# THIS IS WHERE CHANGE BEGINS

Why Integrating Climate Action Into Our Business Work is Key for Higher Education & How We Can Do It

**UB Business Day October 24, 2024** 









#### Agenda

PRELUDE...you are in a special place

WHAT...is our sustainability frame

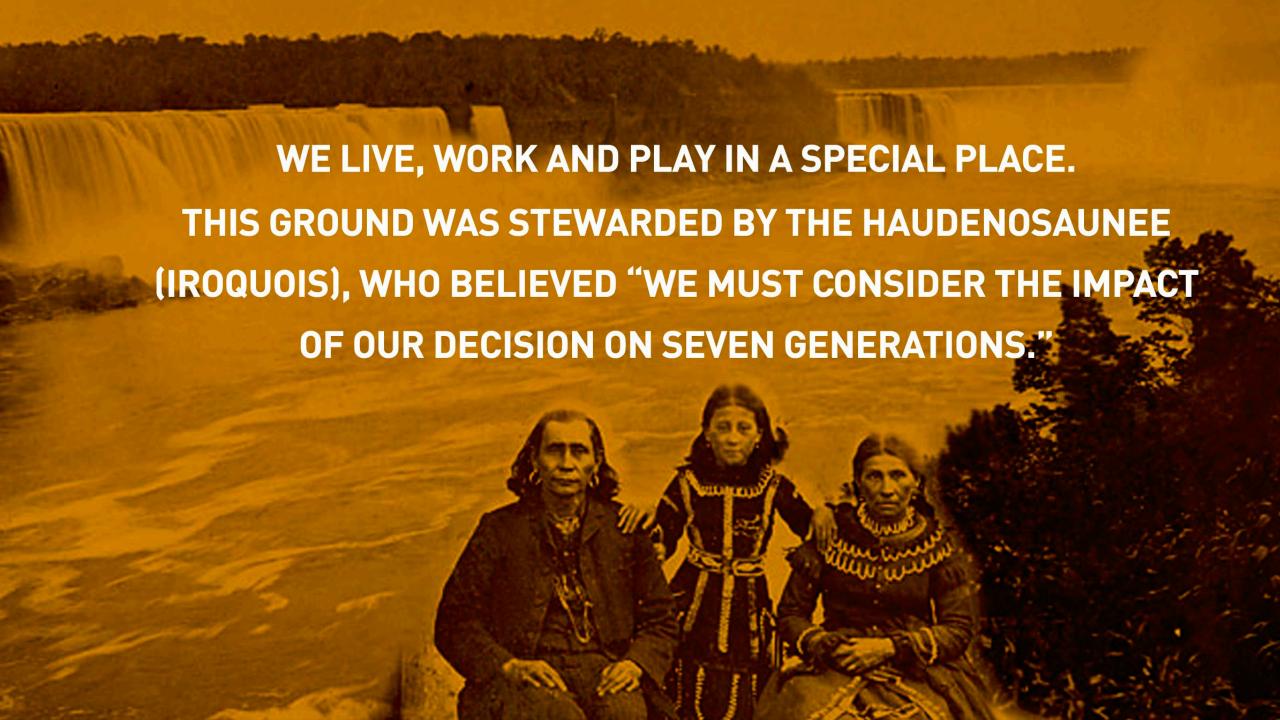
WHY...are we doing this work

HOW...do we advance the impact

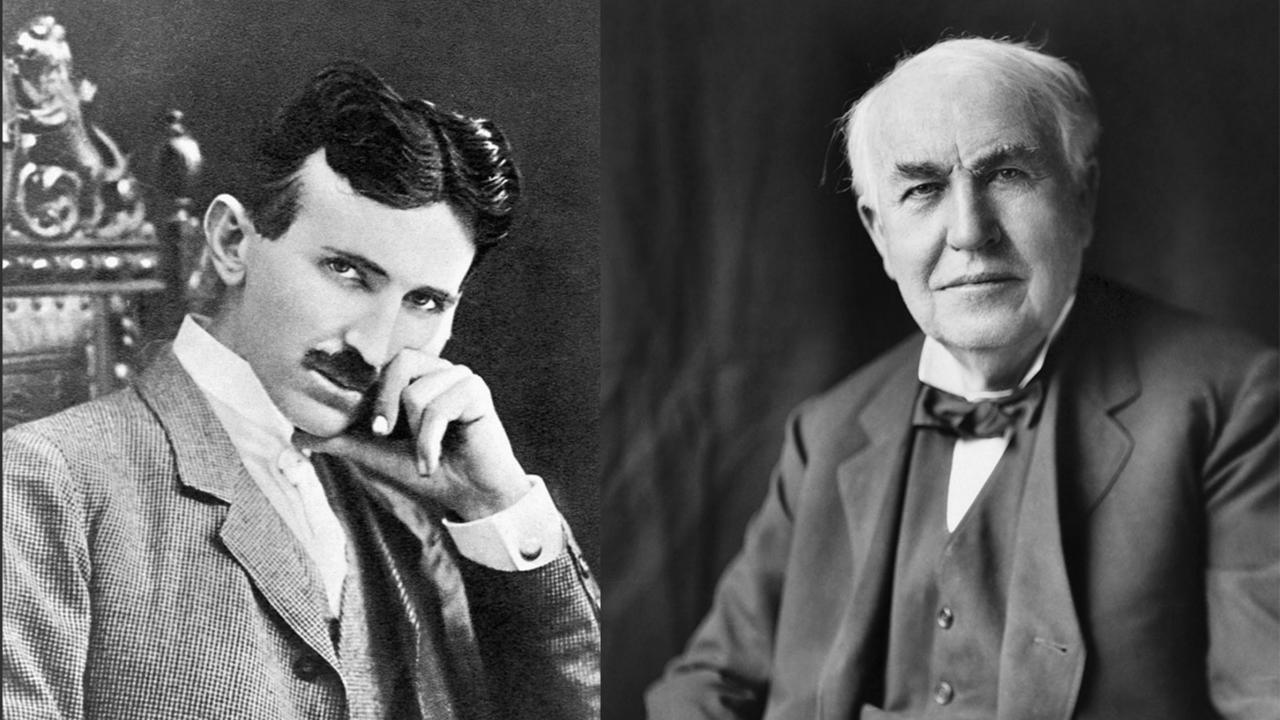
WHAT...are the details, cost and path forward

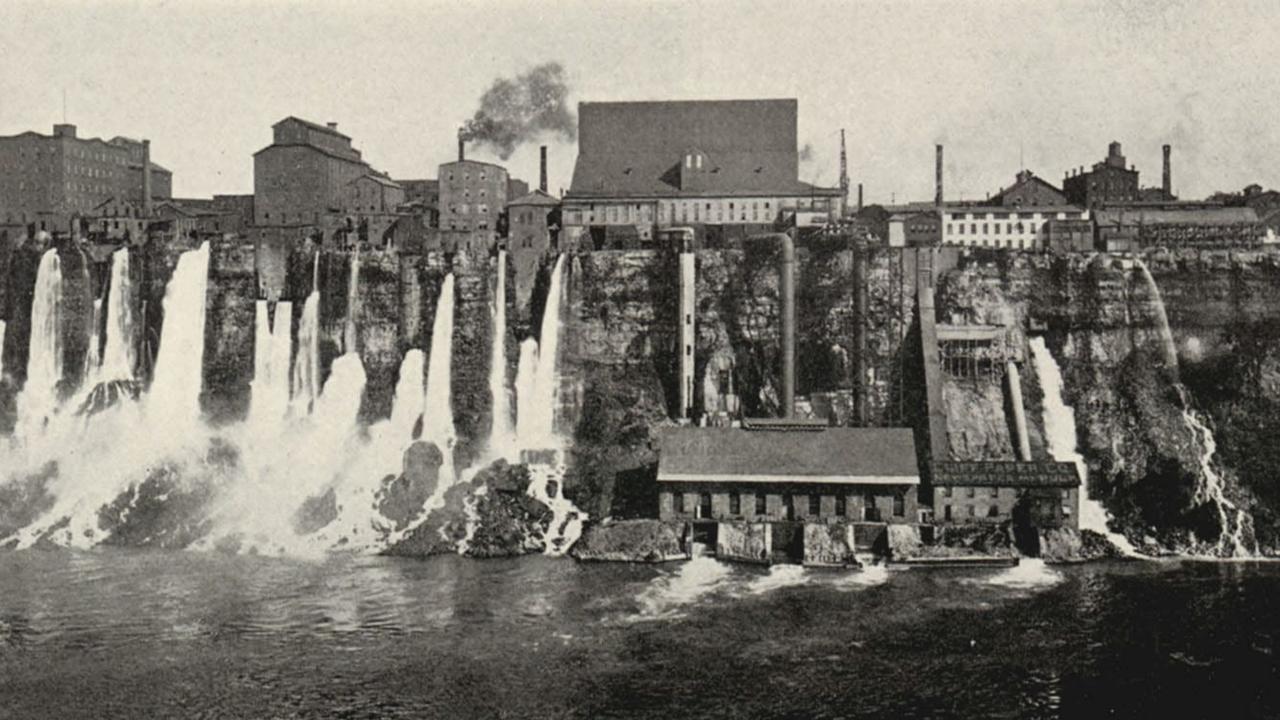
WHAT (again)...role can you play



















### WHAT

# IS OUR SUSTAINABILITY FRAME?

#### The Tripple Bottom Line

A framework with four integrated aspects: social, environmental, financial and mission



