



Reaching Austin's Net Zero Goals via Housing Density Transit Forward

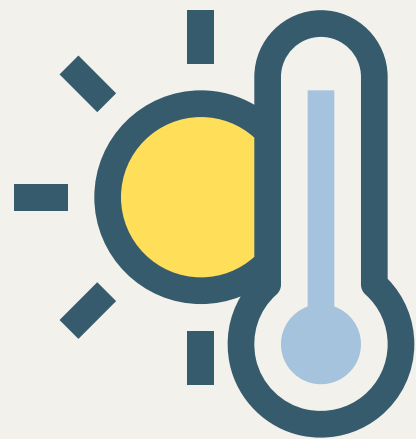
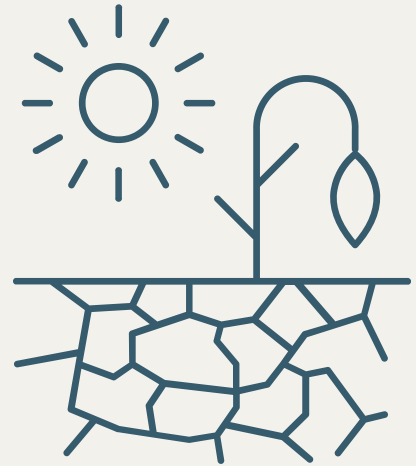
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Getting to Net-Zero

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Climate Projections



- Austin emits over 10 million metric tons of CO2 annually.
- Human-driven activities dramatically worsen climate change impacts.
- Extreme rise in average temperatures, weather extremes, and droughts.
- Austin can expect a worsening climate unless mitigation is done.

