

Addressing Climate Change

Climate and Sustainability - Village Center Overlay District (VCOD)

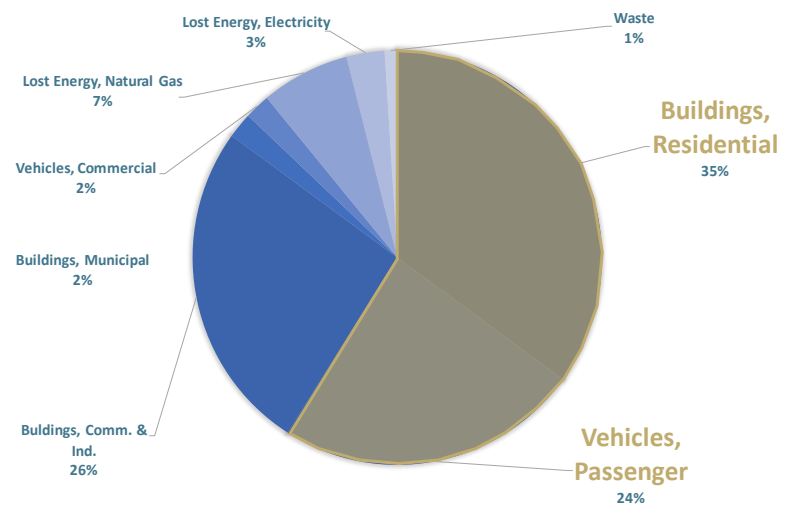


Union Street is already a vibrant area located right at the Newton Centre T stop with shops, offices, and apartments. The VCOD allows people to live near the T and shopping, restaurants, parks, and plazas which reduces car trips.

New construction and rehabilitation of buildings within village centers will lead to cleaner and more efficient energy use and a higher quality of life for residents and visitors. Beyond individual buildings, vibrant, walkable village centers will offer local goods and services that can meet community needs without people always needing a vehicle. Overall, VCOD zoning will help reduce Newton's carbon footprint from the two largest sources, buildings and transportation.

Statistics show that people who live in multi-family housing in areas similar to village centers drive less and consume fewer resources, such as water and electricity per household than single family homes. Newton has also adopted recent updates to the building code which will require new buildings to be far more energy efficient and incorporate EV chargers, solar panels, and most multi-family buildings will need to meet sustainable Passive House energy standards.

Newton's Top GHG Emitters



Newton's Green House Gas (GHG) emissions inventory shows that buildings and transportation are the largest contributors to the City's carbon footprint. 35% of emissions come from residential buildings and 24% come from passenger vehicles. This accounts for 59% of Newton's GHG emissions. Locating housing in village centers near transit and shopping, restaurants, parks, and plazas requires less vehicle trips, and other carbon producing resources. (Credit: Newton Climate Action Plan, 2013)