



Metro



## FY 2017-18 SUSTAINABILITY REPORT EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

# Advancing sustainability in Metro's internal operations

Metro brings people together to shape the future of greater Portland and provides places, services and tools that work best at a regional scale. Led by an elected council, this unique government gives Oregonians a voice in their community. Metro services and venues include parks and natural areas, land and transportation, garbage and recycling, the Oregon Zoo and arts and event centers.

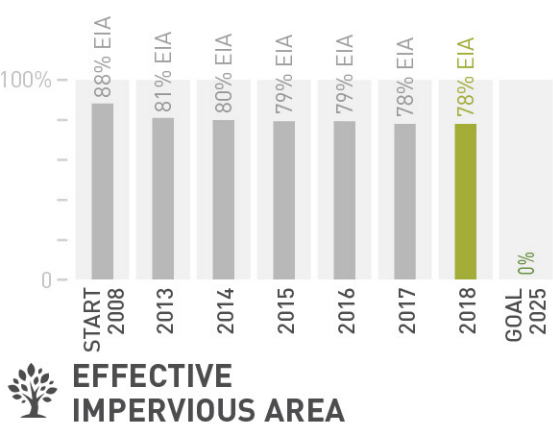
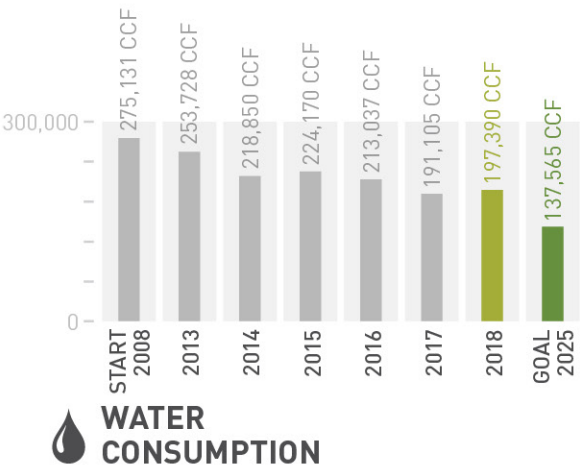
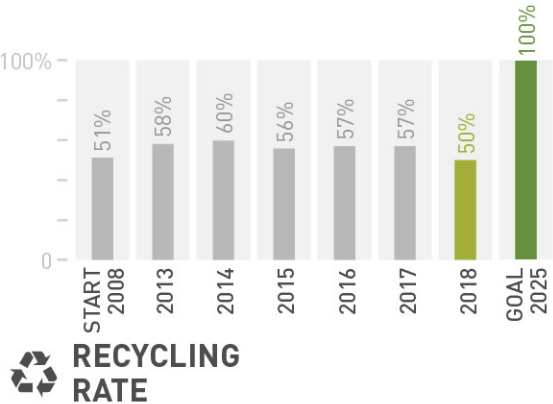
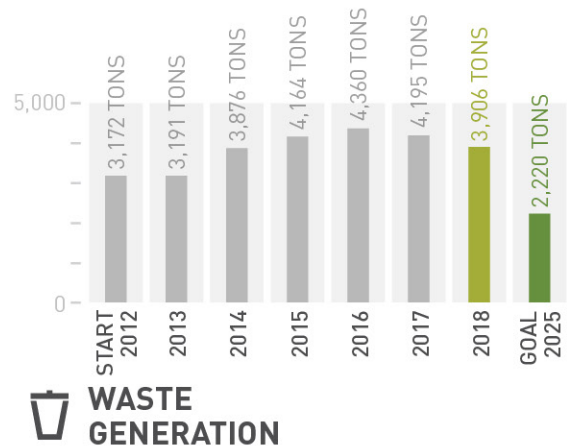
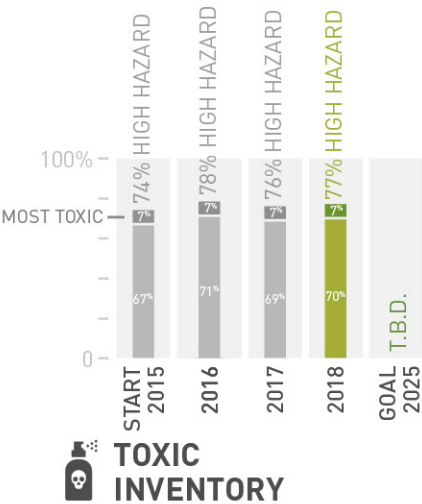
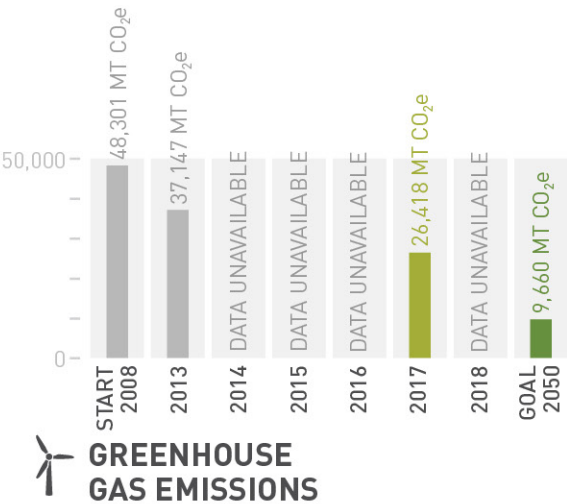
As a regional government committed to promoting sustainable communities, Metro also strives to make its own operations sustainable. With Metro's extensive portfolio of buildings and millions of visitors at its venues annually, Metro has an immense opportunity to reduce its impacts and advance positive progress on the region's quality of life. In 2003, the Metro Council set an ambitious target for internal operations to be sustainable within one generation. To this end, the Council adopted goals in five key categories: climate, toxics, waste, water and habitat.

