

Climate and Environment Policy Advisory Committee (CEPAC)

Draft Minutes

August 13, 2026, 5:00 – 7:00 PM

51 Winburn Way Ashland, OR 97520

1. Call to Order

- **COMMITTEE MEMBERS**– Mark Morrison, Sharon Dohrmann, Gary Shaff, Maya Baerg
- **ABSENT:** Sidney Brown, Ashleigh Cropper
- **CITY COUNCIL:** Bob Kaplan
- **STAFF:** Chad Woodward

2. Consent Agenda.

- June 11, 2026, Minutes– Approved.
 - *Motion to approve by Shaff, seconded by Dohrmann. Approved by Shaff, Dormann, Baerg, Morrison. Passed 4-0.*

3. Public Forum

- Julie Norman provided information to CEPAC about herbicide usage in the city. Information is attached below.

4. Updates/Announcements

- **Council Update – Kaplan:**
 - Utility Bill Assistance program: 495 households participated last fiscal year, but only 6 completed the required energy/water conservation assessments. The annual assistance cap of \$400 may need to be increased due to underspending.
- **Staff Update – Woodward:**
 - Brief update on Home Energy Score advertising (social media and the Sneak Preview as) and EV charger advertising. Noted the expiration of the EV carshare the following week. The idea of installing DC fast chargers was briefly discussed, sharing the possible cost/benefits of this action.

5. Unfinished Business:

- **City Electrification**
 - Incorporated into the 2026 CEAP report below.
- **Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)**
 - It was shared that staff in the wildfire division are currently developing an implementation plan.
 - A discussion of regulation dead trees as a hazard was raised but is outside of the current CWPP's scope.

- **Transportation System Plan Update**

- Committee discussed how to engage with the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) process on the plan update.

6. **New Business:**

- **2026 Climate and Energy Action Plan (CEAP) Report – presentation of draft for feedback. (Slides attached below).**

- Staff provided a presentation of the 2026 Draft report to share results and obtain feedback. The report produced updated information for community wide emissions, with a notable addition of actual natural gas consumption data being included this year. The report also presented City specific emissions data this year, with the surprise being that gasoline vehicles were the leading source of emissions (more than diesel due to use of R99 diesel and more than natural gas from buildings).
- CEPAC feedback included:
 - Add discussion to the CEAP report on the city's shortfall toward the 2030 carbon neutrality goal.
 - Expand the CEAP report with more detail on electrification benefits (local revenue generation, consumer savings).
 - There was also a discussion of how to change the calculator used to determine the operating costs of natural gas versus electric heating equipment.

- **CEPAC Roles and Responsibilities**

- Discussion of potential Municipal Code (Chapter 2) amendments regarding the committee's role and the requirement for Council to consult with advisory committees, driven by frustration over lack of consultation on climate issues.

7. **Meeting Adjourned at 7:00.**

Julie Norman, Volunteer
596 Helman, Ashland, OR 97520
541-488-9474
August 13, 2026

Proposal to CEPAC from Volunteer Residents of Ashland :

**To create a short-term, ad hoc team to
research Ashland's weed abatement practices and
study non-synthetic alternatives
for use on City property**

Whereas ...

An important component of CEPAC's mission is to "represent community interests" in "public health." Numerous residents are concerned about the health risks from poisonous herbicides on 6 acres of City Property. We worry about exposures to the Parks Dept. herbicide applicators, pedestrians, Greenway users, pollinators, pets, and wildlife.

So residents are urging the City Council to phase out Glyphosate-containing weed killers on City Property.

Glyphosate is now spot-sprayed on over 4 acres of our City's landscaped beds, which includes parking lot strips, perimeters around City buildings, a strip on the Greenway, and along streets). Nearly 2 acres of street medians also get spot-sprayed.

Every spray treatment is recorded on a Pesticide Application Record. A map showing the current 25 "spot spray" (Glyphosate) sites was produced by the GIS Department in June. [No list of 25 site names exists, so these two documents need to be reconciled and edited, resulting in a written list of the spray site names.]

The City's current Pesticide Policy (AMC 9.28) and the Parks Department's *Integrated Pest Management Policy (2010)* require an "annual review" of herbicide practices. [To the best of our knowledge, the annual reviews have not been conducted.]

Therefore, be it resolved that:

Residents would like to volunteer to help produce a *2026 Annual Review of Weed Abatement Practices and Alternatives* (as described above).

This documentation will help everyone have a better background for followup discussions with City Council, as they craft the City's new integrated pest management policy (via an ordinance revision and new City "policy" that is "consistent" with the Parks Department *Integrated Pest Management Policy*).

RELEVANT DOCUMENTS, STATUTES AND POLICIES:

1. Ashland Municipal Code 9.28 (adopted by City Council in __?__)
2. Ashland Parks Department *Integrated Pest Management Policy* No. 105 (adopted by the Parks Commissioners in 2010, with revisions in 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2017, 2018, and 2024)
3. Ashland *Herbicide Use Map* (June 2006):
<https://ashlandgis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/instant/basic/index.html?appid=d05ebe01a9544ab3b3c3f0da738e62b2>

If you zoom in on the map using the plus (+) sign 4 times, the background on the map will change to AERIAL PHOTO mode, where you can see the actual bushes, trees, etc. in each of the 25 Glyphosate spray sites.

