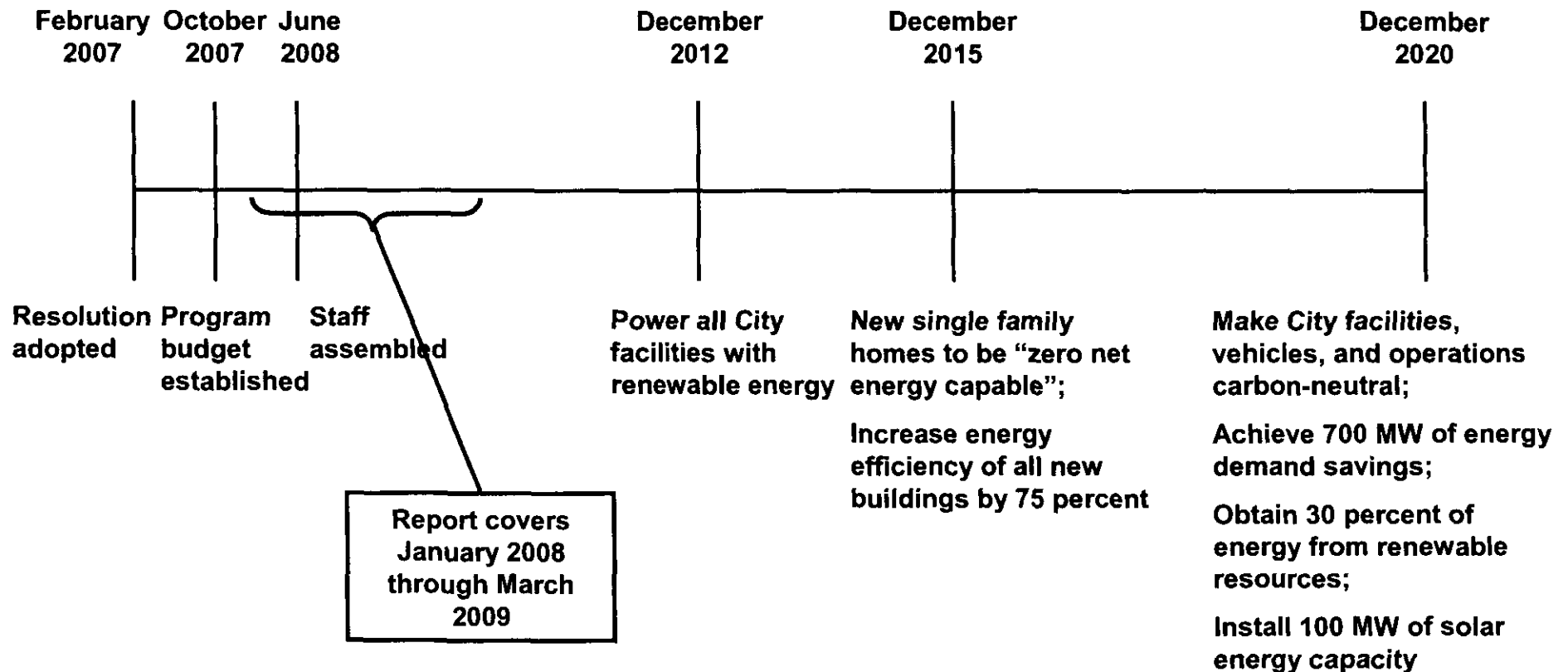


# Austin Climate Protection Program Update



Ester Matthews  
Presentation to City Council  
June 18, 2009

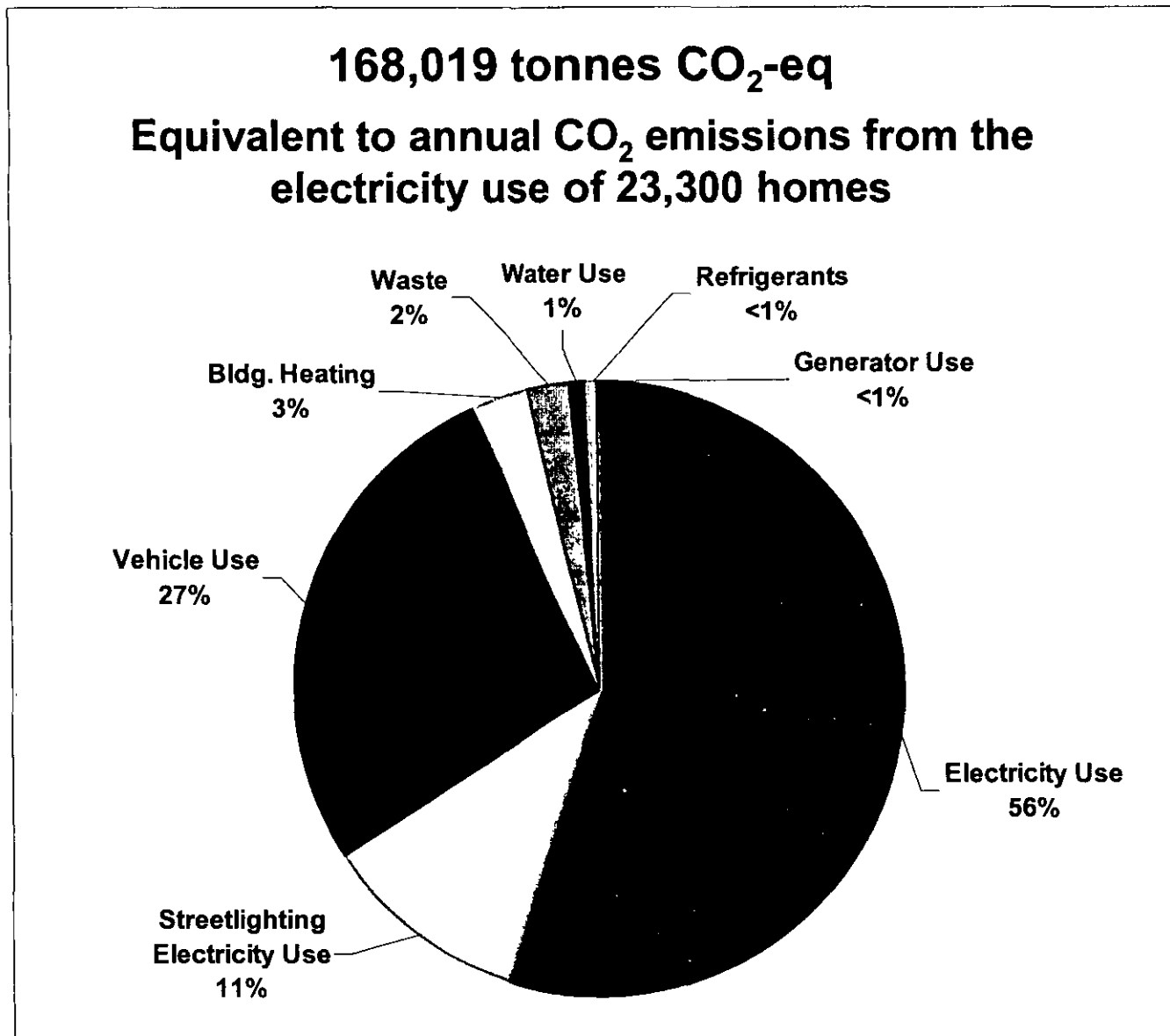
# Climate Protection Timeline



# Municipal Plan

- Quantify City's annual greenhouse gas emissions ("carbon footprint") with 2007 baseline inventory
  - 1st local government to register emissions with The Climate Registry
  - 2008 carbon footprint complete in July
- Power 100% of City facilities with renewable power by 2012
  - All General Fund departments, Convention Center, and Palmer Events Center are powered by GreenChoice, representing 19% of the City's electricity use
- Make City fleet vehicles carbon neutral by 2020
  - 54% of fleet alternative fuel capable, reduced vehicle GHG emissions by 4% in 2008
  - Adopted Fuel Conservation Policy

