

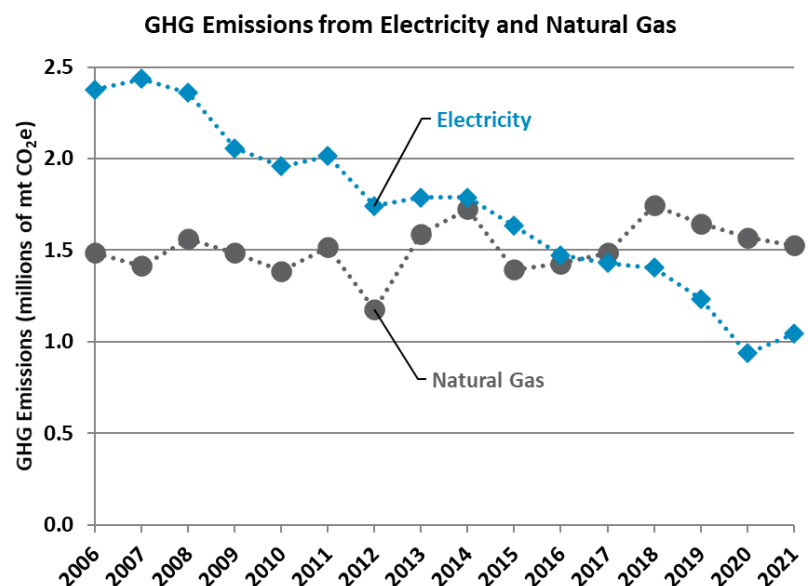
Minneapolis greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from citywide activities have decreased 30% compared to the 2006 baseline.

GHG emissions increased 11% in 2021 compared to the previous year. Emissions increases from electricity, transportation, solid waste, and wastewater were greater than a small emission decrease from fossil natural gas. 2021 emissions rebounded from a low in 2020, which was a year largely shaped by temporary pandemic impacts.

Fossil natural gas emissions continue to exceed electricity emissions

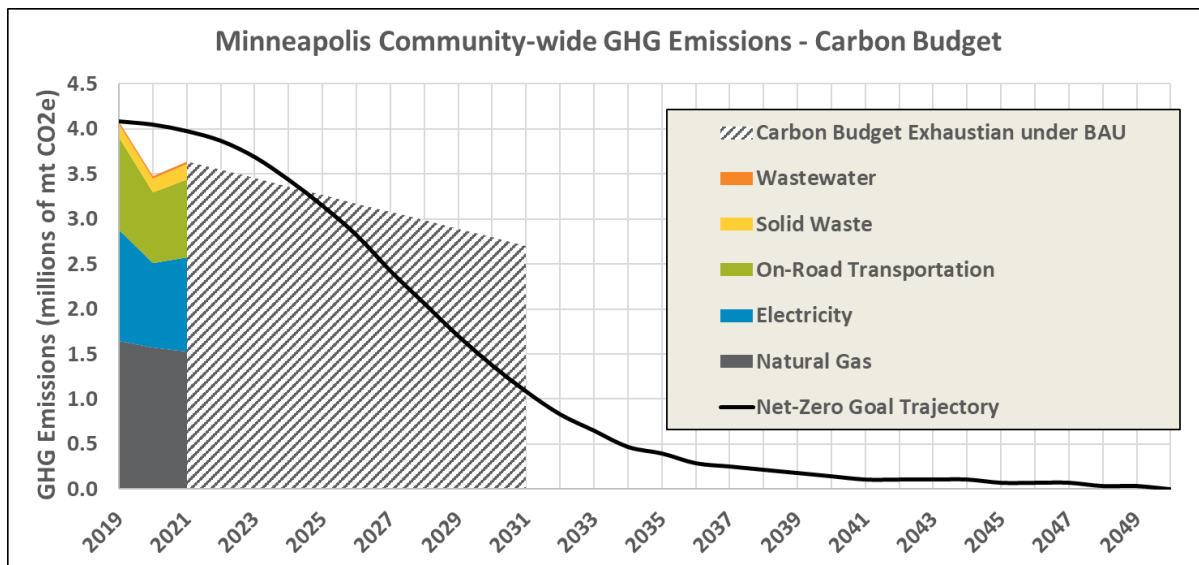
Fossil natural gas has been the largest source of GHG emissions since 2017. Fossil natural gas emissions continue to remain steady over the long-term and show no indication of dropping significantly in the near future. To solve this, conservation via energy efficiency must be paired with alternatives to traditional fossil natural gas. Primary amongst these alternatives is the “electrification” of systems traditionally fueled by gas. Replacing traditional gas appliances (such as heating systems, stoves, and water heaters) to renewably-powered electric appliances result in substantial GHG reductions.

