

Information Session: 2025 Building Decarbonization Grants

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Seattle
Office of Sustainability
& Environment

What We'll Cover Today:

1. Who We Are (Office of Sustainability & Environment—OSE)
2. Background
 - a) Building Emissions
 - b) Building Emissions Performance Standard (BEPS)
 - c) BEPS support available
 - d) 2024 Awardees
3. 2025 Grant Opportunity
 - a) Available funding
 - b) Eligibility
 - c) Priorities
 - d) Application process
 - e) Technical Assistance
4. Q&A Session



Seattle's Office of Sustainability & Environment (OSE)



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OSE works to ensure a clean and healthy environment for all Seattle residents.

- We **prioritize those currently and historically harmed by racial, economic, and environmental injustice.**
- We serve as cross-departmental and community **collaborators, innovators, and drivers of cutting-edge policy.**
- We contribute to a Seattle where communities and the environment are **healthy and free of fossil fuel pollution.**



OSE's Core Services

Climate & Environmental Justice

- Environmental Justice Fund
- Climate Workforce
- Resilience Hubs
- Duwamish Valley Program
- Green New Deal Oversight Board

GHG Emissions Reductions

- Transportation Electrification
- Building Emissions Performance Standard
- Municipal Energy Emissions Program
- Clean Heat Program

Food Policy & Programs

- Healthy School Food
- Fresh Bucks
- Food Action Plan
- Sweetened Beverage Tax Community Advisory Board

Seattle's Trees & Forests

- Trees for Seattle
- Tree Canopy Cover Urban Forest Management Plan
- Foresteering Communities
- Urban Forestry Commission

