Caltrain Sustainability Update:
FY2026 Report & Strategic Sustainability Plan

JPB TOPS Committee
November 18, 2026



Agenda

- Caltrain Sustainability Report FY2023-FY2025
- Recent Sustainability Initiatives
- Sustainability Program Look-Ahead



Sustainability at Caltrain

- Sustainability – integral to Caltrain's mission and identified as a core value
- Caltrain is a founding signatory of APTA's Sustainability Commitment (2010)
  - Current "Silver Sustainability Commitment" status recognition
- Previously reported in 2023 (FY21-FY22)
- Current report covers FY23-25
  - First glimpse of electrification benefits – Caltrain's single most impactful sustainability action ever



SIGNATORY AMERICAN PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION ASSOCIATION
SUSTAINABILITY COMMITMENT
SILVER

Caltrain Sustainability Dashboard

- Transitioning from a static public report to a dynamic, data-driven interactive public dashboard website
- Dashboard continues to capture and report same info (and more)







Sustainability Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) FY23 v. FY25

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

- Net: ↓169%
- Vehicle Revenue Miles: ↑>13%

Criteria Air Pollutants:

- Generated ↓72%
- Net:↓87%

Fleet Energy Use

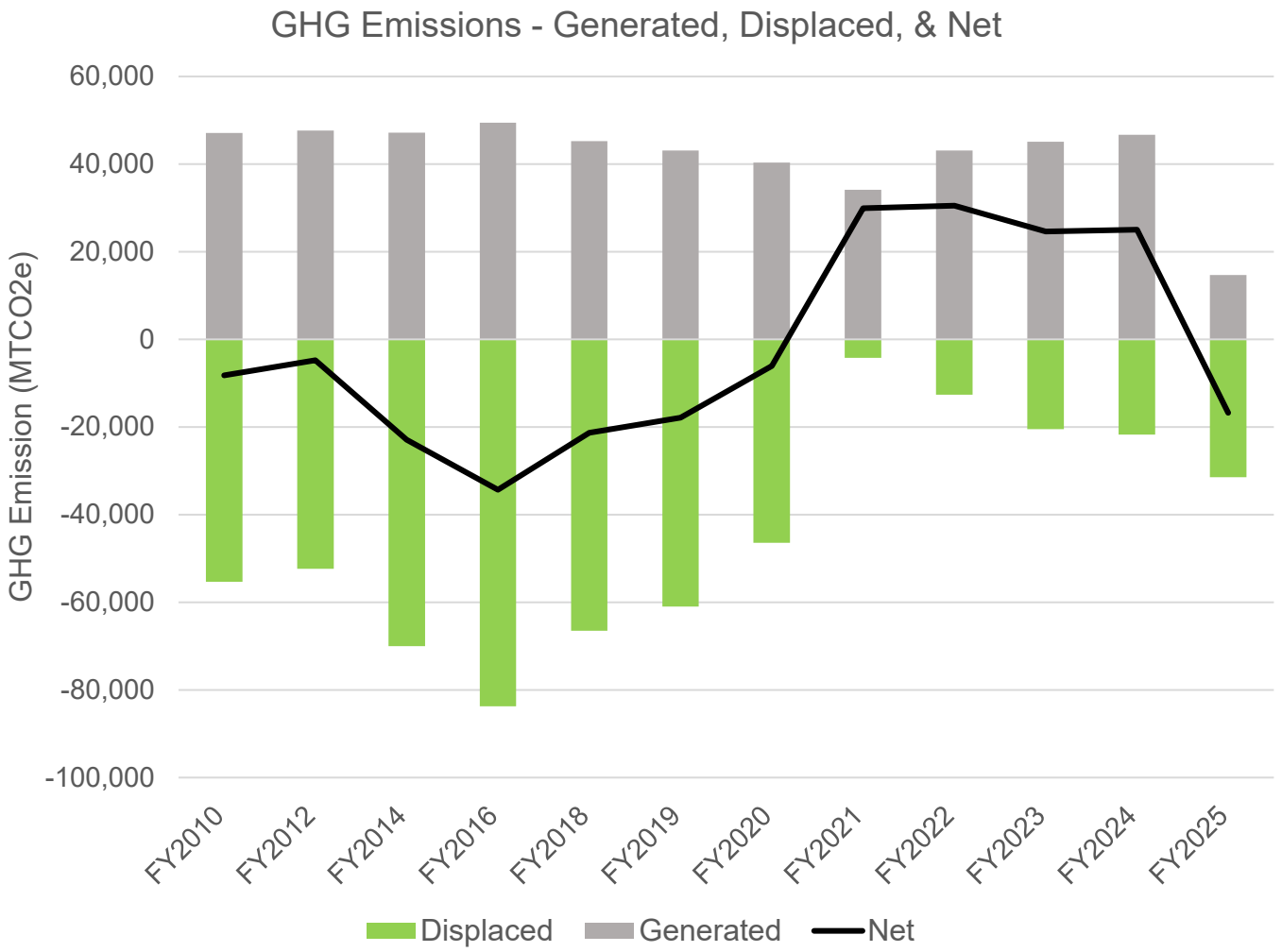
- Diesel: ↓73%
- Total Energy: ↓42%

Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Overview



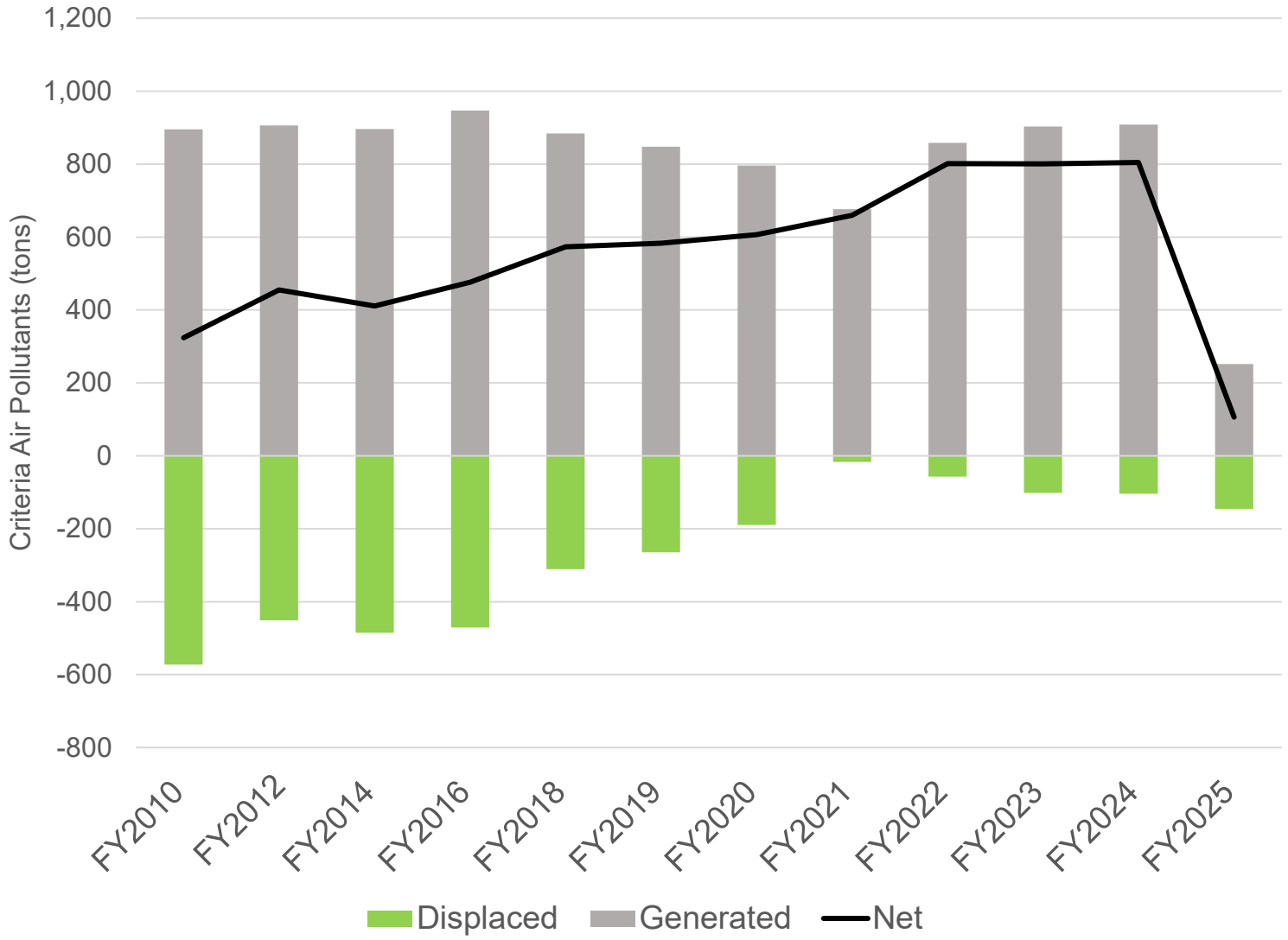
- Generating lowest GHGs in program history
  - Switch from diesel to renewable electricity on the mainline
  - 68% decrease between FY23 & 25
- Providing highest levels of service ever
- Revenue fleet responsible for majority of total emissions
  - FY23: ~99%
  - FY25: ~81%

Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions



- Generated GHGs ↓~71% from FY16 (program highwater mark)
  - ↓~68% for reporting period
- Displaced emissions (associated w/ avoided customer trips) ↑~54%
- Lowest net emissions since FY19

Criteria Air Pollutants



- Lowest ever in Caltrain's history
- Reporting period: FY23 v FY25
  - Generated: ↓~71%
  - Displaced: ↓~43%
  - Net: ↓ **~87%**
- In line with 2024 UC Berkeley study findings

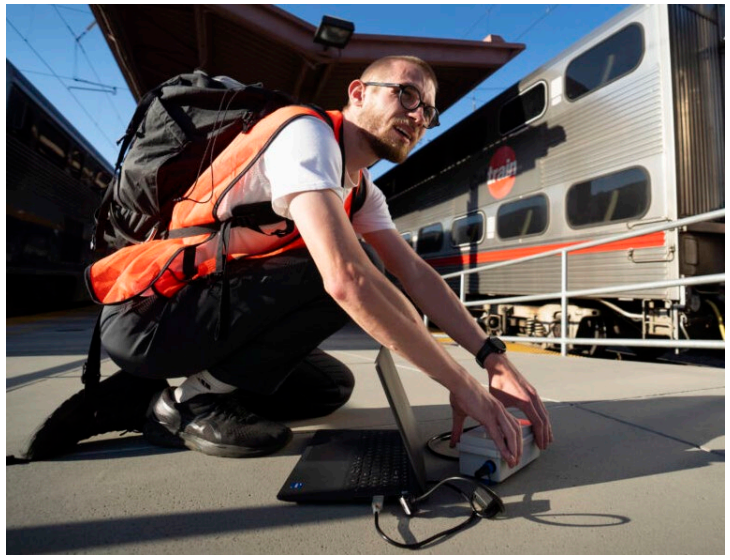
UC Berkeley Air Study

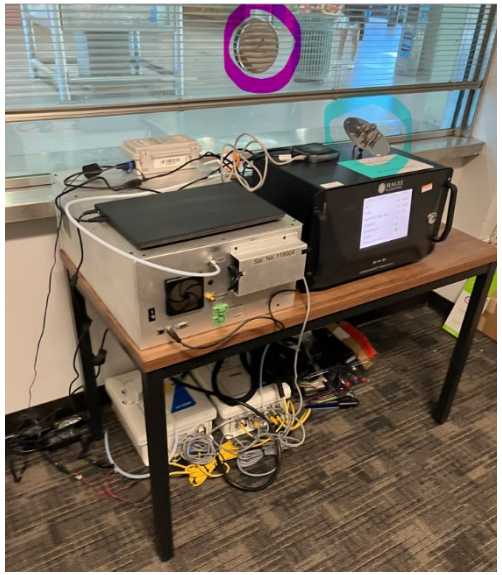
Study

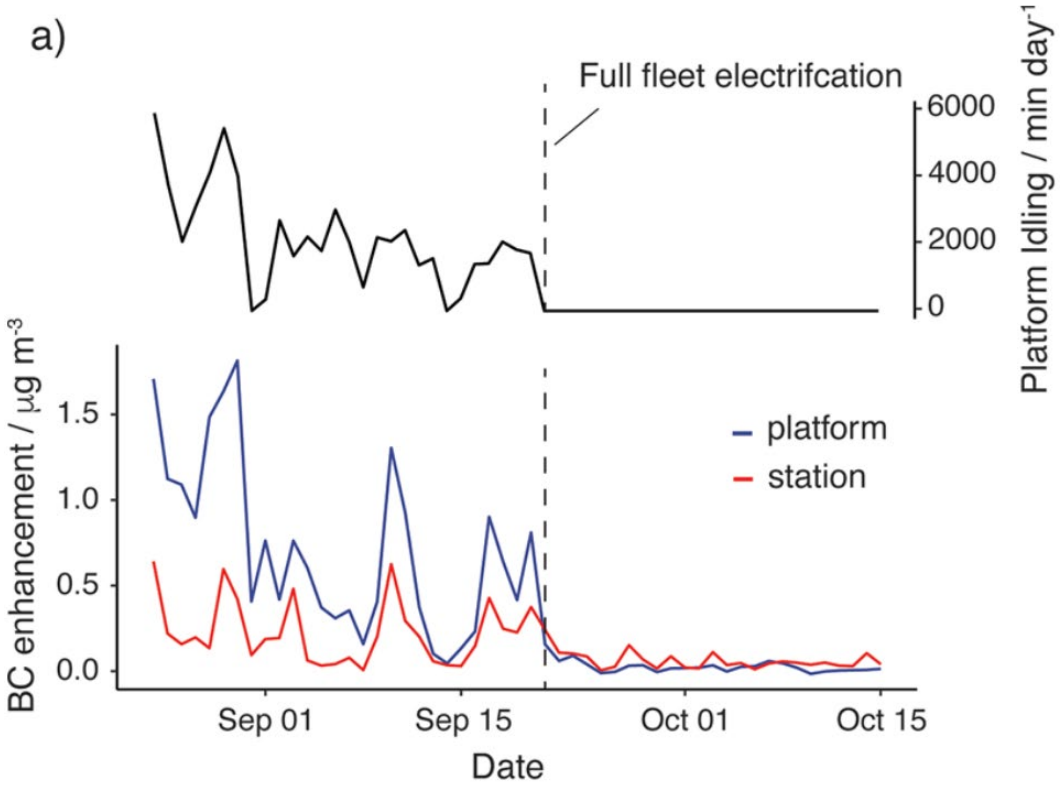
- 2024: Six-week study during electrification transition
- Black carbon measured at stations and on trains

