# **SUSTAINABILITY UPDATE**

Jada Walker Griggs, Sustainability Program Manager Senior Environmental Quality & Public Works Committee

June 18, 2024





# **Empower Lexington: A Plan for a Resilient Community**

- Stakeholders developed original plan over a 3-year period (2009-2012) facilitated by LFUCG; supported by Council in 2012
- Focus was on energy efficiency in 5 sectors:
  - Residential
  - Industrial, Commercial, and Institutional
  - Land Use, Food, and Agriculture
  - Transportation
  - Waste
- Plan was flexible / voluntary, with a goal to reduce energy use by at least 1% each year



### **Empower Lexington: 2023 Update**

- Over 50 members participated in workgroups including core team (members from previous plan efforts)
- Engagement (public input) opportunities July-August 2023
- New sectors align with LEED for Cities Certification. Work to increase sustainability and climate resiliency.
- Sectors:
  - Natural Systems and Ecology
  - Transportation and Land Use
  - Water Efficiency
  - Energy and Greenhouse Gas Emissions
  - Materials and Resources
  - Quality of Life (Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion)



# **LEED\* for Cities**

- Lexington was selected as 1 of 13 cities to participate in the Leadership Cohort Program sponsored by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) (Colorado Springs, CO; Des Moines, IA; Grand Junction, CO; Lantana, FL; Largo, FL; Lawrence, KS; North Miami, FL; Palm Coast, FL; Plano, TX; San Diego, CA; Scottsdale, AZ; South Bend, IN)
- USGBC is the global leader in green building. Vision is that buildings and communities will regenerate and sustain the health and vitality of all life.
- Program provides peer-to-peer networking opportunities, technical assistance, and access to educational resources; and covers fees for USGBC membership, registration, and certification review.

\*LEED = Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design



# **Solarize Lexington Program**





- Partnered with KY Solar Energy Society for a second year to provide a vetted process for residents
- Group-buying program designed to promote and encourage the use of solar
- Open only to Lexington-Fayette County residents, small businesses, nonprofits, and places of worship
- Council approved \$1 Million for grants to low- to moderate-income homeowners (< 80% Area Median Income [AMI])
- Launched on March 12<sup>th</sup>; Enrollment ends Aug. 9<sup>th</sup>



# **Solarize Lexington Program**

- **2023** 
  - 76 signed contracts (42 grant; 34 non-grants)
  - 42 grant-approved contracts signed (average cost per home = \$21,545)
- 2024 (as of June 4<sup>th</sup>)
  - 82 interest forms submitted (40 grants; 42 non-grants)
  - 21 grant-approved contracts signed (average cost per home = \$23,485)

"I would like to thank you and everyone else involved with the Solarize Lexington Program. What a wonderful gift. The staff I worked with at your end were great. Everything they said would happen did and was very timely. The crew from Solar Energy were professional and very easy to work with. I am looking forward to getting my first electric bill.

*This program makes me proud of our great city."* 

- Solarize Lexington Grant Recipient



### **Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Program**

- Lexington-Fayette County Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) received just under \$1 million dollars for a planning grant from U.S.
  Environmental Protection Agency to develop Priority and Comprehensive Climate Action Plans
- Planning for reducing GHG emissions and other harmful air pollution





# **Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP)**

- Requirements:
  - Simplified GHG Inventory for MSA
  - List of "Implementation Ready" Measures
  - Quantified GHG Reductions
  - Review of Authority to Implement
  - Low Income/Disadvantaged Communities Benefits Analysis
  - Stakeholder Engagement



# **Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP)**

Requirements:

- Build on the simplified emissions inventory conducted for the PCAP to complete a comprehensive GHG Inventory for the CCAP
- Quantify Comprehensive GHG Reductions Targets by Sector
- Benefits Analysis
- Low Income/Disadvantaged Communities Benefits Analysis
- Stakeholder Engagement
- Review of Authority to Implement
- Intersection with other funding opportunities



## **Climate Pollution Reduction Implementation Grant**

- Applications were due April 1, 2024
- Grants will provide funds for greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction measures that will significantly reduce cumulative GHG emissions by 2030 and beyond, and
- Will accelerate decarbonization across one or more major sectors responsible for GHG emissions.