Metro produces a report each year on progress toward achieving these internal sustainability goals. The story of Metro's advancement towards these goals is told by data in key indicators and by accomplishments across the agency.

Learn more about Metro's internal Sustainability Program and view the full FY 2017-18 sustainability report:

[oregonmetro.gov/greenmetro](http://oregonmetro.gov/greenmetro)

# FY 2017-18 sustainability scorecard



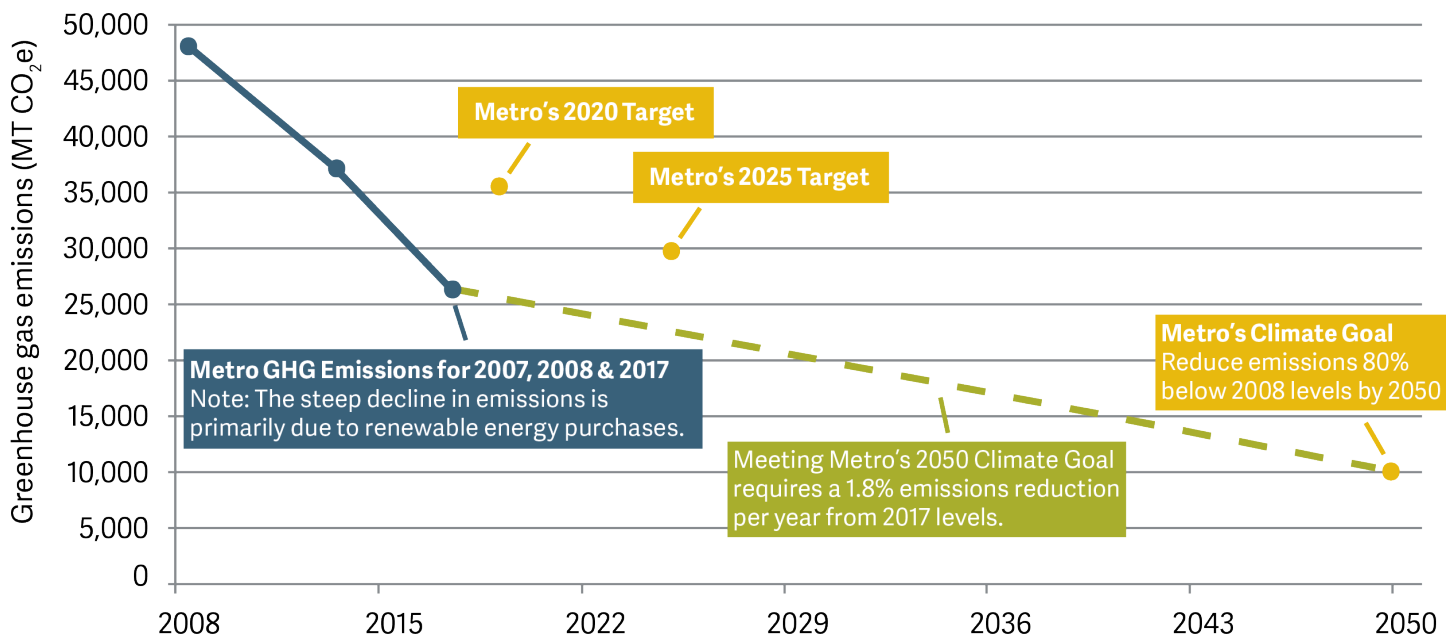
MT CO<sub>2</sub>e: Metric tons carbon dioxide equivalent  
CCF: Hundred cubic feet, equivalent to 748 gallons  
EIA: Effective impervious area

