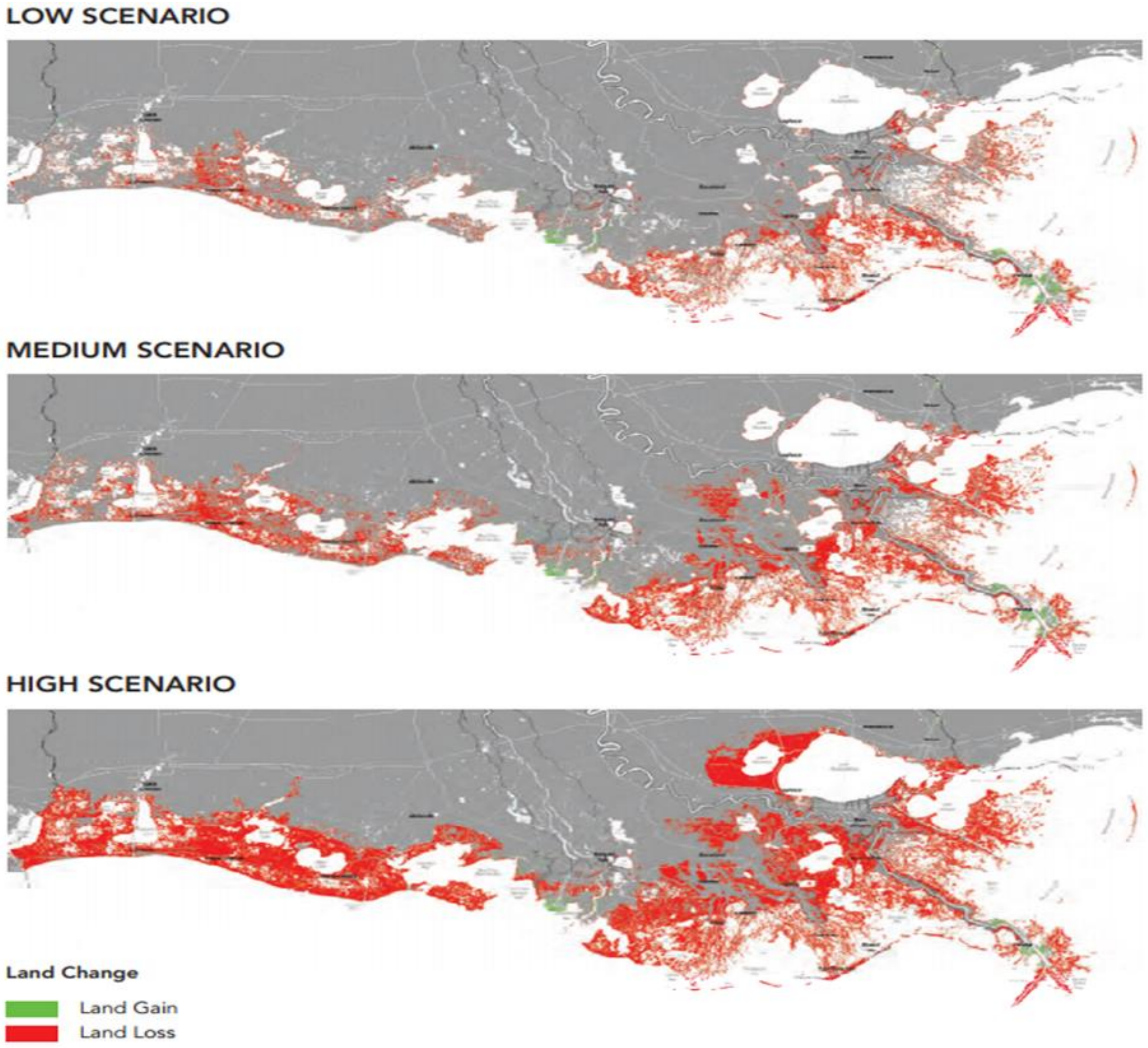
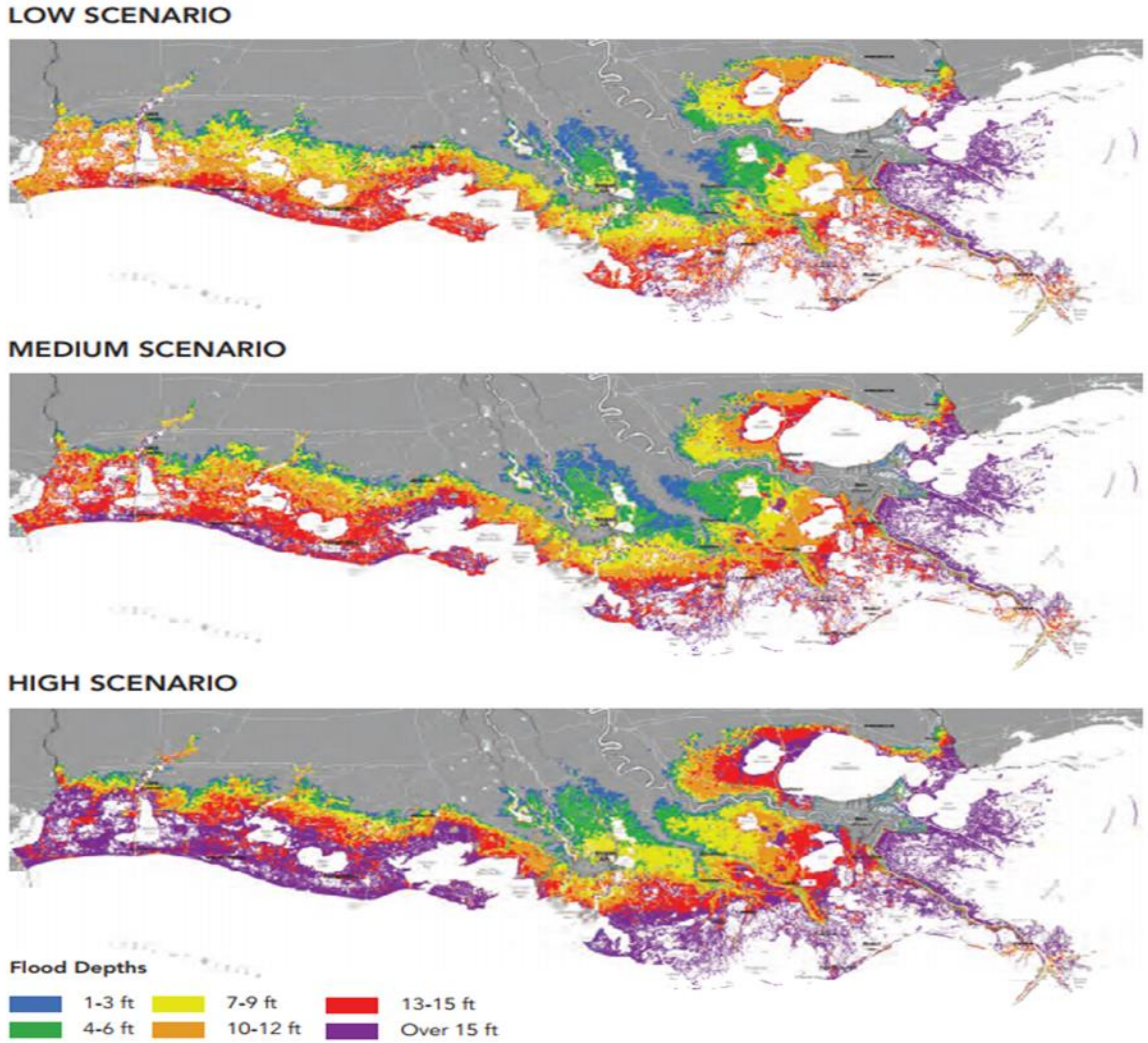
Louisiana Climate Action Plan

