



Erie Sustainability Action Plan (SAP) Update

Town of Erie, Colorado
Town Council Study Session

**Molly Marcucilli | Climate Mitigation and Resilience
Planning Associate | Lotus Engineering &
Sustainability**

**Eryka Thorley | Sustainability Manager | Town of
Erie**

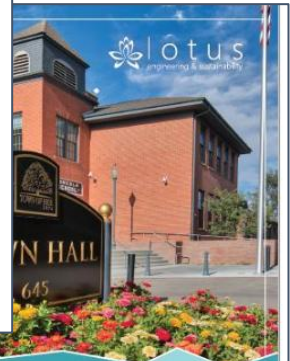
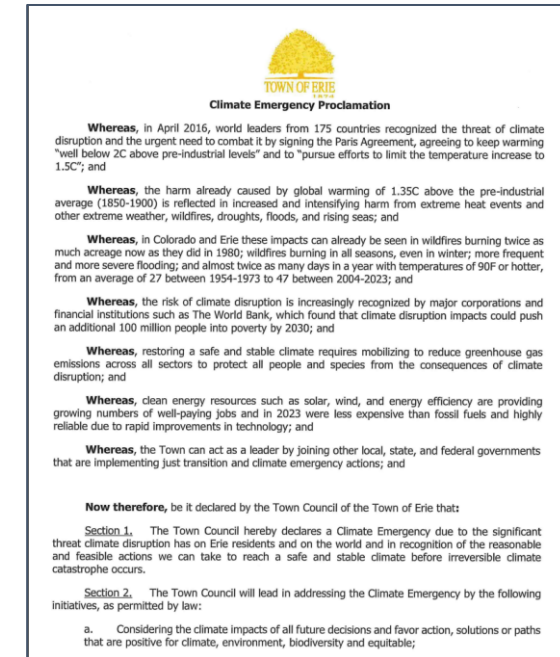
SAP Presentation Overview

- **Project Background & Timeline**
- **Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Overview**
- **Stakeholder and Community Engagement Updates**
- **Strategy Development**
- **Looking Ahead**
- **Q&A**



