

# Climate of Crisis

How Cities Can Use Climate Action to Close the Equity Gap, Drive Economic Recovery, and Improve Public Health



*October 15, 2020*  
*CM | 1.0 (live viewing only)*

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# Division Information

## Contact

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**Blog:** [sustainableplanning.net](http://sustainableplanning.net) > webinar recordings, event listings

**LinkedIn:** APA Sustainable Communities Division

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## Other Upcoming Events: Award Webinars!

- **Upcoming webinars: Award-Winning Sustainability 2020 (#1-3)**
  - **October 22, 2020, 12pm ET:** Boston Coastal Flood Resilience Design Guidelines & GeoMicroDistrict Feasibility Study
  - **November 5, 2020, 12pm ET:** EcoInnovation District Plan & Heartwood Greenway System
  - **November 12, 2020, 12pm ET:** Our Parks, Our Future Long Range Parks and Recreation Plan & Hazelwood Green Preliminary Land Development Plan
- All are eligible for 1.0 AICP CM credit (live viewing only)
- Register: [apascd.wordpress.com/webinars/](https://apascd.wordpress.com/webinars/)
- **More information about the 2021 awards coming soon! Sign up for the e-bulletin to be notified when the nomination period opens.**
  - [apascd.wordpress.com](https://apascd.wordpress.com) -> Select "Bulletins"



# Today's Event

## Climate of Crisis

How Cities Can Use Climate Action to Close the Equity Gap, Drive Economic Recovery, and Improve Public Health

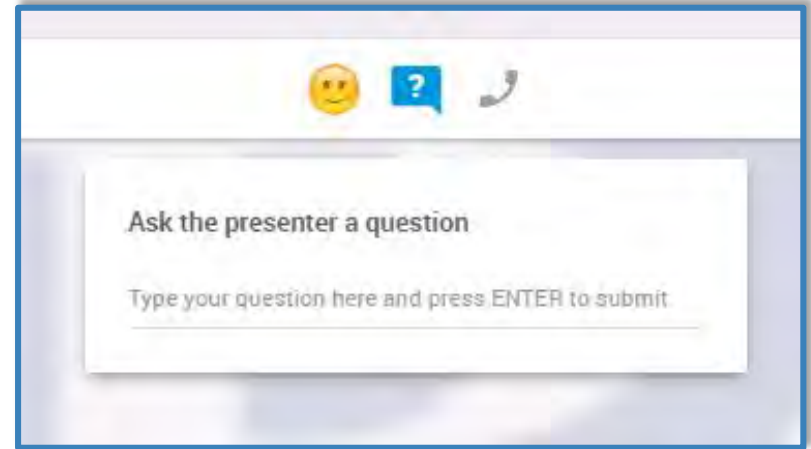
- **Dr. Cutler J. Cleveland** | Professor of Earth and Environment and Associate Director of the Boston University Institute for Sustainable Energy





# Submit Questions throughout the Session!

- ⦿ We'll have a Q&A at the end of the webinar, but please feel free to send your questions any time!
- ⦿ You can use the chat box or the Q&A tool





# Q&A / Contact Information

**Dr. Cutler J. Cleveland** | Professor of Earth and Environment and Associate Director of the Boston University Institute for Sustainable Energy

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- 🕒 Link to report: [bu.edu/ise/research/covid-climate-cities/](https://bu.edu/ise/research/covid-climate-cities/)

