

6 Climate Change

The Climate Change Element identifies the sources of GHGs in the city and seeks to lay out specific strategies for mitigating and adapting to climate change impacts. It contains an inventory of greenhouse gas emissions from 2010 and 2015, a forecast of GHG emissions under several future scenarios and a suite of goals, policies, and actions to reduce GHG emissions. The Element also outlines expected climate-related changes to natural hazards throughout the life of the General Plan, and climate adaptation strategies to mitigate these changes. Adaptation to climate change impacts include addressing increasing risk of extreme heat days, extreme precipitation events and droughts, flooding, wildfires, and an increasing average temperature over the coming decades. In alignment with the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP), this Element discusses the city's vulnerabilities to climate hazards and what potential actions can be taken to mitigate impacts when these events occur.

When successfully implemented, the goals, policies, and action in the Climate Change Element will result in four benefits for the City.

- 1. A Resilient Economy:** Transitioning to clean, efficient, and renewable energy sources, making the economy more resilient to unpredictable events and create local clean energy jobs.
- 2. Regional Leadership in Sustainability:** Encouraging effective collaboration throughout the community to promote collective change.
- 3. Environmental Justice:** Protecting those most vulnerable against the impacts of climate change by directing resources and efforts effectively.
- 4. Legal Compliance:** California has ambitious mandates and standards for addressing climate change and greenhouse gas emissions that must be addressed in the City's General Plan, in order to ensure that the General Plan can be used as an effective guide for decision-making.