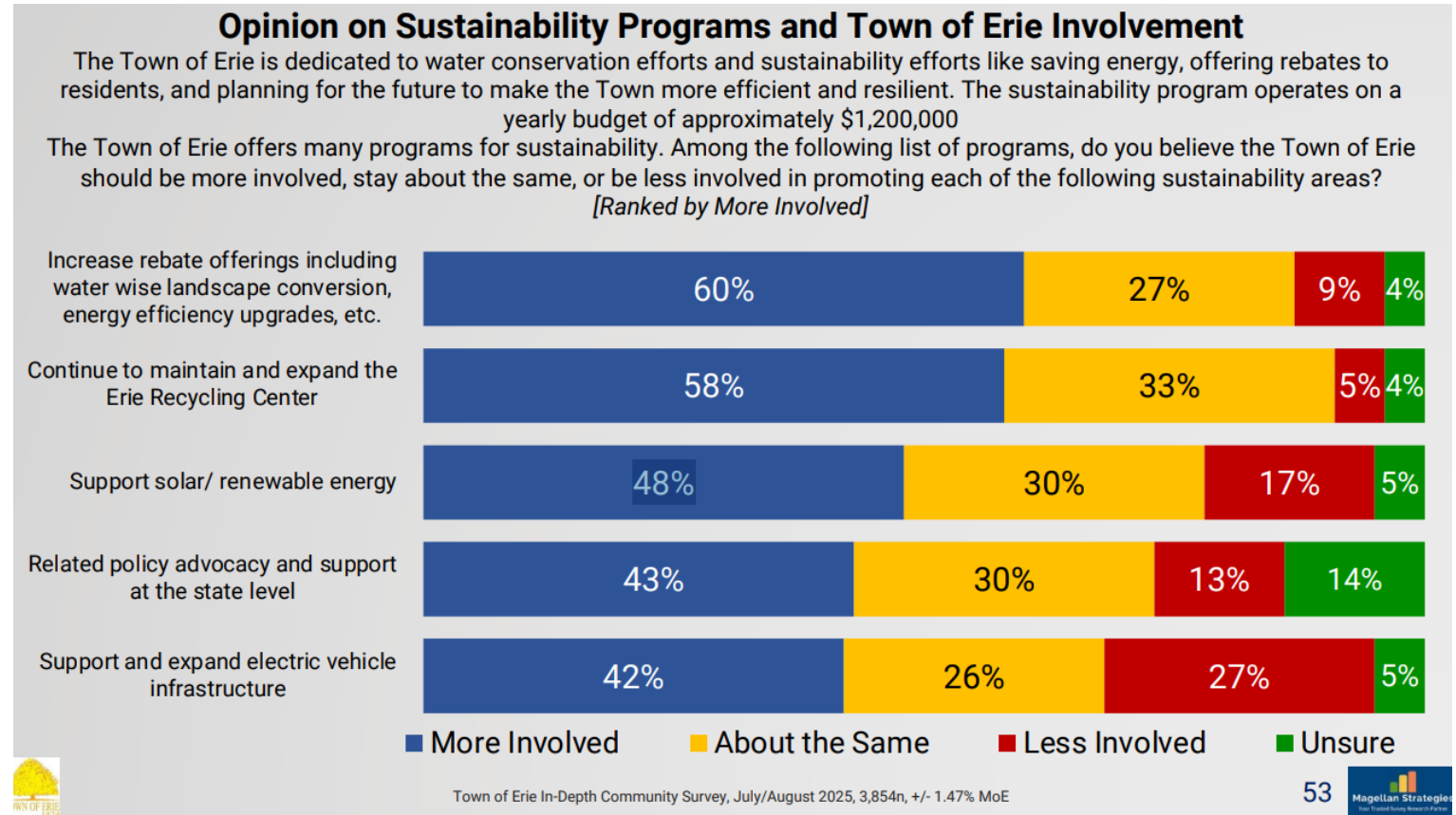
SAP Project Background

- Erie adopted a **Sustainability Plan in 2019**.
 - The 2019 plan was a 5-year plan.
 - Many strategies have been implemented! ~80%
- Town of Erie declared a **Climate Emergency** in 2024.
 - Initiative to adopt a **2025 Climate Action Plan**.
 - Renewable energy expansion across all Town operations.
 - Multi-modal zero and low emission transportation.
 - Additional zero waste and strategic waste diversion to reduce waste going to landfill.
 - Beneficial Electrification Plan adopted in May 2025.
- Erie conducted a **GHG Emissions Inventory** in 2021 and 2023.
 - This inventory will guide the direction of the new plan.



SAP Project Background

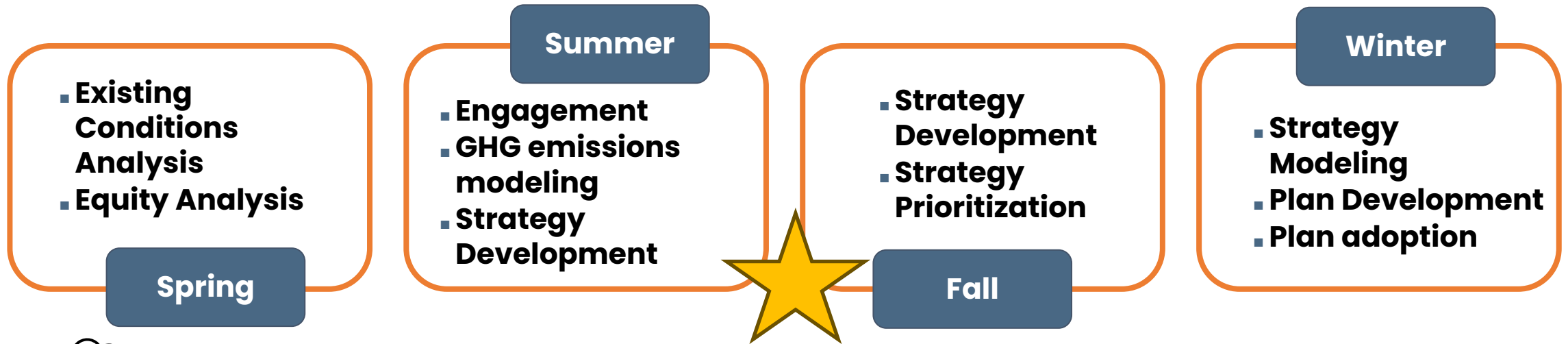
Sustainability programs & Town involvement identified as important by the community in recent and historical surveys.



