



# City of Austin Sustainability Initiatives

April 21, 2016

# Agenda

- **The City's Sustainability framework**
- **The Austin Community Climate Plan**
- **Preparing for Climate Change**

# SUSTAINABILITY




- City Council Vision – Most Livable City in the Country
- This is foundational to being an Austinite
- Led by “a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens”





**Vision: Austin is a thriving, equitable, and ecologically resilient community.**

**Mission: Provide leadership, influence positive action through engagement, and create measurable benefits for Austin.**

- 
- **Net-zero community-wide greenhouse gas emissions by 2050**
  - **A resilient and adaptive city**
  - **Resource efficient strategies for municipal operations**
  - **Tangible projects that demonstrate sustainability**
  - **A healthy and just local food system**





# Austin

COMMUNITY  
2015  
CLIMATE PLAN



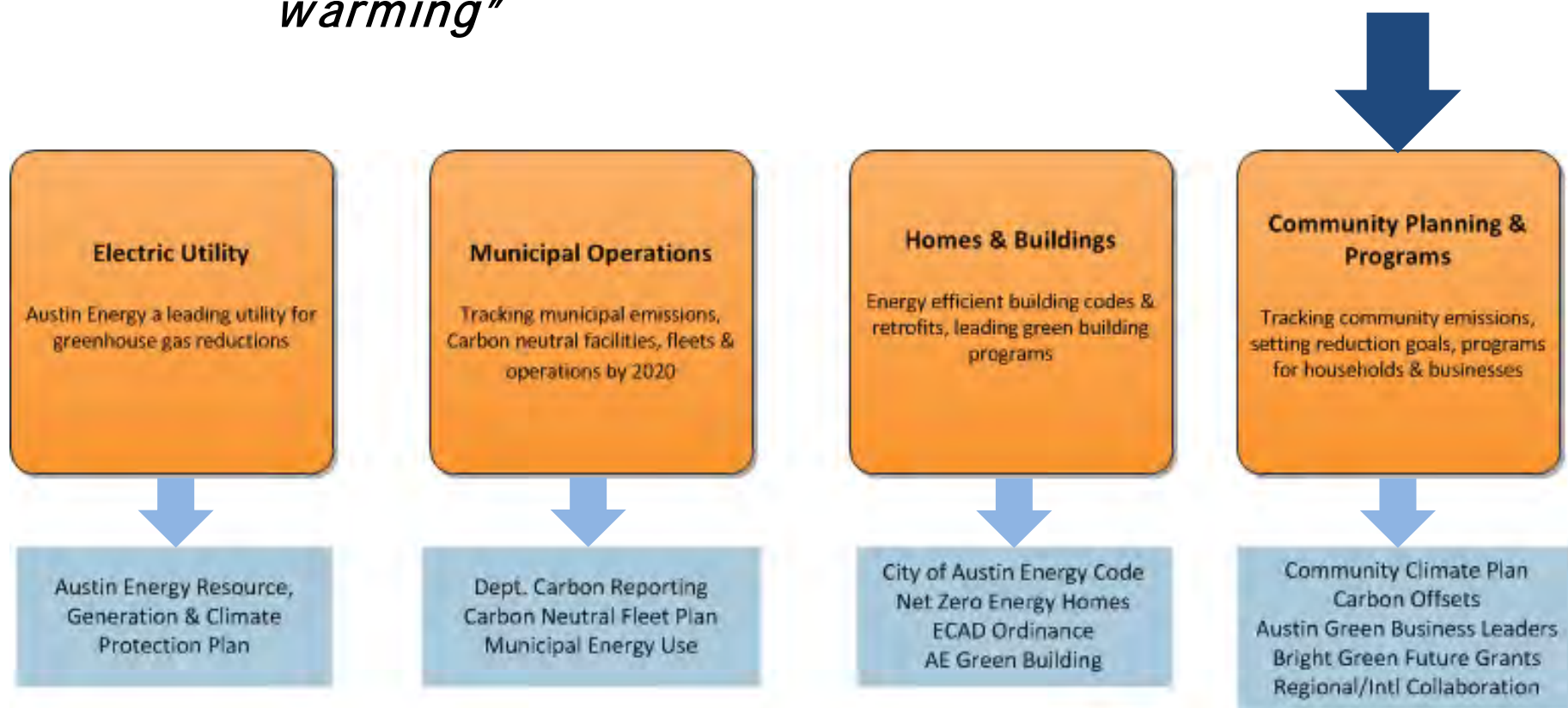
AUSTIN TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT



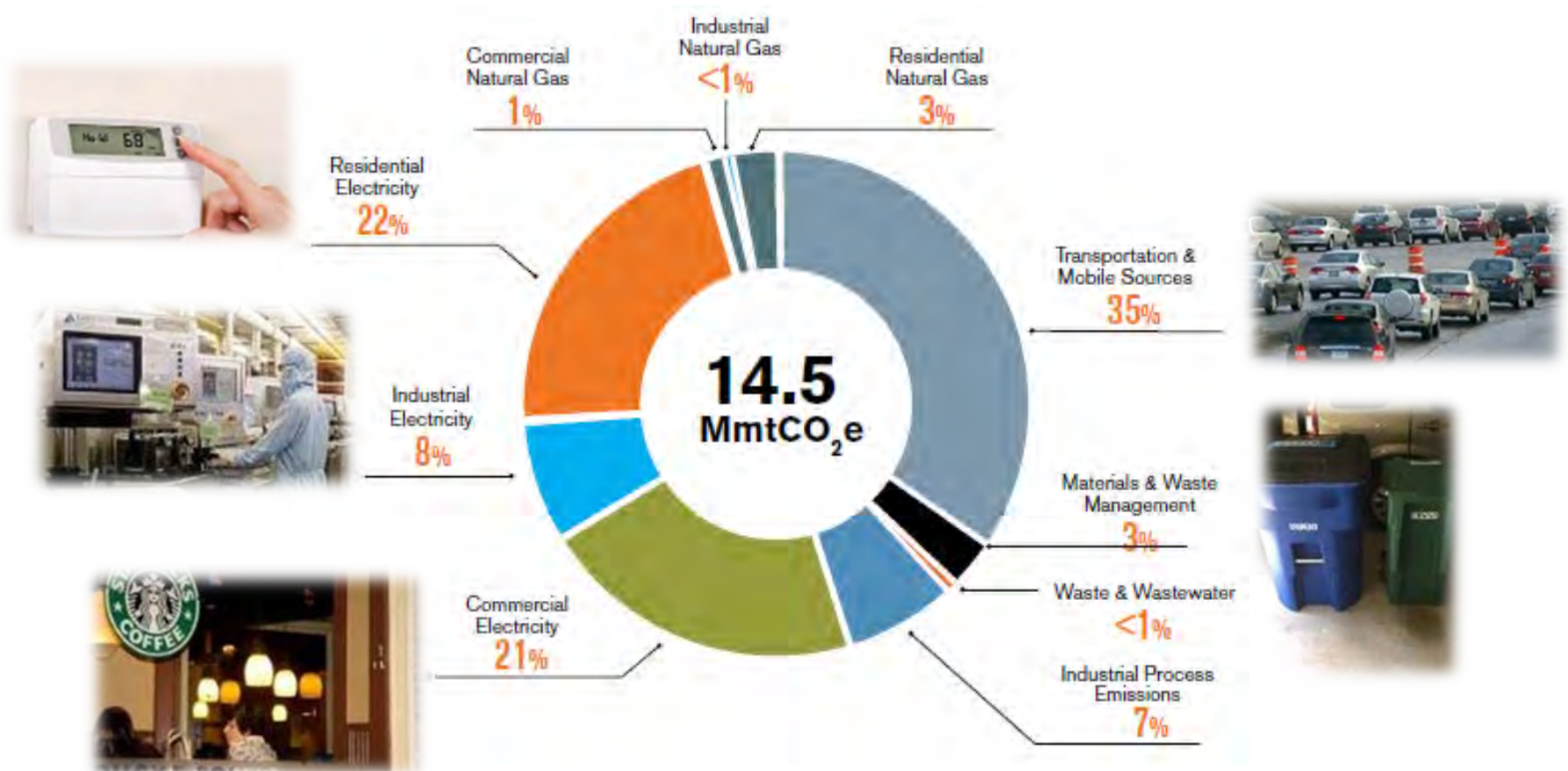


# 2007 Climate Protection Resolution

*“make Austin the leading city in the nation in the effort to reduce the negative impacts of global warming”*