23 GLYPHOSATE "SPOT-SPRAY" LOCATIONS IN 2025 ON CITY PROPERTY ... NOT PARKS PROPERTY

August 10, 2026 DRAFT - JKN

Total acres: 6.34 Total Glyphosate sprayed: 5.37 gal. (in 275 gal. of water)

A. LANDSCAPED BEDS (4 types):

1. in street medians

1.86 ac.

North Main Exit
Gilligan's Island (at Helman)
North Mountain St. (by Mtn. Mdws.)
Astro Island (at East Main)
Siskiyou Blvd. Fire Island
Siskiyou Blvd. Fire Sta. to 7-11
Siskiyou Blvd. Omar's Island
Ashland Street Bumpouts (where?)
Ashland Street Rocks
Ashland Street Napa Islands

2. in parking lots

S. OR. Chiropractic P.L. (why?) MOU
Pioneer St. P.L.
Second St. P.L.
Grove P.L.
City Yards (east and west)

3. around City office buildings

Police Dept.
Grove Building
City Yard Buildings
Community Devel. Bldg.

4. along Greenway by City Yards

along southside fence (?)

5. along streets

E. Main, N. Mtn., B. St

B. MISCELLANEOUS

Tolman at East Main (blackberries)
Crowson Water Tower & Tank

4.5
ac.

RECAP of meetings :

- Mar 12: Submitted first proposal from volunteer residents to CEPAC
- June 1: Ashland's GIS Department produced "Herbicide Use Map" showing current 25 spot-spray sites using Glyphosate
- June 3: At a joint session of the City Council and Parks Commission, a moratorium on Glyphosate spot-spray on City property was declared.
The staff meeting notice described the current spot-spray program as follows:
The Public Works Dept. initiated the spray program in 2024, and arranged for Parks Dept. staff to do the work.
Amounts of Glyphosate herbicide sprayed:
2024: 256 oz. (in 102 gal. of water)
2025: 687 oz. (in 275 gal. of water)
Area of coverage: 4.5 acres in landscaped beds
1.86 acres in medians
- Aug. 4: The Staff Notice for the City Council Business Meeting declares that the City is requesting 6 exclusions from the NEW City IPM Policy, including continued use of Glyphosate spot-spray for weed control on City property, "as needed."
City Councilors agreed to proceed on crafting a revised AMC 9.28 ordinance and a new IPM policy that is "consistent" with the Parks Dept IPM policy.
- Aug. 10: At a meeting with Parks Director Rachel Dials and Parks Operations Mgr. Kevin Caldwell, we emphasized that we want to continue pressing for documentation of the current spray program, including an Annual Review.
We discussed our desire to reduce the use of Glyphosate in the 25 sites now being sprayed. We volunteered to help with documentation.



Council Business Meeting

Date: August 4, 2026

Agenda Item	Review of Parks Integrated Pest Management Policy for Consideration for City Adoption and proposed Ordinance Update
Department	City Manager's Office
From	Sabrina Cotta

TIME ESTIMATE

10 minutes

CATEGORY

Staff Direction - provide direction to staff on the body's desired next steps.

SUMMARY

At the Joint City Council Park Commission meeting on June 3rd, 2026 the use of herbicides was discussed. Following that discussion Council gave staff direction to bring back the Park Commission Policy for adoption by City Council.

POLICIES, PLANS & GOALS SUPPORTED

BACKGROUND AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The City has been implementing strategies to reduce staff time, water use, and costs for maintaining our street medians and other strategic areas. These strategies include using herbicides to reduce the amount of staff time needed for manual weed maintenance and, in specific medians, converting landscaping to decorative rocks to reduce water use and staff

time. If the Council wishes to move forward with adopting the Integrated Pest Management Policy of the Park Commission for operational purposes City-wide, the City requests the following areas be excluded:

- Reeder Reservoir and adjacent to operational facilities for maintenance-related activities.
- The Airport property adjacent to paved areas and lighting for safety-related purposes.
- Riparian restoration activities as contracted by the City
- Pre-emergent as needed around city facilities for weed control
- Blackberries and other invasives on City property as needed for fire control
- Operations that are required to comply with regulatory agencies such as OHA and DEQ or safety as needed and approved by the City Manager or designee.

FISCAL IMPACTS

The current use of herbicides is estimated to save approximately 1,000 labor hours per year of maintenance of medians, parking lots and other non-park designated areas. If herbicide is not used the weeds will start growing again and that means more time spent on medians and parking lots in the future.

Future Staffing Projections: Operating without herbicide application in medians, parking lots, and other non-park areas is estimated to require an additional full-time employee.

• Volunteer Limitations: The volunteer program is at maximum capacity, managing 52 to 60 work parties annually and over 12,000 hours (equivalent to 5 FTE) of volunteer service throughout the parks system. Expanding this program to offset manual weeding would require an additional full-time employee.

SUGGESTED ACTIONS, MOTIONS, AND/OR OPTIONS

1 direct staff to revise Ordinance AMC 9.28. Pesticide Policy



SAMPLE

City of Ashland
PARKS and RECREATION DEPARTMENT
340 S. Pioneer Street Ashland, OR 97520

Pesticide Application Record
(To be kept for 3 years)

Applicator Joe Skates, Trevor Coster

Date of Application 8-12-25

Time of Application 10

Hour(s) Spent Applying Pesticides 3

Name of Park Maintained Area (one park per application record) Gilligans, Astro, Nags Head Grove PL, APD

CIRCLE AREA BELOW, and write in area from code list sheet

(City Property, Schools, Misc., Golf Course, Parks Div.)