SAP Project Timeline



- ✓ Staff Focus Group
- ✓ Farmers Market
- ✓ Steering Committee
- ✓ Charrette



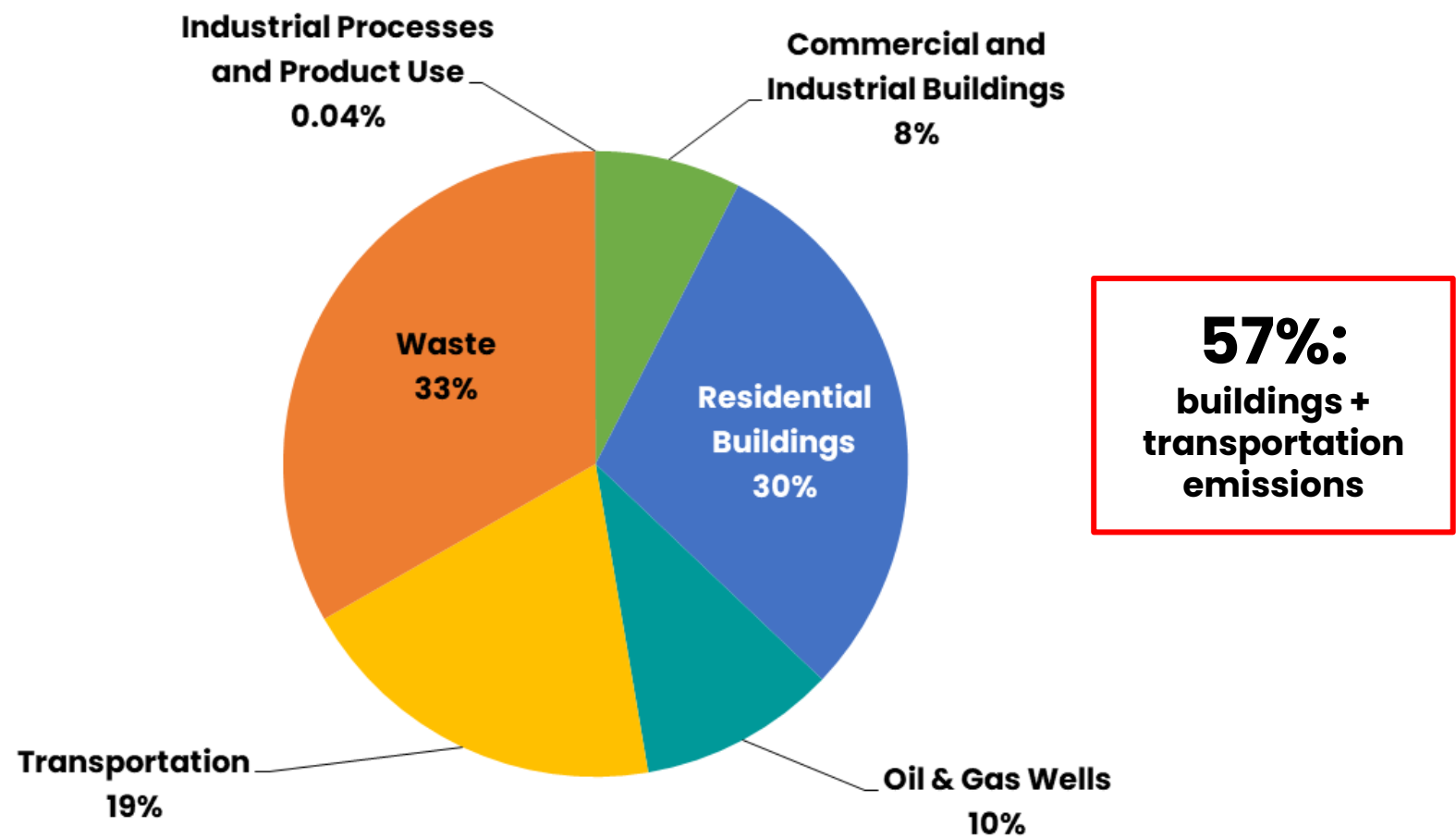
- ✓ Arbor/Earth Day Festival