# Sustainability is a Strategy

### not a Goal

### WHY

## ARE WE DOING THIS WORK?

### Why Should We Advance Climate Action?

Science Dummy 40

Other

3

Right Thing to Do 25

Gen Z Wants to Act 20

Stay out of jail 8

Business/Economic 4









### The Science

#### Policy Shift

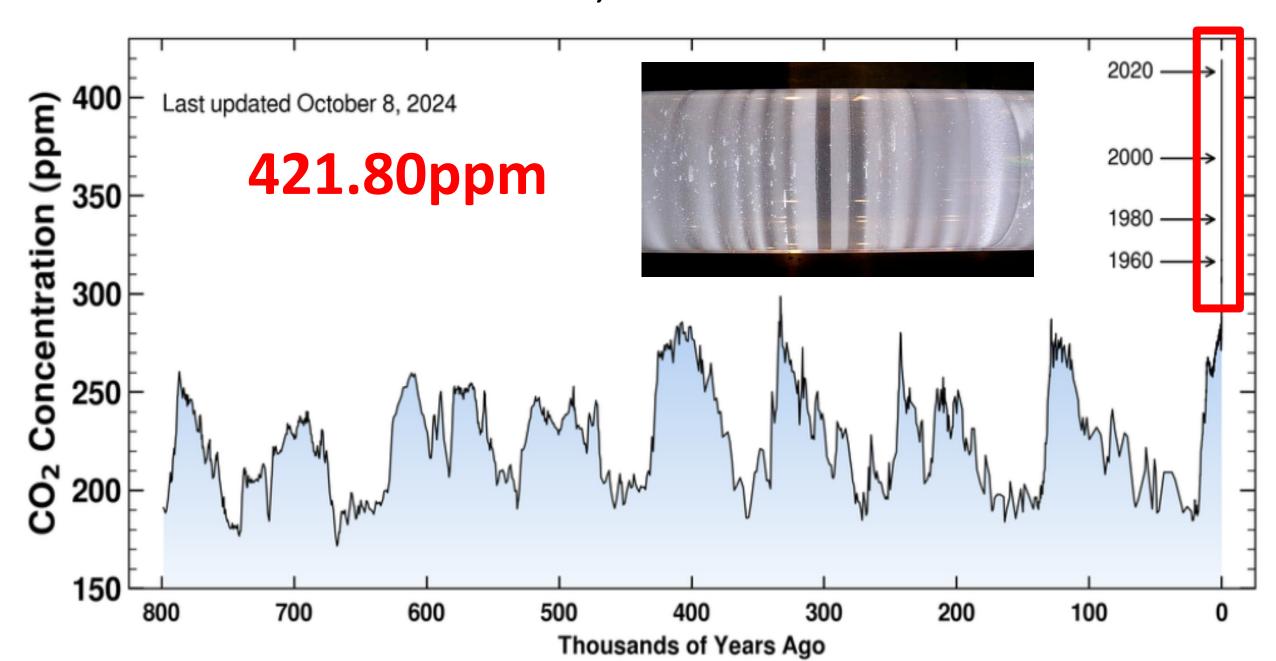
#### Business Case

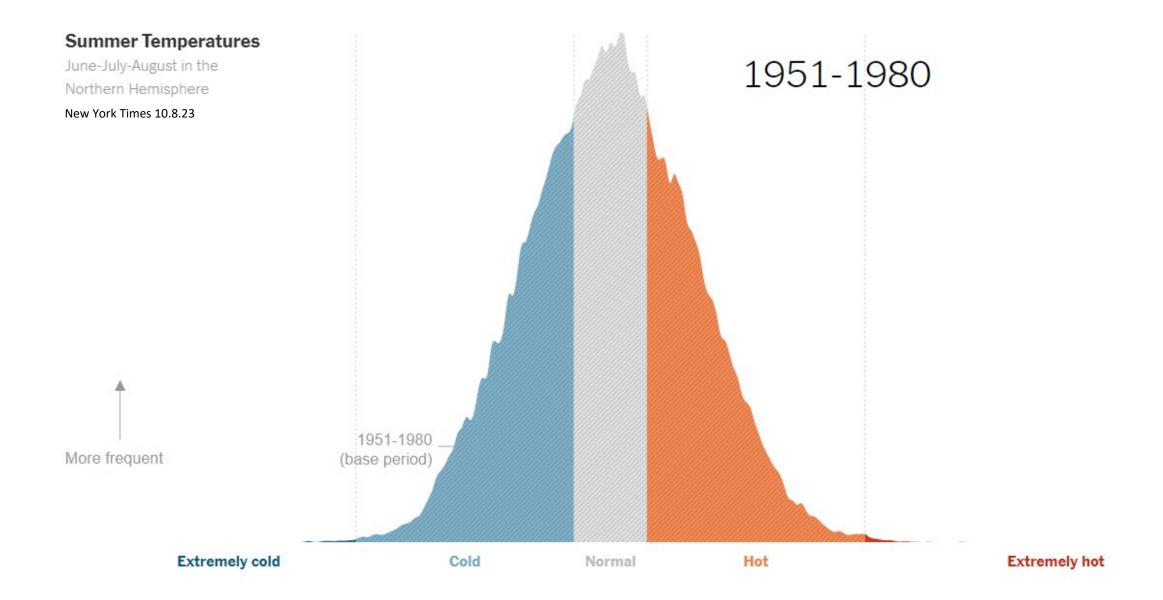
Why Are We Engaged In This Work...