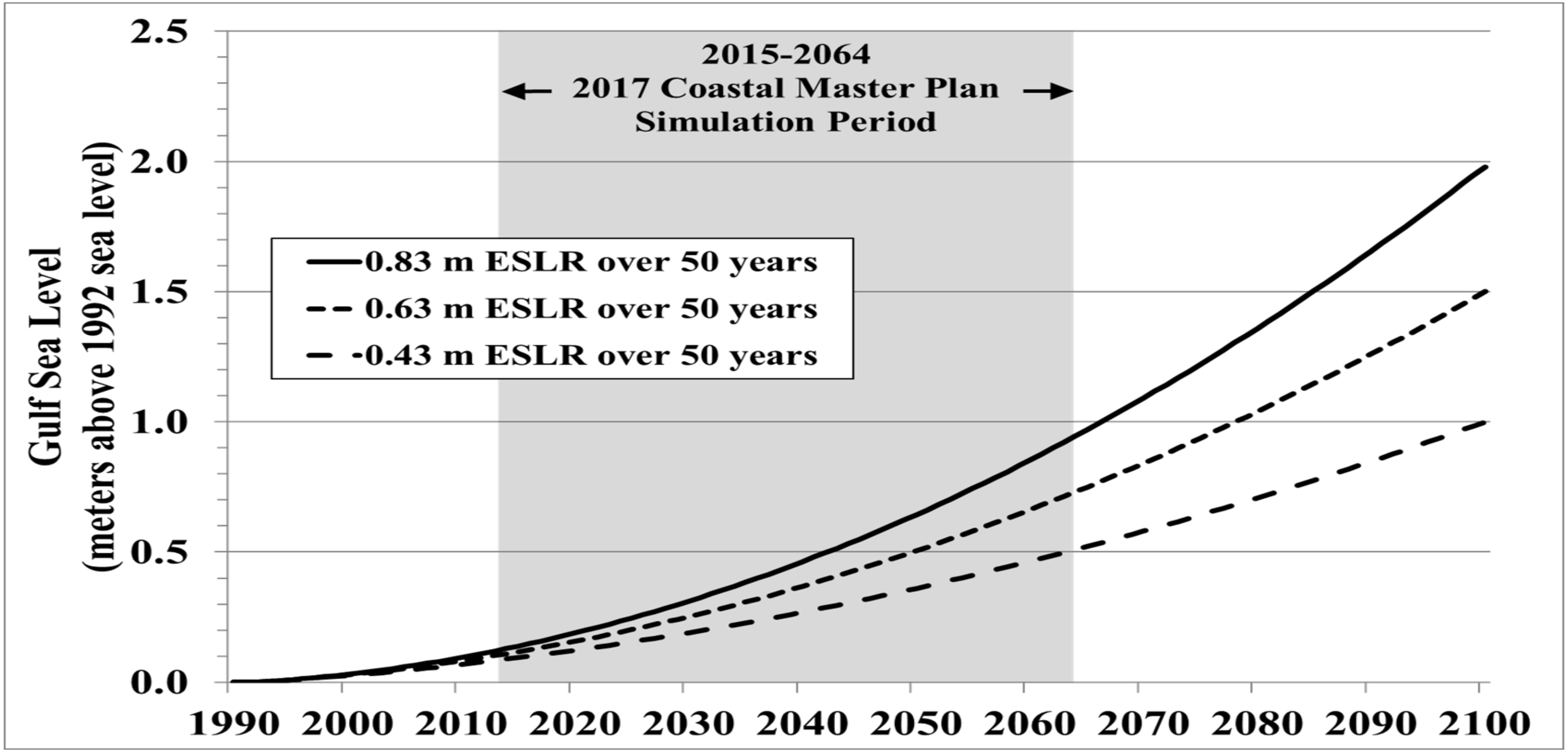
Climate Initiatives Task Force
Recommendations to the Governor
February 2022