SAP: Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Inventory Overview

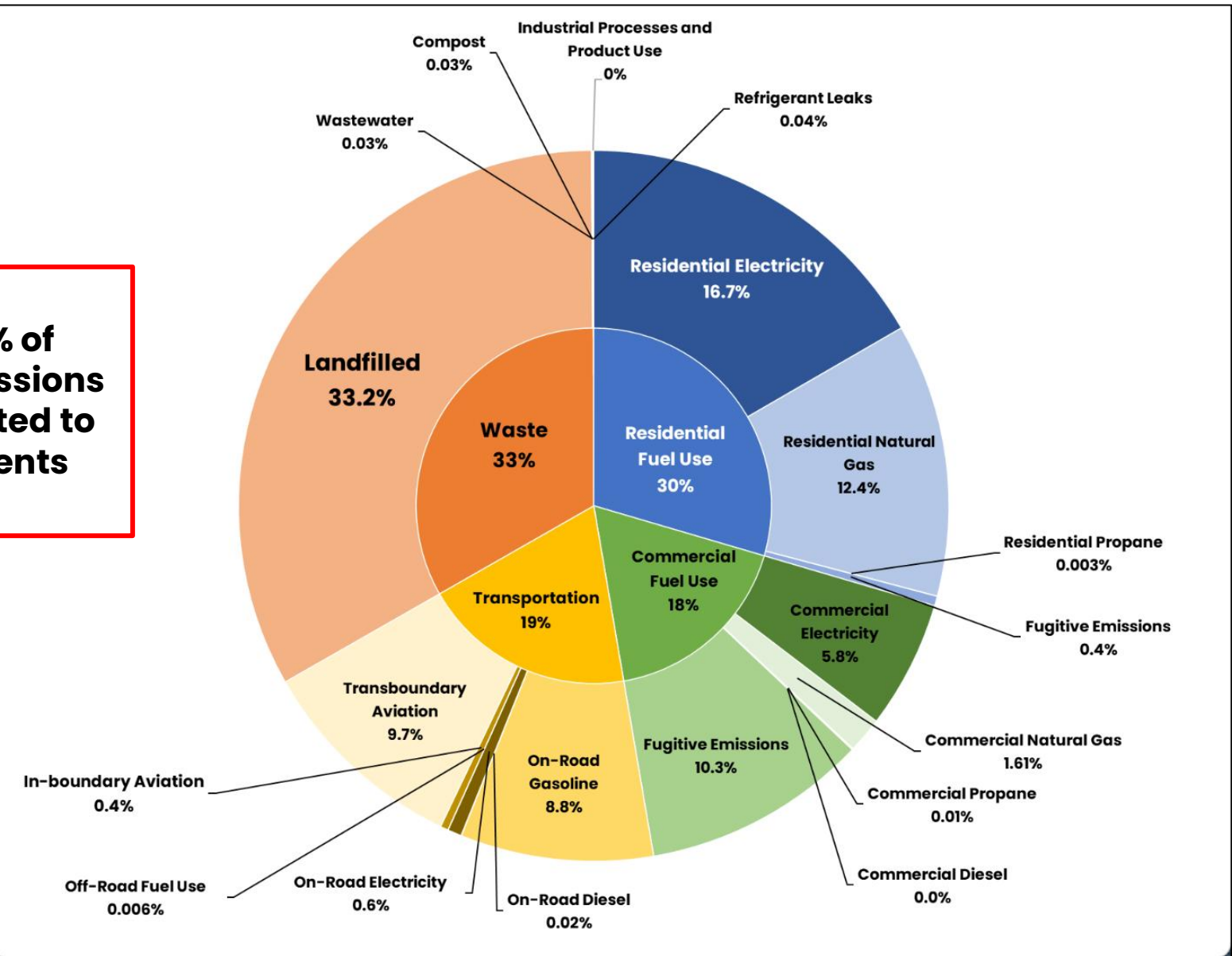


Community GHG Emissions by Sector (2023)