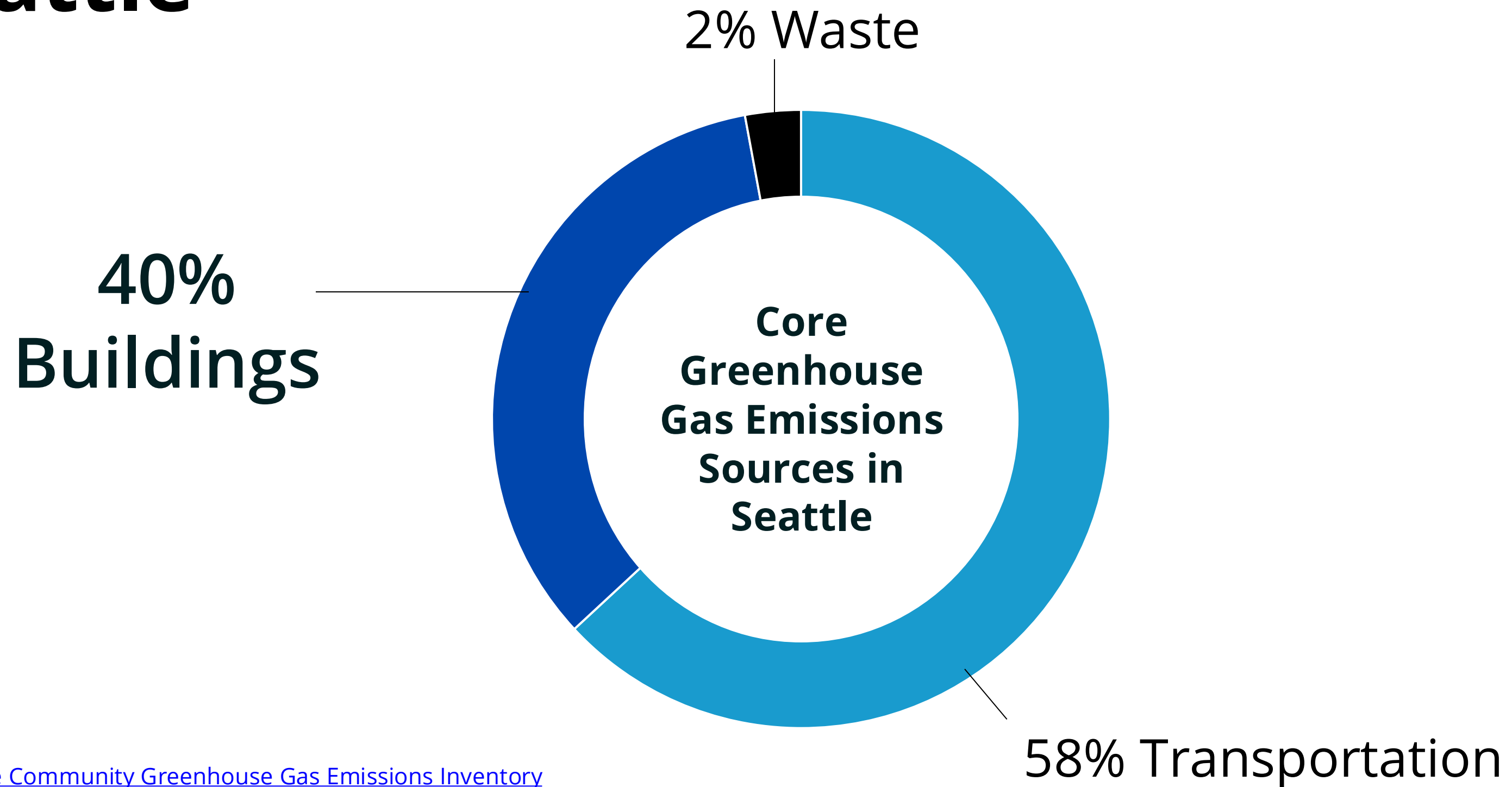


Background: Why Reduce Building Emissions?



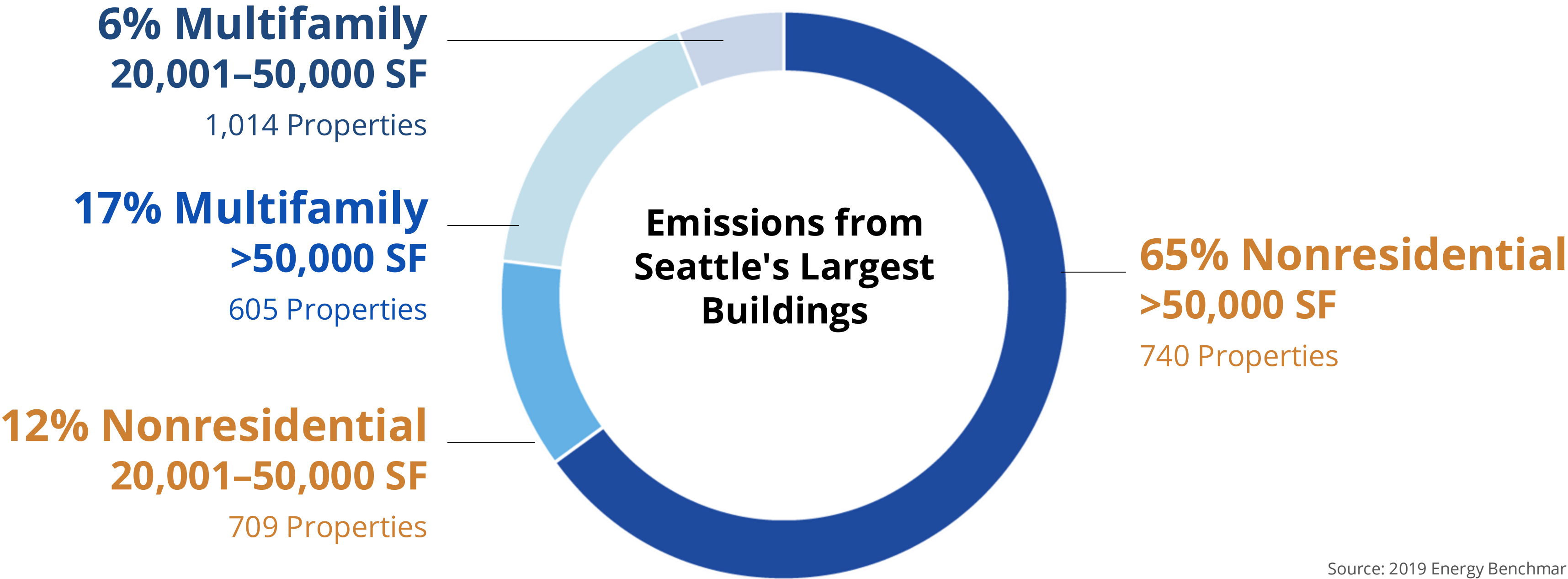
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Climate Pollution: Impact of Buildings in Seattle



