City of Biddeford
Sustainability Commission
December 16, 2024 at 5:30 PM

City Hall Second Floor Conference Room & Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting Online
Or call in by phone: +1 312 626 6799
Meeting ID: 990 2521 3253
Passcode: 664976

1. Declaration of Quorum/Voting Members
2. Adjustments to Agenda
3. Consent Agenda
4. Discussion/Review
   - 4.a Carbon Fee and Dividend Resolution-discussion of proposal by Peter Dugas of Citizens' Climate Lobby
   - 4.b Climate Smart Communities Initiative-Grant Opportunity-discussion of possible projects (action required)
     Funding Opportunities – Climate Smart Communities Initiative
   - 4.c Work Plan for 2025-Discussion of priorities (action required)
   - 4.d Subcommittees Established

     a) Work Plan-
     Will
     Kiara
     b) Engagement
     Joie
     Kiara
     c) Policy
5. Public Comments
6. Adjourn

Sustainability Commission
December 2, 2024 5:30 pm
Meeting Minutes

- Present
    - Brad Favreau
    - Kiara (sworn in on 17th)
    - Wendy Goldsmith
    - John Wallach
    - Will Kochtitzky
    - Ken
    - Kathy
    - Richard
    - Sam
    - Joie
    - Max
    - Bev
    - Patrick
    - John
    - Member of CCL from Scarborough
- Swearing in
- 1. Peter Dugas presents on Biddeford City Council resolution on l carbon fee & dividend (F & D)
    - He's an En-ROADS climate ambassador
    - ME coordinator & NE regional director for CCL
    - backgrounds
        - US emits a Mt St Helen's eruption worth of matter into the atmosphere every 16 mins
        - Advocating for a formal downward pressure on Carbon emissions
    - Larger support
        - Collins and King are both on bipartisan senate climate solutions caucus
        - F&D
        - Proposed bill currently in congress
        - 30 ME towns endorse F & D
        - Champion--Sheldon Whitehouse from RH
        - One vote shy of being in Inflation Reduction Act
    - facts
        - F&D is revenue neutral
        - potential ways to put downward pressure on carbon emissions
            - US almost had cap & trade in 1991
            - When revenue just goes to government, can function as regressive tax
            - What CCL advocates for: only tax source of FF (extractions & processing), and evenly split checks that all go back to population
                - Essentially a progressive tax
                - Would be financially benefiting 50-70% of households in ME

        - Changes narrative—who the burden is on to take climate action
        - EU is going to start taxing imports from country with lower/no fees on carbon next year
        - ME is responsible for .27% of US carbon emissions
    - Actions
        - "Carbon Cash Back for ME" is what F & D is branded as here
        - Given that congress will re-consider 2017 tax cuts & president can do tariffs, we can maybe get F & D through in 2025
        - Will look through model ordinance in next 2 meetings, consider whether to bring to council
        - Discussing possible sources of opposition from city council and how to overcome
            - Belief this is only a federal issue
- 2. Meeting Moday twice per month
    - If members can't go to a meeting then tell Brad--if u have 3 unexcused abscences then they're removed, just telling Brad becomes an excusal. People can also call in via Zoom
    - 1st & 3rd Mon
    - 5:30 pm
- 2. Election of officers
    - Chair makes agenda and runs mtg--Will
    - Vice chair fills in for chair--Max
    - Secretary takes minutes--Sam
- 2. We use Roberts's rules of order
- 5. Work plan for 2025
    - Want to get this kicked off right away
    - Will create a subcommittee for this--Max motioned, Joi seconded, unanimous passage
    - Will, Max, and Kiara are interested
- 5a. Subcommittees
    - Public engagements & outreach
        - Newsletter
        - Social media—would have to be coordinated with Danica (city staff)
        - Kiara and Joie are on this
        - Will motioned to create, Max seconded, unanimous support
    - Subcommittees would have no more than 2 members, because 3 members constitutes a public mtg
    - Everyone is in favor of having subcommittees of some form
    - Policy subcommittee
        - Draft ordinance with staff support, then gets brought to sustainability committee as a whole
    - The point is to get work done when we're not meeting
    - Or, temporary ones to work on specific committees

    - or, based off of the different sectors of the CAP
    - best to wait and see what our needs are
    - We will discuss this more in future meetings
- We can't have substantive emails or debates among all nine, but we can have non-substantive announcements to all
- 4. Community Resilience Partnership (which is part of Governors Office of Policy Innovation and the Future)
    - Brad is preparing a grant for pre-storm survey
- EPA grant is going to be a while before results are in
- Committee will get a UNE fellow to do a GHG inventory this summer
    - Max did a GHG inventory for Falmouth when he was in Americorp, offered to help
    - Brad passed out summary of CAP, asked that members review it.

Resolve, that Biddeford, Maine encourages the U.S. Congress

to initiate a revenue-neutral fee on Carbon Fuels.

WHEREAS, Maine recognizes that the health of our citizens is dependent on the high quality of our air, water, and natural resources and that the health of much of the state's economy, including agriculture, forestry, fishing, and tourism all rely on a stable climate; and

WHEREAS, the consensus of climate scientists worldwide is that Earth's climate is changing rapidly and that changes are associated with increased concentrations of pollutant emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gasses, derived principally from the burning of fossil carbon fuels (coal, oil, and natural gas); and

WHEREAS, a steadily rising price on fossil carbon fuels is widely accepted by economists as being the most expeditious, cost-effective means to achieve the U.S.'s stated emissions-reduction goals and therefore mitigate the impacts of climate change on our livelihoods and economy; and

WHEREAS, a revenue-neutral Carbon Fee and Dividend system (including a pollution fee levied at the wellhead, coal mine or port of entry, with all revenues returned equally to citizens and legal residents as a dividend) would leverage market forces encouraging investments in energy efficiency and alternative energy sources by both industry and consumers; and

WHEREAS, the City of Biddeford cannot act alone to stop the climate crisis and must rely on global action to mitigate future damage to our city and citizens; and

WHEREAS, reducing future global carbon emissions is the only way to ensure long-term stability of our community, climate, and coastline; and

WHEREAS, this plan, also known colloquially as **"Cashback Carbon Pricing,"** could **a)** reduce US CO2-equivalent emissions to 10% of 1990 levels by 2050, **b)** be fair to all segments of our population, and **c)** encourage similar actions by other nations.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Biddeford, Maine supports the enactment of a national revenue-neutral Carbon Fee and Dividend system, that includes **a)** a steadily rising pollution fee levied on fuel producers as far upstream in the economy as possible, **b)** all net revenues returned equally to citizens and legal residents as a dividend, and **c)** carbon-content-based tariffs for imports from, and rebates for exports to, nations that have not taken similar actions.

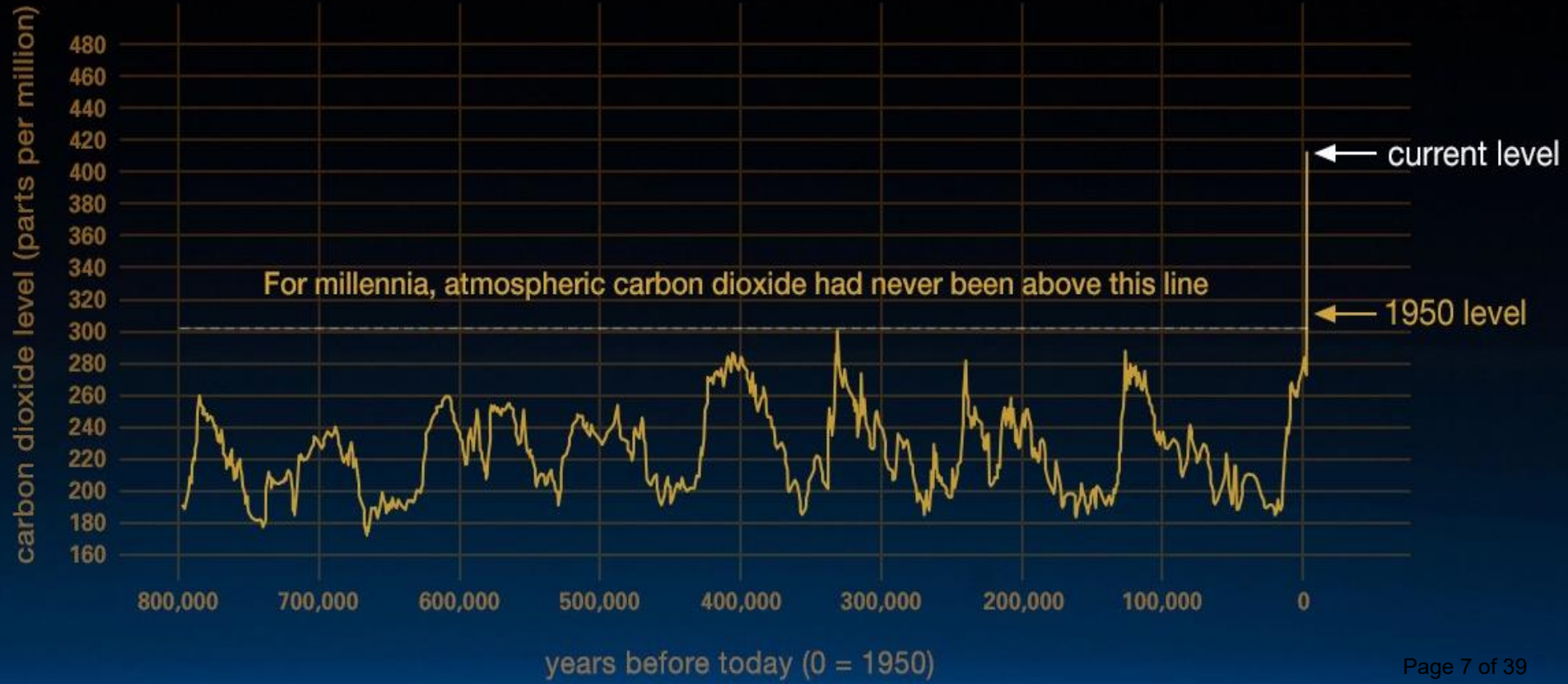
The record of the vote approving this article will be conveyed to the Town's State Legislators, to the Governor of Maine, to the District's Congressional Delegation, and to the President of the United States, informing them of this Resolution approved by the City of Biddeford within 30 days of this vote.