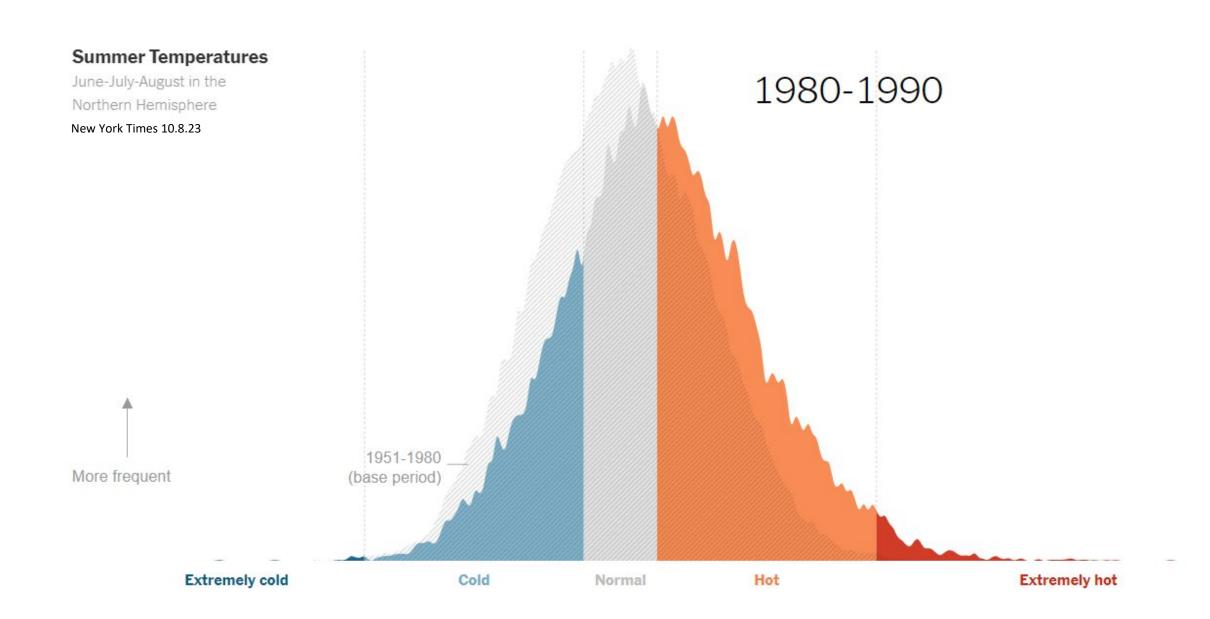


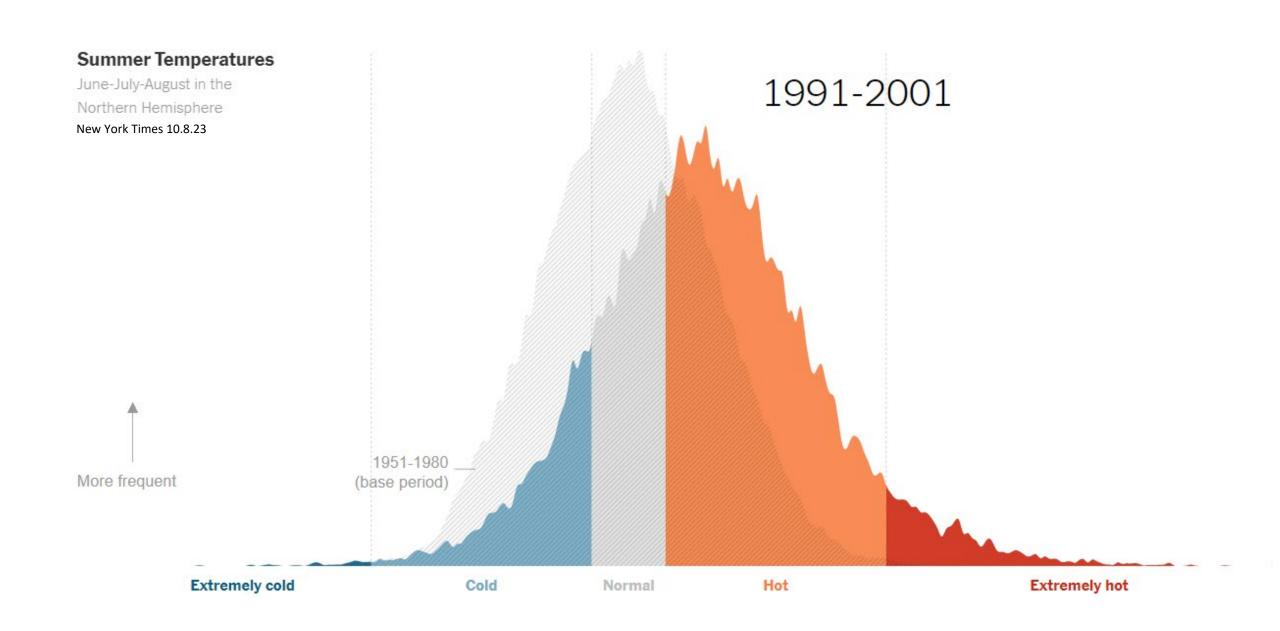


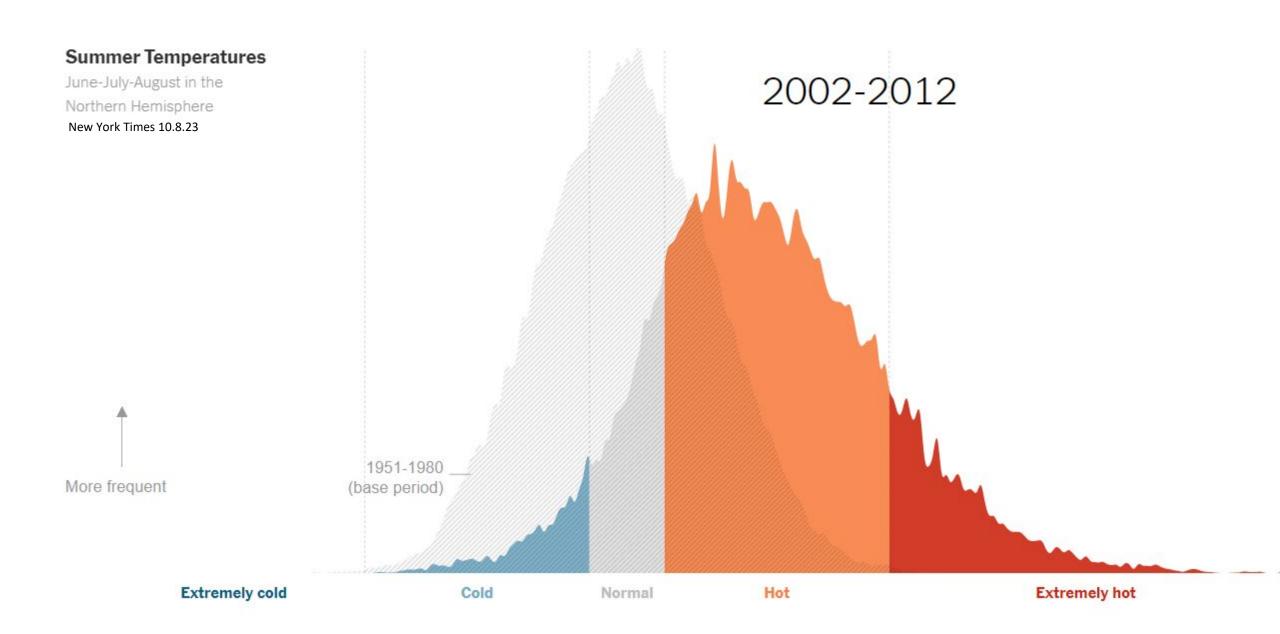
#### Ice-core data before 1958, Mauna Loa Data after 1958

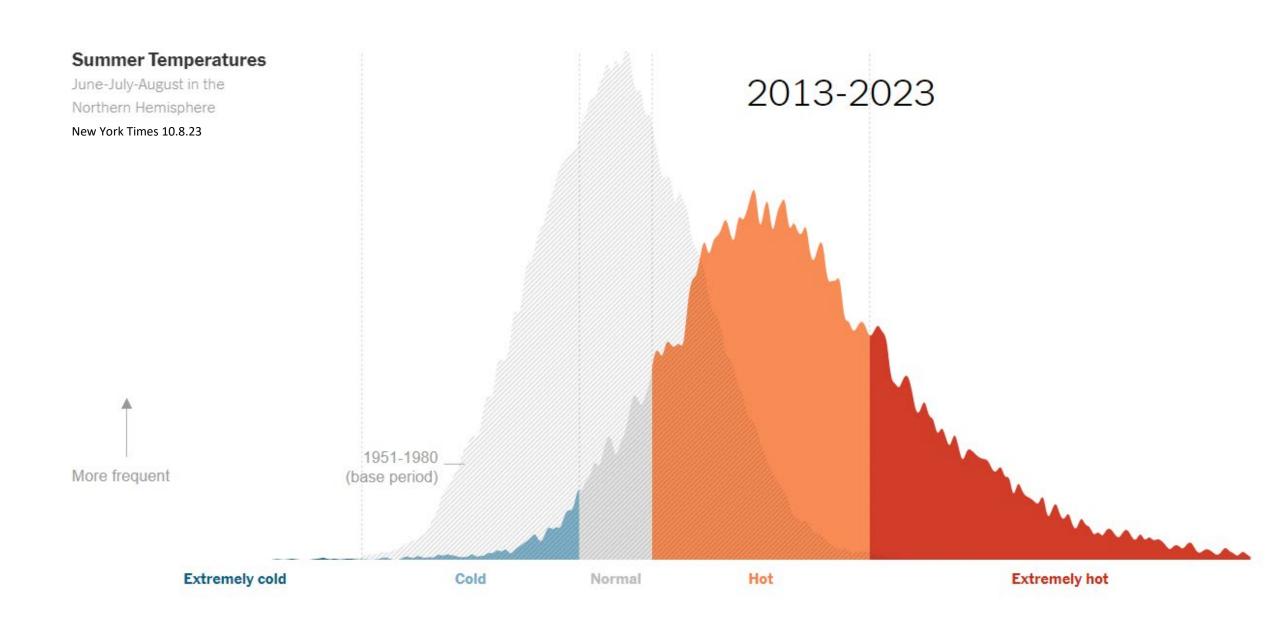










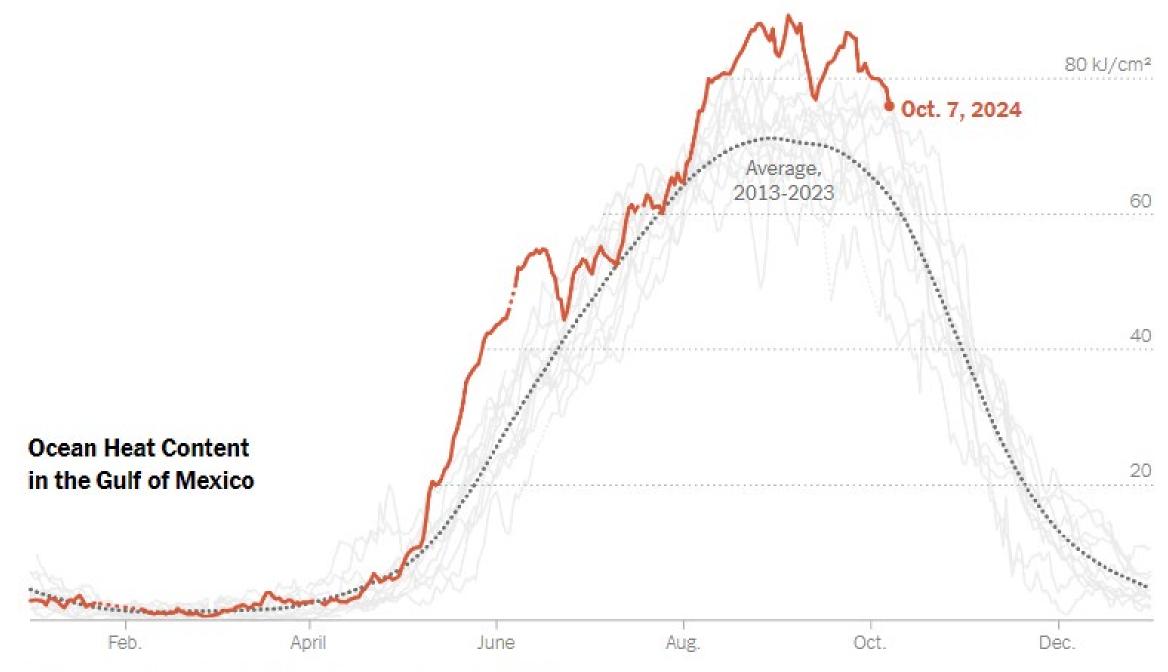




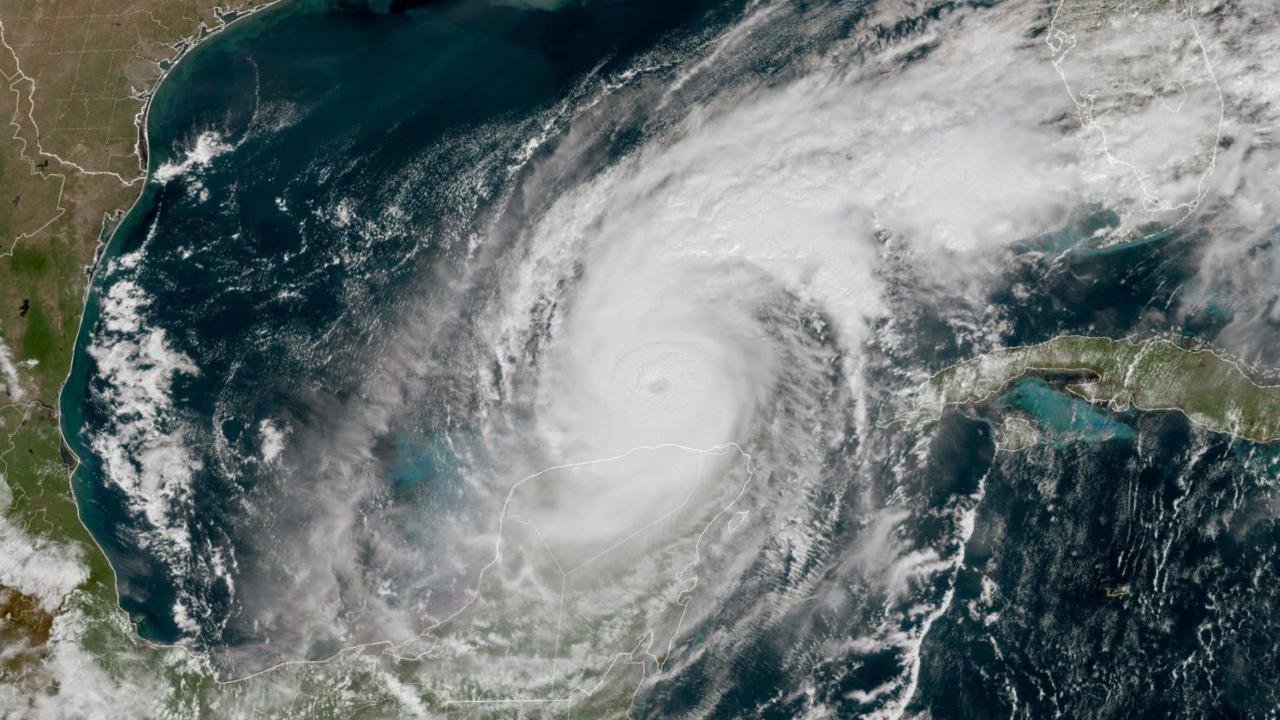
Since last May, the average person experienced 26 more days of abnormal warmth than they would have without global warming!