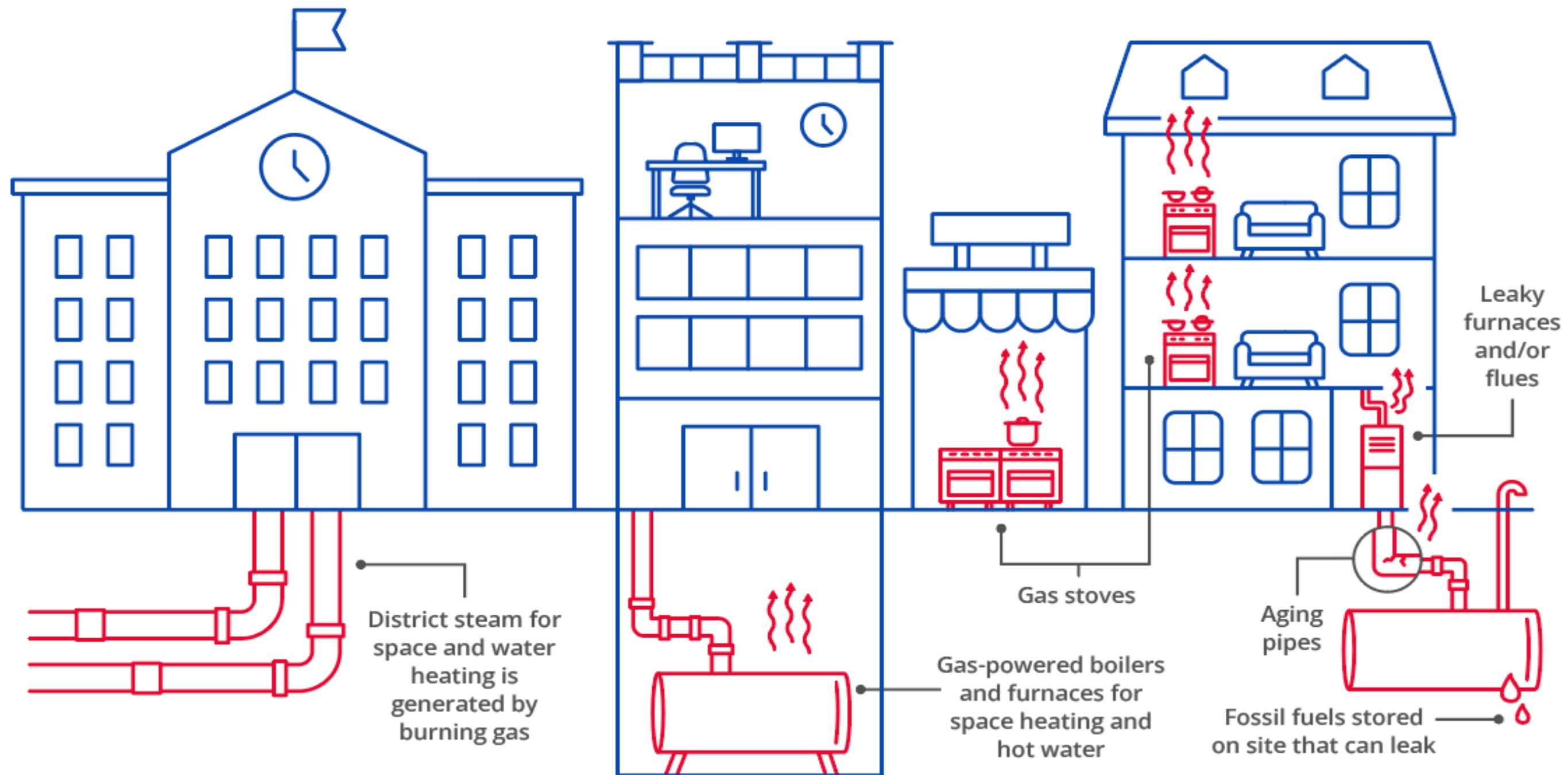
Source: [2022 Seattle Community Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory](#)

