



MEMORANDUM

To: CMAP Climate Committee
From: CMAP staff
Date: October 23, 2025
Subject: Update on the Comprehensive Climate Action Plan for Greater Chicago
Action Requested: Discussion

The project team will update the Climate Committee on the development of the Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CAP) for Greater Chicago, funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant. Since the last Climate committee meeting in July, the team has finalized the emissions and benefits modeling, met with the CAP steering committee and community working group, and drafted the plan.

At the October meeting, staff will provide an update on progress to date, present final model results, and discuss the process for providing review and comment on the [draft plan](#) by November 4, 2025. **Given the length of the document, we recommend that committee members review those portions of the draft plan which align with your personal or professional interests prior to the meeting. Please use this [template](#) to submit written comments by the November 4th deadline.**

1. Project updates

At the October meeting, the project team will share the final economy-wide and sector emissions reduction modeling results for the planning area. These results have been incorporated into the draft plan.

1.1. Modeling updates since July meeting

In June and July of 2025, the project team convened the third and final meetings of the working groups as well as CMAP's Climate Committee to solicit reactions to the first model run and refine the slate of strategies. Among the feedback received were discussions around critical strategy implementation steps, known barriers and key actors necessary for strategy success. With this input, improved scenarios were incorporated into the second and final model run. Some of the more impactful changes include:

- Updated strategies to reflect recent federal policy and funding changes. For example, California's Advanced Clean Cars II and Advanced Clean Trucks electrical vehicle mandates, were initially considered state actions. Recent court decisions indicate that

such mandates will require federal action for the mandates to have an impact on regional emissions. In addition, due to the early phase-out of Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) incentives for electric vehicles, they have been replaced with state-level incentives.

- Updated modeling to vary vehicle miles traveled (VMT) reduction rate by county.
- Incorporated energy management systems and behavior conservation programs.

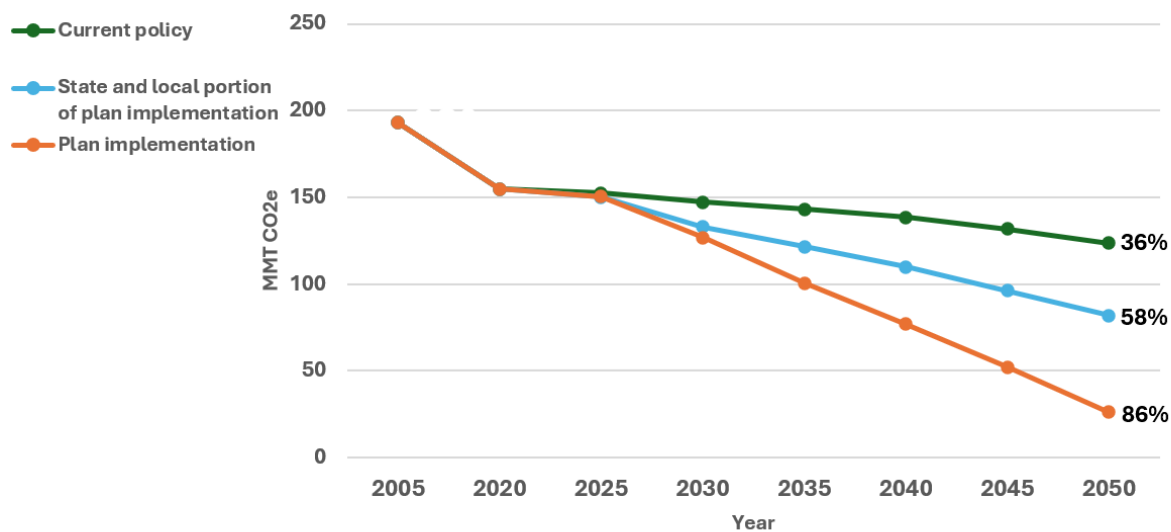
1.2. Economy-wide scenarios

The modeling shows that the greater Chicago region can achieve the steering committee's target by reducing gross economy-wide emissions by 48 percent below 2005 levels by 2035 and 86 percent by 2050 (Figure 1). Achieving an 86 percent reduction equates to cutting an additional 128.61 MMT CO₂e of annual emissions by 2050—an average of 4.29 MMT CO₂e per year.

To support the region's GHG reduction targets, the plan evaluates three complementary scenarios (Figure 1):

- **Current policy scenario:** projects a 26 percent reduction in emissions by 2035 and 36 percent by 2050.
- **Plan implementation scenario:** projects a 48 percent reduction in emissions by 2035 and 86 percent by 2050.
- **State and local portion of the plan implementation scenario:** projects a 37 percent reduction in emissions by 2035 and a 58 percent reduction by 2050.