# 2010 Estimated Travis County Greenhouse Gas Inventory

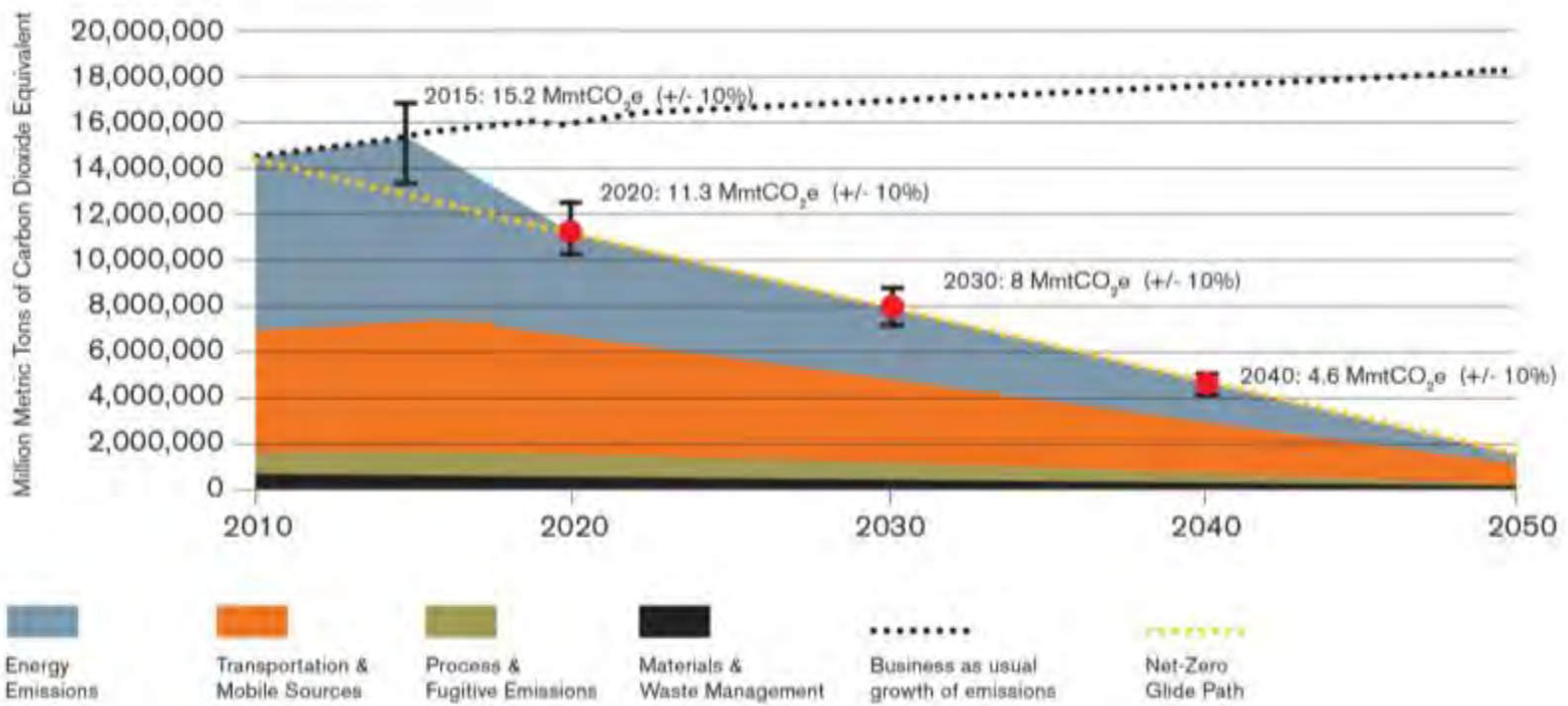






# 2014 Council Resolution

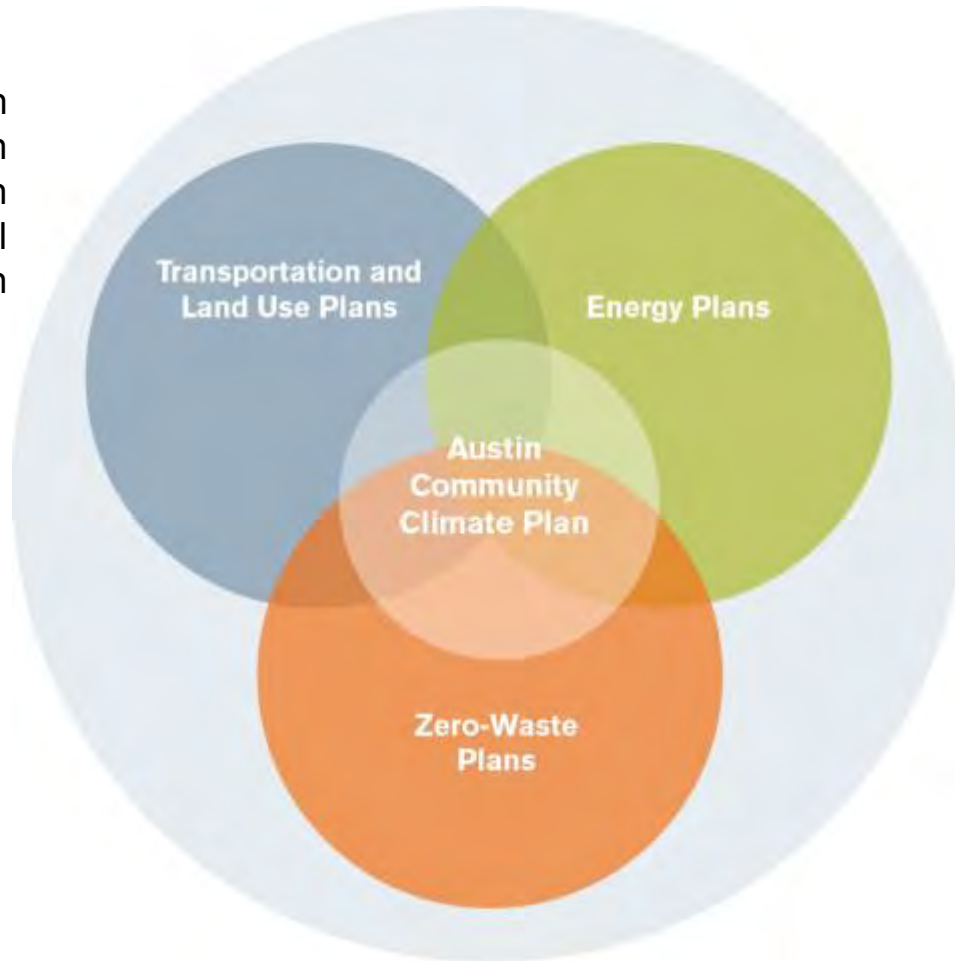
## Net-Zero Emissions by 2050





# Coordinating to Reach Common Goals

Imagine Austin  
Austin Bicycle Master Plan  
Urban Trails Master Plan  
CAMPO 2035 Regional  
Transportation Plan



Austin Energy Resource,  
Generation, and Climate  
Protection Plan

Austin Resource Recovery Master Plan



# The Plan and Way Forward

## Electricity and Natural Gas

- Buildings and Integrated Efficiency
- Promote Behavior Change
- Resource Technologies

## Transportation and Land Use

- Infrastructure and Service
- Land Use
- Demand Management
- Policy and Planning
- Vehicles and Fuel Efficiency
- Economic and Pricing Solutions

## Materials and Waste Management

- Organics Diversion
- Purchasing
- Methane Management
- Recycle / Reduce / Reuse

## Industrial Process

- Fuel Switching
- Process Optimization
- Capture and Destruction
- Local Offsets

## Resolution 20150604-048

- Adopted the Austin Community Climate Plan
- Develop an implementation plan for Phase 1 actions