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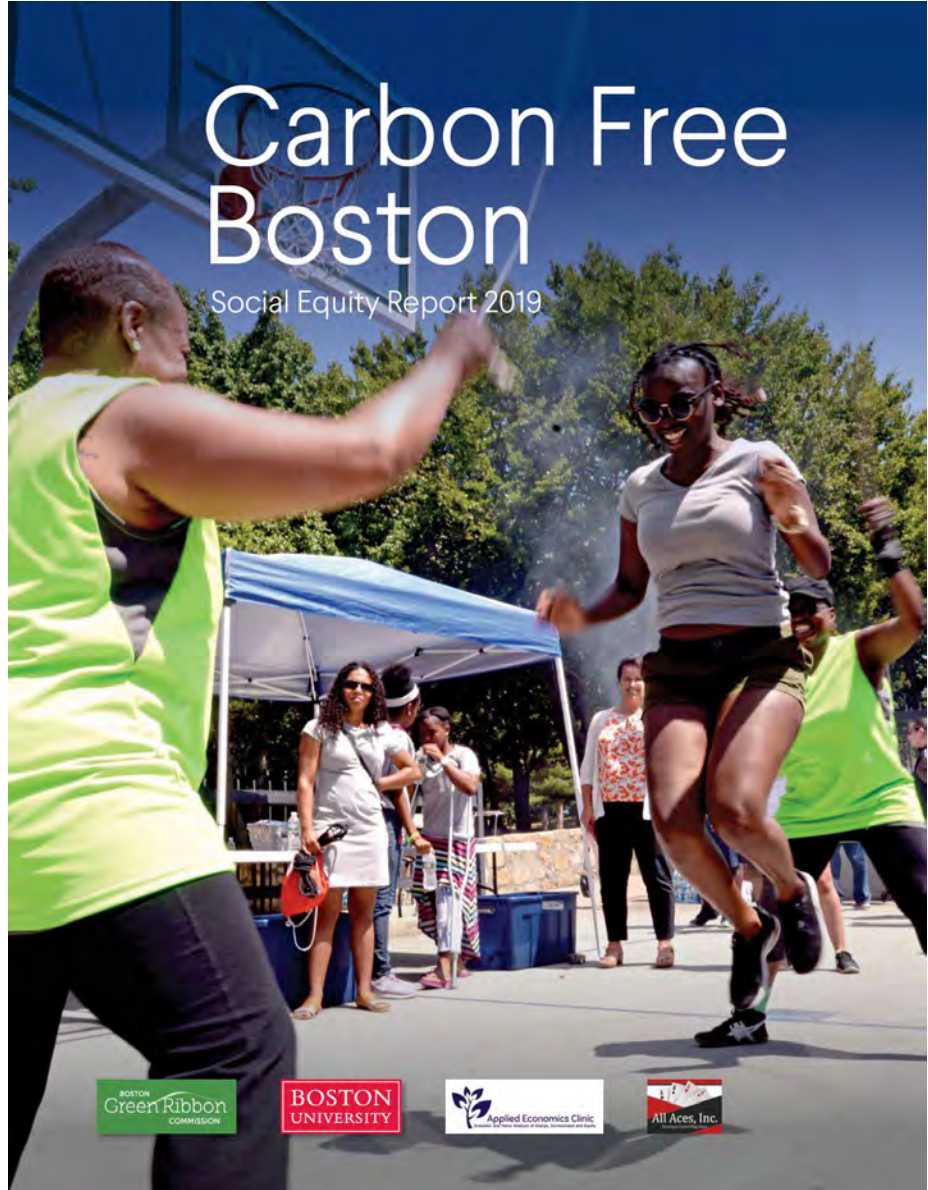
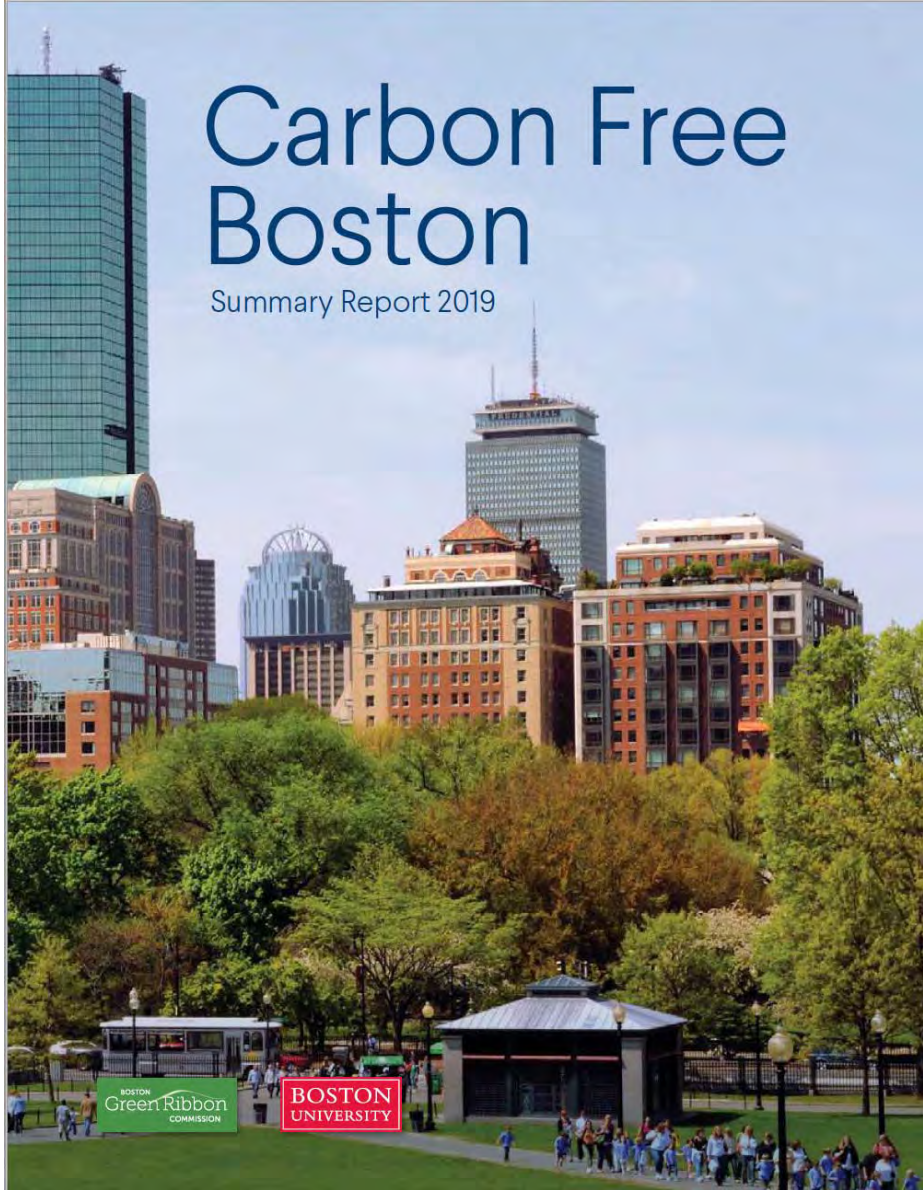
# Climate of Crisis:

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Drive Economic Recovery, and Improve Public Health

Cutler J. Cleveland  
Department of Earth and Environment  
Institute for Sustainable Energy  
Boston University

American Planning Association  
October 15, 2020





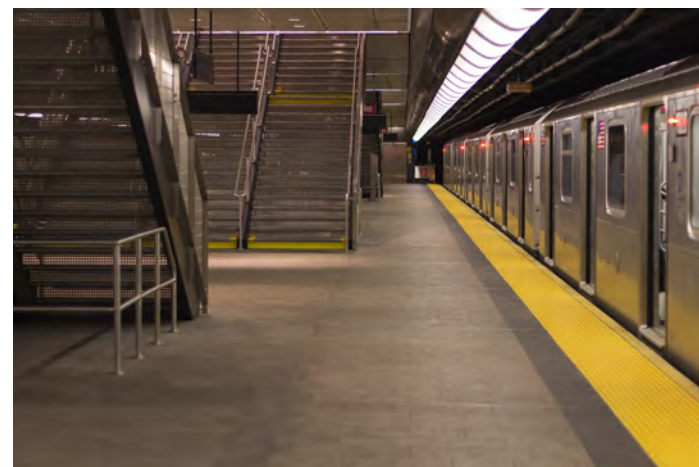
# 2020: The Year of Living Dangerously



200,000 and counting



Historic unemployment



Ridership evaporates



Social unrest



~~Wild~~ Climate fires



Appreciation for safe, slow streets & open space



Boston University Institute for Sustainable Energy



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# Commonalities Between COVID-19 and Climate Change

