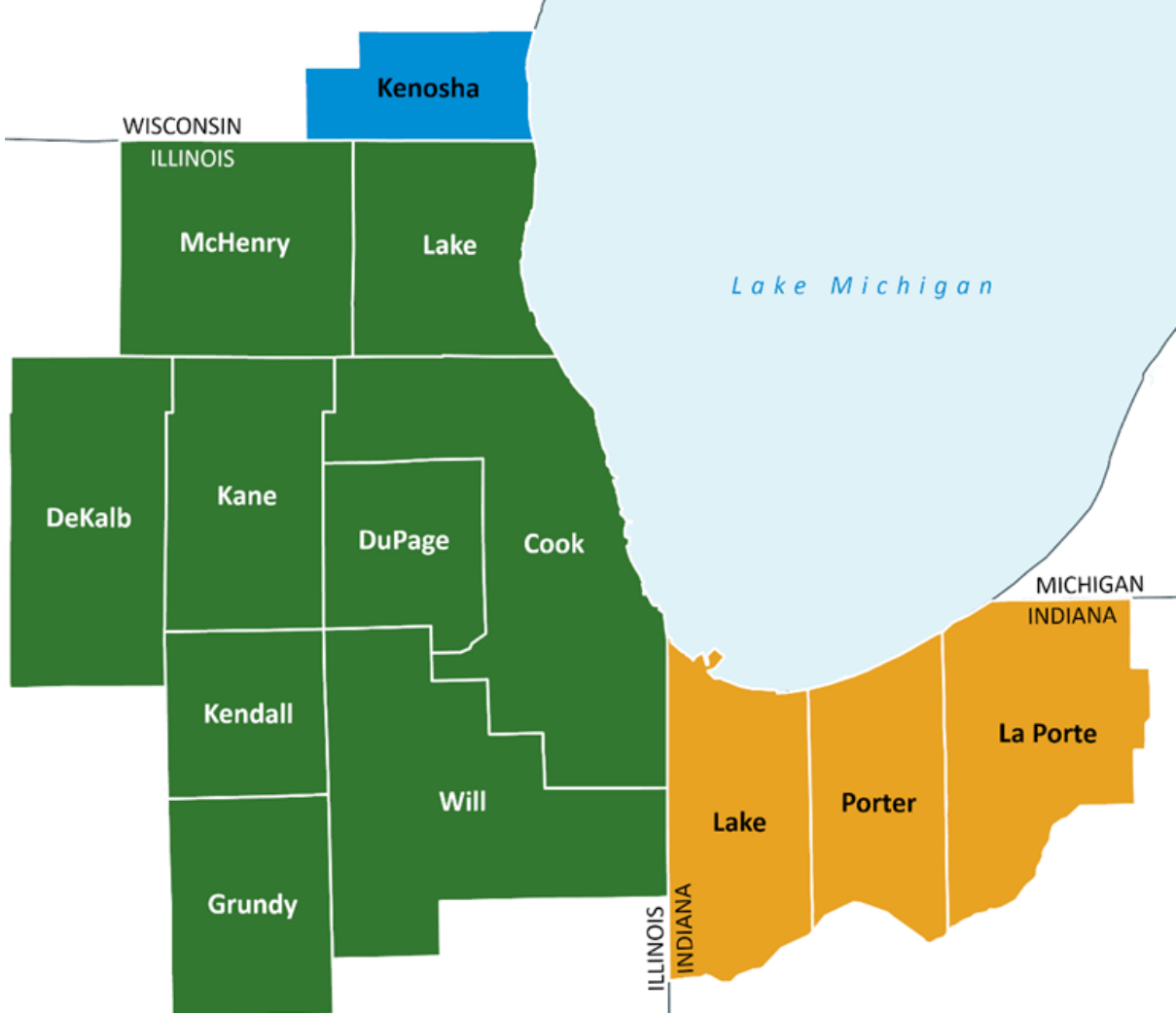
Comprehensive Climate Action Plan
for Greater Chicago

NWPA Technical Advisory Committee

July 28, 2026



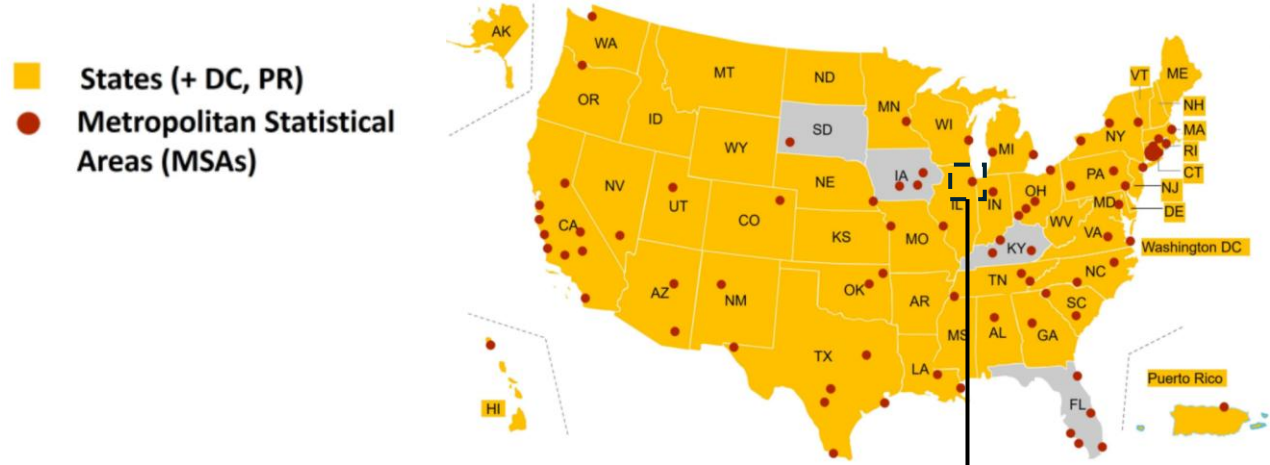
CLIMATE POLLUTION REDUCTION GRANTS
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