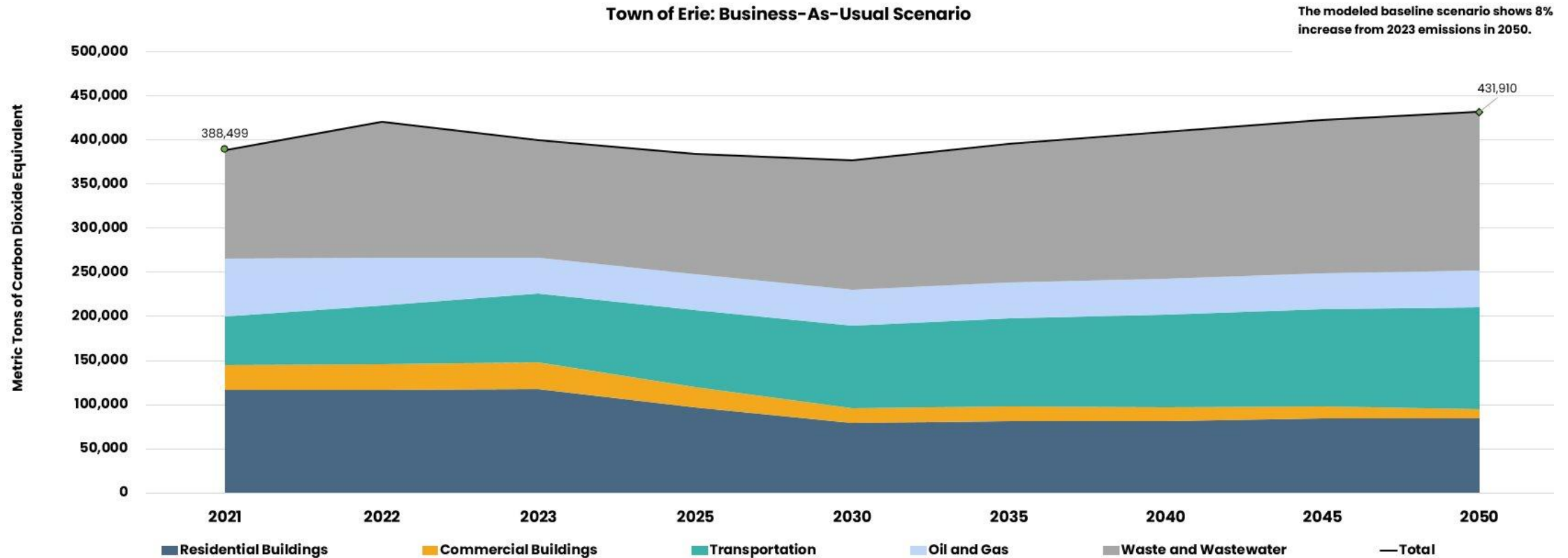


Community GHG Emissions by Source (2023)

About 5% of landfill emissions are attributed to Erie residents



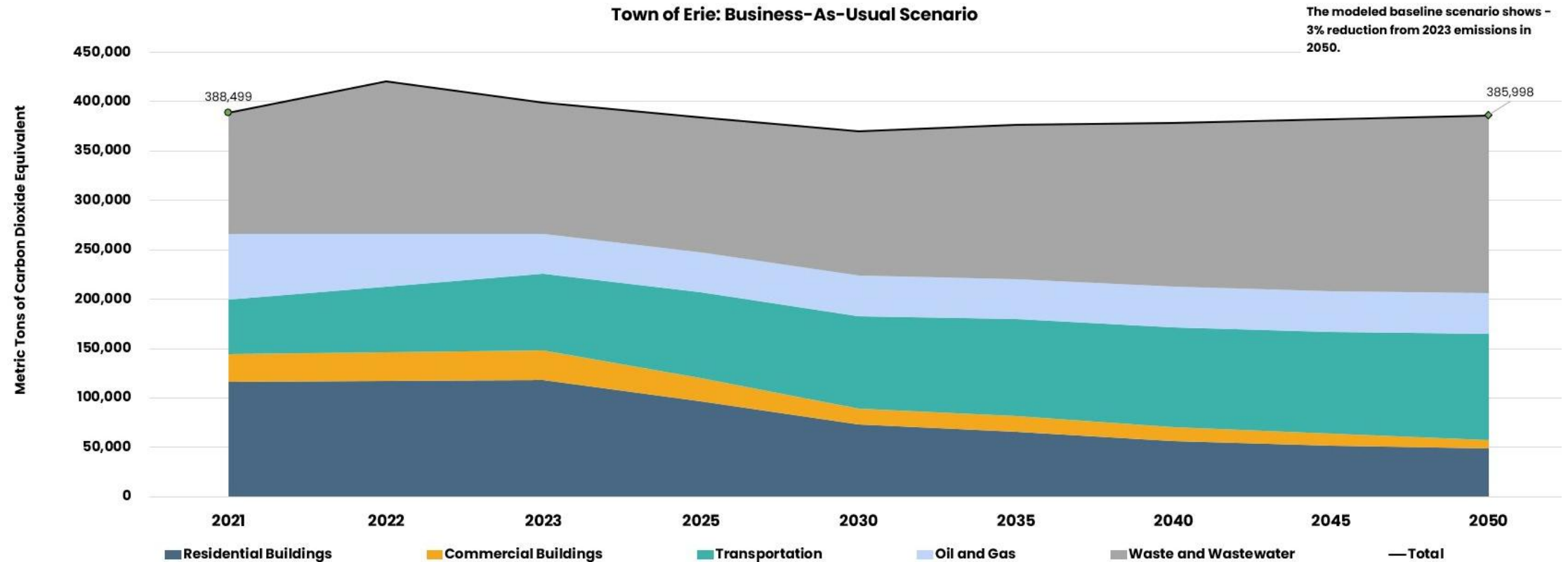
Low Electrification With Landfill, Oil and Gas, and Transboundary Aviation



Takeaways: Waste from landfills and transportation the largest emitters in 2050. This scenario shows an *increase* in emissions due to a combination of low electrification and steady landfill growth.



High Electrification With Landfill, Oil and Gas, and Transboundary Aviation



Takeaways: Waste from landfills and transportation remain the largest emitters in 2050.



