

## STAFF REPORT

TO: City Council DATE: February 24, 2015  
VIA: Gary Jackson, City Manager  
FROM: Kerby Smithson, Interim Sustainability Officer  
SUBJECT: Update - City's Carbon Footprint Update FY 2014

Summary Statement: In FY 2014 the City of Asheville reduced our carbon footprint from municipal operations by 4.5%.

Review: In 2008, City Council established a 2% annual carbon footprint reduction goal. That goal was increased in 2011 to 4%. For the 6<sup>th</sup> year in a row, the City has met the goal by reducing its greenhouse gas emissions by 1,328 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent.

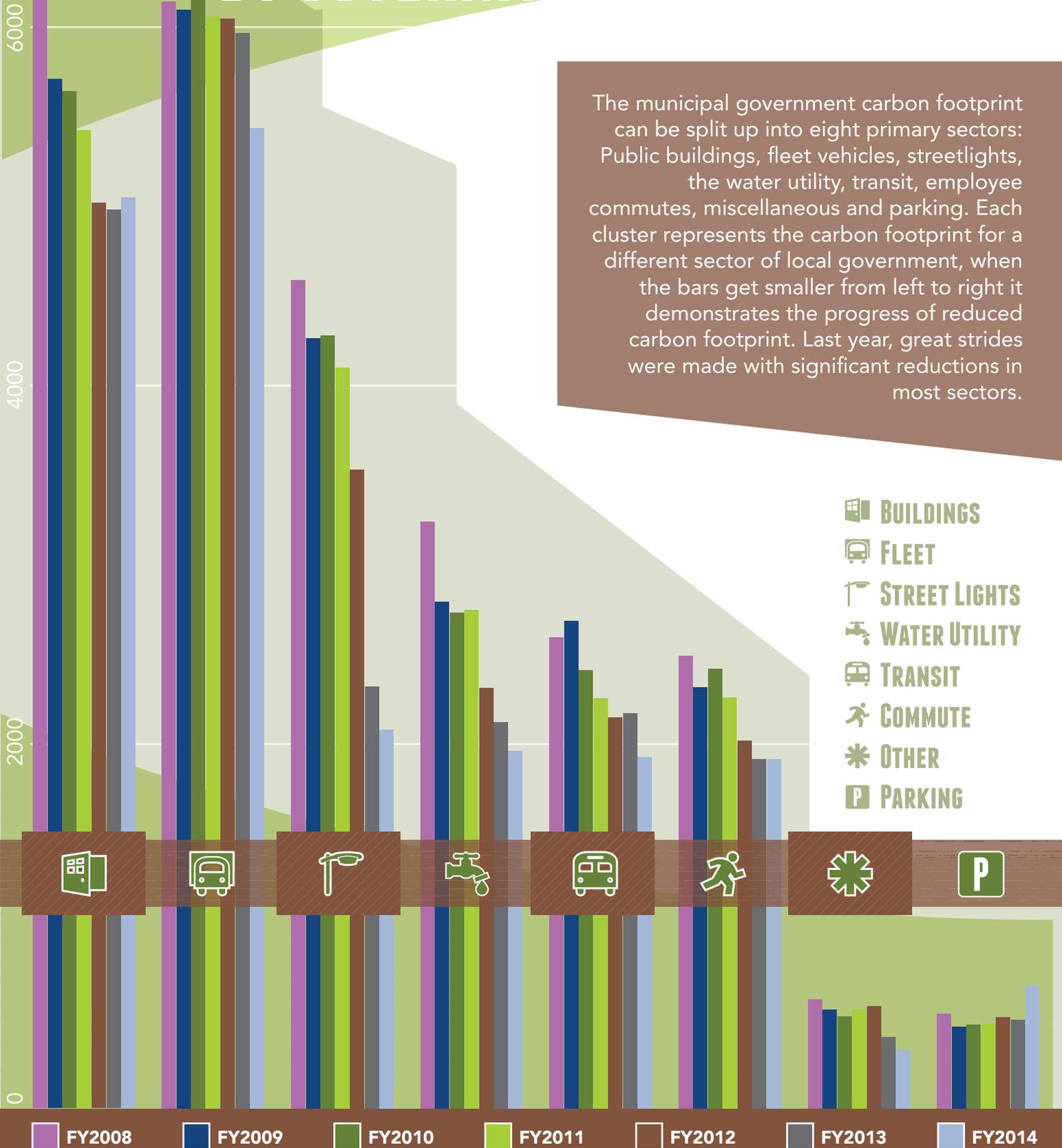
Last year's increase was due, in large, to conversion of the biodiesel the City uses from B-5 to B-20 for all fleet and transit operations. The lower carbon footprint of the B-20 fuel alone accounted for 40% of the year's improvement. In concert with the fuel change, the City's fleet overall managed a 2.1% reduction in fuel volume consumption of diesel, gasoline and CNG. More efficient vehicles purchased through the more robust Fleet CIP had a large part to do with this achievement.

Additional actions that resulted in the reduction included:

- 1,500 more streetlights were converted in the City's fourth phase of LED streetlight installations;
- Environmental performance in the Water Resources Department for the 4<sup>th</sup> year in a row; and,
- Efficiency improvements in City buildings.

City reduced its energy spending to \$5.6M, a reduction of \$164,000 from the previous year.

