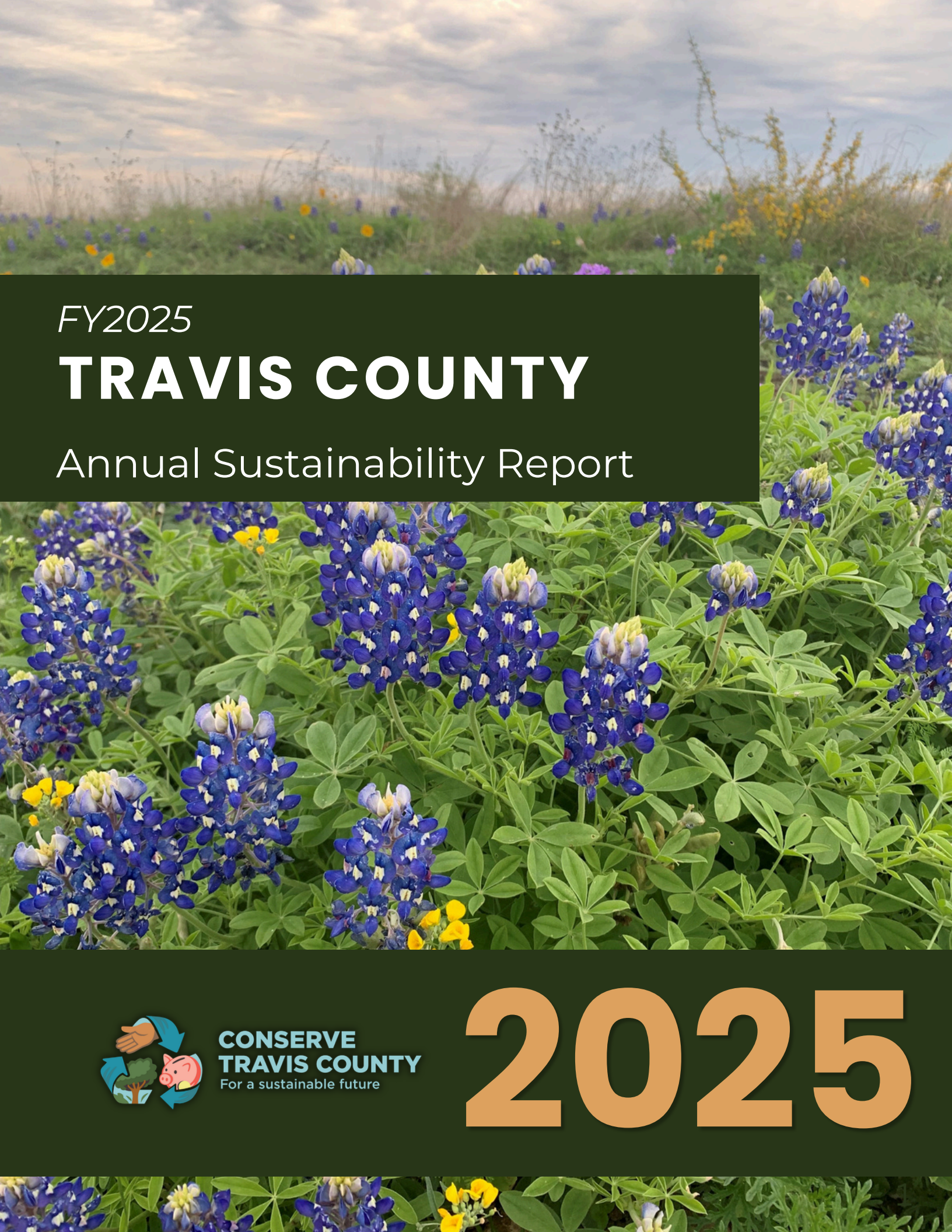


FY2025

TRAVIS COUNTY

Annual Sustainability Report

CONSERVE TRAVIS COUNTY
For a sustainable future

2025

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MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Sustainability involves the ongoing actions and commitments that enable an organization to maintain and enhance the services, programs, and initiatives that support quality of life. It requires developing effective processes, continuously improving them, and adapting to changing conditions over time. At its core, sustainability is about making decisions and taking actions that balance environmental stewardship, social responsibility, and economic vitality, ensuring that both current and future generations can thrive.

Environmental conditions are changing, and communities across the globe are experiencing the impacts. In July 2025, Travis County and the Texas Hill Country witnessed firsthand the devastating effects of extreme flooding. Climate experts indicate that events such as these are expected to become more frequent and severe as climate patterns continue to shift. As a result, efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, minimize environmental impacts, and strengthen community resilience are more important than ever. Preparing for future challenges requires both awareness and action, ensuring that our community is equipped to adapt, respond, and recover in the face of changing conditions.

This report provides an overview of sustainability efforts and outcomes across county operations, including energy and water management, waste diversion and recycling, transportation, and related programs and policies. In addition, the report includes the County's greenhouse gas inventory, which shows a downward trend in operational emissions and demonstrates the impact of ongoing sustainability initiatives.

The progress highlighted in this report reflects the importance of collaboration and coordination across departments. We are grateful for the continued support and partnership of our colleagues in Transportation and Natural Resources, the Facilities Management Department, Purchasing Office, Planning and Budget Office, the offices of the Travis County Commissioner's Court, and many others. We value these relationships and look forward to building on them in the years ahead.

We also extend our gratitude to all who contributed data, success stories, and other information included in this report, as well as to the interdepartmental Green Team for its continued leadership. Sustainability is a countywide effort, and the accomplishments highlighted here would not be possible without the dedication of employees across the organization who work each day to advance meaningful and lasting change.

With appreciation,

Emily Ackland

Emily Ackland
Director, Natural Resources & Environmental Quality



CLIMATE CHANGE IN TRAVIS COUNTY

TRAVIS COUNTY CLIMATE ACTION PLAN FOR INTERNAL OPERATIONS

BACKGROUND

In 2019, leadership teams from departments across the organization participated in visioning workshops to explore how the County could change its operations to reduce potential damage to the environment. Their ideas become the comprehensive list of goals, policies, and activities that form the backbone of Travis County's first internal Climate Action Plan, approved by Commissioners Court in 2020. The plan signified Travis County's commitment to being part of the solution to the climate crisis.

TRAVIS COUNTY'S NET ZERO GOAL:

As part of this effort to respond to climate impacts in our local area, the Commissioners Court also passed a resolution which set a goal to achieve net-zero emissions as an organization by the year 2030. Net-zero emissions are the state in which the amount of greenhouse gas emitted is equal to the amount removed. The Climate Action Plan was the roadmap to help move closer towards this goal.



TRAVIS COUNTY'S UPDATED CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

TRAVIS COUNTY'S UPDATED CLIMATE ACTION PLAN:

Shortly after the Plan and resolution were approved, the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic brought a rapid change to business operations. Most notably, all non-essential staff suddenly transitioned to remote work, and the County adopted electronic process solutions for everything from document management to virtual meetings.

As the acute phase of the pandemic closed, a new hybrid way of doing business emerged. Changing practices and priorities led County leaders to look for ways to balance employee mental health, customer needs, and environmental issues. It is in this context that staff opened conversations about updating the internal Climate Action Plan.

In 2024, County departments began meeting to revisit the goals and activities that were first developed in the original Climate Action Plan. Meetings concluded in 2025, and the updated Plan was finalized and approved in 2026.

KEY FOCUS AREAS:

The Sustainability Report is a compilation of data and information that outlines our progress on Climate Action Plan initiatives and the goal of achieving net-zero emissions. The report is organized into the eight Key Focus Areas from the updated Climate Action Plan. Implementing practices within these different areas can lower our greenhouse gas emissions. Many of these practices can be quantified and are measured in the Greenhouse Gas Inventory, as seen throughout this report.



READ THE UPDATED CLIMATE ACTION PLAN HERE:

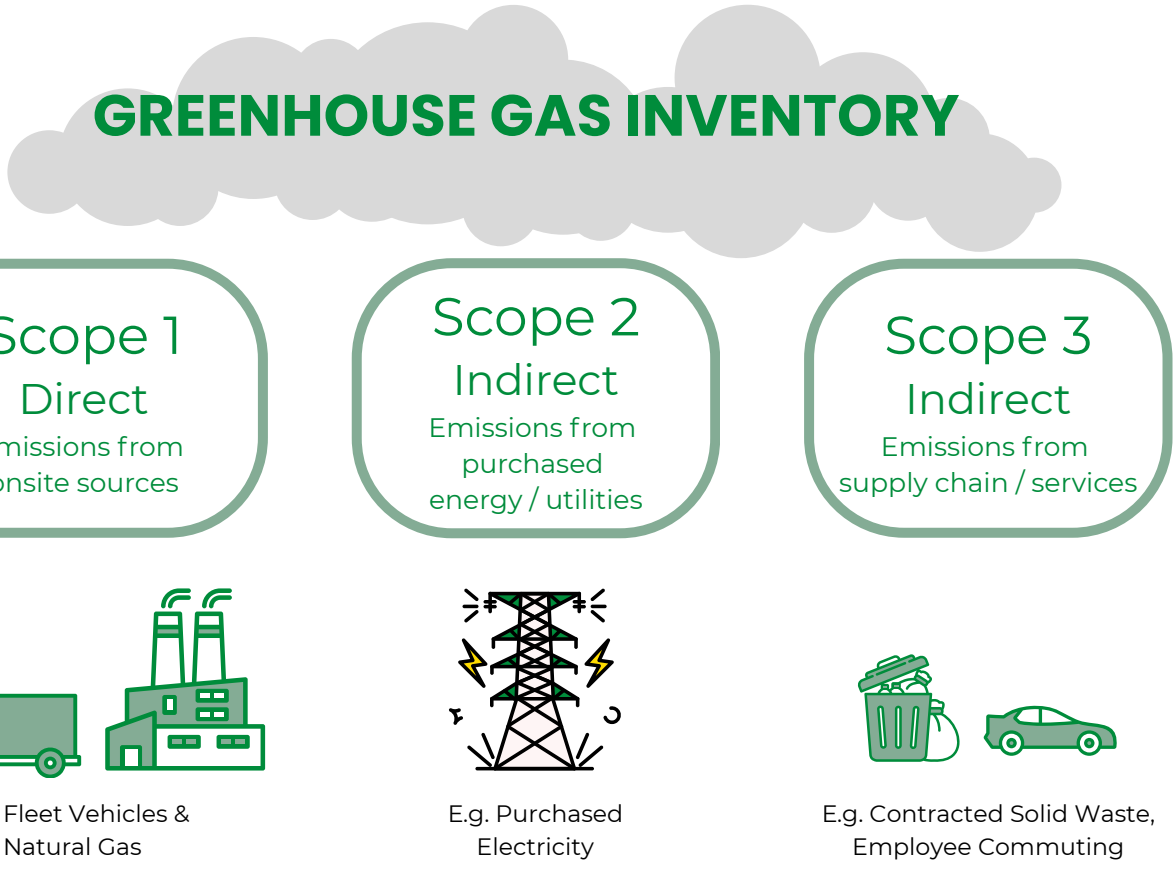
CLIMATE ACTION PLAN FOR COUNTY OPERATIONS (2026)

GREENHOUSE GAS INVENTORY

METHODOLOGY

Travis County conducts its annual Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory using the ClearPath tool developed by the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) and follows the Local Government Operations Protocol (LGOP).

The LGOP serves as a standardized framework to help local governments accurately measure and report their GHG emissions across buildings, fleet vehicles, waste management, and employee commuting.



SCOPE 2 (ELECTRICAL) EMISSIONS EXPLAINED

Travis County has traditionally relied on the location-based method for electrical emissions. However, following new guidance issued in May 2024 by ICLEI USA, local governments must now report both location-based and market-based electrical emissions to reflect the increasing use of Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) and utility green power programs.

Scope 2 (Indirect Emissions)

Emissions from the use of purchased electricity at County facilities and buildings. These are calculated in two different ways.

Location-Based Method

Calculates emissions based on the energy mix of the local power grid, which for Travis County is the statewide Texas grid (ERCOT).

Market-Based Method

Calculates emissions based on the County's energy purchase choices (for example, the energy mix of its utility providers, including renewable energy purchases).

GHG INVENTORY SUMMARY

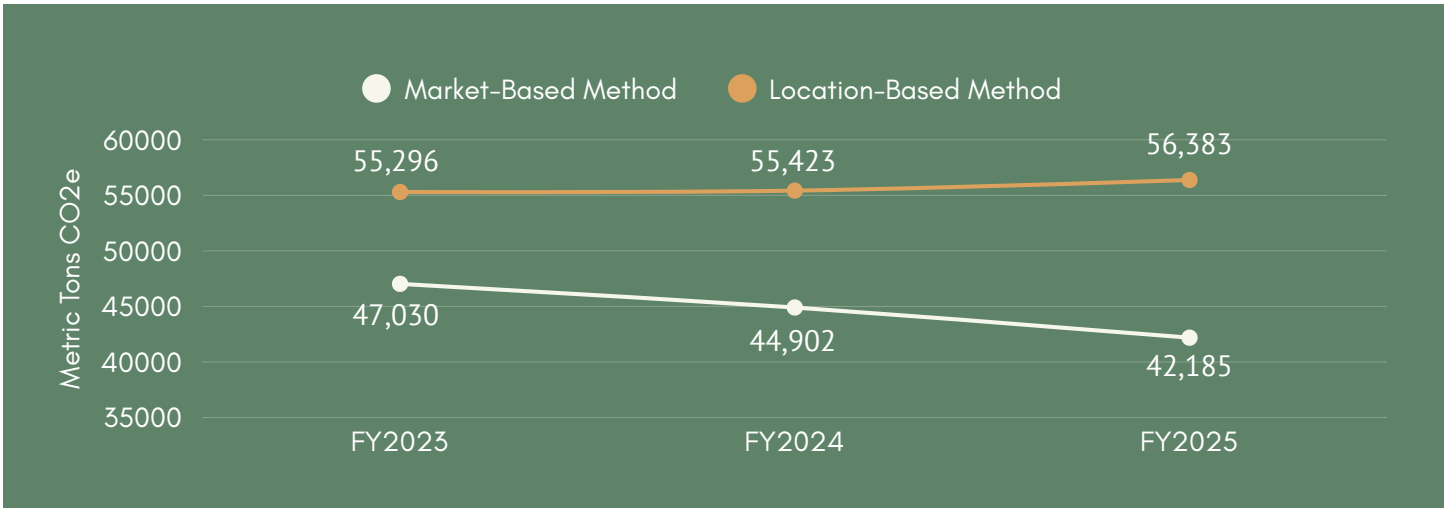
Under the market-based method of calculating greenhouse gas emissions, which reflects Travis County's renewable energy purchases, **total greenhouse gas emissions fell by roughly 6.1%** in FY2025, continuing the County's multi-year downward trend. This reduction was driven primarily by the County's participation in Austin Energy's GreenChoice program. FY2025 was the first full fiscal year in which the County participated, significantly increasing the share of County electricity sourced from renewable energy. These renewable purchases were accompanied by reductions in electricity use and lower natural gas consumption, further strengthening the County's overall emissions decline.

In contrast, the location-based method, which calculates electrical emissions using the Texas grid mix, showed a modest 1.7% increase in emissions. The savings from reduced electricity and natural gas use were offset by increases in employee commute emissions, solid-waste-related emissions, and higher fleet fuel consumption. More frequent dumpster service and larger containers increased estimated landfill volumes, which caused solid-waste emissions to rise.

Every change in emissions, whether a reduction or an increase, shapes the County's environmental footprint and the health of our community. When we use less electricity, consume less natural gas, or purchase cleaner energy, we cut pollution, lower operating costs, and support the transition to renewable power. At the same time, increases in areas like commuting, fuel use, and solid-waste-related emissions remind us where additional progress is needed. Together, these shifts show both the impact of our successes and the importance of continued action.