SAP Stakeholder and Community Engagement Updates



Source: Town website





Arbor/Earth Day

- Kickoff at Arbor/Earth Day celebration
- Stats:
 - 1,000 attendees
 - 433 dot votes
 - 70 responses



Arbor/Earth Day



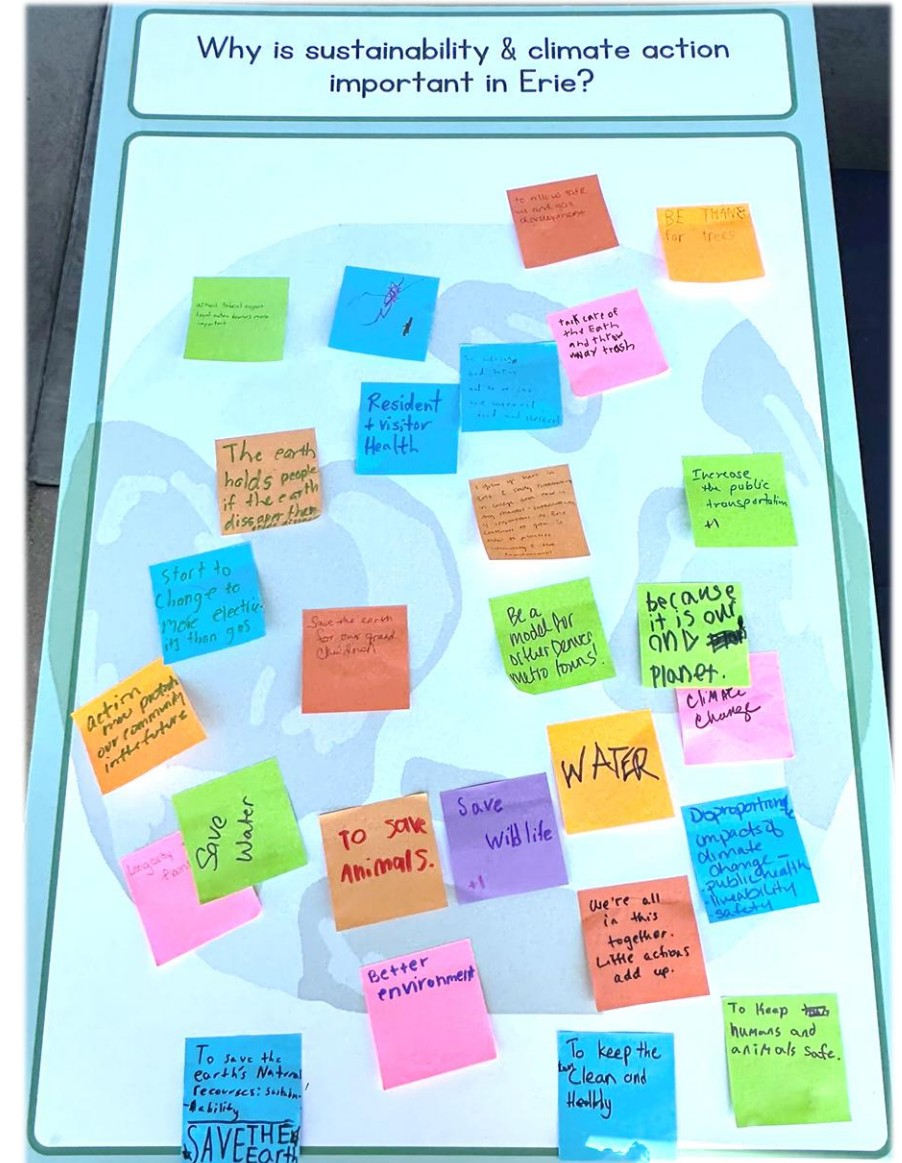
Focus Areas	Votes
Local Ecosystems and Watersheds	101
Waste Diversion	92
Land Use and Built Environment	85
Transportation and Mobility	65
Education and Outreach	55
Buildings and Energy Use	35