Existential threat

Threat multiplier

Delay raises future costs

Large economic losses

Large health impacts

Inequity

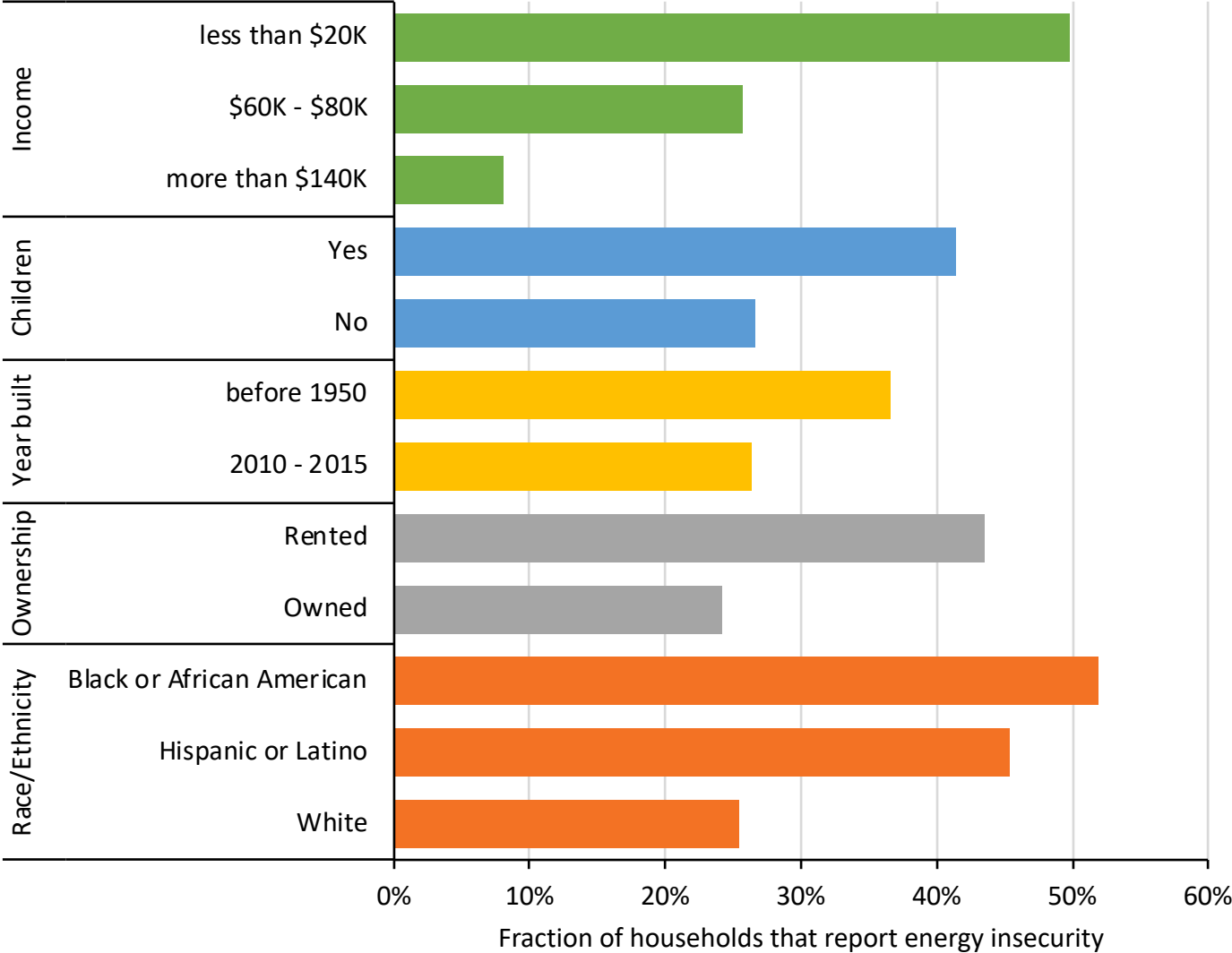


New Jersey coast in Hurricane Sandy



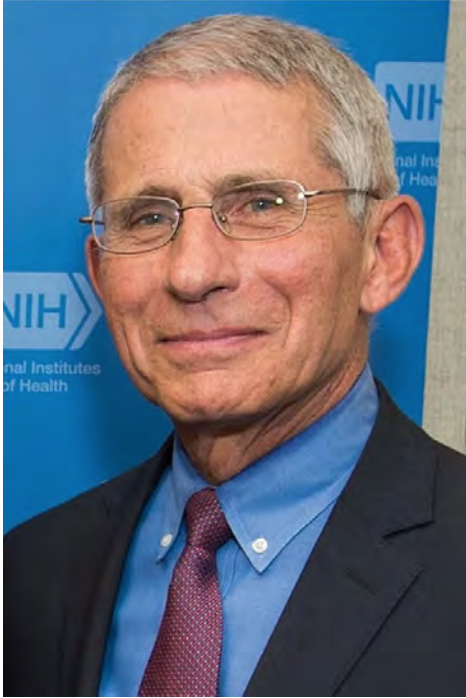
Drive-up testing center in Denver

# Lead With Equity



Source: Cleveland, et al. 2019. Carbon Free Boston: Social Equity Report

# Science in Decision-Making



Dr. Anthony Fauci

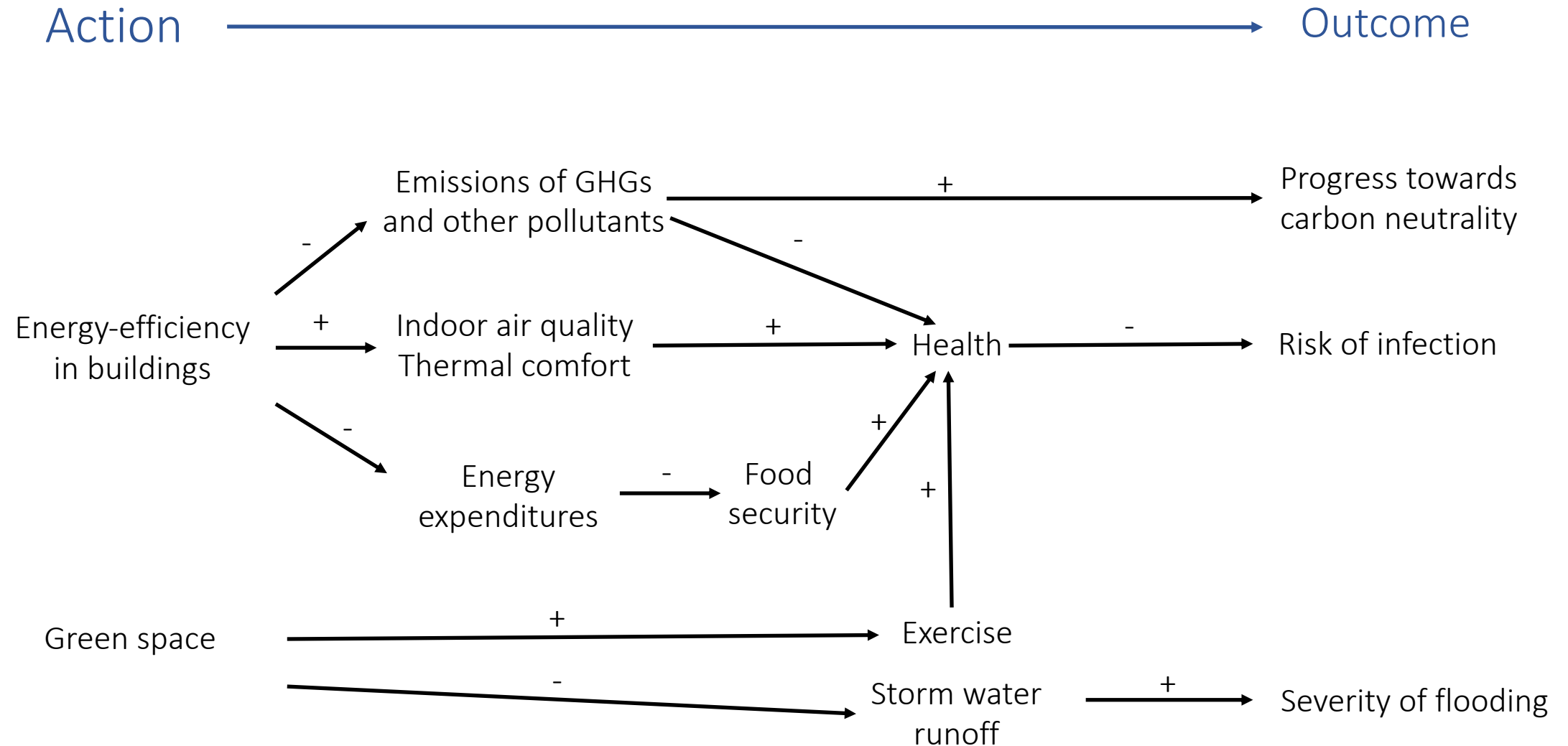
“We’re in the middle of a catastrophic outbreak and we really do need to be guided by scientific principles.”



