

# California Climate Action Plan Implementation

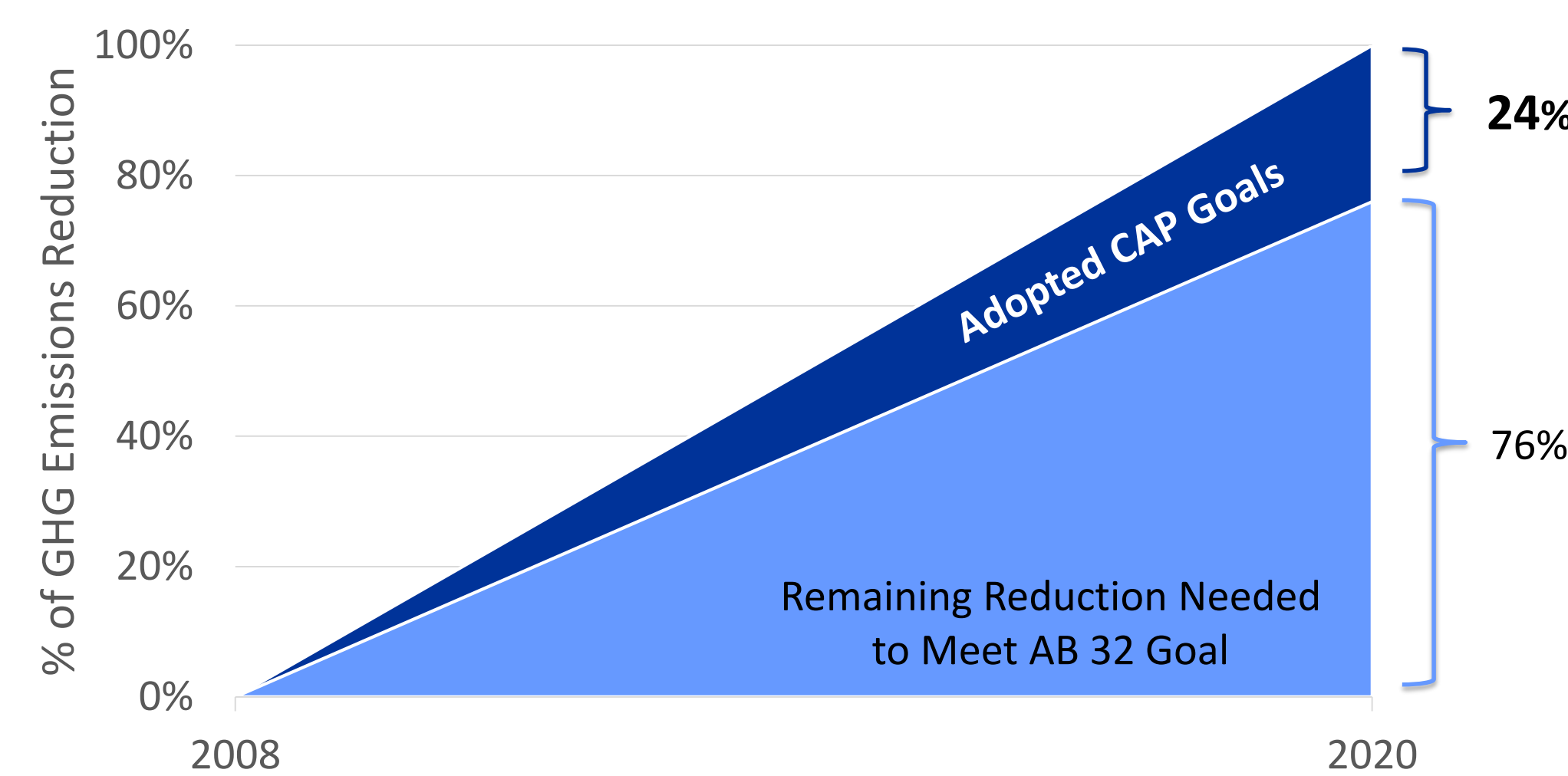
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## CAP GHG Reduction Potential

### The Problem: Climate Change

The threat of climate change is arguable the greatest challenge facing California, the nation, and the world today. California's state government and local governments are taking action to mitigate climate change through Climate Action Plans (CAPs). Implementation of CAPs at the local level has the potential to achieve significant greenhouse gas (GHG) reductions relative to California's AB 32 GHG reduction target as shown in the wedge graph below.



