

# Johnson County Sustainability

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Johnson County defines sustainability as the responsible management of resources to meet the environmental, economic, and human needs of today and for generations to come.



What guides our work?

How does JoCo lead by example?

What about future efforts?

## What Guides Our Work?

- Johnson County Guiding Principles
  - 2007 BOCC GHG Resolution
  - 2013 GHG Emissions Inventory Results
  - 2015 BOCC Energy Conservation Resolution
  - 2017 Climate Resiliency Strategy
- ...and Partnerships

# PILLARS OF PERFORMANCE

## LEADERSHIP PHILOSOPHY

Leadership is a responsibility shared by all. We trust and empower others to do the right thing for the good of the community. Committed to our shared values, we provide excellent public service, seeking always to improve ourselves and our organization. Together we will leave our community better than we found it.

## VISION STATEMENT

We choose to be a different kind of community. We strive each day to make a difference. One that cares about the health, the character, and the promise of community. Through our service, Johnson County will always be an extraordinary place where people choose to be, to work, and to live.

## MISSION STATEMENT

We provide exemplary support to people with life's challenges, and contribute to a high quality of life.

## CORE VALUES

The higher moral purpose of public service is to build a better community through the use of resources to meet the needs of the community. PUBLIC TRUST  
PUBLIC LEADERSHIP

## BEHAVIORAL VALUES

How we plan to treat each other. PROFESSIONALISM  
HUMILITY  
HUMOR  
RESPECT

## OPERATIONAL VALUES

These guide our operating processes and the way we do our work. Operating processes are: WORKING TOGETHER  
WORKING TOGETHER  
STEWARDSHIP  
TEAMWORK  
CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT  
LEARNING ORGANIZATION

Stewardship: Individually and collectively, we are building a better community today and for future generations. We achieve this through creative and effective use of resources to meet environmental, economic and human needs.

...together we will leave our community better than we found it.

# Better Than We Found It

County employees find creative ways to conserve our financial, environmental and human resources for generations to come

BY CAITLIN FERGUSON

One of Johnson County Government's core values is stewardship – **the idea that individually and collectively, we are building a better community today and for future generations.** Consequently, the county takes seriously its responsibility to protect the economic, environmental and human resources we have. Across county government, this value comes to life in the form of initiatives that make our operations more efficient, effective and sustainable. *Better Than We Found It* is a new campaign to share stories of good stewardship with our residents and community partners.

## Smarter data, smarter energy use

In 2015, Johnson County Government contracted with an energy consulting firm to take a bird's eye view of energy usage data from county facilities and recommend efficiencies. The firm recommended many small changes that made a big difference in our energy consumption – things like standardizing building temperatures or minimizing the amount of time a building is occupied.

For example, like many large organizations, the county's custodial staff cleaned the buildings at night after daytime employees were gone. The consultants encouraged the county to overlap the schedules of daytime and custodial employees in order to decrease the building's "occupied hours" by five hours every day. During unoccupied hours, lighting is reduced to a minimum and heating/cooling temperatures are set back, so the building consumes less energy.

Changes like these added up in a big way: savings are estimated at around \$1 million over four years.

The contract concluded on Oct. 1, but Facilities staff are still working to reduce energy consumption. In fact, Director of Facilities Brad Reinhardt plans to hire a dedicated Energy Manager, who will be tasked with maintaining the savings achieved to date and starting new initiatives.

"This employee will look beyond



Look for these

# 2007 BOCC GHG Emissions Resolution

- Reduce county government operation greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by at least 33 percent by 2020 below a 2005 baseline.
- Reduce GHG emissions associated with energy use in new and substantially renovated buildings occupied and used by Johnson County Government to zero by 2030.
- Reduce community-wide GHG emissions 80 percent by 2050 below a 2005 baseline.
- Provide leadership to enhance understanding of the impacts of greenhouse gases and other emissions and to encourage reduction of those emissions in our community and region through public education, open dialogue, and partnerships.