Area of Park Treated (Circle areas on list below)

TW-treewells FL-fencelines Cr-Cracks BI-bleachers Sh-Shrub beds P-Ponds DU-Dugouts

Bf-Baseball fields R-Roses W-Wasps/Hornets A-Annuals P-Paths/Trails TC-Tennis Courts

SB-Sloped Banks Other: _____

Chemical Used: CHOOSE ONE CODE FROM APPROVED CODE LIST or Write in Other: Glyphosate

Mixing Ratio (amount product/amt. water or granular coverage rate) 2.5 oz per gallon etc

Supplier: Amazon

EPA Registration Number Ranger Pro 524-517

Target Species (be specific) grasses, broad leaf weeds, clover

Equipment Used (Circle One Code Below or Write In):

BP-Backpack

SQ-Squeeze Bottle

HA-Handheld

Weather Conditions: wind none
temperature 75°
precipitation none

Total amount of product applied 45 oz.

Comments _____

=====

Current 2026 Pesticide Policy Requirements and Responsibilities:

A. FROM THE PARKS DEPARTMENT IPM POLICY: (2010)

- The Parks Director will oversee an Annual Review and present the results to the Parks Commission. This will include water quality tests, comparisons from previous spreadsheets showing amounts and location of pesticide applications.
- The Parks Director will recommend specific locations, mgmt activities, costs, and targets for reductions of pesticides.
- One Parks employee must be trained and licensed as an OR Pesticide Applicator. in order to oversee and authorize all pesticide uses.
- Parks applicators must be trained.
- Parks applicators must post signs 48 hours before and after spraying.
- Parks applicators must wear protective clothing (rubber gloves, goggles, long-sleeved shirt) and change clothes before interacting with people not on the Parks staff.
- Parks applicators must have event-specific authority for each applicat'n site and create a written record for each application.
- Parks applicators must rinse backpack spray equipment and dispose of the rinse water in an approved target area.
- Parks applicators must attend annual review of policies, procedures, and pesticide reduction strategies
- Pesticides must be stored in safe, labeled, and secure environment.
- Left over pesticide solutions must be locked up in the Mainten. Shop to be used later or disposed of in the Hazardous Materials process.

B. FROM THE ASHLAND MUNICIPAL CODE PESTICIDE POLICY (Ch. 9.28)

- An annual review of pesticide policies and procedures shall be conducted at the department level and be mandatory for all City applicators.
- One City employee must be trained and licensed as an OR Pesticide Applicator, in order to oversee and authorize all pesticide uses.
- A designated City employee will create and oversee a training program for all City applicators, focusing on alternative methods of pest/weed control and safety measures.

City applicators must have event-specific authority for each applicat'n site and create a written record for each application.
City applicators must post signs 48 hours before and after spraying.
City applicators must store pesticides in a safe, secure environment.

Annual review:

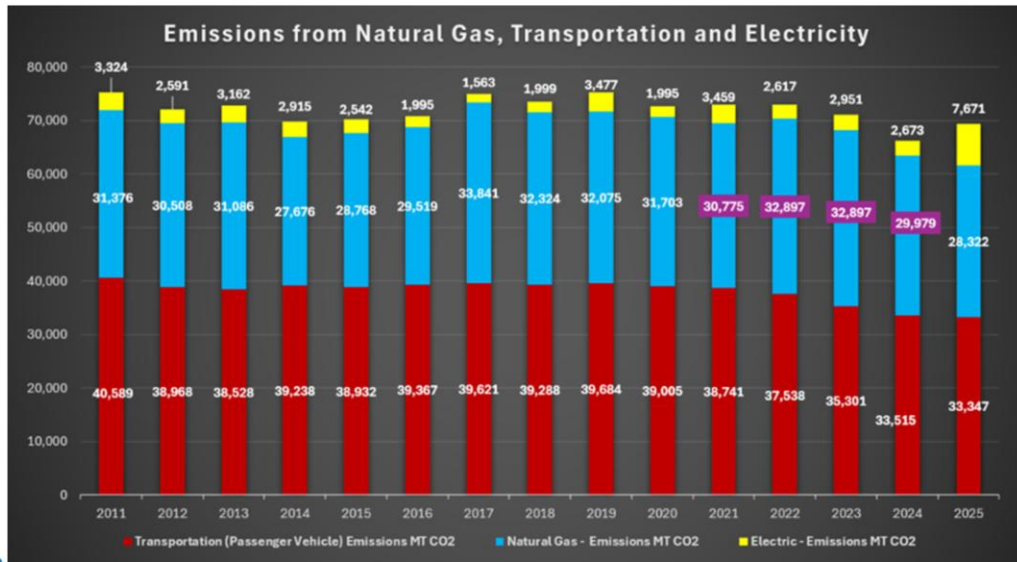
One important recommendation is for immediate preparation of an Annual Review, as required by both the IPM Policy and the Ashland Municipal Code (9.28.080). Due to the many changes in Parks Directors over the past 10 years, these Annual Reviews have not been produced.

The Parks Director in 2010, Steve Gies, stated that the Annual reviews will be "utilized to compare use levels, successful reductions, and successful eliminations of pesticides. The plan will include lists of permitted pesticides for the following year and will be reviews with the Annual Review."

