



## 12th Annual CCEC Forum: Lunch 6

August 18, 2021 | 12:00 - 1:15 pm

# The State of Local Climate Planning – A Needed Evolution





# Thank you to...

*Our sponsors for making the forum possible!*



Local Governments Empowering Our Communities





# Thank you to...

## Our promo partners for extending our reach!



CAPITAL REGION  
CLIMATE READINESS  
COLLABORATIVE



Center for  
Sustainable  
Energy®



CENTRAL  
COAST  
CLIMATE  
COLLABORATIVE

**Clean**  
Coalition



Climate  
Collaborative  
SAN DIEGO REGION



Climate  
Resolve



DRAWDOWN  
BAY AREA



ICLEI  
Local Governments  
for Sustainability  
USA



ISLAND  
PRESS



LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
SUSTAINABLE  
ENERGY COALITION



Better Buildings  
CHALLENGE  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY  
LOS ANGELES



LARC



goes solar



ProspectSV



San Diego  
Energy District



SAN DIEGO  
GREEN  
BUILDING  
COUNCIL



SGVCOG  
San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments



SJVCEO  
Clean Energy Organization



SOMAH



# Zoom Features

## Microphone

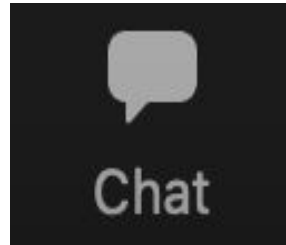
Keep yourself **muted** so that we can hear our speakers clearly

**Unmute** yourself when speaking



## Chat

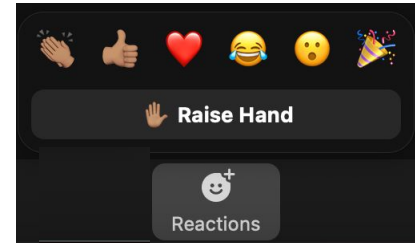
Communicate with other participants or reach out to LGC staff if you encounter technical issues.



## Reactions

Click the icon to **raise your hand** to ask to speak verbally.

We encourage the use of emojis!





# Meet our Speakers!



**Moderator**  
**Miya Kitahara**  
Program Manager,  
StopWaste



**Mike Steinhoff**  
Director of Technical  
Services,  
Kim Lundgren Associates



**Hoi-Fei Mok**  
Sustainability  
Manager,  
City of San Leandro

# THE STATE OF LOCAL CLIMATE PLANNING

OBSERVATIONS BY LOCAL CLIMATE ACTION  
PRACTITIONERS

*PUBLISHED MAY 2021, REFLECTING DIALOGUE BEGUN IN 2019*

**Michael Armstrong**, City Scale

**Derik Broekhoff**,

Stockholm Environment Institute

**Katherine Gajewski**, City Scale

**Miya Kitahara**, StopWaste

**Michael McCormick**, Farallon Strategies

**Sarah McKinstry-Wu**, USDN

**Ariella Maron**, City Scale

**Hoi-Fei Mok**, PhD, climate equity specialist

**Tracy Morgenstern**, USDN

**Michael Steinhoff**, Kim Lundgren Associates

**Brian Swett**, formerly City of Boston

# PREFACE

This statement was drafted in fall 2019—prior to the emergence of COVID-19, prior to the renewed reckoning with structural racism following the murder of George Floyd, prior to the deeply unequal economic impacts of the pandemic, and prior to the 2020 elections and their aftermath that laid bare the fragility of democratic norms. As of March 2021, signs of light are appearing at the end of the pandemic tunnel, but even a relatively rapid economic recovery is unlikely to lead to a resumption of business as usual. Personal and community priorities have shifted, a new federal administration is vigorously linking climate change with economic justice, municipal and state budgets are upended, and the global geopolitical order is evolving rapidly. This is a moment to re-assess, consider where we have been as a local climate movement, what we have learned, and how we might proceed in the new circumstances ahead. Over the last 18 months, we have heard increasing awareness and discussion around many of the observations outlined below, but we have seen only fragments of these sentiments in action and in writing. In the spirit of collective learning, we share this statement as an expression of the state of the local government climate field in 2019, and we welcome dialogue about what no longer resonates and what may be more true than ever.