Projected Future Conditions

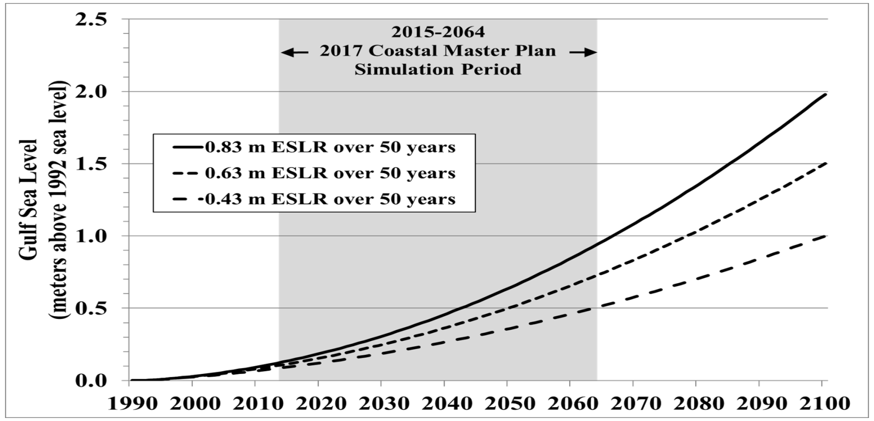


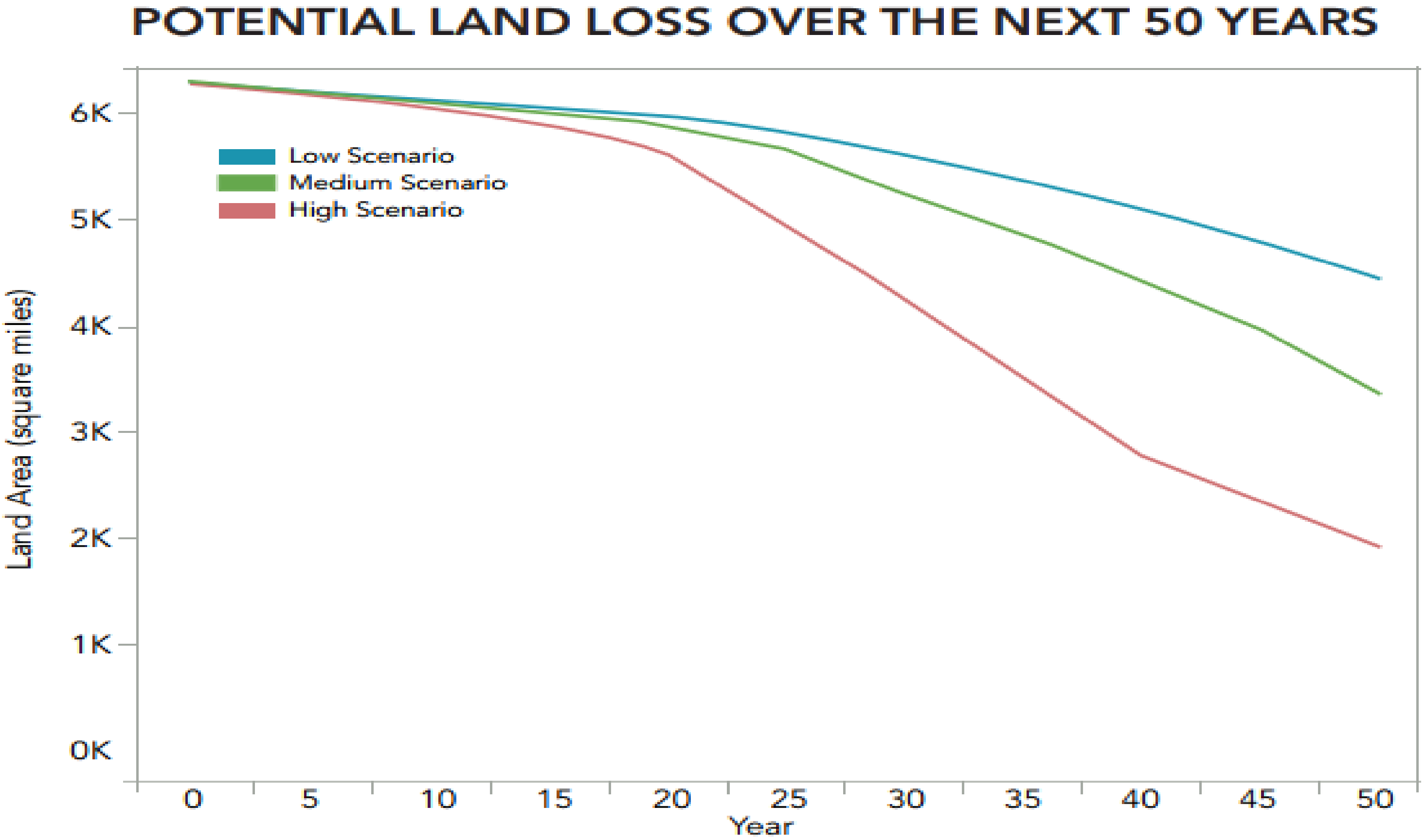


Projected Sea Level Rise

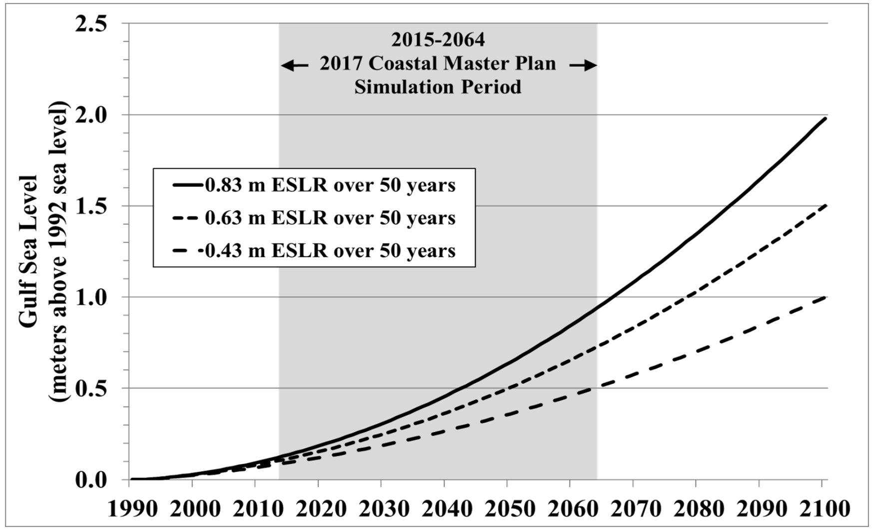


Projected Land Loss

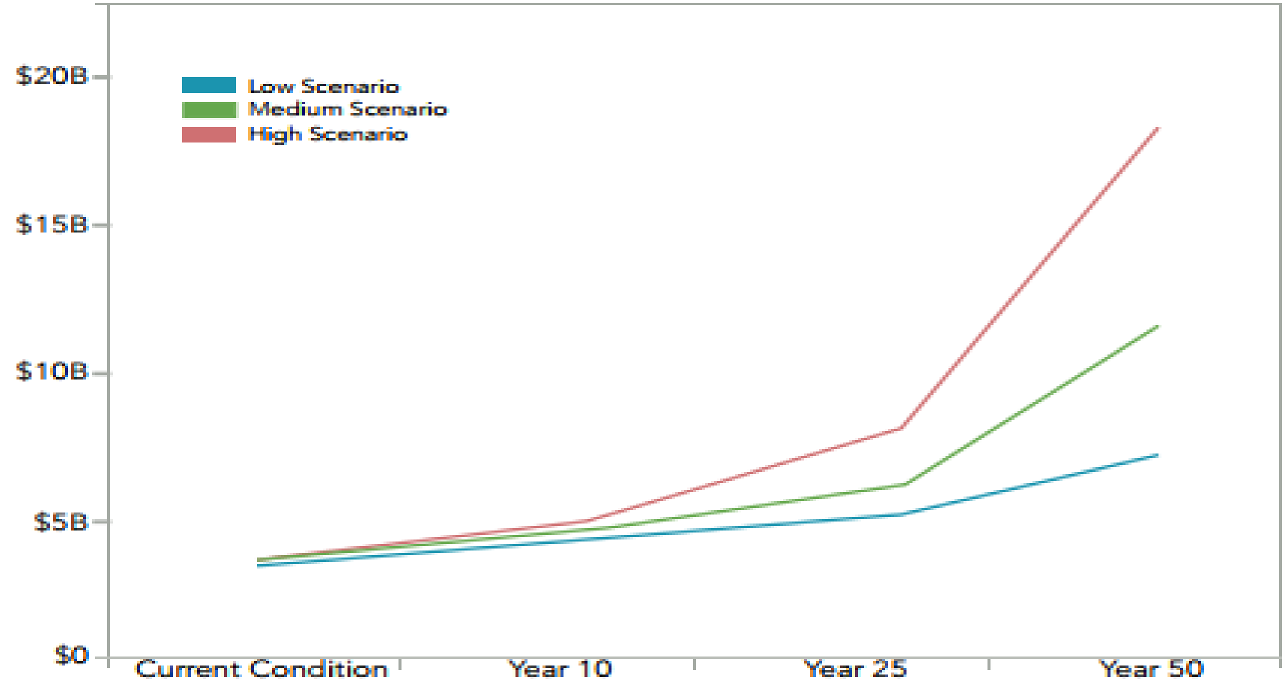




Projected Annual Flood Damages

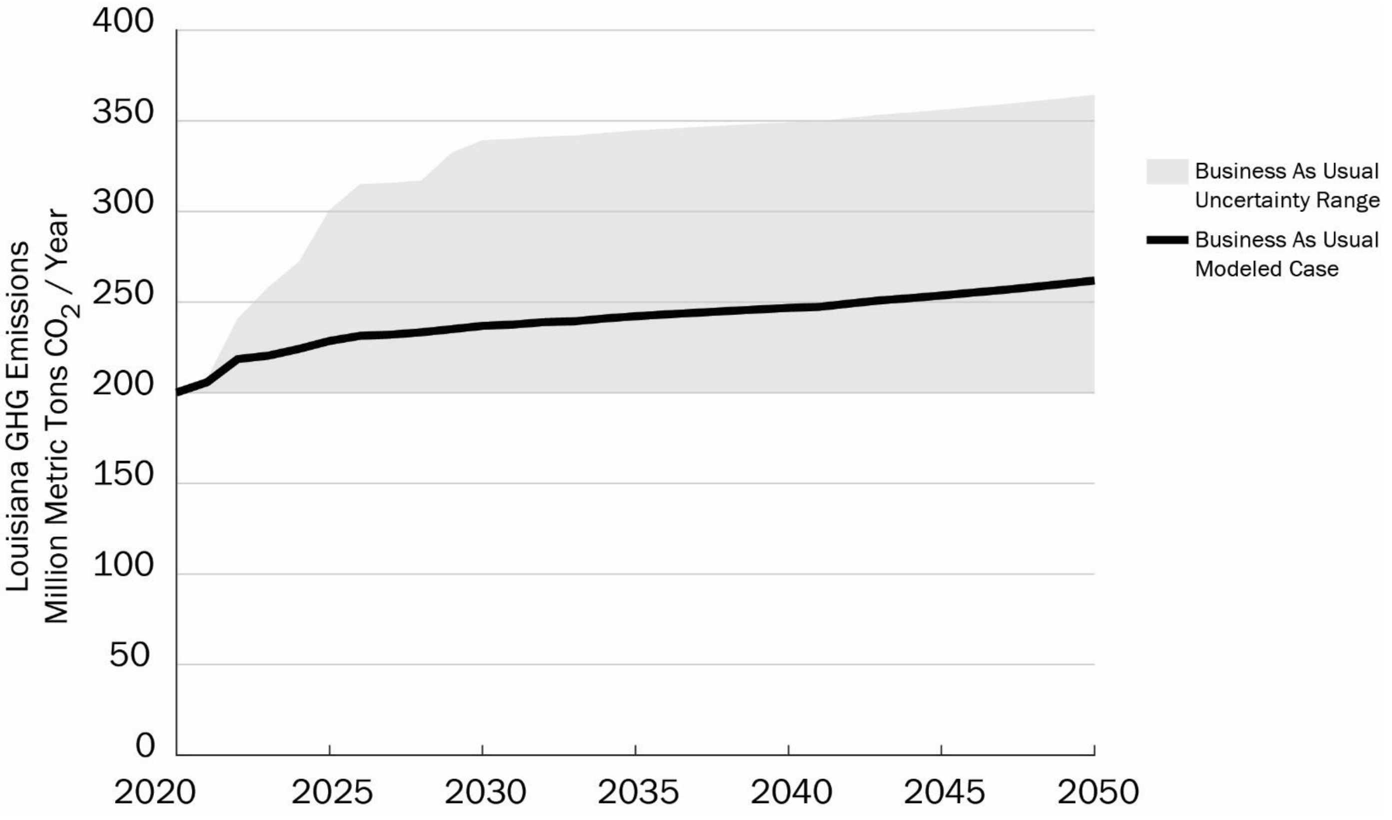


EXPECTED ANNUAL DAMAGE FROM FLOODING OVER THE NEXT 50 YEARS



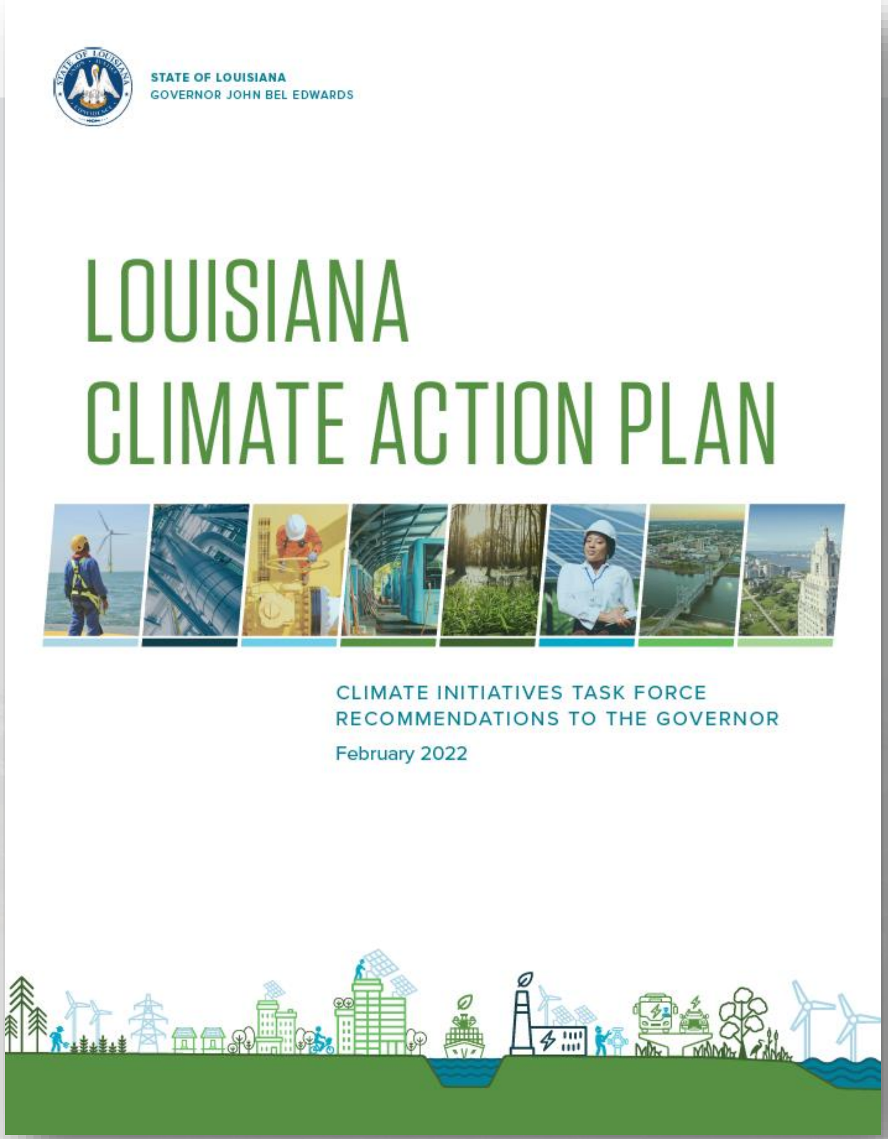
Risks of Inaction in Louisiana

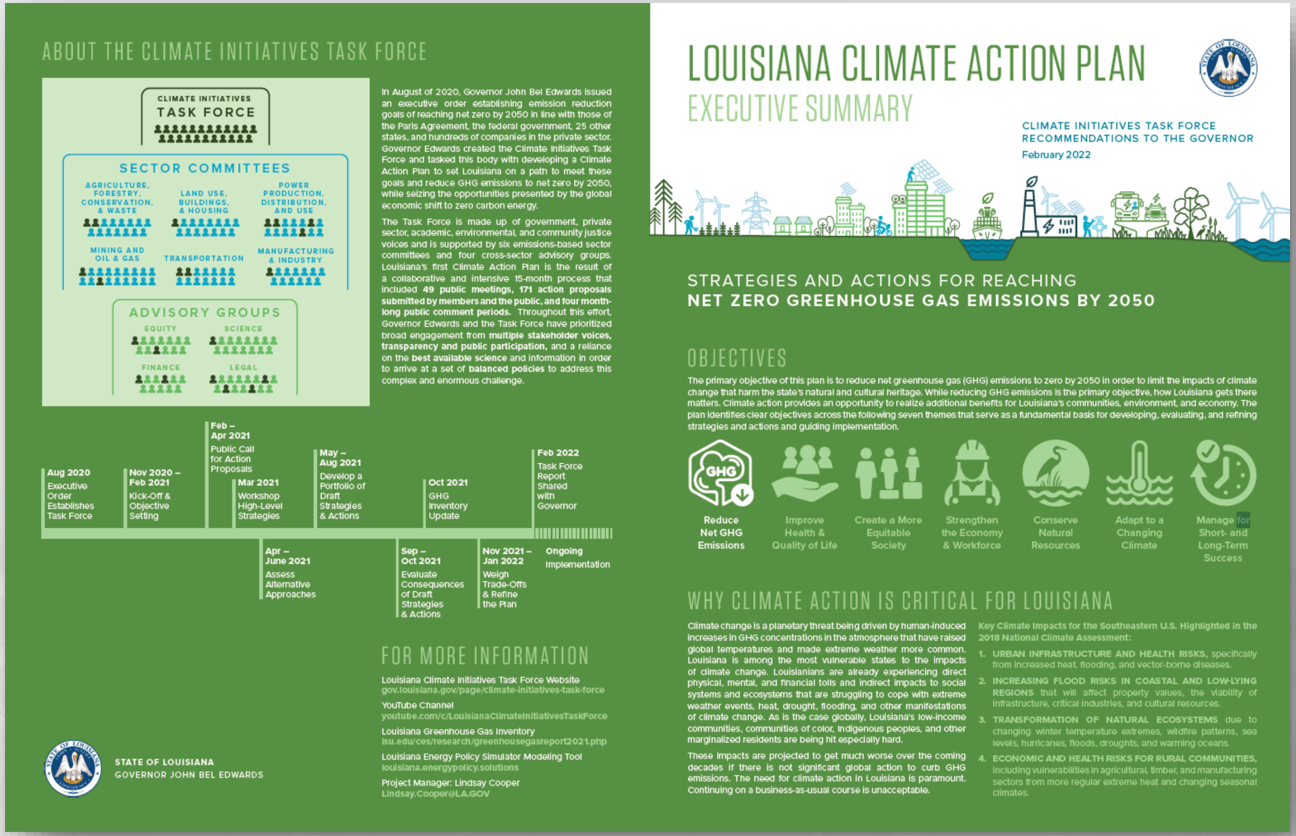
1. Urban Infrastructure and Health Risks
2. Increasing Flood Risks in Coastal and Low-Lying Regions
3. Transformation of Natural Ecosystems
4. Economic Health and Risks for Rural Communities:
5. Disproportionate Impacts



Climate Executive Order

By 2025	By 2030	By 2050
26 - 28%	40 - 50%	Net Zero
Of 2005 levels	Of 2005 levels	





ABOUT THE CLIMATE INITIATIVES TASK FORCE

CLIMATE INITIATIVES TASK FORCE

SECTOR COMMITTEES

AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, CONSERVATION, & WASTE
LAND USE, BUILDINGS, & HOUSING
POWER PRODUCTION, DISTRIBUTION, AND USE
MINING AND OIL & GAS
TRANSPORTATION
MANUFACTURING & INDUSTRY

ADVISORY GROUPS

EQUITY
SCIENCE
FINANCE
LEGAL

In August of 2020, Governor John Bel Edwards issued an executive order establishing emission reduction goals of reaching net zero by 2050 in line with those of the Paris Agreement, the federal government, 25 other states, and hundreds of companies in the private sector. Governor Edwards created the Climate Initiatives Task