Citizens' Climate Lobby

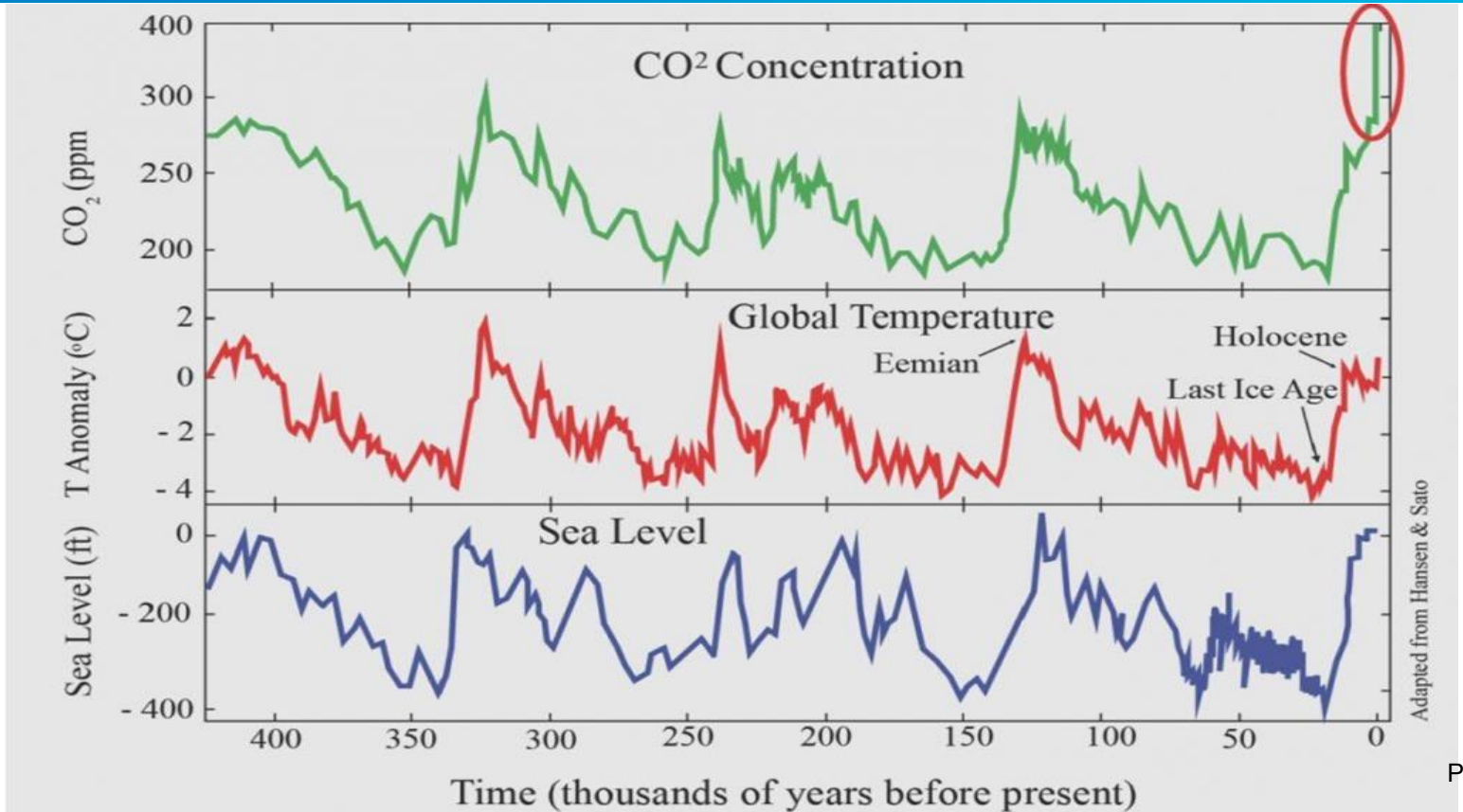
"Carbon Cashback for Maine"
A "necessary condition for stabilizing our climate"
Peter Dugas – Citizens' Climate Lobby Maine Coordinator
Monday, December 3rd, 2024