Results

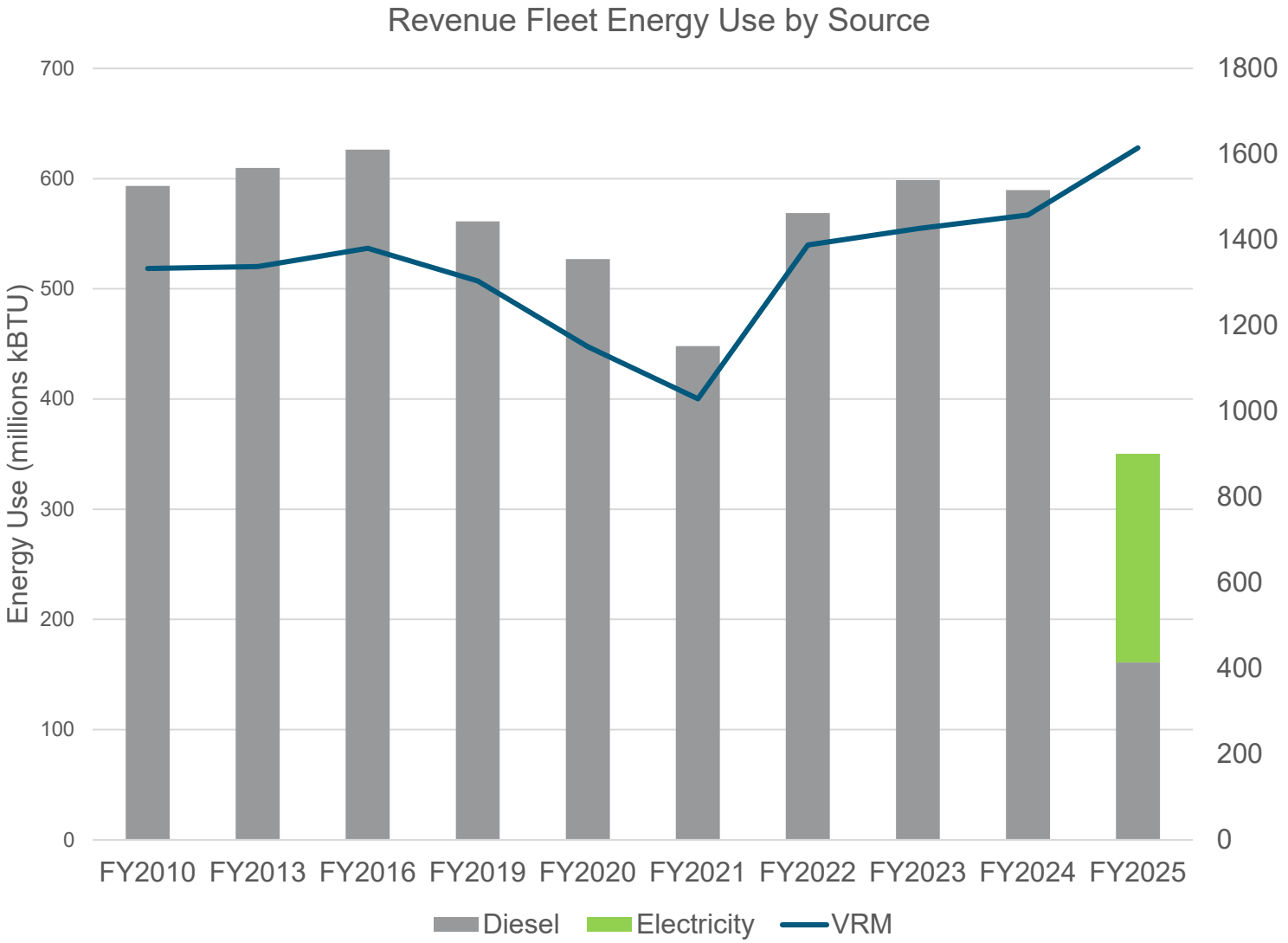
- ↓**89%** onboard black carbon exposure
- Near-zero rail-related black carbon at SF station