Force and tasked this body with developing a Climate Action Plan to set Louisiana on a path to meet these goals and reduce GHG emissions to net zero by 2050, while seizing the opportunities presented by the global economic shift to zero carbon energy.

The Task Force is made up of government, private sector, academic, environmental, and community justice voices and is supported by six emissions-based sector committees and four cross-sector advisory groups. Louisiana's first Climate Action Plan is the result of a collaborative and intensive 15-month process that included **49 public meetings, 171 action proposals submitted by members and the public, and four month-long public comment periods.** Throughout this effort, Governor Edwards and the Task Force have prioritized broad engagement from **multiple stakeholder voices, transparency and public participation,** and a reliance on the **best available science** and information in order to arrive at a set of **balanced policies** to address this complex and enormous challenge.

Aug 2020 Executive Order Establishes Task Force
Nov 2020 – Feb 2021 Kick-Off & Objective Setting
Feb – Apr 2021 Public Call for Action Proposals
Mar 2021 Workshop High-Level Strategies
Apr – June 2021 Assess Alternative Approaches
May – Aug 2021 Develop a Portfolio of Draft Strategies & Actions
Sep – Oct 2021 Evaluate Consequences of Draft Strategies & Actions
Oct 2021 GHG Inventory Update
Nov 2021 – Jan 2022 Weigh Trade-Offs & Refine the Plan