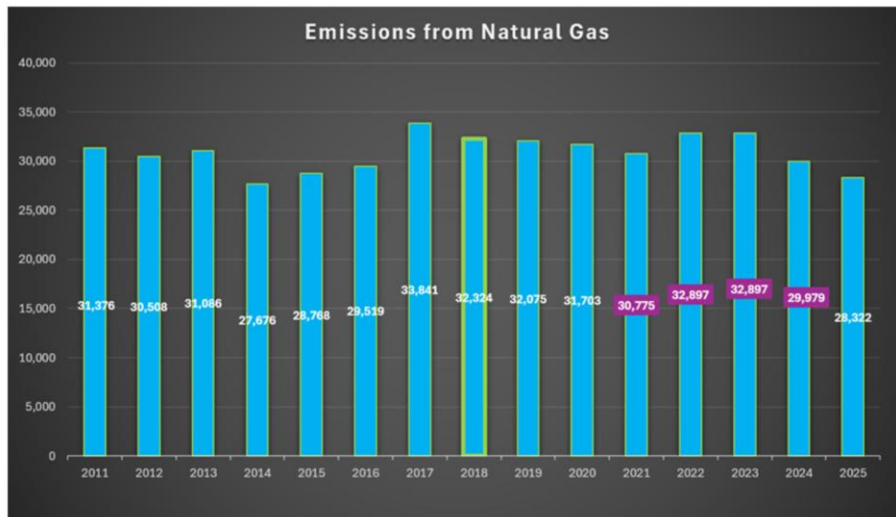


Ashland has been intentional in the way it has charted a deliberate plan for addressing growth and change

- 40+ years



Since 2018 (1st year after CEAP adoptions) our emissions from natural gas have decreased by 4,000 metric tons. WE NEED TO INCREASE THE PACE!



If reducing by 4000 metric tons per 8 years then zero emissions by 2081 (56 years – 7 increments of 8 years)

518 gas heating appliances replaced with heat pumps over 10 years

11.7 reduction since 2020 (last data) even though 10% more heating degree days

Since 2020 - 3382 metric tons reduction over 5 years – if we continue at this pace then we will hit zero emission in nearly 42 years.. By 2074 (8.37 increments of 5 years)

Need to increase the pace! Hopefully that is what we see moving forward and would expect this process to accelerate.

Commercial	Meters	Therms	Therms/Meter
2020	842	2,568,585	3,050.58
2025	825	2,397,110	2,905.59
% Reduction	2.0	6.7	5.2
Residential	Meters	Therms	Therms/Meter
2020	6,917	3,406,373	492.46
2025	6,795	2,940,694	432.77
% Reduction	1.8	13.7	12.1

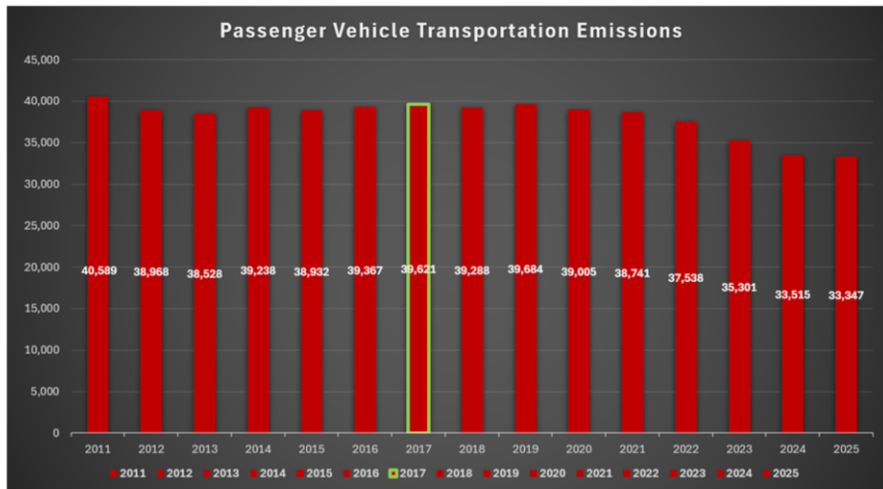


Change from draft emailed – 13.7% and 2940694 therms.

Need to move faster!

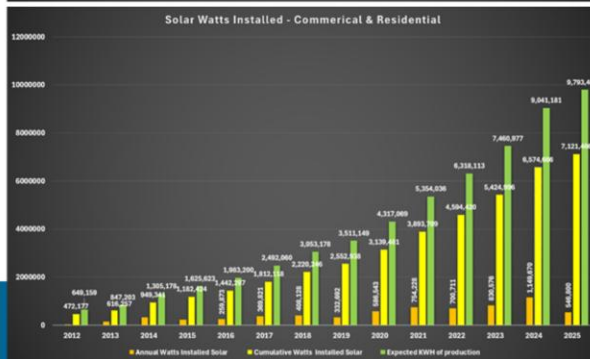
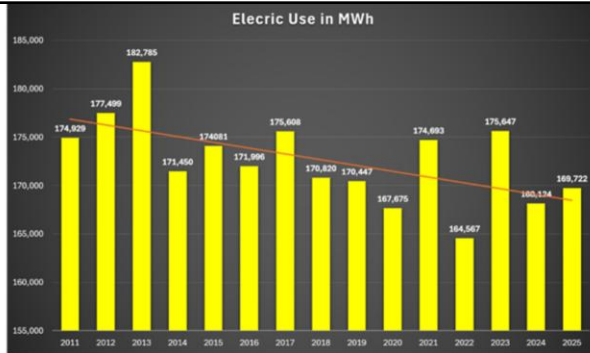
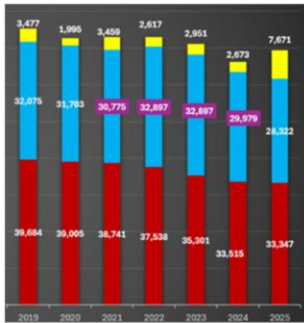
Expand reach to more people more quickly. Residential focus, with commercial work, but need to focus on commercial more moving forward.