***Metric Tons (MT) CO_2e (carbon dioxide equivalent)**: the unit that expresses the impact of various greenhouse gases in terms of the amount of CO_2 needed to produce the same global warming effect.*

Emissions (MT CO2e)	FY2023	FY2024	FY2025	Δ FY24→FY25
Total — Location-Based Method	**55,296**	**55,423**	**56,383**	**+1.7%**
Total — Market-Based Method	**47,030**	**44,902**	**42,185**	**-6.1%**



SCOPE 1: DIRECT EMISSIONS

2,957
BUILDING & FACILITIES NATURAL GAS MT CO2E (FY2025)

15,378
VEHICLE FLEET MT CO2E (FY2025)

18,335
TOTAL SCOPE 1 MT CO2E (FY2025)

+6.8%
SCOPE 1 EMISSIONS CHANGE FROM FY2024 YEAR-OVER-YEAR

BUILDINGS & FACILITIES (NATURAL GAS)

Scope 1 emissions from buildings and facilities come from the combustion of natural gas used in building operations. In FY2025, natural gas consumption declined, resulting in a corresponding drop in associated emissions.

Metric	FY2023	F2024	FY2025	Δ FY24→FY25
Natural Gas Emissions (MT CO_2e)	**3,206**	**3,113**	**2,957**	**-5.0%**
Usage (million ft^3)	**58.3**	**56.6**	**53.8**	**-5.0%**



VEHICLE & AIRCRAFT FLEET

Scope 1 emissions from the vehicle fleet are determined by the volume and type of fuel consumed. In FY2025, total fuel usage increased by about 10.4%, resulting in a 9.4% rise in emissions. Although Travis County continues to expand its fleet electrification efforts, the overall fuel use grew this year due to operational demands.

Metric	FY2023*	F2024*	FY2025	Δ FY24→FY25
Fleet Emissions (MT CO_2e)	**14,504**	**14,055**	**15,378**	**+9.4%**
Total Gallons (gal)	**1,596,839**	**1,557,045**	**1,719,646**	**+10.4%**

**FY2023 and FY2024 figures have been updated based on revised fleet fuel consumption data.*

SCOPE 2: INDIRECT EMISSIONS - ELECTRICITY



MARKET-BASED METHOD

Market-based electrical emissions are calculated based on the County's energy purchase choices (for example, the energy mix of its utility providers, including renewable energy purchases).

6,100
MARKET-BASED MT CO2E (FY2025)

-46.2%
MARKET-BASED EMISSIONS CHANGE FROM FY2024 YEAR-OVER-YEAR

35.2 M
GREENCHOICE KWH (FY2025)

+81.1%
GREENCHOICE KWH CHANGE FROM FY2024 YEAR-OVER-YEAR

Through Austin Energy's GreenChoice program, the County supports wind energy generated at South Texas wind farms and receives verified Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) that match its electricity use. FY2025 is the first full fiscal year in which the Facilities Management Department (FMD)–managed accounts participated for the entire reporting period.

Metric	FY2023 *	F2024*	FY2025	Δ FY24→FY25
Electrical Emissions (MT CO_2e) Market-Based Method	**13,718**	**11,347**	**6,100**	**-46.2%**
GreenChoice Electrical Usage (kWh)	**—**	**19,443,503**	**35,213,303**	**+81.1%**
GreenChoice share of total kWh	**—**	**29.9%**	**58.3%**	**+28.4 pp**
MT CO_2e Offset by GreenChoice	**—**	**~4,727**	**~8,242**	**+74.4%**

**Market-based emissions for FY2023 and FY2024 were updated based on revised electrical data.*

In FY2025, about 58% of the County's electricity came from GreenChoice, leading to a significant drop in market-based emissions. Because electricity covered by RECs is counted as zero-emissions under the market-based method, the County's reported emissions were far lower than what would have been attributed using standard grid electricity.

SCOPE 2: INDIRECT EMISSIONS – ELECTRICITY

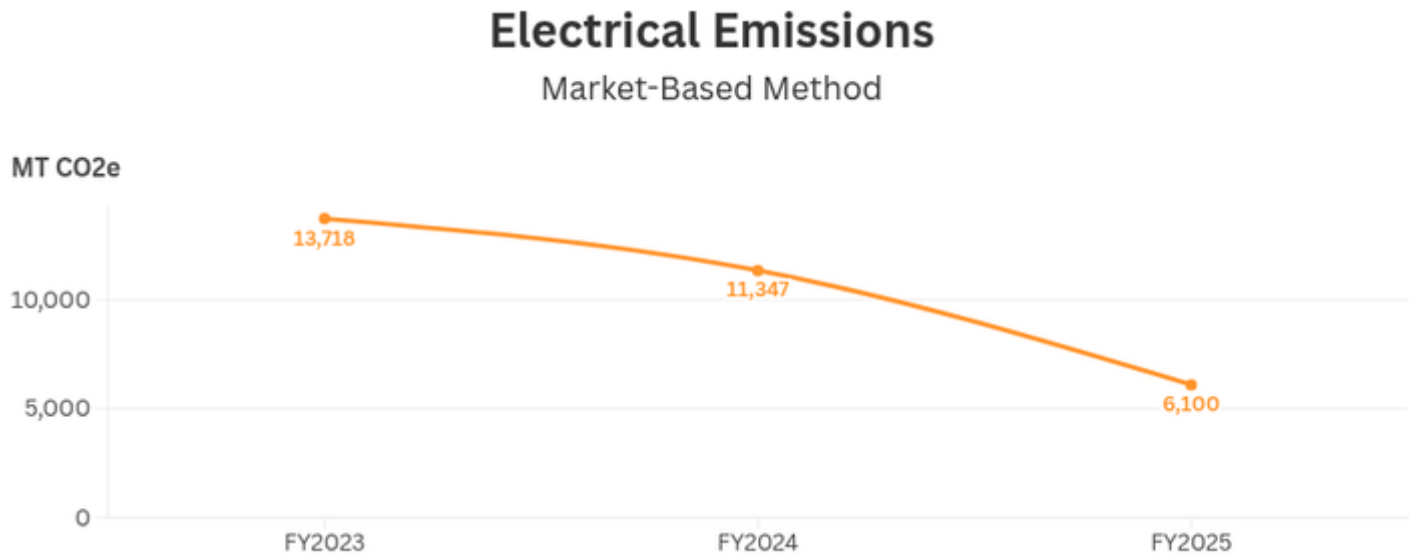
MARKET-BASED METHOD CONTINUED

Metric	FY2023 *	F2024*	FY2025	Δ FY24→FY25
Electrical Emissions (MT CO_2e) Market-Based Method	**13,718**	**11,347**	**6,100**	**-46.2%**
Austin Energy - Non GreenChoice Electrical Usage (kWh)	**57,075,373**	**43,295,722**	**23,062,113**	**-46.7%**
Austin Energy Customer Carbon Factor (CO_2 lbs./MWh)	**496**	**536**	**516**	**-3.7%**
Other Utility Providers Electrical Usage (kWh)	**2,231,358**	**2,337,743**	**2,103,426**	**-10.0%**
Green-e Residual Mix Emission Rates ERCOT (CO_2 lbs./MWh)	**813.5**	**774.3**	**736.6**	**-4.9%**

**Market-based emissions for FY2023 and FY2024 were updated based on revised electrical data.*

The remaining Austin Energy accounts, which are managed by non-FMD departments and are not yet enrolled in GreenChoice, also experienced emission reductions in FY2025. This was driven by lower electricity consumption and by Austin Energy's energy mix (customer carbon factor) shifting toward a higher share of renewables compared to FY2024.

Enrolling these accounts in GreenChoice would further reduce market-based Scope 2 emissions by **~88%**, bringing the total down to **roughly 702 MT CO_2e.** Emissions from non-Austin Energy accounts declined as well, as the broader ERCOT grid incorporated more renewable energy.



Market-based electrical emissions **fell to 6,100 MT CO_2e** in FY2025, **down 46.2%** year over year. **GreenChoice participation avoided approximately 8,241 MT CO_2e**, representing the difference between standard grid emissions and the County's renewable-backed electricity use.

SCOPE 2: INDIRECT EMISSIONS - ELECTRICITY

LOCATION-BASED METHOD

In alignment with ICLEI guidance for organizations that purchase renewable energy, Travis County reports electrical emissions using both location-based and market-based methods. Location-based emissions reflect the average carbon intensity of the electric grid where energy is consumed. In this case, that's the Texas grid, overseen by the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT).

Location-based reporting is important because it shows the organization's actual grid-based emissions, making it a more accurate reflection of real environmental impact and the results of energy-reduction efforts.

20,298 MT CO2e
LOCATION-BASED
(FY2025)

-7.2%
LOCATION-BASED
EMISSIONS CHANGE
FROM FY2024
YEAR-OVER-YEAR

60.4M
TOTAL KWH USED
(FY2025)

-7.2%
KWH CHANGE
FROM FY2024
YEAR-OVER-YEAR

ercot
Your Power. Our Promise.



Total **electricity use fell by 7.2% in FY2025**, leading to an equivalent reduction in location-based electrical emissions. Seasonal differences, year-to-year operational changes, and improvements in energy efficiency likely contributed to the overall decline.

Metric	FY2023 *	F2024*	FY2025	Δ FY24→FY25
Electrical Emissions (MT CO_2e) Location-Based Method	**21,984**	**21,868**	**20,298**	**-7.2%**
Total Electrical Usage (kWh)	**59,306,730**	**65,076,968**	**60,378,842**	**-7.2%**
ERCOT Carbon Intensity (CO_2 lbs./MWh)	**771.1**	**738.0**	**738.0****	**—**

**Location-based emissions for FY2023 and FY2024 were updated based on revised electrical data.*
***EPA has not yet released the eGRID2024 data, which informs FY2025 calculations.*

SCOPE 3: EMPLOYEE COMMUTE EMISSIONS

Scope 3 covers indirect emissions from activities outside the County's direct control. Travis County currently reports two categories: employee commuting and solid waste disposal.

14,330
EMPLOYEE COMMUTE MT CO2E (FY2025)

+8.3%
CHANGE FROM FY2024 YEAR-OVER-YEAR

2,163,053
HOURS TELEWORKED (FY2025)

3,677
ESTIMATED EMISSIONS SAVED BY TELEWORKING (FY2025)

EMPLOYEE COMMUTE EMISSIONS

Employee commute emissions **increased by approximately 6.7%** between FY2024 and FY2025, driven by workforce growth and a decline in employee transit trips, resulting in a greater volume of commute activity while telework levels remained stable.
Notably, average commute distances fell slightly, potentially reflecting lower Austin rental costs that allowed more employees to live closer to work. Teleworking continued to provide meaningful emissions savings, without it, commute emissions would have been approximately 29% higher.

Metric	FY2023	F2024	FY2025	Δ FY24→FY25
Commute Emissions (MT CO_2e)	**13,228**	**13,433**	**14,330**	**+6.7%**
Average Employee Commute Distance (miles - roundtrip)	**38.2**	**39.3**	**38.5**	**-1.9%**
County Employees	**5,108**	**5,430**	**5,689**	**+4.8%**

PUBLIC TRANSIT

Metric	FY2023	F2024	FY2025	Δ FY24→FY25
Est. MT CO2e Avoided by Transit	**104**	**247**	**244**	**-1.2%**
Transit Trips Taken	**19,188**	**16,947**	**14,522**	**-14.3%**

Note: Transit trip counts have declined in recent years partly due to CapMetro billing/tracking system transitions. CapMetro implemented a new payment system in Spring 2025.

TELEWORKING

Metric	FY2023	F2024	FY2025	Δ FY24→FY25
Est. MT CO2e Saved by Teleworking	**3,689**	**3,654**	**3,677**	**+0.6%**
Teleworking Participants	**2,912**	**2,945**	**2,995**	**+1.7%**
Teleworking Hours	**2,169,448**	**2,161,670**	**2,163,053**	**+0.06%**

Note: Teleworking hours do not directly translate to emissions savings, as hybrid schedules often include days where employees split their time between on-site and remote work.

TRIPS TO LOS ANGELES
Teleworking **saved approximately 3,677 MT of CO2e emissions**, **equivalent to 7,671 trips to Los Angeles** in a typical passenger vehicle.

SCOPE 3: SOLID WASTE EMISSIONS

Solid-waste emissions are generated as organic materials decompose in landfills over time.

3,420
SOLID WASTE MT CO2E (FY2025)

+8.3%
SOLID WASTE EMISSIONS CHANGE FROM FY2024 YEAR-OVER-YEAR

5,236 TONS
SOLID WASTE LANDFILLED (FY2025)

342.6 TONS
SINGLE STREAM RECYCLING (FY2025)

Metric	FY2023	F2024	FY2025	Δ FY24→FY25
Solid Waste Emissions (MT CO_2e)	**2,374**	**2,954**	**3,420**	**+15.8%**

**FY2023 and FY2024 figures have been updated to reflect corrections to solid-waste emission errors in the ClearPath GHG software.*





Roll-off and front-load dumpsters like these hold collected waste awaiting landfill disposal.

WASTE STREAMS

Metric	FY2023	F2024	FY2025	Δ FY24→FY25
Scheduled Trash Services (tons) Front-load dumpsters and roll-offs	**3,063**	**3,821**	**4,642**	**+21.5%**
Total Landfill (tons)	**3,635**	**4,523**	**5,236.0**	**+15.8%**
Scheduled Recycling Services (tons) Single Stream Recycling	**250.6**	**395.0**	**342.6**	**-13.3%**

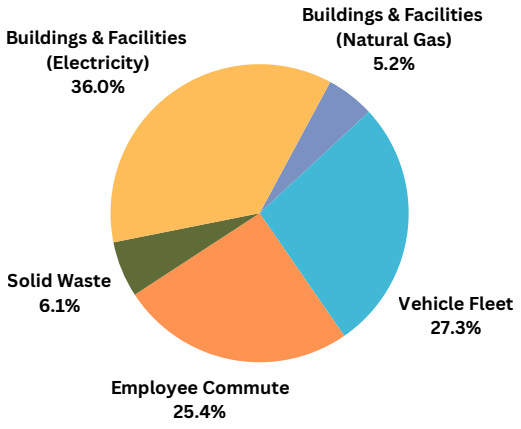
In FY2025, the amount of material Travis County sent to landfills from its parks and facilities increased by around **15.8%**, driven primarily by expanded dumpster service at County facilities and a decrease in reported recycling quantities. While recycling streams are weighed, landfill-bound waste from front-load containers is not. More frequent service and larger container sizes therefore increased reported landfill tonnage because these containers are assigned a weight based on full capacity and recorded as “full” even when they are not at capacity.

The County is exploring right-sizing opportunities for container sizes and service levels to reduce unnecessary pickups and improve reporting accuracy. In addition, the County is expanding education and outreach efforts to help increase recycling participation and improve material diversion.