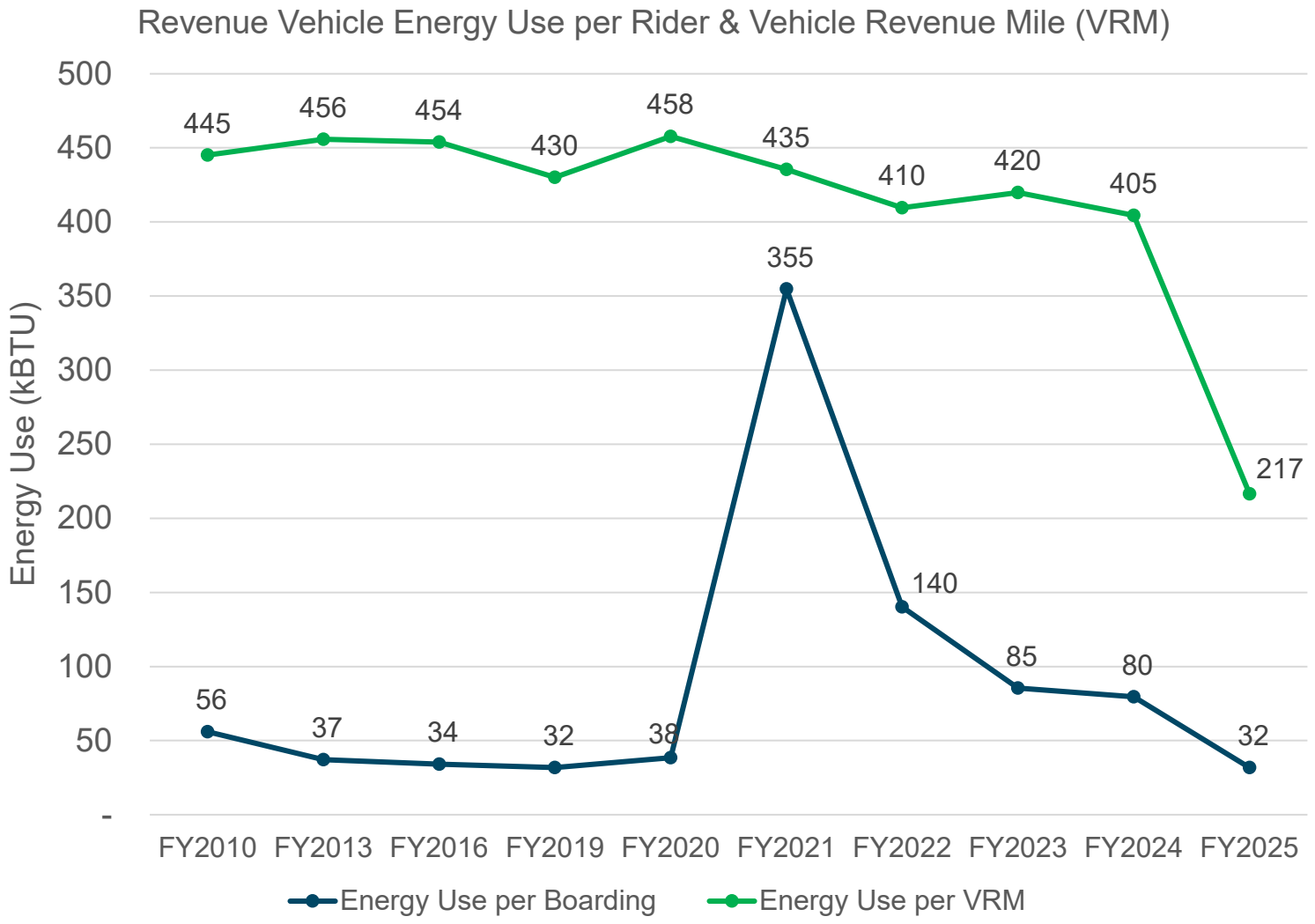


Revenue Fleet Energy Use



- Electrified service – cleaner and vastly more efficient
- Total revenue fleet energy usage
  - FY23 v FY25: ↓~42%
- Vehicle Revenue Miles (VRM)
- FY23 v FY25: ↑13.2%
  - Pre. v. Post Elect.: ↑22.5%
- Delivering **more service more efficiently** than ever before

Energy Use at Trip Level



- Lowest energy use per vehicle revenue mile in Caltrain history!
  - Pre. v. Post Elect.: ↓~51%
  - FY23 v. FY25: ↓>48%
- Energy use per rider equaled program all-time high, best in 6 years
  - FY23 v. FY25: ↓63.5%
- Future results - only get better w/ full year of electrified service & increased ridership

Sustainability - Today & Tomorrow

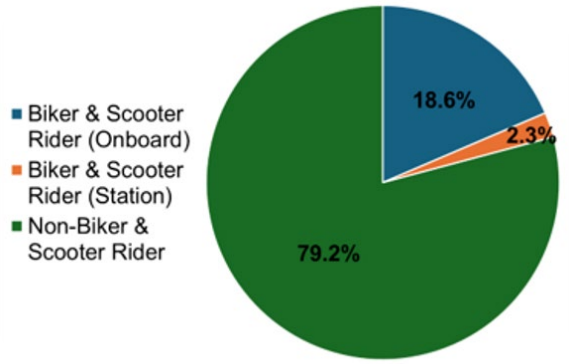
Recent Sustainability Initiatives & Achievements



