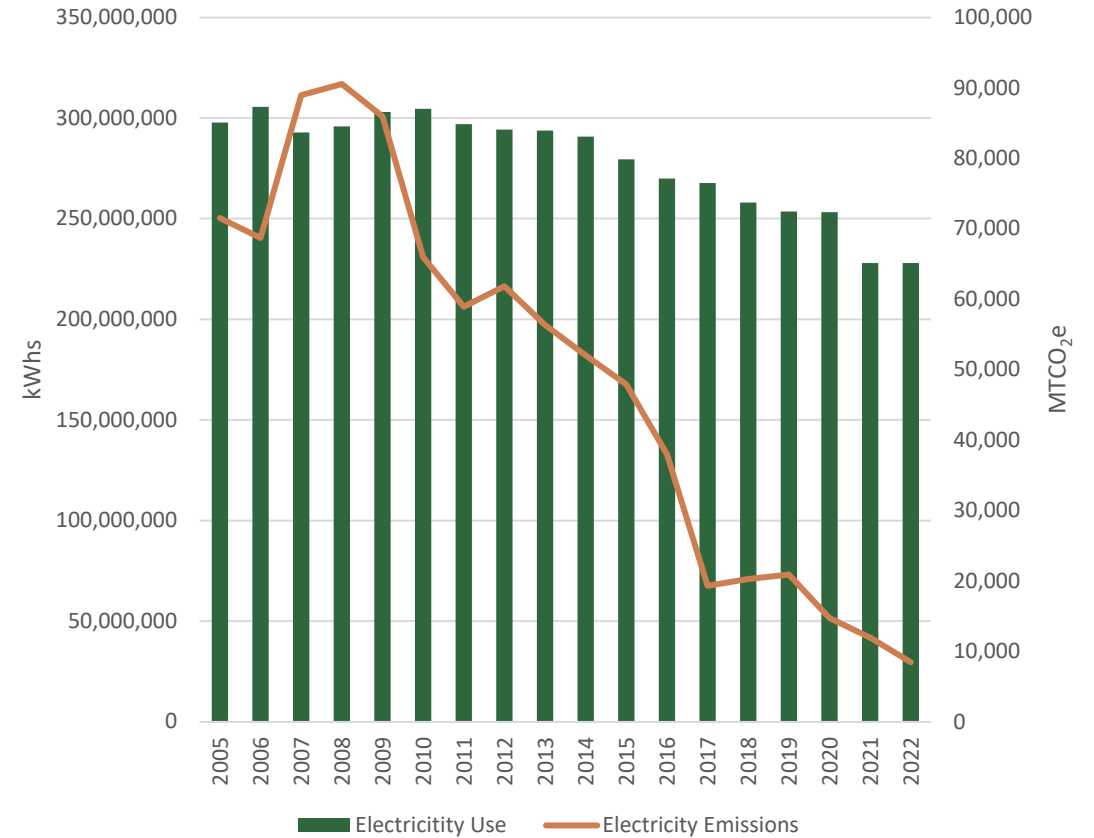
# Emissions Down 18% Since 1990



➤ ***2030 State Goal is 40% Below 1990 Level***

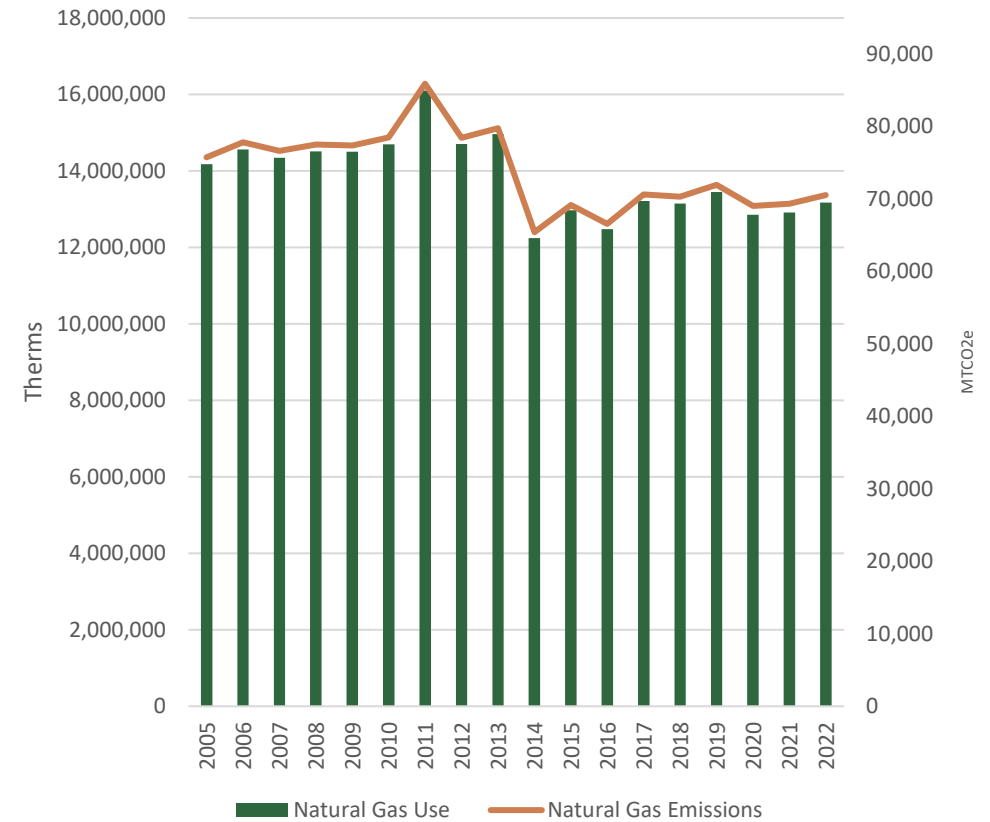
# Built Environment: Electricity (3% of community emissions)

- Purchased electricity use down 23% since 2005 due to
  - Solar PV installation