Figure 6-1 2010 Community GHG Emissions Inventory by Source

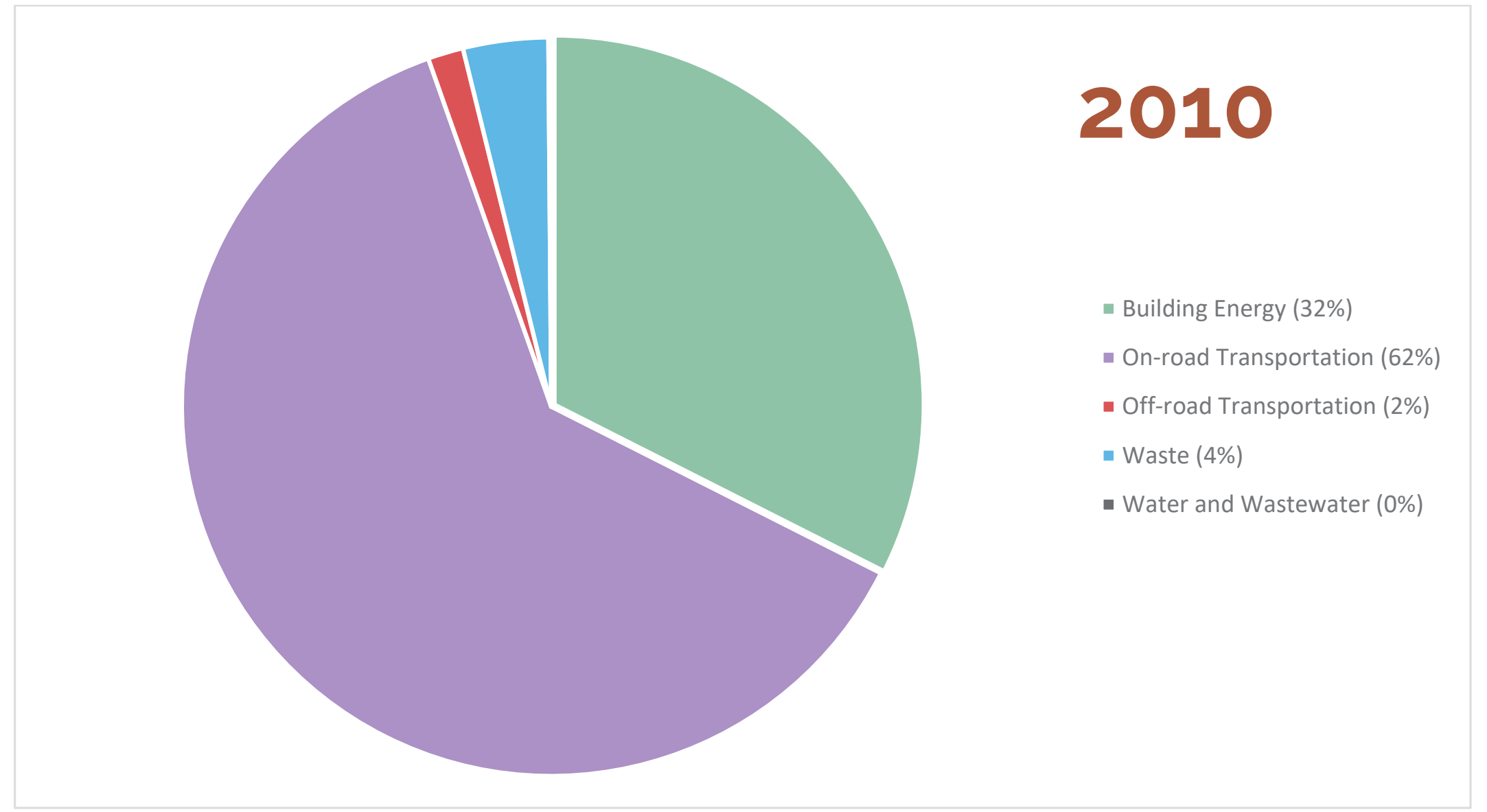


Figure 6-3 2010 and 2015 GHG Inventory Comparison

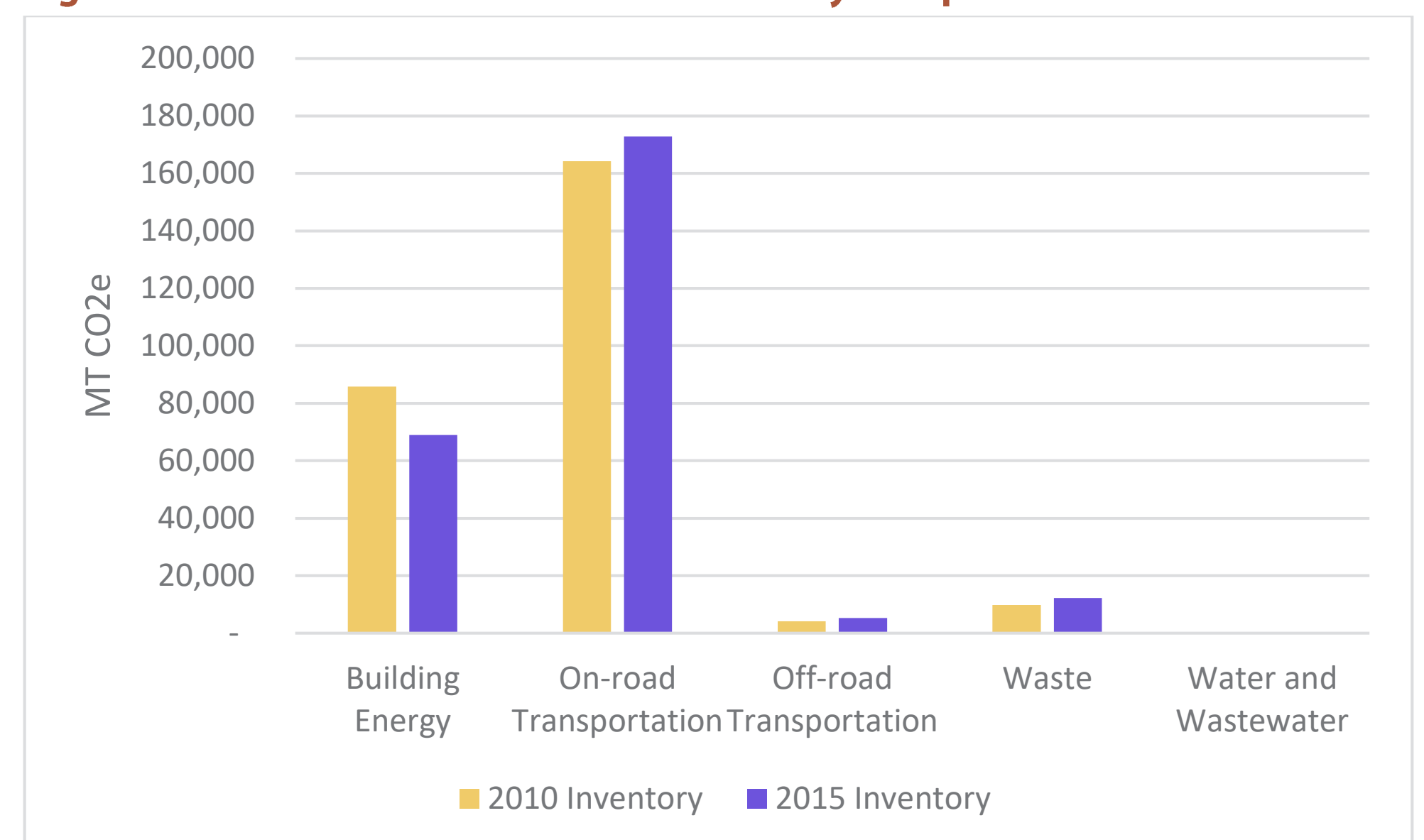