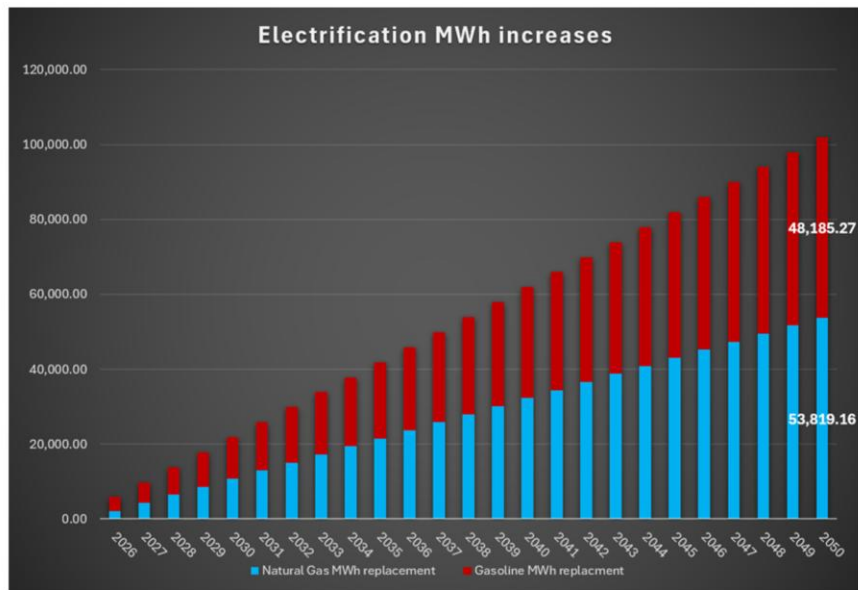
Transportation tailpipe emissions from passenger vehicles have dropped by 5,939 metric tons since 2018!



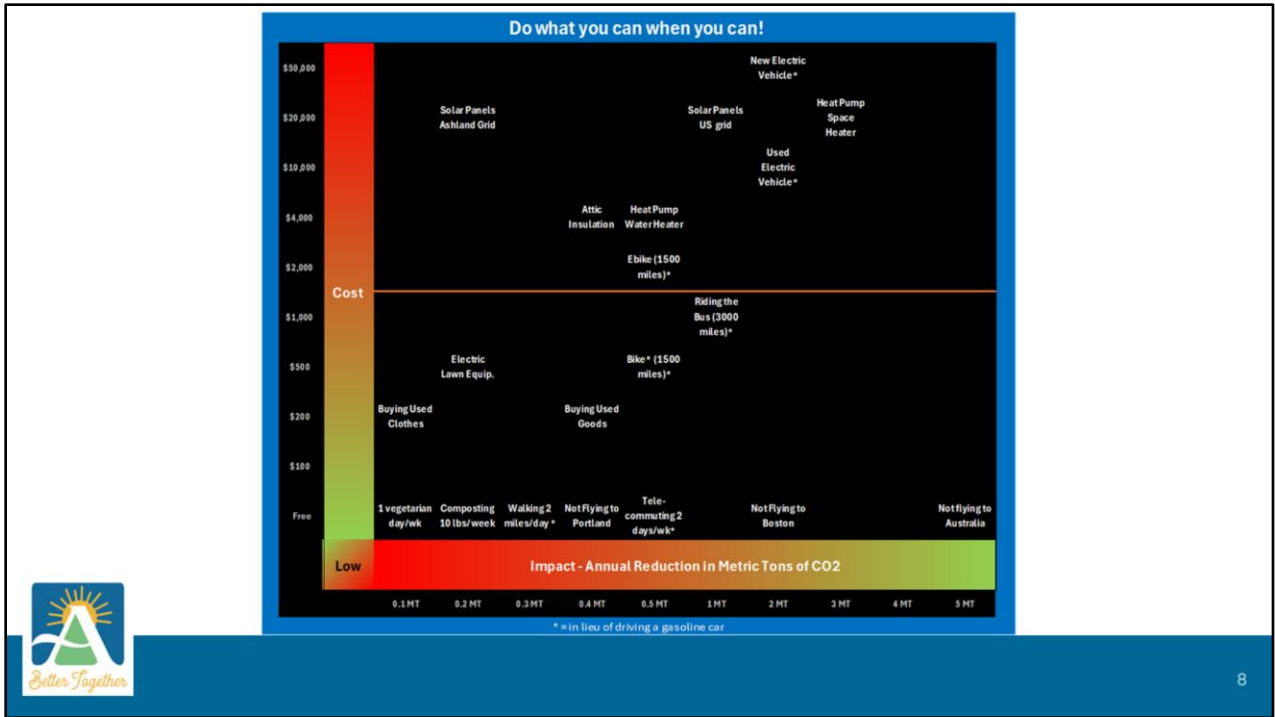
2018 = 5939 in 8 years (5.6 increments to zero = 44.8 years) = zero emissions by 2070

Need to move faster! Hopefully that is what we see moving forward and would expect this process to accelerate.