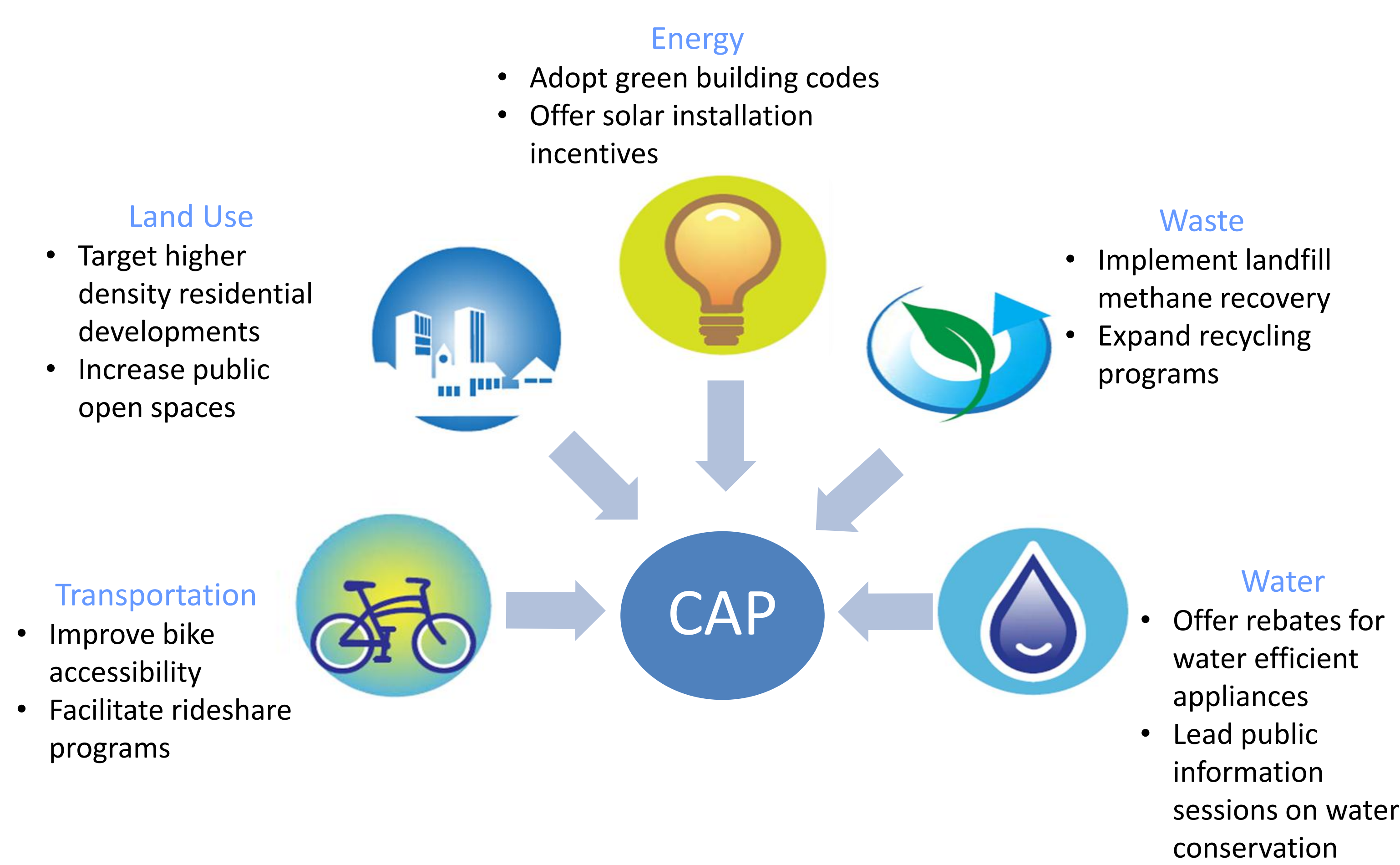
### Project Objectives

- Conduct a meta-analysis of the status of CAP implementation across the entire state and
- Develop a set of recommendations for local jurisdictions that currently have or are still developing CAPs to enhance effective implementation and monitoring of CAPs.