## A LIVE CONVERSATION

- Recognizing changing context
- Continuously evolving the practice
- Expression in time - dynamic, not static
- Already outdated!
- Iterative conversations - join us!

*We are practitioners who seek open dialogue within and beyond the current community of local climate practice.*

*The prevailing approach to local climate planning is not sufficient to drive change as far and as quickly as necessary.*

# OUR INVITATION: EXPLORE WITH US...

- What have we learned from a decade plus of local climate planning and implementation?
- What do we know? What do we not know?
- What is data in service to?
- Who have we been engaging, and who will be needed for the work ahead?
- What's needed? Course correction, letting go, carrying forward, and building new.
- Adaptive capacity, new governance models, skills, knowledge, tools needed going forward



*What are the next frameworks for this work? What is the process for building, testing, and scaling new approaches?*



1990's

Mayoral commitments

First generation CAPs

Lack of federal leadership

Measure → target → plan → act

Today

This decade

## What's next?

COVID + Recovery

Social justice

Economic inequality

Adaptation & resilience

More urgency

Converging crises...

## LIMITATIONS OF OUR CURRENT PRACTICE

# FOCUSING ON EFFECTS, RATHER THAN CAUSES

- The **root causes** of most local GHG emissions are **embedded in systems** that are larger than an individual jurisdiction.
- Local governments increasingly acknowledge that they cannot achieve their GHG goals by **using their own authorities alone**
- At a programmatic level, **getting cities out of frequent GHG inventory work frees up staff time** for more consequential activities
- Local governments are uniquely positioned to **foster social cohesion and strengthen democratic institutions** that are essential to addressing the extractive systems that are the root causes of climate change, not just the end GHG emissions.

# TAKING TECHNOCRATIC AND SILOED APPROACHES

- The **major barriers are political and socio-cultural**, but current practice emphasizes technical analysis and solutions, positions GHG inventories as foundational, and centers the work around GHG reductions.
- Working against a baseline inventory has led cities to **work incrementally** and in **technical silos**.
- Climate efforts have often been siloed exercises that are **rarely integrated with existing strategies** and often lack contextualization with mayoral and community priorities such as jobs, affordability, and housing.
- The communities and professional fields involved to date are **relatively homogeneous**, making it more **difficult to achieve widespread action**.

## INADEQUATE GOVERNANCE STRUCTURES AND EQUITABLE COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

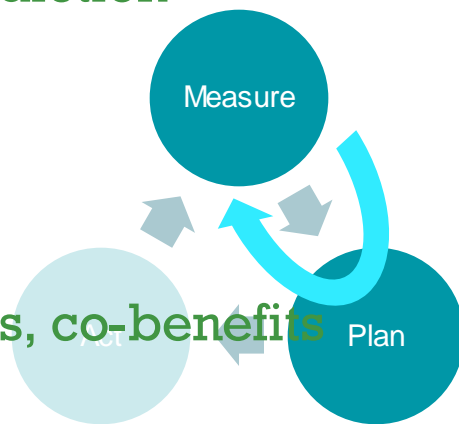
- Practitioners express a growing determination to **center climate work around people and equity** but are wrestling with what this looks like in practice.