CLIMATE INTERACTIVE
Tools for a thriving future

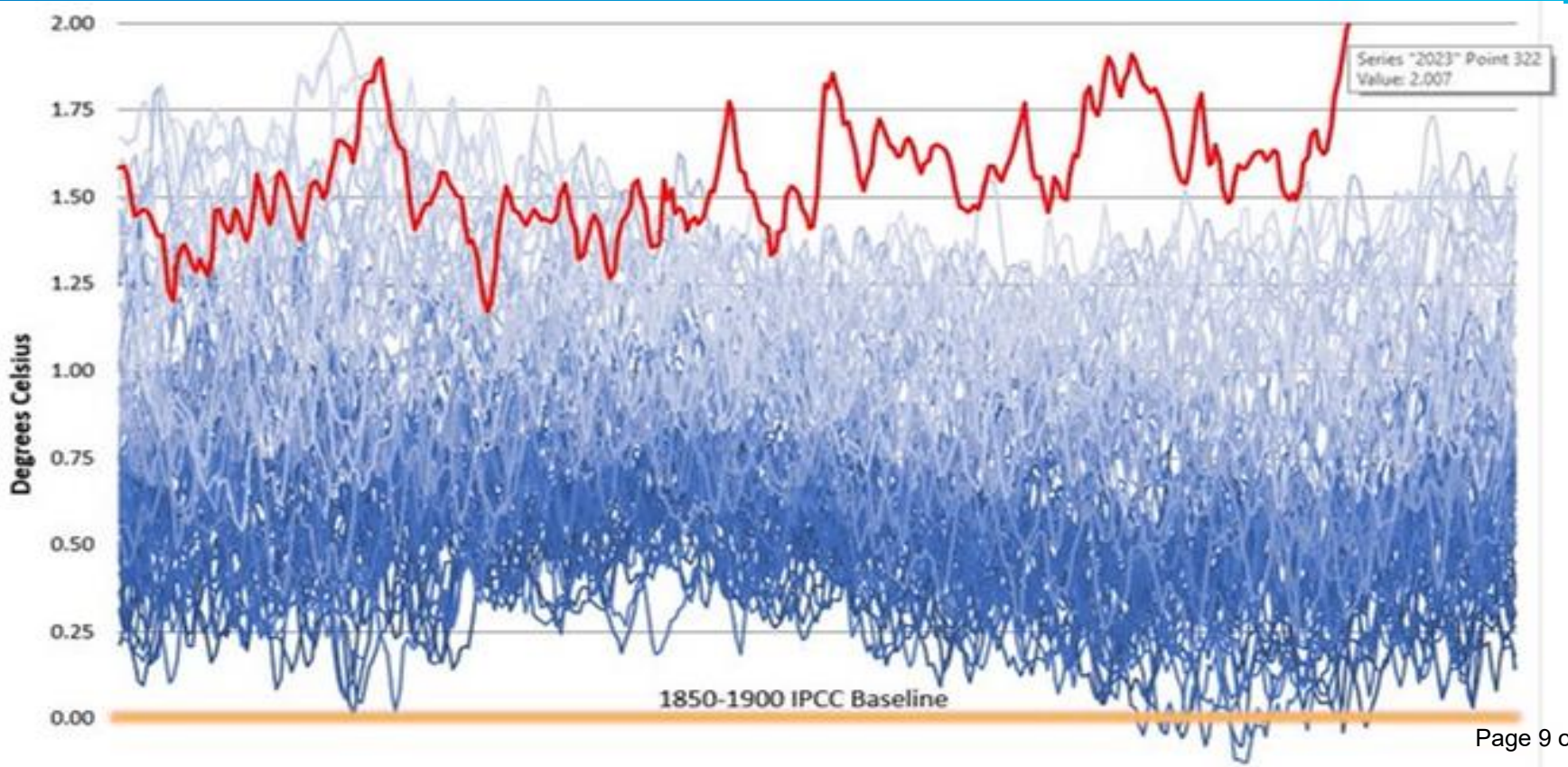
CO2 levels highest in 800,000 years



CO2 Emissions are driving Climate Change

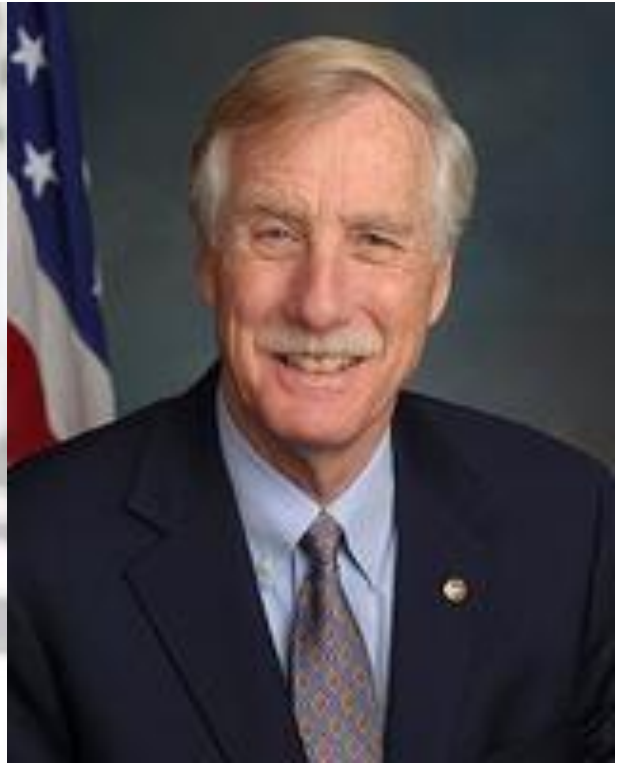


Recent Temperatures are off the Charts



Perspective on US Emission: 1980 Mt St Helens

Maine has Unique Climate Policy Leverage



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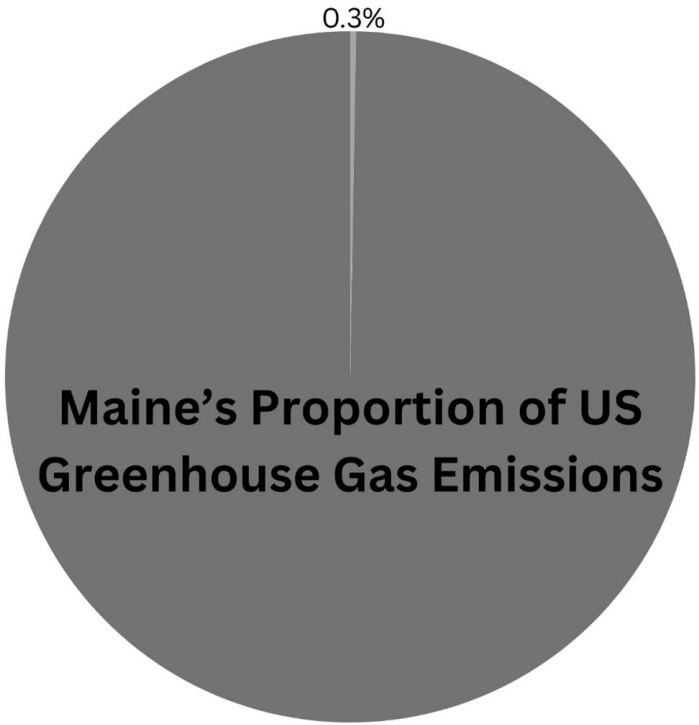
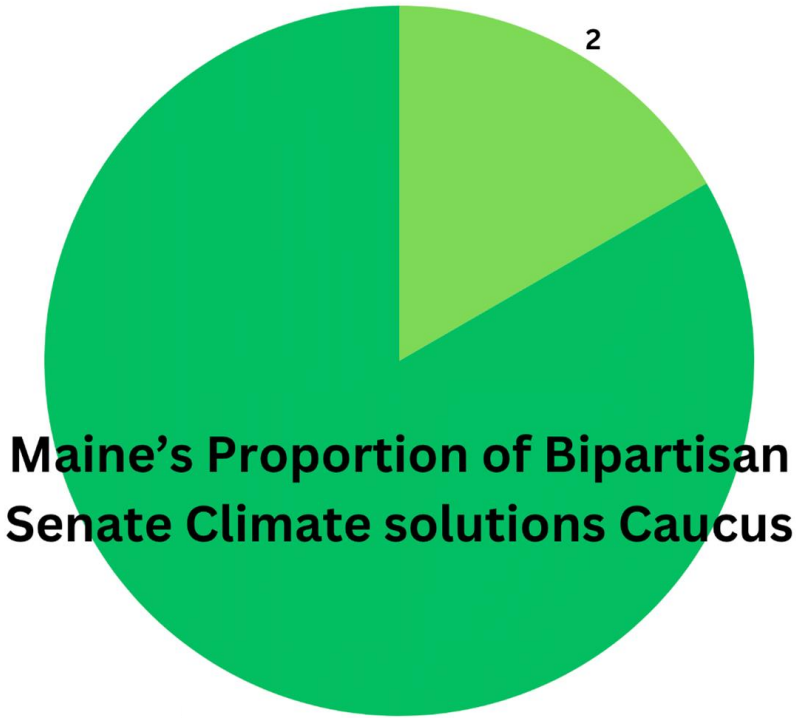
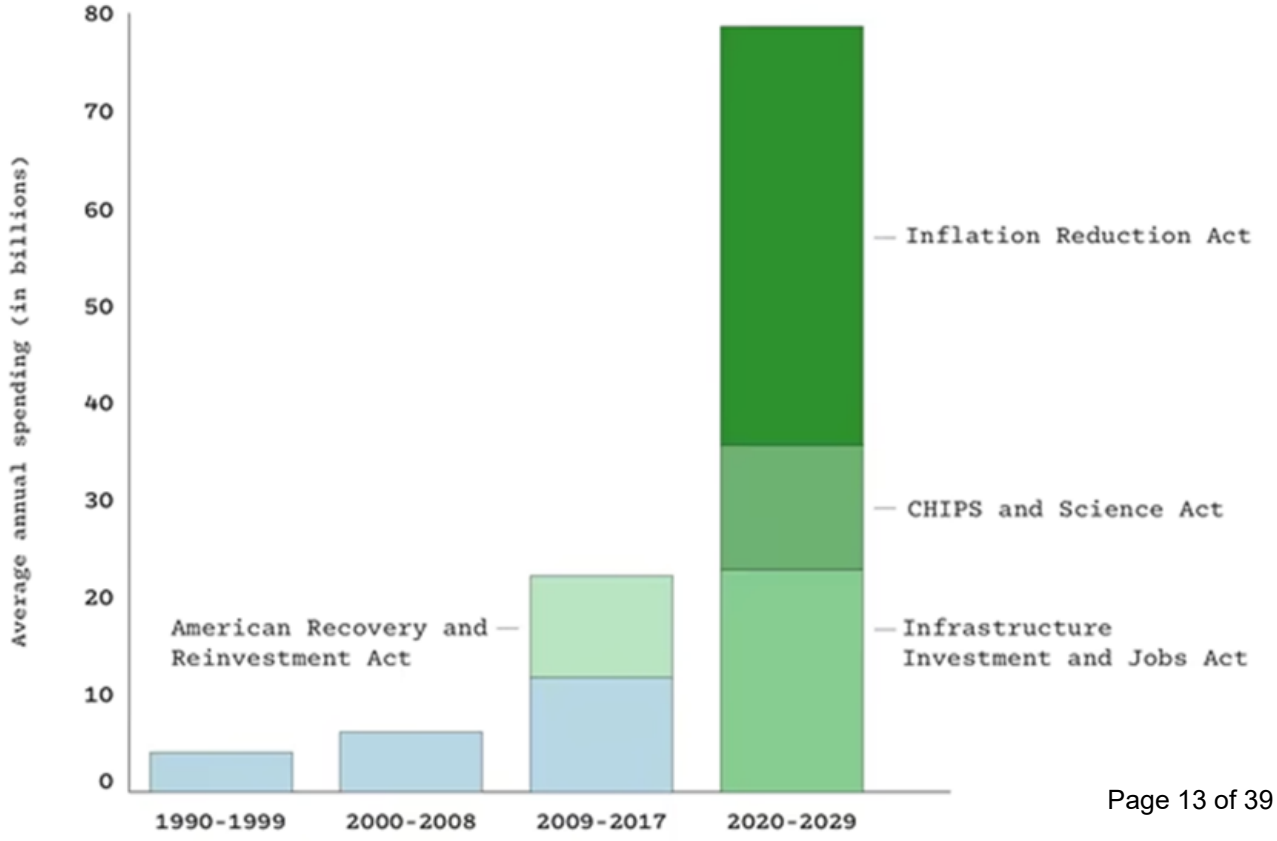
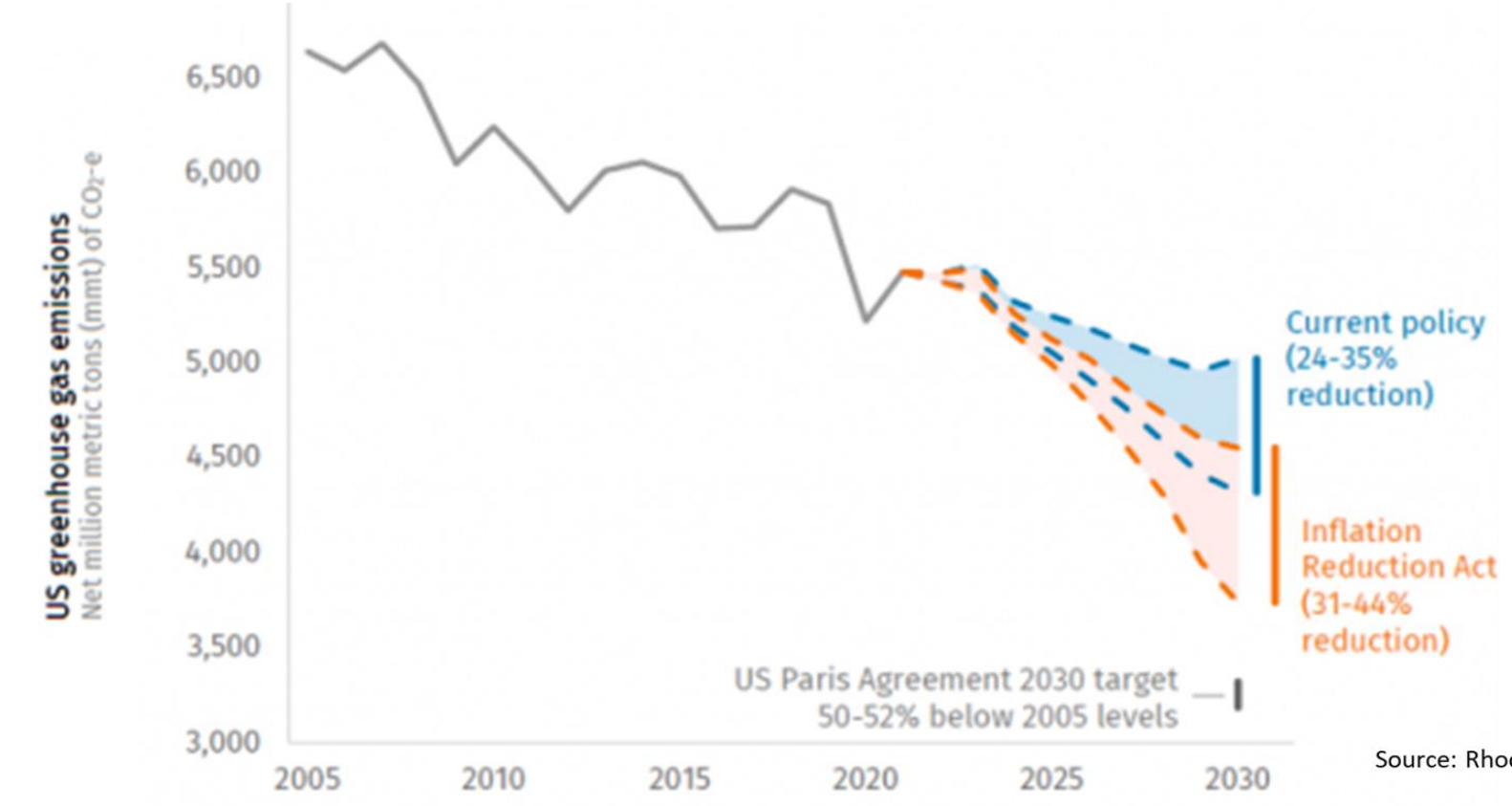




Good News: $500 Billion Clean Energy Investment



Much to Celebrate… but a lot more to do



Source: Rhodium Group, 2022

CCL's Policy Agenda

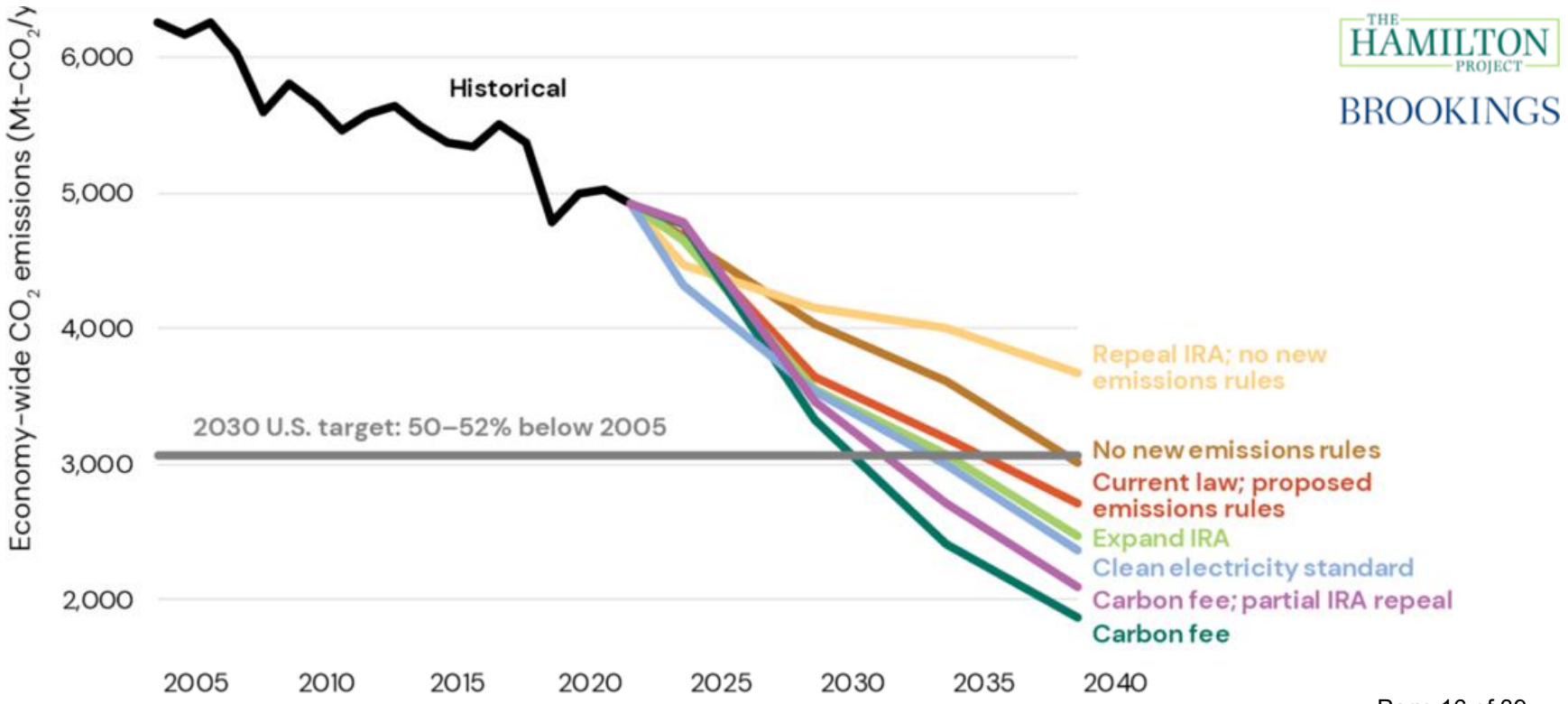
Carbon Pricing

Clean Energy Permitting Reform

Healthy Forests

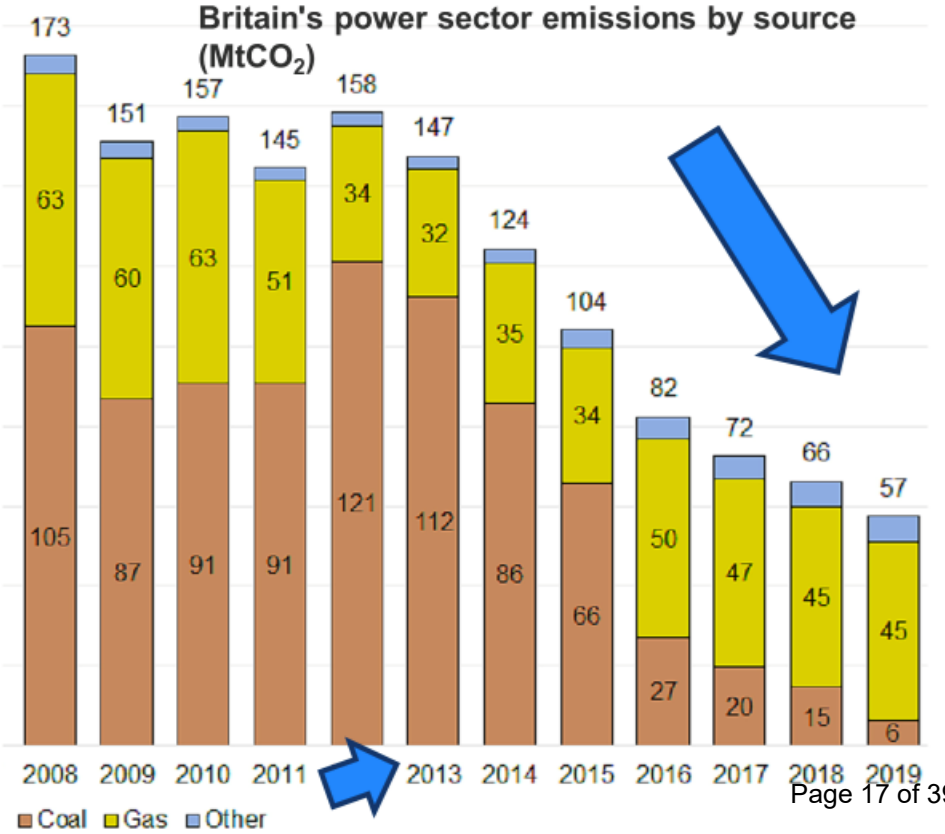
Building Electrification and Efficiency

Brookings Institute: Price Pollution Now!