## City and CAP Characteristics

### What is a CAP?

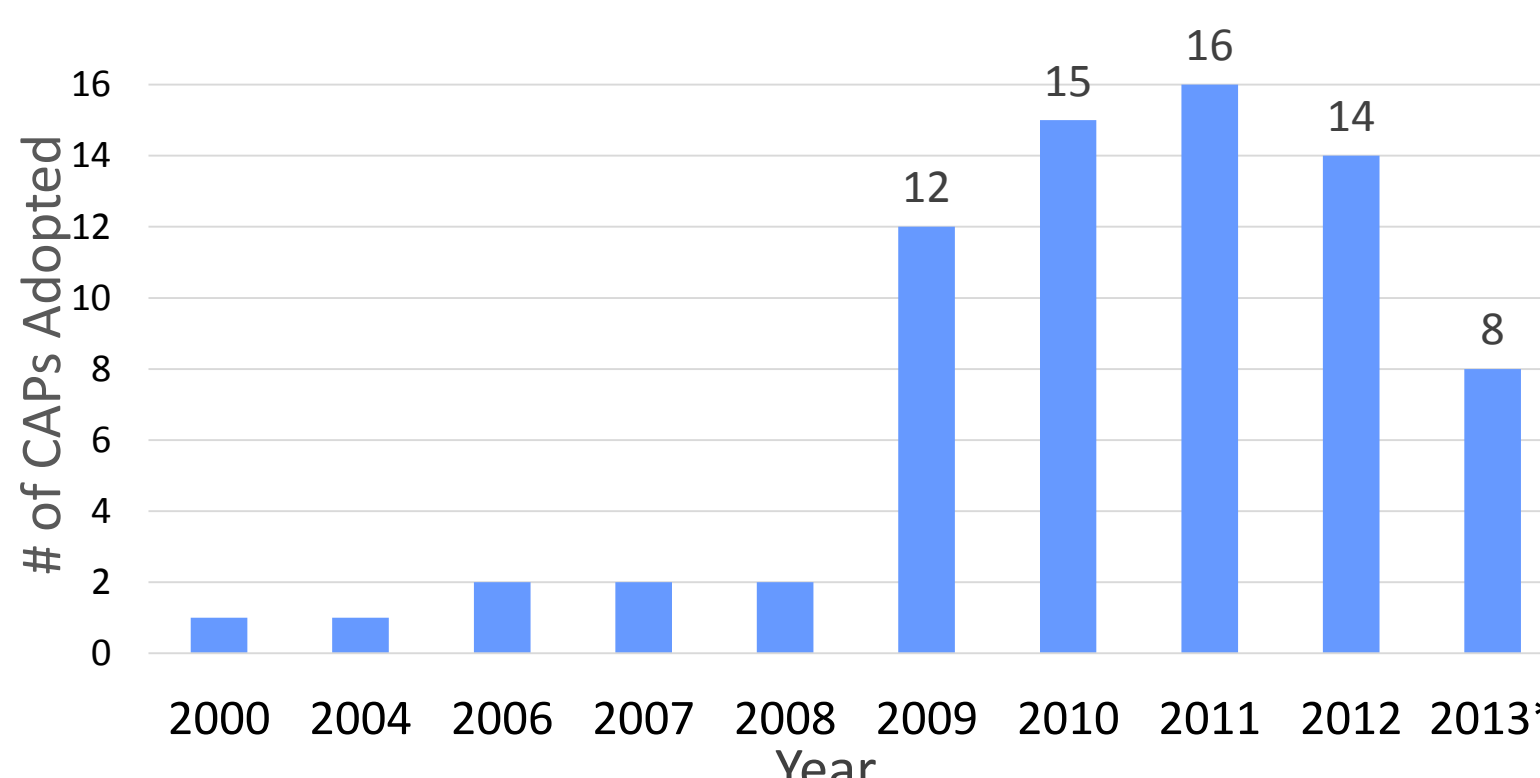
A CAP is a guiding document developed by a city to reduce community and municipal GHG emissions through sector-based mitigation measures. CAPs include a baseline for GHG emissions, a GHG target, and a strategy to monitor and report on GHG emission reduction achievements.



### Which Cities Have CAPs?

There are 67 city-adopted CAPs in California out of 487 municipalities. The cities that have adopted CAPs are on average larger and have higher median household incomes than the statewide average.