Decreasing electricity consumption paired with increasing renewable generation has resulted in a 56% decrease in electricity emissions since 2006. Bucking recent trends, electricity emissions in 2021 increased - a spike in natural gas prices favored coal-fueled electricity on the Xcel Energy system. GHG emissions from a kilowatt of electricity (its “carbon intensity”) increased over 4% from 2020 to 2021. However, the long term trajectory of GHG emissions reduction from electricity is expected to continue.



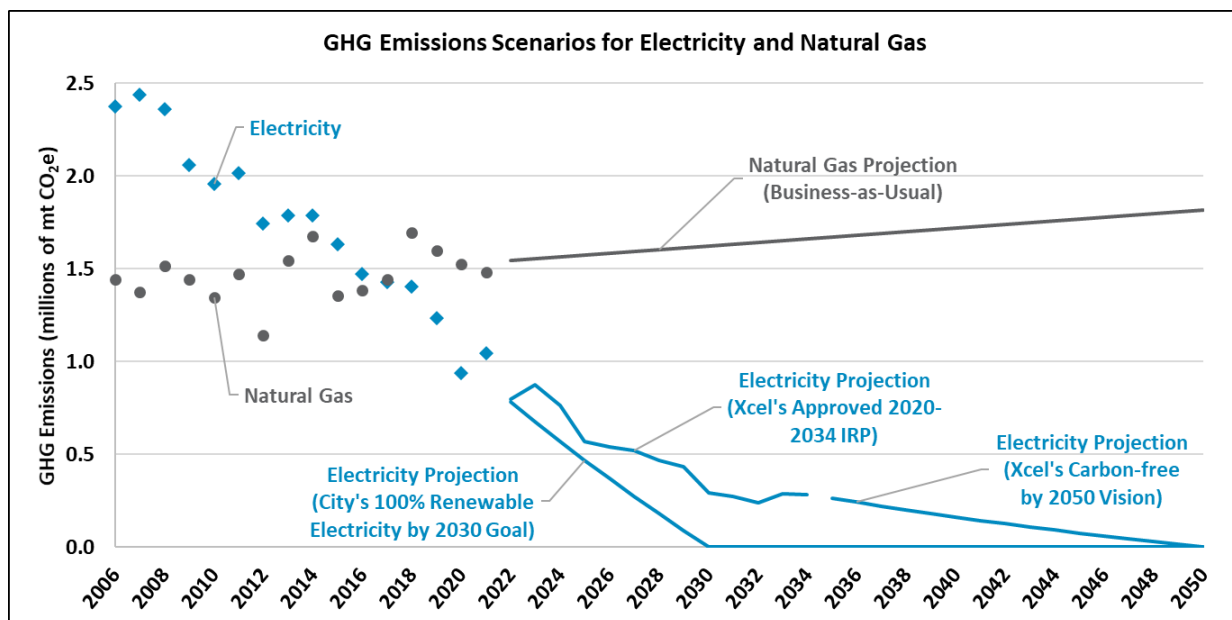
Dramatic fossil natural gas emissions reductions are necessary to meet city climate goals

In October 2021, Mayor Frey pledged commitment to the [Race to Zero](#) campaign for the city to proceed immediately in taking all necessary steps in line with global efforts toward limiting warming to 1.5°C, including a pledge to reach net-zero GHG emissions by 2050. This commitment replaced the 2013 Minneapolis Climate Action Plan's previous goals, principally a GHG emission reduction of 80% by 2050. Minneapolis has adopted a science-based, fair share GHG emission reduction goal trajectory to net zero.



The goal trajectory illustrates that the next decade is critical toward the city accomplishing this new climate goal, requiring us to greatly accelerate our pace of decarbonization to the point that 2030 emissions are only 1/3 of 2020 emissions. This trajectory also represents the total GHG emissions (or “carbon budget”) that can be emitted by Minneapolis over the next three decades in meeting our local obligation to keep global warming to 1.5°C. At the recent rate of GHG emissions reductions (i.e., under business as usual - BAU) the city exceeds the goal trajectory in 2025 and empties its 30-year carbon budget in just nine years, in 2031.

The [Minneapolis Clean Energy Partnership](#) has the potential to play a vital role in achieving the city’s climate goal. CenterPoint Energy has begun the process of creating an innovation plan that may include fossil gas decarbonization strategies to modestly decrease gas emissions in the coming years. Much more impressively, electricity emissions dramatically fall over time in three scenarios shown - which highlights the strategic importance of shifting gas end uses to carbon-free electricity.



For reasonable accommodations or alternative formats please contact the Health Department’s Division of Sustainability, Luke Hollenkamp, 612-673-2349 or Luke.Hollenkamp@minneapolismn.gov

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