### **Implementation Measures**

Tree Canopy

Increase tree canopy in our MSA

Solarize Lexington Program

Extend the program to homeowners in other counties in our MSA

Weatherization Program

Homeowners and renters with low- to moderate-income

Lextran Electric Bus Charging Canopy Project

Provide cover/weather protection for electric fleet, charging infrastructure for each parking stall and generator backup for recharging during power outages

Regional Electric Vehicle Charging Study

Identify demand for future public electric vehicle recharging stations



# **Program Highlights**

In Two Years:

- Solarize Lexington 2023 and 2024 (\$1M grant for low- to moderate-income <80% AMI)</li>
- Empower Lexington: A Plan for a Resilient Community (updated)
- 2021 Community-wide and LFUCG Municipal Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory
- LEED for Cities Certification
- Regional: Lexington-Fayette Co. Metropolitan Statistical Area Climate Pollution Reduction Planning Grant (Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP) – completed and approved; Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (ongoing))
- Regional: Lexington-Fayette Co. MSA Implementation Grant (application submitted)
- Green Check Sustainability Business Program
- Pickleball Recycling
- Environmental Initiatives Specialist (hired Dec. 2023)



# **Questions?**

jgriggs@lexingtonky.gov www.lexingtonky.gov/sustainability









# Lexington's 2021 **Community-wide & Municipal Greenhouse Gas Inventories**

Abby Terry, PE, LEED Green Assoc.

June 18, 2024



## **2021 Greenhouse Gas Inventory**

- LFUCG contracted Tetra Tech to compile a greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions inventory for calendar year 2021 in conjunction with the Empower Lexington update
- Inventory includes total community-wide GHG emissions & LFUCG municipal operations' GHG emissions
- Goal is to re-calculate GHG emissions every 2 years going forward



change



## What's a greenhouse gas?



- Direct GHGs from Kyoto Protocol:
  - Carbon Dioxide (CO2)
  - Methane (CH4)
  - Nitrous Oxide (N2O)
  - Nitrogen Trifluoride (NF3)
  - Sulfur Hexafluoride (SF6)
  - Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs)
  - Perfluorocarbons (PFCs)





#### What's a greenhouse gas inventory?





# **Definitions**

- Global Warming Potential (GWP) A measure that allows for the comparison of the warming effect of various GHGs over a specific time period relative to carbon dioxide (where the GWP of  $CO_2 = 1$ )
- Metric Tonnes of Carbon Dioxide Equivalents (MT CO2e) A standardized unit that allows for the aggregation of emissions of different GHGs into a single number
- Scopes Different categories used to classify and report GHG emissions that facilitate comprehensive accounting
- Sectors and Sub-Sectors Classifications of activities / sources of emissions
- Sources Individual activities generating GHG emissions



#### How are emissions calculated?





### **2007 Greenhouse Gas Inventory**

- First inventory completed for Calendar Year 2007 using Clean Air and Climate Protection (CACP) software
- Included Scope 1 and Scope 2 Emissions
- 6,777,136 MT CO2e
- 23.4 MT CO2e per capita
- Municipal emissions totaled approximately 2% of inventory





# Methodology

- Sectors
  - Stationary Energy
  - Transportation
  - Waste
  - Industrial Processes & Product Use (IPPU)
  - Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Use (AFOLU)
- Scopes
  - Scope 1
  - Scope 2
  - Scope 3





# **Defining the Inventory Boundary**

- Calendar Year 2021
- Fayette County border used for community-wide inventory
- Activities and sources attributed to LFUCG operations were included as a subset to the community-wide inventory





#### **2021 Greenhouse Gas Inventory: Community-wide**



tCO <sub>2</sub> e	BASIC+	Scope 1	Scope 2	Scope 3
	Stationary Energy	744,112	3,164,120	142,385
	Transportation	1,190,161		152,976
Ť	Waste	79,028		116,396
	IPPU	169,691		
	AFOLU	54,207		
Ŵ	Other Scope 3			5,809
0	TOTAL		5,818,885	