# Direct Benefits to the Community



Reduced energy costs



Improved energy security and reliability



Decreased risk of energy shortages or outages



Greater affordability for all



Reduced pollution



Improved air quality



Improved public health



Thriving local economy



Expanded local jobs creation



Enhanced transit system



Reduced traffic congestion



Safer streets



Improved disaster preparedness



Protected and enhanced ecosystems



Diminished water consumption by power plants

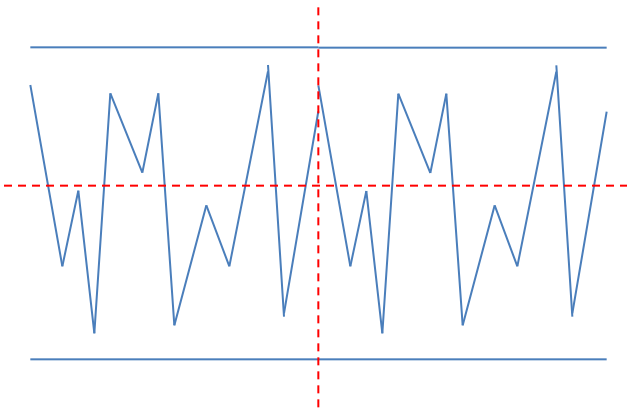


*Jay Janner/Austin American-Statesman via AP*