Gina McCarthy

“...they [EPA] have fundamentally tried to undermine science...many scientists have left federal service because they have been pigeonholed and harassed.”

# Systems Thinking



# Spectrum of Community Engagement

Stance towards community	<b>IGNORE</b>	<b>INFORM</b>	<b>CONSULT</b>	<b>INVOLVE</b>	<b>COLLABORATE</b>	<b>DEFER TO</b>
Impact	<i>Marginalization</i>	<i>Placation</i>	<i>Tokenization</i>	<i>Voice</i>	<i>Delegated Power</i>	<i>Community Ownership</i>



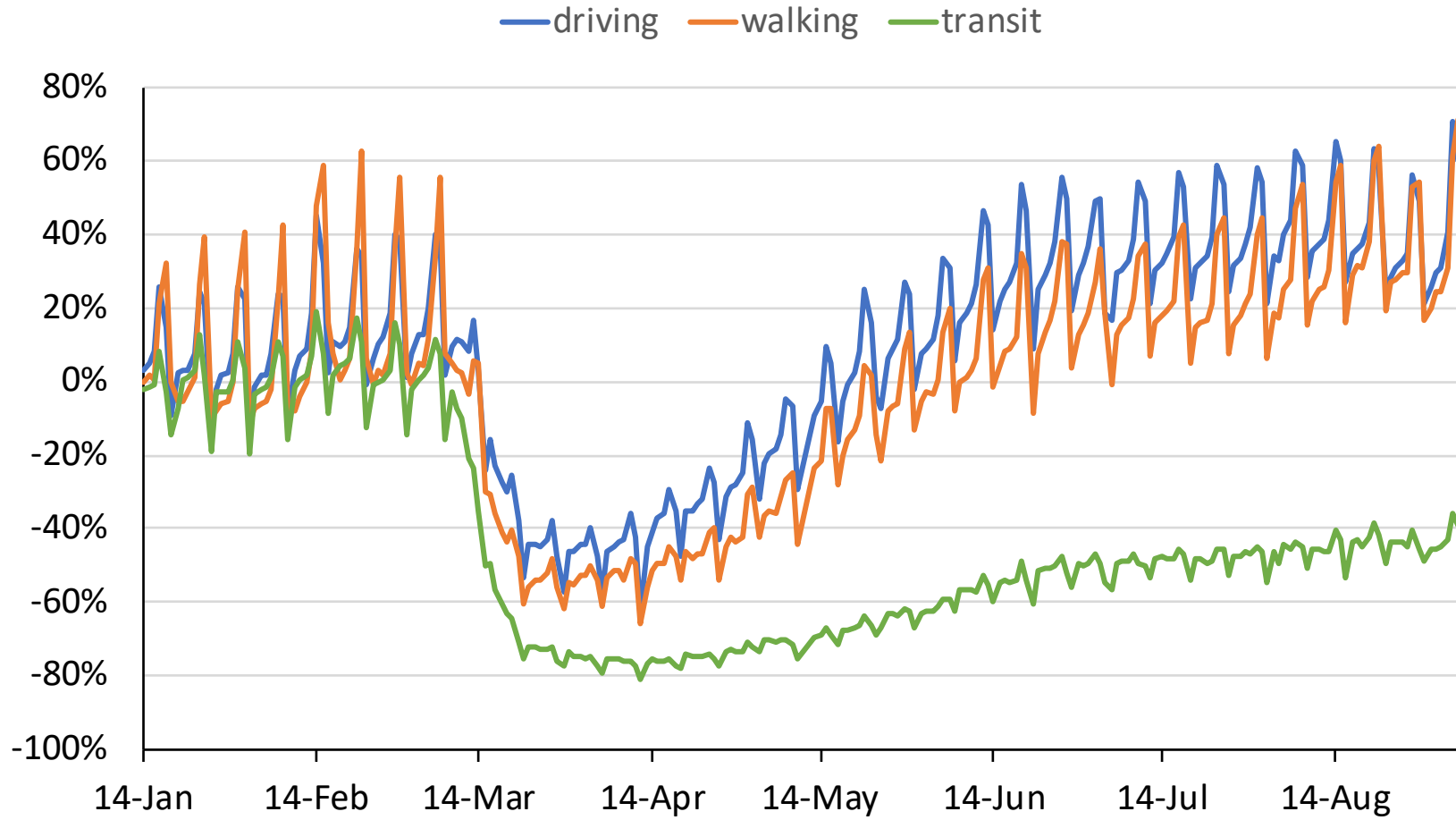
# What Cities Can Do

# Maintain Clean Energy Momentum

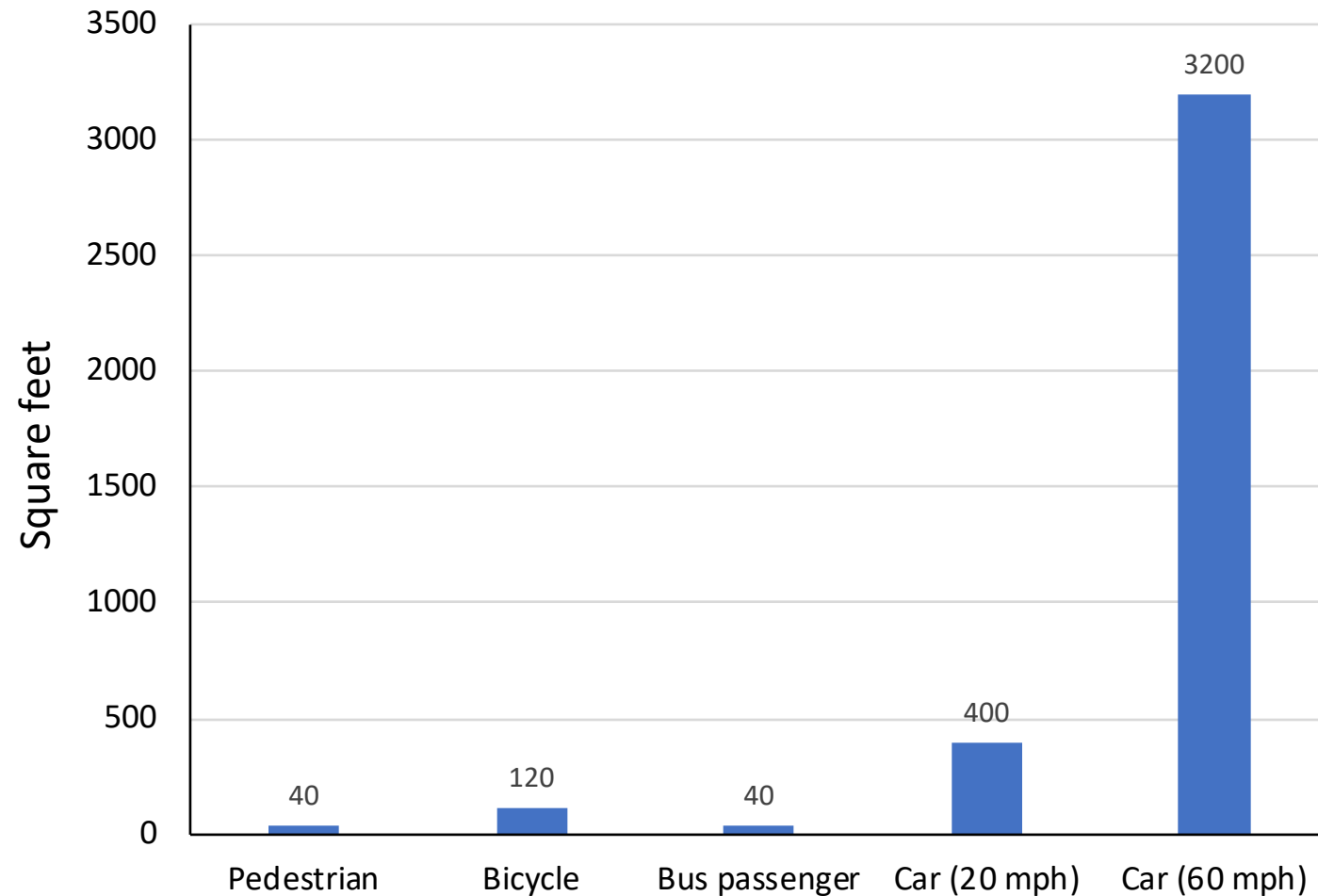


Rooftop solar in Dorchester, MA

# Rejuvenate Public Transit



# Make Permanent and Expand Safe and Slow