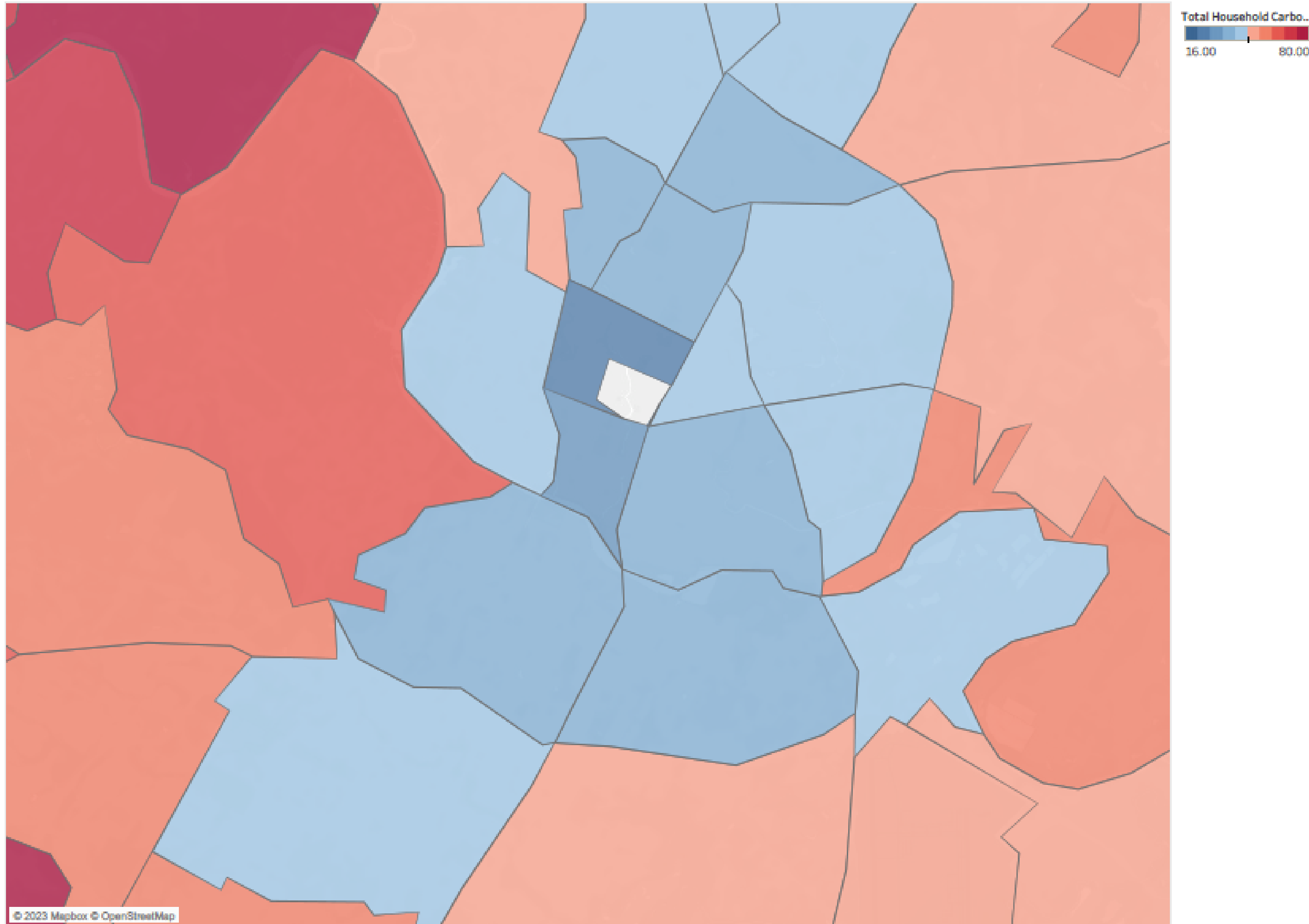
Housing Density & Transit



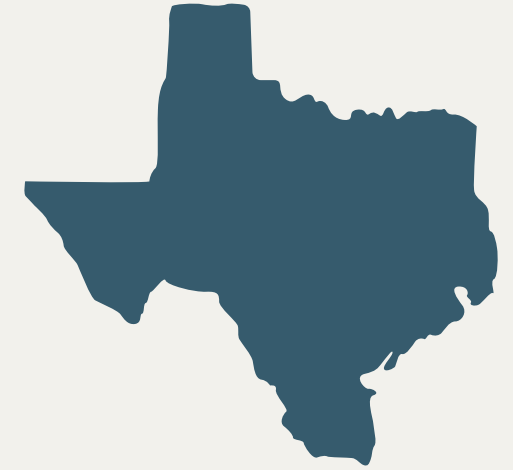
- The average carbon footprint for a single-family household is 100 lbs of CO2 per square meter.
- Dense housing units close to the city center have the lowest carbon footprints.
- Mixed-use zoning increases housing density, lowering the daily reliance on cars.



Average U.S. Household Carbon Footprint by Zip Code



Austin Climate Equity Plan



- The 2021 Austin Climate Equity Plan was created with a goal of reaching net zero by 2040.
- Austin's main GHG emissions come from the transportation and electricity sector.
- Transportation and land use highlight where residents live, work, and mobilize around the community.

Transportation & Land Use



- Mixed-use zoning develops “hot spots” of communities within walking distance of amenities and housing.
- Urban mobility and housing density can help Austin achieve net zero.

Austin's Goals



Goal 1: 80% of new non-residential development is located within the city's activity centers by 2030.

Goal 2: 135,000 housing units are preserved and produced by 2027, including 60,000 affordable housing units, with 75% of new housing located within a half mile of the city's activity centers.

Goal 3: By 2030, 50% of trips in Austin are made using public transit, biking, walking, carpooling, or avoided altogether by working from home.

Current Goal Status



- City initiatives are positive, but Austin is “off track” on 6 out of 11 of its strategic housing goals
- 6 out of 13 strategies to achieve the transportation and land use goals have not begun and 0 have been completed
- Additional attention and emphasis on housing density is required

Recommendations



- **Increase housing density to achieve greater city mobility.**
 - Mixed residential zoning, accessory dwellings, and affordable units.
- **Increase the usage of current and future transit systems**
 - Educational campaigns on residential density; increased user-friendliness of the CapMetro app and lower rider fees.
- **Educate City of Austin residents on housing density importance**
 - Distribute Transit Forward resources, open meetings, and distribute PSAs.

Summary



- Housing density and transportation can achieve Austin's “Net-Zero by 2040” goals.
 - A sustainable transition with climate change reductions
- Housing density reduces greenhouse gas emissions mitigating the effects of climate change.
- High population density will lower Austin’s energy usage and reduce the City’s carbon footprint.
 - Increased public transit will reduce the reliance on cars and diminish air pollution.