FY2025 GHG EMISSIONS: BREAKDOWN BY SECTOR

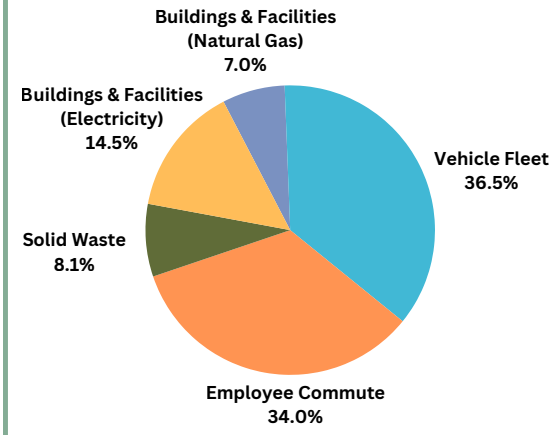
Location-Based GHG Inventory Total

56,383
MT CO2e

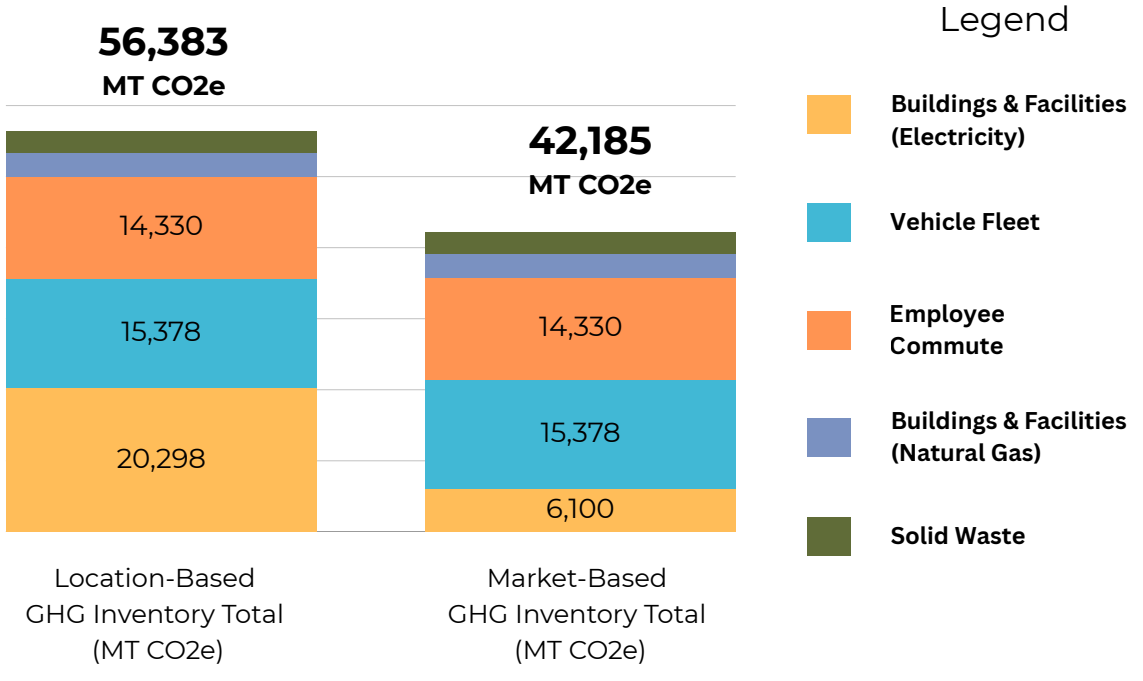


Market-Based GHG Inventory Total

42,185
MT CO2e



Location-Based Method v. Market-Based Method GHG Inventory Total



AIR QUALITY

Because on-road vehicles account for nearly 39% of Travis County's air pollution (CAPCOG 2024 Annual Air Quality Report), the County is prioritizing cleaner transportation solutions. The Commute Connections program encourages lower-emission employee commuting, while the Fleet Electrification initiative shifts County operations toward electric and other low-emission vehicles.

14,552
EMPLOYEE CAPMETRO TRIPS (FY2025)

2,995
TELEWORK PARTICIPANTS (FY2025)

3,677
MT CO2E AVOIDED BY TELEWORK (FY2025)

413K
GALLONS OF FUEL SAVED BY TELEWORK (FY2025)

COMMUTE CONNECTIONS

The Commute Connections program helps employees choose alternatives to single-occupancy driving, such as transit, carpooling, cycling, teleworking, or a compressed work week.

CAPMETRO TRANSIT

Travis County provides free Cap Metro passes to employees. FY2025 recorded **14,522 employee trips** at an average of **91 riders per month.**

Note: February and March 2025 trips were undercounted due to a payment system transition; CapMetro's new system was fully operational by Spring 2025.

CAPMETRO BIKESHARE

FY2025 marked the **launch of the CapMetro Bikeshare program** for Travis County employees. Through the program, employees are eligible for **free electric bike passes** via CapMetro Bikeshare, providing a zero-emission commute option at no cost. In its first year, **11 employees participated** with **28 monthly passes** issued.



BikeShare bike in Downtown Austin.

TELEWORKING

In FY2025, **2,995 employees** logged over **2.15 million teleworking hours**, avoiding an estimated **3,677 MT CO_2e** in emissions and saving approximately **413,000 gallons of fuel**. Teleworking hours have remained steady over the past three years and have not grown in line with employee headcounts.

COUNTY FUEL USAGE & COST

Travis County operates four fueling and refilling stations across the County to support its internal-combustion-engine fleet, as well as a dedicated fueling station at the STARFLIGHT heliport for its emergency helicopter operations.

FUEL USAGE

Fuel Type (Gallons)	FY2023	FY2024	FY2025
Unleaded	943,420	813,332	947,412
Diesel	8,298	15,942	13,774
Ethanol (E-85)	186,716	210,295	212,825
Premium	482	346	282
External Fuel Purchases	354,147	421,107	428,437
Jet A Fuel	103,776	96,023	116,916
Total Gallons	1,596,839	1,557,045	1,719,646

FUEL COST ($)

Fuel Type	FY2023	FY2024	FY2025
Unleaded	$2,934,148	$2,442,289	$2,767,511
Diesel	$14,189	$27,261	$23,554
Ethanol (E-85)	$728,541	$797,955	$809,332
Premium	$724	$519	$423
External Fuel Purchases	$1,140,432	$1,185,538	$1,190,085
Jet A Fuel	$420,000	$309,000	$276,000
Total ($)	$5,238,034	$4,762,562	$5,066,905

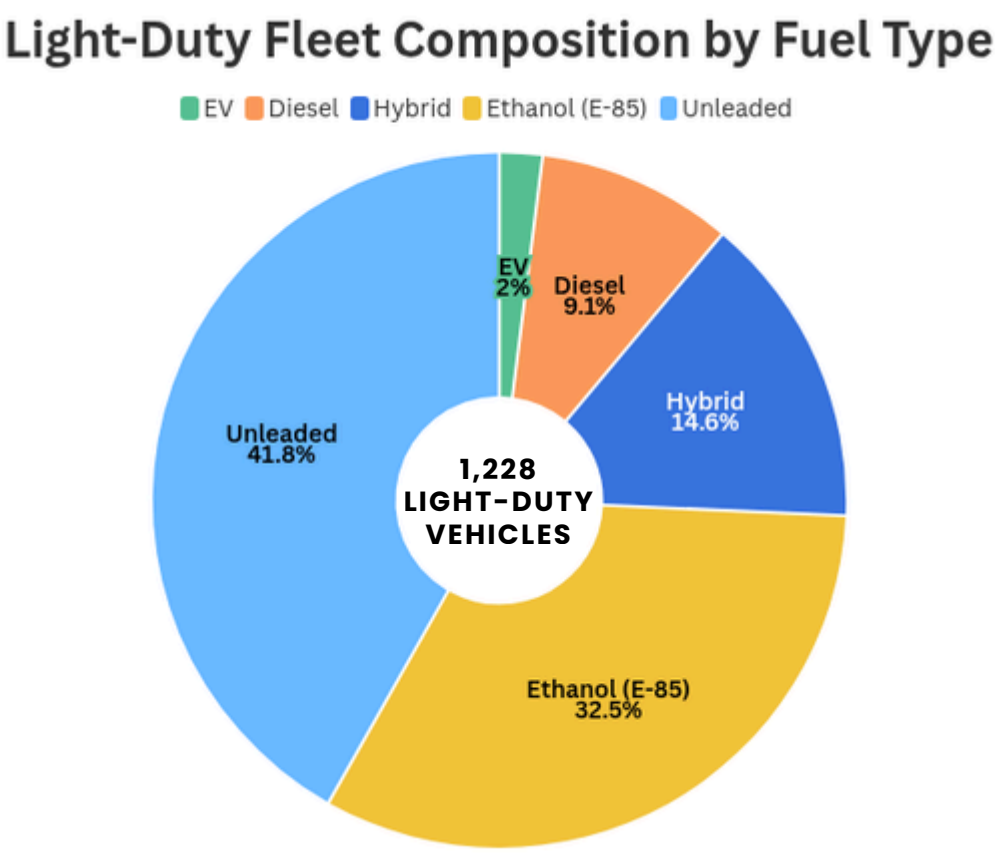
Note: FY2023 and FY2024 Fuel Usage and Cost have been revised based on new data.

Total fuel consumption rose to **1.7 million gallons** in FY2025 (+10.4% from FY2024), pushing the total spend to **$5.07 million** despite lower per-gallon unleaded prices. The increase is attributed to higher vehicle use as more employees returned to on-site work and vacant positions were filled. The TCSO fleet also grew, and more long-distance prisoner transports were completed by driving rather than flying, further raising fuel consumption.

FLEET ELECTRIFICATION

Reducing overall fuel consumption not only decreases reliance on traditional fossil fuels, but also helps lower operating costs, an essential benefit in times of fuel market volatility. In May 2023, the Travis County Commissioners Court passed a resolution committing Travis County to transitioning its vehicle fleet to electric and hybrid models as existing units are retired. Since then, EV acquisitions have accelerated significantly, with model years 2023 and 2024 accounting for **49 of the County's 61 current fully electric vehicles.**

61 FULLY ELECTRIC VEHICLES IN FLEET	**179** HYBRIDS IN FLEET	**49.11%** ALT. FUEL FLEET SHARE HYBRID, EV, & ETHANOL VEHICLES	**96.7%** PROJECTED EMISSIONS REDUCTION FROM FULL FLEET ELECTRIFICATION



Of the 61 county-wide fully electric vehicles, **25 are light-duty vehicles such as Ford-F150 Lightning EV Trucks, Chevrolet Silverado EV Trucks, and Chevrolet Blazer EV trucks. An additional 36 operate in specialty vehicle classes**, including electric riding mowers, personnel carriers, and construction equipment.

This snapshot of Travis County's light-duty fleet reflects only a single moment in time. The composition of the fleet continuously evolves as new vehicles are added and older ones are retired or removed from service.

FLEET ELECTRIFICATION

CHARGING INFRASTRUCTURE

The County has installed **10 EV station wall chargers**, **31 fleet-only chargers** (not all activated), and **14 public chargers** (not yet activated) across County facilities. Activating the remaining installations is an identified next step in its EV transition.



One of Travis County's Ford Lightning Truck EVs

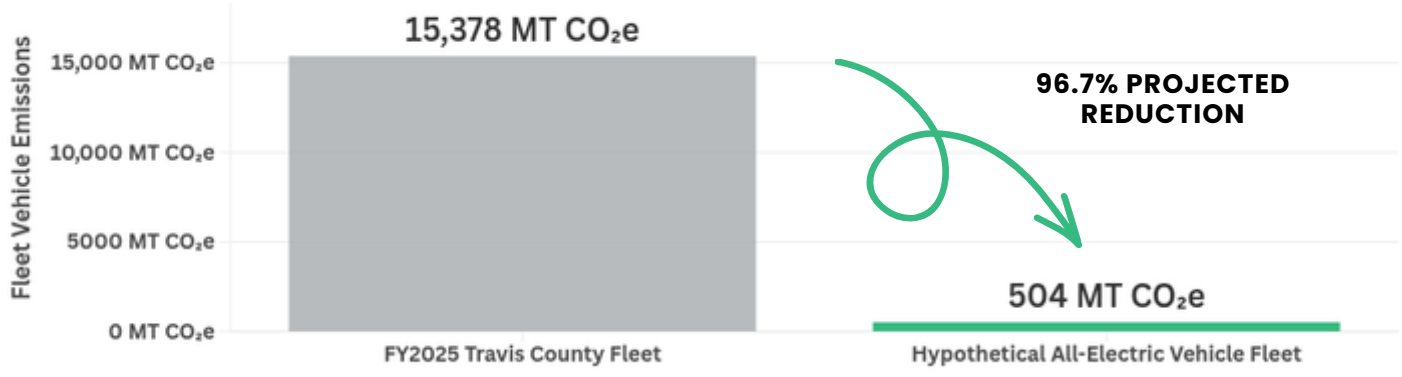


Vehicle charging infrastructure at Northeast Metropolitan Park.

PROJECTED EMISSIONS SAVINGS FROM FULL FLEET ELECTRIFICATION

Transitioning the light-duty fleet to all-electric vehicles would cut fleet GHG emissions by an estimated **96.7%**, from **15,378 MT CO_2e** to approximately **504 MT CO_2e** annually.

Note: Emissions estimate based on FY2025 fuel usage, fleet composition, and most recent ERCOT electric grid emission factors.



REFRIGERANTS

County HVAC systems use refrigerants with strong climate-warming effects, and federal rules that took effect on January 1, 2026 now require tracking any equipment containing 15 pounds or more of these refrigerants. In response to these updated requirements, FMD uses Parasense RTC to maintain refrigerant inventories and meet recordkeeping obligations. The County is evaluating how to incorporate information required under the updated 2026 federal rules into future sustainability reports as additional data becomes available.

CULTURE

At Travis County, sustainability is more than a set of policies or targets. It's part of our culture. The programs in this section show how that culture shapes our choices and our commitment to long-term stewardship. And while organizational leadership sets the direction, lasting change ultimately depends on everyday actions at the individual level, where collective habits make the greatest impact.

TRAVIS COUNTY GREEN TEAM

The Green Team is a County-wide employee organization managed by the Operational Sustainability Team (Conserve). It serves as a practical bridge between the County's sustainability goals and the daily decisions of individual employees.

Green Team members act as sustainability ambassadors in their departments, encouraging colleagues to reduce waste, increase recycling, conserve water and electricity, and adopt more sustainable habits at work. Membership is voluntary and open to all County staff, subject to supervisor approval.

117
ACTIVE MEMBERS (FY2025)

32
DEPARTMENTS REPRESENTED (FY2025)

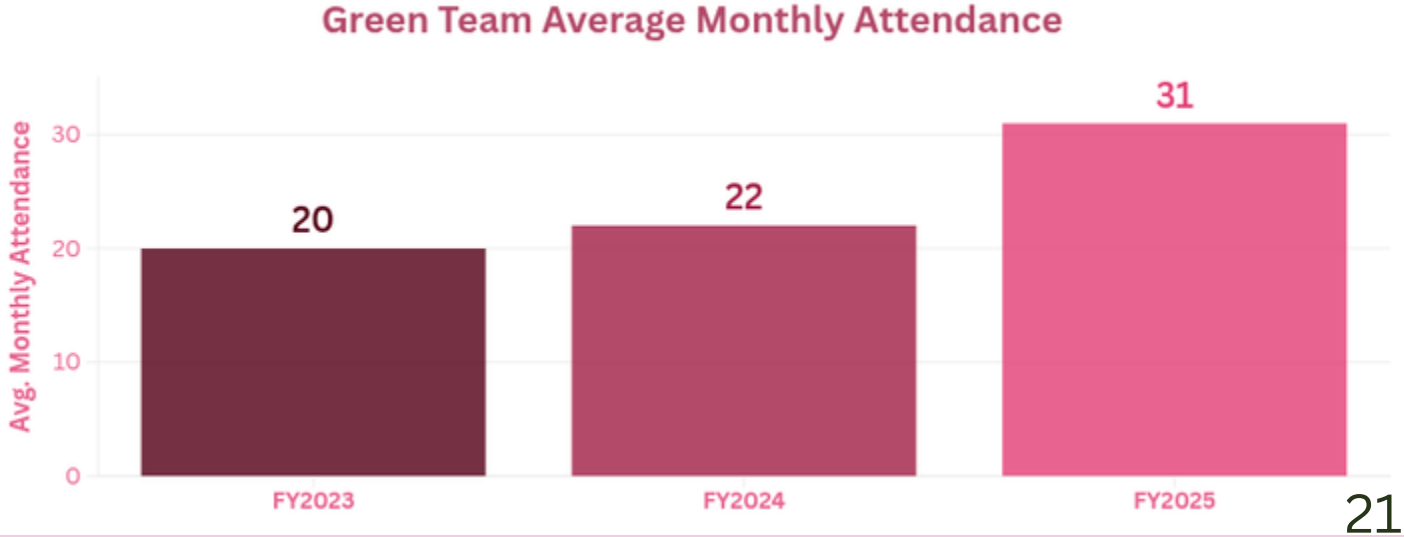
43
NEW MEMBERS (FY2025)

11
MEETINGS HELD (FY2025)



Green Team members at the BCP, Nov 2024

Green Team membership grew substantially in FY2025, reaching **117 employees** across **32 departments**. Forty-three new members joined during the year, more than double the 20 who joined in FY2024. Average monthly attendance climbed to **31**, up **41%** from FY2024.



IN-PERSON ACTIVITES

In addition to regular meetings, Green Team members are invited to participate in in-person activities held two to three times per year. These events are designed to bring sustainability concepts to life through direct experience. They also offer a rare opportunity for employees from across departments to connect and build relationships.

GREEN TEAM HIKE AND LEARN AT THE BALCONES CANYONLANDS PRESERVE

In November 2024, Green Team members joined a guided hike through the Snowden and Bunten tracts of the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve, one of the largest urban wildlife refuges in the United States and a cornerstone of Travis County's conservation mission.