  - Energy efficiency and conservation
- Emissions down 88% due to lower carbon intensity of electricity
- Opportunity to convert vehicles and natural gas appliances and systems to electricity



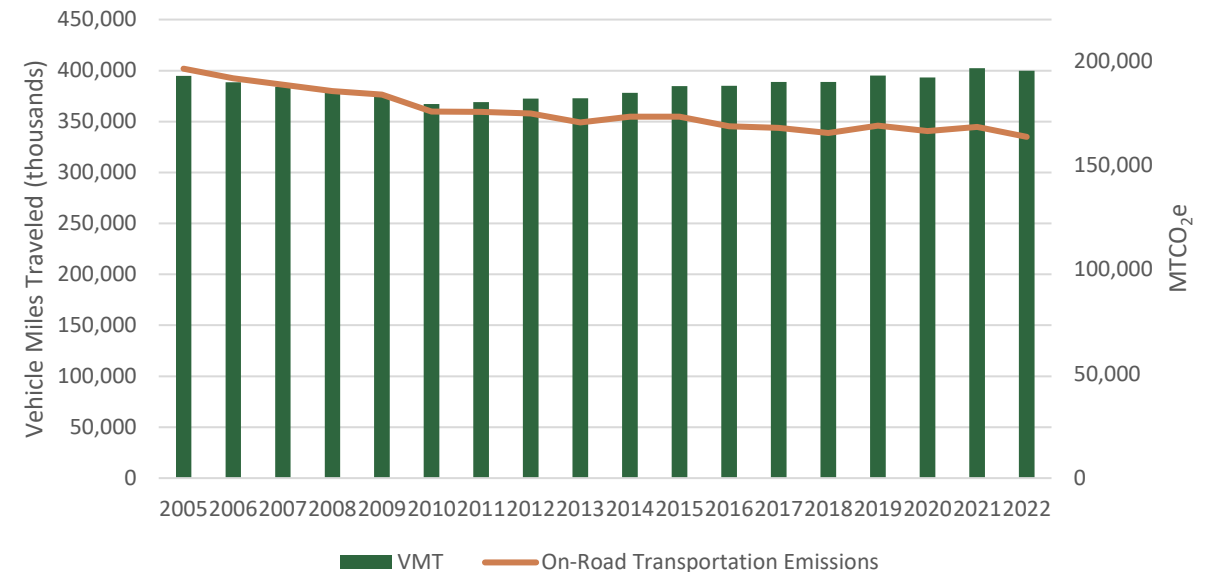
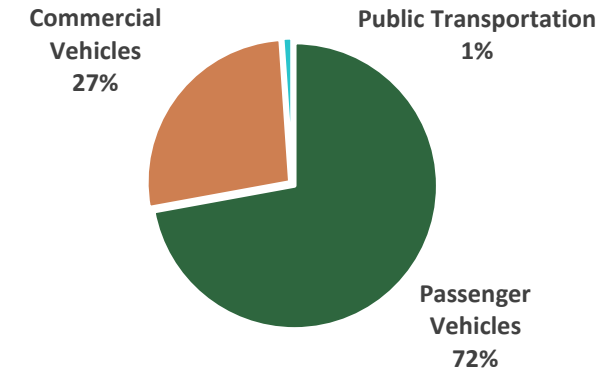
# Built Environment: Natural Gas (28% of community emissions)