### How Old Are the CAPs?

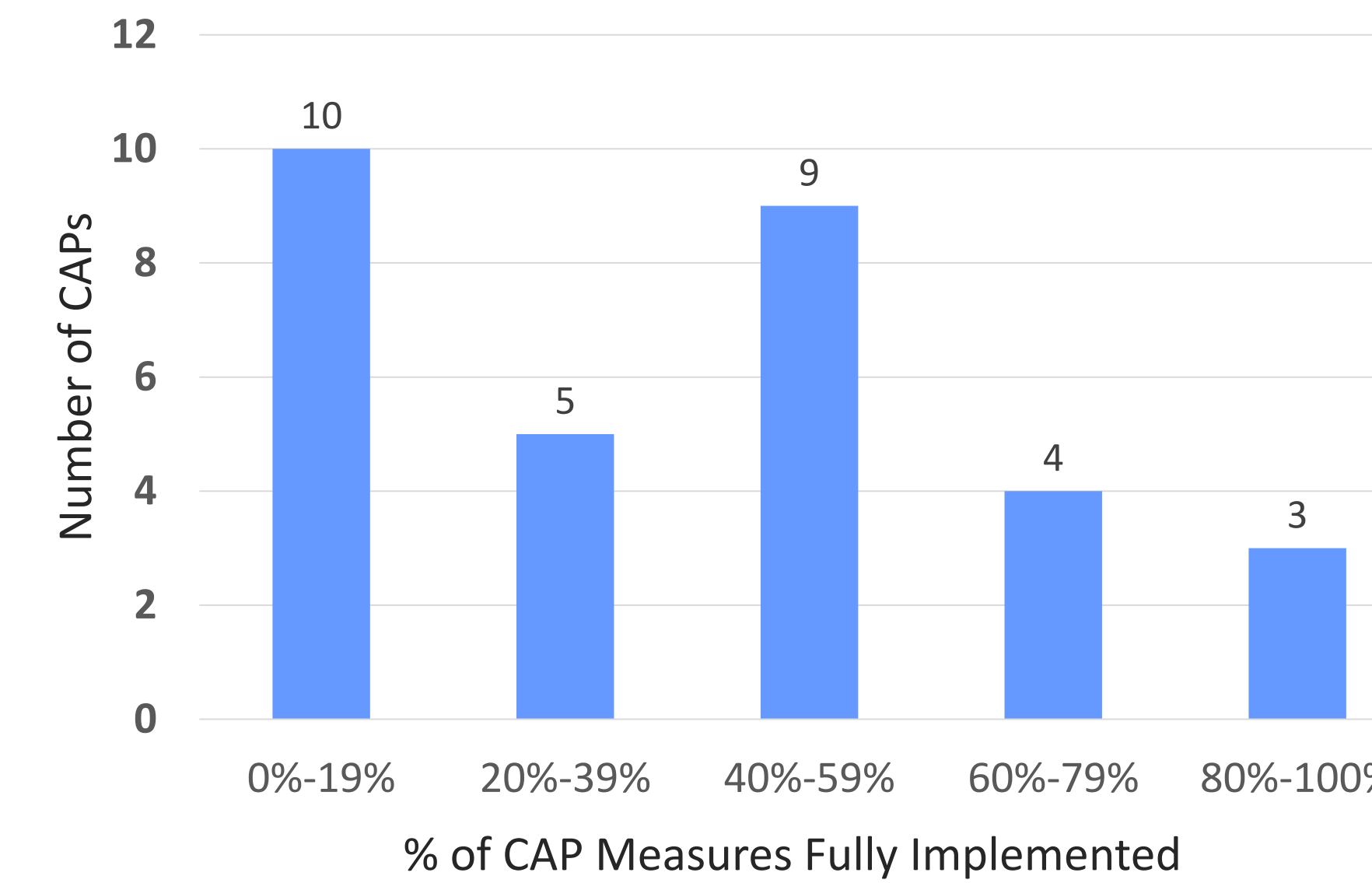


The majority of CAPs are less than 5 years old. 59 out of 67 CAPs have been adopted since 2009. The majority of CAPs are over 50 pages with an average document size of 119 pages, a potential reflection of the detail and ambition of a CAP.

## Implementation Barriers and Successes

### How is CAP Implementation Progressing?

- Most respondents indicated that less than 40% of their CAP measures were fully implemented.
- ¼ of the respondents did not answer the question, likely because they did not know what percentage of their CAP has been implemented or it was too difficult to estimate.