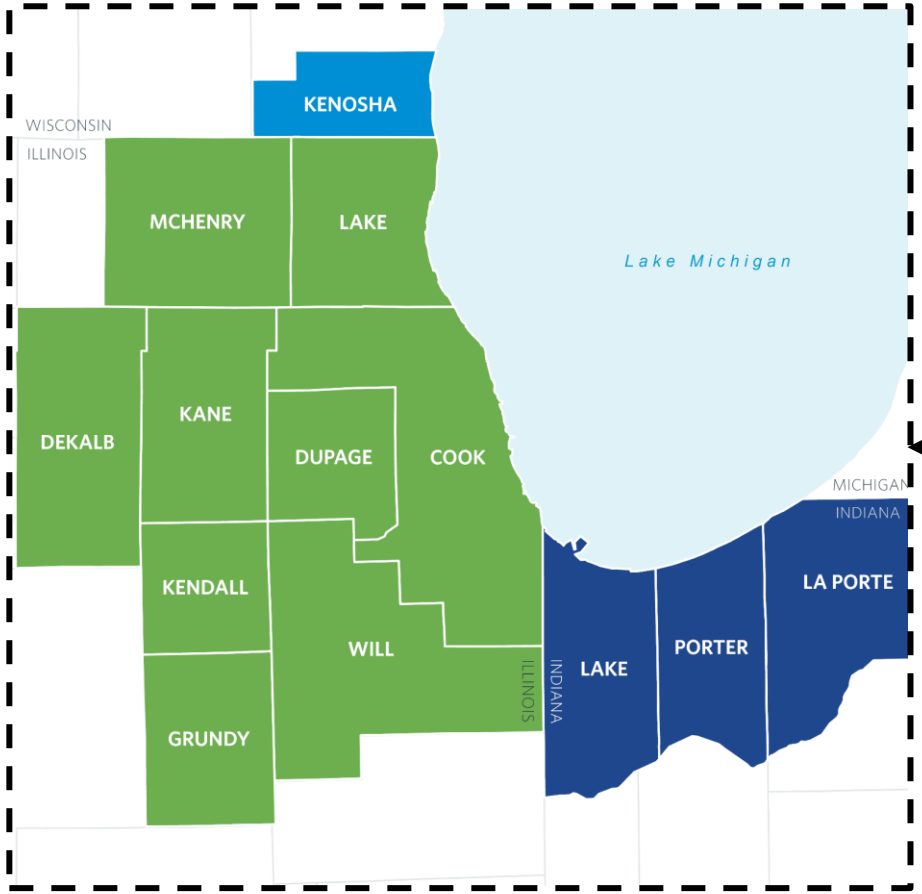
COMPREHENSIVE CLIMATE ACTION PLAN FOR GREATER CHICAGO

A regional response to a global challenge

Funded by USEPA's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant

Partnership: CMAP, Metropolitan Mayors Caucus, and Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission





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Climate change is here — but so is our plan to act

- Path to cut greenhouse gases and air pollution
- Strengthen regional competitiveness
- Immediate public health benefits

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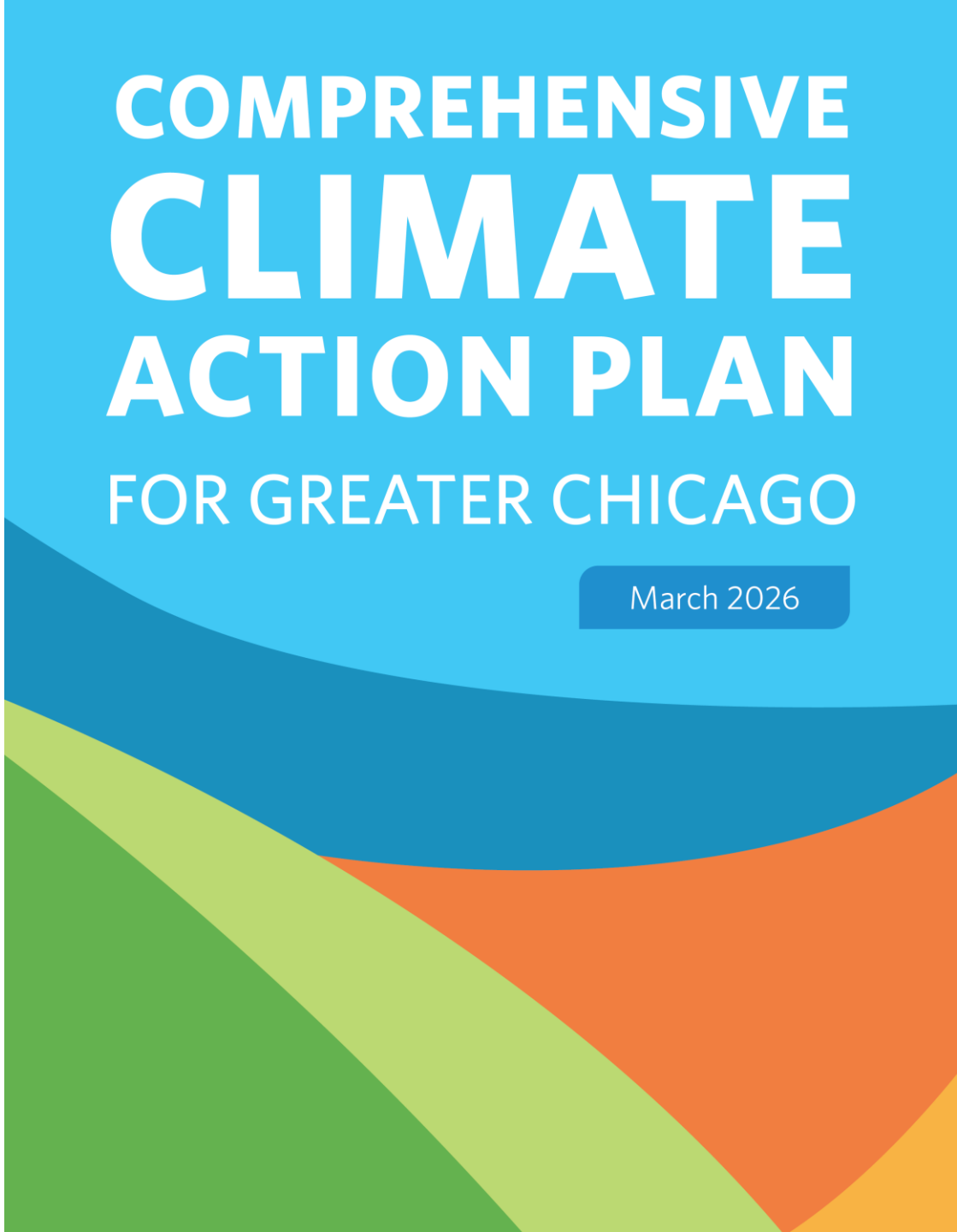
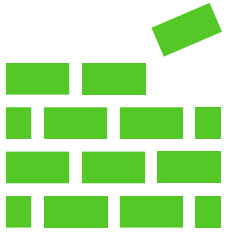


Grounded in data, collaboration, and impact

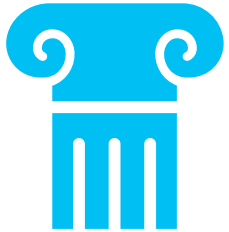
Impact

Target the strategies that make the biggest difference



Build on precedent

Elevate what's already working across the region and learn from proven policies in other states



Influence

Provide a coordinated regional message to shape state and federal policy

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Regional emissions and the path to 2050