Climate Pollution: Impact of Multifamily & Nonresidential Buildings in Seattle >20K SF



Source: 2019 Energy Benchmarking data

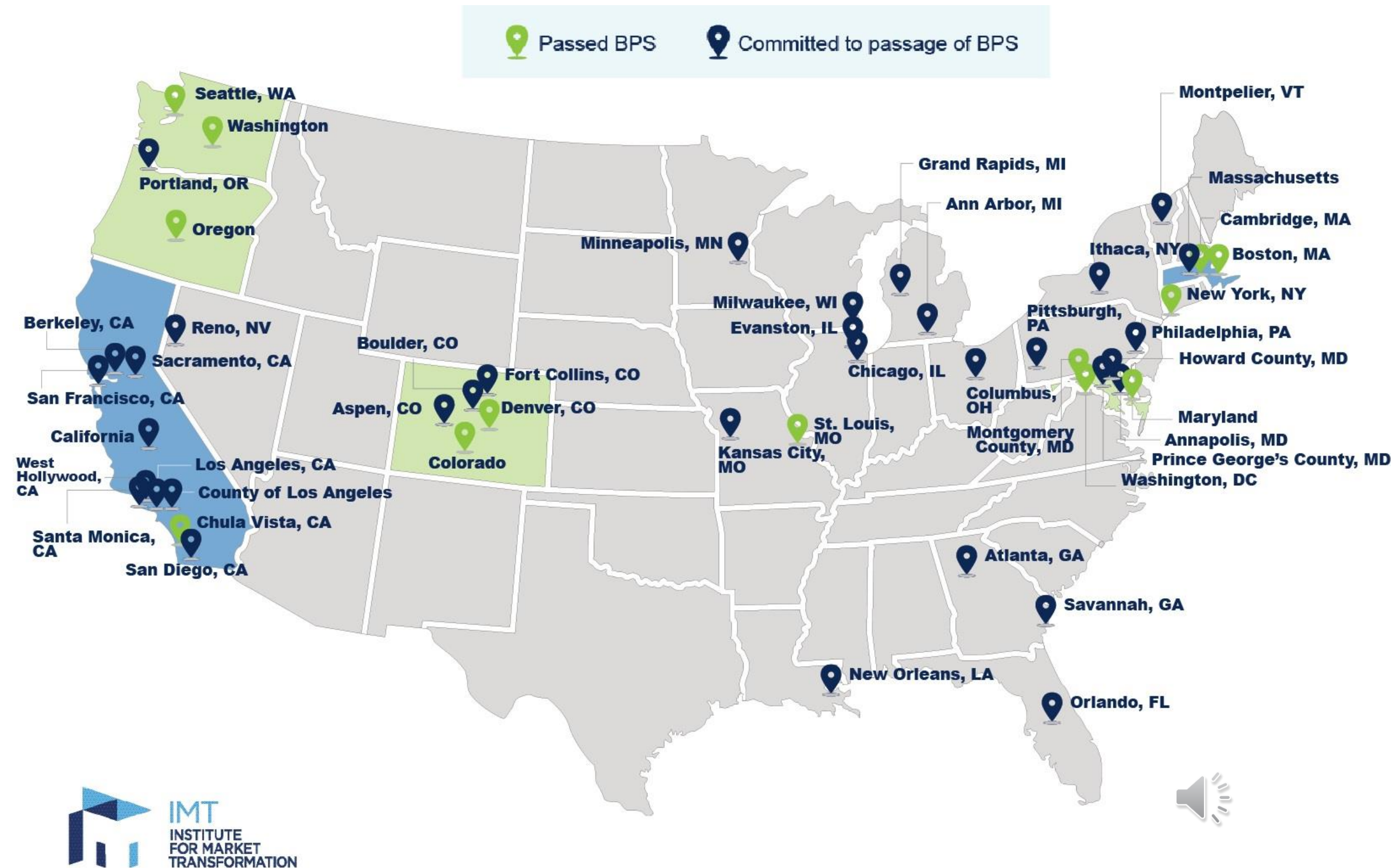
Nearly all Building-Related Emissions in Seattle are from Burning Fossil Fuels, like Gas and Oil



