

Energy Aggregation & SOPEC

Budget & Finance Committee Presentation

10.6.25



Agenda

1. Context – Energy & Climate
2. What is Energy Aggregation?
3. Vision for Mercantile Aggregation
4. What is SOPEC Membership?

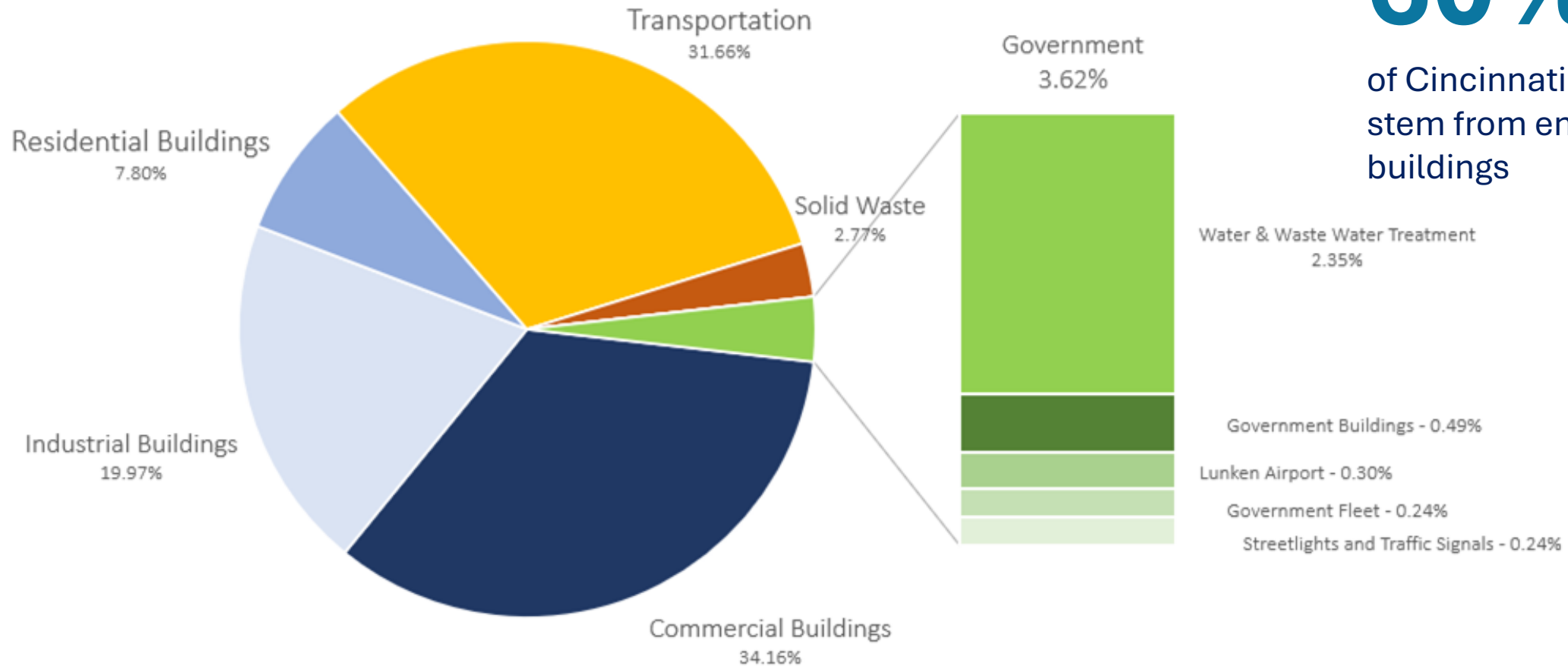


The 2023 Green Cincinnati Plan establishes a commitment and pathway to:

- **50%** emissions reduction by 2030 and
- **100%** carbon neutrality by 2050



Cincinnati's Carbon Profile



60%

of Cincinnati's emissions
stem from energy use in
buildings

What is Energy Aggregation?

- Local governments are permitted by Ohio law to “aggregate” their residents into buying groups to obtain better utility rates from suppliers
- There are two types of programs:
 - Opt-in
 - Opt-out
- 390 electricity and gas aggregation programs are registered with the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
- Programs serve residential and small business customers who use less than 700,000 kWh/yr

Electricity Aggregation Program

(Community Choice Aggregation)



Supply

Sources of electricity

- Dynegy is responsible for electricity generation
- Highland County Solar Array contributes to program

Delivery

Wires and poles

- Duke Transmission & Distribution
- Duke Billing

Customer

- 75,000 households
- 100% Renewable Energy
- Average 14.4% less than default rate over last 6 years