# COA Municipal Operations Carbon Footprint, 2007



# Municipal Plan (cont.)

- Climate Action Team
  - Phase 1: Identified GHG reduction measures City-wide
  - Phase 2: Departmental climate protection plans
- Employee Climate Protection Education
  - Trained 500+ employees; well-received
- Employee Programs and Incentives
  - Established City Cycle (bike share) Program
- State and federal policy tracking and analysis
  - Tracked and commented on state and federal legislation; helped develop GHG emissions reporting protocols

# Utility Plan

- Establish a CO<sub>2</sub> cap and reduction plan
  - Draft plan caps emissions at 2007 levels
  - reduction plan pending public participation process
- Achieve 700 MW of energy demand savings by 2020
  - 140 MW to date, 20% of goal
- Meet 30% of all energy needs with renewable sources, including 100 MW of solar, by 2020
  - 13% to date, 30 MW solar plant in 2010
- Make any new generation carbon neutral
  - Ongoing analysis of low to no-carbon technologies

# Homes and Buildings Plan

- Enhance building codes to make new single-family homes zero net-energy capable by 2015
  - New homes built in 2008 are 11% more efficient than homes built in 2006, avoiding > 3,700 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>-eq
- Make commercial and multi-family buildings 75% more energy-efficient by 2015
  - 2008 code changes resulted in > 12,000 tonnes of avoided CO<sub>2</sub>-eq emissions

# Homes and Buildings Plan (cont.)

- Implement Energy Conservation & Audit Disclosure Ordinance
  - Took effect June 1, 2009; 400 homes audited since May
  - Identified improvements that could avoid 450 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>-eq. each year
- Enhance Green Building technical assistance, standards, and incentives
  - Aligning mandatory and incentive based requirements



# Community Plan

- Establish community stakeholder group to quantify GHG emissions and identify emission reduction targets and strategies
  - Stakeholder group of community leaders convening to shape coordinated climate engagement
- Provide outreach and education to the community
  - Participated in 60+ outreach, education, and training events
  - Demonstrated reduction in fossil fueled VMTs with electric scooter pilot project during SXSW

# Comparison of Energy-related Carbon Footprints



**Travis County  
per capita**

**14 MT CO<sub>2</sub>**



**U.S.  
per capita**

**20 MT CO<sub>2</sub>**



**Texas  
per capita**

**27 MT CO<sub>2</sub>**

# “Go Neutral” Plan

- Create carbon calculator for individuals to understand their climate impact
  - Web site developed to host calculator
  - Calculator contract signed
  - Set to launch Sept. 2009
- Develop local portfolio of carbon reducing activities
  - Evaluation of local projects under way

# **“Go Neutral” Plan (cont.)**

- **Assist regional entities in developing GHG inventories and climate protection programs**
  - GHG inventory support team assisted CAPCOG, Capital Metro, LCRA, St. Edward’s University, Travis County, and cities of San Antonio and Denton
- **Develop recognition program**
  - In development with boards and commissions



**Avoided Emissions  
Through 2008:  
188,453 Tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>-eq**

Equivalent to carbon sequestered  
annually by 43,000 acres of pine forest

# Looking Forward

- Community Engagement & Recognition
  - Make climate protection a community collaboration
  - Environmental Awards ceremony Spring 2010
- Departmental Climate Protection Plans
  - Integrate corporate sustainability efforts
  - Identify Green Purchasing opportunities
- Local Carbon Reduction Projects
  - Encourage alternative fueled transportation
  - Launch carbon calculator; seek input on preferred projects
- Climate Change Preparedness
  - Reduce risk and maximize planning effectiveness

# Thank you



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