

Empower Lexington

A Plan for a Resilient Community



Saving Money – Creating Jobs

March 12, 2019

What We Ask

- **Authorize the Mayor to submit a grant proposal to fund a full-time position for a Sustainability Coordinator, whose initial objectives are to encourage community efforts to reduce energy use and greenhouse gas emissions.**
 - **Proposal to be prepared by volunteer group of citizens.**
 - **Three-year position with limited commitment of LFUCG resources.**

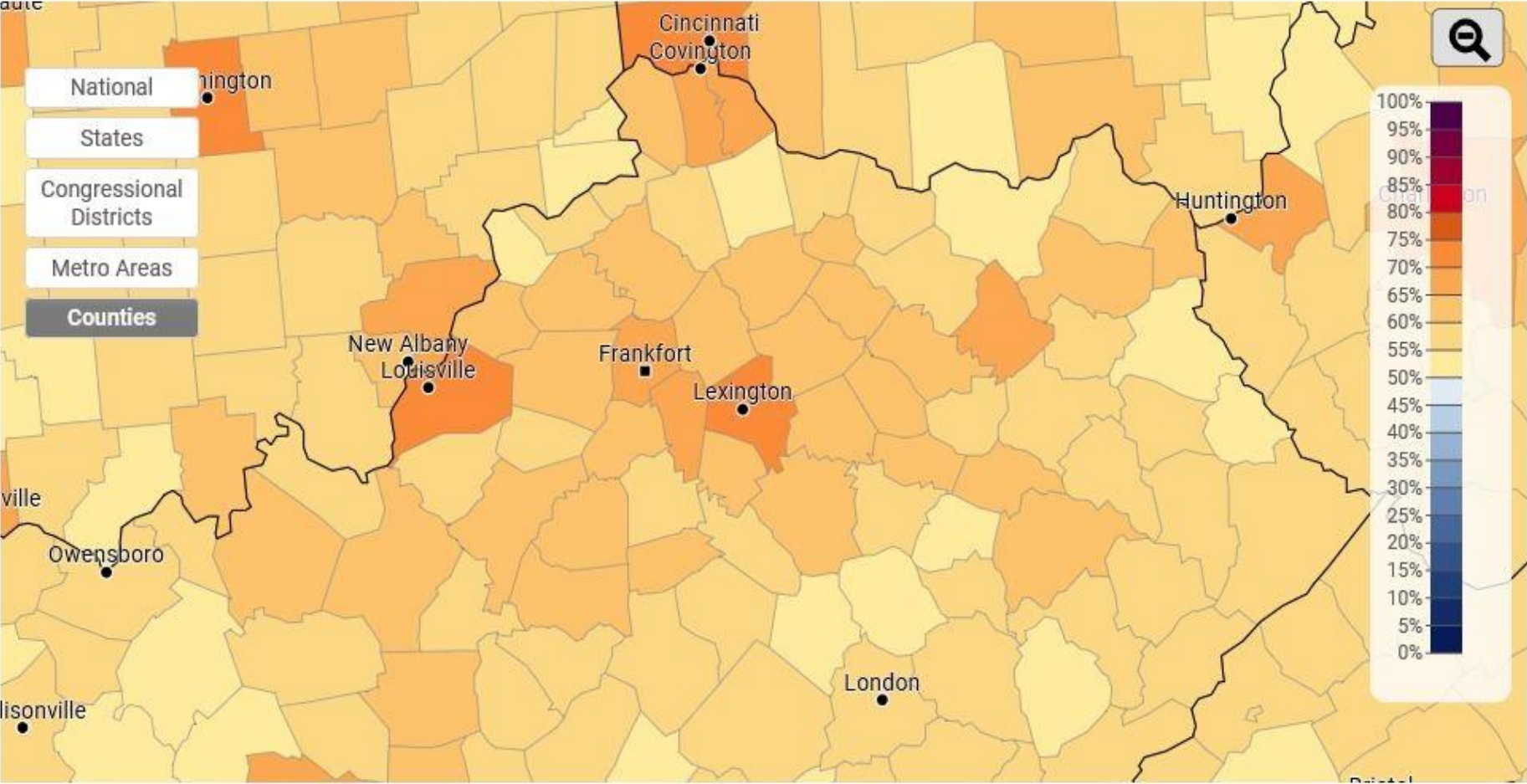
Why Now?