Source: Brian McNoldy; University of Miami Upper Ocean Dynamics Lab













New York
State Climate
Action Policy
& Funding
Shift



Achieve Climate Neutrality by 2050 (Climate Leadership Community Protection Act)



**Mandate 70% Renewable Power by 2030** 



**Phased out Coal Power in 2020** 



State Agencies to Decarbonize their Investment Funds and Investment in Clean Energy



Phase out of Fossil-Fueled Vehicles Banning Sales after 2035 in NYS



Zero Waste Initiatives (compost mandate and phasing out of single use plastics)



**Leveraging Low Carbon Concrete and Building Materials** 

# Executive

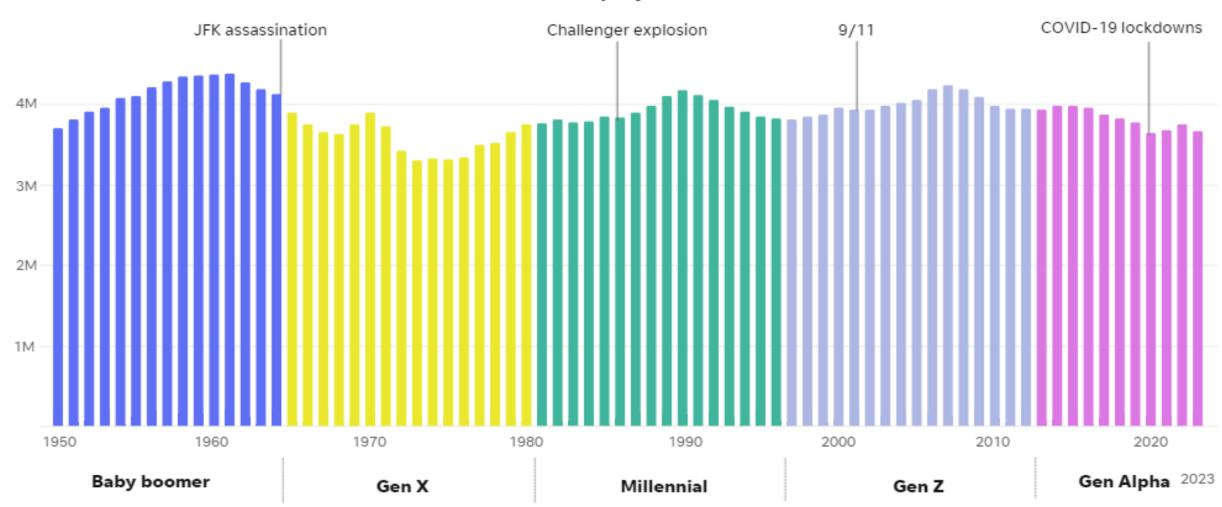
# Order 22







#### U.S. births per year:

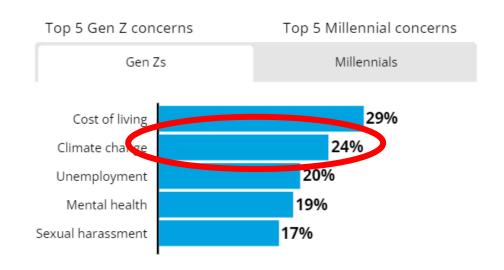


# Deloitte Global 2022 Gen Z and Millennial Survey

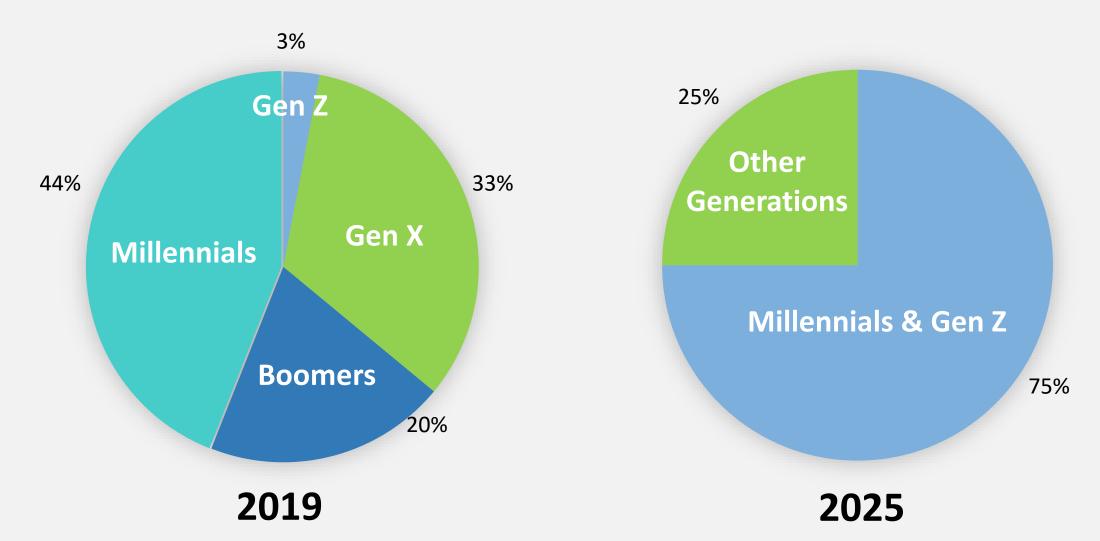
### Top concerns among Gen Zs and millennials

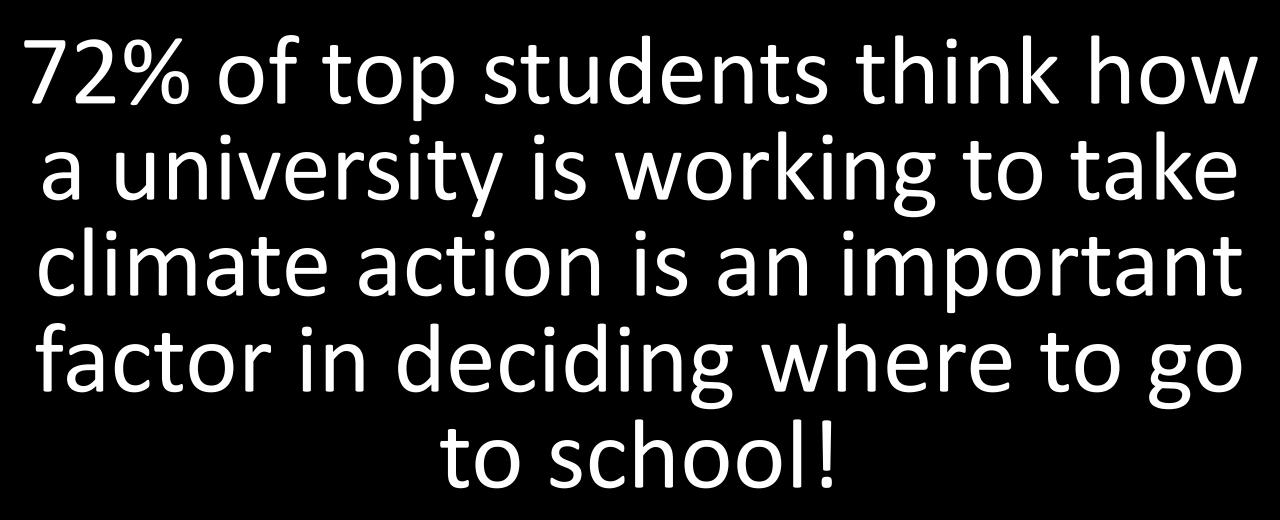
This year's survey finds Gen Zs and millennials deeply concerned about the state of the world, and actively trying to balance the challenges of their everyday lives with their desire to drive societal change.

They are struggling with financial concerns, while trying to invest in environmentally sustainable choices. They feel burned out, but many are taking on second jobs, while pushing for more purposeful—and more flexible—work. They press their employers to tackle climate change, particularly when it comes to efforts they can get directly involved in, but businesses may still be missing opportunities to drive deeper and broader climate action. And they have inspired organizations to take action to address workplace mental health challenges, but many don't feel this is resulting in any tangible change for employees.



# GENERATIONS IN THE WORKFORCE







"70% of US workers said that a firm's environmental record is important to them and is a consideration when deciding whether to take a job with a company."

