



MEMORANDUM COUNTY OF ERIE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

TO: Mark C. Poloncarz, Erie County Executive
Maria Whyte, Deputy County Executive

FROM: Bonnie Lawrence, Deputy Commissioner

DATE: January 14, 2019

RE: *Erie County Commits to Paris – 2018 Annual Report #1*

Introduction

Since the release of the *Erie County Commits to Paris* report in January of this year, substantial progress has been made on the 37 initiatives that are outlined in the report. Moreover, a review of the significant sources of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from Erie County government operations in 2017 show an additional 0.8% reduction from the 2014 baseline. This memo will summarize the progress on the initiatives, as well as the findings regarding GHG emissions.

Progress on Initiatives

The members of the Erie County Commits to Paris work group provided the updated reports on the initiatives outlined in the *Erie County Commits to Paris* report for the time period of January 1, 2018 – September 30, 2018. These reports represent the first update on the initiatives since the release of the document in January 2018. Please refer to the attached spreadsheet for a complete listing of the initiatives and the status of each.

• *Completed Initiatives*

To date, eight initiatives have been fully completed, representing 24% of the total, including recently completed initiatives I-5 Solar Installation at the Correctional Facility, I-15 Assessing Solar on Roofs of County Buildings, and C-2, Solarize Campaign.

• *In Progress Initiatives*

Of the remaining 37 initiatives, 27 are in progress, representing 93% of the total remaining to be completed. There are initiatives in progress in all three categories of internal operations, community-wide, and partnership. Five of the in-progress initiatives are classified as “on-going” or “annual” obligations and are unlikely to ever be classified as completed.

• *Initiatives Not Yet Begun*

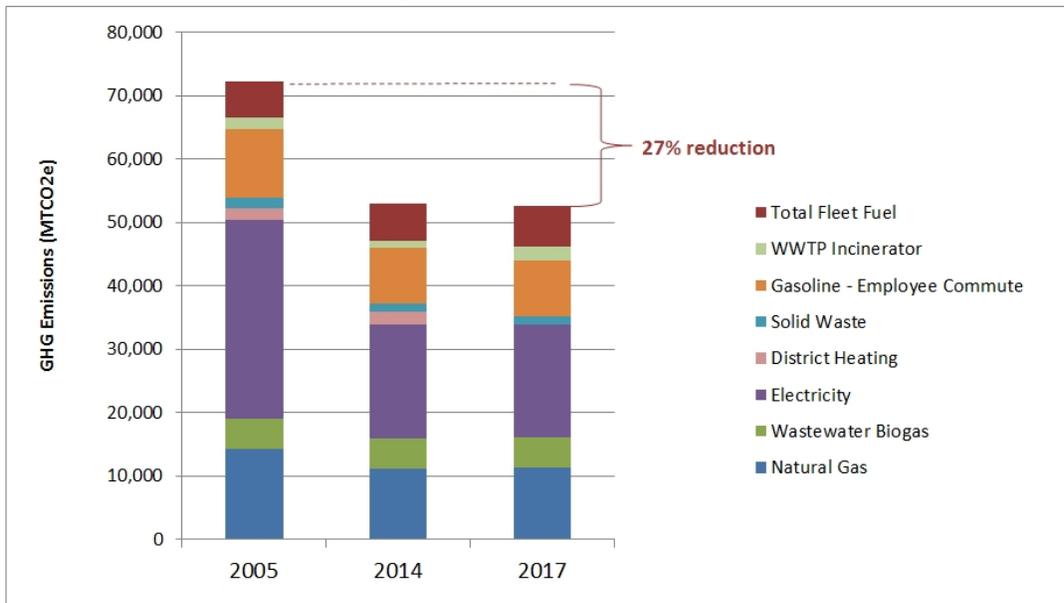
Two initiatives have not yet begun, representing 5% of the total. The two initiatives that haven't been started are generally dependent on the progress of other initiatives.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Erie County Operations

For the *Erie County Commits to Paris* report greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions were reported for the baseline year, 2005, and for 2014 for the community and for internal operations. For this update, internal operations GHG emissions were reviewed for natural gas, electric, and bulk liquid fuels emission sources. Wastewater biogas, solid waste, and employee commute emissions will be updated in a future year. One additional emissions source, a sewage sludge incinerator at the Southtowns Wastewater Treatment Plant that burns diesel fuel #2 was identified as being omitted from the previous report. For this report, incinerator emissions from all three inventory years (2005, 2014, and 2017) are included.

GHG Emissions by source type are shown in Figure 1. Emissions from 2017 have decreased 27% since 2005, and 0.8% since 2014. Between 2014 and 2017 there was small increase in weather normalized GHG emissions from natural gas combustion, which was more than offset by the elimination of emissions from district heating resulting from new high efficiency boilers at the Rath Building. Emissions from electric use decreased by 2%, which may be a result of initiatives like the LED re-lamping of the Rath building. Fleet emissions increased, mainly because of increased diesel use by the Division of Highways, which may be a result of more plow use during this year. Incinerator fuel use almost doubled, which may be a function of dryer conditions in 2014. For future reports, we will look for methods to normalize for weather conditions, so that weather driven swings in fuel for plowing and incineration do not cloud the inventory results.

Figure 1. Erie County Internal Operations Emissions by Year and Source



Conclusion

Of the 37 initiatives, a total of 35 (95%) are completed or in progress. Substantial progress has been made since the release of the new document this past January and further progress is expected by the next reporting period, which will be on October 1, 2019.