Streets and Active Transport



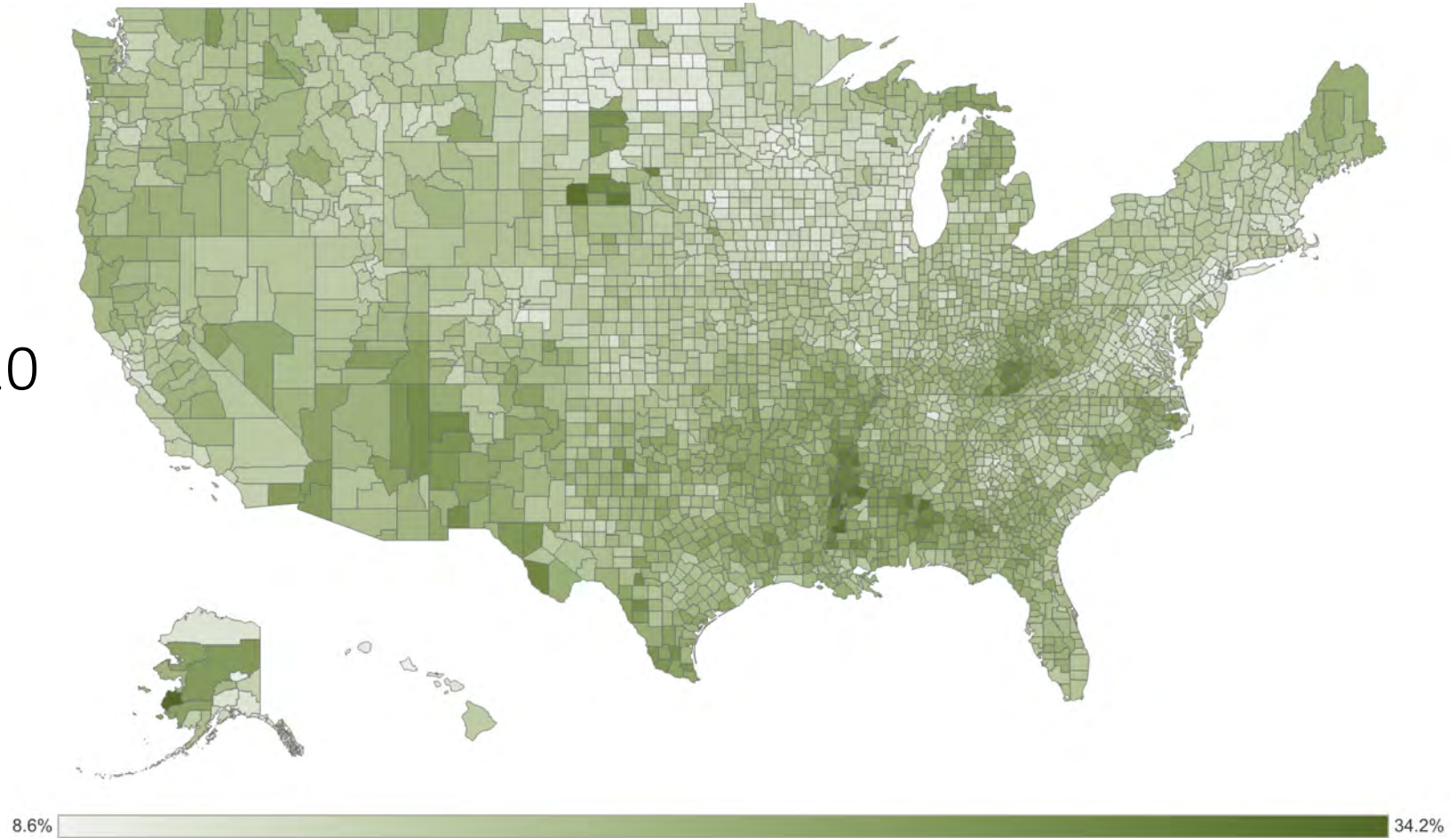
# Stay on the Zero Waste Path



Plastic pollution in waters near Hong Kong

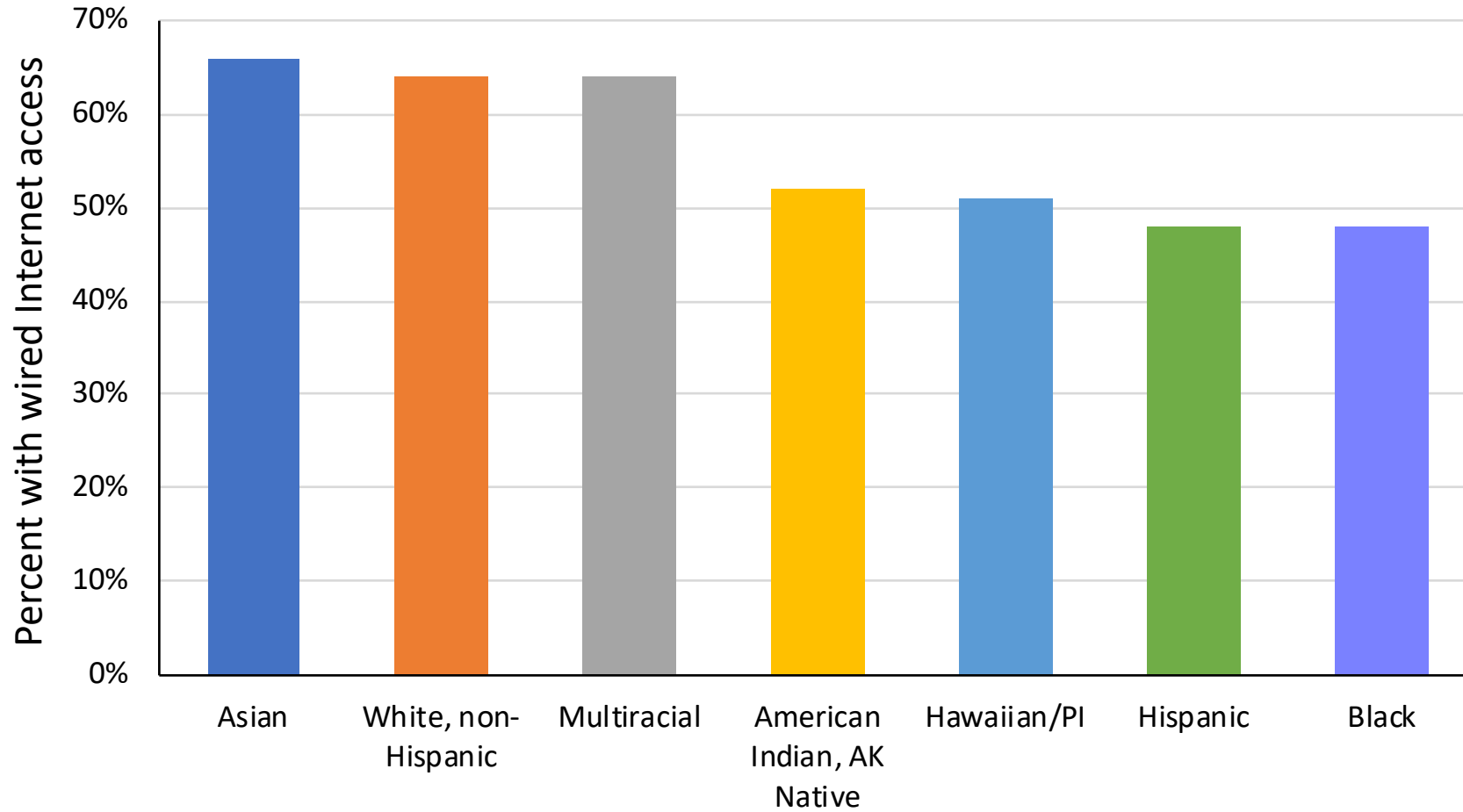
# Eliminate Food Deserts and Food Swamps

Projected Food Insecurity in 2020



Source: Feeding America, The Impact of Coronavirus on Food Insecurity, June 3, 2020 Update