- Natural gas use up 2% since 2005
  - Variability of weather
  - Energy efficiency and conservation
- Opportunity to improve energy efficiency of buildings and convert natural gas appliances and systems to electricity



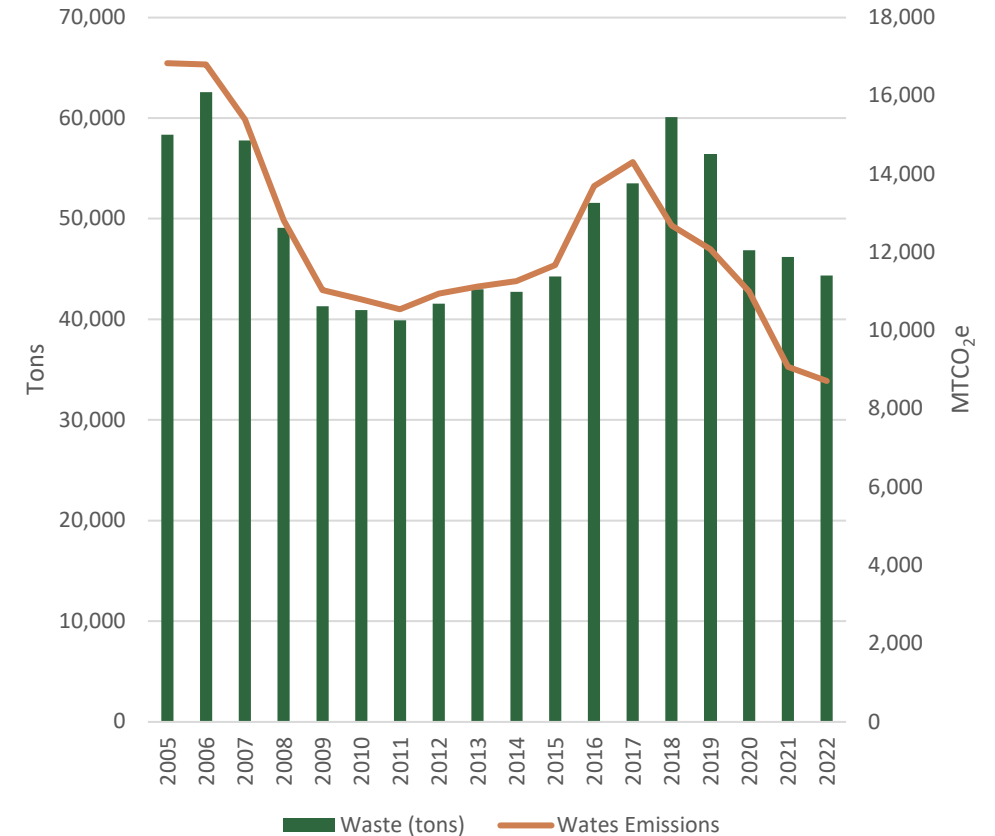
# Transportation (64% of community emissions)

- Vehicle miles traveled up 1% since 2005
- Transportation emissions down 17%; additional decline due to:
  - Improvements in fuel efficiency
  - Alternatively fueled-cars (ZEVs)
- Opportunity to reduce emissions through adoption of electric vehicles