Feb 2022 Task Force Report Shared with Governor
Ongoing Implementation

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Louisiana Climate Initiatives Task Force Website
gov.louisiana.gov/page/climate-initiatives-task-force

YouTube Channel
youtube.com/c/LouisianaClimateInitiativesTaskForce

Louisiana Greenhouse Gas Inventory
lsu.edu/ces/research/greenhousegasreport2021.php

Louisiana Energy Policy Simulator Modeling Tool
louisiana.energypolicy.solutions

Project Manager: Lindsay Cooper
Lindsay.Cooper@LA.GOV

STATE OF LOUISIANA
GOVERNOR JOHN BEL EDWARDS

LOUISIANA CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

CLIMATE INITIATIVES TASK FORCE
RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GOVERNOR
February 2022

STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS FOR REACHING
NET ZERO GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS BY 2050

OBJECTIVES

The primary objective of this plan is to reduce net greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to zero by 2050 in order to limit the impacts of climate change that harm the state's natural and cultural heritage. While reducing GHG emissions is the primary objective, how Louisiana gets there matters. Climate action provides an opportunity to realize additional benefits for Louisiana's communities, environment, and economy. The plan identifies clear objectives across the following seven themes that serve as a fundamental basis for developing, evaluating, and refining strategies and actions and guiding implementation.