## LIMITED PRACTICE OF LEARNING FROM OUR COLLECTIVE EXPERIENCE AND COURSE CORRECTING

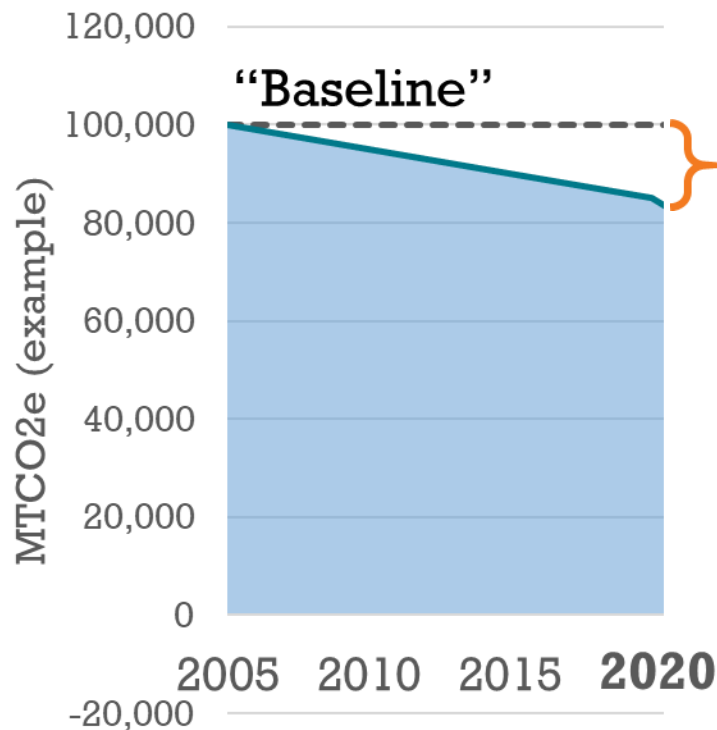
- The field of local government climate work has **not yet established a practice and mechanism for collective learning** from experience and course correction.

# Limitations of Local GHG Inventories

- Consumes time & resources away from implementation
  - Millions of dollars spent by local govs across the state
  - Repeating same process jurisdiction by jurisdiction
  - Prone to inconsistencies and errors
  - Planning/analysis paralysis feedback loop
- Puts all focus on local MTCO<sub>2</sub>e
  - Impedes systemic thinking, regional solutions, co-benefits
  - Limits opportunities for impact
- Makes it feel like each jurisdiction is acting on its own