Carbon Pricing has Proven Effectiveness

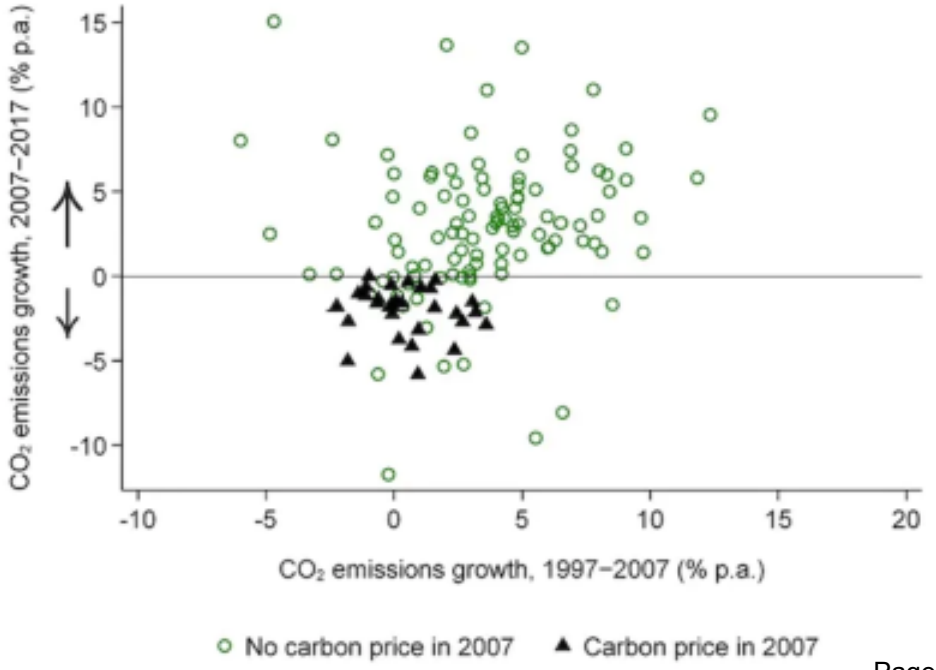
After Great Britain introduced a carbon tax in in 2013 (about $7.75, rising to $27 in 2015), *CO2 emissions fell 61% in six years*, led by a steep decline in coal generation.



Carbon Pricing has Proven Effectiveness

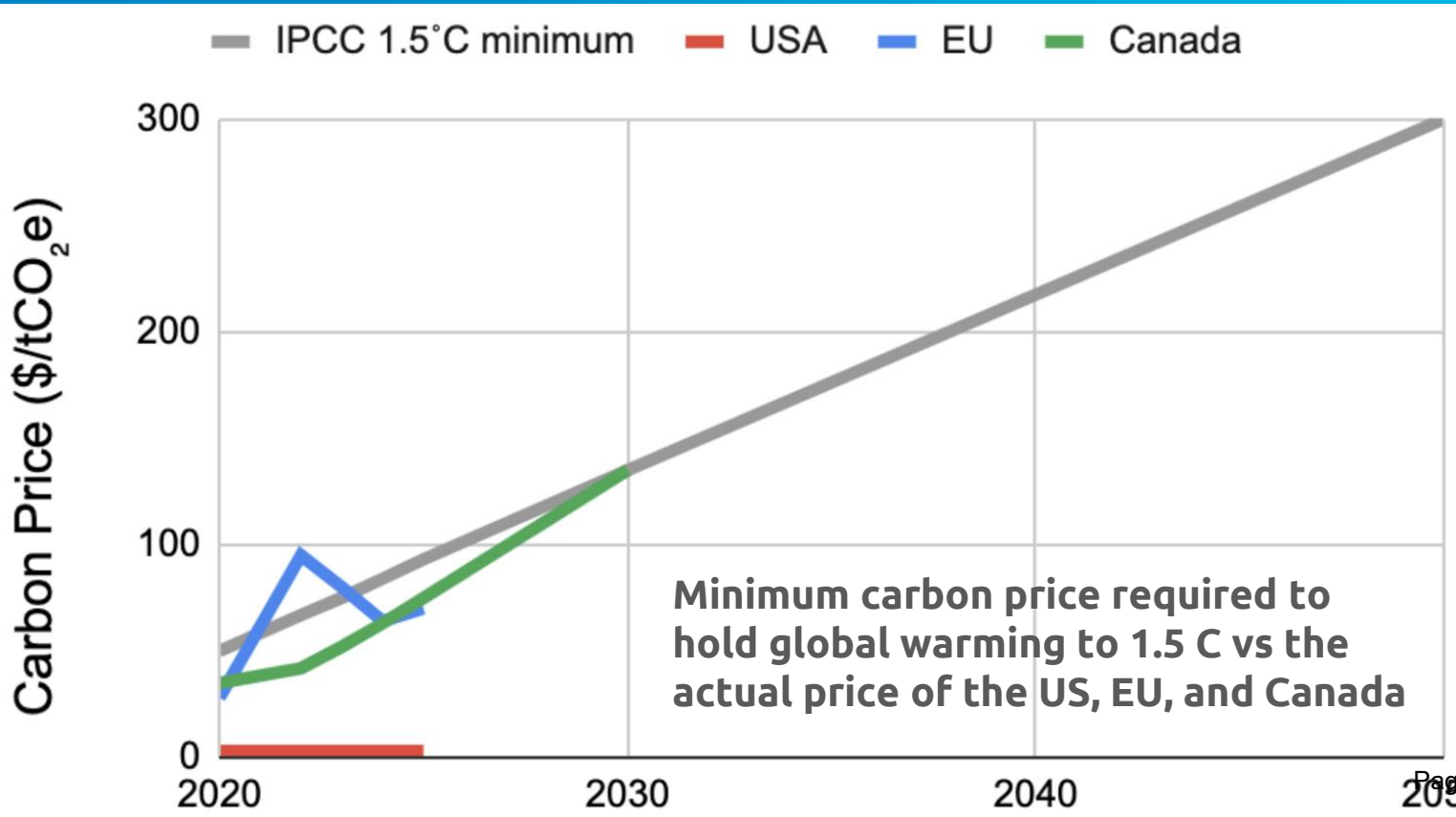
In a 20-year study of 142 countries carbon emissions leveled and fell in all 43 countries with carbon pricing while carbon emissions continued to grow in 80% of the 99 remaining countries without pricing.

Carbon dioxide emissions growth in countries with and without a carbon price in 2007

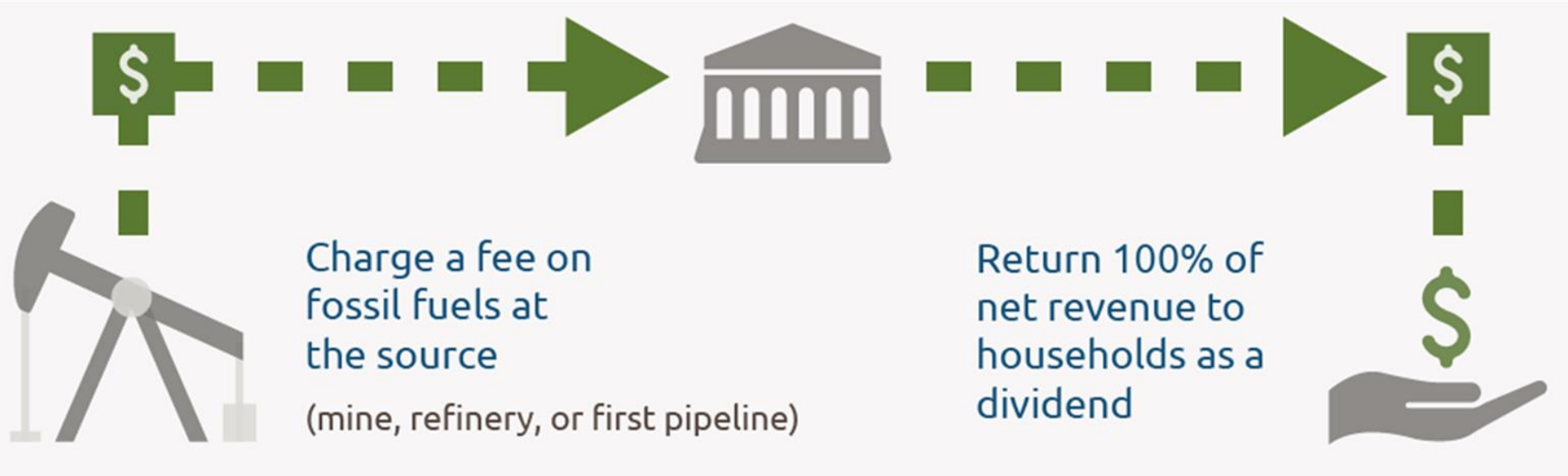


Emissions are from fuel combustion and include road-sector emissions. Best, Burke, Jotzo 2020