Reduce Net GHG Emissions | Improve Health & Quality of Life | Create a More Equitable Society | Strengthen the Economy & Workforce | Conserve Natural Resources | Adapt to a Changing Climate | Manage for Short- and Long-Term Success

WHY CLIMATE ACTION IS CRITICAL FOR LOUISIANA

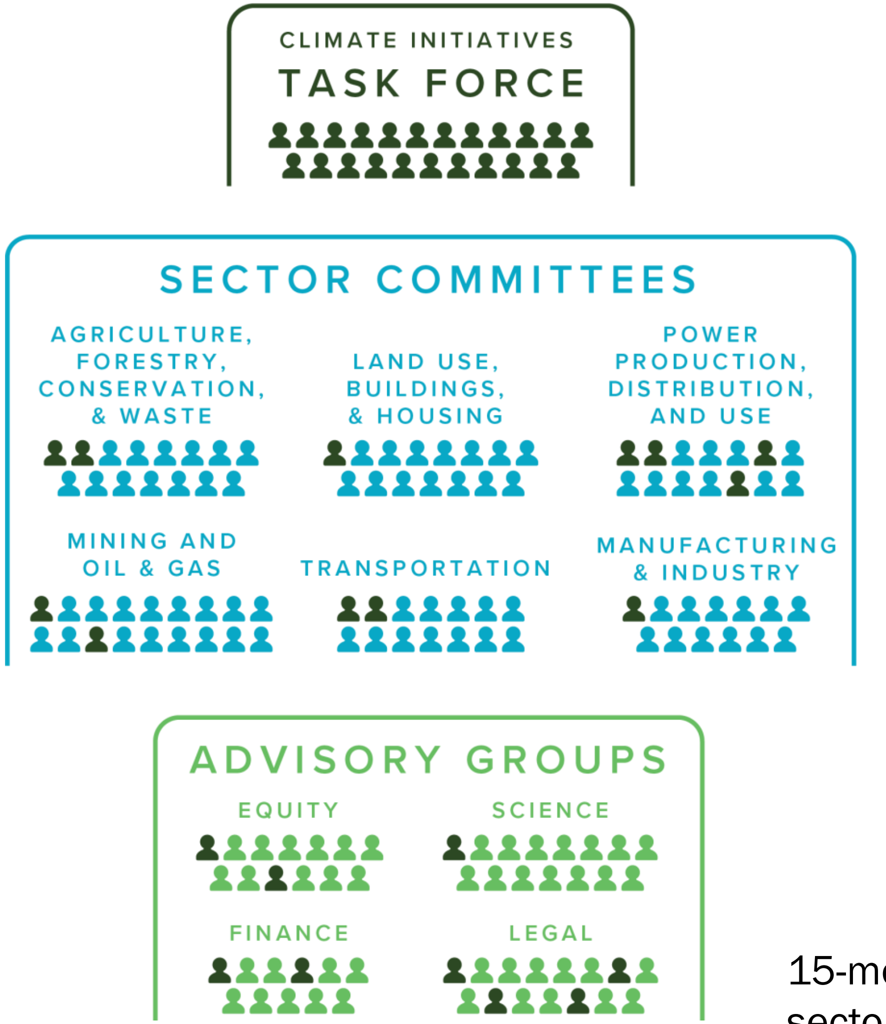
Climate change is a planetary threat being driven by human-induced increases in GHG concentrations in the atmosphere that have raised global temperatures and made extreme weather more common. Louisiana is among the most vulnerable states to the impacts of climate change. Louisianians are already experiencing direct physical, mental, and financial tolls and indirect impacts to social systems and ecosystems that are struggling to cope with extreme weather events, heat, drought, flooding, and other manifestations of climate change. As is the case globally, Louisiana's low-income communities, communities of color, Indigenous peoples, and other marginalized residents are being hit especially hard.

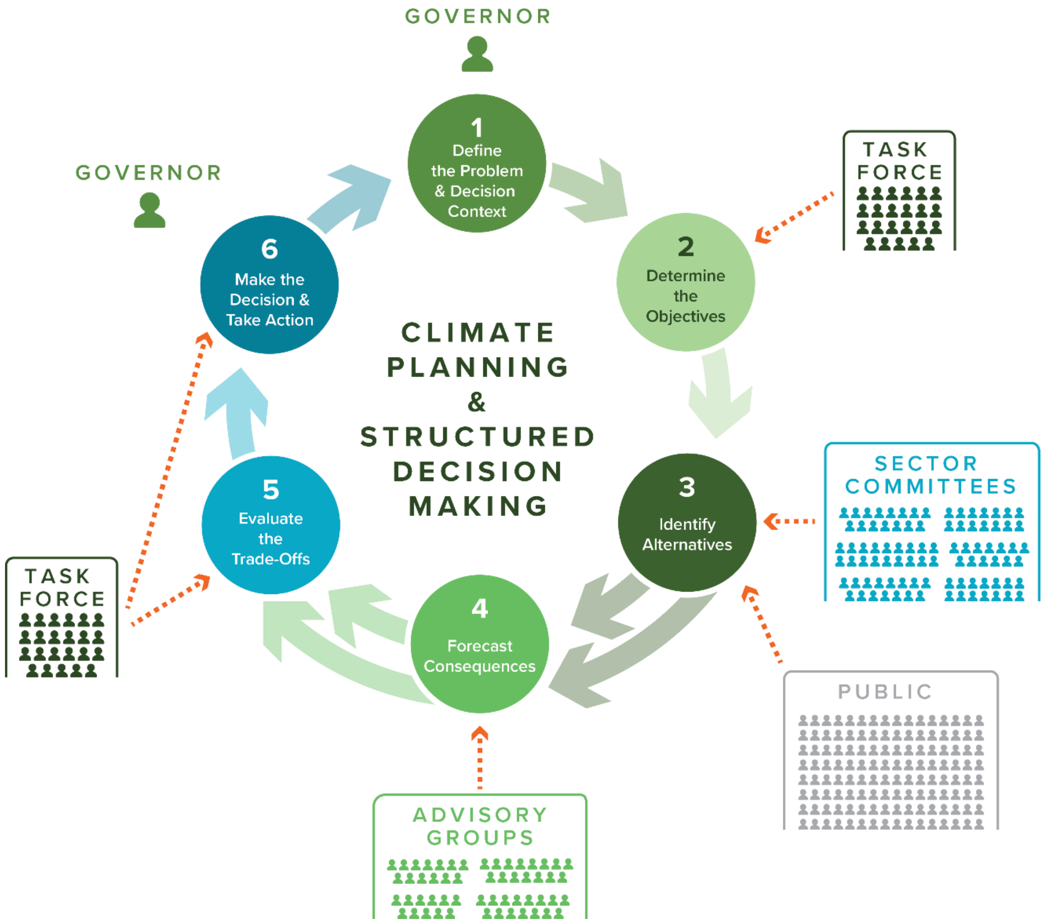
These impacts are projected to get much worse over the coming decades if there is not significant global action to curb GHG emissions. The need for climate action in Louisiana is paramount. Continuing on a business-as-usual course is unacceptable.