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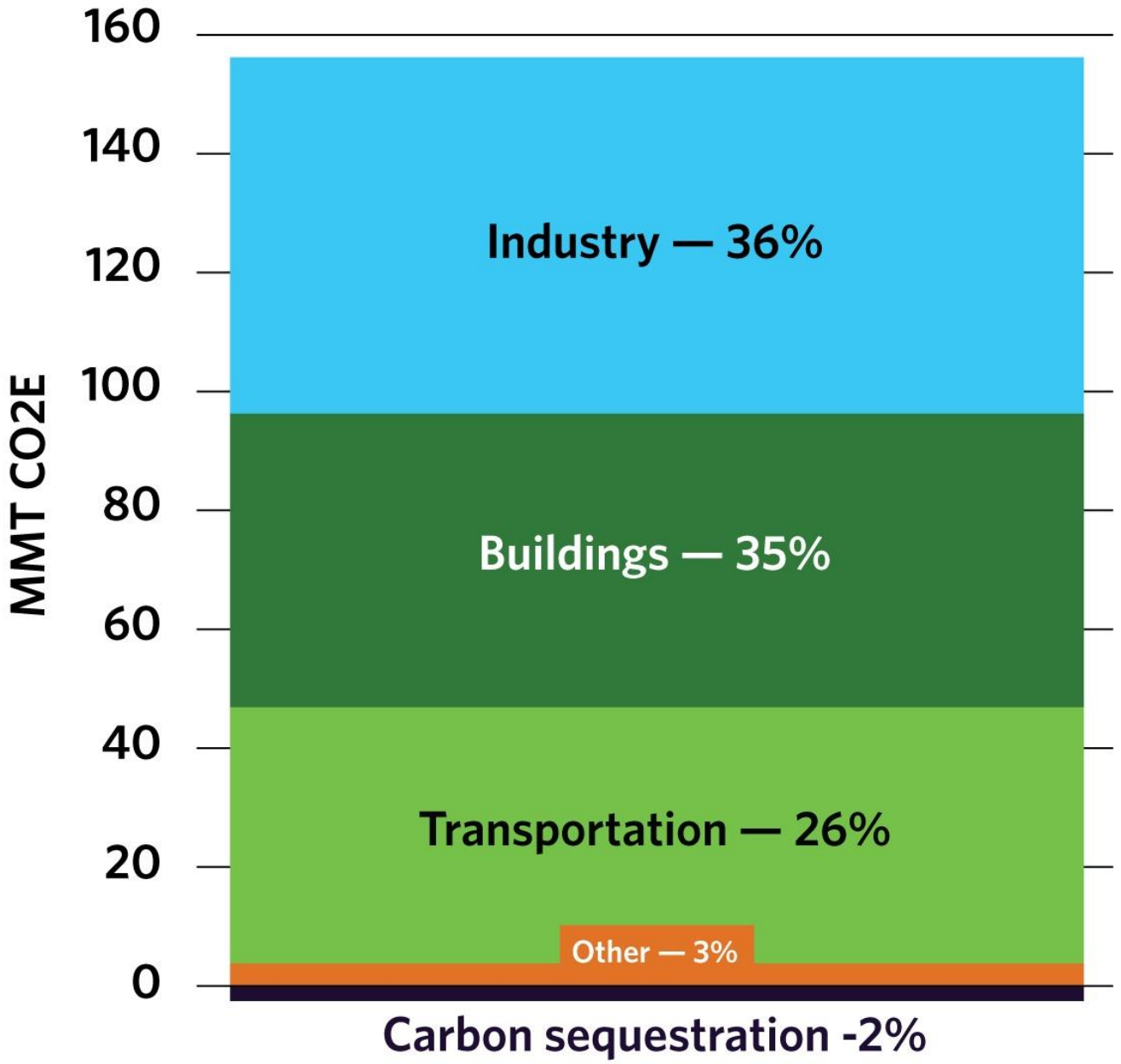
Where do emissions come from?

Region produces 152 million metric tons of CO2e annually

Three main sectors: industry, buildings, and transportation



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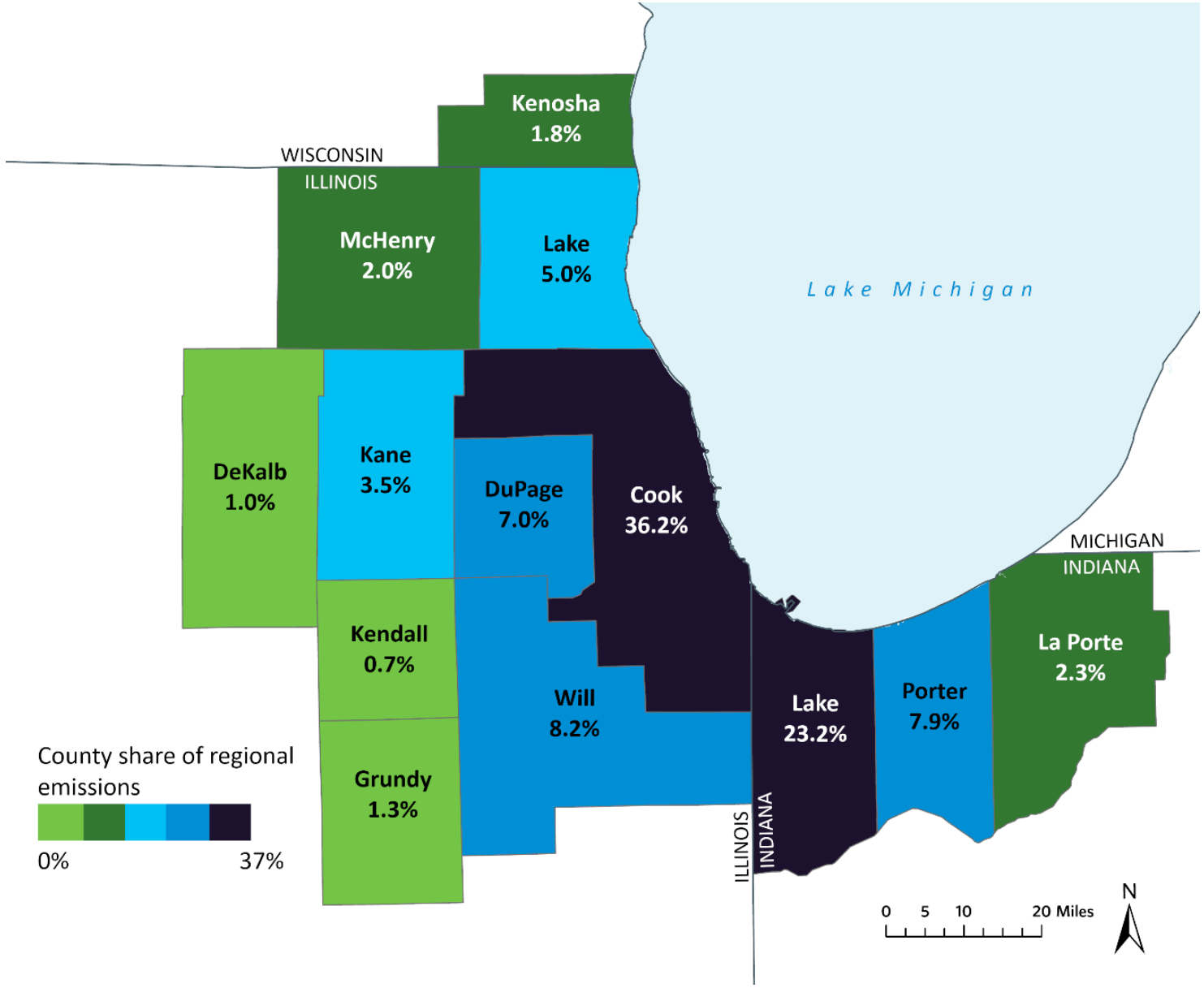
Where do emissions come from?