# Eliminate Digital Divide

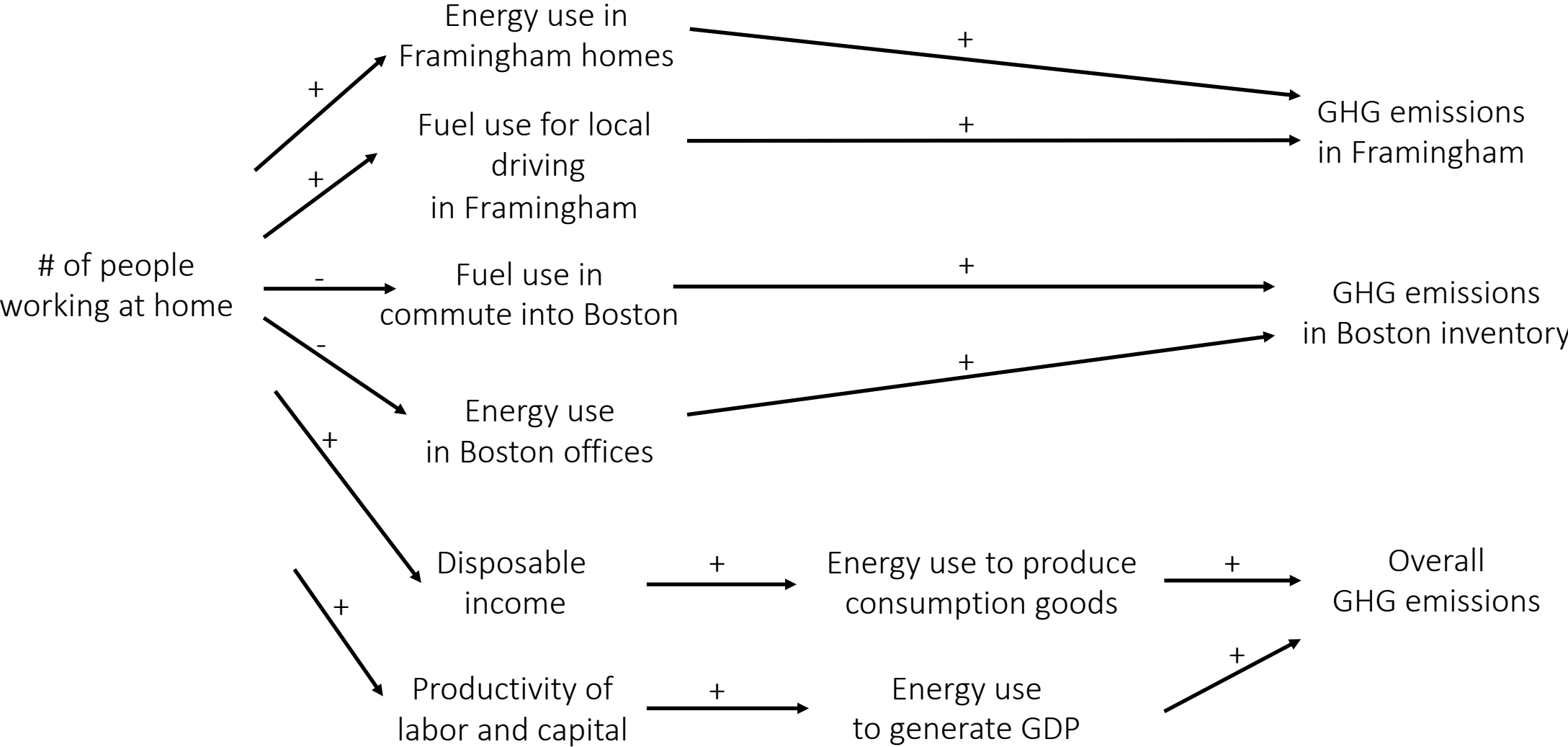


# Prepare for More Telework

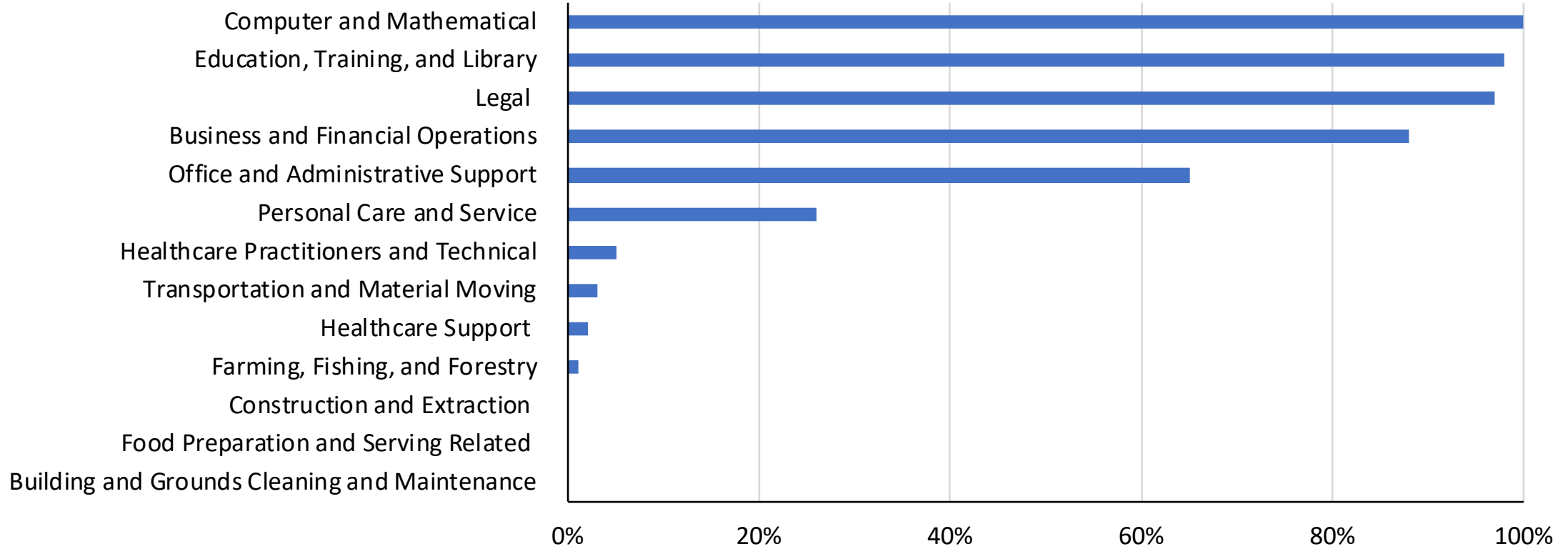




# Energy and Climate Impacts of Telework are Complicated



# Who Can Telework?



# Debunk Myths About Density

## The New York Times

### *Density Is New York City's Big 'Enemy' in the Coronavirus Fight*

New York is more crowded than any large city in the country. That helps explain why it is the U.S. epicenter of the outbreak.



**Andrew Cuomo**  @NYGovCuomo · Mar 22

This is not life as usual.

There is a density level in NYC that is destructive.

## Los Angeles Times

Op-Ed: Angelenos like their single-family sprawl. The coronavirus proves them right