Along the way, participants learned about the BCP's federally listed species, the ecological value of the Balcones Escarpment, and the County's ongoing contributions to habitat preservation.



Green Team members learn from BCP Staff during a hike.

TOUR OF THE TDS LANDFILL AND RECYCLING PLANT

TEXAS DISPOSAL SYSTEMS



TDS's Construction and Demolition recycling facility.

In March 2025, Green Team members toured the TDS landfill and recycling facility, one of the County's waste management vendor partners. The tour offered a behind-the-scenes look at how materials move through the waste stream after leaving the bin, from intake and sorting, to processing and final disposition.

Participants came away with a clearer picture of what actually gets recycled, what does not, and how individual choices at the source affect outcomes downstream.

EVENTS AND EDUCATION

The Operational Sustainability Team supports a broader program of education and outreach for County employees throughout the fiscal year. While many events are timed to coincide with Earth Month in April, programming extends year-round and spans a range of formats, from virtual webinars to in-person tours to community tabling. The goal is to make sustainability knowledge accessible and relevant to employees across all roles and departments.

WEBINARS

AUSTIN ENERGY & TRAVIS COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

This webinar brought together two presenters to cover complementary aspects of residential and community energy use.

Austin Energy presented an overview of the clean energy programs available to its customers, including GreenChoice, the voluntary renewable energy program that Travis County itself participates in, as well as Community Solar and other green resources.

Travis County Health and Human Services followed with a presentation on home weatherization: practical tips and County resources available to residents looking to reduce their energy bills and improve comfort at home.

CITY OF AUSTIN & TRAVIS COUNTY FOOD PLAN

Food policy experts from the City of Austin and Travis County co-presented on the Austin/Travis County Food Plan, a joint regional initiative designed to address key aspects of the food system, including food access, local agriculture, food recovery, climate resiliency, and emergency preparedness.

Learn more: austin-travis-county-food-plan-austin.hub.arcgis.com

GREEN BUILDING SEMINAR AND TOUR OF THE CIVIL FAMILY COURTS FACILITY

Facilities Management led an in-person presentation for County employees on Travis County's energy management practices: what the County measures, where it focuses its efficiency investments, and how individual buildings contribute to the overall footprint.

The session was followed by a guided tour of the newly completed Civil Family Courts Facility, the County's first LEED Gold-certified building. Participants saw green building features firsthand, such as cool-roof materials, energy-efficient lighting, and site design that supports stormwater management.



FMD Employees explained the CFCF's Green features



Green Stormwater Garden on roof of the CFCF parking garage.

TABLING EVENTS

In FY2025, the Operational Sustainability Team set up informational tables at several public and employee-facing events, providing an opportunity to share resources, answer questions, and connect with residents and staff outside of a formal program setting.





Members of the Conserve team tabling at the RENEW Wellbeing Fair (left) and Travis County's Juneteenth Community Celebration (right).

ENERGY

Energy management is foundational to Travis County's sustainability goals and a major component of the County's overall greenhouse gas footprint. Electricity and natural gas consumed in County-owned buildings and facilities account for a significant share of both Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions, making the efficient use of energy critical to meeting the County's sustainability goals.

By tracking these metrics year over year, the County can identify areas of progress, uncover opportunities for further reduction, and ensure that energy stewardship remains a visible, measurable priority for every department.

NATURAL GAS

Natural gas is used across Travis County facilities primarily for hot water production and space heating in buildings that do not have electric-powered heating systems. Natural gas combustion at County buildings is a direct source of Scope 1 greenhouse gas emissions.

53.8 M FT3
TOTAL USAGE
(FY2025)

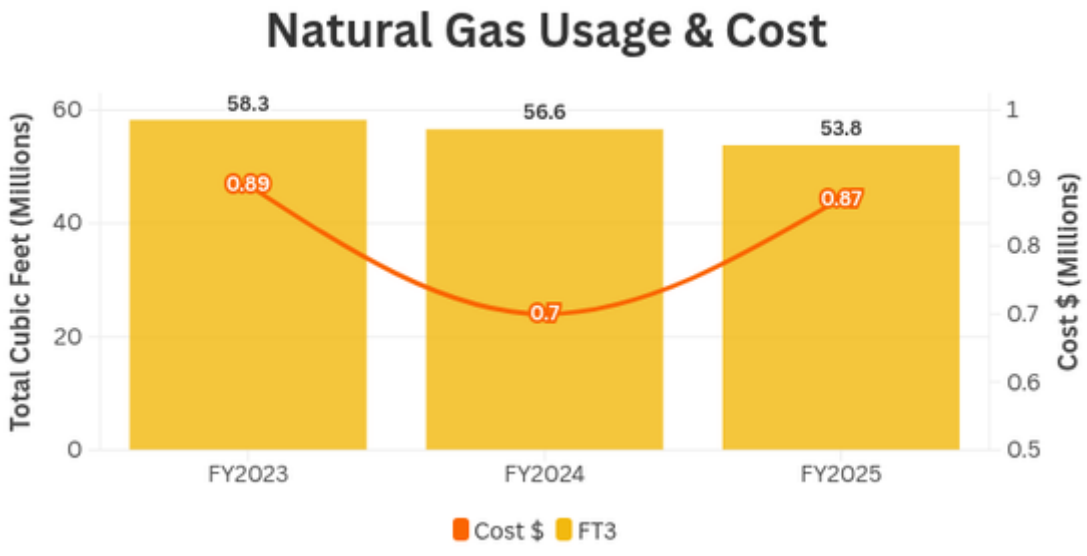
-5.0%
VS FY2024 USAGE

$873,075
TOTAL COST
(FY2025)

3,956.7
MT CO2e
Emissions from Natural Gas
(FY2025)

NATURAL GAS USAGE

Natural gas consumption and its related emissions continued their multi-year decline, dropping **5.0%** from FY2024 to FY2025 in part due to boiler upgrades and a milder winter. However, total costs increased **25.3%** due to a significant rise in the average price of natural gas in Texas, which went from $2.40 per thousand cubic feet (MCF) in FY2024 to $3.48 per MCF in FY2025.



ELECTRICITY

Travis County powers its operations through electricity sourced from multiple providers. The County's primary provider is Austin Energy, which serves approximately 96% of total electrical accounts. Additional power comes from Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative, Pedernales Electric Cooperative, and TXU Energy. The County's electricity consumption is one of its largest contributors to greenhouse gas emissions, making it a key focus of sustainability efforts.

60.4M KWH
TOTAL USAGE
(FY2025)

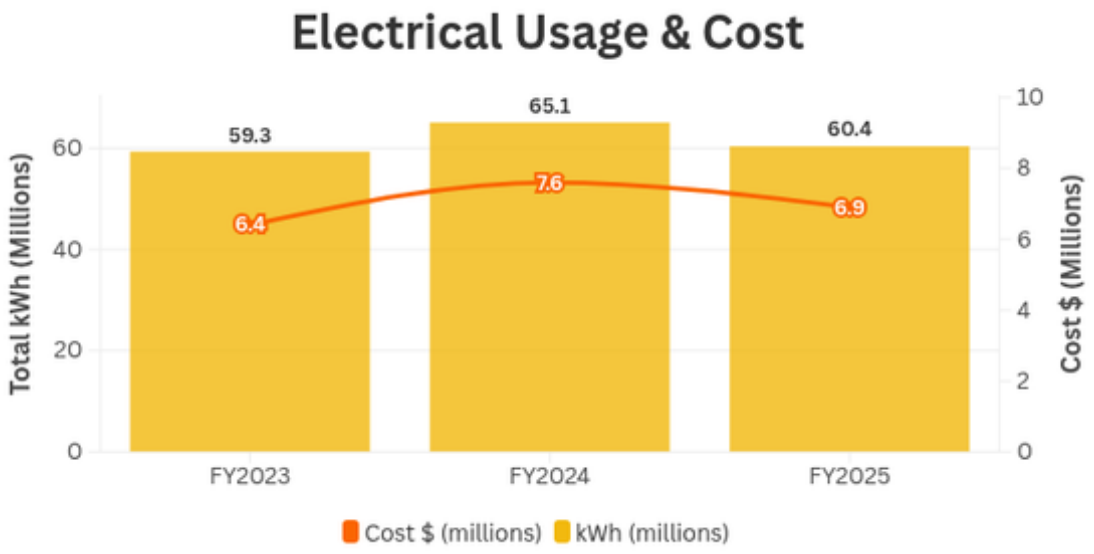
-7.2% KWH
VS FY2024 USAGE

58.3% GREEN ENERGY
AS SHARE OF TOTAL KWH
(FY2025)

6,100
MT CO2e
MARKET-BASED
ELECTRICAL EMISSIONS
(FY2025)

ELECTRICAL USAGE

After peaking in FY2024, Travis County's total electrical usage declined **7.2%** in FY2025, returning closer to FY2023 levels. Total costs also dropped **9.8%**, driven by lower consumption and a slight decrease in the average cost per kilowatt-hour. This shift may reflect improved energy efficiency measures implemented across county facilities as well as year-to-year weather variability that influenced overall demand.



GHG SCOPE 2 EMISSIONS – ELECTRICITY

Travis County reports electricity emissions two ways.

The **location-based method** uses the average emissions intensity of the regional electric grid, regardless of what kind of energy the County has purchased.

The **market-based method** accounts for the specific energy products purchased, in this case, GreenChoice renewable energy credits and utility providers, and reflects the County's actual procurement decisions.

GHG Emissions CO_2e	FY2023	FY2024	FY2025
Electricity – Scope 2 (Location-Based)	21,984	21,868	20,298
Electricity – Scope 2 (Market-Based)	13,718	11,347	6,100

See Greenhouse Gas Inventory section for more details.

GREEN UTILITY PROGRAMS

In April 2024, Travis County enrolled all 57 of its Facilities Management Department (FMD) managed Austin Energy accounts into the GreenChoice renewable energy program. GreenChoice allows participants to support clean, renewable wind energy generated at South Texas wind farms and to receive verified Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) corresponding to their electricity consumption. **FY2025 is the first full fiscal year in which these accounts were enrolled for the entire reporting period.**

In FY2025, **approximately 58% of the total kWh** used by the County was covered by GreenChoice-enrolled accounts.

Austin Energy's GreenChoice RECs are certified by Green-e Energy.

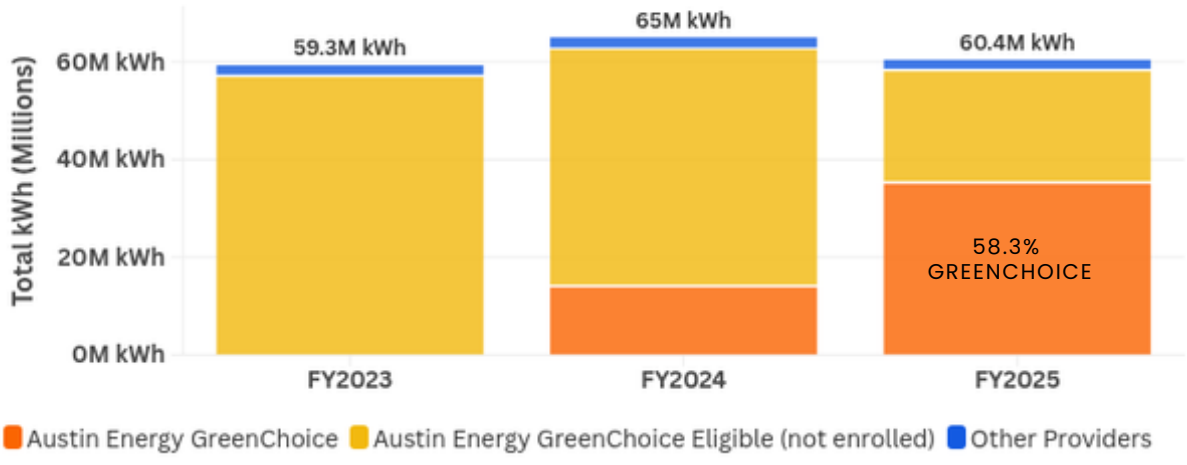


The Gulf Wind Farm in South Texas provides Renewable Wind Energy for Austin Energy's GreenChoice Progam.

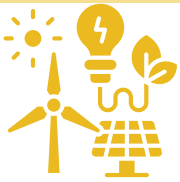
The County could further reduce its market-based emissions by enrolling its remaining Austin Energy accounts in future years. If these accounts had participated in FY2025, emissions would have been about **5,398 MT of CO_2e lower**. Only about 3.5% of total electricity use comes from non-Austin Energy providers, each with varying availability in green-utility programs.

35.2M KWH	58.3%	56.9%	8,241
GREENCHOICE KWH (FY2025)	GREEN CHOICE SHARE OF TOTAL KWH (FY2025)	SHARE OF TOTAL COST (FY2025)	MT CO2e AVOIDED BY USING GREENCHOICE (FY2025)

Electrical Usage by Energy Classification



DEMAND RESPONSE PROGRAMS



Austin Energy's Commercial Demand Response (DR) program helps reduce strain on the electric grid during periods of peak demand. When a DR event is called, participating organizations, such as Travis County, voluntarily curtail their energy use temporarily and earn financial incentives based on the kilowatts reduced. Participants can **earn $50–$80 per average kilowatt saved** during events.

$75,570
TOTAL DEMAND RESPONSE EARNED INCENTIVES (FY2025)

+116.4%
INCREASE IN EARNED INCENTIVES (FY2025)

803 KW
FMD AVG. LOAD REDUCTION (FY2025)

87 KW
TCSO AVG. LOAD REDUCTION (FY2025)

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT (FMD)

FMD's demand response performance improved substantially in FY2025. Average load reduction nearly **doubled from 458 kW to 803 kW**, and the incentive earned rose from **$25,062 to $69,456.**

FMD Metric	FY2023	FY2024	FY2025
Average Performance (kW)	366	458	803
Incentive Earned ($)	$18,447	$25,062	$69,456
Average Performance (% Load Drop)	–	4%	7%

Learn more: https://www.traviscountytx.gov/facilities/demand-response-program

TRAVIS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE (TCSO)

TCSO's demand response results in FY2025 showed a decrease in average performance, dropping from **144 kW to 87 kW**, with the incentive declining from **$9,853 to $6,114**. The average drop was 3%, compared to 4% the prior year with the best single-event performance at 11%. Given the operational constraints of a 24/7 correctional facility, load reduction opportunities are inherently more limited than in standard commercial buildings.

TSCO Metric	FY2023	FY2024	FY2025
Average Performance (kW)	116	144	87
Incentive Earned ($)	$7,653	$9,853	$6114
Average Performance (% Load Drop)	2%	4%	3%

Combined Incentives:
Across both departments, Travis County earned a total of **$75,569.60** in demand response incentives in FY2025, compared to $34,914.85 in FY2024, **a 116.4% increase**, driven primarily by FMD's improved performance.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROJECTS

Travis County continues to invest in capital projects that improve the energy performance of its facilities. The following highlights key projects completed or underway in FY2025 by FMD and the Travis County Sheriff's Office.

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT – ROOFING PROJECTS

In FY2025, FMD replaced or recoated roofs at five County buildings, covering approximately **42,670 square feet** in total. All five projects used "cool roof" materials, highly reflective white surfaces that reflect sunlight away from the building rather than absorbing it as heat. This keeps building interiors cooler and extends the life of both the roof and the HVAC equipment below it.

Executive Office Building	Ray Martinez Building (Precinct 4)	Smart Building B	Holt Building (Precinct 5)	Brizendine House



GAF Acrylic Coating is applied to the Pct. 4 Ray Martinez Building (Before and After).

All the roofing projects meet Austin's cool-roof requirements, which require roofs to reflect at least 55% of sunlight after aging and have a Solar Reflectance Index (SRI) of 64 or higher. Some of the projects have an SRI of 85 or more, meaning they reflect even more heat than Austin's code requires.

TRAVIS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE ENERGY EFFICIENCY INITIATVES

The Travis County Sheriff's Office continues to make improvements across its jail facilities, which operate around the clock and put constant strain on mechanical and water systems. In a setting that never shuts down, even modest upgrades can reduce wear on equipment, lower utility costs, and create more stable, healthier conditions for the people who live and work there.