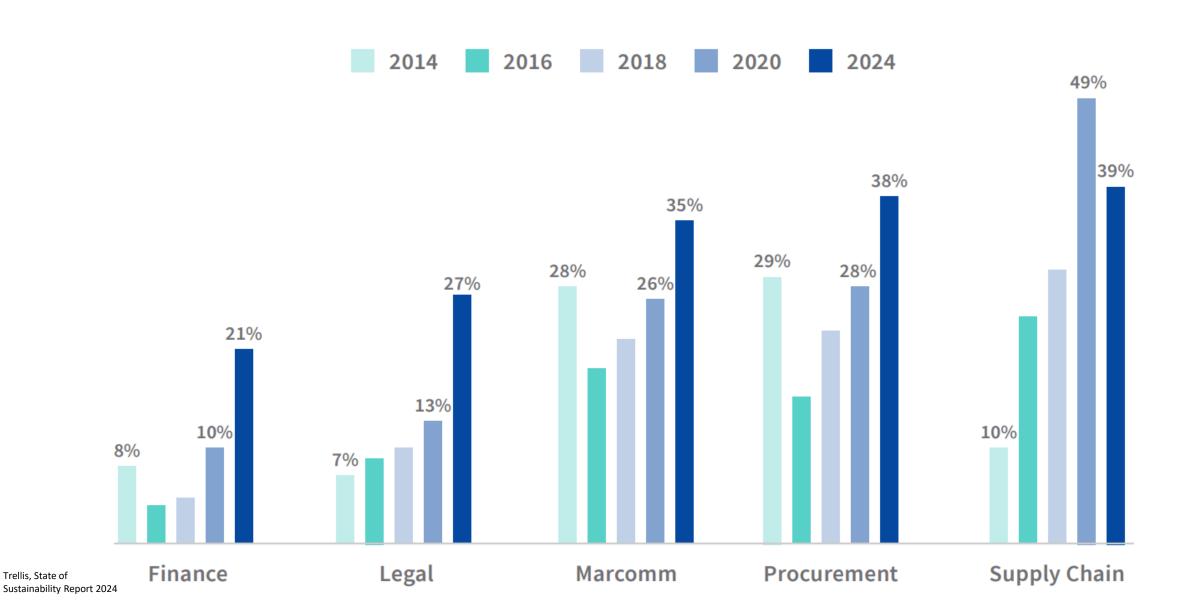
### **Business Sustainability Trends**

- In 2021, **74**% of institutional investors said they were more likely to divest from companies with poor sustainability performance. IMD
- 46% have begun requiring business partners across their supply chain/value chain to meet specific sustainability criteria. Deloitte
- 44% of companies are updating/relocating facilities to make them more resistant to climate impacts. <u>Deloitte</u>
- In a 2022 study of 850 companies worldwide, **80**% said they plan to increase their investments in sustainability. WeWork
- 37% are tying senior leader's compensation to environmental sustainability performance. <u>Deloitte</u>
- Companies that combine high levels of innovation with 'sustainability and trust' outperform their industry peers, with 3.1% higher operating profits and greater returns for shareholders. Companies that excel at innovating alone see a negligible impact on operating performance. Accenture

### **Workforce Sustainability Trends**

- More than a third said that they've given more time and effort to a job because of their employer's sustainability goals. Fast Company
- More than 70% of employees at large U.S. companies say they are more likely to choose to work at a company with a strong environmental agenda. Fast Company
- Nearly 70% of respondents said that if a company had a strong sustainability plan, it would affect their decision to stay with that company long term. - <u>Fast</u> <u>Company</u>
- Nearly 40% said that they've chosen a job in the past because the company performed better on sustainability than their alternative options. - <u>Fast</u> <u>Company</u>

### Departments That Added One or More Dedicated Sustainability Resources, Either Full-Time or Part-Time









# Seventeenth Annual Survey of Emerging Risks: Summary of Findings

#### TOP FIVE EMERGING RISKS, 2020–2023

	2023	2022	2021	2020
1	Climate change	Climate change	Climate change	Climate change
2	Wars (including civil wars)	Wars (including civil wars)	Cyber/networks	Cyber/networks
3	Disruptive technology	Cyber/networks	Pandemics/infectious diseases	Pandemics/infectious diseases
4	Demographic shift	Financial volatility	Disruptive technology	Disruptive technology
5	Cyber/networks	Demographic shift	Financial volatility	Financial volatility

Climate change surpassed cyber risk, wars and pandemics as the top current risk, and top emerging risk combinations.

## HOW

## ARE WE TAKING ACTION & **ADVANCING** STRATEGY?

### **UB 10 in 10**

**Increasing Efficiency** 



Clean Energy

**Climate Justice** 



Electrification

**Behavior Change** 







for Chanenging Emissions



Zero Carbon Mobility



Resilience

Making it Happen



Pricing





Circularity





Taking Stock of Our Food System





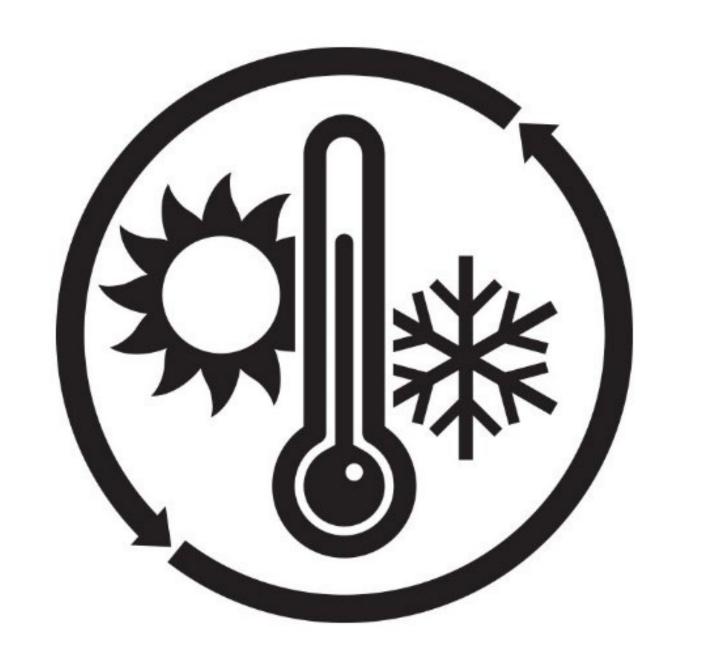








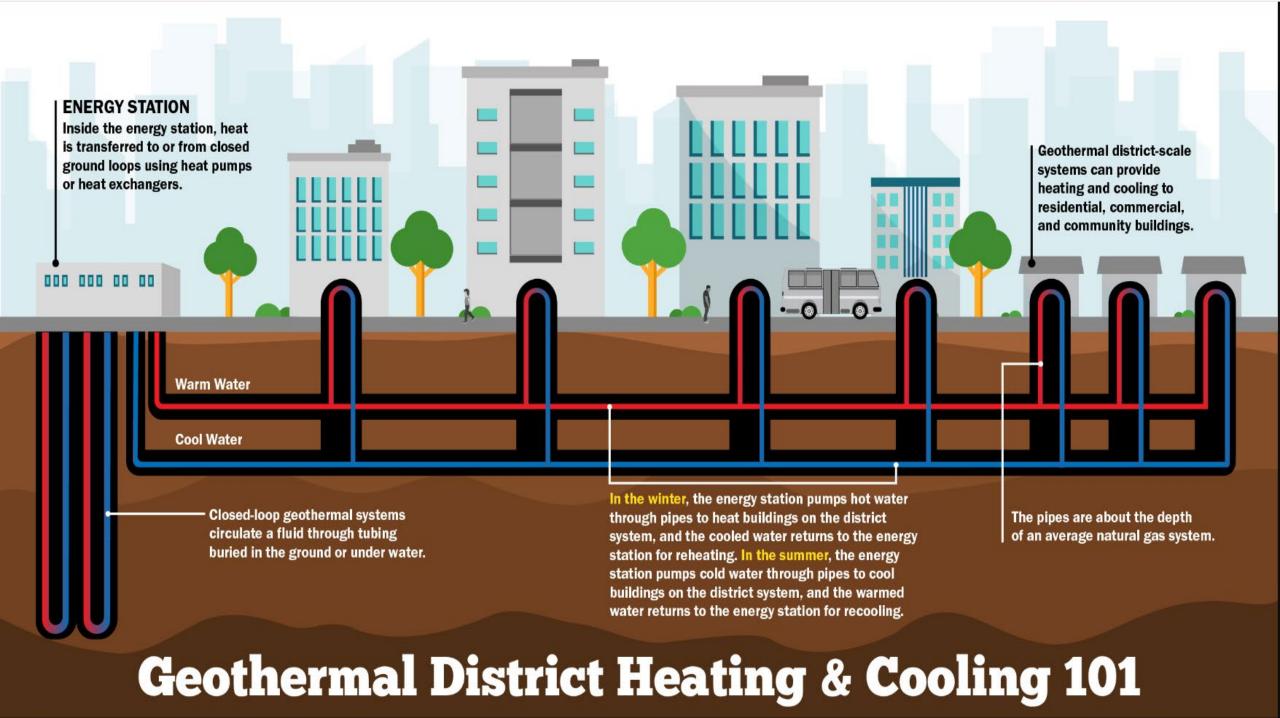


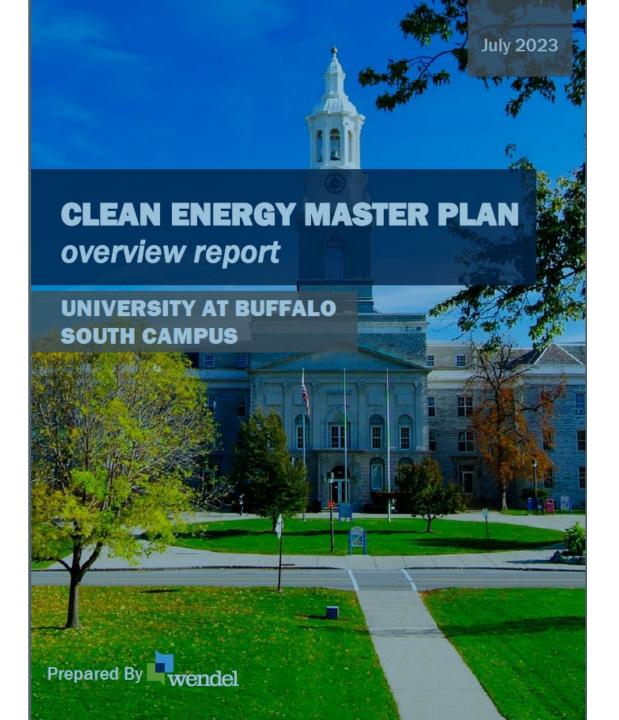


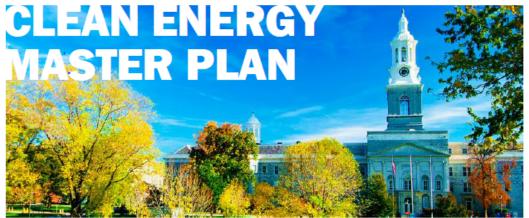
### OBJECTIVE

- 1. Identify projects for near term energy savings
- 2. Provide a path / solution for electrification of heating systems on the campus
- 3. Provide a path / solution for a 30% reduction in energy usage for the campus
- 4. Provide a path / solution for a carbon neutral campus









#### **VISION**

The University at Buffalo understands the existential threat that climate change poses to our institution, our region, state, country and planet. That is why we have doubled down on our commitment to become climate neutral. To achieve this, we are standing on the shoulders of five decades of environmental leadership and focusing our climate action work on a holistic solutions-orientated approach.