What is a Building Performance Standard (BPS)?





A **BPS** requires existing buildings to meet greenhouse gas emissions or energy performance targets by specific deadlines.

Decarbonization — another word for reducing emissions.



What Does BEPS Require of Building Owners?

Every five years:

-  **Energy Benchmarking Verification:** Verify previous year's building energy use and emissions. *By 2027–2030*
-  **Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Report:** Document GHGI/GHGIT and equipment, and plan actions to achieve targets. *By 2027–2030*
-  **Meet Greenhouse Gas Intensity Targets (GHGIT).** *By 2031–2035*
-  **Achieve** net-zero emissions with narrow exceptions. *By 2041–2050 (depending on building type and size)*

Existing **Building Tune-Ups** requirements will sunset after the 2023-2026 compliance cycle is done.

Building Emissions Navigator: Support to Get Ready for BEPS

Group Trainings & Drop-in Hours

Available to all; prioritized for nonprofits and buildings serving frontline communities.

- Plan to meet Seattle BEPS and WA Clean Buildings
- Virtual building walk-through

Updated BEPS Website

- [FAQs page](#)
- [Resources page](#)
- [Newsletter signup](#)

**Help desk, guidance documents &
more to come!**



2024 Pilot Grants Summary

- Award sizes: **\$35K to \$1.3M**
- Awardee types & totals:
 - Low-income housing (~800 units): **\$2.9M**
 - Houses of worship: **\$1.1M**
 - Other non-profits (Horizon House senior living & The Mountaineers): **\$400K**
 - North Seattle College: **\$50K**



2025 Grant Opportunity

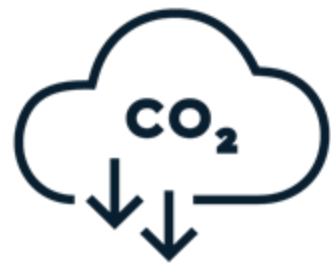


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How Much Funding is Available for Building Decarbonization Grants?



Approximately \$4M will be available in 2025 for OSE's Building Decarbonization Grants. The City's endorsed 2026 budget includes the same amount.



Grant funds are invested in local building greenhouse gas emissions reduction projects that prioritize affordable multifamily housing, nonprofit-owned buildings, and frontline communities.

Baseline Eligibility Criteria

Building Criteria:

- Size: >20,000 SF (i.e., covered by BEPS)
- Type: multifamily housing, nonresidential/commercial buildings (not industrial)
- Location: in City of Seattle

Applicant Criteria:

- Owner of building; preference for affordable housing, nonprofits, buildings with tenants serving frontline communities