Key Climate Impacts for the Southeastern U.S. Highlighted in the 2018 National Climate Assessment:

1. **URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE AND HEALTH RISKS,** specifically from increased heat, flooding, and vector-borne diseases.
2. **INCREASING FLOOD RISKS IN COASTAL AND LOW-LYING REGIONS** that will affect property values, the viability of infrastructure, critical industries, and cultural resources.
3. **TRANSFORMATION OF NATURAL ECOSYSTEMS** due to changing winter temperature extremes, wildfire patterns, sea levels, hurricanes, floods, droughts, and warming oceans.
4. **ECONOMIC AND HEALTH RISKS FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES,** including vulnerabilities in agricultural, timber, and manufacturing sectors from more regular extreme heat and changing seasonal climates.

Planning Process and Methodology





15-month collaborative process that included ***49 public meetings*** of the Task Force, sector committees, and advisory groups as well as opportunities for the public to share their ideas for climate actions and provide feedback on the draft plan components.

Fundamental Objective Categories

Guided development and evaluation of actions and strategies within the Climate Action Plan

Reducing Net Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions

Health and Quality of Life

Creating a More Equitable Society

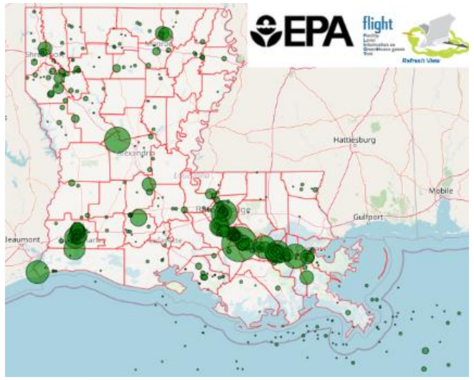
Strengthening the Economy & Workforce

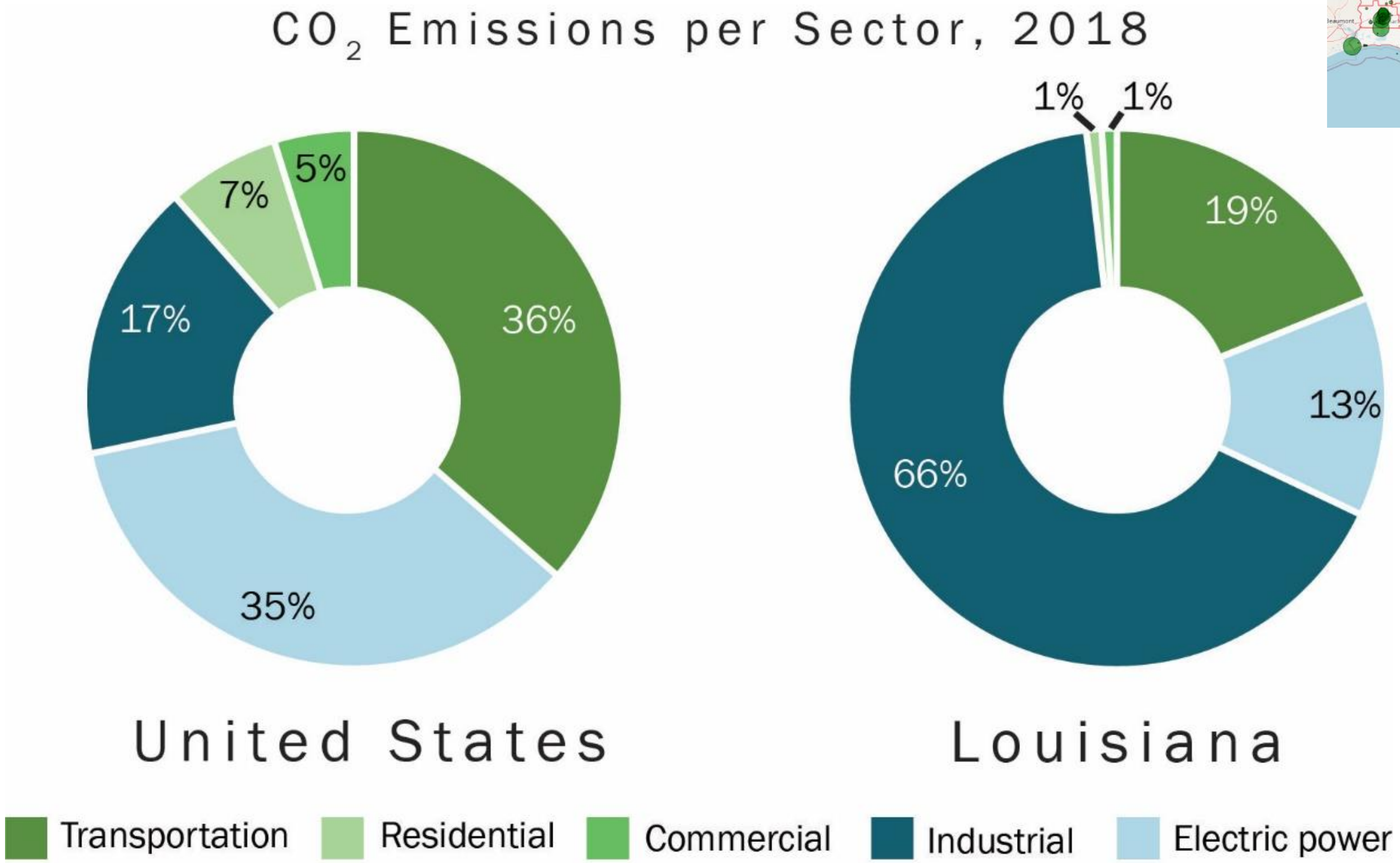
Conserving Natural Resources

Adapting to a Changing Climate

Managing for Short- & Long- Term Success

Louisiana’s 2021 GHG Baseline



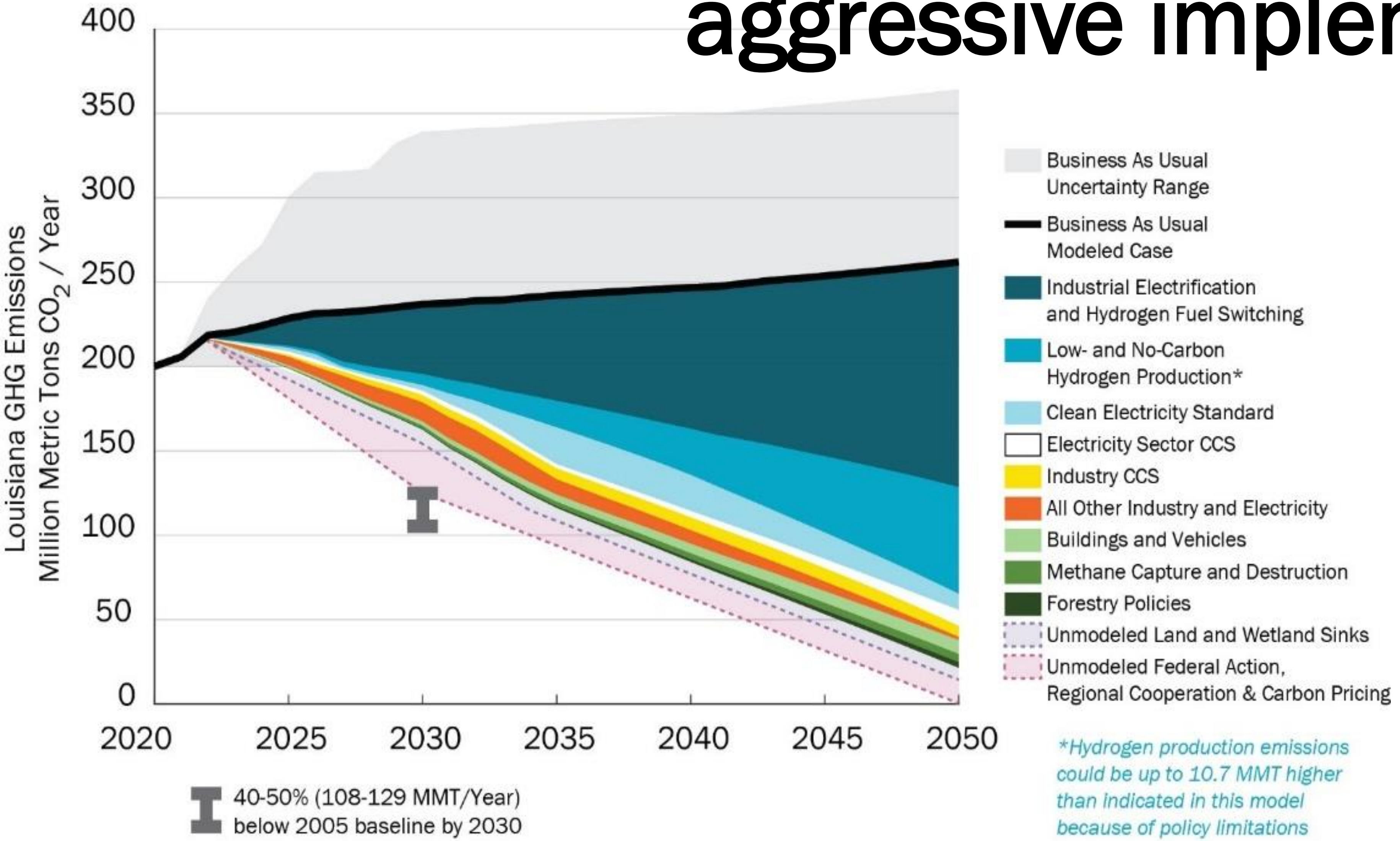


8 Portfolio Sections

26 Carbon Reduction Strategies

84 Specific Actions

Net zero is attainable by 2050 through aggressive implementation



The Big Three: Louisiana’s Climate Policy Pillars

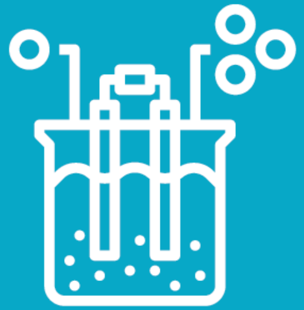
Renewable Electricity Generation

Increasing Louisiana’s renewable electricity to meet current and future demand

Industrial Electrification

Shifting industrial processes and equipment to electric power instead of fuels

Industrial Fuel Switching to Low- & No-Carbon Hydrogen



Shifting high heat industrial processes to sustainably-produced hydrogen

Natural Working Lands and Wetlands

STRATEGY 14: Preserve and expand natural lands and urban green spaces to maximize climate mitigation and adaptation goals