Over the past five years, the University at Buffalo has reduced its carbon footprint by an average of 33% (as measured in metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalents) by replacing 671,594,561 kilowatt hours of electricity to renewable sources. This leadership was recently recognized by the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings, which rated UB #1 among U.S. universities in taking urgent action to combat climate change. This progress has been made possible through a series of innovative renewable energy projects that now provide 100% clean electricity to our campus. From our early on campus work with the creation of the most publicly accessible renewable energy landscape in the country (the UB Solar Strand) to our current REV Campus Challenge clean energy scaling work, we have methodically learned, continue to build upon our experiences and advance climate action across New York State and the nation. However, we recognize that these success stories are not the end, rather the foundation to build upon as we progress to a carbon neutral future.

UB's 10 in 10 is our roadmap of 10 innovative, engaging and digestible steps we are advancing to increase climate action throughout the University and put us on a path to net zero emissions by 2030. The strategy is holistic, inclusive, engages our broader community and leverages both a triple bottom line approach as well as the Sustainable Development Goals.

#### **MISSION**

This Clean Energy Master Plan focused on a key strategy of UB's 10 in 10 Climate Action Plan at the University at Buffalo's South Campus. The South Campus, or Main Street Campus, is a Western New York landmark dating back to the 1920s. Situated in a residential neighborhood in North Buffalo, the 153-acre parcel is home to classic ivy-covered buildings, as well as residence halls and cutting-edge research and teaching facilities. The schools of Architecture and Planning. Dental Medicine, Public Health and Health Professions, and Nursing are located here. In addition, the campus is heated centrally by the MacKay heating facility which is the largest central source of Scope 1 Greenhouse Gas (GHG)(1) emissions at UB. South Campus comprises of 46 Buildings totaling more than 2.8 million square feet with an annual energy cost of more than \$3.8 Million. Like all entities seeking to achieve long-term impacts on our environment, our desire for sustainable results is balanced by the scarcity of capital funding. This plan seeks to develop a strategy that will maximize the amount of construction that can be done by cost effectively implementing sustainable improvements, aligned with campus planning, that maximize the life cycle cost value to the University.

#### **GOAL**

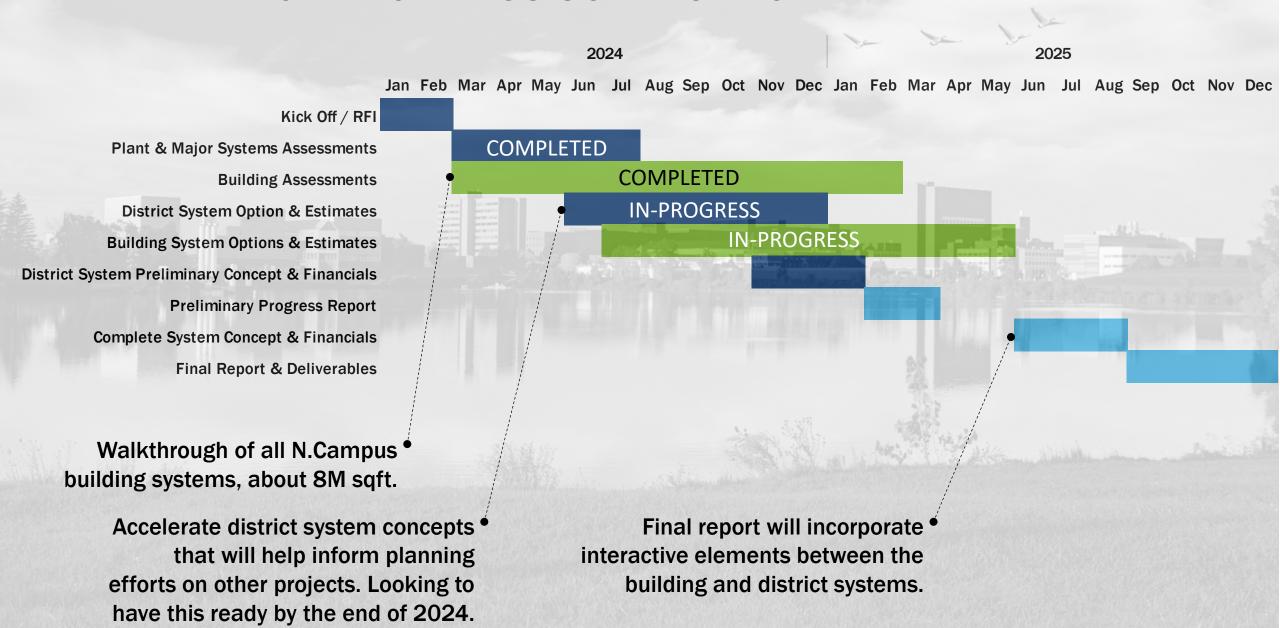
We entered into this Clean Energy Master Plan with the goal of developing a strategy that will:

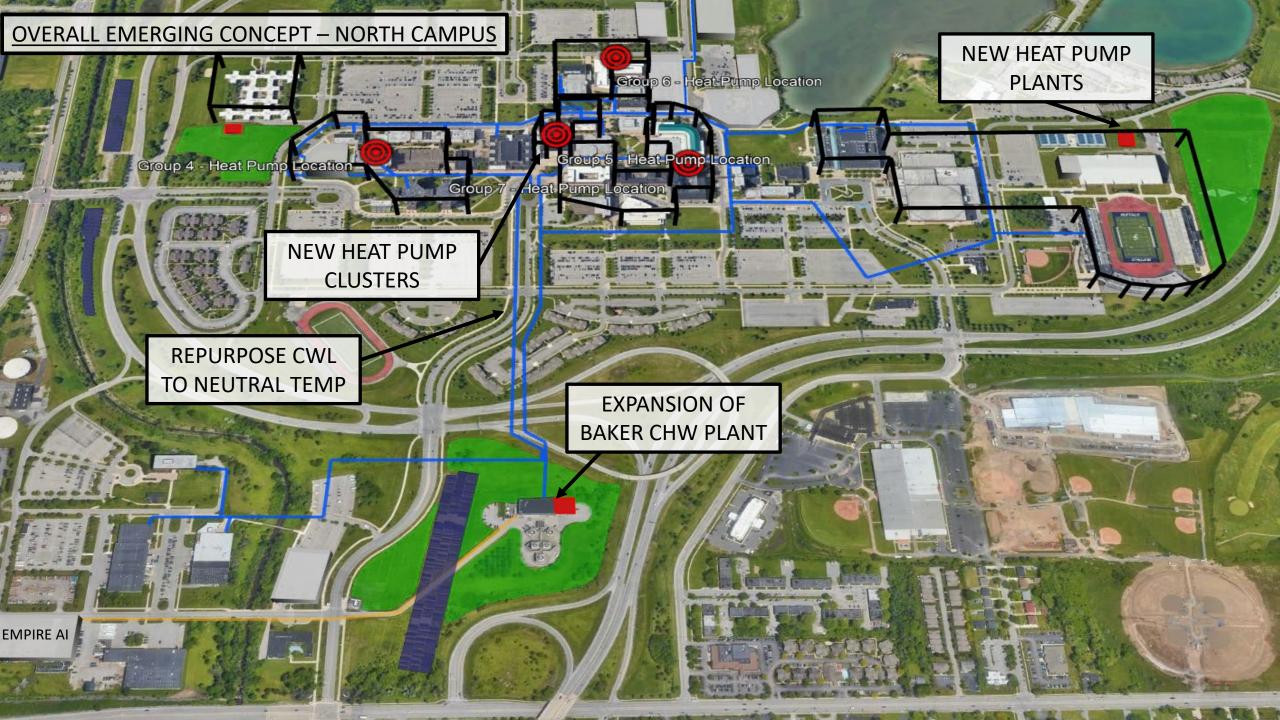
- Lead to near term energy savings.
- Provide a solution for electrification of heating systems on the South Campus.
- Provide a solution for a 30% reduction in energy usage for the South Campus.
- Provide a solution for a carbon neutral campus.