# 2013 GHG Emissions Inventory Results

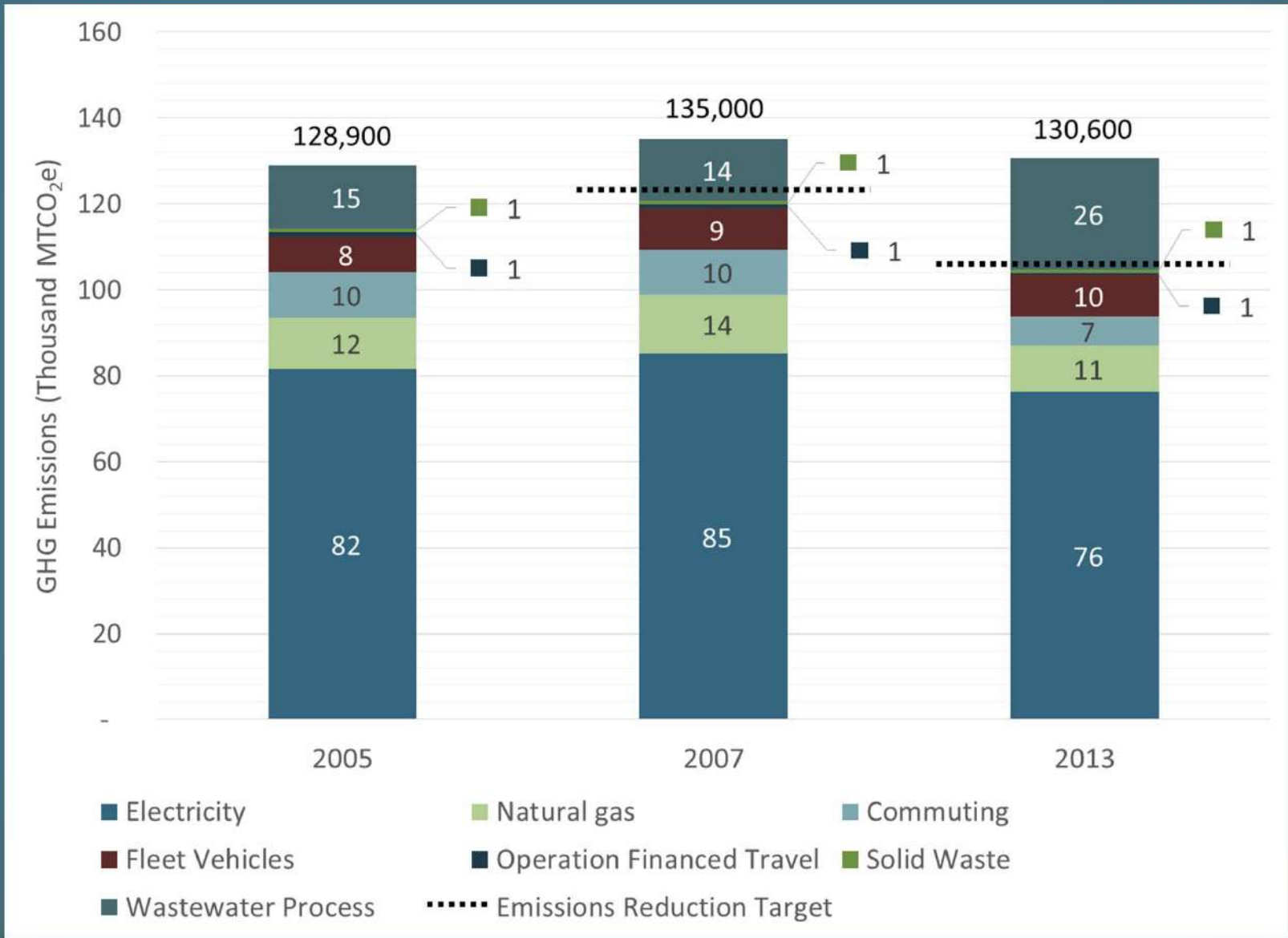
## Top 5 GHG Emitters in JoCo Operations