STRATEGY 15: Restore and conserve Louisiana's coastal wetlands to maximize climate mitigation and adaptation goals

STRATEGY 16. Support the sustainable management and conservation of working agricultural

Natural Working Lands and Wetlands

STRATEGY 15: Restore and conserve Louisiana's coastal wetlands to maximize climate mitigation and adaptation goals

- 15.1: Optimize the carbon sequestration potential of Louisiana's coastal wetlands through implementation of Coastal Master Plan projects
- 15.2: Quantify and monitor the potential coastal blue carbon in Louisiana habitats and Coastal Master Plan projects
- 15.3: Develop crediting mechanisms and market specific to blue carbon

Implementation Matrix

TABLE 2. IMPLEMENTATION MATRIX OF THE LOUISISANA CLIMATE ACTION PLAN, 2022. TABLE SUMMARIZES IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS, NEAR-TERM ACTIONS, AND GOALS FOR ACTIONS WITHIN EACH PORTFOLIO SECTION, INCLUDING AN INDICATION OF WHETHER FUNDING IS NEEDED.

ACTION NUMBER	IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS	NEAR-TERM ACTION	FUNDING NEEDED ☒	GOALS
15.1	CPRA	Study carbon storage potential of wetland projects	☒	Maximize carbon sequestration of coastal wetland restoration
15.2	CPRA	Invest in assessments of net carbon flux of coastal wetlands	☐	Maximize carbon sequestration of coastal wetland restoration
15.3	Universities / CPRA / blue carbon experts and verifiers / coastal ecologists	Collaborate with stakeholders to design a carbon credit and market	☒	Maximize investment in carbon sequestration of wetland restoration
16.1	USDA / LDAF	Leverage USDA investment for innovative practices that reduce GHGs	☒	Encourage conservation practices that sequester carbon
26.4	Governor's Office / State Agencies	Establish an interagency working group to review existing siting and permitting procedures	☒	Ensure safe and resilient siting of energy infrastructure for the environment and communities

Questions?

Resources

Website:
https://gov.louisiana.gov/page/climate-initiatives-task-force

YouTube:
https://www.youtube.com/c/LouisianaClimateInitiativesTaskForce

GHG Inventory:
https://www.lsu.edu/ces/publications/2021/louisiana-2021-greehouse-gas-inventory-df-rev_reduced.pdf

Energy Policy Simulator Modeling Tool:
https://louisiana.energypolicy.solutions/

Project Manager: Lindsay Cooper, Lindsay.cooper@la.gov