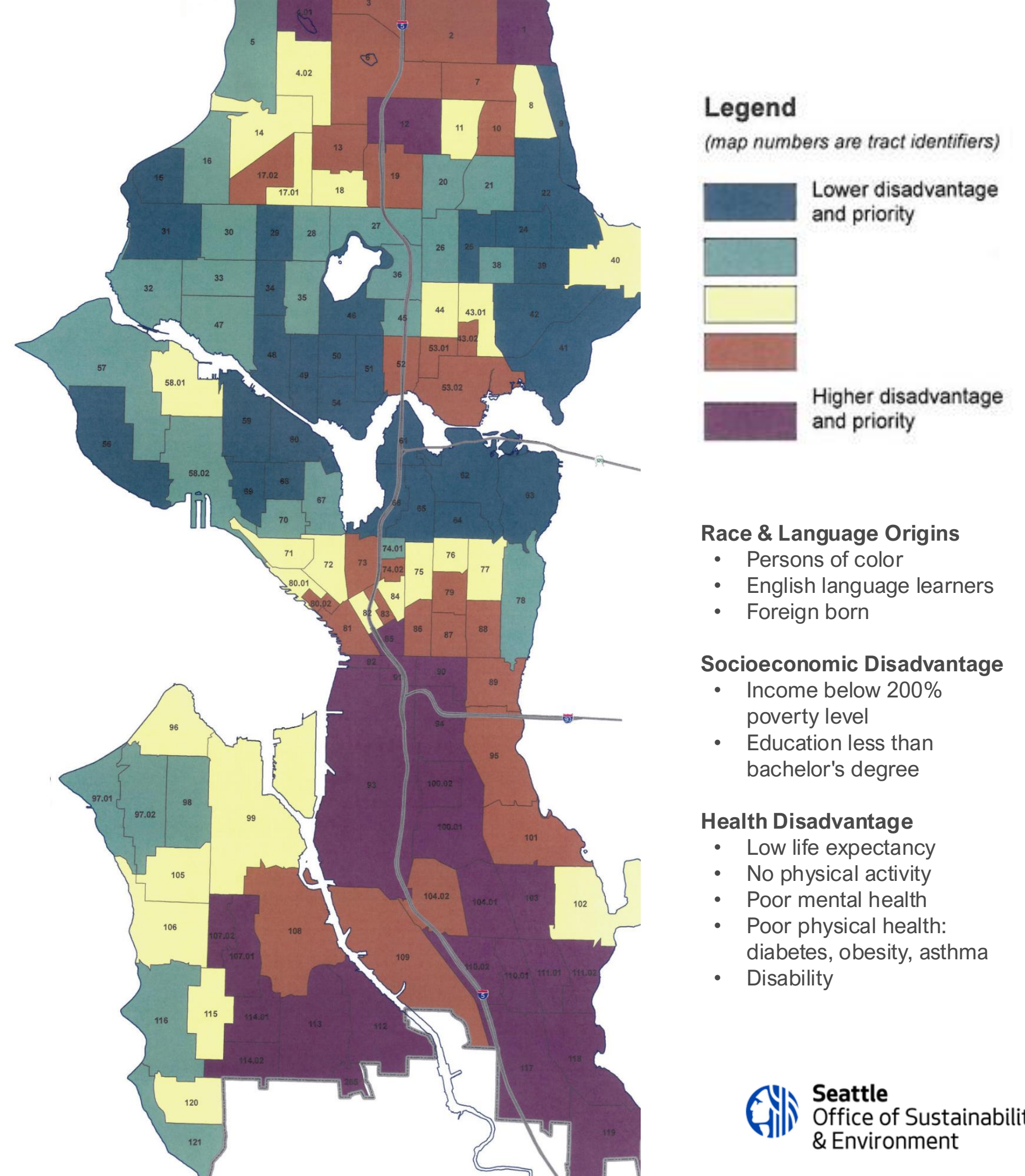
Project Criteria:

- Must reduce GHG emissions from the building or create a plan for future GHG reductions

Priorities

- Multifamily affordable housing
- Nonprofit-owned buildings
- Buildings in or serving frontline communities
- Buildings in areas with higher Racial and Social Equity Index

<https://www.seattle.gov/documents/departments/opcd/demographics/racialsocialindexusersguide2023.pdf>



Priority Buildings: How Big is the Need?