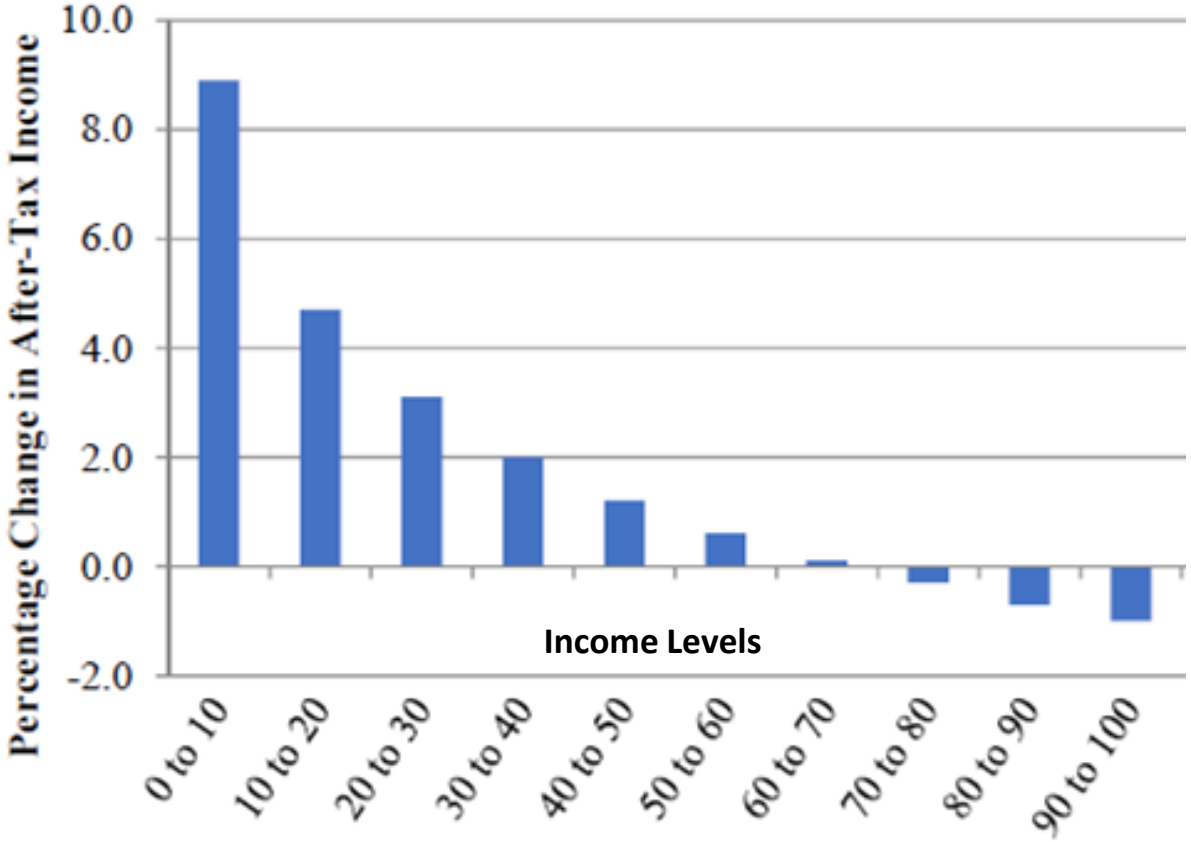
US is Falling Behind on Carbon Pricing

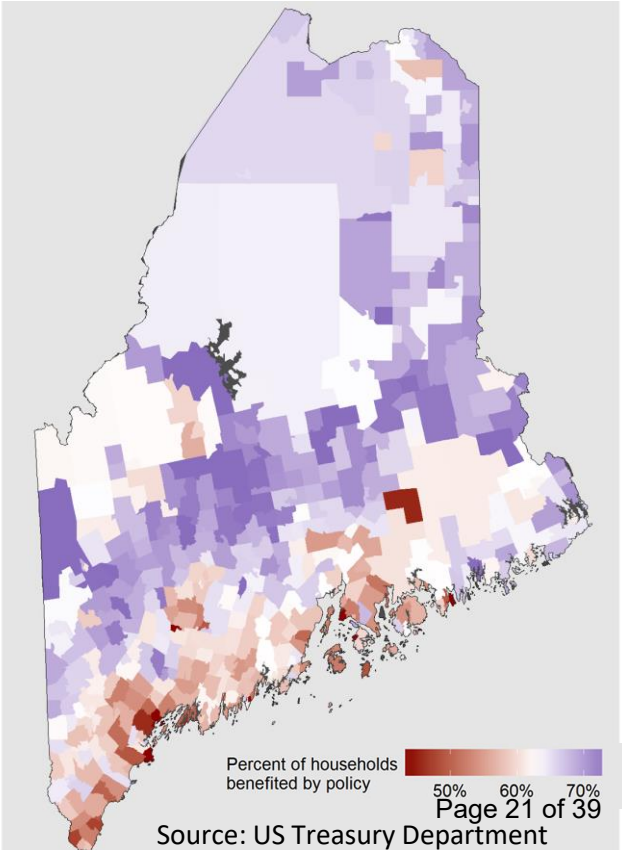


Carbon Fee and Dividend



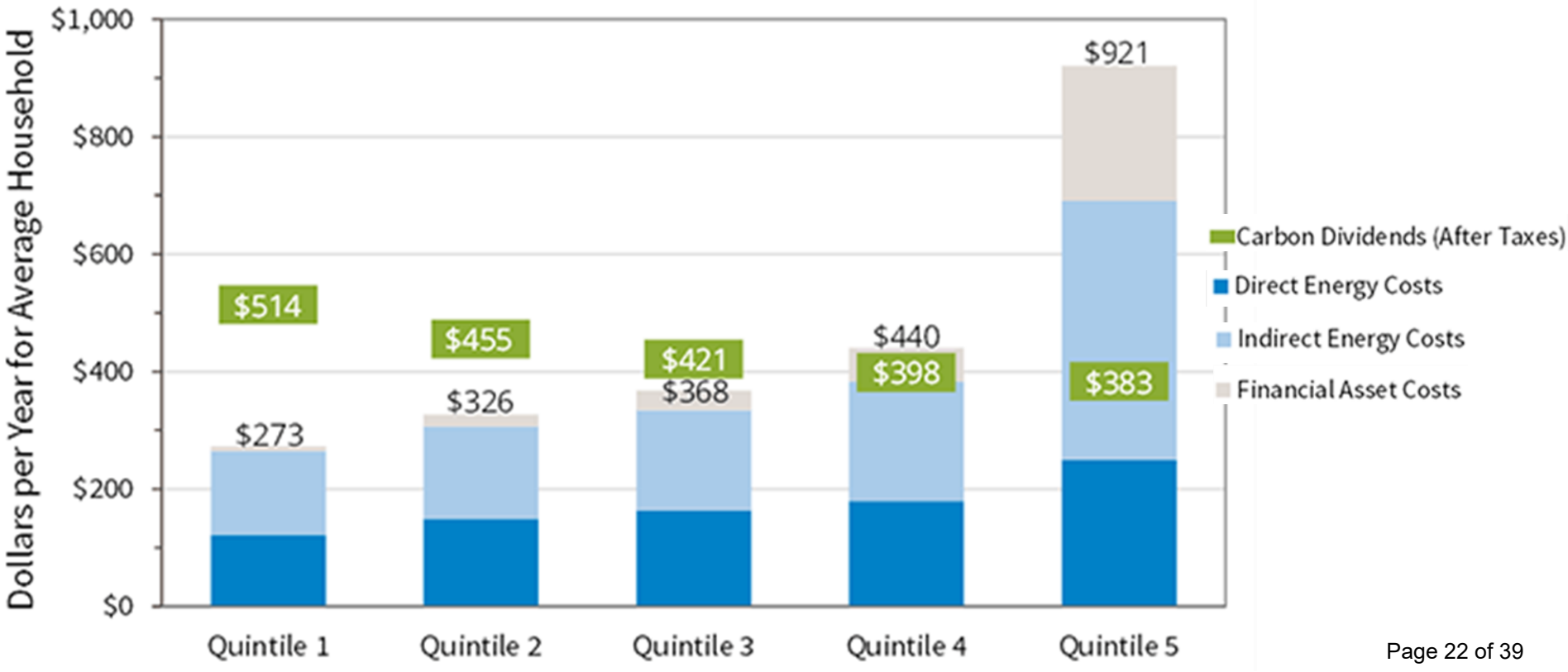
Carbon Dividends Benefit Working Families



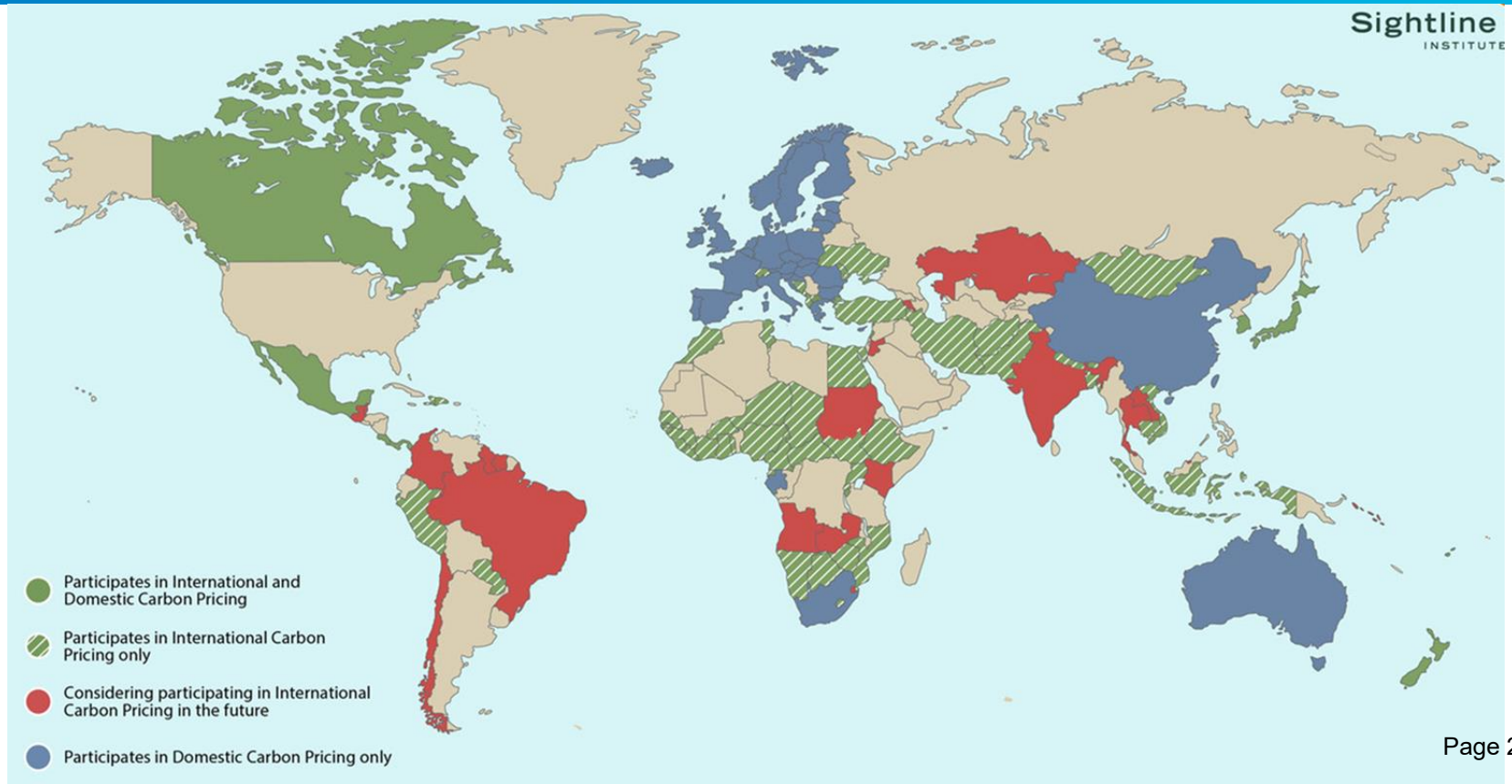


Source: US Treasury Department

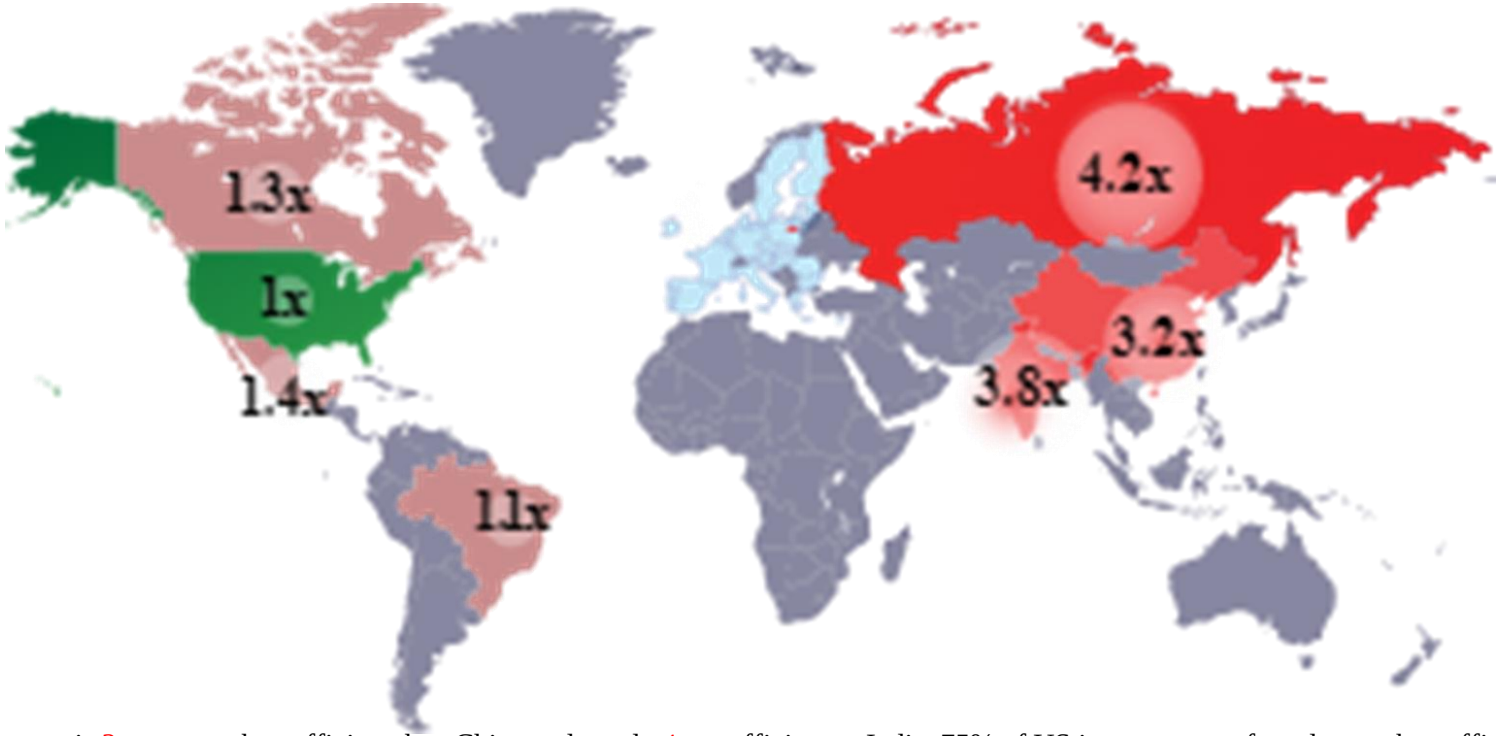
Carbon Dividends Provide Equitable Benefits