Figure 1. Economy-wide emissions by scenario in MMT CO₂e (2005-2050)



Source: CMAP and E3, 2025.

1.3. Sector targets

After developing economy-wide scenarios for the greater Chicago area, the project team calculated emissions reduction targets for each sector for the plan implementation scenario (Table 1 and 2). To do this, the project team calculated sectoral targets as an output of the economy-wide modeling rather than establishing them as an input. This approach recognizes

that not all sectors will be able to decarbonize at the same rate and that some sectors will have to achieve greater reductions than others.

Table 1. Sector reduction targets to achieve plan implementation

Sector	Emissions (MMT CO ₂ e)				Reduction needed (from 2005)	
	2005	2020	2035	2050	2035	2050
Buildings	66.64	53.99	36.54	3.35	-45%	-95%
Transportation	56.05	39.57	21.77	4.89	-61%	-91%
Industry	65.15	55.95	39.36	15.14	-40%	-77%
Waste	1.54	0.96	0.66	0.70	-57%	-56%
Water and wastewater	-	1.70	1.10	0.57	-	-
Agriculture	2.13	2.14	1.56	1.56	-27%	-27%
Gross emissions	192.92	154.27	100.48	26.23	-48%	-86%

Note: 2005 water and wastewater emissions are included within the buildings and waste sectors due to limited data availability for these sources during that year.

Source: CMAP and E3, 2025.

Table 2. Implementation scenario emission offsets by natural carbon sequestration

Sector	Emissions captured (MMT CO ₂ e)				Increase in emissions offset	
	2005	2020	2035	2050	2035	2050
Natural carbon sequestration	3.57	2.74	4.15	6.25	16%	75%

Source: CMAP and E3, 2025.

2. Draft plan

The project team developed a [draft plan](#) for Climate Committee review between October 23 and November 4, 2025. During the October meeting, staff will provide an overview of the plan structure and highlight key sections for review. **Given the length of the draft plan, we recommend that committee members review those portions of the draft plan which align with your personal or professional interests prior to the meeting. Please use the linked template to submit written comments by the November 4th deadline.**

This draft represents an 80 percent level of completion. The project team is seeking committee review to ensure key strategies are clear and actionable, remaining gaps are identified, and that the overall narrative, tone, and priorities align with the committee's vision for the plan. At this stage, we are not seeking copyediting comments. Rather, we request rather input on substance, structure, and clarity. Please focus your review by:

- **Confirming the big picture:**
 - Are the goals, strategies, framing, and tone aligned with the region's needs and priorities?
 - Are any major elements missing?

- Do you see opportunities to make the plan more actionable or easier to communicate?
- **Providing sector-level feedback:**
 - Does the content within your area of expertise feel accurate, compelling, and consistent with the rest of the plan?
- **Helping us fill in the gaps:**
 - Are there critical policies, technologies, partnerships or examples of successful strategy implementation that are missing and should be mentioned?

2.1. Plan structure

The plan is organized into four core sections as described below. Text in italics highlights areas where committee members may wish to focus their review, based on relevance to the committee's role and the degrees to which content has been shared in previous meetings.

1. **Introduction** – Makes the case for climate action by describing current and future climate impacts, as well as the plan purpose and planning process, including engagement.

Content for focused review: 1.1 The climate challenge is here

2. **GHG emissions and trends** – Summarizes the 2020 GHG inventory for Greater Chicago by sector and geography and describes regional emissions trends from 2005 to 2020.

Content for focused review: GHG emissions trends since 2005

3. **The path forward** – Describes the level of ambition required to achieve an 85 percent reduction in gross emissions by 2050. Presents three modeled emissions reduction scenarios: current policy, plan implementation, and the state and local portion of the plan implementation scenario. Highlights how achieving the plan's goals can also deliver community benefits, such as improved air quality and public health.

Content for focused review: 3.1 Reaching our goals, 3.2 Maximizing community benefits

Previously shared but revised content: Final modeling scenarios, sector reduction targets

4. **Reducing emissions** – Explains how GHG reductions can be achieved for each sector through strategies implemented across multiple levels of governments and non-government partners. Includes individual sections for the seven emissions sectors, including: buildings, transportation, industry, energy generation, waste, water and wastewater, and agriculture, as well as natural carbon sequestration.

Content for focused review: Relevant sectors based on member expertise, including considerations for best practice examples and photos that can be included (with credit) in the plan.

3. Next steps

Following the October meeting, the project team will incorporate feedback into the final Comprehensive Climate Action Plan that must be submitted to USEPA by December 1, 2025. The project team will finalize the plan format for a public release in early 2026.