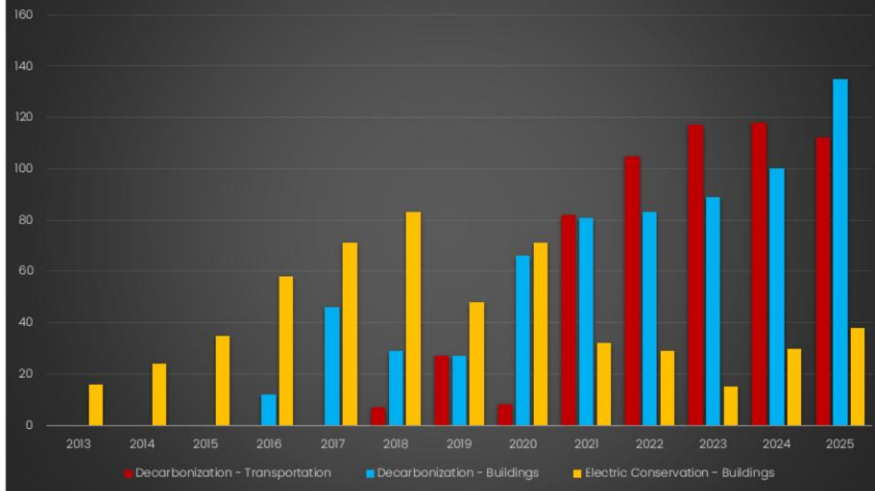


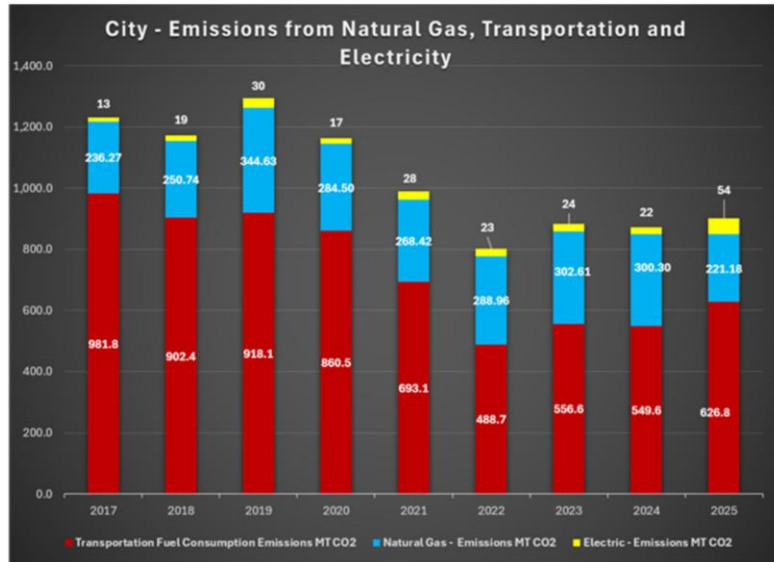
If only more 50,000 MWh sold by city by 2050 at .10/kWh then revenue from 50,000,000 kWh = 5,000,000 annual gross revenue and 500,000 franchise revenue/and 1,250,000 in city tax annually.