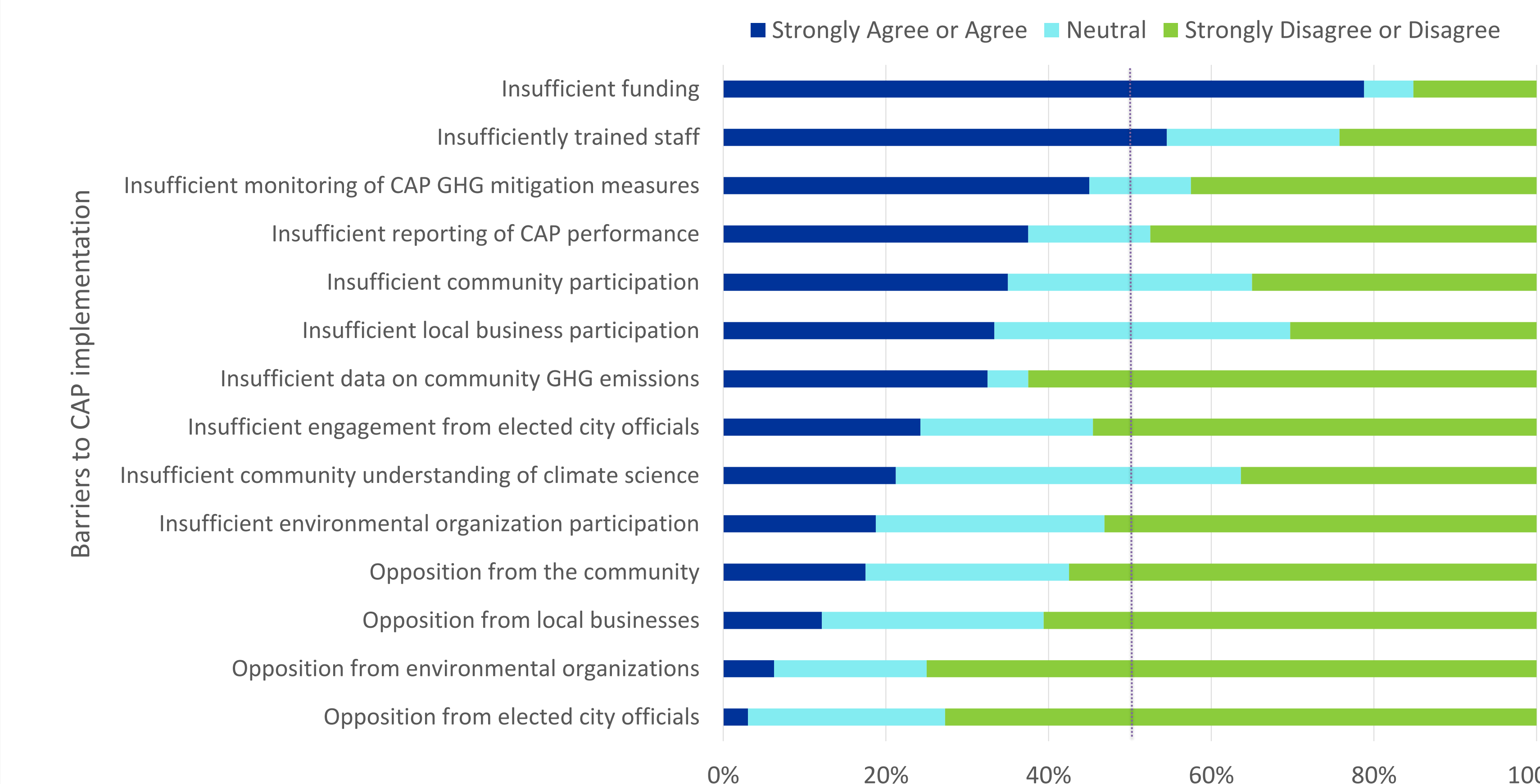
### What Factors Predict Implementation Progress?

A multiple regression analysis revealed that 30% of CAP implementation progress for a city is influenced by:

- household median income
- CAP length in pages
- CAP age since adoption

### CAP Implementation Barriers

City staff were asked to what extent they agreed or disagreed that 14 different factors were significant barriers to CAP implementation. 40 out of 67 cities responded to the CAP implementation survey.