Building Automation System Expansion	TCSO expanded its building automation system, a centralized platform that controls heating and cooling schedules across multiple buildings from a single interface, to cover two large inmate housing units (#2/140 and #3/160, Charlie Unit). By automating when systems run and how hard they work, the expansion reduces unnecessary energy use and helps equipment last longer.
Air Duct Cleaning	The first phase of a planned three-phase duct cleaning project was completed at the Travis County Jail. Years of accumulated debris were removed from the ventilation system, allowing air to flow more freely. This improves indoor air quality for staff and residents and reduces the energy the heating and cooling system needs to push air through the building.
Emergency Power Generators	A new 15-kilowatt generator was installed in the Classifications Unit (#102), providing reliable backup power during outages. A larger 900-kilowatt generator is planned for a main housing building (#1/130) as part of FY2026 capital requests. Both units use modern, fuel-efficient designs.
Boiler and Water Softening Systems	New boilers were installed in the largest inmate housing facility (#12/400). Water softeners were added at several additional buildings (#3 and #160A/B Post). A high-efficiency water heater was also installed in Building #155.
New Rooftop Heating and Cooling Units	Two new rooftop heating and cooling units were installed at the Travis County Jail, replacing older, less efficient equipment. The new units include a humidity control feature that addresses moisture and mold concerns, improving air quality for occupants while using less energy than the systems they replaced.

SPOTLIGHT: EVIDENCE WAREHOUSE SOLAR ARRAY

The new Evidence Warehouse was built with a rooftop solar array covering 3,136 square feet and consisting of 150 panels (50.44 kW total capacity) using locally assembled SEG 485-watt panels. The system is projected to generate approximately 70 thousand kilowatt-hours (kWh) of clean electricity each year, enough to offset about 50 metric tons of CO_2 annually.



Rooftop Solar Array at the new Evidence Warehouse at the Travis County Correctional Complex.

NATURE

Travis County's natural lands protect water quality, support wildlife, and store carbon while providing outdoor recreation spaces for residents. Travis County maintains these natural areas through the Parks Land Management Program and the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve team. These investments ensure the landscape remains resilient and continues to benefit the community in the long term.



Pedernales River as seen from Milton Reimer' Ranch Park.

NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS RESOLUTION

On June 18, 2024, the Travis County Commissioners Court passed a resolution directing staff to prioritize the use of Nature-Based Solutions (NbS) in all future County-funded public works, construction, and maintenance projects including those under the 2023 Capital Improvement Bond package. The resolution directs that NbS principles be incorporated into design standards and evaluation criteria for project proposals.

The projects documented in this section, from prescribed burns at Pace Bend to conservation terracing on the BCP, represent Nature-Based Solutions in action across Travis County's natural lands.

PARKS LAND MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

The Travis County Parks Land Management Program uses forestry, land stewardship, and fire management to build and maintain resilient landscapes.

In FY2025, the program **treated more than 1,100 acres through prescribed burns, fuel reduction, and ecological restoration.** This work helps the County meet its goals for climate adaptation and ecosystem health.

TRAVIS COUNTY PARKS

17
PRESCRIBED FIRE OPERATIONS ON COUNTY PROPERTIES

1,000+
ACRES TREATED WITH PRESCRIBED FIRE

1,633
TREES PLANTED ACROSS ALL PARKS

80+
TOTAL ACRES RESTORED OR MAINTAINED

60+
ACRES OF MECHANICAL FUELS REDUCTION

786
DEAD OR HAZARDOUS TREES REMOVED

PRESCRIBED FIRE

Prescribed fire is one of the most powerful Nature-Based Solutions available to land managers in Central Texas. In FY2025, the Land Management Program **conducted 17 prescribed fire operations on County properties**, including Pace Bend, Reimers Ranch, Owens Tract, East Metro, Hancock Ranchlands Tract, Schneider Tract, and Southeast Metro, and assisted with additional burns on cooperator lands managed by Austin Parks and Recreation, Austin Water Utility, and the University of Texas. Combined, these efforts **treated more than 1,000 acres.**



Prescribed Fire Operations enhance ecosystem health at Northeast Metropolitan Park.

These burns reduced accumulated fuel and improved fire-adapted wildlife habitat while also lowering wildfire risks for nearby homes and infrastructure. The program also partnered with local emergency services and other agencies to improve regional coordination and disaster preparedness.

While prescribed fire does produce short-term emissions, it is a proactive land management tool that helps reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfires, which can generate significantly greater emissions, threaten public safety, and cause long-term ecological damage.

ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION AND FOREST HEALTH



Tree Planting and Grow Zone Established at Ben E. Fisher Park aimed to reduce erosion issues into Gilleland Creek, which is classified as an impaired waterway by TCEQ.

In FY2025, the Land Management Program **planted 1,633 trees** and **completed restoration treatments across 40+ acres of parkland**, with a focus on native seeding, erosion control, and re-establishing vegetation in disturbed areas.

Key project sites included **Arkansas Bend** (34.42 acres of forest health treatments), **Pace Bend** (21.6 acres of invasive species and oak wilt management), and **Ben E. Fisher Park** (0.6 acres of native seedling planting).

The program also completed **60+ acres of mechanical fuels reduction** at sites including LaFluer Tract, Richard Moya, Reimers Ranch, RGK Ranch, Northeast and Southeast Metro parks, and others.

Staff trimmed 751 trees and removed 786 dead or hazard trees across the park system.



A pink ribbon marks a tree for hazard mitigation at East Metropolitan Park.

LOOKING AHEAD

In FY2026, the Land Management Program will implement FEMA-funded fuel mitigation projects across 10 County parkland properties, representing approximately **$2.5 million in investment** targeting roughly 800 acres of high-priority treatments. The Travis County Parks Land Management Plan, a ten-year strategic framework, is also expected to be completed in the summer of 2026, alongside the Austin/Travis County Community Wildfire Protection Plan.

This section highlights just part of the Parks Land Management Program's broader efforts, which further encompass community resilience, emergency response, workforce training, wildlife management, research and monitoring, and robust public and stakeholder engagement.

Learn more: Travis County Parks | Land Management

BALCONES CANYONLAND PRESERVE



The Balcones Canyonlands Preserve (BCP) is one of the most ecologically significant conservation areas in Central Texas. Established under Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan, the BCP protects critical habitat for federally listed species such as the Golden Cheeked Warbler, along with a rich array of native plants, pollinators, and other wildlife found along the Balcones Escarpment.

TRAVIS COUNTY NATURAL RESOURCES

Travis County's Natural Resources Division manages the BCP and leads a broad program of habitat restoration, community science, and public engagement.

25,500+
NON-NATIVE INVASIVE PLANTS REMOVED

1,036
VOLUNTEER HOURS CONTRIBUTED

3,501
TOTAL EVENT ATTENDEES

3178
NATIVE PLANTS PLANTED (TREES, SHRUBS, FLOWERS, GRASSES)

24.5
ACRES TREATED THROUGH RESTORATION PROJECTS

1,025
VOLUNTEERS ENGAGED

In FY2025, BCP staff and volunteers conducted restoration work across approximately **24.5 acres**, planted **3,178 native plants**, **removed more than 25,500 invasive species**, and engaged **over 1,000 volunteers** contributing **over 1,000 hours of service**. These efforts reflect the BCP's dual mission: protecting rare species and their habitats while connecting the Travis County community to the natural world.

HABITAT RESTORATION

BCP staff pursued several interconnected restoration strategies in FY2025, each designed to address specific ecological challenges while building long-term landscape resilience.

CONSERVATION TERRACES

Contractors **installed approximately 566 linear feet of vegetated berm and swale systems** on the Medway Tract, bringing the total installed since FY2023 to approximately 2,580 linear feet.

These earthen terraces capture stormwater runoff, infiltrate water back into the soil, and jump-start native vegetation recovery in degraded habitats — a direct application of Nature-Based Solutions for climate resilience and watershed health.



Berm and swale systems on the Medway Tract.

OAK AND DECIDUOUS REGENERATION

On approximately **19 acres** of the Medway Tract, staff and contractors selectively removed Ashe juniper to encourage oak and deciduous tree regeneration, increase habitat diversity, and improve structural conditions for listed bird species. Removed material was repurposed as brush berms to slow runoff and as natural browse cages to protect young seedlings.

OAK WILT MITIGATION

In December 2024, staff completed **approximately 1,870 linear feet of oak wilt mitigation trenching** on the Woods of Greenshores Tract to prevent the spread of oak wilt disease through root connections.



Volunteers plant trees on Medway Tract, March 2025.

PLANTING AND SEEDING

BCP staff, volunteers, and contractors **planted a total of 3,178 plants**: including 1,804 trees, 941 shrubs, and 433 flowering plants and grass plugs, across 7 tracts of the preserve.

Approximately 1.2 acres of the Medway Tract received grass and wildflower seeding and mulching to reduce erosion and increase vegetative cover adjacent to conservation terrace installations.

NATIVE PLANT NURSERY AND SEED COLLECTION

In FY2025, a **1260 ft² native plant nursery structure was constructed** on the SAS Tract of the BCP, providing a dedicated facility to grow native plants for future restoration projects.

A 10,000-gallon rainwater harvesting system to supply the nursery is planned for installation in FY2026. A smaller nursery established by Texas Master Naturalist volunteers at the Snowden Tract also continued operations.



Dedicated Native Plant Nursery structure on SAS Tract.

BCP staff and volunteers **collected seed from 58 native species** across **99 separate acquisitions** in FY2025, including native trees, shrubs, flowering plants, and grasses. Collected seeds are used directly in BCP restoration projects or propagated for future plantings. The BCP also partnered with the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center to conduct conservation collections of three rare Prunus species and other native plants of greatest conservation concern. These rare and endangered seeds will be stored long-term to support species preservation.

In May 2025, Commissioners Court approved the establishment of a Native Plant and Seed Exchange Program on the BCP. The program accepts donations of native plants, seeds, and landscaping materials from the public, uses them in restoration and demonstration gardens on County-managed lands, and makes surplus native seeds and plants available at no cost to the public and nonprofit organizations for use in native plant gardens and habitat restoration work in central Texas.

NATIVE PLANT EXCHANGE PROGRAM (NPEP)

The Native Plant Exchange Program, distinct from the Native Plant and Seed Exchange Program authorized by Commissioners Court in May 2025, is a pilot initiative led by Travis County Natural Resources to reduce the spread of non-native invasive plants from private property onto the BCP.

In its pilot year, the NPEP served 14 homeowners and three Homeowner Associations in communities adjacent to the preserve. **Participants removed 1,394 invasive plants** from their properties and **installed 120 native plants** in their place.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND EDUCATION

The BCP's outreach program engaged thousands of community members in FY2025 through guided hikes, school programs, volunteer workdays, and special events.

Highlights included:

922 volunteers contributed **1,036 hours** to ecological restoration projects including tree planting, invasive species removal, and seed collection and propagation.

3,501 individuals attended events across all programs.

70 participants from an English immersion class used nature journaling to enhance language skills in a natural setting.



Telescope used during an Astronomy Night event.

The BCP's partner network in FY2025 included, among others:

Bat Conservation International
Colorado River Alliance
Deloitte
Hispanic Heritage Foundation
Outdoor Afro
Round Rock Pride
Local Queer ATX
Texas Children's Hospital
Lake Travis High School
Austin Community College
Multiple Chapters of Texas Master Naturalists
Scouts of America
St. Edward's University
Concordia University
City of Austin



Volunteers work on vegetative berms in July 2025.

231 participants attended standalone night sky events, learning about the night sky and the harmful effects of light pollution on migratory birds.

466 students reached through interactive school programs at Hart, Grandview Hills, and River Place Elementary Schools, featuring TEKS-correlated (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills) lessons on habitat, migration, and watershed ecology.

A new Open House event at the Snowden facility featured open trails, nature journaling, and a story walk.



The Natural Resources Outreach team attended Austin Zoo's annual Homeschool Day.

PURCHASING



ENVIRONMENTALLY PREFERABLE PURCHASING

Travis County's Environmentally Preferable Purchasing (EPP) program directs County departments to seek products and services that have the least adverse effect on human health and the environment. Governed by **Chapter 38 of the Travis County Administrative Code**, the program requires shoppers to consider recycled-content products and environmentally certified items, and to check the County's Reuse Store and Purchasing Warehouse before making new purchases.

10.3%
GREEN SPEND
(OFFICE SUPPLIES, ALL VENDORS)
(FY2025)

13.8%
GREEN SPEND
(ALL PURCHASES, 4 LARGE VENDORS COMBINED)
(FY2025)

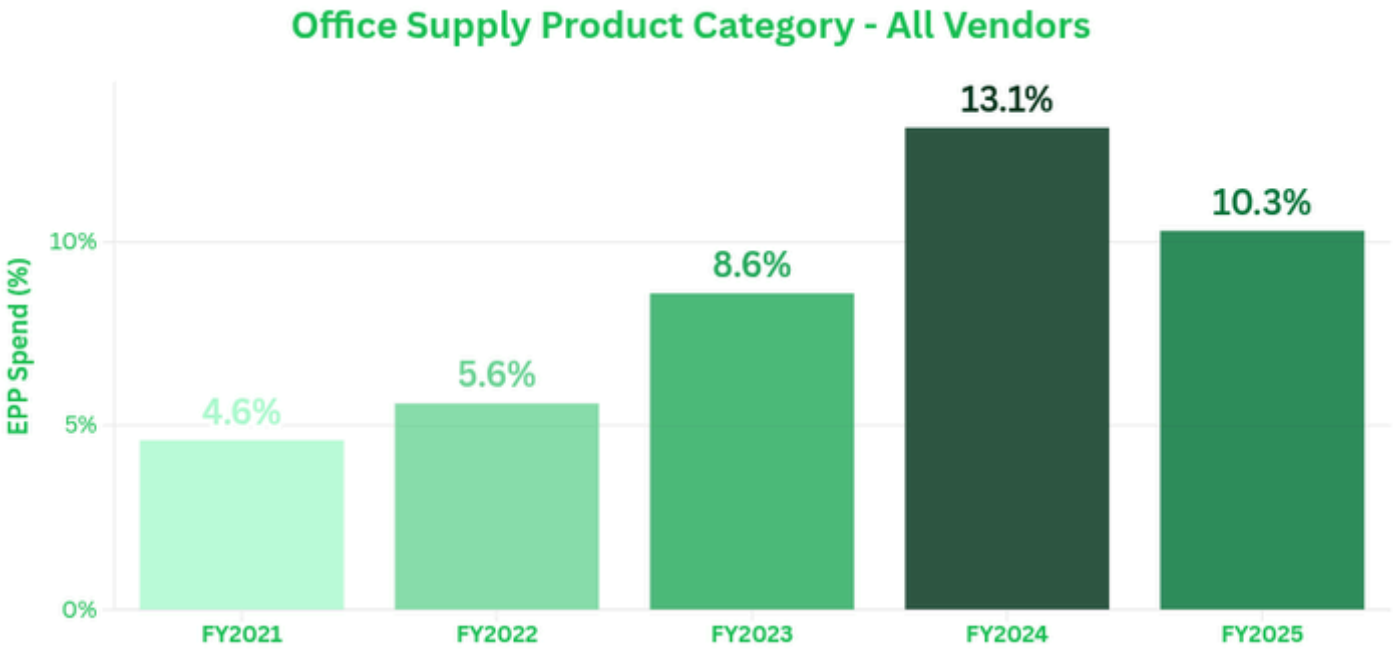
888
EPP TRAINING COMPLETIONS
(FY2025)

EPP TRAINING: 888 EMPLOYEES TRAINED IN FY2025

Travis County requires all SAP shoppers, department supervisors and managers, as well as Purchasing Office staff to complete EPP training once per year and upon hiring. The training is administered by the Environmental Quality Program and covers the County's EPP policy goals, how to identify and track green purchases within the SAP system, and how to use internal reuse resources before making new purchases. In FY2025, **888 employees completed EPP training**, up from 887 in FY2024 and 836 in FY2023.