Local context matters

Cook produces most emissions

Porter and Lake, IN: highest emissions per capita



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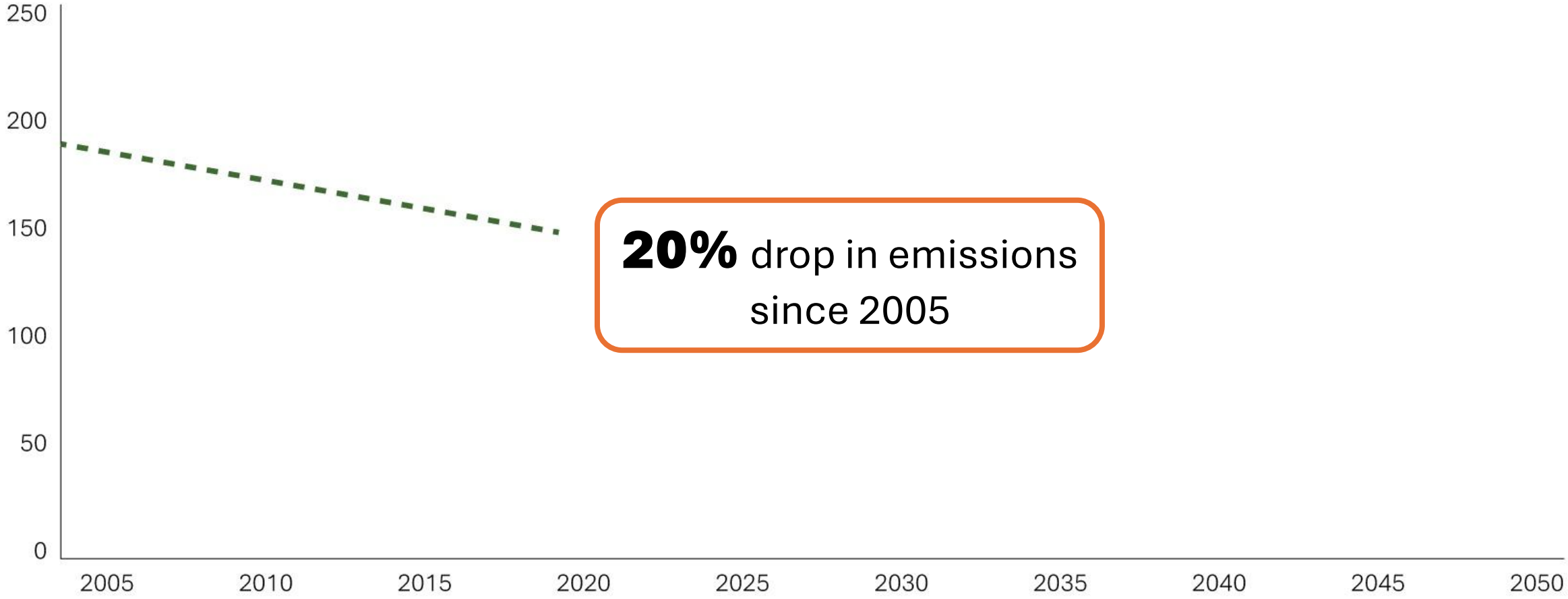
We've already made progress



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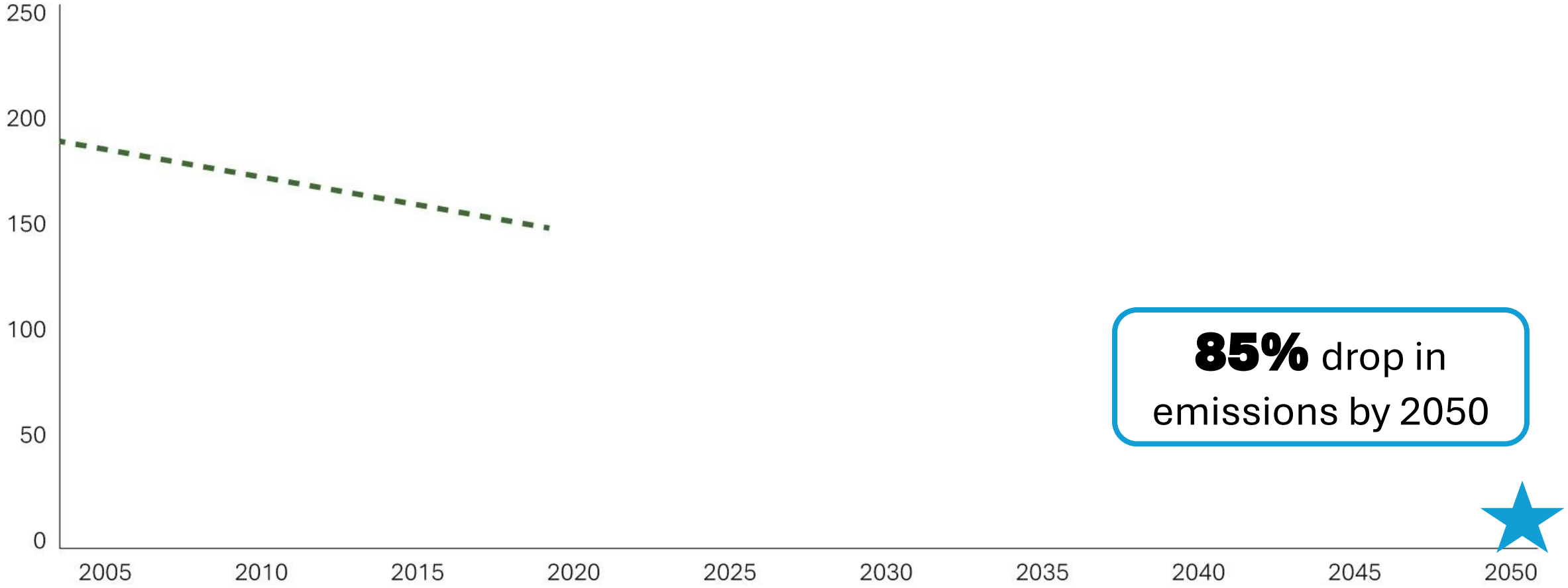
Our target for 2050