# 2014 CARBON FOOTPRINT REDUCTIONS BY GOVERNMENT SECTOR



The municipal government carbon footprint can be split up into eight primary sectors: Public buildings, fleet vehicles, streetlights, the water utility, transit, employee commutes, miscellaneous and parking. Each cluster represents the carbon footprint for a different sector of local government, when the bars get smaller from left to right it demonstrates the progress of reduced carbon footprint. Last year, great strides were made with significant reductions in most sectors.

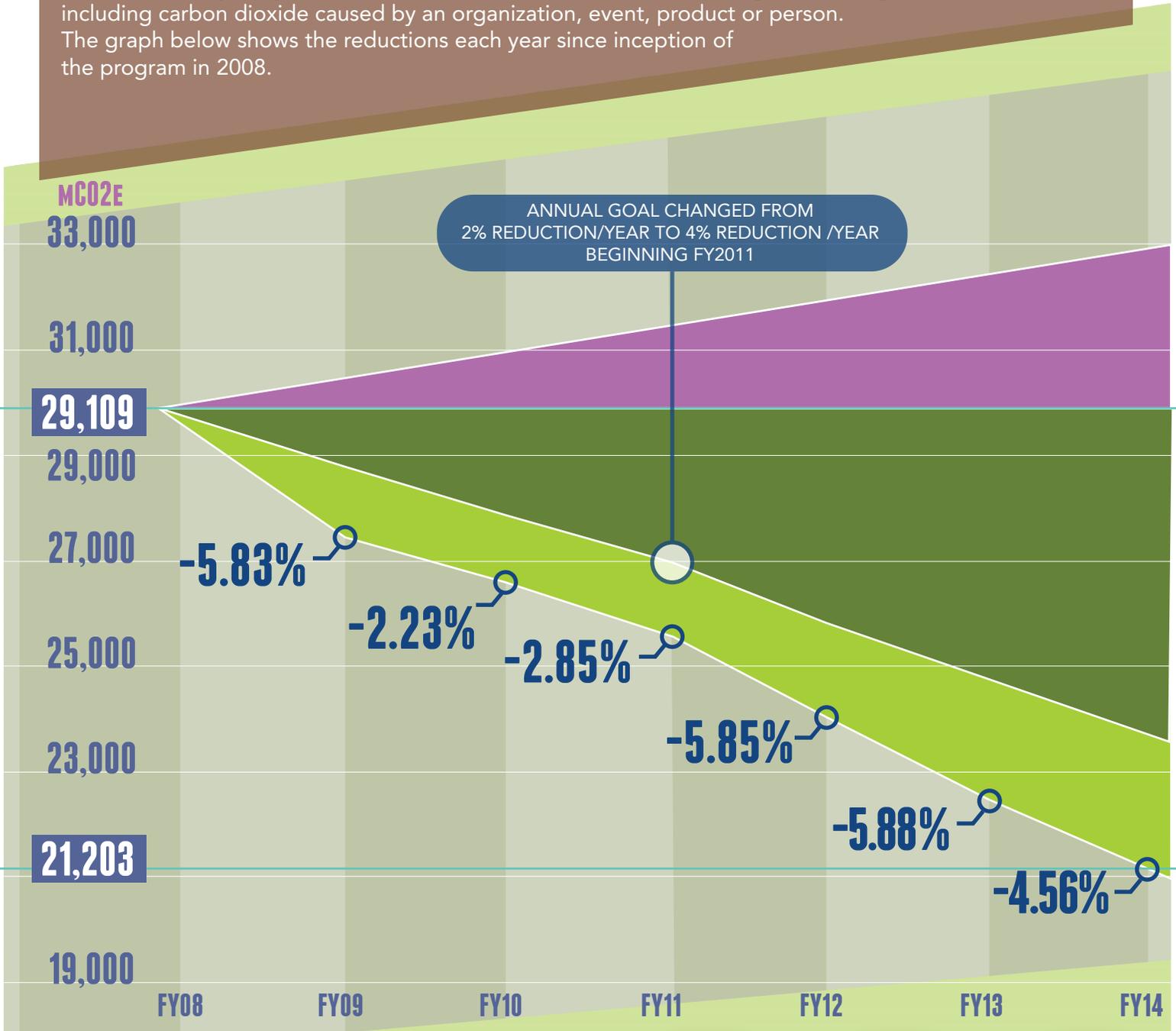
-  BUILDINGS
-  FLEET
-  STREET LIGHTS
-  WATER UTILITY
-  TRANSIT
-  COMMUTE
-  OTHER
-  PARKING

\*\*OTHER includes area lighting, traffic signals, communications towers, backup generators, and festivals

# CARBON FOOTPRINT REDUCTIONS

## How is Your Government Doing?

After consecutive years of achieving carbon footprint reductions above and beyond stated goals the Asheville City Council increased their commitment to municipal sustainability. In April 2011, Council doubled the goal for municipal carbon reductions to 4% each year in order to reduce the overall footprint 80% by the year 2030. A carbon footprint is the total set of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions including carbon dioxide caused by an organization, event, product or person. The graph below shows the reductions each year since inception of the program in 2008.



### BARRELS OF SAVINGS

One ton of carbon emissions is what you would get from burning 2.3 barrels of oil. This year's emissions reductions were the equivalent of not burning 3,088 barrels of oil.



**BUSINESS AS USUAL**



**TARGET REDUCTIONS**



**ACTUAL REDUCTIONS**