Refer to Resource List

- **Public recognizes importance of greenhouse gas emissions and reducing energy use**
 - Environmental Commission
 - University of Kentucky
 - Bluegrass GreenSource
 - Solarize Lexington
- **Save money by reducing energy use**



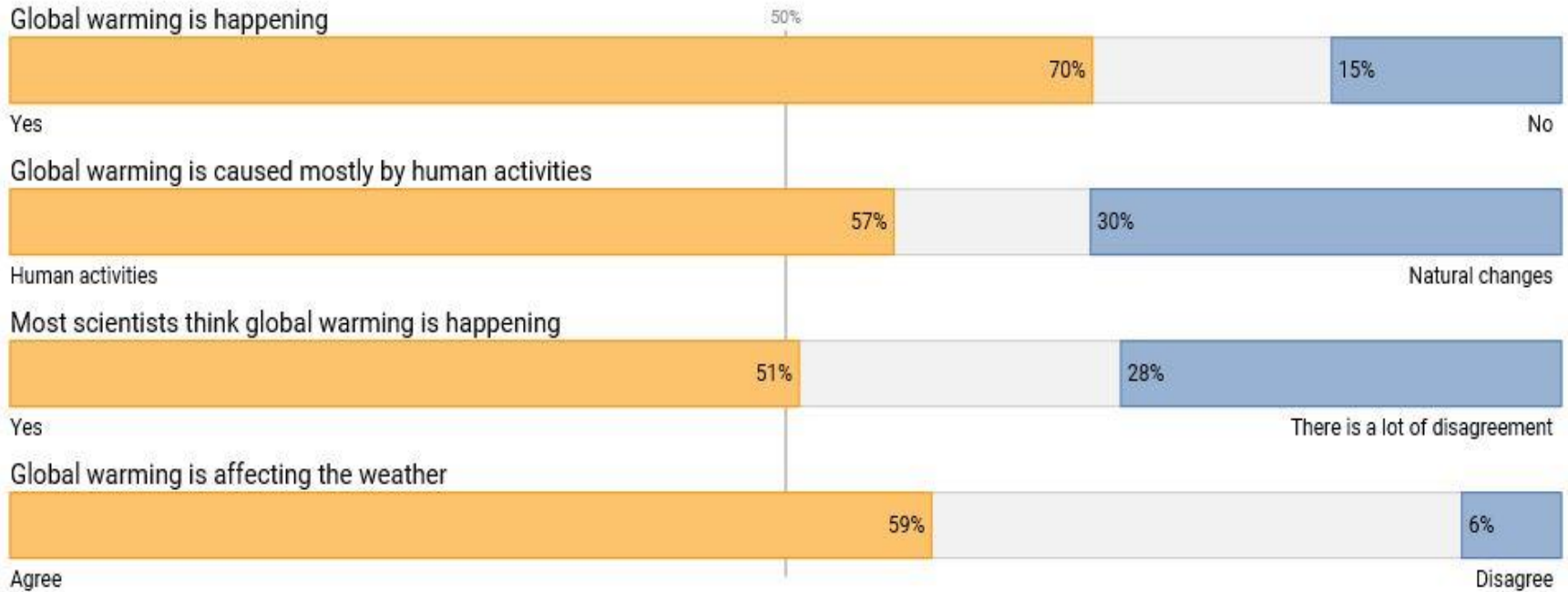
Estimated % of adults who think global warming is happening, 2018