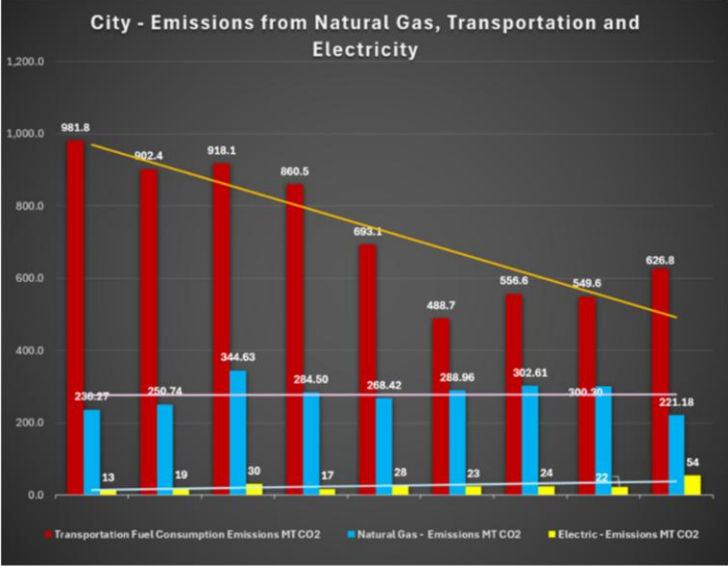


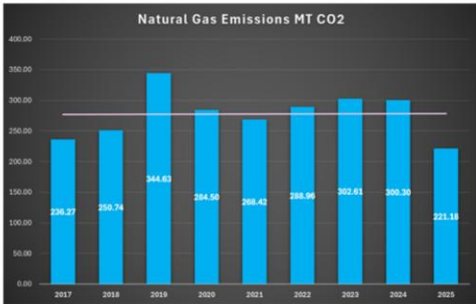
Outreach and education
Incentives line

Shifting Incentive Focus

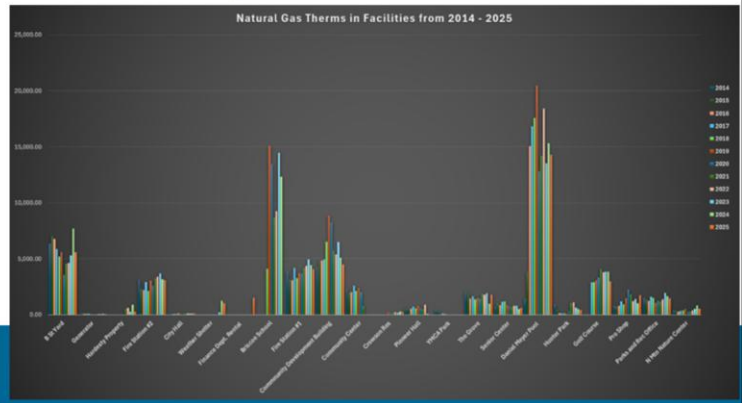




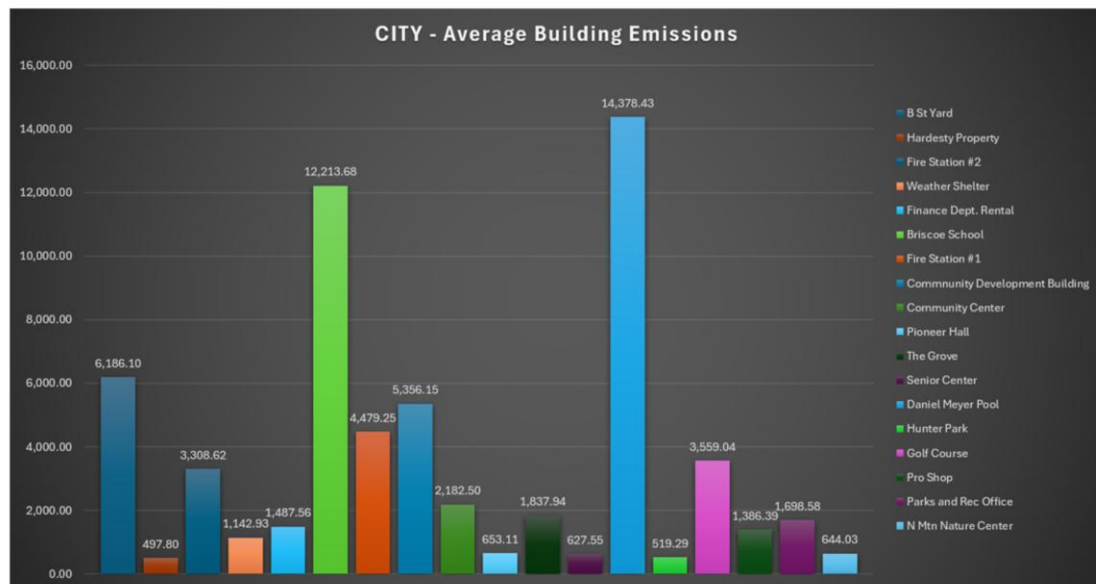




City of Ashland Facilities with Natural Gas		
Owned and Occupied	Owned and Not Occupied	Rented for City Use
1 Daniel Meyer Pool	Shakespeare Admin Buildings	Finance/Legal/HR building
2 B Street Yard	Black Swan Chamber	
3 Community Development	Airport Terminal Building	
4 Fire Station #1	Briscoe School	
5 Fire Station #2		
6 Golf Course		
7 The Grove		
8 Golf Course Pro Shop		
9 Parks and Rec Office		
10 Weather Shelter		Sold
11 Senior Center		YMCA Park
12 El Men Nature Center		
13 Hunter Park		
14 Hardesty Property		
15 Crowson Reservoir		
16 City Hall		
17 Generator		
18 Community Center		
19 Pioneer Hall		



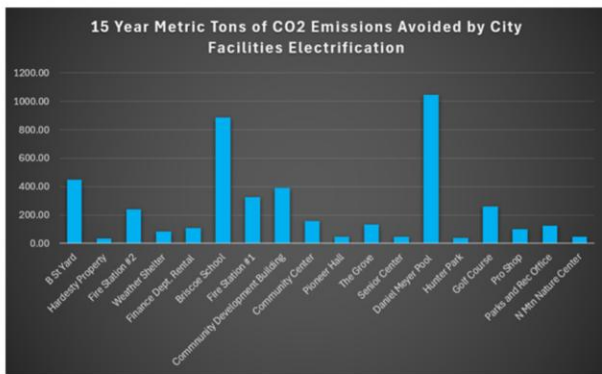
In short, looking at the current year's billable therms alone doesn't show the full picture of how the city is doing with building emissions and perhaps more importantly how the city can make emissions reductions.



2-3 year average of representative years for each building.

Heating @ 2.5 COP																				
Heat Pump @ 2.5 COP	Gas							Conversion Therms to KWH	Electric Cost Per KWH	Annual Cost to Replace NG Therms at 95% efficiency - Electric Heat Pump Heating - Coefficient of Performance (COP) = 2.5										Long Term Cost Savings
	NG \$/therm	Annual Therms Used	NG cost	NG Cost with Franchise of 5% in useage + 2% on bill	NG cost with Franchise of 10% = 7% on bill	Total City Revenue @ 5% Franchise Fee	Net Power Cost			Appliance Efficiency	Heat Pump KWH @ 2.5 cop	HP Cost @ 2.5 COP	Total Revenue	Net Power Cost	Revenue as % of cost	Energy Net Cost Savings Over Gas	Energy Cost Savings Over Electric Resistance	15 years savings		
\$1.27	2,182	\$2,771.14	\$2,826.56	\$2,965.12	\$140.33	\$2,685.23	0.80	29.31	0.1000	20,465.41	\$2,046.54	\$204.65	\$1,841.89	10	\$843.35	\$2,762.83	\$12,650.21			
Emissions in MT CO2							10.91			0.3438	Heat Pump = 29 times fewer emissions each year than gas = annual reduction:				10.57	Total MT CO2	158.49			
Community Center														Social Cost of Carbon/MT (SCC)		\$208.00		\$208.00		
														Annual SCC		\$2,197.77		\$32,966.48		
														Energy + Base + SCC		\$3,305.11		\$49,576.70		
																		158.49		

