



Figure 3-2. GHG emissions, goals, and reductions by sector: 2005–2050.

## GHG Emissions Reduction Actions

Alameda is actively developing and implementing GHG emissions reduction programs in the key emissions sectors: transportation, building energy use, and waste. The many programs and projects the City will implement are referred to as "already committed to actions"—actions that the City has already committed to outside of this planning process but has not yet implemented. The already committed to actions, in combination with new actions presented in the CARP, provide the roadmap for achieving the 2030 and 2050 GHG emissions reduction goals.

### City Actions Already Committed To

Three programs currently underway in Alameda reduce GHG emissions: AMP's delivery of 100 percent clean power by 2020, the TCP, and the ZWIP Update. Table 3-3 shows the specific actions implemented under these programs and the annual reductions they are predicted to achieve in 2030 and 2050.

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# Introduction

Climate change is a threat to all of us, worldwide and here at home in Alameda. Every day, human behavior accelerates climate change by releasing harmful greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions that warm the Earth's atmosphere and cause severe impacts. Rising sea and groundwater levels, unhealthy air quality from wildfires, more intense rainstorms, warmer weather, and longer droughts are just some of the impacts our city is experiencing—and will continue to experience—if we don't act now to mitigate our contributions to climate change. As an island city in San Francisco Bay, Alameda is especially vulnerable to flooding.

Thankfully, Alameda has a rich history of community support for environmental stewardship, and the City is responding by taking bold action. That is why the City of Alameda has developed this *Climate Action and Resiliency Plan* (CARP).

## Our Vision

The City will use the CARP to position Alameda as an innovative climate leader, paving the way for cities around the region, state, and country to follow our example. The plan adopts an integrated approach known as the "Climate Safe Path," which emphasizes *mitigating* GHGs to achieve net zero carbon emissions in the future, as well as *adapting* our city to handle the climate change impacts we already experience today. The end result will be a resilient, sustainable, and vibrant city that has low vehicle traffic, well-functioning infrastructure, and beautiful natural amenities—a place where Alamedans can thrive for generations.

Importantly, the CARP aims to be equitable, inclusive, and community-driven. Throughout its development, the City partnered with key groups, such as the Community Action for a Sustainable Alameda (CASA) coalition and other community groups, to obtain public feedback and gauge community concerns. The City also made sure to continually address the disproportionate impacts that climate change may have on Alameda's vulnerable, socioeconomically disadvantaged populations.

By committing to resilience, sustainability, and social equity in our efforts to combat climate change, we are creating a historic moment here in Alameda. Although we must adapt and make some difficult, costly decisions to protect our city, the Climate Safe Path represents a vital down payment on our future.

## Reducing GHG Emissions

If global GHG emissions do not decrease, and if we do not prepare for sea level rise and more intense storms, many parts of Alameda will see frequent flooding in the near future, and some parts could be permanently underwater by mid-century. The most effective long-term strategy for keeping our city above water is to achieve zero GHG emissions worldwide. Our city's role in that effort is to aggressively reduce its own emissions by adopting innovative programs and paving the way for others to follow.

## Current Status and Projections

Alameda has been working to reduce its GHG emissions since 2008. We estimate that by 2020, our emissions will have decreased by 23 percent below the baseline year of 2005. This is largely because our energy is getting cleaner, as Alameda Municipal Power (AMP) shifts to providing 100 percent clean electricity to all Alamedans. If that continues, our remaining production-based emissions—i.e., emissions