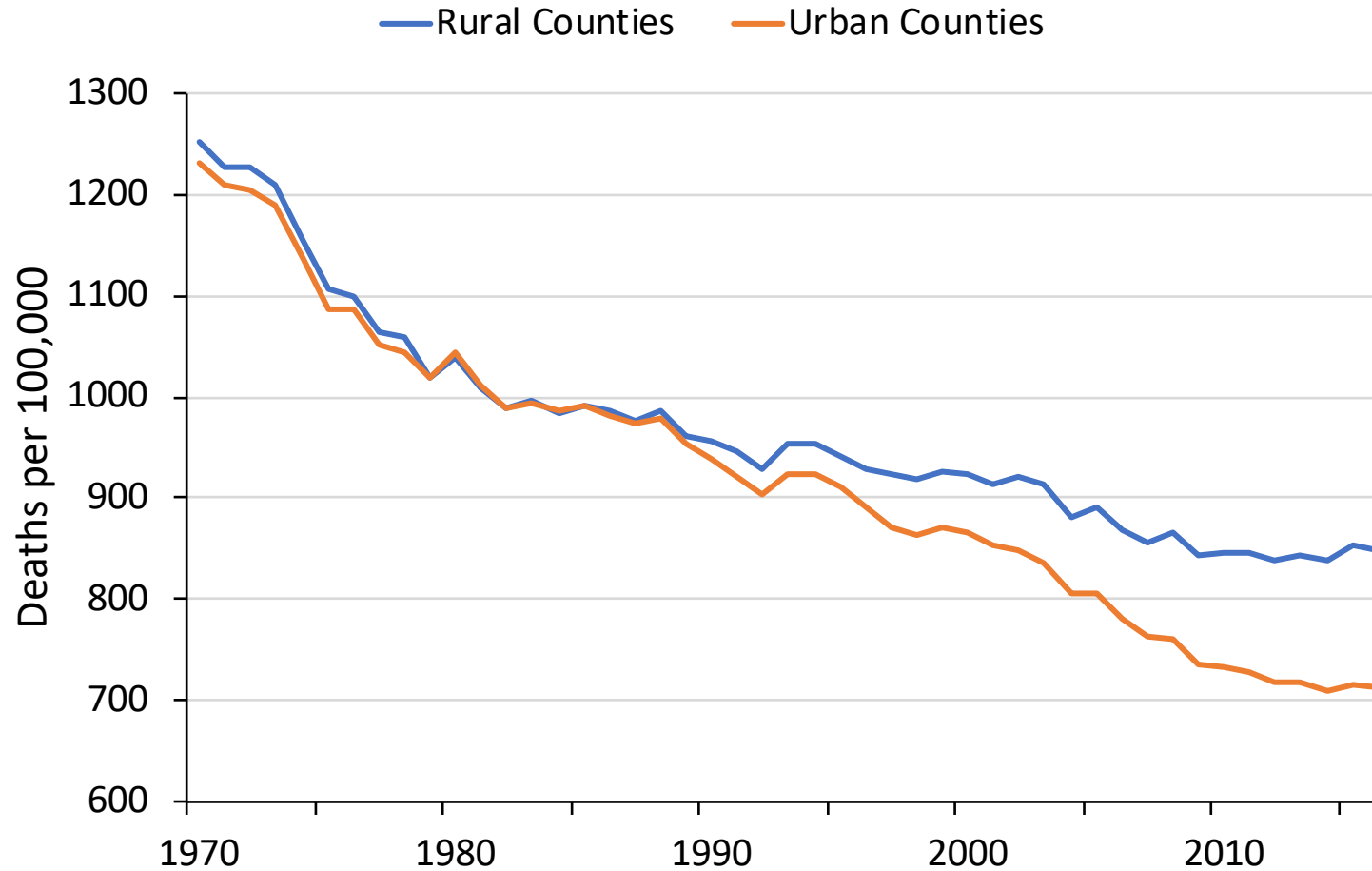
# From Urban Health Penalty ...



Pollution in Widnes, England in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century

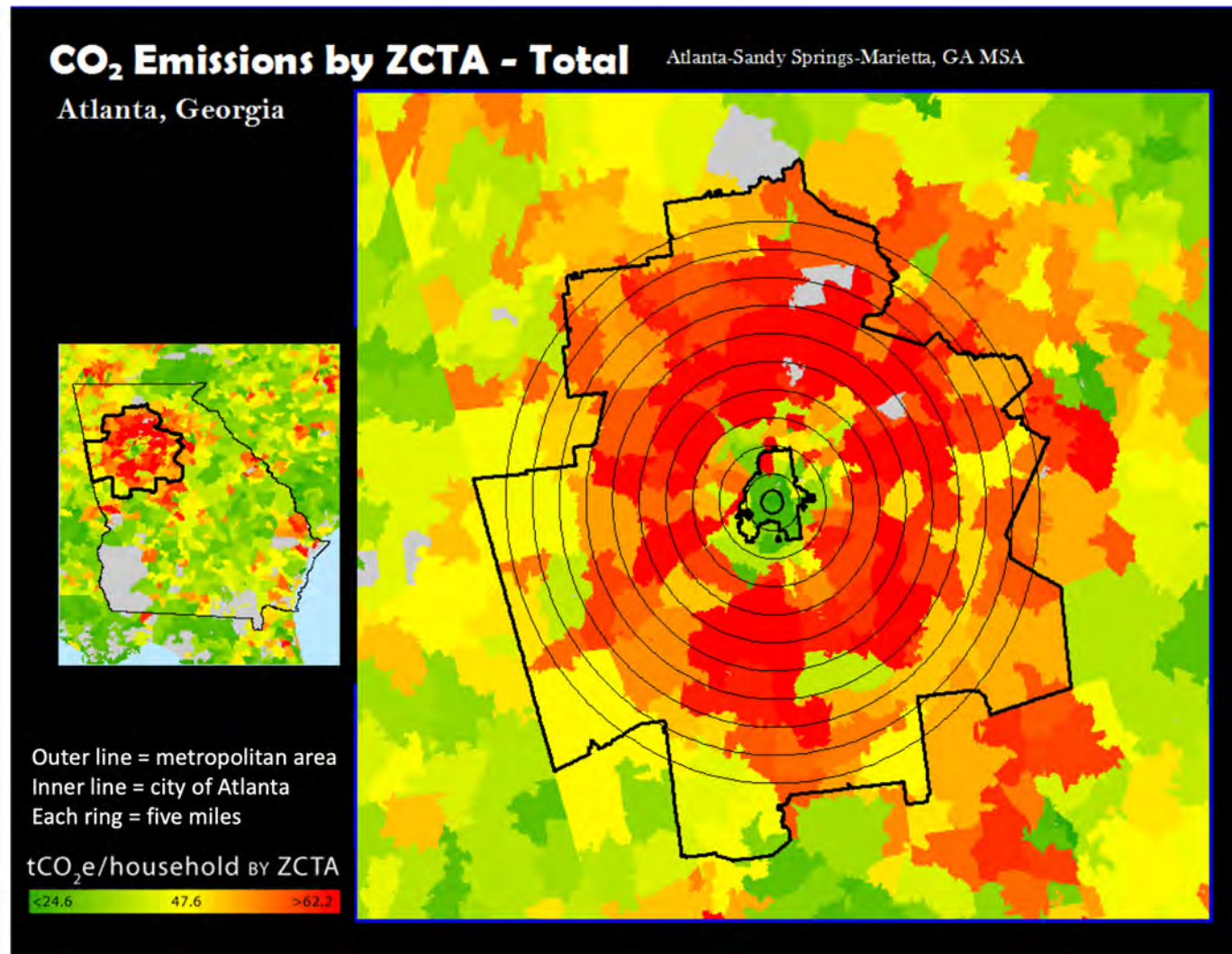
*Source:* Hardie, D. W. F., *A History of the Chemical Industry in Widnes*, Imperial Chemical Industries Limited, 1950 via Wikimedia Commons.

# ... to Urban Health Benefit



Source: Cosby AG, McDoom-Echebiri MM, James W, Khandekar H, Brown W, Hanna HL. Growth and persistence of place-based mortality in the United States: the rural mortality penalty. *Am J Public Health.* 2019; 109:155–162.

# GHG Benefit of Density



Source: Jones, Christopher, and Daniel M. Kammen. 2014. "Spatial Distribution of U.S. Household Carbon Footprints Reveals Suburbanization Undermines Greenhouse Gas Benefits of Urban Population Density." *Environmental Science & Technology* 48 (2): 895–902



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