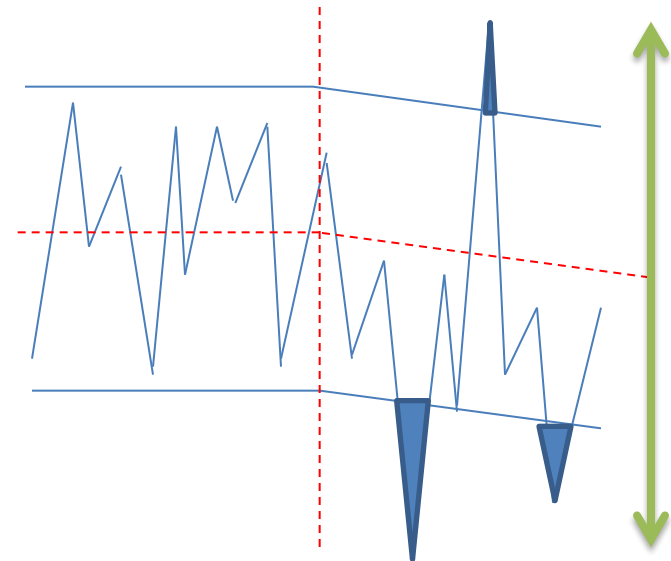
# Preparing for Climate Change

# Climate Change Changes the Game

**The Past = The Future**



**Uncertain Future:**



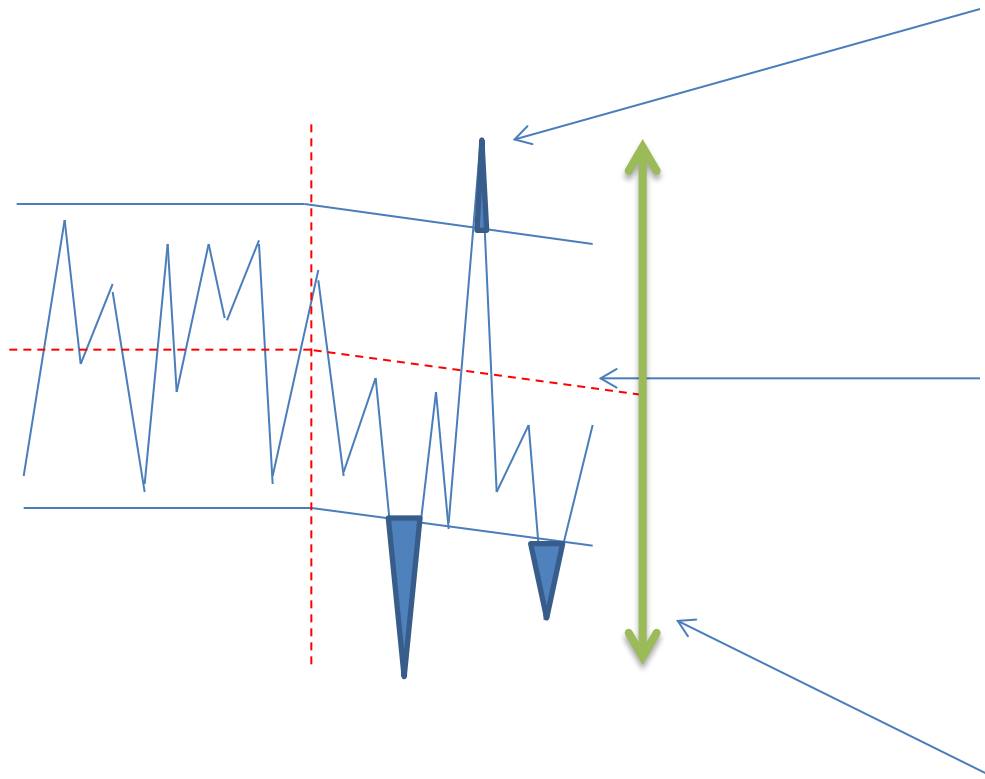
**Extreme Events**

**Changing Trends**

**Increased Uncertainty**



# Planning for New Trends & Extremes



## Addressing Extreme Events:

How intense and how frequent?

- Emergency Response
- Plant Operations

## Addressing Trends:

How high / low and how quickly?

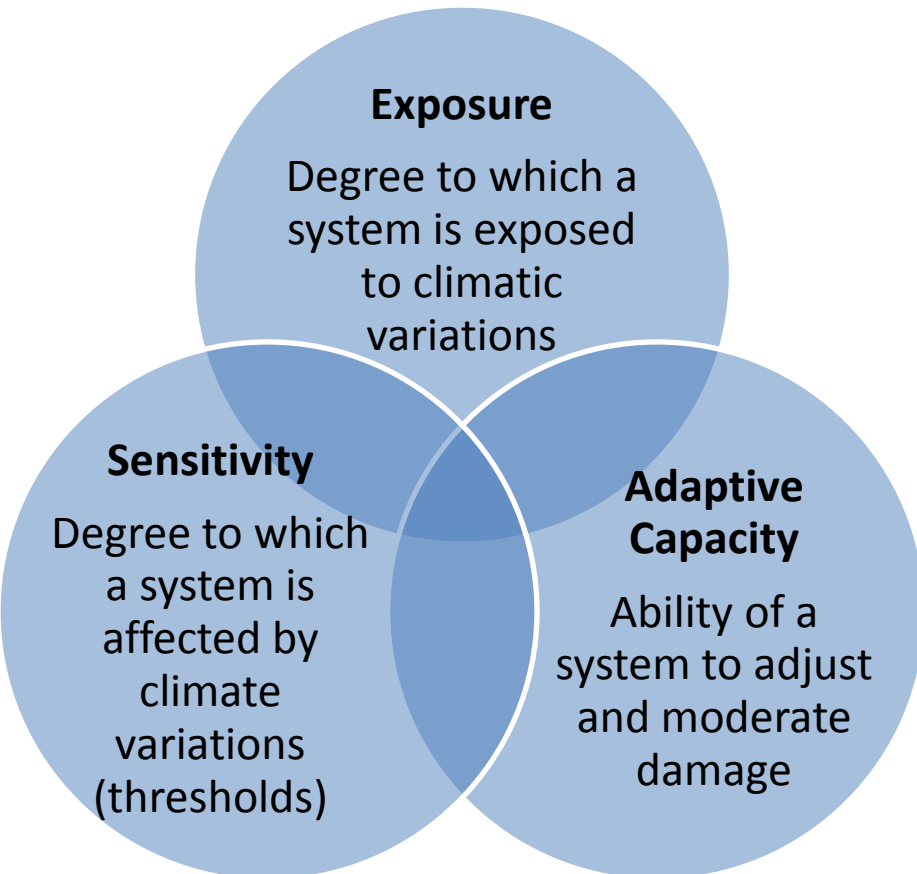
- Systems Planning
- Supply changes
- Demand changes