A key emphasis of the training is the County's internal reuse resources. The Travis County Reuse Store is a supply room where County staff can find and acquire used but functional office supplies at no cost, diverting items from disposal and reducing the need for new spending. The Purchasing Warehouse serves a similar function, offering surplus equipment and materials for reuse across departments. Shoppers are expected to check both resources before purchasing new products.

OFFICE SUPPLIES



Since the EPP policy's implementation, office supply green spending has increased from 4.6% in FY2021 to a high of 13.1% in FY2024, reflecting progress toward the **County's goal of a minimum of 50% of office supply purchases to be environmentally preferable products**. In FY2025, the rate declined to 10.3%. Continued focus on environmentally preferable procurement will be necessary to close the gap between current performance and the policy's target.

Office Supply Product Category - All Vendors

Year	EPP Spend ($)	Total Spend ($)	EPP %
FY2021	$60,136	$1,312,246	4.6%
FY2022	$96,081	$1,713,892	5.6%
FY2023	$187,877	$2,188,954	8.6%
FY2024	$227,918	$1,740,206	13.1%
FY2025	$210,309	$2,041,904	10.3%

PAPER



Paper production has significant environmental impacts, from the loss of forest to the energy and water required for manufacturing. When forests are harvested or degraded, stored carbon is released, contributing to global greenhouse gas emissions. These effects underscore the importance of reducing paper consumption and prioritizing products sourced from responsibly managed forests.

Travis County tracks paper usage in cases per year. Total paper consumption increased 16.0% from FY2024 to FY2025, with per-employee usage rising 10.7%. The share of recycled-content paper remains low at 1.8%, presenting an ongoing opportunity to shift a greater portion of purchases toward recycled-content products in line with EPP goals. Price premiums on recycled-content paper continue to limit broader adoption across departments.

Metric	FY2024	FY2025	Change
Recycled content paper (cases)	84	85	+1.2%
Total paper (cases)	4,125	4,787	+16.0%
Recycled content (%)	2.0%	1.8%	-0.2 pp
Cases per employee	0.76	0.84	+10.7%

Although recycled-content paper remains difficult to scale due to price constraints, the County does make some progress through purchases that carry other verified environmental attributes, including sustainable forestry certifications and third-party eco-labels. These attributes help capture additional forms of environmentally responsible purchasing even when recycled-content options are limited.

EPP SPEND – PRINTING AND WRITING PAPER CATEGORY

Metric	FY2024	FY2025	Change
Non-EPP Spend	$324,644.30	$324,524.33	-0.04%
EPP Spend	$10,256.82	$8,665.53	-15.5%
EPP Spend %	3.1%	2.6%	-0.46 pp

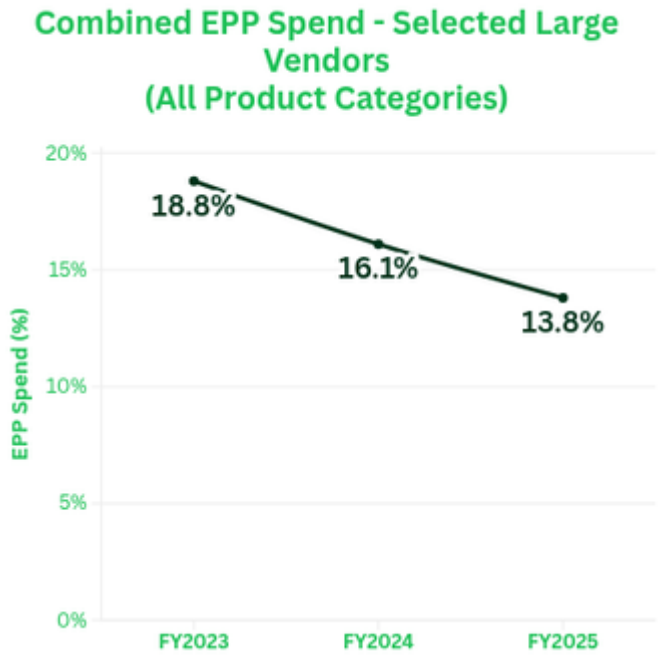
Paper products containing recycled content or other verified environmental attributes, such as sustainable forestry certifications, accounted for approximately 2.6% of the County's paper purchases in FY25.

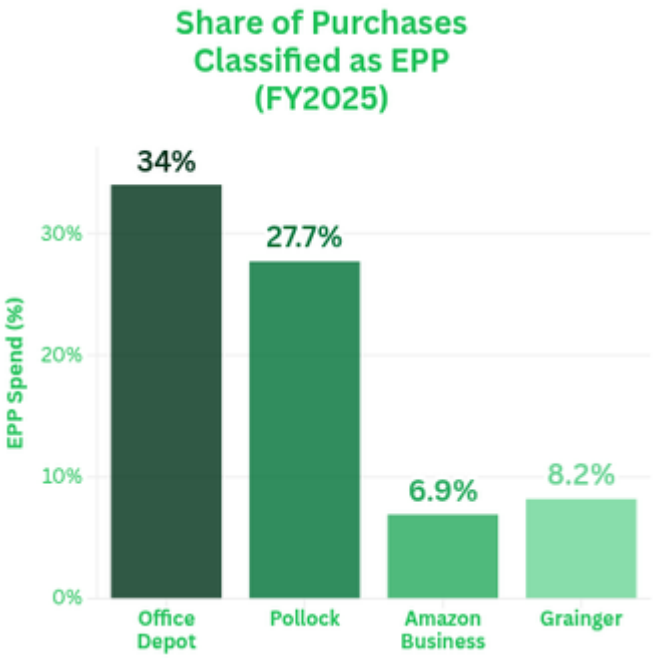
EPP SPEND
SELECTED LARGE VENDORS

Travis County tracks environmental preferable purchasing spending for four of its largest vendors: Office Depot, Grainger, Pollock, and Amazon Business, which was added in FY2025. The combined EPP spend rate for these vendors fell from 16.1% in FY2024 to 13.8% in FY2025. This decline may reflect higher costs of goods and purchasing constraints tied to state requirements under 30 Tex. Admin. Code §328.203.

SELECTED LARGE VENDORS: EPP VS. TOTAL SPEND (ALL PRODUCT CATEGORIES)

Year	EPP Spend ($)	Total Spend ($)	EPP %
FY2023	580,374	3,091,464	18.8
FY2024	763,191	4,750,492	16.1
FY2025	573,889	4,161,873	13.8





RESILIENCY

Environmental resilience is the ability to resist damage and recover after disturbances, and this concept shapes efforts to build systems that can adapt to changing conditions. Strengthening this capacity supports long-term stability and helps ensure operations remain reliable as challenges evolve.

TRAVIS COUNTY CLIMATE VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT

In FY2025, the Environmental Resilience team finalized Travis County's first Climate Vulnerability Assessment in partnership with Texas State University's Institute for Government Innovation

TEXAS STATE ®
INSTITUTE FOR GOVERNMENT INNOVATION

The final report outlines recommendations to increase the resilience of County facilities, infrastructure, and operations. It was accompanied by tools to identify resilience strategies, guide investments in facilities, and improve the usability of the Travis County Hazard Mitigation Action Plan.

CITY OF AUSTIN & TRAVIS COUNTY FOOD PLAN

In October 2024, Austin and Travis County finalized the region's first ever comprehensive food plan with support from both Austin City Council and the Travis County Commissioners Court.



The plan helps create a steadier food system by encouraging expanded local production and more efficient distribution, helping the community rely less on vulnerable long-distance supply chains.

The plan also establishes a long-term framework for strengthening the local food system overall. It outlines shared priorities for government, community organizations, producers, and residents, creating a coordinated direction for future policies and investments. In doing so, it identifies opportunities to improve equity, support local food economies, and advance community-driven initiatives that reflect local needs and values.

Learn more: austin-travis-county-food-plan-austin.hub.arcgis.com

WASTE

Waste management is a core component of Travis County's sustainability efforts and a meaningful contributor to the County's greenhouse gas footprint, accounting for 6–8% depending on the calculation method.

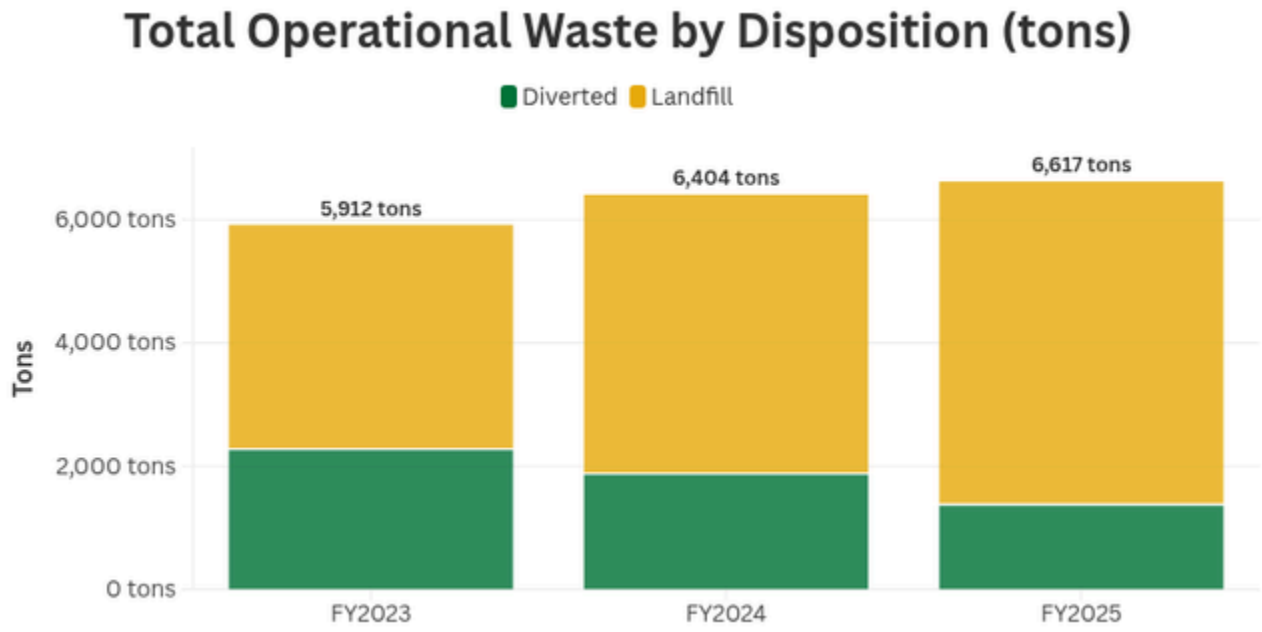
In FY2025, Travis County generated approximately **6,617.3 tons of total waste** and **diverted 1,381.3 tons**, resulting in a **20.9% diversion rate**, down from 27% in FY2024. This decline was driven mainly by higher reported landfill volumes from more frequent dumpster service and larger container sizes, as these waste streams are not weighed directly. Reduced construction and demolition activity also lowered the amount of material available for diversion. (See page 44/45 for more information.)

1,381.3
TONS DIVERTED FROM LANDFILL
(FY2025)

5,236
TONS TO LANDFILL
(FY2025)

20.9%
DIVERSION RATE
(FY2025)

3,420
MT CO2e
EMISSIONS FROM SOLID WASTE
(FY2025)



SOLID WASTE EMISSIONS

Solid waste sent to landfill generates emissions as organic materials break down over time. In FY2025, Travis County's landfill disposal produced an estimated **3,420 MT CO_2e**, a 15.8% increase from FY2024, directly tracking the rise in reported landfill tonnage.

See **Greenhouse Gas Inventory** section for full emissions details.

SCHEDULED TRASH AND RECYCLING SERVICES

Travis County contracts for scheduled trash and single-stream recycling collection services across its parks and facilities. Trash services are provided primarily by JJ's Disposal and Republic Services through front-load dumpsters and roll-off containers. Single-stream recycling is collected by Texas Disposal Systems (TDS), Republic Services, and Balcones Resources. The County also holds a solid waste contract with TDS for direct disposal at their landfill.

SCHEDULED TRASH SERVICES

Routine trash services are utilized to collect Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) discarded at County facilities. The MSW is then transported and disposed of at active landfills in the Austin area.

In FY2025, landfill tonnage from scheduled trash services rose by about 21.4% compared to FY2024, mainly because service frequencies increased and larger containers were put into use.

For reporting, front-load containers are not weighed; instead, they are recorded at their full capacity even when they may be only partially filled. Because of this difference, reported tonnage may exceed actual landfill volumes.



One of Travis County's many MSW dumpsters.

SCHEDULED RECYCLING SERVICES

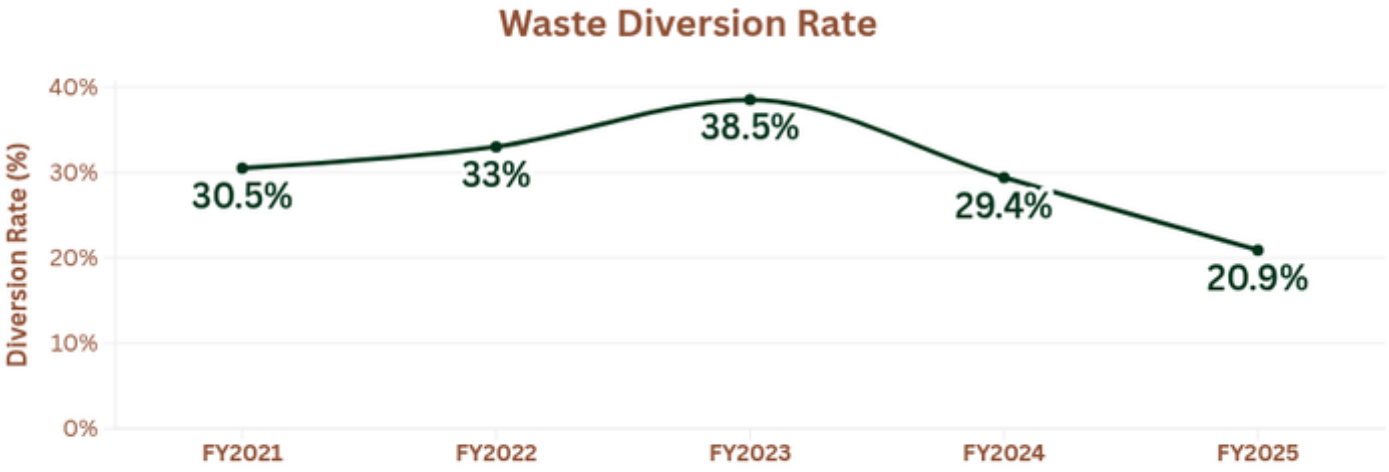
Travis County practices single-stream recycling, placing all accepted recyclable materials in one collection bin. In FY2025, **total single-stream recycling volumes were 342.6 tons**, a decrease of approximately 52.4 tons (-13.3%) from FY2024.

Metric	FY2023	FY2024	FY2025	Δ FY24→FY25
Single-Stream Recycling (tons)	250.6	395.0	342.6	-13.3%
Single-Stream Recycling Cost	$143,977	$189,435	$216,771	+14.4%
Scheduled Trash Services: Front-Load Dumpsters & Roll-Offs (tons)	3,063.2	3,821.4	4,642.7	+21.5%
Total Landfill (tons)	3,635.0	4,523.0	5,236.0	+15.8%
Total Landfill Cost	$299,477	$629,721	$622,321	-1.2%

WASTE DIVERSION RATE

A diversion rate measures the share of total waste redirected away from landfills through recycling, composting, or reuse, calculated as the percentage of total waste not sent to a landfill.





Note: Waste diversion metrics exclude the July 4th Flood debris, which is reported separately.

Travis County's diversion rate declined from **29.4%** in FY2024 to **20.9%** in FY2025. The elevated FY2023 rate of 38.5% was partly driven by winter storm cleanup, when large volumes of brush debris were mulched and could not be separated from routine operations. In FY2025, Central Texas flooding on July 4 generated similarly large debris volumes, but those materials were tracked and reported separately and are excluded from the standard diversion calculation.

After removing both anomalies, the trend reflects two operational factors. More frequent dumpster service and the use of larger container sizes increased reported landfill tonnage because these waste streams are not weighed. Front-load containers are assigned a weight based on their full capacity, so they are recorded as full even when they are not. Reviewing container sizes and service levels could reduce unnecessary pickups and improve reporting accuracy.