# Metro drives down its greenhouse gas emissions

Metro has reduced its greenhouse gas emissions by nearly 46 percent since it first started tracking emissions in 2008. Results from Metro's [2016-17 greenhouse gas emissions inventory](#) for internal operations indicate that emissions decreased from 48,301 metric tons carbon dioxide equivalent (MT CO<sub>2</sub>e) in 2008 to 26,418 MT CO<sub>2</sub>e in 2017. This progress was largely due to the purchase of renewable electricity and energy-efficiency initiatives like LED lighting and heating and cooling system upgrades.

Metro's climate goal is to reduce emissions 80 percent below 2008 levels by 2050. The results of the 2017 inventory put Metro ahead of its 2025 interim target. Reaching the goal will require strategic efforts across all sources of greenhouse gas emissions, including additional energy efficiency retrofits, increased generation and purchase of renewable energy, greater use of electric vehicles and low carbon fuels, and sustainable purchasing.

## Metro's progress toward its climate goal



## Success story: Roof project at Expo Center reflects Metro values

Metro showed its commitment to triple bottom line sustainability in the Portland Expo Center roof restoration project. Instead of ripping off 200,000 square feet of roofing and replacing it with new material, the project team chose to repair the roof using a liquid roofing system.

The largest roof restoration project of its kind in the Portland area, the Expo project avoided the impacts from manufacturing new roofing material and prevented the equivalent of 240 dump truck loads of roof debris from going to the landfill. Repairing the roof saved \$1.9 million compared to installing a new roof, and, in a time of escalating construction costs, the project was completed \$500,000 under budget.

Metro worked with the project's contractor to secure a veteran-owned [Certification Office for Business Inclusion and Diversity \(COBID\)](#) subcontractor, Stryker Sheet Metal, for the restoration's sheet metal work.

In addition, because there weren't any COBID firms in Oregon certified to apply the liquid roofing system, Metro worked with the manufacturer to assist Sterling Pacific to become the first COBID contractor to be certified to apply the liquid system on future roof restorations.





If you picnic at Blue Lake or take your kids to the Oregon Zoo, enjoy symphonies at the Schnitz or auto shows at the convention center, put out your trash or drive your car – we've already crossed paths.

**So, hello. We're Metro – nice to meet you.**

In a metropolitan area as big as Portland, we can do a lot of things better together. Join us to help the region prepare for a happy, healthy future.

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**Sustainability program contact:**

Jenna Garmon  
Sustainability Coordinator

503-797-1649  
[jenna.garmon@oregonmetro.gov](mailto:jenna.garmon@oregonmetro.gov)



## Energy efficiency investments pay off

Metro spent over \$5 million on utility expenses in FY 2017-18. This presents an immense opportunity for cost savings through greater efficiency, especially for upfront investments with short payback timeframes and lower total cost of ownership. To that end, Metro works closely with the Energy Trust of Oregon to implement energy efficiency and renewable energy projects. In FY 2017-18, Metro received over \$290,000 in funding for projects that are projected to save over 1.4 million kilowatt-hours of electricity and over 20,000 therms of natural gas annually.

## Conclusion

This report highlights just a portion of the work done in fiscal year 2017-18 to advance Metro's progress towards its internal sustainability goals. Data on sustainability indicators signals that Metro will need to take stronger actions if it is to meet all of the adopted sustainability goals within the target timeframe.

While increased visitors at Metro's venues, and other factors pose challenges to Metro's progress toward these goals, Metro's commitment remains steady. The prosperity of our region depends on healthy and functional ecological, social and economic systems, and Metro continues to seek ways to reduce the impacts of its operations on these systems. Given the urgency of the climate crisis, Metro's recent focus has been on reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

The progress shared in this report results from the vision and leadership of the Metro Council and the commitment and ingenuity of hundreds of staff across the agency, in particular operations staff and those serving on Metro's Sustainability Steering Committee and green teams.