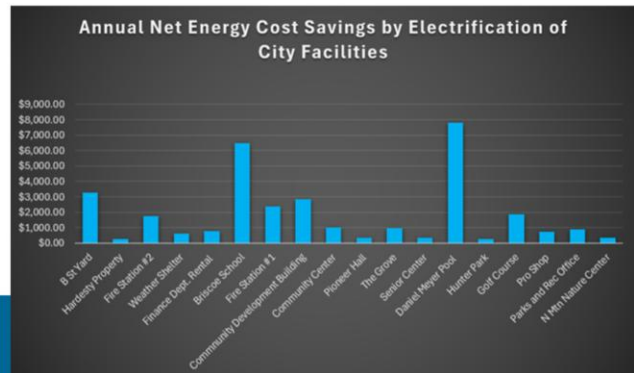
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Electrifying city buildings can save on operating costs and will reduce emissions.

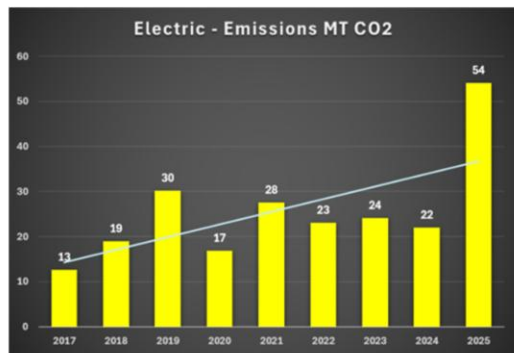


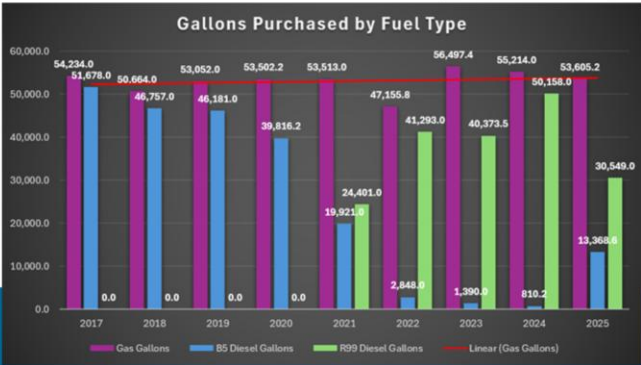
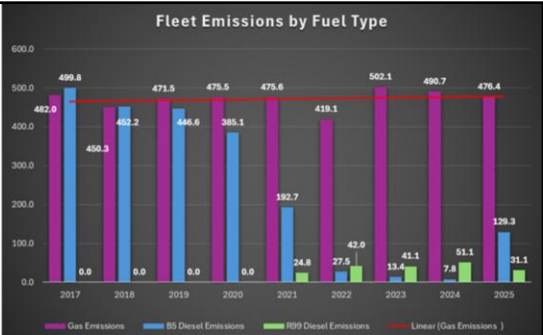
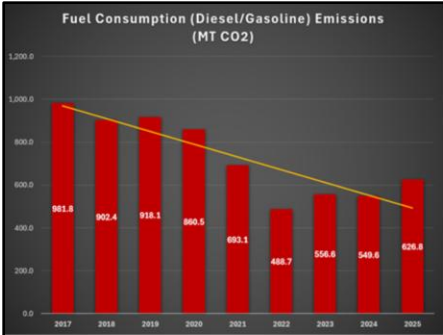
	Total Energy Cost & Emissions Savings From Electrification	Realized Energy Cost & Emissions Savings (Community Center - Pioneer Hall)	Future Energy Cost & Emissions Savings From Electrification
Average Annual Therms Avoided	62,158.96	2,835.61	59,323.35
Annual Net Savings	\$32,971.18	\$1,374.12	\$31,597.06
15 Year Net Savings	\$496,474.25	\$22,518.11	\$473,956.14
Annual Metric Tons Avoided	300.99	13.73	287.26
15 Year Metric Tons Avoided	4515.01	205.97	4,309.04
Value of Carbon Avoided in 15 Years	\$950,347.59	\$42,841.47	\$907,506.12
15 Year Savings + Value of Carbon	\$1,446,821.84	\$65,359.58	\$1,381,462.26



Cost comparisons for new equipment should include operating costs and likely also include the social cost of carbon in deciding options.

Net result after 15 years would be avoiding 4,515 metric tons of carbon emissions. Annual energy operating costs are reduced by \$32,971 per year. Over 15 years this amounts to a reduced operating cost of \$496,474.





Vehicle Purchases Since 2019 (Low Speed/Light/Heavy)	
EV	12
Hybrid	17
Gasoline	38
Diesel	31
TOTAL	98

2019 Unleaded Gallons Used			
Rank	Dept	Gallons	Annual Emissions in Metric Tons of CO2
1	Police	22,193	197.23
2	Parks	6,630	58.92
3	Electric Operations	6,492	57.69
4	Water Distribution	3,258	28.95
5	AFN Internet	2,293	20.38
6	Streets Operations	2,051	18.23
7	Wastewater Collections	1,755	15.60
8	Fire Emergency Services	1,660	14.75
9	Police Support	1,346	11.96
	TOTALS	47,678	423.71



QUESTIONS?



Ashland has been intentional in the way it has charted a deliberate plan for addressing growth and change

- 40+ years