At the same time, fewer active renovation projects reduced the amount of construction and demolition material available for diversion, lowering overall diversion performance.

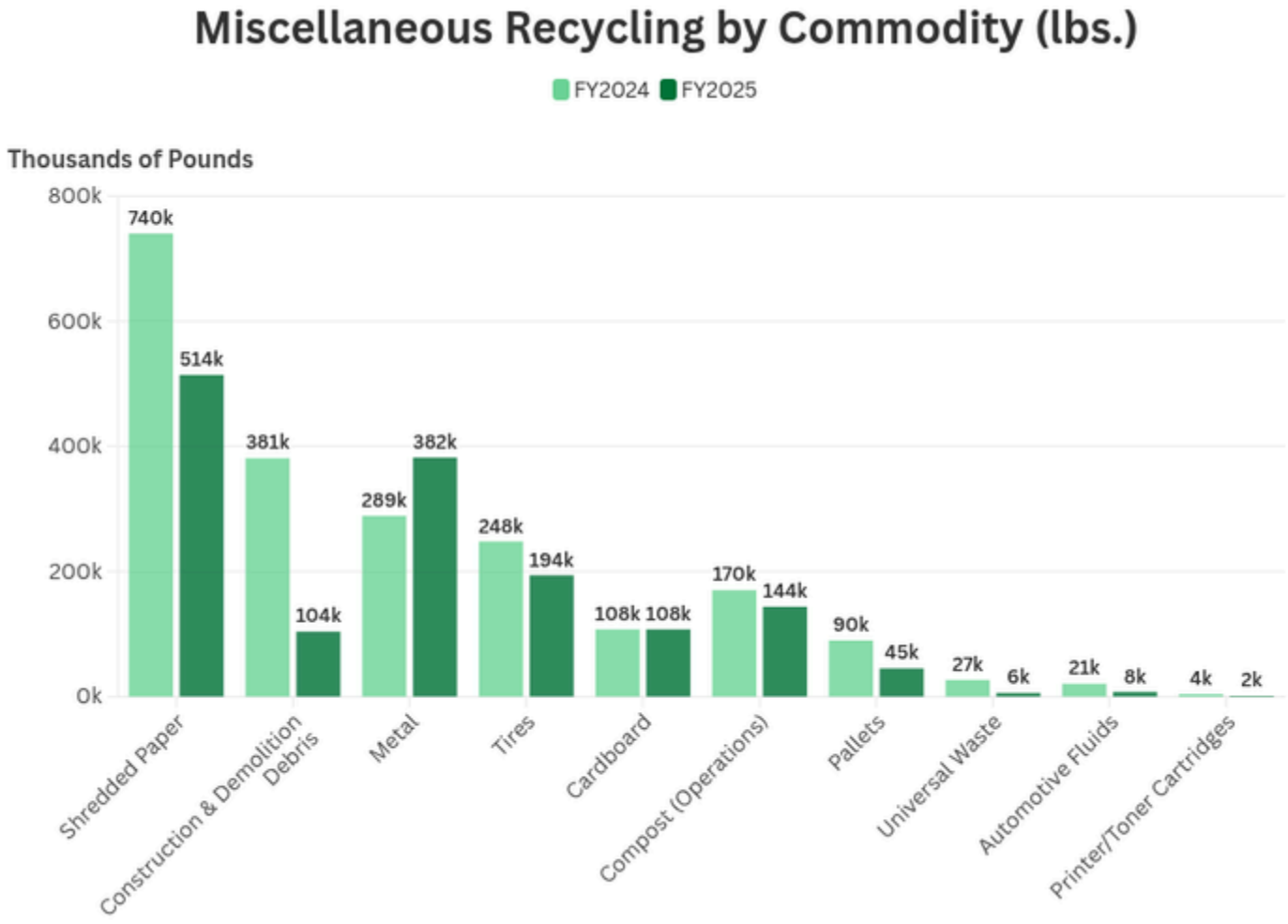
MISCELLANEOUS RECYCLING

Travis County contracts with vendors to manage specialized recycling services for materials not covered by single-stream collection. Collectively, these streams account for a significant portion of the County's total diversion from landfill.

In FY2025, Metal Diversion rebounded sharply, **rising 32.1%** and surpassing FY2023 levels. **C&D diversion fell 72.7%**, driven by fewer active renovation projects producing divertible materials. Shredded paper and universal waste declined following the disposal of accumulated items in FY2024, and tire disposal was affected by vendor-related issues.



Confidential shredded paper remains the County's largest non-single stream recycling commodity in FY2025.



"All items in these categories are diverted from landfill through established recycling programs.

RECYCLING REVENUE

Travis County generates revenue from selling recovered materials such as scrap metal, cardboard, pallets, batteries, and toner cartridges. **In FY2025, recycling revenue totaled $26,563, an increase of $4,587.** Most of this increase came from a spike in miscellaneous cash receipts, likely reflecting one-time recoveries or items that could not be categorized. Scrap metal and cardboard remained steady core contributors, though all categories can fluctuate year to year based on market pricing.



Clean, good-condition pallets like these at 5021 Cesar Chavez generate revenue through recycling.



A dumpster filled with metal ready for recycling at the East Service Center.

Recycling Revenue by Commodity

Commodity	FY2023	FY2024	FY2025	Δ FY24→FY25
Cardboard	$1,522	$4,266	$2,910	-31.8%
Metal	$11,924	$13,558	$6,678	-50.8%
Pallets	$628	$1,521	$270	-82.2%
Batteries	—	—	$77	—
Misc. Cash Receipts	$4,489	$2,630	$16,629	+532%
Total Revenue	$18,563	$21,976	$26,563	+20.9%

Miscellaneous Cash Receipts include revenue that doesn't fit into the other categories. This can include recycling proceeds from destroyed or damaged vehicles, as well as revenue where the specific source isn't specified..

UNIVERSAL WASTE

Universal Waste (UW) refers to commonly generated items that contain hazardous materials requiring proper handling to protect human health and the environment. Travis County collects Universal Waste across County facilities through ambassador programs and vendor pickup, and then routes it to certified recyclers.

1,317
FLUORESCENT LAMPS RECYCLED
(FY2025)

+1,431%
FLUORESCENT LAMPS CHANGE FROM FY2024
YEAR-OVER-YEAR

1,999
BATTERIES - ALL TYPES RECYCLED
(FY2025)

6,258 lbs.
TOTAL UW WEIGHT
(FY2025)





In FY2025, total universal waste (UW) weight dropped to 6,258 lbs., aligning more closely with FY2023 levels. The elevated FY2024 total (26,692 lbs.) was driven almost entirely by 'mixed/other' battery weights and reflects the disposal of a large accumulation of auto batteries.

Category	FY2023 (lbs.)	FY2024 (lbs.)	FY2025 (lbs.)	Δ FY24→FY25
Fluorescent Lamps	582	86	1,317	+1,431%
Lamp Ballasts	33	0	169	N/A
Alkaline Batteries	—	199	1,320	+563%
Lead-Acid Batteries	—	106	430	+306%
Lithium-Ion Batteries	—	38	249	+555%
Mixed/Other Batteries	4,134	26,249	2,772	-89.4%
Total UW Weight	4,749	26,692	6,258	-76.6%

The elevated FY2024 battery weight (26,692 lbs.) appears to reflect a one-time accumulation or vendor reporting event as FY2025 volumes returned to levels more consistent with FY2023.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

Household hazardous waste refers to common household products that contain chemicals or materials that can harm people, pets, or the environment if they aren't handled or disposed of correctly. Examples can include batteries, old light bulbs, leftover paint, electronics, automotive fluids, and cleaning products.






5,070
COUNTY HOUSEHOLDS SERVED
(FY2025)

$263,568
TOTAL HHW PROGRAM COST
(FY2025)

44.2%
HHW RECYCLING & REUSE RATE
(FY2025)

63.9 tons
WEIGHT OF COLLECTED ITEMS
(FY2025)

TRAVIS COUNTY

Austin Resource Recovery

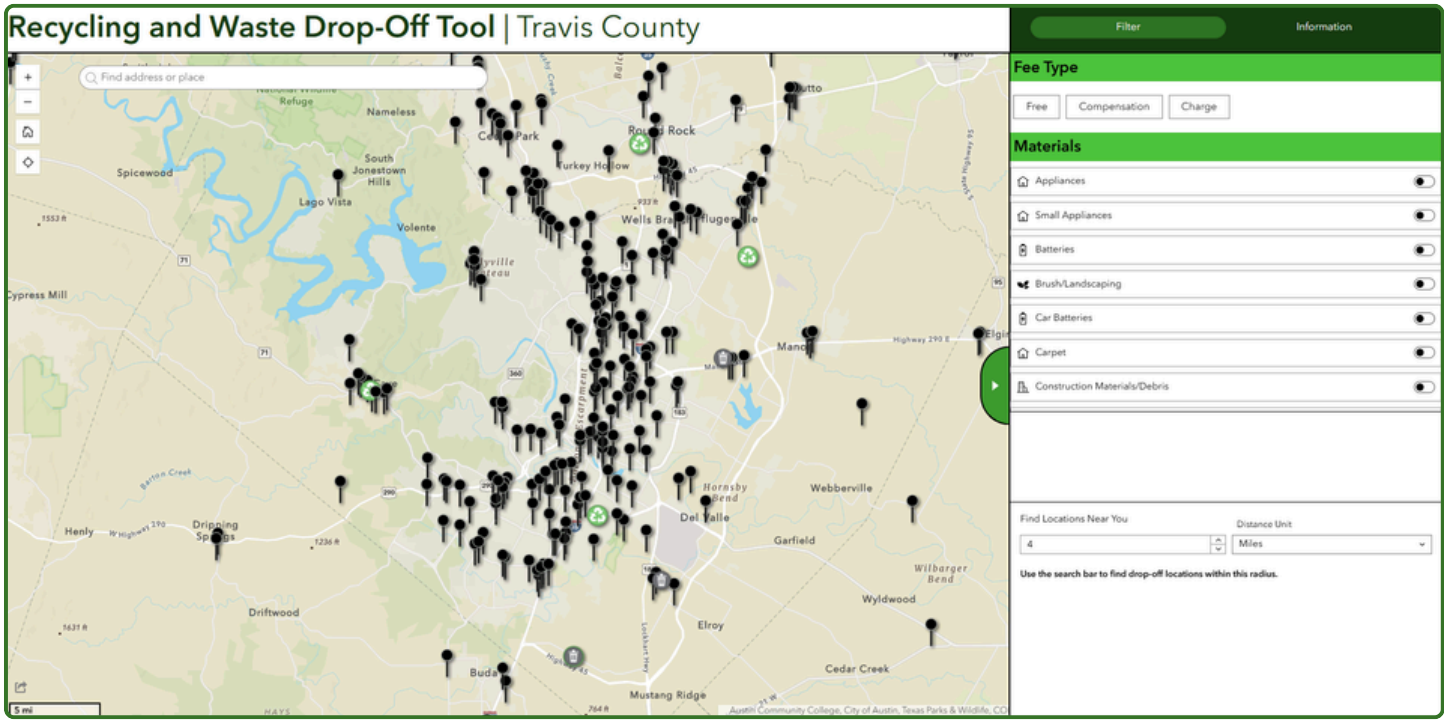
Travis County and the City of Austin maintain an Interlocal Agreement (ILA) providing Travis County residents access to Austin Resource Recovery's (ARR) Recycle and Reuse Drop-Off Center for the safe disposal of Household Hazardous Waste (HHW). The City of Austin bills Travis County based on the percentage of participation by Travis County residents who live outside the city of Austin.

Metric	FY2023	FY2024	FY2025
Number of County Households Served	4,762	5,721	5,070
Total Program Cost	$228,406	$255,665	$263,568
Cost per Household Served	$46.26	$47.96	$51.99
% of HHW Recycled	42.0%	42.0%	44.2%
Weight of Collected Items (tons)	79.4	135.0	63.9

RECYCLING AND WASTE DROP-OFF TOOL

The Recycling and Waste Drop-Off Tool is an interactive online resource helping Travis County residents locate facilities in the county that accept waste and recyclable materials not suitable for curbside collection, including electronics, Household Hazardous Waste, tires, appliances, Styrofoam, and specialty recyclables. Its primary purpose is to reduce improper disposal by making responsible options more visible and accessible across the county.

In 2025 with the help of a summer intern, the Operational Sustainability team comprehensively redesigned and launched the Drop-Off Tool with updated site listings, a modernized mapping platform, improved material-type filtering, and a refreshed user interface.



Recycling and Waste Drop-Off Tool's web version.

Travis County residents can filter drop-off locations by fee type, accepted materials, and distance from their address, then search for nearby sites and select them on the map to view details such as costs, size limits, accepted materials, and hours. Because information can change, users should still call their selected location to verify.

The updated tool is available at: https://www.traviscountytx.gov/tnr/environmental-quality/conserve/waste-drop-off-tool

JULY 4TH, 2025 FLOOD DEBRIS RESPONSE

On July 4th, 2025, Travis County experienced significant flooding along Sandy Creek, requiring a coordinated multi-vendor emergency waste and debris removal response. The County mobilized solid waste collection at response sites, contracted large-scale disaster brush removal, launched a Flood Voucher Program for impacted residents, and temporarily expanded Citizens' Collection Center trash services to manage the surge in materials.

In total, the response involved the removal of approximately 15,552 tons of material, the vast majority of which was brush and vegetative debris. In addition, 285.4 tons of solid waste was collected across response sites, through the Flood Voucher Program, and at the 1431 Citizen Collection Center.



Wood and vegetative debris is collected in NW Travis County near Sandy Creek.

15,552 TONS
TOTAL DEBRIS COLLECTED

87
FLOOD DEBRIS VOUCHERS USED BY THE COMMUNITY

121,891 CUBIC YARDS
VEGETATIVE DEBRIS RECYCLED

8,837 MT CO2e
CARBON EMISSIONS PREVENTED BY BRUSH AND VEGETATION RECYCLING

By recycling more than **30 million pounds of brush and vegetative debris**, the debris recovery effort **prevented roughly 8,837 MT CO_2e emissions**. In practical terms, that's the same **climate benefit as powering 1,842 homes for a year** or **eliminating 22.5 million miles of driving by a typical gas-powered car.**

Because emergency debris is outside normal operational control, these materials and emissions are tracked independently and are not included in FY2025 diversion or emissions metrics.

WATER



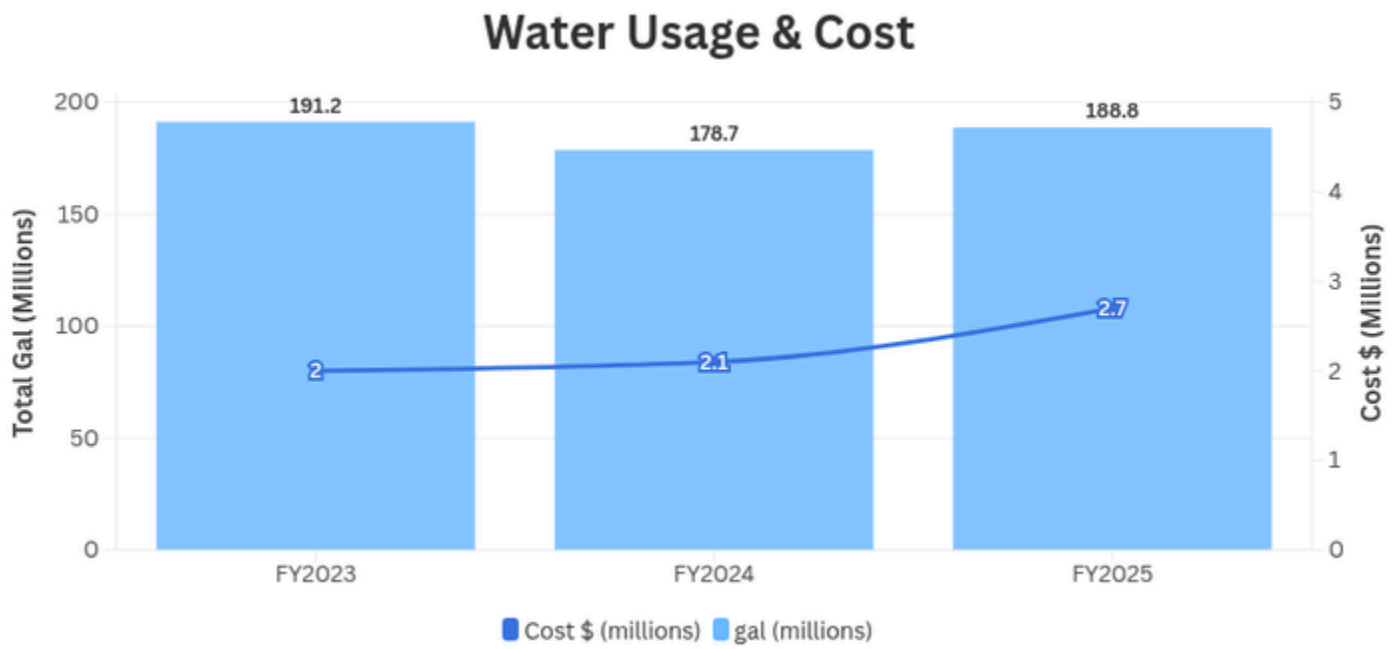
Lake Travis in Western Travis County.