Carbon Pricing is the Growing Global Norm



USA's "Carbon Advantage" over Competitors

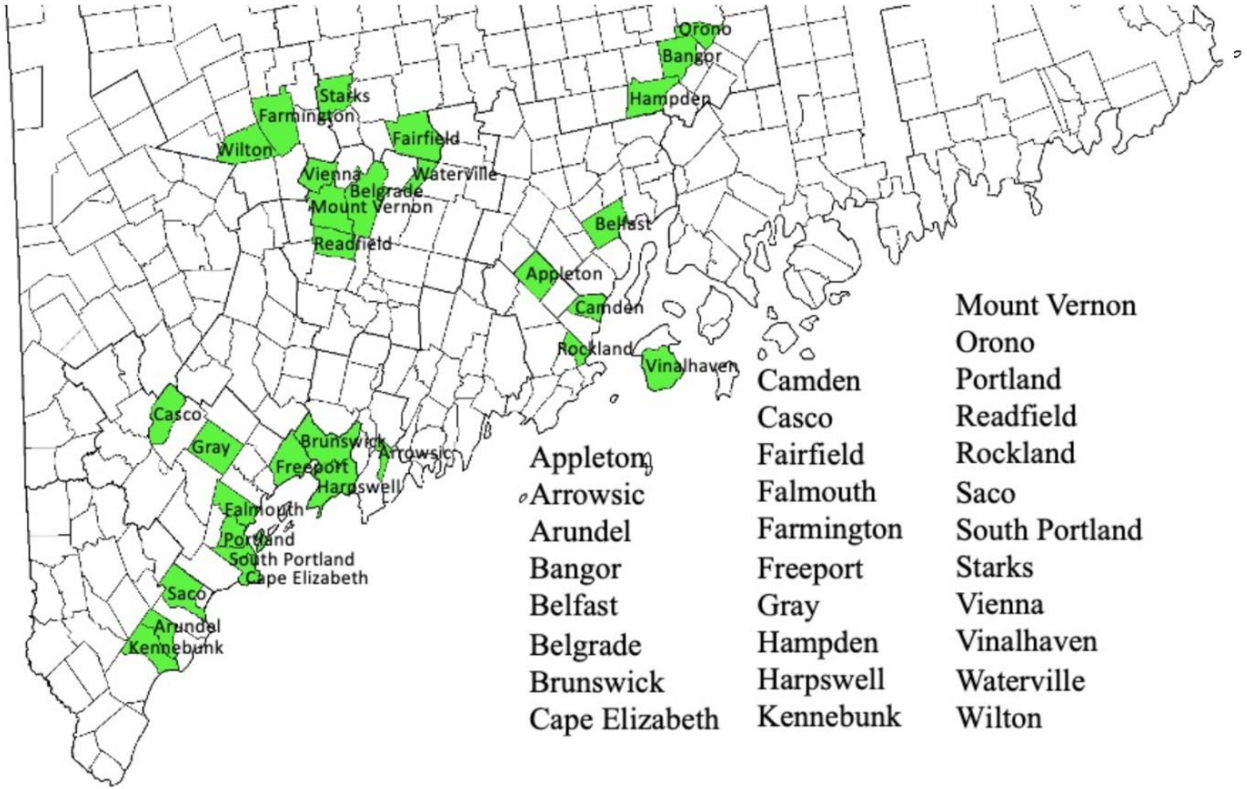


The US Economy is 3x more carbon efficient than China and nearly 4x as efficient as India. 75% of US imports come from less carbon efficient countries. Carbon Pricing would reinvigorate US manufacturing, shorter inflation-weary supply lines and weaken competition from authoritarian regimes.

Source: Climate Leadership Council; "Carbon Advantage"

Maine Towns That Have Passed The Resolution

Join ranks with other Maine towns as champions of Carbon Cash-Back policy



Appleton
Arrowsic
Arundel
Bangor
Belfast
Belgrade
Brunswick
Cape Elizabeth
Camden
Casco
Fairfield
Falmouth
Farmington
Freeport
Gray
Hampden
Harpswell
Kennebunk
Mount Vernon
Orono
Portland
Readfield
Rockland
Saco
South Portland
Starks
Vienna
Vinalhaven
Waterville
Wilton