18.1 MT CO2e per capita



#### **2021 Greenhouse Gas Inventory: Municipal Operations**





# **Stationary Energy Highlights**

- 69.6% of inventory total
- Sources include:
  - Electricity usage
  - Electricity distribution losses
  - Natural gas usage
  - Natural gas fugitive emissions
  - Permitted community sources
  - Blue Grass Airport ground equipment fuel usage
  - Off-road vehicles
  - Coal hauling fugitive emissions
  - Hazardous materials pipelines fugitive emissions
- Commercial sub-sector responsible for largest percentage of natural gas and electricity usage
- KY had fourth highest percentage of coal in resource mix in 2021

2021 Community-wide Natural Gas Usage by Sub-Sector

ELE COM IND RES



2021 Community-wide Electricity Usage by Sub-Sector





# **Transportation Highlights**

- 23.1% of inventory total
- Sources include:
  - On-road transportation
  - Off-road transportation

Other

- Rail •
- Aviation
- ~90% of vehicles registered in Fayette County are noncommercial





# **Waste Highlights**

- 3.4% of inventory total
- Sources include:
  - Solid waste
  - Compost
  - Wastewater
- No active MSW landfills in Fayette County, all MSW hauled outside of county
- 0.91 tonnes of waste generated per person
- ~10% diversion rate
- Waste diverted:
  - Yard waste
  - Recycling
  - E-waste
  - Tires
  - Paper shred
  - Yard signs
  - Large appliances







#### Industrial Products & Product Use (IPPU) Highlights

Industry	Significant Processes	Applicable for Fayette County
Mineral Industry	Production of cement, lime, and glass	Ν
Chemical Industry	Production of ammonia, nitric acid, adipic acid, caprolactam, glyoxal, glyoxylic acid, carbide, carbide, titanium dioxide, and soda ash	Ν
Metal Industry	Production of iron steel and metallurgical coke, ferroalloy, aluminum, magnesium, lead, and zinc	Ν
Non-energy Products from Fuels and Solvent Use	Consumption of lubricants, paraffin waxes, bitumen, road oil, and other petroleum diluents, white spirit, kerosene, and some aromatics	Y
Electronics Industry	Manufacture of semiconductors, thin-film-transistor flat panel displays, and photovoltaic manufacturing	Ν
Substitution of Fluorinated Substances for Ozone Depleting Substances	Use of refrigeration and air conditioning, fire suppression and explosion protection, aerosols, solvent cleaning, foam blowing, sterilization of equipment, tobacco expansion applications, solvents in the manufacture of adhesives, coatings, and inks	Y

- 2.9% of inventory total
- Sources include:

- Asphalt production
- Substitution of ozone depleting substances

Agriculture, Forestry, & Other Land Use (AFOLU) Highlights

- 0.9% of inventory total
- Sources include:
  - Enteric fermentation
  - Manure management
  - Biomass burning
  - Fertilizer application
  - Tree canopy
- Urban tree canopy provided ~42,339 MT CO2e in carbon sequestration



LEXINGTON

30.0

0.25 MT CO26 Per Capita 0.01 CO26 Per Capita 0.01 CO36 Net Capita 0.01 CO36 Net Capita 0.02 MT CO36 Net Capita 0.02 NT CO36 Net Capita

0.0

24.4





Historical Total Emissions Per Capita

21.8



Historical Total Emissions Per GDP (\$M)

■2007 ■2011 ■2012 ■2013 ■2021

20.9

■ 2007 ■ 2011 ■ 2012 ■ 2013 ■ 2021



# **Trend Analysis (cont.)**



Top 10 LFUCG Electricity Users in 2021



#### **Peer Comparison**





### **"Business as Usual" Emissions Forecast**

- Population forecasts and occupation outlooks used to project emissions
- Assumes no major changes in operations or emission factors



30% increase by 2050



# **Questions?**

jgriggs@lexingtonky.gov www.lexingtonky.gov/sustainability