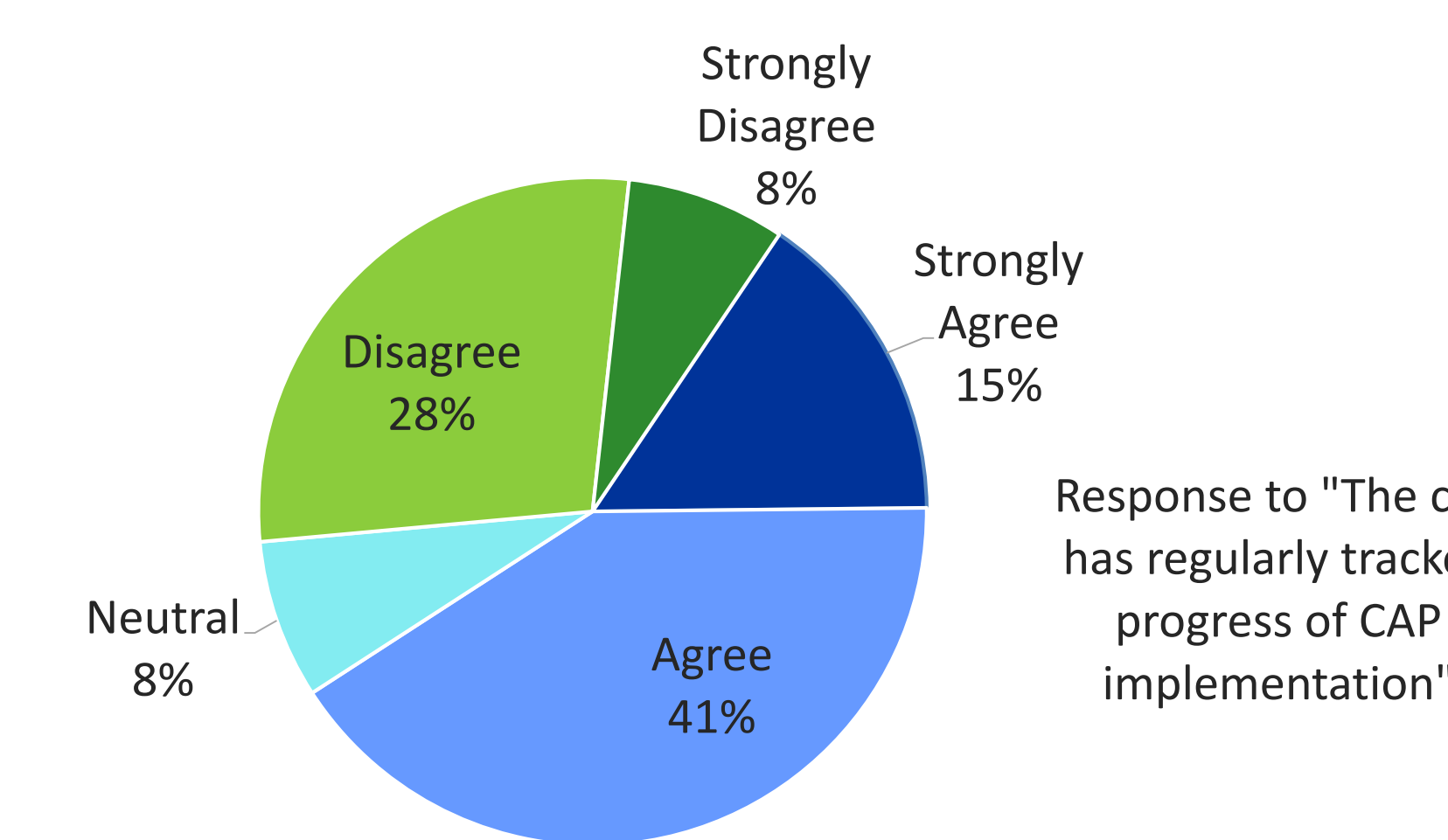
### Stakeholders that Influence Success

Stakeholders can be critical to CAP implementation success or failure for cities. Stakeholders such as the city council, community groups, regional government groups, local businesses, and environmental organizations can all influence implementation.

- City Council**
  - The city councils have helped implementation by championing environmental priorities.
  - Lack of support from city councils has inhibited CAP prioritization and discouraged community participation for some cities.
- Community Groups**
  - Community groups have organized sustainability initiatives, volunteer work, and community outreach.
  - In some cases, community groups vocally oppose CAP implementation measures citing negative impacts to building density or the local economy.
- Regional Government Groups**
  - According to 56% of cities surveyed, regional government collaborations contributed to successful implementation.
  - The collaborative efforts of these regional groups focus on specific issues such as energy efficiency, planning, or climate change.

### Monitoring and Reporting Challenges

- Most cities rely on city-wide GHG inventories as their primary monitoring tool, which are highly complex, expensive, and typically conducted every 3-6 years.
- Overall GHG reductions identified by inventories are difficult to attribute to specific CAP activities, making measure contribution and progress difficult to evaluate.