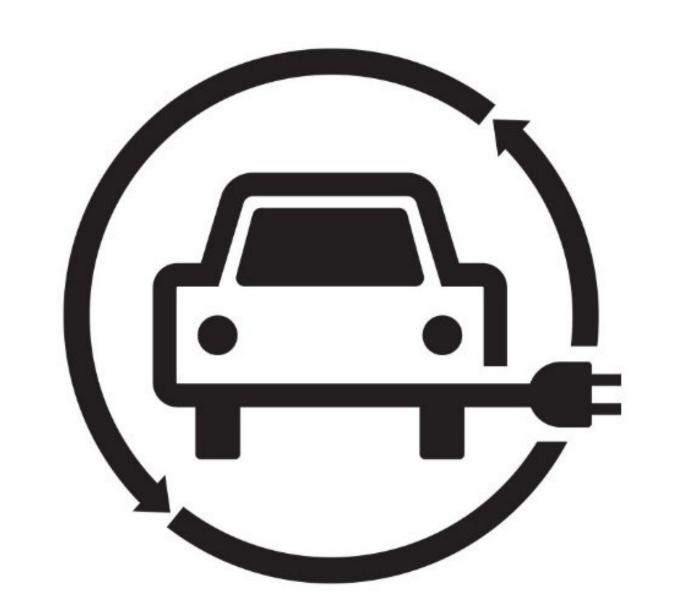




### NORTH CAMPUS SCHEDULE OVERVIEW





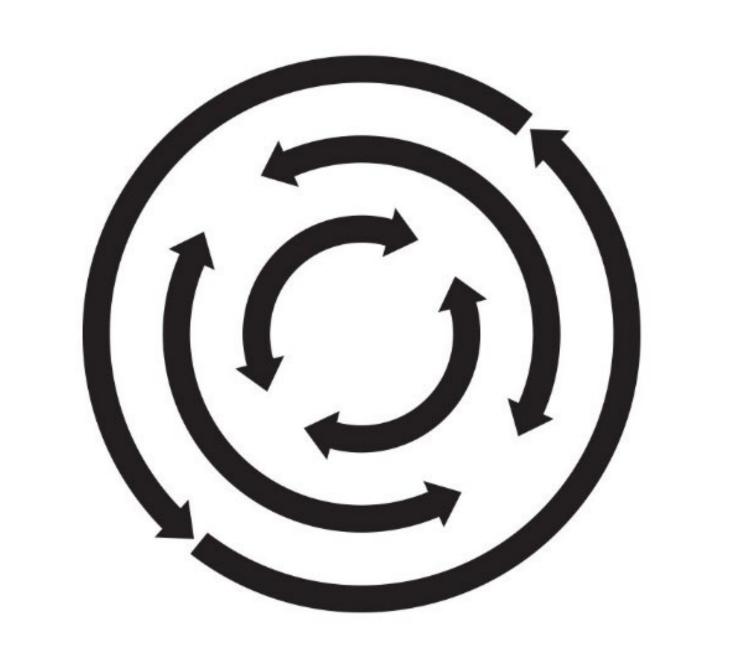
















#### ZERO WASTE STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



Management & Metrics



Zero Waste Design Standards



Forward Facing
Collection Infrastructure



Recycle Organics



Zero Waste Toolbox



**Policy Recommendations** 



**Campus Participation** 



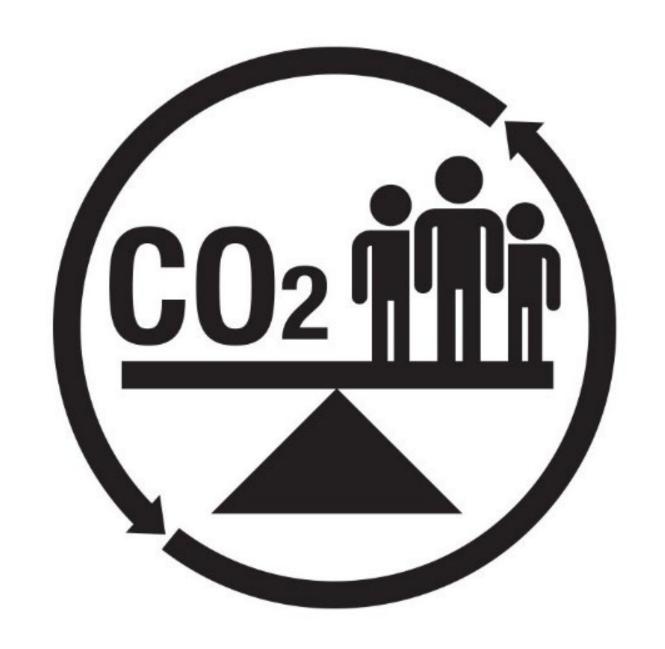
**Custodial Practices** 



Back of House Speciality Waste



Compostable To-Go Dining



### The Offset Strategy

- 1. A certified market purchase aligning with UB values
- 2. Investing in a localized offset program with community partners
- 3. A campus/university experiential offset initiative













## WHAT

# ARE THE DETAILS, COST & PATH FORWARD?

#### B&D and Sustainability in Higher Education MATCHING RESOURCES WITH AMBITION

#### **Select Energy and Sustainability Client List**

- California Institute of Technology
- Carnegie Mellon University
- Case Western University
- Cornell University
- Michigan State University
- University of Arizona
- University of California, System (all 10 campuses)
- > University of Illinois, Chicago
- University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
- University of South Florida
- University of Texas at Austin
- University of Utah
- University of Washington