Climate Vulnerability Study



Waste Audit



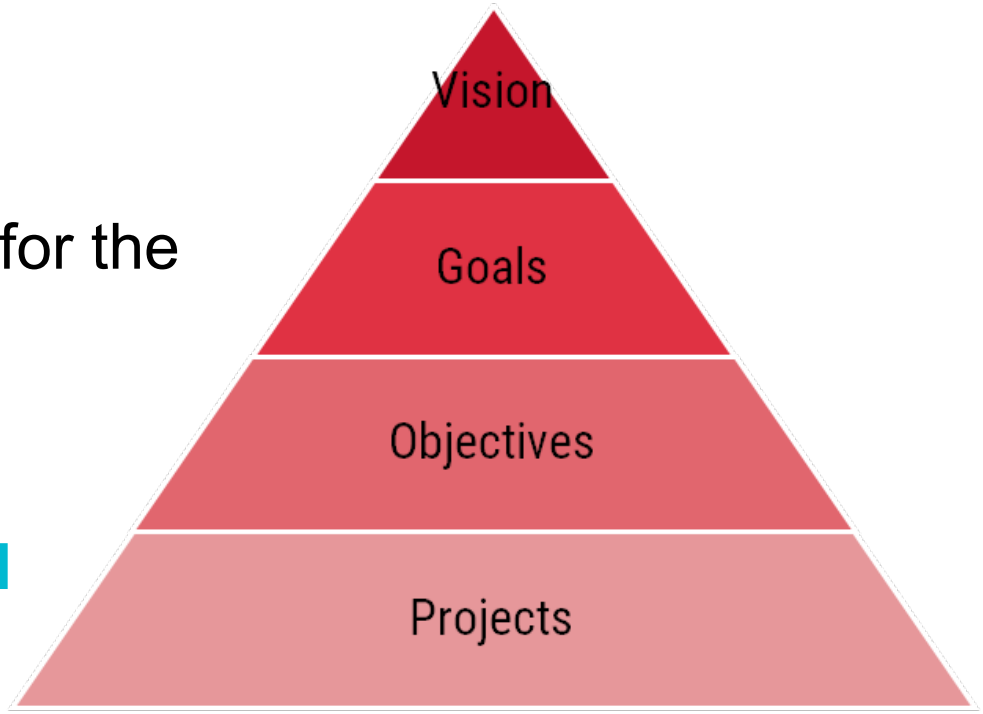
Active Transportation Usage



Air Pollution Reductions

Strategic Sustainability Plan Refresh

- April 2025 TOPS Presentation: update and feedback
- Electrification – most consequential sustainability action in Caltrain's history; what's next?
- Purpose:
  - Set the direction for our Sustainability Program for the next 10 years by:
    - Defining the Program's **vision**;
    - Developing the Program's overall **goals and objectives**; and
    - Identifying list of priority **sustainability projects**



Strategic Sustainability Plan: Vision & Goals

- Driving ridership is Caltrain's most sustainable action
- Vision
  - *Champion a sustainable transportation future for California by reducing Caltrain's environmental impacts, strengthening resilience to climate and fiscal challenges, and providing access to equitable and reliable transit*
- Goals
  - Environmental Performance
  - Sustainable Communities and Workforce
  - Economic and Environmental Resilience

Evaluation Criteria	Weight
Environmental Benefits	40%
Financial Benefits	30%
Ease of Implementation	15%
Grant Funding Potential	15%

Actions Advanced for FY2027

Action	Associated Goal
Advanced Clean Fleet (ACF) Long-Term Plan & Implementation*	Environmental Performance *Legal Mandate
Waste audit recommendation implementation	Environmental Performance
Alignment with CIP	Economic & Environmental Resilience
Climate Hazard regional partnerships	Economic & Environmental Resilience
Communication around extreme weather/hazard-caused delays	Economic & Environmental Resilience
Scope focused study of adaptation solutions	Economic & Environmental Resilience
Low Carbon Construction Materials feasibility analysis	Environmental Performance

Sustainability Highlight Reel

- Using info from the first 9 months of electrified service, Caltrain achieved…

Lowest generated GHGs in program history	✅
Lowest net emissions since FY2019	✅
Lowest generated Criteria Air Pollution in program history	✅
Highest level of service offered	✅
Most energy efficient service ever operated	✅

FOR MORE INFORMATION

WWW.CALTRAIN.COM