- Of the estimated 3,600 buildings and campuses that must reduce emissions to meet BEPS:
 - At least 250 are low-income housing (subsidized nonprofits and unsubsidized)
 - At least 36 are senior living facilities (assisted living, Medicaid, etc.), which are included in "frontline community" definition
 - At least 130 are nonprofit-owned commercial buildings
 - An unknown number of commercial buildings have small business tenants that are key to frontline communities

2025 Application Process

- Download fillable PDF application [worksheet](#)
 - Includes all questions in the online application
 - Use this to gather the information needed for your application
- Seek technical assistance if needed
 - Complete [online form](#) to request technical assistance from a City-contracted provider to help you prepare your application
- Complete & submit [online application](#) form **by July 10, 2025**

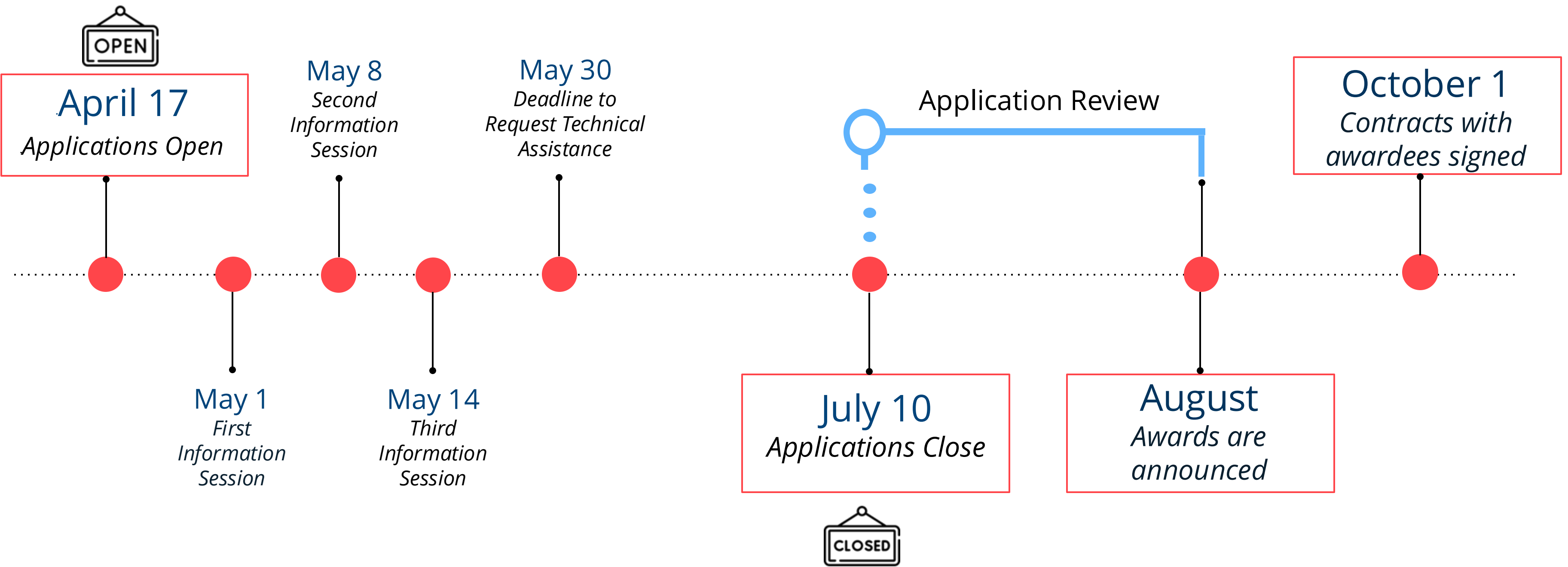




Technical Assistance

- OSE has limited capacity to provide free technical assistance to applicants:
 - 1:1 assistance on applications for engineering design and/or implementation projects
 - Assist with application worksheet
 - Identify opportunities in your building (e.g., review benchmarking report and ask questions about systems and asset life)
- If you are already working with an energy service provider or another type of consultant, they may be able to help with your application

2025 Application Timeline



Questions?



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