



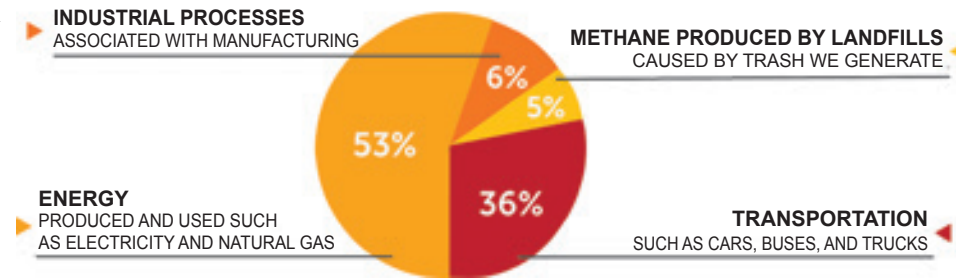
# AUSTIN COMMUNITY CLIMATE PLAN

On December 12, 2015, the world reached an important milestone in planning for climate change with the signing of the Paris Agreement. The Agreement confirmed a target of keeping the rise in temperature below 2°C and committing all 196 signatory countries – including the United States – to update and report back on their climate action plans every five years. Austin is well poised to support U.S. efforts with our ongoing climate planning actions, including goals that are more aggressive than those set in the Paris Agreement.

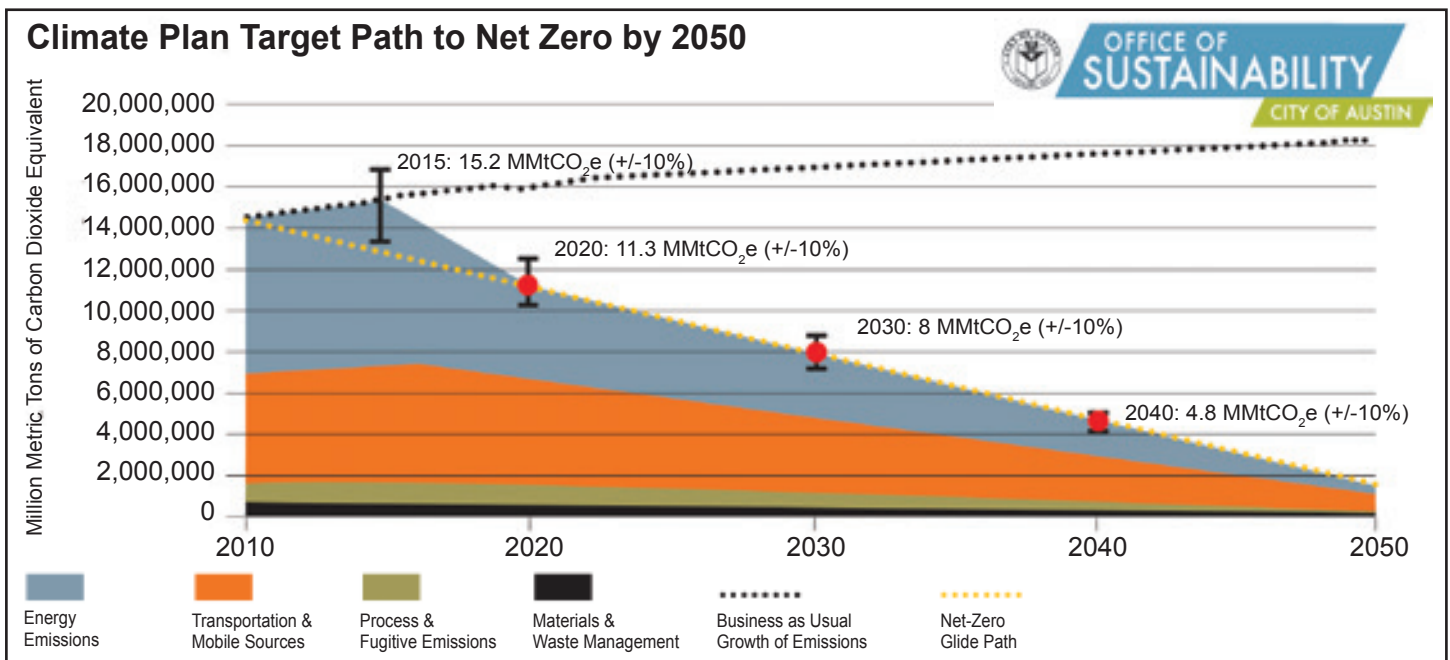
According to the most recent data, in 2013 the entire Austin community emitted approximately 13.7 million metric tons of greenhouse gases that came from four primary sources: energy use and production (primarily electricity and natural gas), transportation, methane produced by landfills, and industrial processes.

The City of Austin is working to achieve community-wide net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. The City Council-adopted Austin Community Climate Plan contains over 130 actions that will reduce emissions from energy, transportation, and materials and waste sources, and sets interim reduction targets for 2020, 2030, and 2040. The graph of the glide path below shows the emissions reductions and interim targets necessary to meet the net-zero goal.