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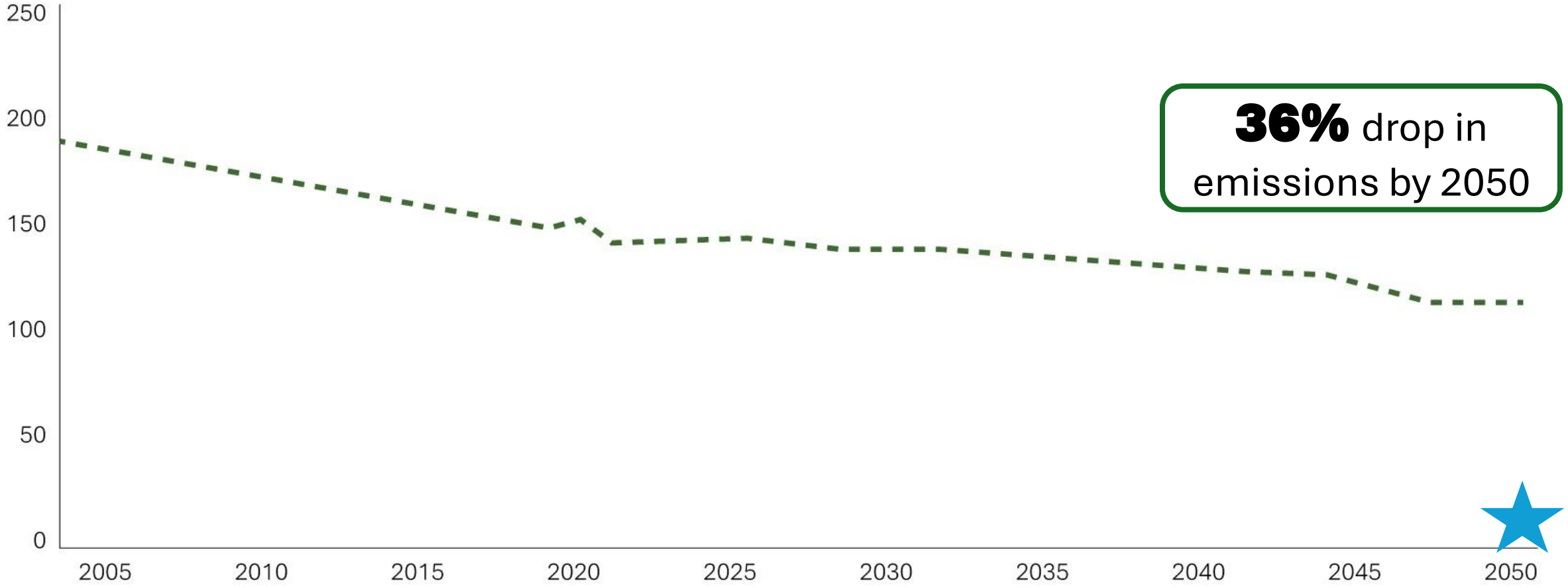
Current policy is not enough



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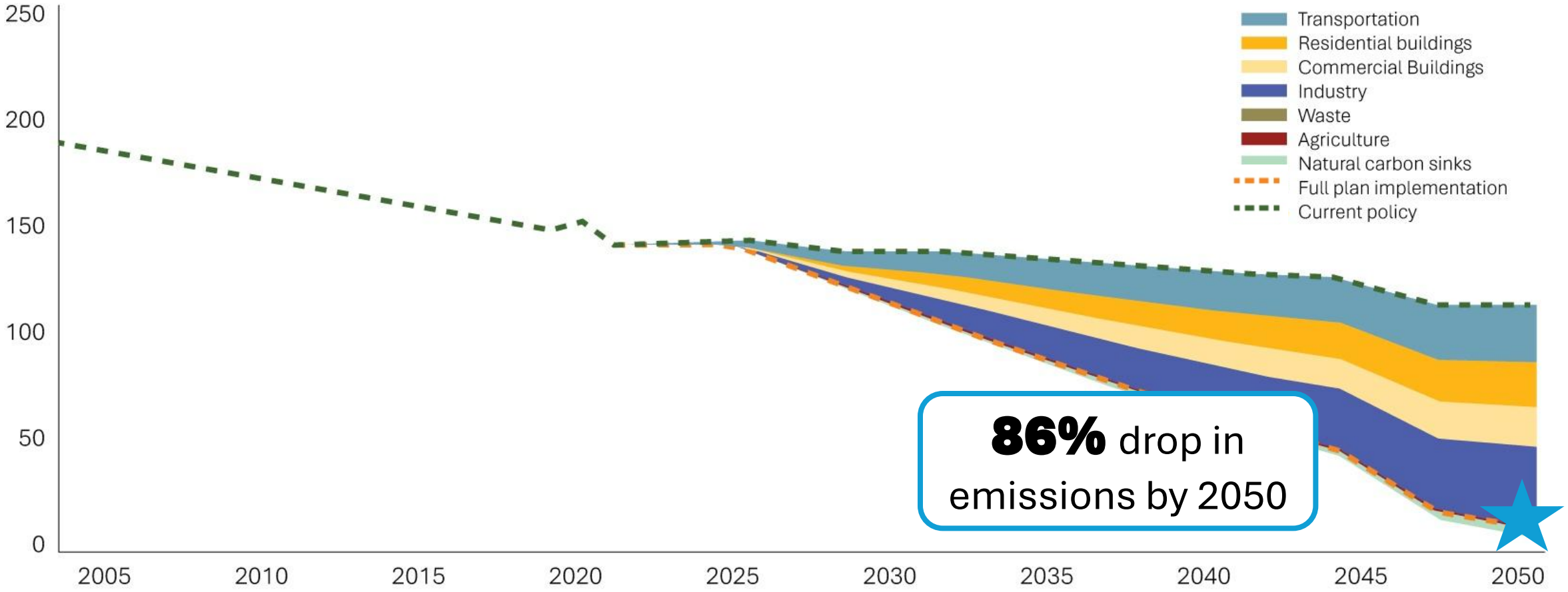
Full plan implementation meets the target