Arbor/Earth Day

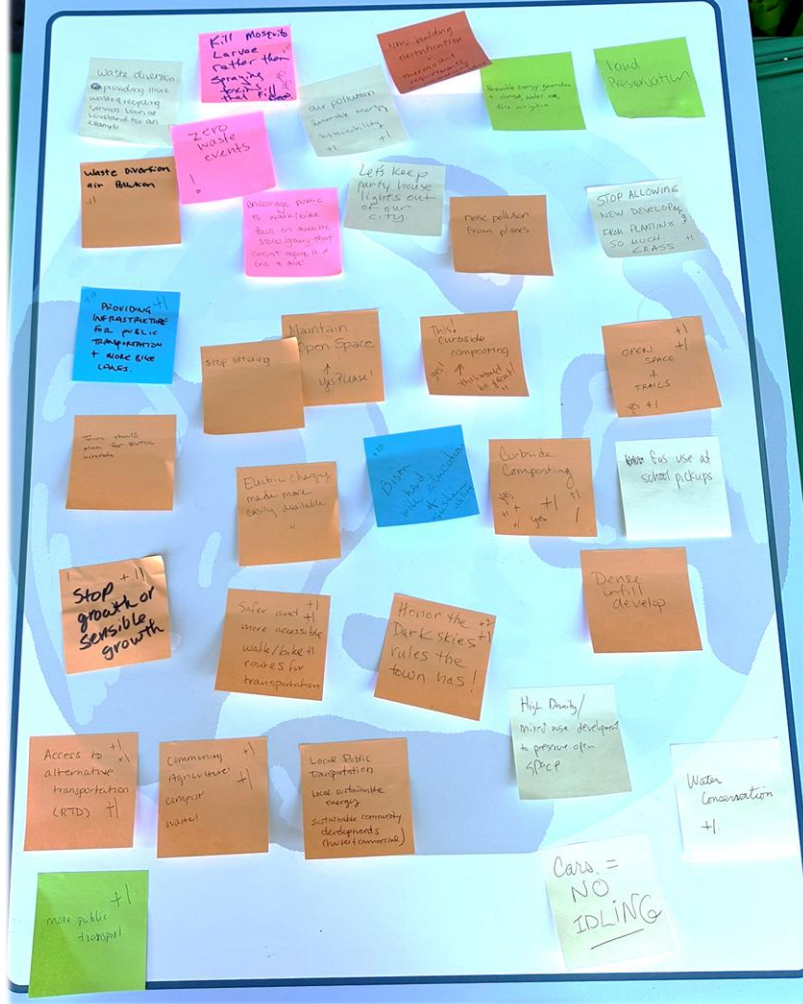
Why is sustainability & climate action important in Erie?

- 27 responses
- Key themes:
 - Public health and safety
 - Protect natural resources and wildlife
 - Be a leader in the region
 - Little/local actions add up
 - Longevity and future generations



Arbor/Earth Day

What environmental considerations should be priority as the Erie community grows?



What environmental considerations should be priority as the Erie community grows?

- 43 responses
- Key themes:
 - Local and clean energy
 - Multimodal transportation access
 - Safer transportation
 - No idling
 - Waste diversion and zero waste events
 - Curbside composting
 - Sensible growth
 - High density/mixed use
 - Community agriculture
 - Manage mosquito larvae rather than spraying
 - Air pollution
 - Dark skies
 - Open space and trails
 - Fire mitigation



Erie Farmers Market



Tabled at farmers markets to raise awareness and collect input on the Resilience Action Plan and SAP.

- Stats:
 - ~350 interactions across 5 farmers markets
- All respondents said it was "important or "very important" for Erie to **protect its natural environment**.
- The **most selected topics of priority** for the SAP included:
 - Public transportation and multimodal access
 - Waste diversion
 - Nature-based solutions
 - Renewable energy





Staff Focus Group

- Met with key Erie staff to receive general guidance on plan direction.
- Staff support the plan focus areas and strategy topics.
- Ideas:
 - Benchmarking for smaller buildings
 - Geothermal for municipal buildings
 - Transit access improvements
 - E-bikes and e-car share
 - Organics collection





Steering Committee Meeting #1

- **Steering Committee Overview:**

- Community representatives and Town staff to inform plan development.

- **Meeting #1 Objectives:**

- Provide feedback on vision statement & guiding principles for the SAP.
- Ideate new strategies to build on 2019 plan.

Source: Erie Uplink



Steering Committee Meeting #1

What makes Erie special?



Core Values Identified:

- Quality of life
- Achievable goals
- Equity and access
- Resilience and vitality
- Rural and natural character
- Clean, healthy, safe
- Fiscal responsibility
- Workforce and opportunity



Charette

- Met with Town board members, community leaders, and representatives to identify priorities for the SAP and community values.
- Priorities identified:
 - Walkability and bikeability
 - Education
 - Lead by example
 - Waste diversion



Other SAP Engagement Tactics

Sustainability in Action

Sustainability Accomplishments

First established in 2019, the Town's Sustainability Division leads projects and initiatives that make a real difference in Erie. From scaling water conservation and renewable energy adoption, to improving waste diversion rates and creating sustainability first policies, the Sustainability Division works together with residents and businesses to reduce the climate change impact of Town actions and the activities of its inhabitants. These efforts are a testament to the power of the Erie community and our shared commitment to environmental stewardship. Below, explore our accomplishments and how we are making a positive impact, one step at a time.



Emerging Themes from SAP Engagement

- **Important focus areas:**
 - Waste diversion, multimodal transportation access, renewable energy, and protection of natural resources.
- **Core values:**
 - Quality of life, equity, resilience, open space & recreation, and public health.
- To date, this project is **well-received** by everyone we have engaged with thus far.