## City Interview Highlights

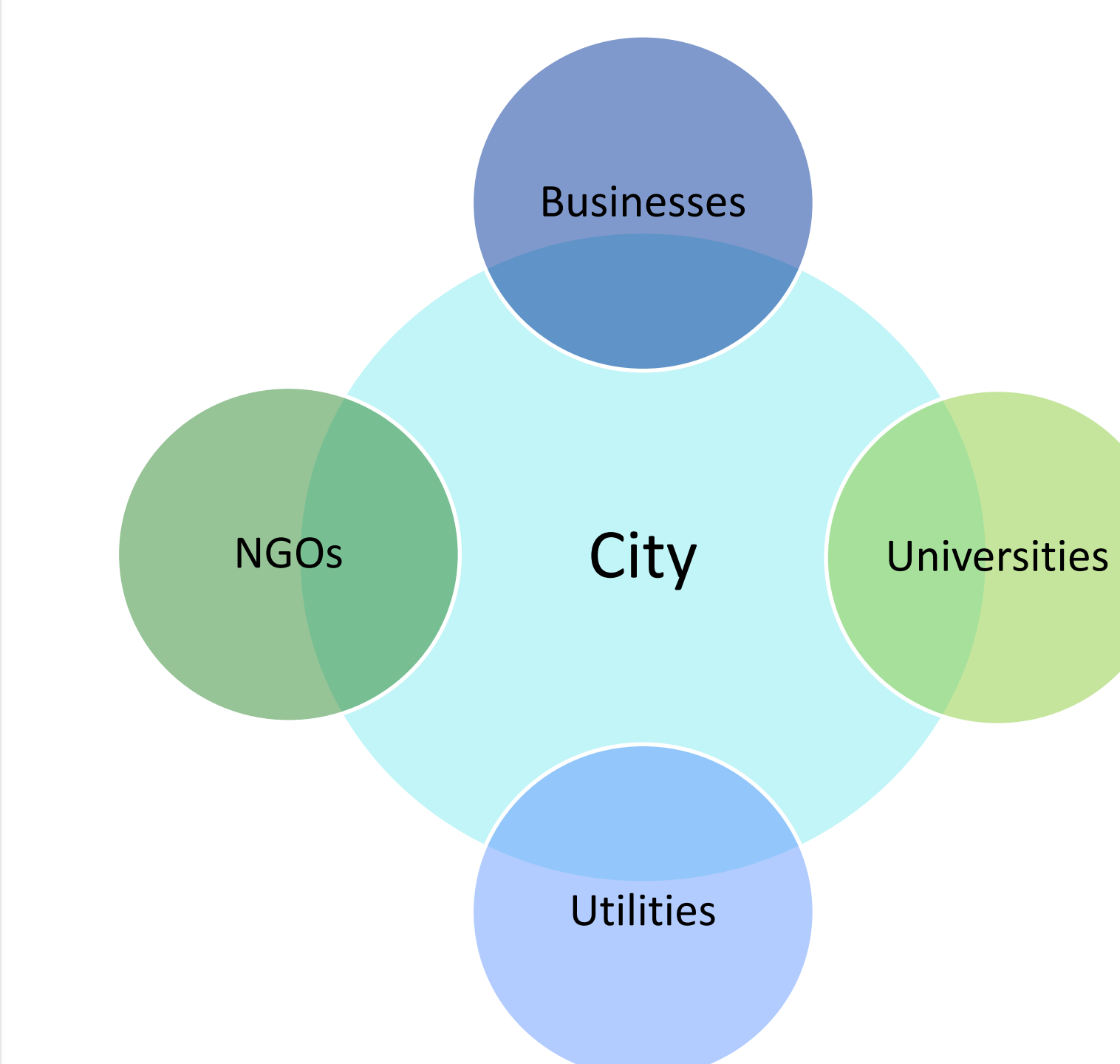
### What Are Cities Saying?



## CAP Implementation Recommendations

### Improve Organizational Efficiency

- Organize working groups with representatives from different city departments to share skills and leverage knowledge without requiring a permanent time commitment.
- Create a full-time or part-time position or assign CAP implementation tasks to one individual.
- Consider integrating the CAP into the General Plan to enhance streamlining of city resources for GHG environmental compliance.