Source: Yale Program on Climate Change Communication

Public Opinion Estimates, Lexington-Fayette, KY, 2018

BELIEFS

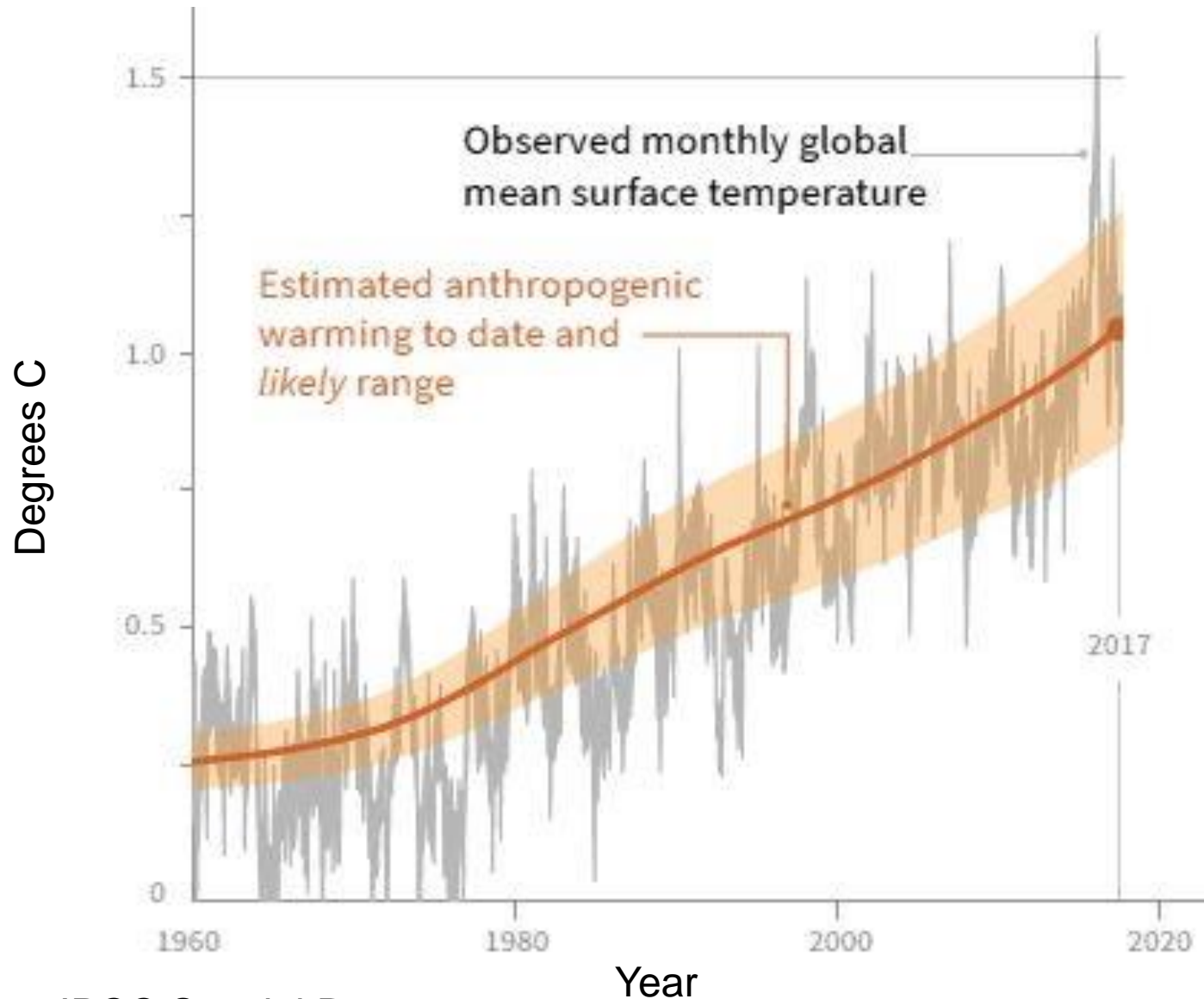


Source: Yale Program on Climate Change Communication

Why Now?