#### **Energy & Sustainability Practice**

30

Years in the industry

90+

Climate Action / Utility Master Plans

#### Firm-wide

\$40B+

In developed projects

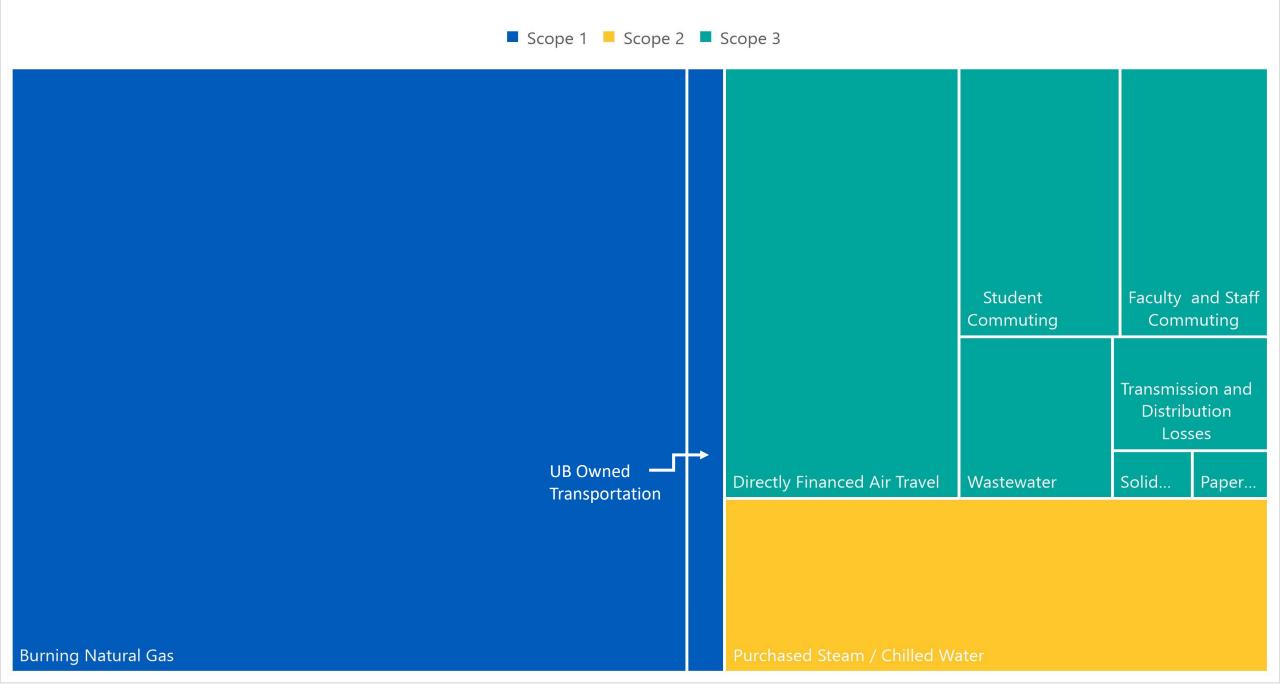
1,500+

Completed projects

**Top 50** 

Program Management Firm in the US as ranked by Engineering News-Record

#### 2023 Greenhouse Gas Emissions



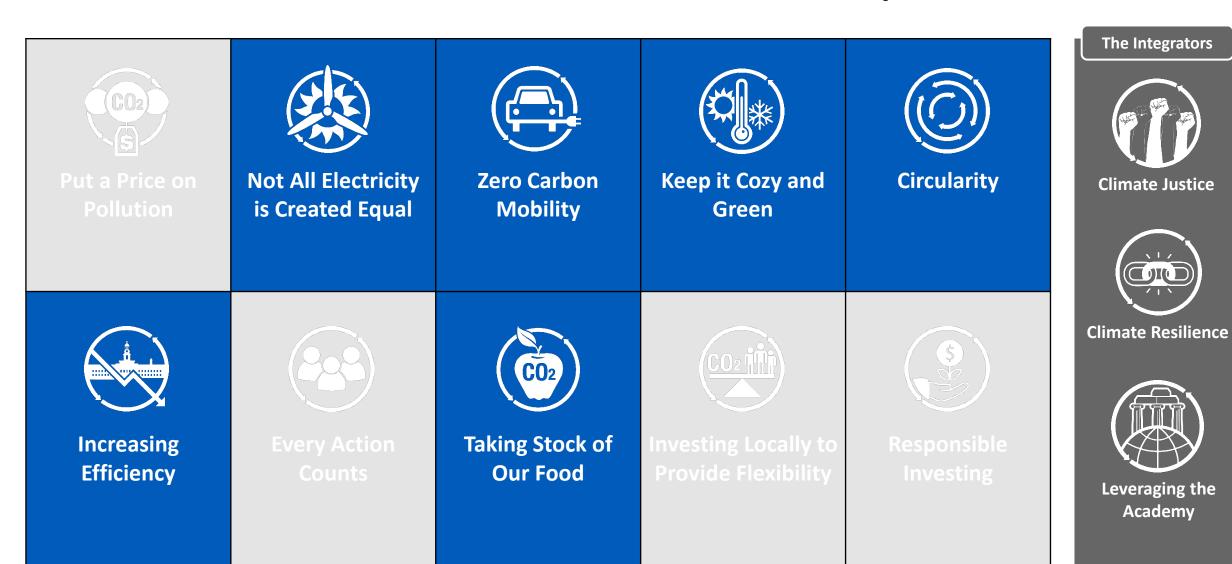
## Decarbonization

VS

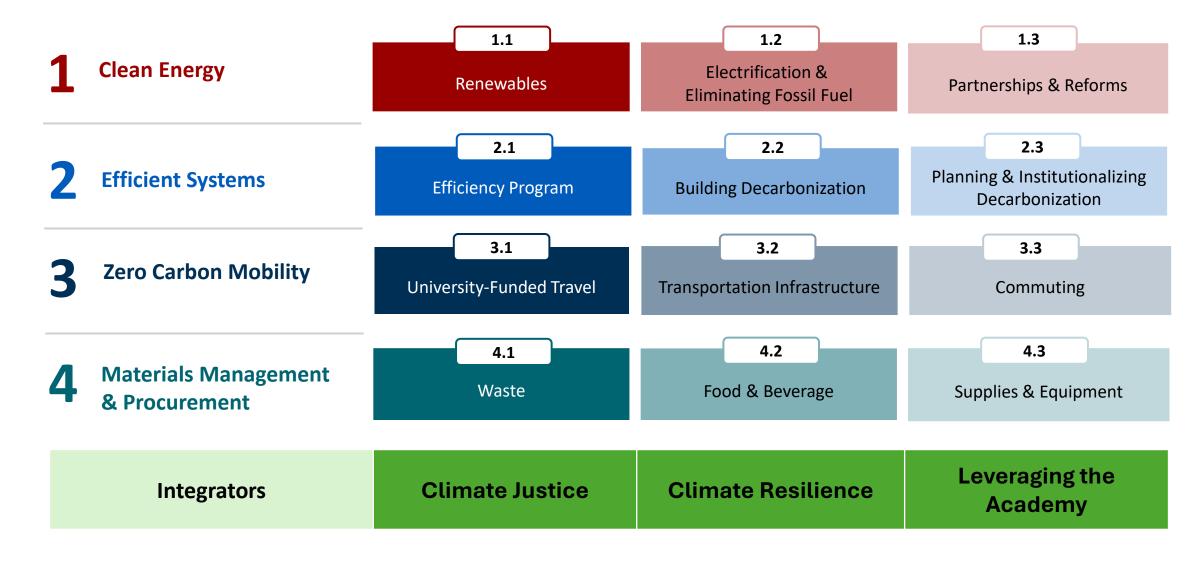
Climate Neutrality



#### 6 in 10 Decarbonization Roadmap

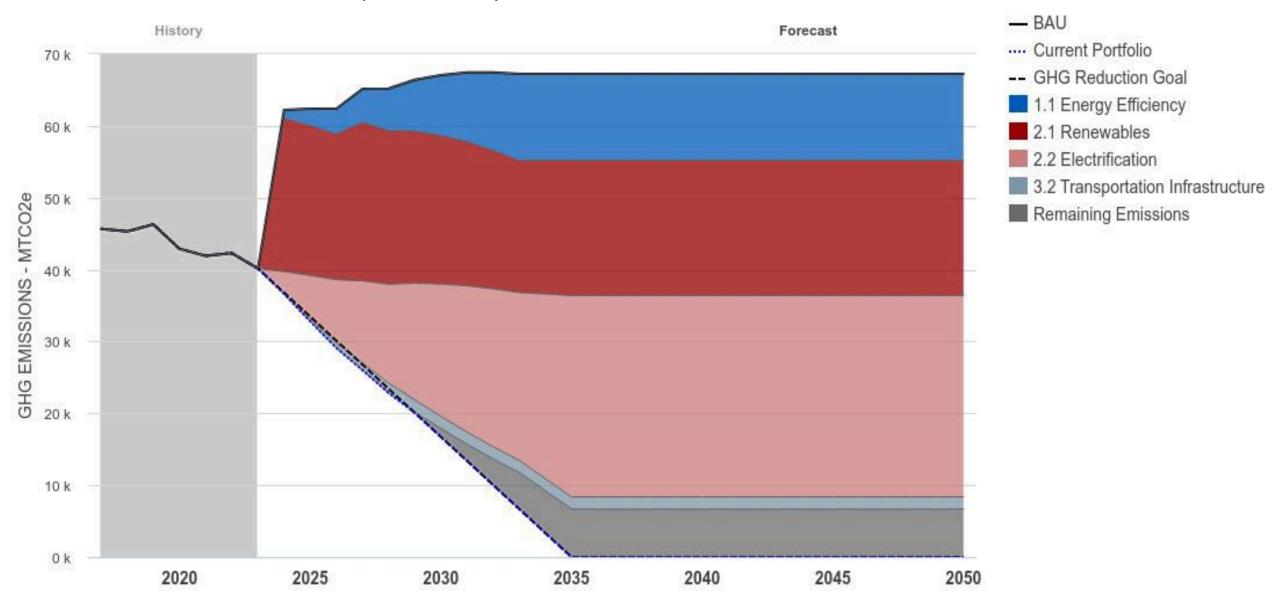


#### **Decarbonization Roadmap**



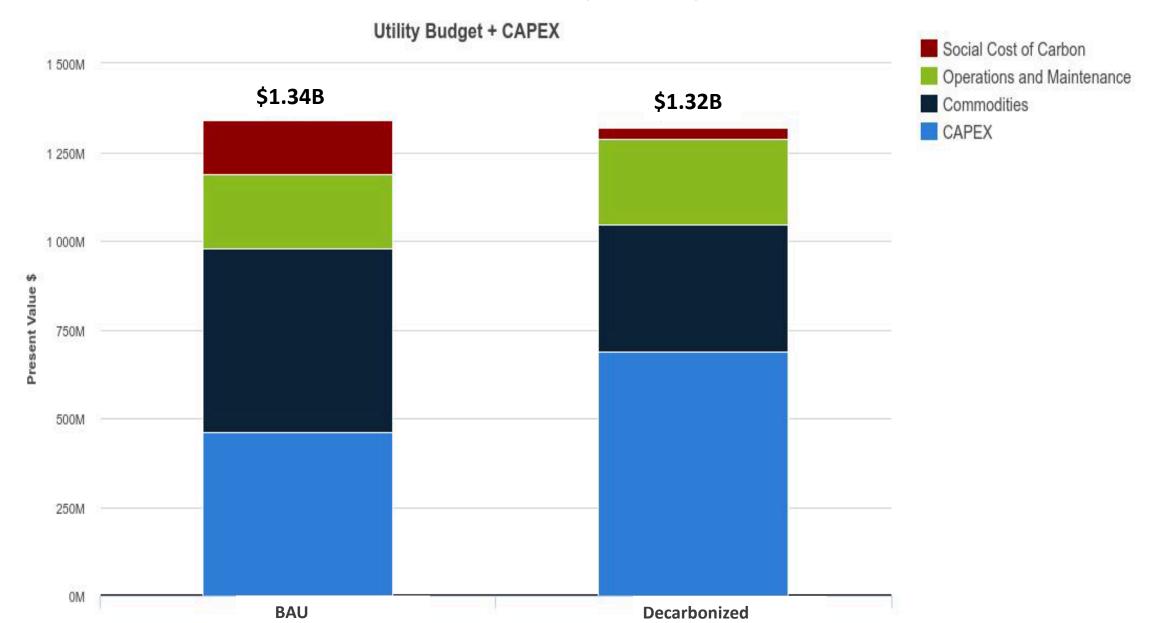
#### Getting to Zero - 2035

SOLUTIONS IN ACTION – Scopes 1 & 2 Only



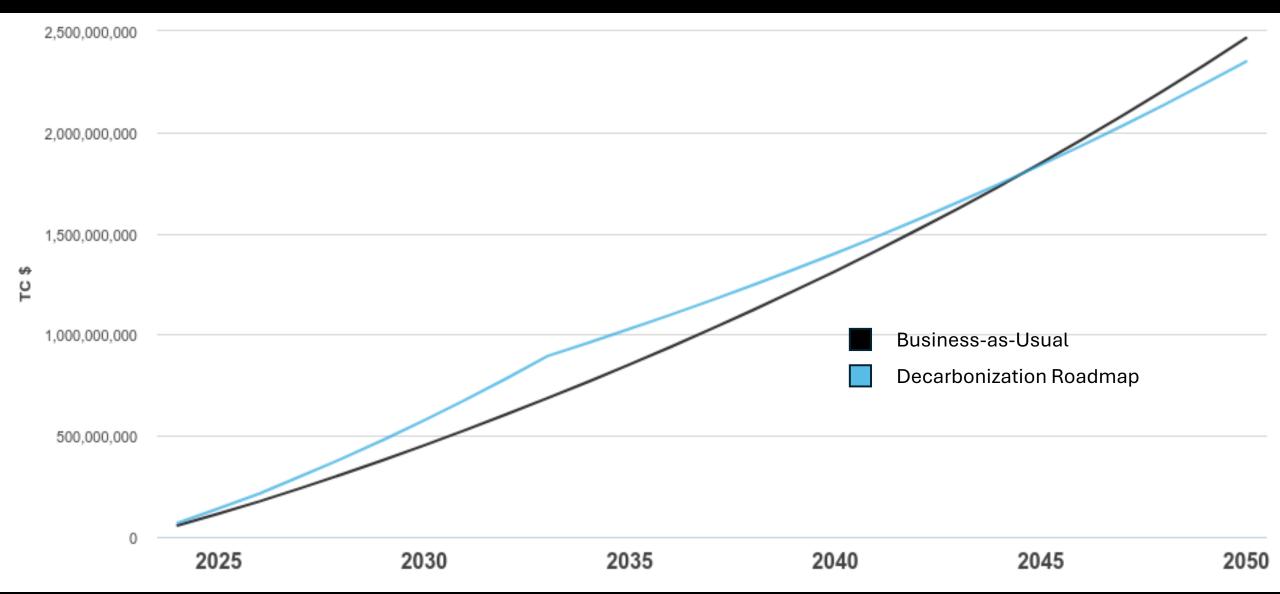
**Business Case** 

PRELIMINARY LIFE CYCLE COST ANALYSIS (2024-2050) - SCOPE 1 & 2 ONLY



#### **Cumulative Cashflow with Cost of Carbon**

**BUSINESS-AS-USUAL VS. DECARBONIZATION ROADMAP** 





#### **Key Takeaways**

1	UB must lead climate action.	Our plan is achievable, actionable, legally mandated, and what is expected of us by our peers and students.
2	The time to invest is now.	There have never been more incentives available and the gap between business-as-usual and the recommended portfolio is minimal.
3	All funds approach.	We cannot rely on the SUNY Construction Fund alone. Proactive funding strategies will be required for success.
4	A cohesive strategy is key.	Rethink CapEx to create a cohesive campus-wide infrastructure strategy and leverage P3s.
5	Fundamental to the UB mission.	It is our responsibility to build the modern campus of the future to fulfill mission-critical activities.

## WHAT

## ROLE CAN YOU PLAY?

## Three Spheres:

- 1. Your Professional Role
- 2. As a University Citizen
- 3. In Your Personal World

## Professional Examples

- 1. As a procurer of goods and services
- 2. As a recruiter or search committee member
- 3. As an office manger

### University Citizen Engagement

- 1. Socialize yourself with UB's climate action strategy and work
- 2. Be the change we seek
- 3. Reinforce and push the messaging across our "silos of excellence"
- 4. Lead!

### Personal Examples

- 1. Understand your own footprint & identify areas to advance that are strategic
- 2. Food is a big deal but probably not why you think it is!
- 3. Celebrate your victories and milestones