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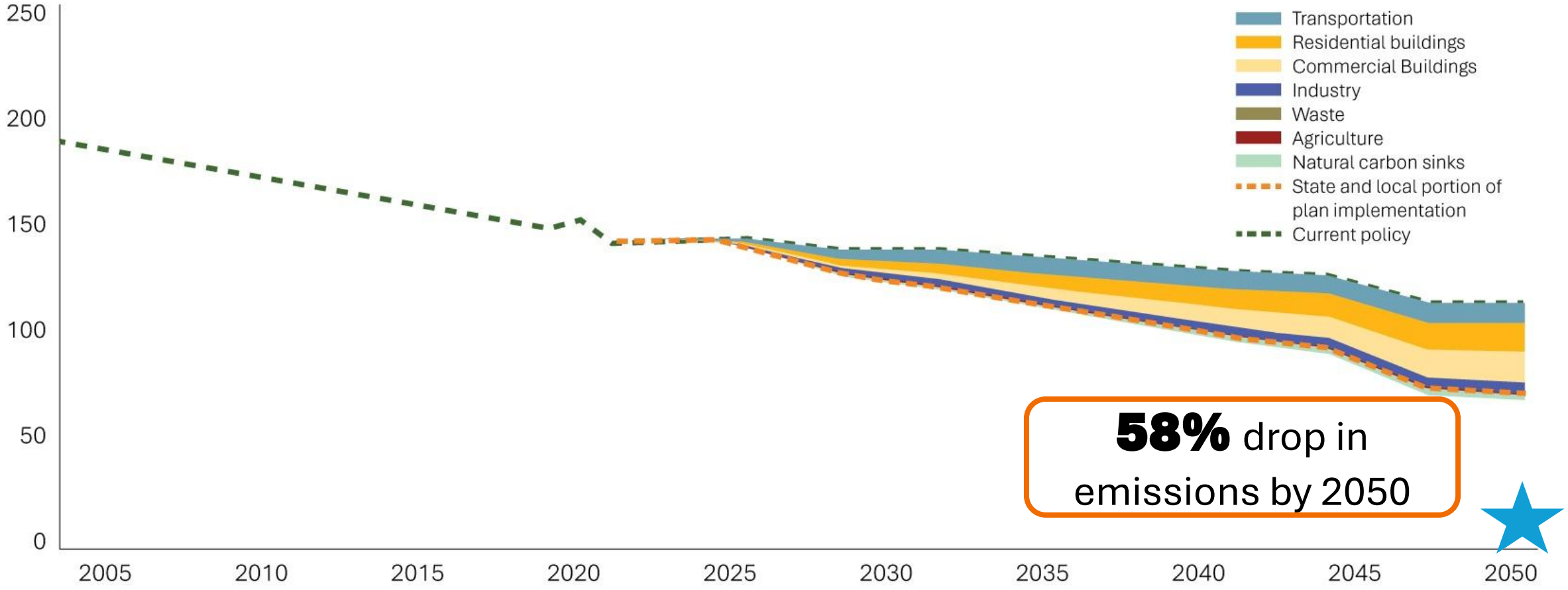
State and local action is important



58% drop in emissions by 2050

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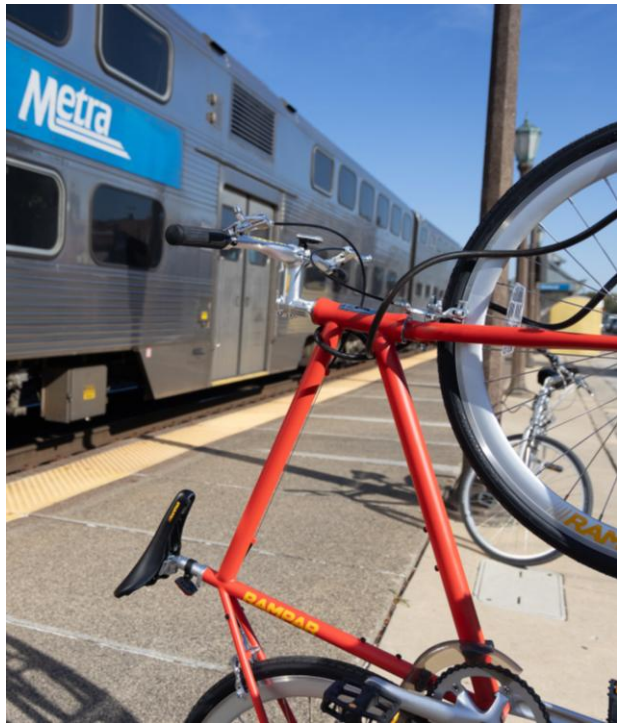
Core actions

1. Clean and modernize the grid
2. Improve building efficiency
3. Switch to clean heat
4. Reimagine mobility
5. Electrify vehicles
6. Decarbonize industry



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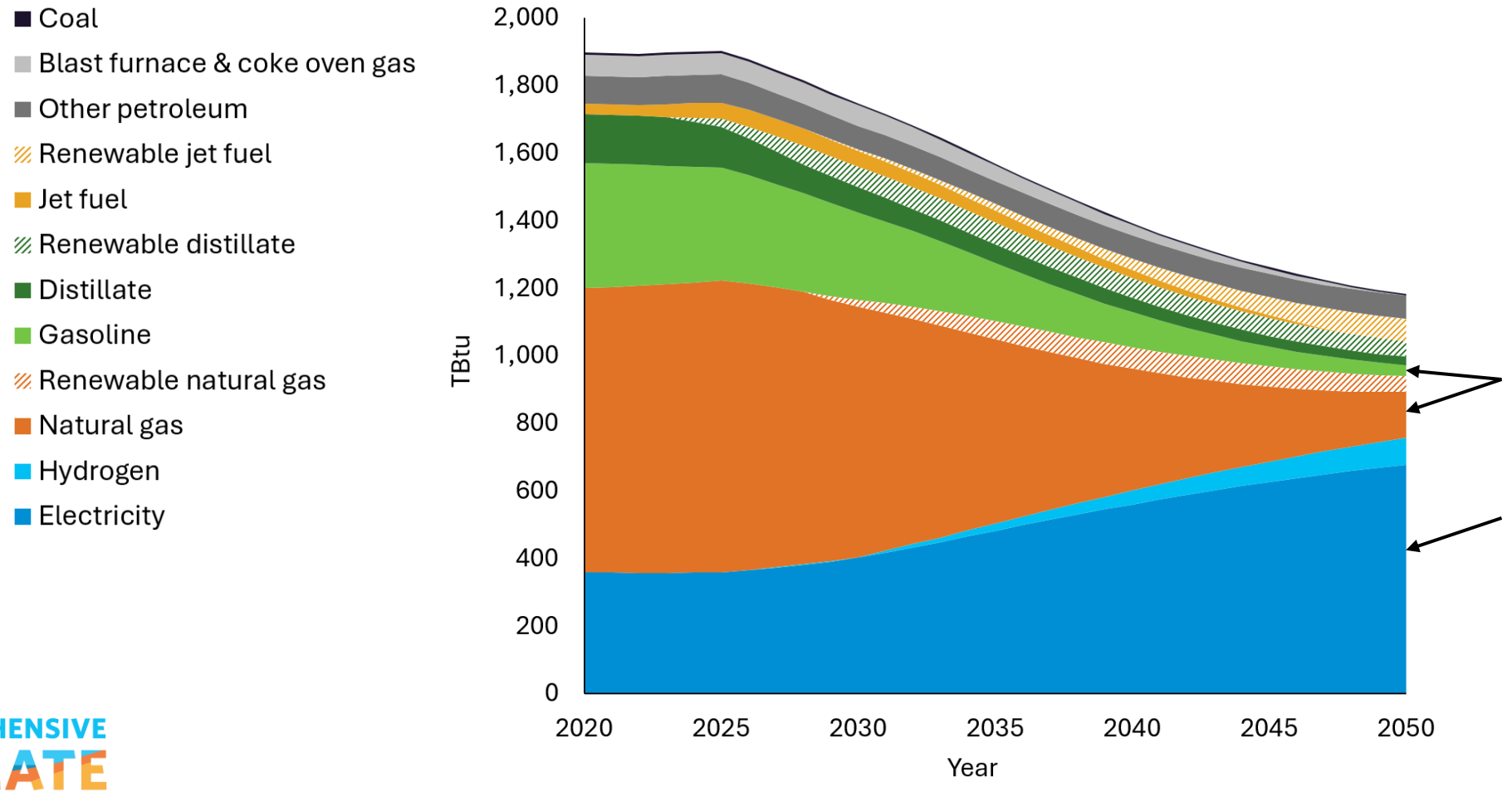
Clean and modernize the grid