## Addressing Uncertainty:

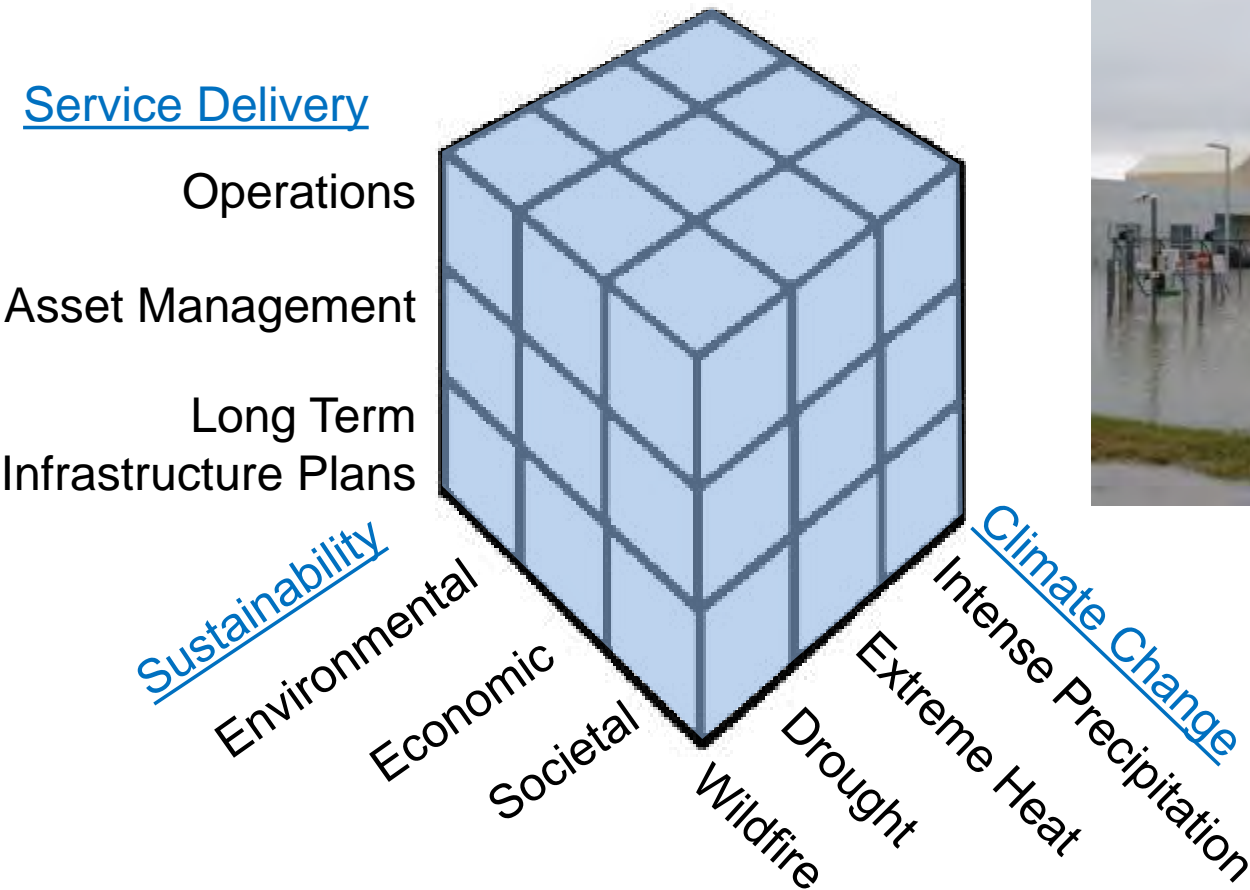
- Scenario Planning
- Building robust / resilient systems

# Understanding Climate Change Risk

**Vulnerability** = Exposure, Sensitivity, Adaptive Capacity



# Complex Interrelated Impacts





# Process

## 1. Planning

- I. Climate Projections
- II. Understanding interplay with existing plans
- III. Identify a process

## 2. Vulnerability Assessment

- I. Identify Climate Thresholds
- II. Rank Vulnerable Assets
- III. Risk Analysis

## 3. Climate Resiliency incorporated in operations and plans

- I. Goals/Targets
- II. Develop action plan(s)
- III. Implement and Monitor



# Thank you!

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