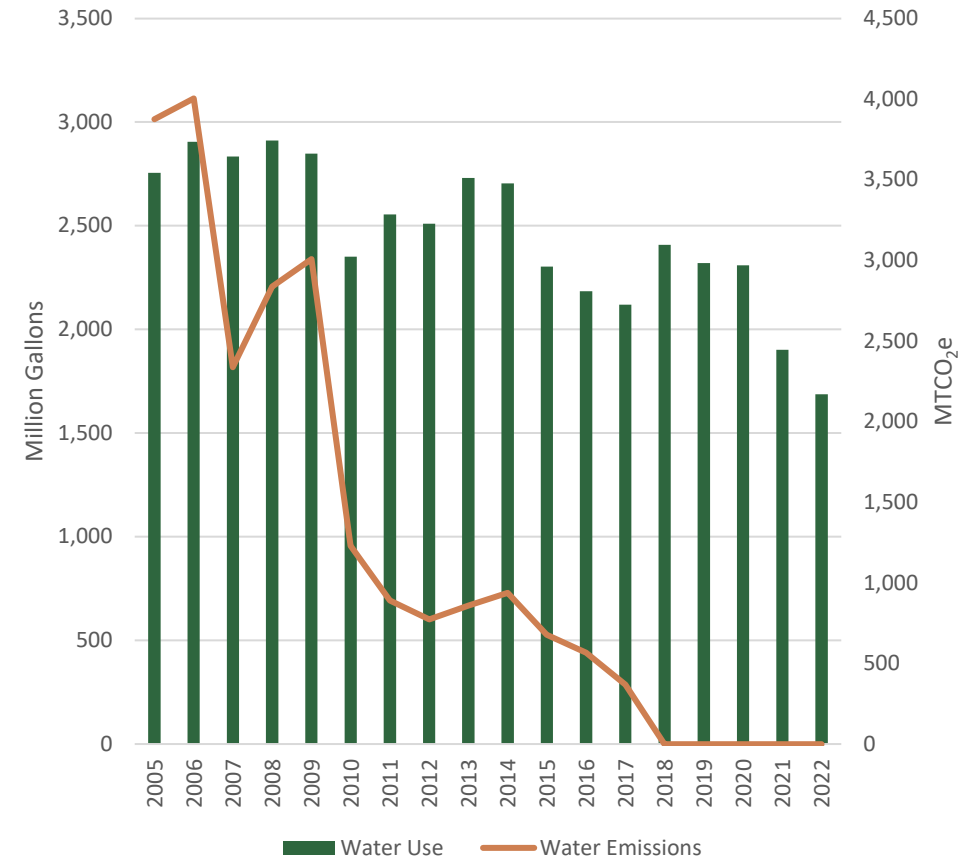
## Waste (3% of community emissions)

- Waste disposal decreased 24% since 2005
- Waste emissions are 48% below 2005 due to lower organic content of disposed waste and alternative daily cover
- Opportunity to reduce emissions through collection and composting of organic waste



## Water (less than 1% of community emissions)

- Per capita water use has declined 39% since 2005
- Emissions from energy used to pump, treat and convey water have declined 100%
- NMWD and Sonoma County Water Agency use 100% renewable, GHG-free electricity
- Opportunity to continue to reduce water use to adapt to future droughts





Questions?



# NUSD School Electrification Resolution

Dhanya Subramanian  
& Noela De Frenza



# Introductions

- Who are we?
  - Noela – San Marin High School
    - CYCL
  - Dhanya – Novato High School
    - SYL
- Our climate stories




**Sustainable Youth Leaders - Leadership team at Novato High**



**California Youth Climate Leaders (CYCL)**



# Our Goals

- **Why do we want to pass a climate policy in our district?**
    - Students are directly affected now and in the future
      - We must all do our part to improve the environment and take action to mitigate impacts of climate change
    - Passionate about climate change
      - Both of us want to study a climate-related field, work in environmental careers
    - We want our district to be a leader in climate action
      - Climate Resolution 2018
      - Sustainable MarinSchools – Zero Waste Program
- 

# Resolution

- **Why electrification?** Our Process
- **Proposed Resolution**
  - Electrifying transportation, buildings, and landscape maintenance equipment.
- **Support from the community**
  - 350 Marin, Sustainable Marin Schools and many more!