Energy demand by fuel for the plan implementation scenario



Natural gas, gasoline use decrease

Increase reliance on clean electricity

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Improve building efficiency

- Weatherize ~50% of all residential buildings
- Weatherize most commercial buildings
- Apply building performance standards to nearly 500,000 large buildings

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Photo credit: Colin Boyle via Block Club Chicago

Switch to clean heat

- Require all-electric new construction
- Shift most appliance sales to electric by 2035
- Install 3.5 million+ heat pumps by 2050

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Photo credit: Nick & Eddie Construction via Chicago Bungalow Association

Reimagine mobility

- Reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT) growth by 5% by 2035 and 16% by 2050
- Reduce car trips through road pricing and investments in transit, biking, walking, and compact development

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Photo credit: Erik Allix Rogers via Chicago Streets Blog

Electrify vehicles

- Require 100% of new light-duty vehicles sold by 2035 to be EVs
- By 2050, cumulative sales need to exceed 10 million light-duty EVs
- Establish state and local incentives to sustain EV purchases and charging infrastructure adoption levels

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Decarbonize industry

- Cut manufacturing energy demand by 15% by 2050
- Electrify low-temperature processes
- Require all iron and steel production to be net-zero emissions by 2050
- Establish state “Buy Clean” programs

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Photo credit: Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity

Strengthening resilience and resources management is climate action

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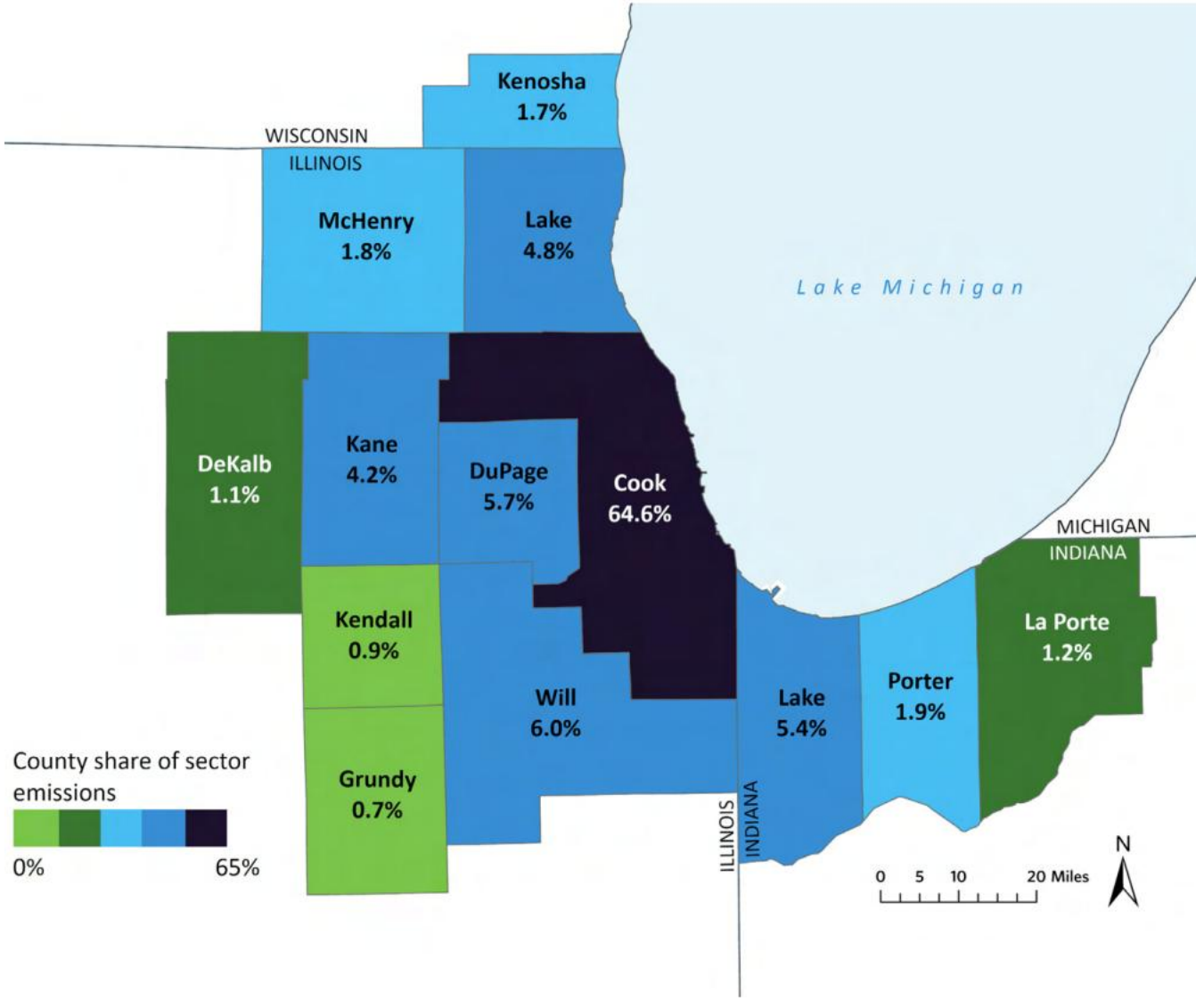
Water and wastewater sector