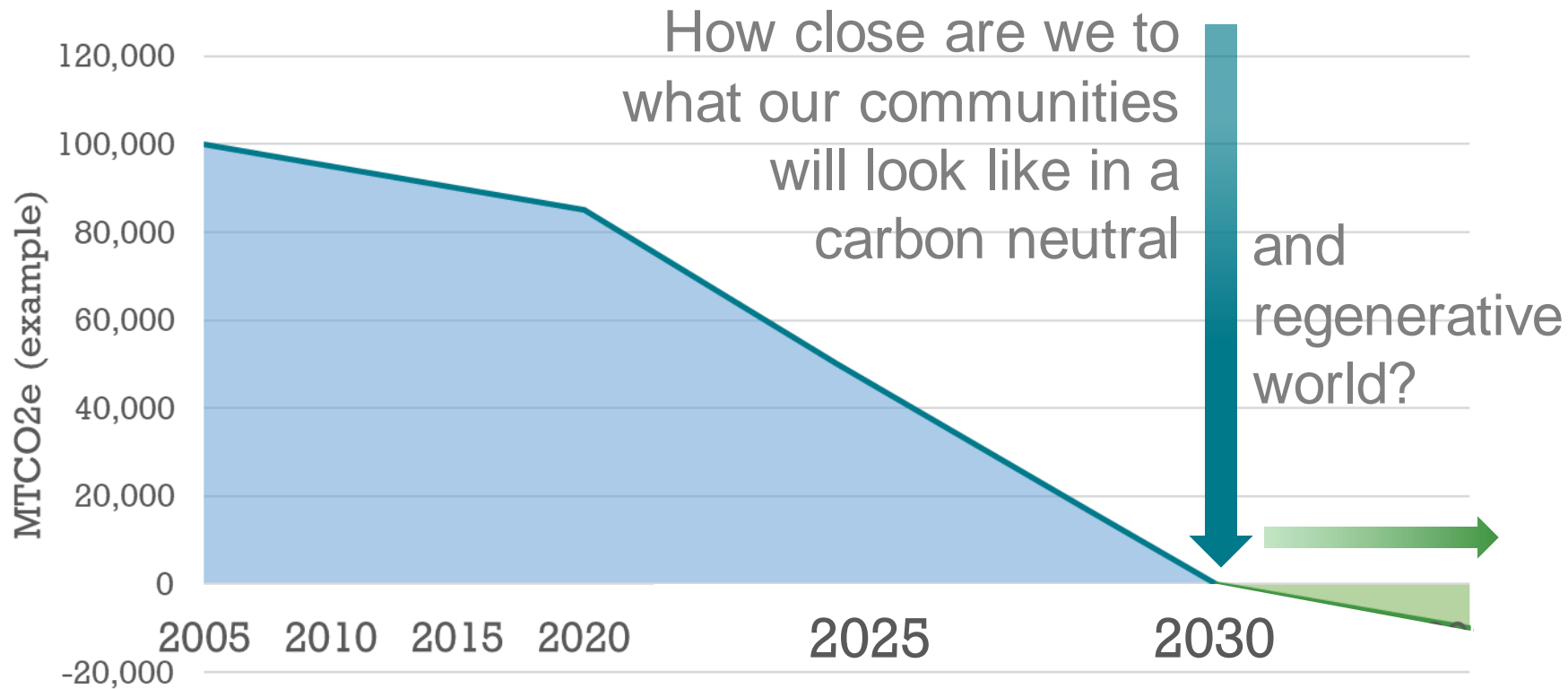


# From Incremental...



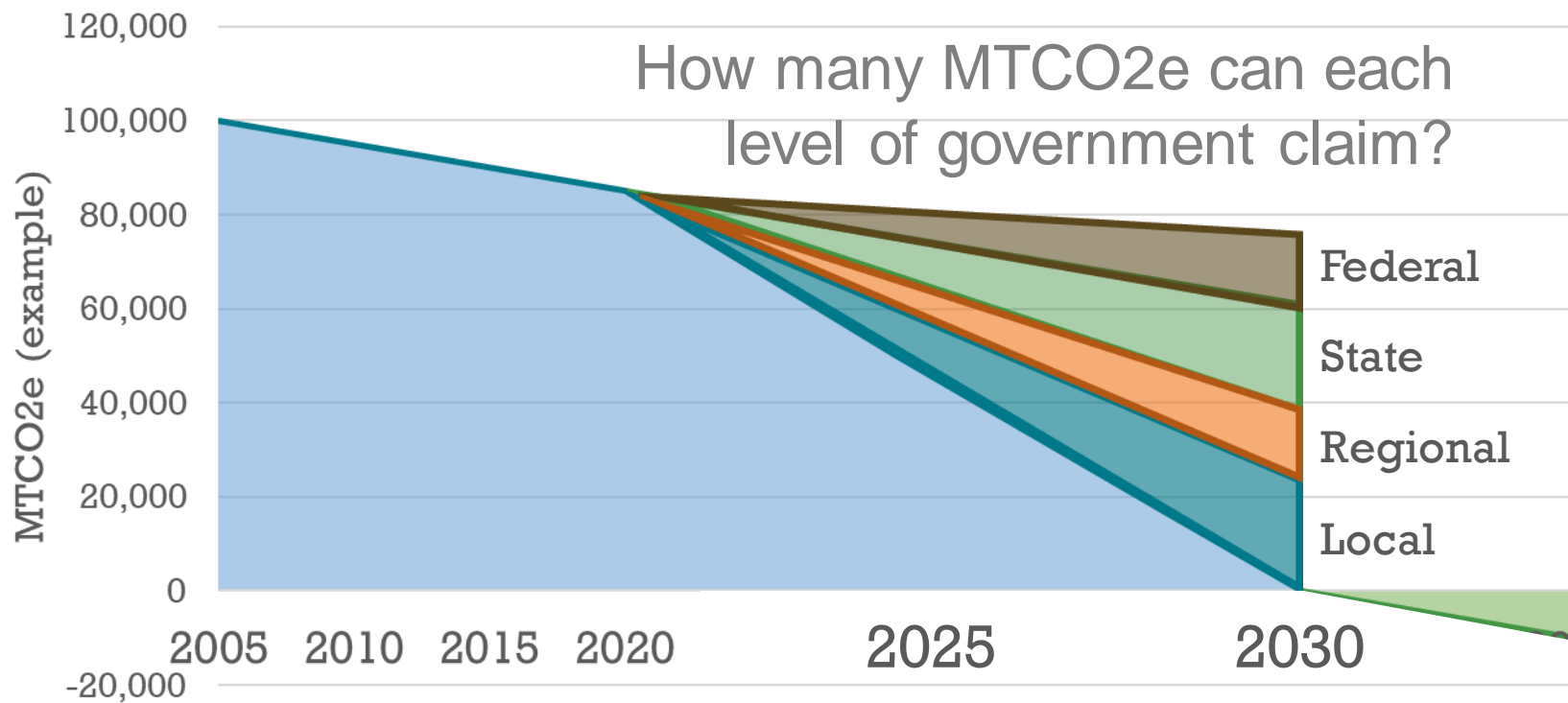
With an incremental goal  
e.g. 15% “below baseline”  
the **exact MTCO2e**  
matters a lot, and  
**what’s in** the baseline  
matters a lot.