Electricity Aggregation in Cincinnati

- Cincinnati voters approved an energy aggregation program in 2011
- Program serves approximately 75K households
- Dynegy holds the City's Electric Aggregation Program contract through 2030 to provide renewable energy to households.
- The program has delivered 14.4% savings to residential and small business participants since 2019

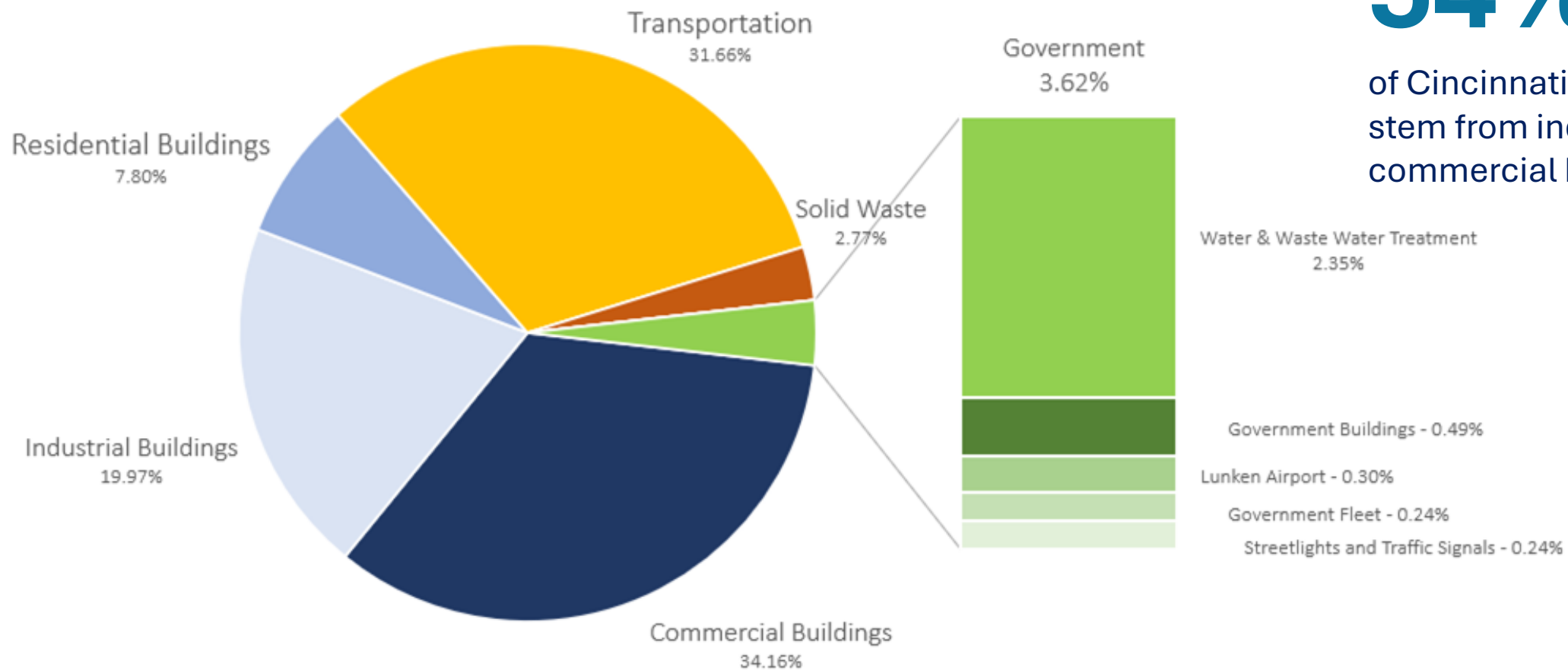
Green Energy for the City

- Located in Highland County
- Operational in 2024
- 35 MW supports City Operations and is delivering net savings
- 65 MW supports the City's electric aggregation program and is being blended in with traditional power