**CURRENTLY, 13.7 MILLION METRIC TONS OF GREENHOUSE GASES ARE EMITTED COMMUNITY-WIDE FROM:**



The Office of Sustainability is working closely with City departments to implement the actions identified in the Austin Community Climate Plan. The initial actions identified to meet the first interim target in 2020 are grouped in nine emissions reduction strategies that include clean power generation, transportation demand management, land use policy and active transportation, landfill methane management, decreasing the energy use in buildings, energy reductions from advanced metering, increasing citywide recycling rates, expanding organics diversion from landfills, and increasing electric vehicle and alternative fuel use. For more information about climate change in Austin and a list of simple actions to reduce your carbon footprint, visit: [austintexas.gov/climateaction](http://austintexas.gov/climateaction).



## 10 WAYS TO REDUCE YOUR CARBON FOOTPRINT

**DITCH PLASTIC WATER BOTTLES**  
Invest in a reusable water bottle. You'll save money and the environment.

**USE COLD WATER FOR LAUNDRY**  
And do your laundry in full loads. This will decrease the amount of water and energy used.

**DRIVE EFFICIENTLY**  
Use the accelerator lightly, coast to red lights, stay near the speed limit, and go inside instead of idling in parking lots or drive thrus.

**WALKING/BIKING MORE**  
Try to incorporate active travel at least once or twice daily. Walking one mile takes only about 20 minutes!

**ADJUST YOUR THERMOSTAT**  
Set to 78 degrees in the summer and 67 degrees in the winter. Be sure to turn off the heat and AC when you're not at home.

**RECYCLE & REUSE**  
Keep stuff out of the landfill and reduce emissions that come from methane.

**KEEP TIRES INFLATED**  
When tire pressure is low, cars have to work harder and burn more gas.

**EAT MORE LOCALLY GROWN FOOD**  
Taste the difference, feel better and support the Austin economy!

**TURN OFF LIGHTS/UNPLUG DEVICES**  
Every little action adds up to energy savings.

**USE ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORT**  
Aim for at least once a week! Enjoy time to yourself instead of testing your patience in traffic.

## INTERMEDIATE ACTIONS CARBON FOOTPRINT

**BUS ONE DAY A WEEK**  
The Capital Metro mobile app makes it easy for schedules, maps and real-time arrival info. Download at [capmetro.org/coolapps](http://capmetro.org/coolapps)

**REPLACE LIGHT BULBS**  
LEDs use up to 90% less energy and last 10–25 times longer than incandescent bulbs (and 5 times longer than compact fluorescent bulbs).

**COMPOST AT HOME**  
Let nature recycle food scraps and yard waste into fertilizer for your lawn. Contact Austin Resource Recovery for free classes: [austintexas.gov/composting](http://austintexas.gov/composting)

**BUY GREENCHOICE ELECTRICITY**  
Be a wind fan. Choosing Austin Energy's GreenChoice for your electricity adds clean energy to the grid every day with 100% Texas wind power.

**CHOOSE A GREENER CAR**  
When replacing your old car, go to [fueleconomy.gov](http://fueleconomy.gov) to find the most efficient model.

**WEATHERIZE YOUR HOME**  
Save energy with solar screens, duct repair, and weatherstripping. Visit [AustinEnergy.com](http://AustinEnergy.com) to learn more about rebates.

**ORGANIZE NEIGHBORHOOD SHARING POOL**  
Give the things you no longer use a new home instead of a landfill.

**USE LESS WATER**  
Energy is needed to treat and process the water. Call Austin Water at (512) 974-2199 for more info.

**TAKE THE SLOW ROAD**  
Take the bus or train to other Texas cities and avoid traffic headaches.

**UPCYCLE + REUSE**  
See [Upcyclethat.com](http://Upcyclethat.com) for tips and tricks to give used items new life. See [AustinCreativeReuse.org](http://AustinCreativeReuse.org) for crafting supplies.

## ADVANCED ACTIONS CARBON FOOTPRINT

**BECOME AN ENERGY SUPERSTAR**  
Upgrade appliances and electronics by viewing efficient models at [Energystar.com](http://Energystar.com).

**KEEP COOL**  
Replace your old air conditioner with new one 16 SEER or more. For rebate information, see [AustinEnergy.com](http://AustinEnergy.com).

**HARNESS THE SUN**  
Installing solar panels on your home saves carbon and money. To learn about rebates, go to [AustinEnergy.com](http://AustinEnergy.com).

**BECOME ZERO OR 1-CAR FAMILY**  
Owning a car can cost 1/3 of the average household budget. Between public transit, car share programs, biking and walking, you may not need that clunker after all.

**ELECTRIFY YOUR RIDE**  
Electric cars and bikes have zero onsite emissions. Austin Energy offers charging stations powered by renewable energy and incentives for home charging stations. For more info, go to [AustinEnergy.com](http://AustinEnergy.com).

**OFFSET FREQUENT FLYER MILES**  
Buying carbon offsets for an additional \$5 to \$25 will go toward carbon-capture or reduction projects that support green businesses.

**DITCH THE GRASS**  
Replacing turf grass with native plants and trees saves water, energy, carbon, and money. Learn about Austin WaterWise rebates at: [austintexas.gov/department/water](http://austintexas.gov/department/water)

**BUY USED PRODUCTS**  
Purchasing secondhand items saves money and carbon. It requires no raw materials, no energy use for manufacturing, and reduces landfill waste.

**EAT LESS MEAT**  
Meat production results in 30 times more greenhouse gas emissions than vegetables.

**GET A MODERN THERMOSTAT**  
Internet-connected thermostats save energy and money while reducing electric utility peak demand. See [AustinEnergy.com](http://AustinEnergy.com) for rebate info.