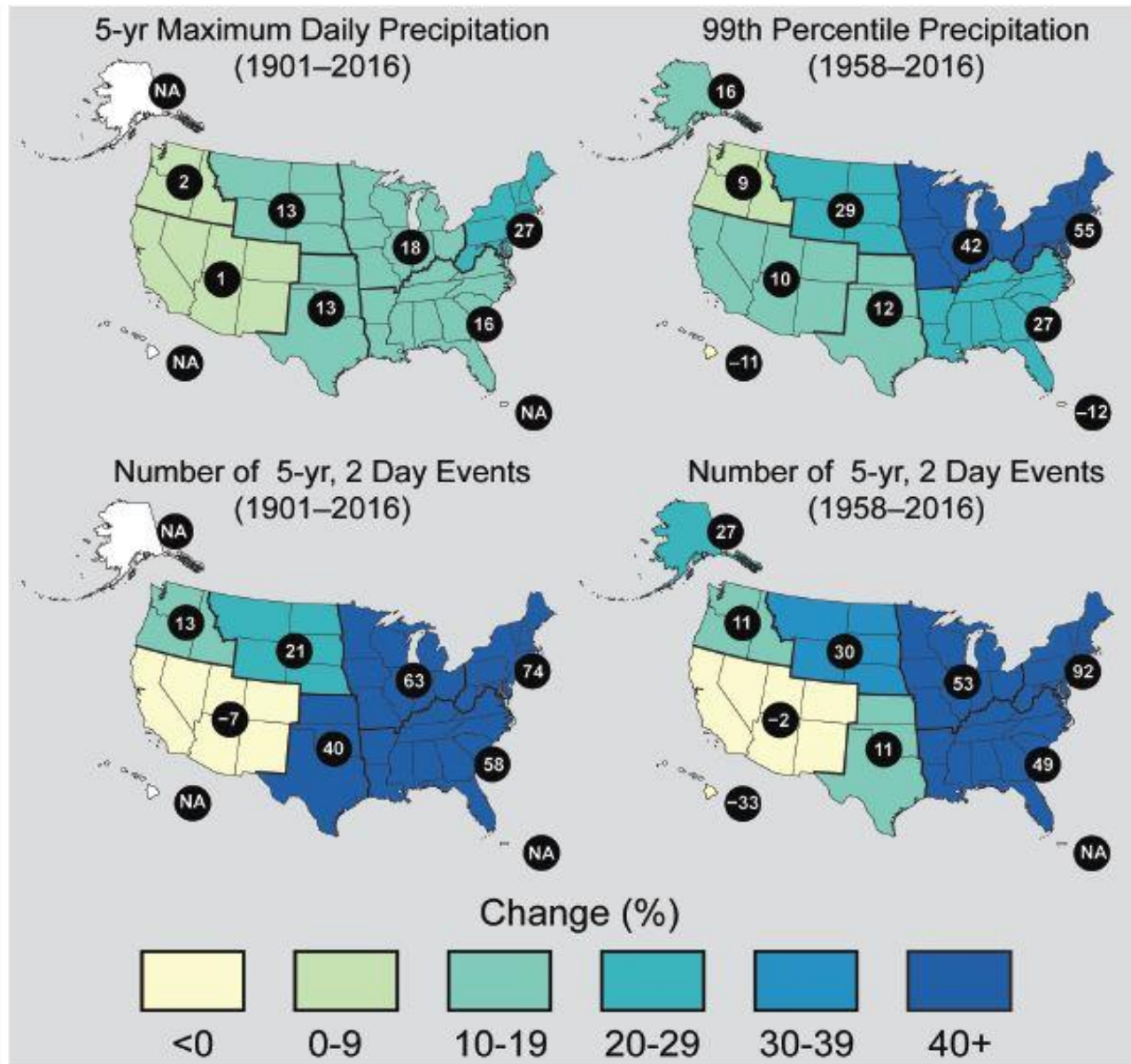
- **National and International Reports confirm impacts.**
- **Global average surface temperature has increased.**
- **Heavy rainfall is increasing in intensity and frequency.**
- **Refer to Resource List**

Increasing Global Surface Temperatures



Source: IPCC Special Report

Extreme Precipitation Has Increased Across Much of the United States



Source: National Climate Assessment 4 – Vol I Climate Science

**Implementing the
Empower Lexington Plan**

What is *Empower Lexington*?

- **Citizen concern**
- **Mayor's initiative - 2005**
 - U. S. Conference of Mayors:
Climate Protection Agreement
- **Council's "Cities for Climate Protection Program" - 2008**
- **LFUCG and Community Input**
 - LFUCG, Businesses, Utilities, Trade Groups,
Schools and Universities, Community
Advocacy Groups represented by 50 participants
- **Council adopted resolution supporting
Empower Lexington Plan - 2012**



The Plan's Five Sectors

Refer to two-page summary

- Residential
- Transportation
- Industrial/Commercial/
Institutional
- Land Use/Food/Agriculture
- Waste



Lexington Energy Use Indicators

Year-Over-Year Changes

2007 - 2014

Source	Units	2007 Baseline	2011	2012	2013	2014
Electricity	kWh or %	4.6 billion	-7.6%	-2.4%	+0.1%	+2.1%
Natural Gas	Mcf or %	7.6 million	+1.1%	-18.6%	+24.3%	+7.7%
Transportation	VMT or %	2.8 billion	-1.4%	-2.3%	-0.7%	+2.6%
Population	Count or %	278,287	+8.4%	+1.3%	+1%	+0.8%

Lexington Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Year	Total Tons of CO ₂ -e
2011 per capita	6,574,968 21.8
2012 per capita	6,384,424 20.9
2013 per capita	6,450,693 20.9

CO₂-e means carbon dioxide equivalent.

Conclusion

- Lexington has the interest and commitment to improve energy use and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- Professional staff will help the community implement proven methods to accomplish those objectives.