

# Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions

## Practical Examples at the University of Arizona

Joe Abraham, Ph.D.  
Sustainability Coordinator  
The University of Arizona

September 23 SAEMS Carbon Footprint Seminar

# Outline

- Sustainability at the University of Arizona
- UA Greenhouse Gas Planning
- Strategic Voluntary Action

# Sustainability is a Priority

- Presidential Advisory Council
- University-wide Office of Sustainability
- Student-led Project Funding Committee



# Sustainability is a Key Campus Planning Theme

- Campus as a Living Learning Laboratory
- Climate Neutrality



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA  
COMPREHENSIVE CAMPUS PLAN UPDATE  
2009



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**ARIZONA**  
TUCSON ARIZONA

# UA Greenhouse Gas Obligations

- ACUPCC Signatory
  - Carbon-neutral goal
  - Interim reduction goals
  - Address scope 1, 2, and 3 emission sources
- Federal Reporting Rule
  - For sources >25,000 MtCO<sub>2</sub>e/yr
  - Scope 1 only
  - Does not require reductions



AMERICAN COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY  
PRESIDENTS' CLIMATE COMMITMENT

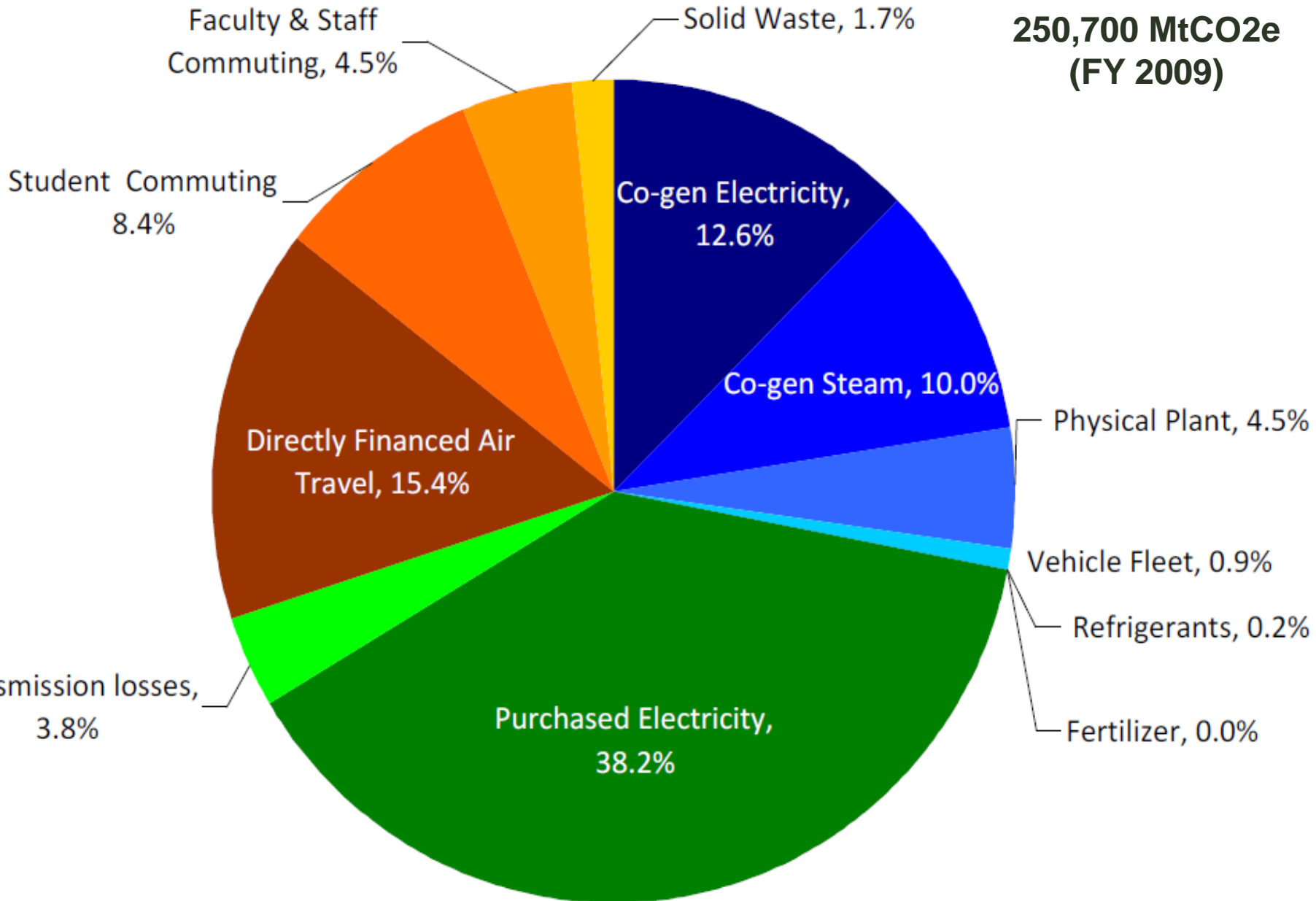


# Quick Facts

- Approx 39,000 students & 14,600 employees
- 398 acre main campus
- >175 buildings - approx 9M gross sq ft



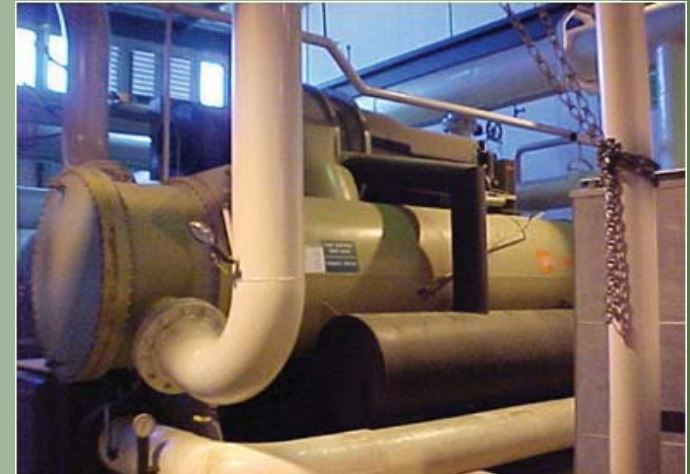
**250,700 MtCO<sub>2</sub>e  
(FY 2009)**





# Scope 1 Emission Reductions

- Co-Gen system
- E-85 vehicles
- Biodiesel shuttles





# Scope 2 Emission Reductions

- Ice Chiller Plant
- Solar PV array
- LEED Platinum Rec Center





# Scope 2 Emission Reductions

- Holiday closure
- Summer room consolidation
- Residence hall utility challenge





# Scope 3 Emission Reductions

- U-Pass
- Composting
- Carbon offsets (air travel)



# Strategic Voluntary Action

- Assess Commitment Options
  - Government, trade orgs, peers, individualized
- Keep an Open Mind – GHG Reductions are Everywhere
  - Enlist employees in ideas
- Value Actions Aligned with Brand & Marketing
  - Ex: Carbon offsets

# Strategic Voluntary Action

- Value Sustainability “Co-Benefits”
  - Environmental
  - Social
  - Economic
- Thoughtfully Estimate Reductions
  - Avoid accusations of “green washing”
- Make a Long-Term Commitment

# Thank You

[jabraham@email.arizona.edu](mailto:jabraham@email.arizona.edu)  
[sustainability.arizona.edu](http://sustainability.arizona.edu)