Figure 6-2 2015 Community GHG Emissions Inventory by Source

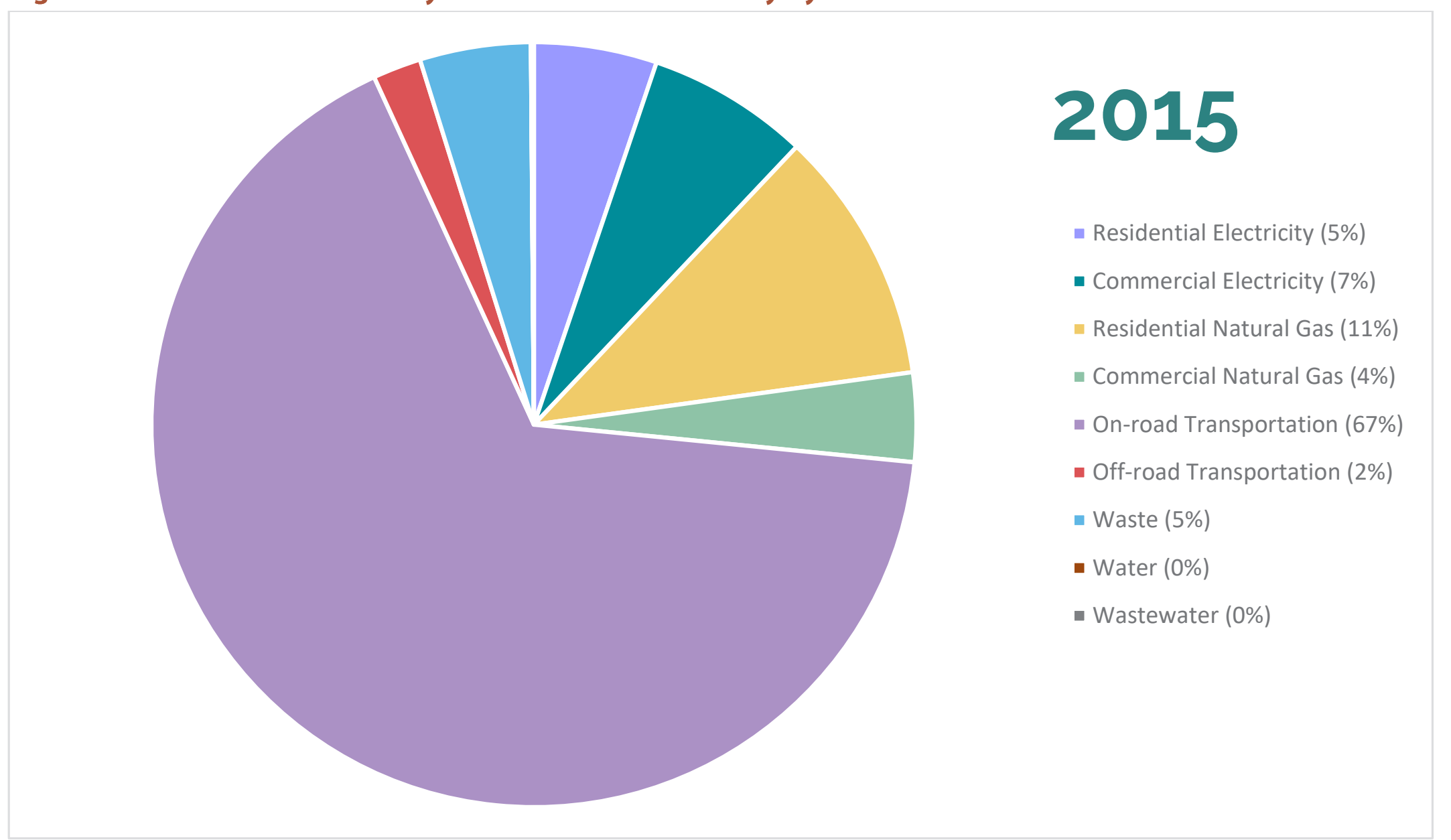


Figure 6-4 Demographics Projections for Rohnert Park (2015-2045)