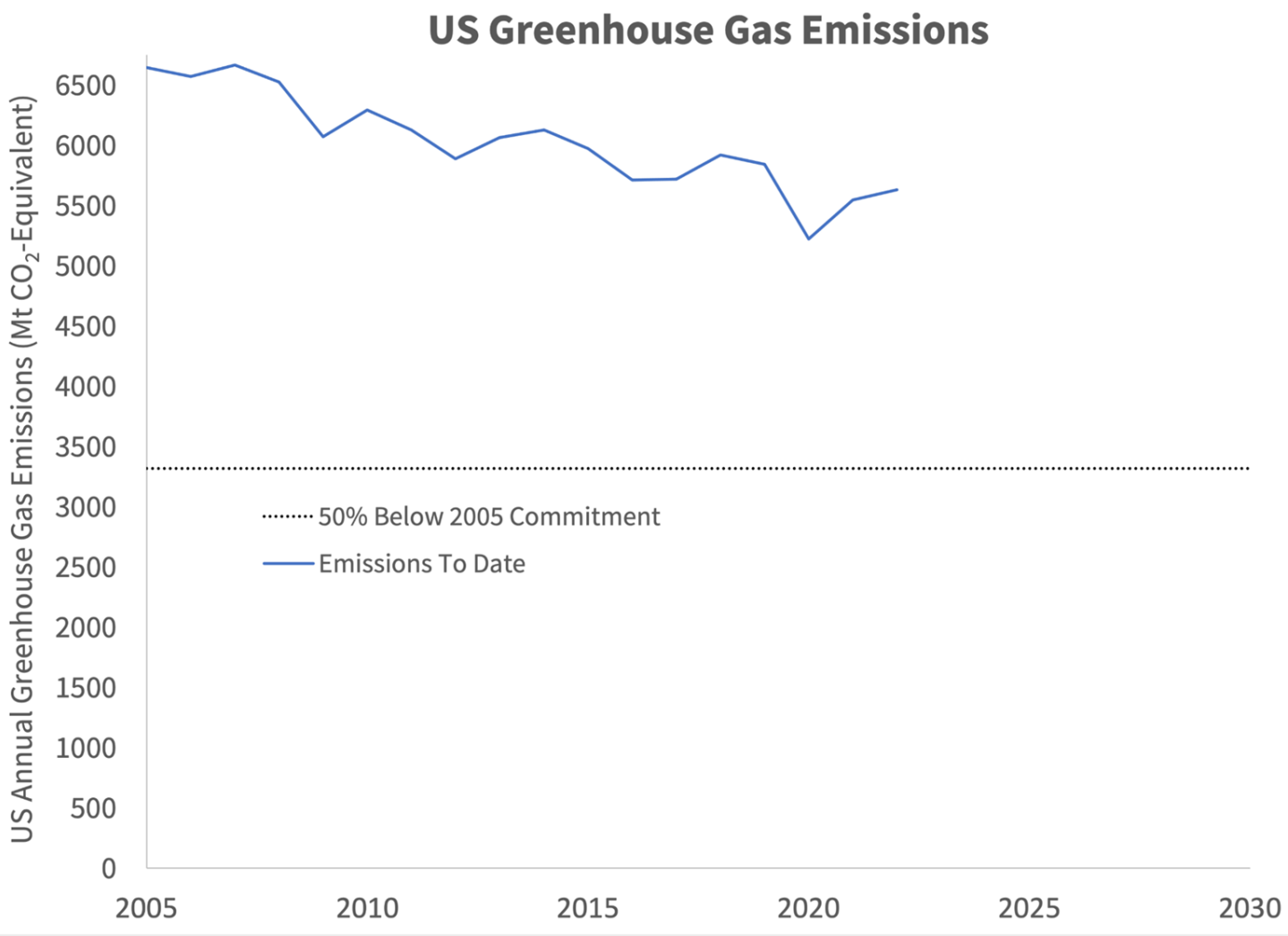
CCL's Policy Agenda

Carbon Pricing

Clean Energy Permitting Reform

Healthy Forests

Building Electrification and Efficiency


US Greenhouse Gas Emissions
US Annual Greenhouse Gas Emissions (Mt CO_2-Equivalent)
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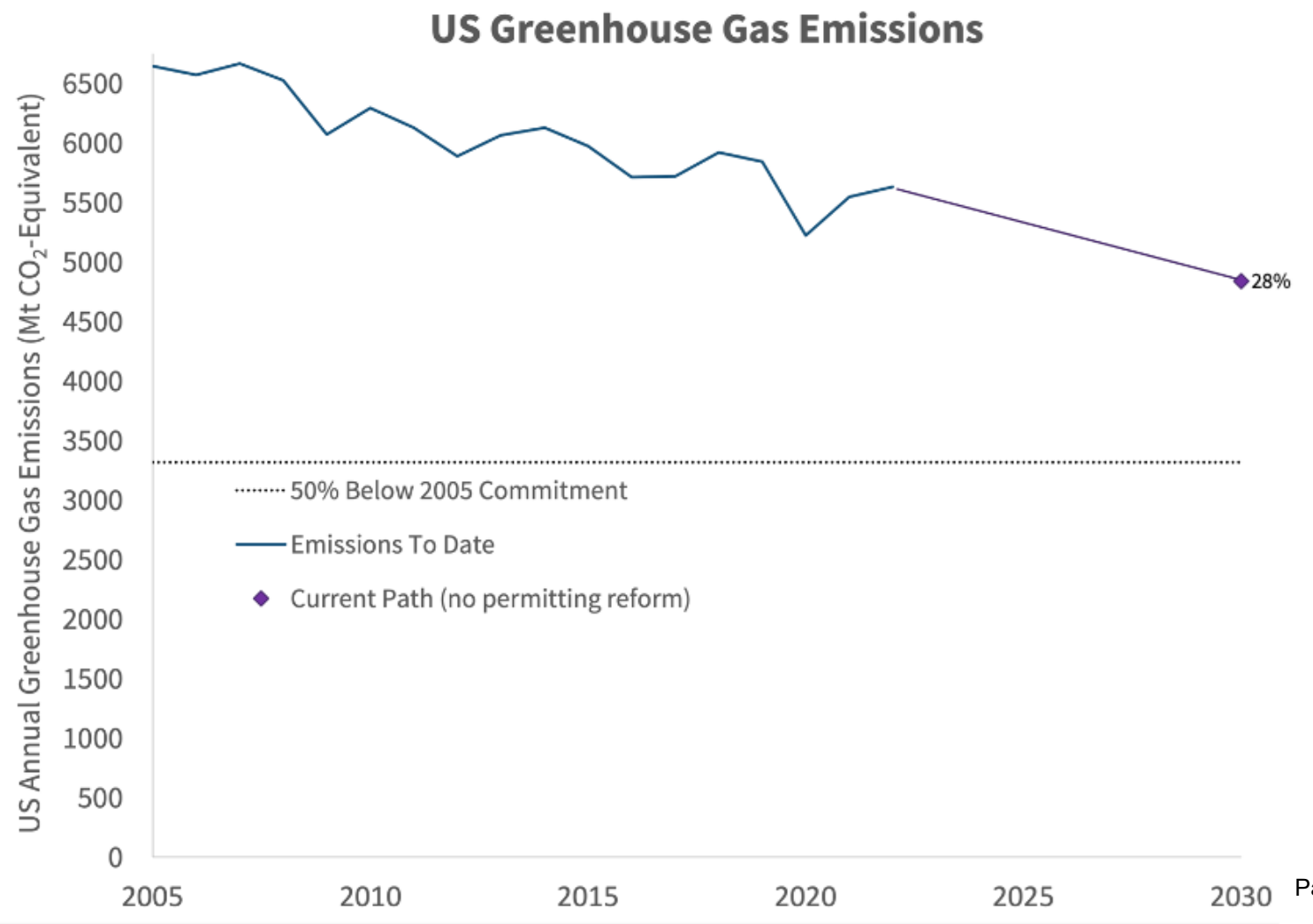
50% Below 2005 Commitment
Emissions To Date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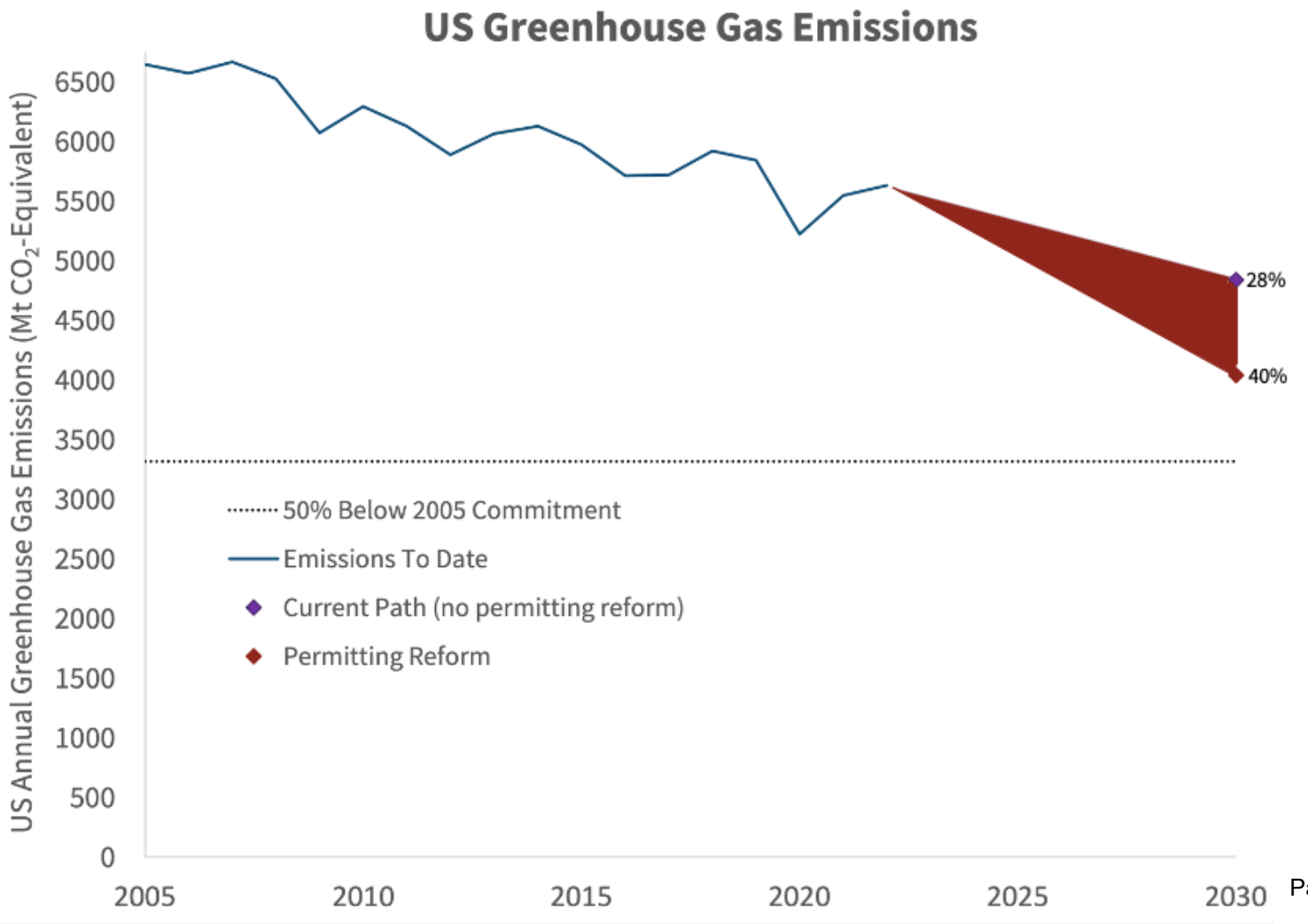
Emissions To Date
Current Path (no permitting reform)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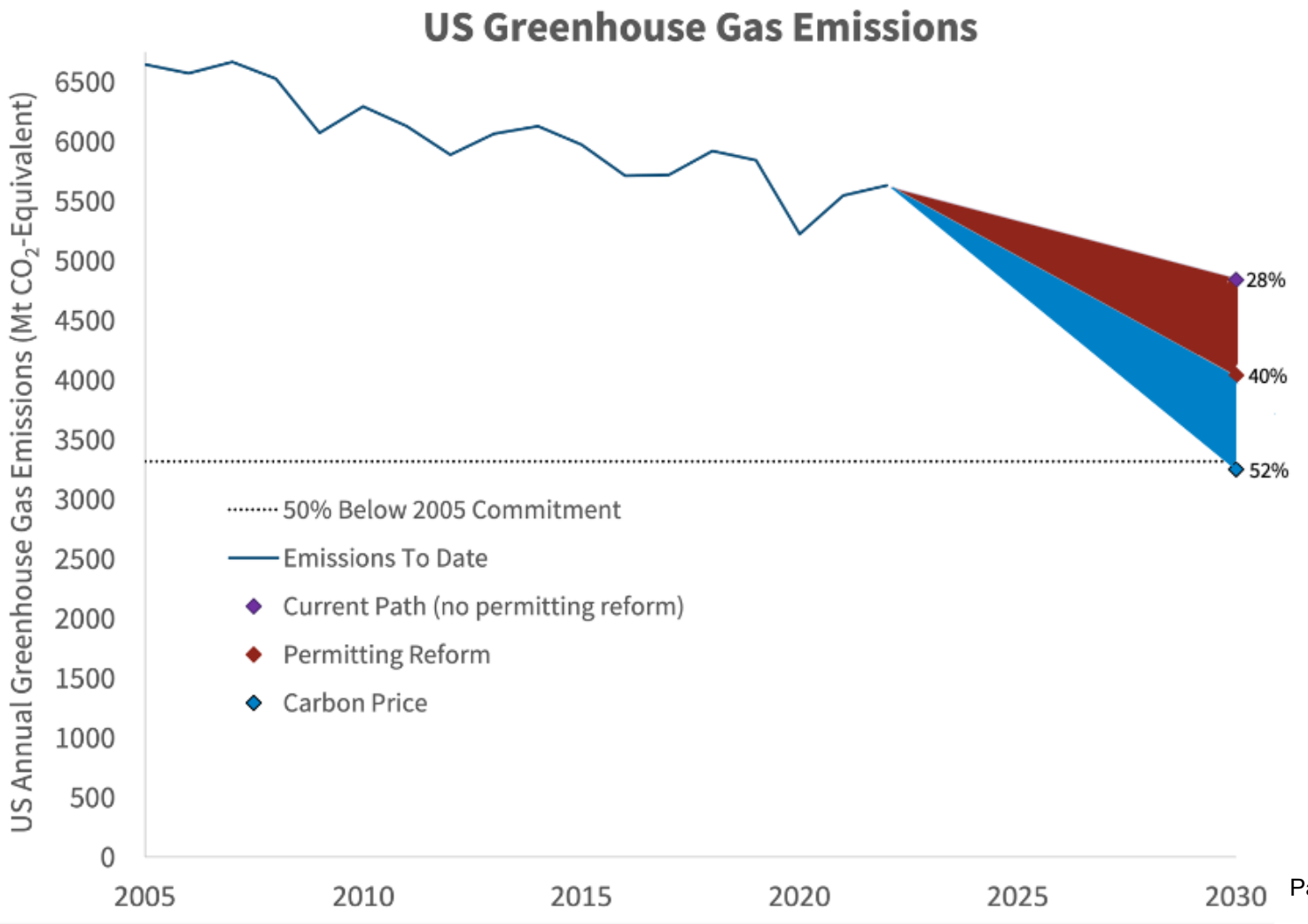
Emissions To Date
Current Path (no permitting reform)
Permitting Reform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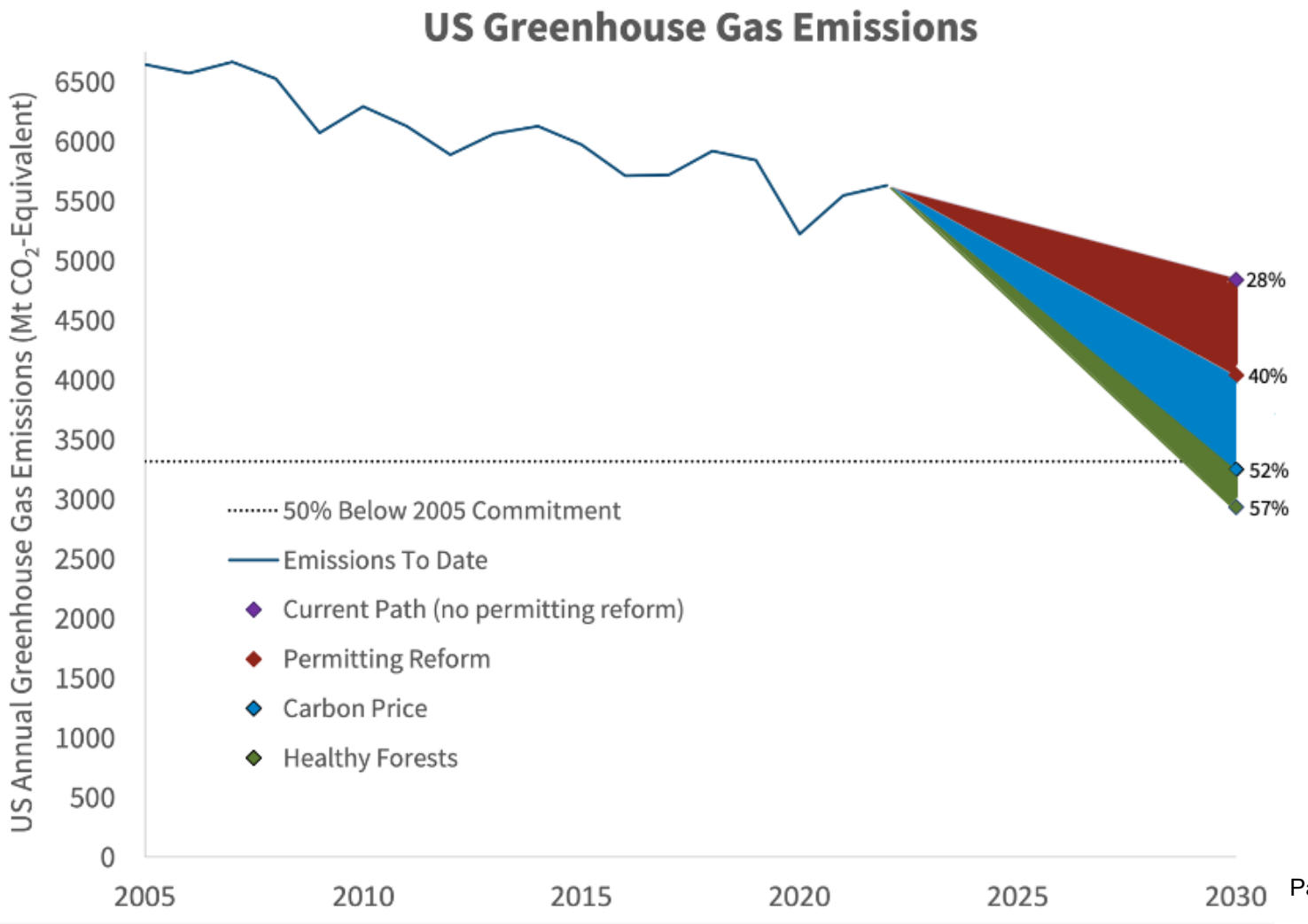
Emissions To Date
Current Path (no permitting reform)
Permitting Reform
Carbon Price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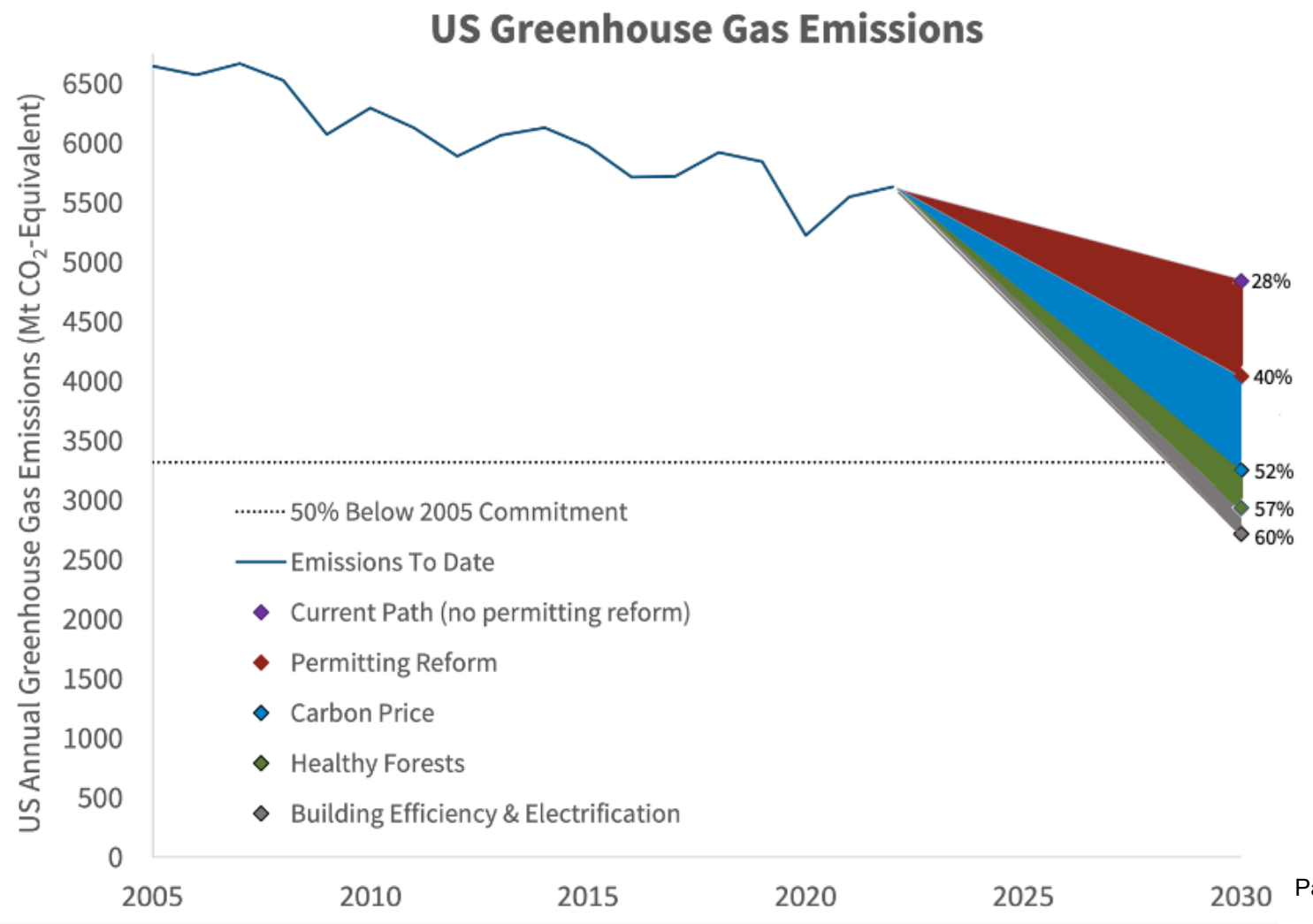
Emissions To Date
Current Path (no permitting reform)
Permitting Reform
Carbon Price
Healthy Forests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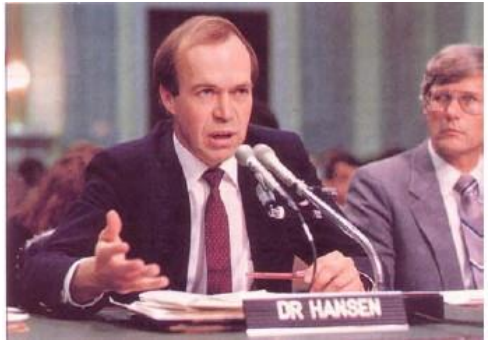
Carbon Price
Healthy Forests
Building Efficiency & Electrification