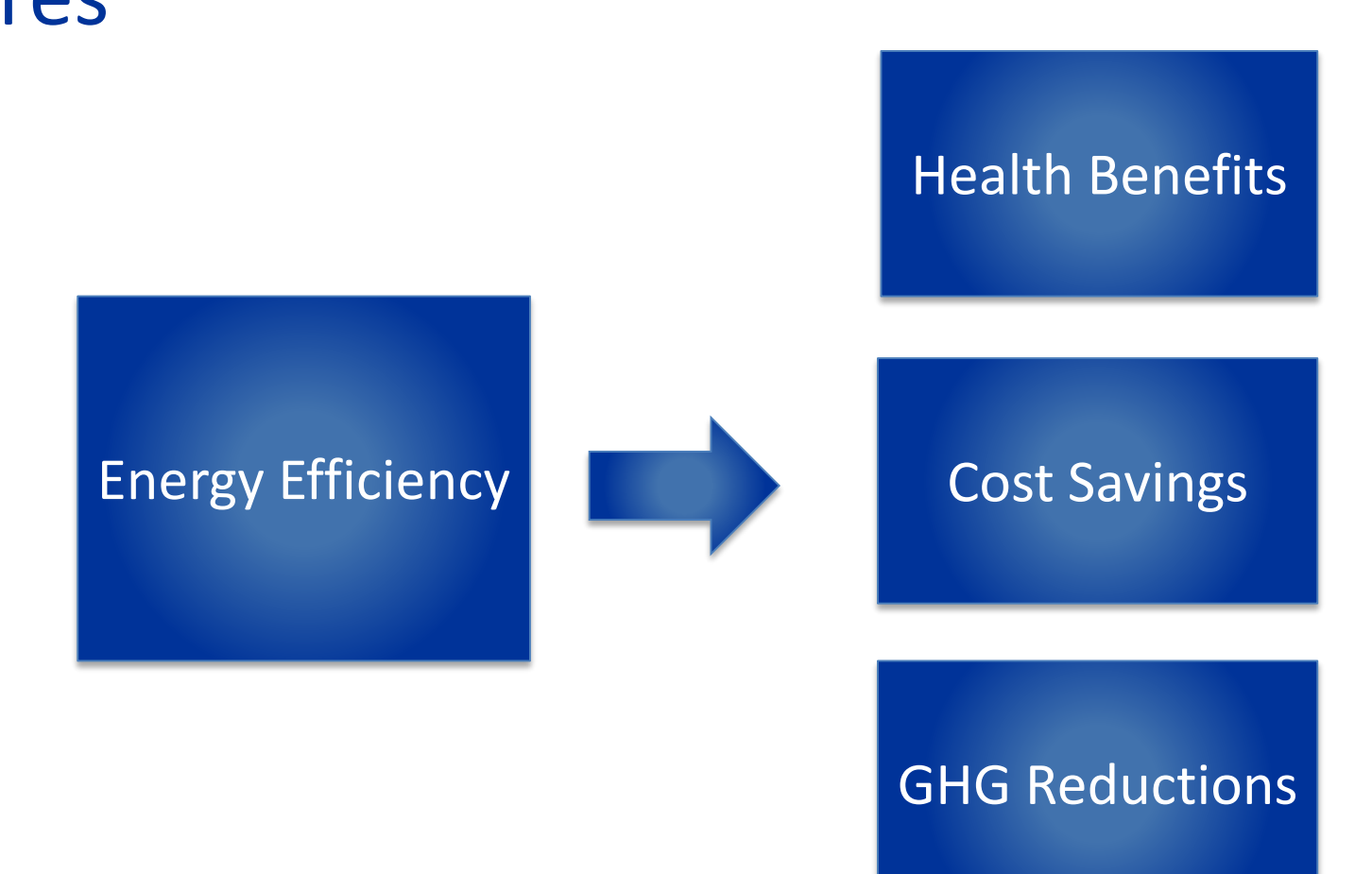


### Collaborate Externally

- Partner with regional external stakeholders on CAP measures to extend limited staffing and funding resources further.
- Participate in regional governmental bodies to align climate policy goals across jurisdictional boundaries and share best practices.
- Leverage the knowledge and resources of local universities through educational opportunities for students in CAP implementation activities.

### Emphasize Co-Benefits of CAP Measures

- Highlight the public health benefits of CAP measures to the community and city officials.
- Highlight the economic and cost savings of CAP measures to the community, city officials and external stakeholders.
- Be aware of the language and framing of climate change and GHG emissions in a city with a community resistant to climate change policy.



### Acknowledgements

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