1. Wastewater Electricity
2. Wastewater Process Emissions
3. Facilities Management Electricity
4. Employee Commuting
5. Facilities Natural Gas

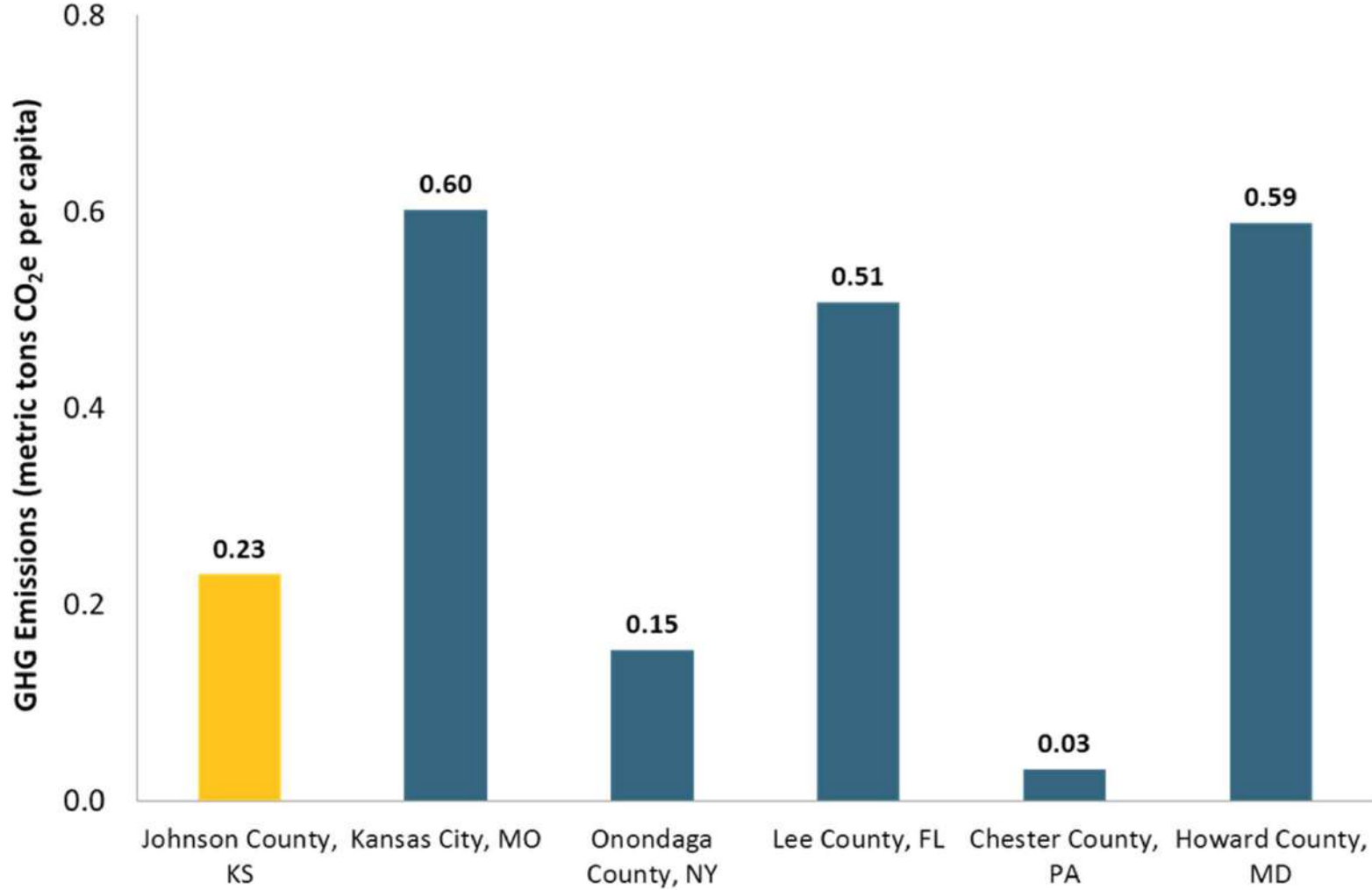
## Top 5 GHG Emitters in JoCo Community

1. Residential Electricity
2. Commercial Electricity
3. On-road Transportation – Gasoline
4. Commercial Natural Gas
5. Residential Natural Gas