Travis County relies heavily on the Colorado River and its Highland Lakes reservoirs for more than 97% of its water supply. A smaller share comes from groundwater wells, but the region's dependence on a single surface-water source makes it highly vulnerable to drought and other climatic pressures.

The County tracks two primary water streams: potable water used across all facilities for general operations, and reclaimed water, also known as purple pipe water, used as a non-potable alternative at select sites.

188.8 MILLION GALLONS USED (FY2025)	**+5.7%** USAGE CHANGE YEAR-OVER-YEAR	**$2.69 MILLION** WATER COST (FY2025)	**+25.4%** COST CHANGE YEAR-OVER-YEAR

WATER USAGE & COST



In FY2025, countywide potable water usage rose 5.7**%** over FY2024, reaching approximately **188.8 million gallons**. The majority of this increase is attributable to events at three TNR park facilities (East Metro Park, Webberville Park, and NE Metro Park). The increased costs are driven by reduced use of reclaimed water, which is typically less expensive than potable water, and by tiered billing rates that applied higher charges during the months when water use was unusually high.

FY2025 USAGE – TNR PARK FACILITIES

Three TNR Park facilities accounted for the majority of the countywide year-over-year increase. Each facility experienced distinct circumstances that drove elevated consumption in FY2025.

East Metro Park	Relies on on-site groundwater wells as its primary water source for three irrigation ponds, two of which (Kingfisher Lake (~2 acres) and Bullfrog Pond (~1 acres)) are part of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Neighborhood Fishing Program and must be kept at a near-constant level. In FY2025, an extended drought caused the wells to run dry. Two underground leaks on the County's side of the water meter developed at the same time and went undetected before being repaired.
Webberville Park	Has aging plumbing and waterlines throughout the facility. In FY2025, a mandatory fire protection water tower sustained damage from a freeze event and required repair and refilling. Several additional major leaks occurred across the park's water system during the year.
NorthEast Metro Park	Required pond drainage as part of scheduled maintenance work. Some additional water loss occurred from leakage in a drainage area.

RECLAIMED WATER

Reclaimed water is produced from highly treated wastewater and provides a cost-effective alternative to potable water for non-potable uses such as building cooling, irrigation, and toilet flushing. Since 2018, Travis County has participated in the City of Austin's Purple Pipe reclaimed water system, reducing pressure on potable supplies.

Current Facilities	HMS Courthouse, 700 Lavaca, Criminal Justice Center / Gault Building, Ned Granger Building, Travis County Correctional Complex & Evidence Warehouse, Northeast Metro Park (effluent water)
Upcoming Connections	Travis County and the City of Austin are working to extend the purple pipe system to the Civil and Family Court Facility and the Probate Court Building. The Civil and Family Court Facility is fully plumbed for reclaimed water while the Probate Court Building will use reclaimed water for its cooling system.

11.3
MILLION GALLONS USED
(FY2025)

-49.7%
USAGE CHANGE
YEAR-OVER-YEAR

$165,768
COMBINED COST SAVINGS
(FY2025)

-39.7%
CHANGE IN COST SAVINGS
YEAR-OVER-YEAR



The Travis County Evidence Warehouse (3614 Bill Price Rd, Del Valle) has become the latest facility to integrate with the City of Austin's Reclaimed Water System.

RECLAIMED WATER

Combined countywide reclaimed water use in FY2025 totaled approximately 11.3 million gallons, down from 22.6 million gallons in FY2024. The decline is attributable entirely to the FMD system shutdown described below. The Correctional Complex's reclaimed water use grew 23.8% year-over-year.

Category	FY2023	FY2024	FY2025	Δ FY24→FY25
FMD Reclaimed Water (gal)	20,807,300	13,781,200	418,300	-97.0%
TCSO Reclaimed Water (gal)	5,428,000	8,697,000	10,881,900	+25.1%
Combined Total (gal)	26,235,300	22,478,200	11,300,200	-49.7%
FMD Reclaimed Savings ($)	$219,369	$166,133	$6,274	-96.2%
TCSO Reclaimed Savings ($)	$65,827	$108,633	$159,494	+46.8%
Combined Total Savings ($)	$285,196	$274,766	$165,768	-39.7%

Note: The Travis County Correctional Complex was connected to Austin Water's reclaimed water system in May 2023.

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT (FMD)

The County suspended reclaimed-water use at downtown FMD buildings in FY2025 after water-quality issues contributed to equipment failures, including a chiller at the Criminal Justice Center. Systems were temporarily switched to domestic water while FMD met with Austin Water who recommended treatment adjustments with our service provider. The service contract was updated to include these safeguards. Reclaimed-water service has since been restored at all previously served downtown locations.

As reclaimed systems went offline, potable water filled the gap. Combined potable water use across the four FMD buildings rose **104%** from **5.2 million gallons** in FY2024 to **10.6 million gallons** in FY2025.

TRAVIS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE (TCSO)

The Travis County Sheriff's Office uses reclaimed water at the Correctional Complex campus, reducing potable demand at the County's largest operational facility. The reclaimed water system supplies make-up water to the cooling tower at Building #12-400, which serves the department's largest inmate housing unit (1,336 beds, built in 2009).

In late September 2025, TCSO opened a new Evidence Warehouse plumbed for reclaimed water to supply both toilets and an outdoor irrigation system, adding to the County's purple pipe network.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESILIENCE PROGRAM

The Environmental Resilience Program's (ERP) mission is to reduce greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, mitigate the effects of climate change by focusing on nature-based solutions, and foster local resilience to climate hazards. Over the course of FY2025, the ERP team helped drive the following achievements.

REGIONAL CLIMATE COLLABORATION

Led the County's application to the Center for Climate and Energy Solutions (C2ES) to bring their Climate Resilient Communities Accelerator to the Austin-San Antonio corridor. Once the region was selected, ERP has acted as liaison between C2ES, Commissioners Court members, staff, and regional partners.

C2ES
CENTER FOR CLIMATE AND ENERGY SOLUTIONS

FLOOD RESPONSE & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

After the July floods in northwest Travis County, ERP worked as part of the County's response team to connect residents with debris removal and disposal assistance programs.

REGIONAL CLIMATE ACTION PLANNING

Worked with ICLEI USA to plan for implementation of the 5-county Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP) in Travis County. ICLEI's analysis identified which CCAP strategies will have the biggest impact on reducing climate pollution and maximize community benefits. It also assessed what level of action would be needed to get close to net zero. This analysis will help Travis County and community partners prioritize investment and actions.

ICLEI
Local Governments for Sustainability

COUNTYWIDE EMISSIONS REDUCTION EFFORTS

Convened an internal, cross-departmental group to document how Travis County is reducing the emissions of harmful greenhouse gases in the community through programs, policies, and funding. A range of efforts were identified, including weatherization programs, Public Improvement District policies, and investments in transportation -- from expanding bus lines to creating bicycle, pedestrian, and trail improvements on and off County roads.

NEXT STEPS

Travis County has made measurable progress in reducing emissions and advancing sustainable operations. Continued success, however, will require stronger coordination across departments to ensure that all efforts align with the County's climate objectives.

Despite several notable successes this year, not all operational indicators moved in the desired direction. The County is committed to addressing these setbacks and accelerating progress toward its climate goals. Several initiatives already underway will support this effort. The Transportation and Natural Resources Department is assessing opportunities to transition its electrical utility accounts into green-utility programs such as Austin Energy's GreenChoice. The Facilities Management Department is working to restore and expand the Purple Pipe reclaimed-water system throughout its downtown facilities to reduce potable-water demand. The Operational Sustainability Team intends to expand its education and outreach efforts to strengthen participation in waste-diversion programs and promote environmentally preferable purchasing.

The County remains firmly committed to achieving net-zero organizational emissions by 2030, a goal that will require unified leadership and consistent implementation of the strategies outlined in the updated 2026 Climate Action Plan, the County's primary roadmap for emissions reduction. Deeper engagement with the plan across all departments is essential to maintaining progress and meeting this target.



THANK YOU!

As we present this year's annual sustainability report, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who has contributed to our journey toward a more sustainable future. This report is the result of the collective efforts and dedication of our elected officials, employees, partners, stakeholders, and communities, who share our commitment to making a positive impact on the world around us.

WE ARE ESPECIALLY GRATEFUL TO THE INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS WHO MADE THIS ALL POSSIBLE, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO:

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Travis County Judge Andy Brown
Commissioner Jeff Travillion, Precinct 1
Commissioner Brigid Shea, Precinct 2
Commissioner Ann Howard, Precinct 3
Commissioner Margaret Gómez, Precinct 4

COUNTY DEPARTMENTS & TEAMS

Auditor's Office
Constables
Emergency Services
Facilities Management Department (FMD)
Health & Human Services (HHS)
Human Resources Management Department (HRMD)
Information Technology Service (ITS)
Juvenile Probation
Planning & Budget Office (PBO)
Public Information Office
Purchasing Office
Sheriff's Office
TNR-Air Quality
TNR-Environmental Resilience
TNR-Finance
TNR-Fleet
TNR-Natural Resources
TNR-Operational Sustainability
TNR-Parks
TNR-Parks Land Management
TNR-Road&Bridge
TNR-Stormwater
TNR-Water Quality

EXTERNAL PARTNERS & VENDORS

Austin Energy
Austin Metal & Iron
Austin Water
Austin Wood Recycling
Balcones Recycling/Circular Services
Break It Down
CapMetro
City of Austin
CMC Recycling
DRC Emergency Services
ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability
Iron Mountain
Grainger
Green-e
JJ's Waste & Recycling
Office Depot
OVOL USA
Pollock
Republic Services
Sharps Compliance
Take 2 Direct LLC
Texas Disposal Systems
Trilogy Med Waste
Urban Sustainability DIrectors Network
Veolia

APPENDIX: GLOSSARY OF TERMS

The following terms are used throughout the FY2025 Travis County Sustainability Report. Definitions are provided to support transparency and accessibility for all readers.

Carbon Dioxide Equivalent (CO2e): A measure that expresses the impact of various greenhouse gases in terms of the amount of carbon dioxide needed to produce the same global warming effect.

Carbon (or Greenhouse Gas) Footprint: The amount or calculated value of greenhouse gas emissions that are associated with the activities of an individual or other entity (i.e. building, organization, nation, etc.).

Carbon Factor / Carbon Intensity: The amount of carbon dioxide emitted per unit of energy produced. It indicates how "clean" or "polluting" an energy source or electricity grid is.

Climate Change: The process in which there is a shift in the Earth's average weather patterns primarily due to human activities.

Composting: The biological process of decomposing organic materials, such as food scraps, yard waste, and paper, into a nutrient-rich soil amendment. Composting diverts organic waste from landfills, where it would otherwise produce methane, a potent greenhouse gas. Composting alsoreturns valuable nutrients to the soil.

Diversion Rate: The percentage of waste materials that are diverted away from landfill disposal through recycling, composting, reuse, or other recovery methods. A higher diversion rate indicates more effective waste reduction and resource recovery efforts.

Environmental Resilience: The capacity of an ecosystem to respond to disturbances by resisting damage and subsequently recovering.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions: Gases (i.e. carbon dioxide, methane, water vapor, etc.) that are emitted into the atmosphere and can absorb infrared radiation (heat energy) and redirect it back to the Earth's surface, thus contributing to global warming.

Greenhouse Gas Inventory: A detailed list of all greenhouse gas emissions produced by a specific source or activity.

Green Utility Programs: Voluntary programs offered by utilities that allow customers to purchase electricity generated from renewable sources or to support renewable energy development. Travis County participates in Austin Energy's GreenChoice program, which provides verified Renewable Energy Credits from wind energy.

Household Hazardous Waste (HHW): Leftover household products that contain corrosive, toxic, ignitable, or reactive ingredients, such as paints, solvents, pesticides, batteries, and cleaning products. HHW requires special handling and disposal to prevent harm to human health and the environment.

Location-Based Method: The method of calculating Scope 2 Emissions using the average emissions of the local electricity grid where the energy is consumed.

Market-Based Method: The method of calculating Scope 2 Emissions using the specific carbon factors/carbon intensity of the electricity purchased, based on contracts or products offered such as renewable energy programs or certificates.

Municipal Solid Waste (MSW): Any discarded material that is not liquid or gas, including everyday trash, recyclables, organic materials, and certain hazardous items. Solid waste management includes collection, processing, recycling, composting, and disposal in landfills or incinerators.

APPENDIX: GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Nature-Based Solutions (NbS): Actions aimed at protecting, conserving, restoring, and sustainably managing natural or modified ecosystems.

Net-Zero Emissions: The state where the amount of greenhouse gas released into the atmosphere is equal to the amount removed.

Potable Water: Water that meets safe drinking water standards and is suitable for human consumption, cooking, and personal hygiene. Potable water is treated and distributed through municipal water systems and is the primary water source for most County facilities.

Purple Pipe System: The City of Austin's reclaimed water system.

Reclaimed Water: Wastewater from homes and businesses that has been treated and recycled and is safe for non-potable water usage such as irrigation, toilet flushing, and air conditioning systems.

Renewable Energy (aka Green Energy): Energy made from natural resources that can be replenished on a human timescale (i.e. solar, wind, hydropower, etc.).

Renewable Energy Credits: Credits that are sold to offset carbon emissions or meet renewable energy targets. RECs are issued when one megawatt-hour (MWh) of electricity is generated and delivered to the electricity grid from a renewable energy source.

Residual Mix: The *average* carbon intensity of electricity that is not covered by specific renewable energy claims such as Renewable Energy Credits (RECs). It reflects the emissions from the leftover electricity supply once all claimed renewable power has been taken out.

Scopes: A framework developed by the Greenhouse Gas Protocol to categorize the sources of an organization's greenhouse gas emissions into three distinct scopes, helping to distinguish between direct and indirect emission sources.

Scope 1 Emissions: Direct greenhouse gas emissions from sources owned or controlled by the organization. Examples include combustion of natural gas in County-owned buildings, fuel burned in County fleet vehicles, and emissions from on-site generators.

Scope 2 Emissions: Indirect greenhouse gas emissions from the generation of purchased electricity, heat, steam, or cooling consumed by the organization. These emissions occur at the power plant or utility, not at County facilities, but are attributed to the organization based on energy consumption.

Scope 3 Emissions: All other indirect greenhouse gas emissions that occur in an organization's value chain, both upstream and downstream, that are not included in Scope 1 or 2. For Travis County, this includes categories such as employee commuting, , and waste sent to landfill.

Single-Stream Recycling: A recycling system in which all accepted recyclables are collected in a single bin and sorted at a Materials Recovery Facility (MRF).

Solar Reflectivity Index (SRI): A measure of how well a surface reflects solar energy. Higher SRI means the surface stays cooler in sunlight, which helps reduce heat absorption and urban heat island effects.

Universal Waste: A category of hazardous waste that includes items generated through business operations such as fluorescent lamps, batteries, pesticides, and mercury-containing equipment. Universal waste is subject to streamlined regulatory requirements to encourage proper recycling and disposal rather than landfilling.

Waste Diversion: The process of diverting waste materials away from the landfills towards more environmentally friendly alternatives.