Our Solution to Climate Change: Democracy!

Citizens' Climate Lobby



“Most Impressive is the work of Citizens’ Climate Lobby… If you want to join the fight to save the planet, to save creation for your grandchildren, there is no more effective step you could take than becoming an active member of this group.”
– Dr. James Hansen, NASA Climate Scientist

SCAN ME

Citizens’ Climate Lobby

Thank you!

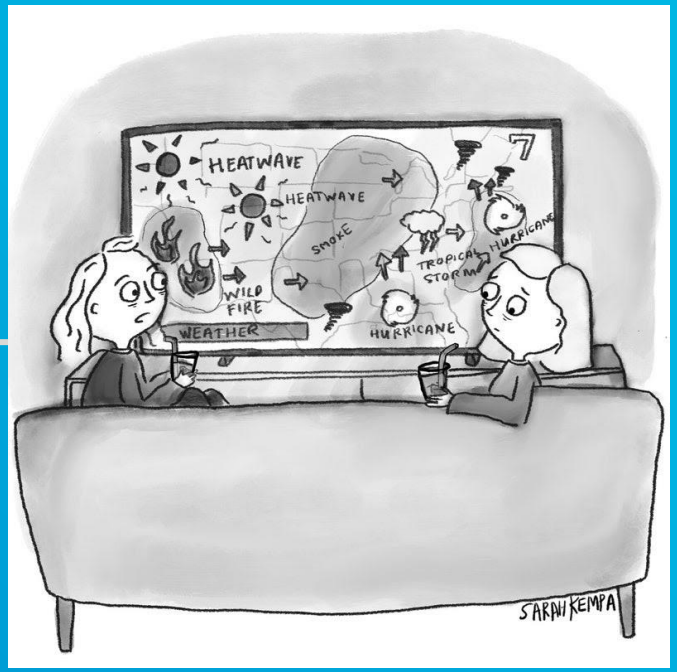
Thank You!

SCAN ME

Peter Dugas

E-mail: dugas3@gmail.com

Phone: 207-409-0722



"I don't think reusable straws will be enough."

Citizens' Climate Lobby

www.citizensclimatelobby.org

Work Plan for Biddeford Sustainability Commission - 2025
Primary Goals: Advance priorities outlined in the Climate Action Plan (CAP), focusing on emissions reductions, public health, climate adaptation, social justice, food systems, transportation, resilience, and a Greenhouse Gas (GHG) inventory.

1. Sustainable Food Systems
Priority topics:
- Expand and promote local food systems by collaborating with community gardens and local farmers.
- Promote and expand actions that improve soil health and store carbon.
- Create and enforce climate resilient and sustainable landscaping approaches, including eliminating the use of fertilizers, herbicides, and pesticides, especially in city parks and green spaces.
- Conduct educational outreach with community partners (BCG) on sustainable food practices.

Outcomes:
- Report on the expansion of local food systems, including community gardens and collaborations with local farms.
- Present a draft ordinance recommendation to incentivize sustainable agricultural practices and address priorities outlined in the CAP.

2. EV Transition
Priority topics:
- Draft a proposed ordinance requiring cost-benefit analyses for EV versus internal combustion engine vehicle (ICEV) purchases for all city vehicles.
- Support the transition of the municipal fleet to EV, work to understand current needs and charging infrastructure.

Outcomes:
- Present an ordinance requiring EV cost-benefit analyses to Council.
- Summarize the current number of municipal fleet vehicles and needs.
- Recommend locations for additional public and city EV charging stations.

3. Public Transportation and Infrastructure
Priority topics:
- Expand access to and use of public transit services.
- Improve the walkability and bikeability of our city's roadways through a safe, comfortable, and convenient network of pedestrian walkways and bike routes.
- Collaborate with Biddeford-Saco-Old Orchard Beach Transit to improve bus routes and reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT).
- Identify and prioritize locations for proper bus shelters with shade structures.
- Promote transit-oriented development by reviewing zoning regulations to encourage density near transit hubs.

Outcomes:

- Identify bus shelter locations and associated costs.
- Recommend zoning amendments to encourage transit-oriented development.
- Present suggestions to Council to reduce vehicle miles traveled.

4. Resilience and Community Safety
Priority topics:
- Plan and propose a resilience hub to provide essential services during emergencies.
- Draft a snow-shoveling ordinance to ensure pedestrian safety.
- Impacts of sea level rise on coastal communities

Outcomes:
- Present a resilience hub proposal with detailed operational plans.
- Submit a snow-shoveling ordinance draft to the City Council.
- Identify priority areas and concerns for coastal residents

5. Shade and Tree Canopy Ordinance
Priority topics:
- Draft a shade ordinance requiring shade structures at bus stops and other city-owned properties.
- Develop a tree ordinance to increase the city's tree canopy, on city and private property.

Outcomes:
- Submit a shade ordinance to Council.
- Propose a tree planting strategy and identify priority areas.

6. GHG Inventory
Priority topics:
- Update the city's GHG inventory using data from municipal, residential, and commercial sources.
- Identify key sources of emissions and recommend reduction strategies.
- Publish a public report on progress toward GHG reduction goals.

Outcomes:
- Deliver an updated GHG inventory report.
- Conduct a public presentation of findings and solicit feedback.

7. Buildings and Energy
Priority topics:
- Develop and propose ordinances requiring large buildings and rental properties to meet energy efficiency standards.
- Identify opportunities for electrifying municipal buildings and replacing fossil fuel-based systems with electric alternatives.

Outcomes:

- Present an ordinance draft for energy efficiency standards.
- Identify next steps on municipal building electrification including scoping needed retrofits and anticipated benefits.

8. Leadership and Support
Priority topics:
- Identify sources of funding for CAP implementation including taxes, fees, and grants.
- Support local schools to include climate change and sustainability in school curricula.
- Advocate for a dedicated, full-time position for sustainability in the city.
- Incorporate climate resilience and carbon emission measures into planned investments for city-owned infrastructure and equipment.

Outcomes:
- Draft a list of possible CAP funding sources
- Work with at least 1 school on their curricula or other activities
- Obtain external grant funding to support CAP implementation

9. Beach Management Plan
Priority topics:
- Work with engineers and coastal experts to assess and develop a beach nourishment plan to mitigate erosion and support coastal resilience.
- Engage with community stakeholders to identify priority areas.
- Develop funding proposals and partnership opportunities for implementation.

Outcomes:
- Publish a comprehensive beach management plan.
- Identify and propose priority beach nourishment projects.
- Sign the regional dredge MOU.

Timeline
January and February
-Develop beach management plan
-Draft shade/tree ordinance

March and April
-Draft EV/ICE cost estimate ordinance
-Identify funding sources for CAP projects

May and June

July and August
-Develop energy efficiency building standards ordinance

September and October
-Draft GHG inventory

November and December
-Present complete GHG inventory
-Draft annual report for Council