Cincinnati's Carbon Profile



54%

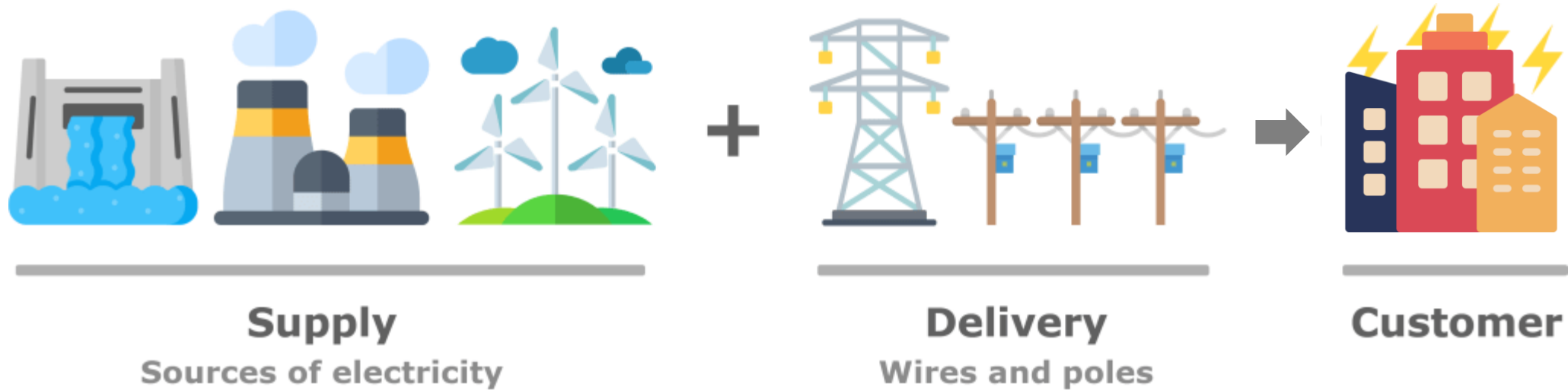
of Cincinnati's emissions stem from industrial and commercial buildings



Mercantile Aggregation Concept

- Open an Aggregation Program to serve medium and large commercial and industrial users that are too large for the Residential Aggregation Program
- Serve energy users of greater than 700,000 kilowatt-hours (kWh) per year.
- Expand the available options for businesses to buy clean energy
- Decarbonize the Cincinnati's energy grid

Mercantile/Commercial Aggregation Concept



- Local Renewable Energy
- Duke Transmission & Distribution
- Duke Billing
- Opt-in
- Mercantile Customers above 700,000 kWh/yr

An aerial photograph of a commercial building with a large array of solar panels on its roof. The building is surrounded by a parking lot with several cars parked. A road is visible at the top of the image.

Mercantile Aggregation Concept

- Likely Program Features:
 - Opt-in program; no obligation for businesses to participate
 - Provide commercial or mercantile users of greater than 700,000 kilowatt-hours (kWh) per year with access to Green Energy at competitive prices
 - Utilize local and regional sources of renewable energy
 - Competitive pricing

The background image shows a close-up of hands pointing at a document with a bar chart. The chart has several blue bars of varying heights. The image is slightly blurred and has a warm, orange-toned overlay.

Sustainable Ohio Public Energy Council (SOPEC)

- A Council of governments that manages aggregation programs for over 40 member governments
- Current members include: Cities of Cleveland, Dayton, Athens, and Chillicothe
- A partner to help the City reach its ambitious carbon emissions reduction goals in a new building sector



SOPEC Membership

Membership Benefits

- Join 40 other Ohio cities who benefit from the collective buying options provided
- SOPEC has a mission to deliver renewable energy resources to aggregation programs
- Membership provides options for the City to consider for mercantile aggregation and does not require partnership or limit choice
- Provides access to green energy options at competitive prices for mercantile customers **who opt in**

Becoming a member of SOPEC...

- Is NOT a contract to procure energy from SOPEC
- Does NOT
 - Obligate the City to purchase energy from SOPEC
 - Prohibit the City from procuring energy from other sources
 - Affect the current Residential Energy Aggregation Program or pricing
 - Conflict with contracts currently held for energy aggregation
- **Does** offer the City a new competitive option for bringing new local renewable energy to the market

Energy demand and prices on the rise


Cincinnati.com | The Enquirer

Cross country runner finds human remains in woods near La Salle High Sch

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BUSINESS

Duke Energy bills jump in Southwest Ohio. And more increases are on the way

 **Alexander Coolidge**
Cincinnati Enquirer

Sept. 22, 2025 | Updated Sept. 23, 2025, 8:05 a.m. ET


Advertisement



As the world is in the midst of an ongoing energy crisis, people are looking for ways to reduce electricity consumption

Reduce your electricity bill with these 5 easy changes

As the world is in the midst of an ongoing energy crisis, people are looking for ways to reduce electricity



"We can't figure out why it has increased so much."
Kevin Stanley, of Broadway East, Baltimore

"No way I could continue to pay that kind of bill."
Nicole Pastore, of Guilford, Baltimore

"It's killing my pockets."
Antoinette Robinson, of Greenmount East, Baltimore


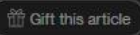
AI Data Centers Are Sending Power Bills Soaring

Wholesale electricity costs as much as 267% more than it did five years ago in areas near data centers. That's being passed on to customers.

By Josh Saul, Leonardo Nicoletti, Demetrios Pogkas, Dina Bass and Naureen Malik
for **Bloomberg Technology** | The Big Take

Photography by Leonardo Nicoletti

September 29, 2025



Questions