Source: Uncover Colorado | C.L Baker



SAP Strategy Development



SAP Strategy Development

Town of Erie Plans	Countywide and Regional Plans	Also led by:
Comprehensive Plan	Boulder County Sustainability, Climate Action, and Resilience Plan	Community input from tabling events
Water and Drought Plan	Boulder County Transportation Plan	Steering Committee
Energy Action Plans	DRCOG Priority Climate Action Plan	Staff engagement
Beneficial Electrification Plan	BoCo Regional Transportation Electrification Plan	Charette
Transportation & Mobility Plan	Weld County Environmental Services	Consultant expertise & best practices
Parks, Recreation, Open Space, & Trails Plan		



Sectors for the SAP

Sector	Description
Buildings & Energy	Building electrification, energy efficiency, renewable energy adoption, energy code
Waste & Materials Diversion	Residential and commercial composting, waste diversion, circularity
Transportation & Mobility	Vehicle electrification, expanding transit + transportation infrastructure
Nature-Based Solutions	Protecting the natural environment, resilience, agriculture
Education & Outreach	Educate and empower the community to take part in advancing sustainability and climate action

Equity and resilience built into each sector



Draft SAP Strategies

Buildings & Energy

TOPIC AREAS



- Advanced energy code adoption
- Benchmarking and reporting
- Programs for low-income households
- Renewable energy adoption

Transportation & Mobility

TOPIC AREAS



- Improving and promoting trails, paths, and alternative transportation
- Car and bike share
- Continued community & town EV adoption
- Subsidized transit passes

Waste & Materials Diversion

TOPIC AREAS



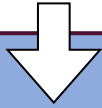
- Expand Recycling Center services
- Curbside composting
- Universal Zero Waste Ordinance
- C&D waste diversion
- Education



Draft SAP Strategies

Nature-Based Solutions

TOPIC AREAS



- Community agriculture
- Regenerative agriculture
- WaterWise, native landscaping, xeriscaping, and pollinator friendly practices
- Green infrastructure

Education & Outreach

TOPIC AREAS



- Green Business Network
- Expand outreach (and targeted outreach) to promote energy efficiency and renewable energy resources
- Multimodal transportation advocacy

Goal-Setting

We will identify short-term and long-term goals within each sector to keep Erie on track to meet the 2030 & 2050 goals of this plan.



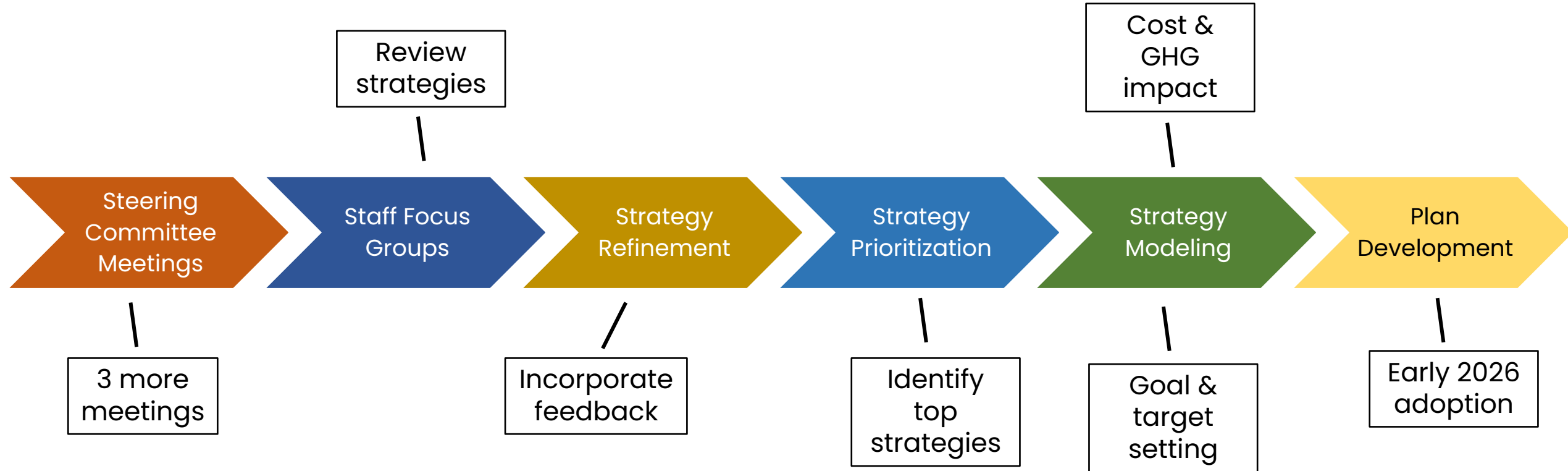
Looking Ahead



Source: Town website



SAP Next Steps





Questions?

Molly Marcucilli
molly@lotussustainability.com

Eryka Thorley
ethorley@erieco.gov