# From Incremental... to Systemic

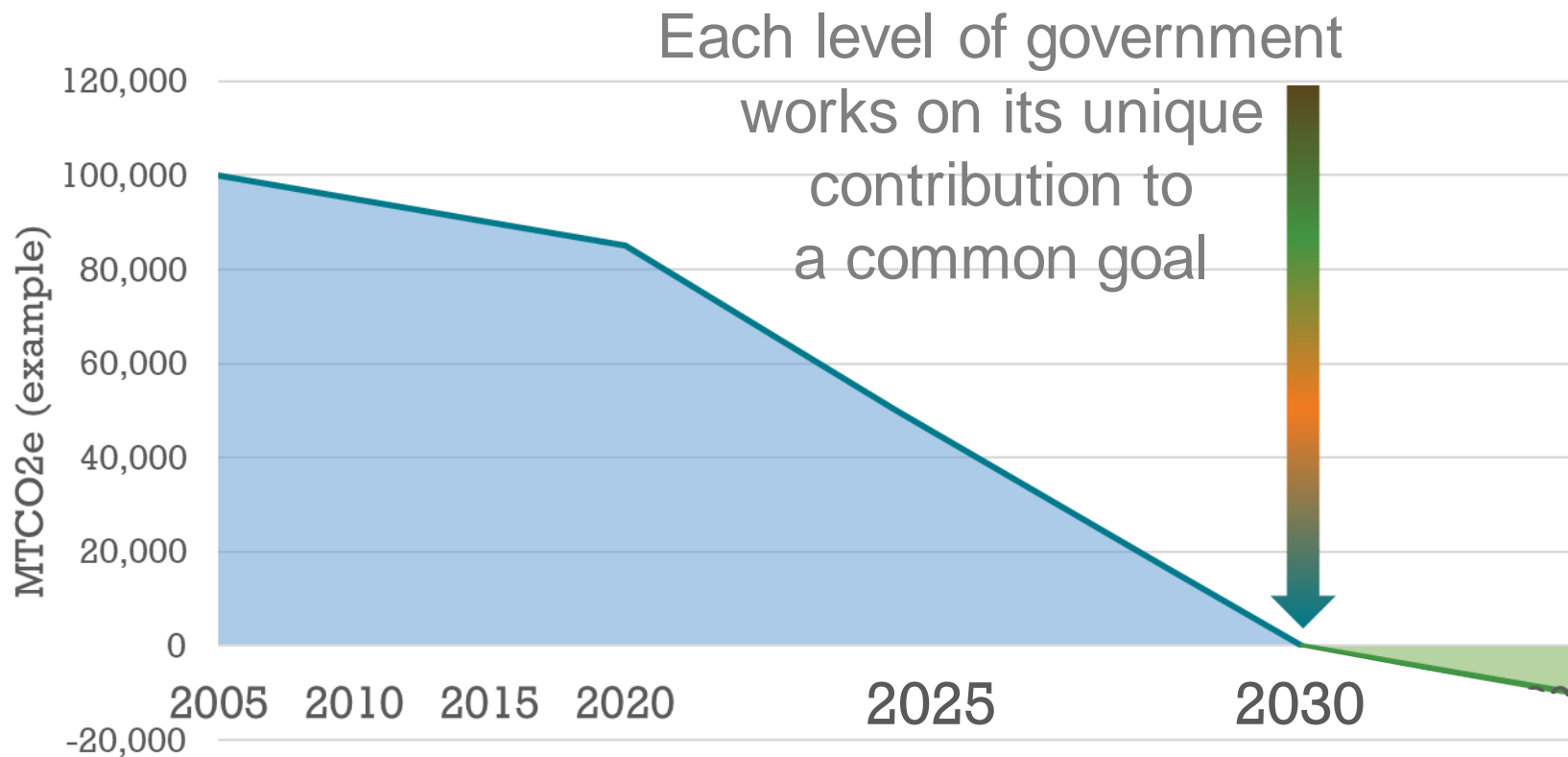




# From Attribution...



# From Attribution... to Contribution



# WHAT IS IT TIME FOR?

FROM...	TO...
focusing singularly on GHGs	centering people and equity
reporting top-line GHG numbers	reporting leading indicators and activity metrics
individual jurisdiction GHG inventories & plans	regional or state-level data and action
costly, time-consuming bespoke inventories	simplify the process to get first-order inventories
responsibility held by disparate, individual local govts	state and federal support for climate services and capacity building programs
frameworks originally designed for national and international policy	ones designed to support local processes, regional activation, and opportunities for new governance models to address climate change



# WE WELCOME DIALOGUE!

[michael@farallonstrategies.com](mailto:michael@farallonstrategies.com)  
[mike@kimlundgrenassociates.com](mailto:mike@kimlundgrenassociates.com)  
[hfmok@sanleandro.org](mailto:hfmok@sanleandro.org)  
[miya@stopwaste.org](mailto:miya@stopwaste.org)

**Michael Armstrong**, City Scale

**Derik Broekhoff**,

Stockholm Environment Institute

**Katherine Gajewski**, City Scale

**Miya Kitahara**, StopWaste

**Michael McCormick**, Farallon Strategies

**Sarah McKinstry-Wu**,

Urban Sustainability Directors Network

**Ariella Maron**, City Scale

**Hoi-Fei Mok**, PhD, climate equity specialist

**Tracy Morgenstern**,

Urban Sustainability Directors Network

**Michael Steinhoff**,

Kim Lundgren Associates

**Brian Swett**, formerly City of Boston



# Thanks again to...

*Our sponsors for making the forum possible!*



Local Governments Empowering Our Communities





# Upcoming Events



## 12th Annual California Climate & Energy Forum

*Transforming Tomorrow Together*

August 3 - 19, 2021

### WEEK 3

- **8/18 Webinar 11:**  
Next Generation Building Decarbonization: Policy Evolution in California & Washington
- **8/19 Webinar 12:**  
Leveraging Solar & Battery Systems to Lower Costs & Increase Resiliency
- **8/19 Closing Plenary:**  
Highlights and Horizons: An Interactive Forum Closing

**Post-Session Survey:**  
[bit.ly/CCEC-Post-Session-Survey](https://bit.ly/CCEC-Post-Session-Survey)

To view the entire program visit [eecoordinator.info/forum-program/](https://eecoordinator.info/forum-program/)