**SUSTAINABLE  
MARIN**



**SIERRA CLUB**  
SAN FRANCISCO BAY

**Marin Group**



**GREEN CHANGE**





# Questions?

**Thank you! Please vote to adopt this  
resolution!**



## **Resolution #19-2023/2024**

### **COMMITMENT TO ELECTRIFYING TRANSPORTATION, BUILDINGS, AND LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE EQUIPMENT**

**WHEREAS**, transportation and buildings are the top two sources of greenhouse gas emissions in the County of Marin; and

**WHEREAS**, the use of renewable electricity reduces greenhouse gas emissions relative to the use of fossil fuels; and

**WHEREAS**, there are numerous grant programs in the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021, and other Federal legislation, as well as the State of California and County of Marin programs, to support the electrification of transportation and buildings; and

**WHEREAS**, Novato Unified School District (the “School District”) is already committed to taking actions to mitigate the threat of climate change; and

**WHEREAS**, electric vehicles, electric appliances, and battery-powered or electric plugin landscape equipment generally can be operated and maintained at a lower cost than their fossil-fuel powered equivalents; and

**WHEREAS**, the use of electric vehicles, electric appliances, and battery-powered or electric plugin landscape equipment leads to better air quality and respiratory health outcomes than their fossil-fuel powered equivalents,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the School District take bold steps to (1) install solar panels on buildings and/or parking structures, (2) electrify transportation to, and from, schools in the School District, and (3) electrify appliances and landscape maintenance equipment, including, but not limited to, space and water heaters, pool heaters, cooking equipment, leaf blowers, and trimmers used by schools in the School District.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the School District take the following actions in support of its efforts to electrify transportation, buildings, and landscape maintenance equipment in the School District:

- Identify Federal, State of California, County of Marin and other grant, subsidy, rebate, and similar programs that provide financial support for the electrification of transportation and buildings in the School District (“Grants”).
- Commit that any new purchases of school buses and other vehicles used by the School District will be electric, provided that such electric buses and other electric vehicles meet the range requirements and other performance criteria established by the School District.
- Apply for Grants to replace fossil-fuel powered school buses and other fossil-fuel powered vehicles owned or leased by the School District (“ICE Vehicles”) with electric school buses and electric vehicles, respectively (“Electric Vehicles”).
- In the case of any ICE Vehicles that are not replaced with funds received from Grants, the School District hereby commits to replacing such ICE Vehicles with Electric Vehicles at the time of replacement.
- Commit that in any new construction or major remodel of a building in the School District, only electric appliances will be installed.
- Add a Building Electrification Readiness Plan that addresses all aspects of preparation necessary to replace fossil-fuel powered appliances used by schools in the School District (“Gas Appliances”) with all-electric appliances (“Electric Appliances”), including electrical service and panel capacity, wiring and duct requirements, prospective equipment locations, and structural requirements such as footings to any facilities or on-going maintenance plan.
- Commit that any new purchases of appliances used by the School District will be Electric Appliances.
- Apply for Grants to replace Gas Appliances with Electric Appliances, including the replacement of fossil-fuel powered water heaters, pool heaters, and furnaces with electric heat-pump water heaters, pool heaters, and furnaces, and replacing natural-gas or propane-gas cooking equipment with all-electric equipment, including induction stoves and cooktops.
- In the case of any Gas Appliances that are not replaced with funds received from Grants, the School District hereby commits to replacing such Gas Appliances with Electric Appliances at the time of burn-out or replacement.
- Commit to replace all incandescent, fluorescent, and halogen light bulbs with LED bulbs.

- Commit that any fossil-fuel powered generator used by the School District will be utilized only as a secondary back-up, and a battery-powered alternative for primary backup power will be installed no later than 2027.
- Replace any fossil-fuel powered landscape maintenance equipment, including leaf blowers and trimmers, with battery-powered or plug-in electric alternatives.