# Inventory Comparisons JoCo Operations

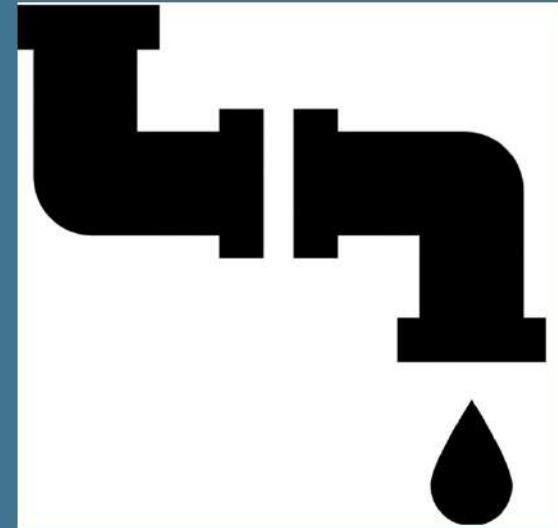


# Benchmarking JoCo Operations



# JoCo Operations Takeaways

JoCo operations make up 1% of emissions in the whole county



Wastewater processing accounts for 50% of JoCo operational emissions

## 2015 BOCC Energy Conservation Resolution

“The Board of County Commissioners of Johnson County, Kansas embraces energy conservation for Johnson County Government and believes it to be everyone’s responsibility to ensure that every reasonable effort is made to conserve energy and natural resources while exercising sound financial management.”

# 2017 Climate Resiliency Strategy

## Climate Action Champions



### Key themes:

- Energy efficiency
- Trees and green infrastructure
- Local food systems
- Collaboration
- Education



How do we lead by example?

# 8 LEED Buildings



# Building Energy Management

Since 2015

- Decreased energy usage 13%
- Reduced GHG emissions nearly 19,000 MT CO<sub>2</sub>e
- \$3M in cost avoidance to date

Energy Manager joining staff in 2019



# EVs + Charging Stations

# Wastewater

Cogeneration plant provides half of energy required by Middle Basin plant



Nelson plant restarting its anaerobic digesters to reduce landfilled solids



...reviews and recommends policies to strengthen the local food economy and improve access to healthy and nutritious food.

4 workgroups:

- Food Waste Solutions
- Hunger Free Healthcare
- Local Food Production
- Food Security





WIC Garden – 4,800 lbs in 2018

Solar Ready Gold Community



# Future efforts?

## Continue building efficiency improvements

- Next step: fine tune equipment startup to avoid peak demand
- New staff Energy Manager
- Energy upgrades at replacement cycles:
  - roof insulation
  - LED lighting
  - efficient windows

# 2018 ICC building code adoption

- Multi-jurisdictional collaboration for synchronized roll-out
- Only residential, new construction or major renovations



# 2019 Solid Waste Management Plan

- JoCo updates every 5 years
- Focus areas include:
  - Commercial hauling
  - Multi-family support
  - Organics
  - Construction and Demolition
  - HHW upgrades

...and more

- Green Purchasing
- Consolidated trash/recycling
- Stormwater Strategic Plan
- Sustainability Committee



To enact and foster proactive strategies, systems and structures within the Metro KC region that will drawdown greenhouse gases, improve climate resiliency and generate corresponding economic, social, health and quality of life benefits.



## 5 working committees

- Climate Summit
- Public Policy – local, state, federal
- Organizational Support
- Education, Communication and Outreach
- Regional Climate Action Plan



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