1.1% or 1.70 MMT CO2e of region's total emissions

- 84% comes from wastewater
- 16% comes from drinking water

Cook produces most emissions



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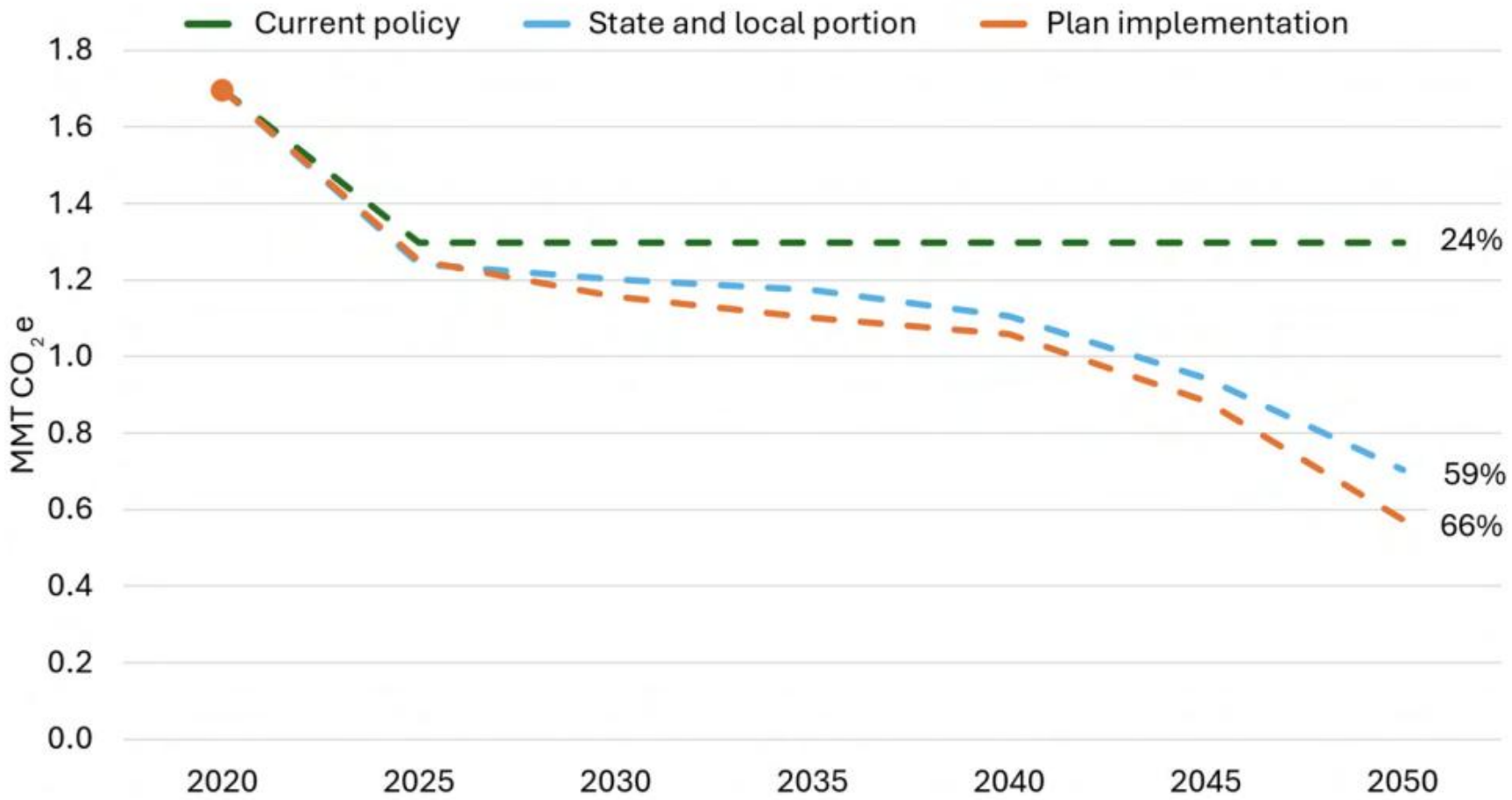
Greater Chicago needs a 66% reduction in water and wastewater emissions by 2050



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Integrated water management approach is key

- Modernize facilities and processes
- Increase energy efficiency of facility buildings and equipment
- Reduce water use
- Expand water reuse
- Improve water quality

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Declining demand is offset by new users and contaminants

Water demand in the CMAP region declined 17% since 2007

New larger water users threaten these gains

Emerging contaminants increase energy use

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Opportunities for regional collaboration

Learn together

Coordinate investments

Speak with one regional voice

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Discussion

- What implementation challenges is your community encountering that you think other local governments are likely facing too?
- Where do you see the biggest opportunity for collaboration across jurisdictions?

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Read the plan to learn more!

Scan the QR code

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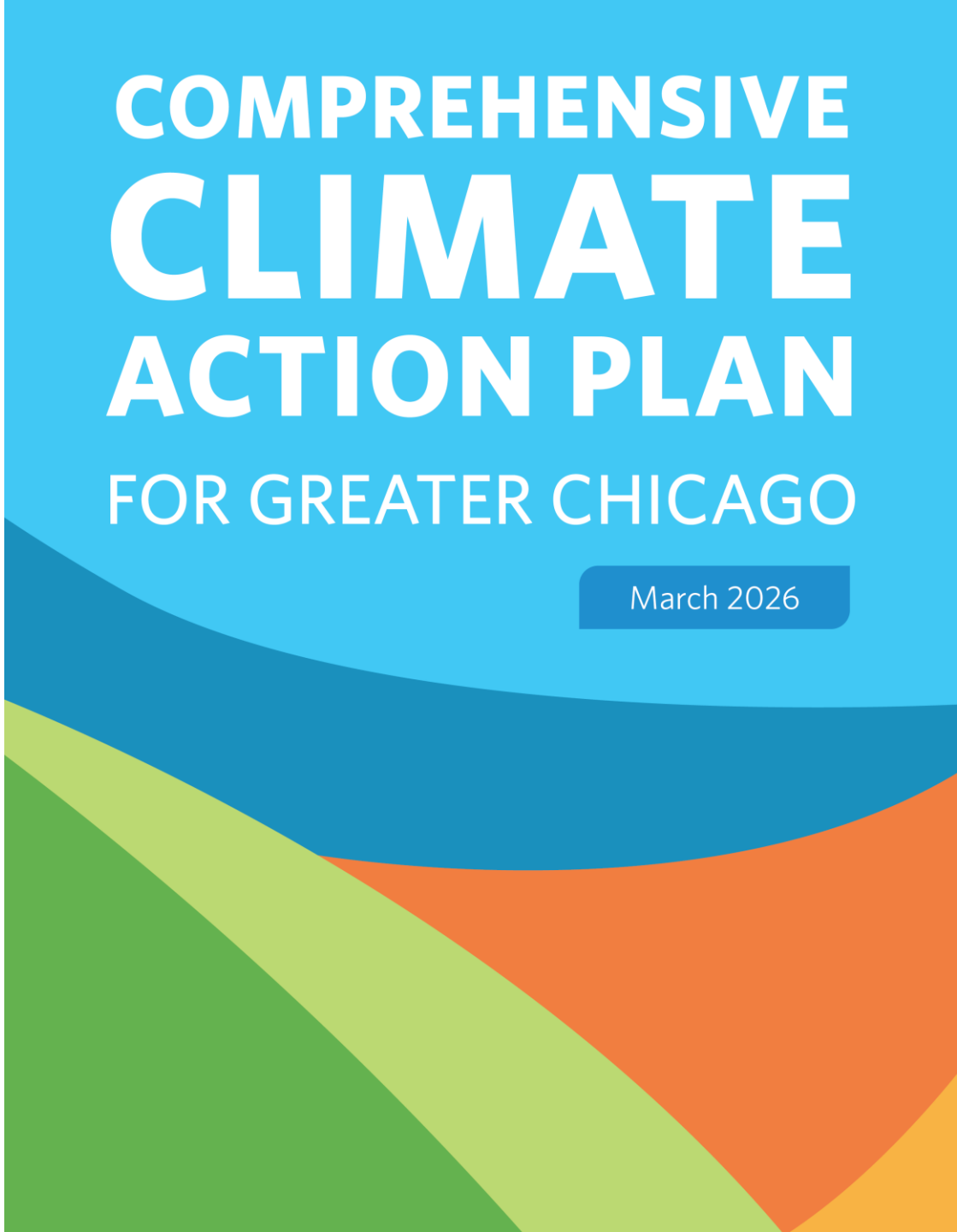

Thank you

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