

Will Ireland remain within the 1st Carbon Budget?

13th MaREI Climate and Energy Research Seminar ESRI, Dublin June 16th 2025

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Audience Poll



Multiple choice

43 votes

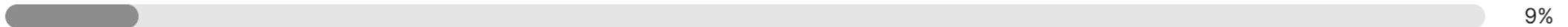


By how much will Ireland miss its first carbon budget

up to 5%



6% to 10%



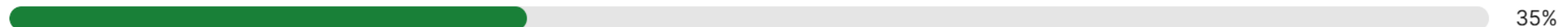
11% to 15%



16% to 20%



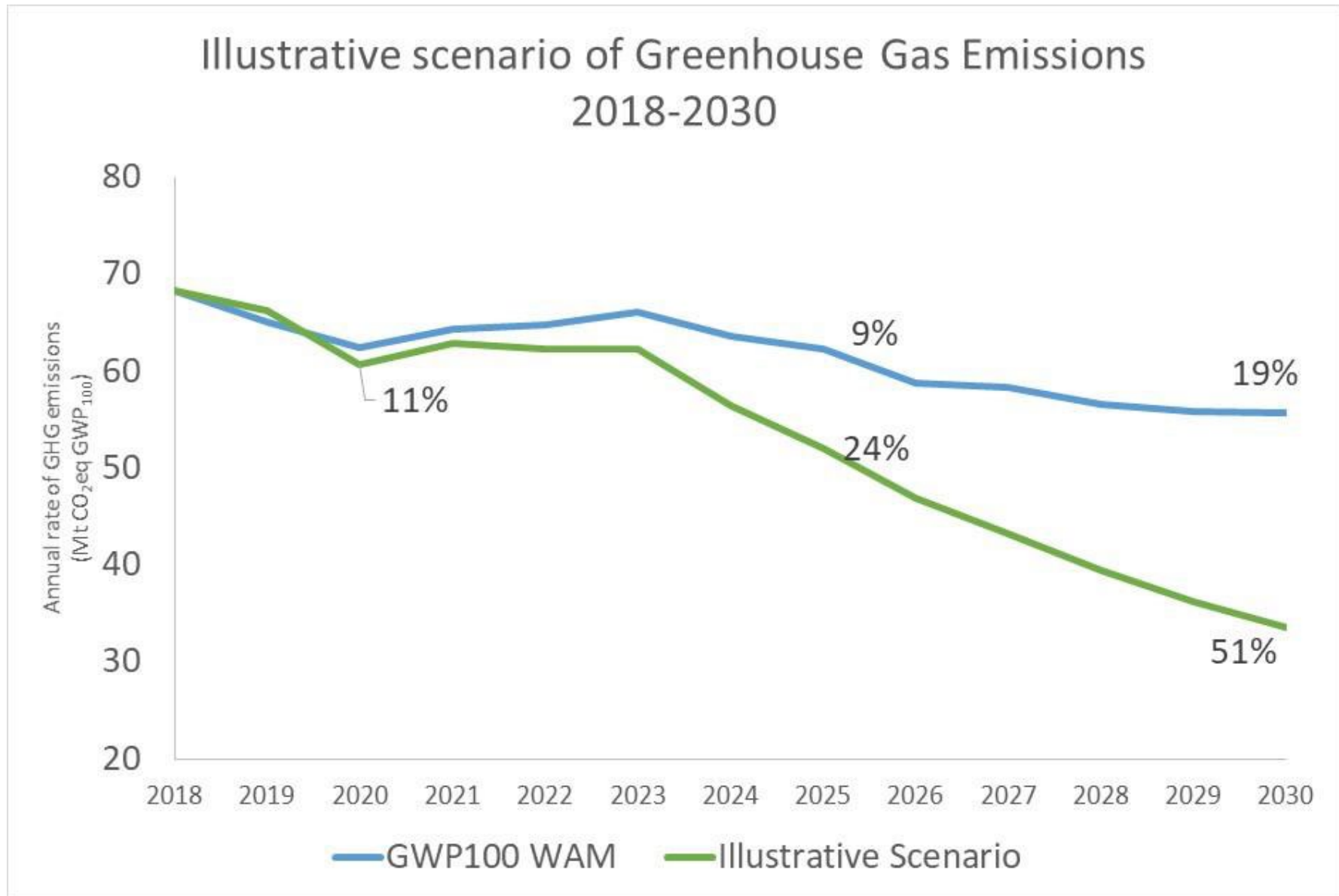
21% +



Context

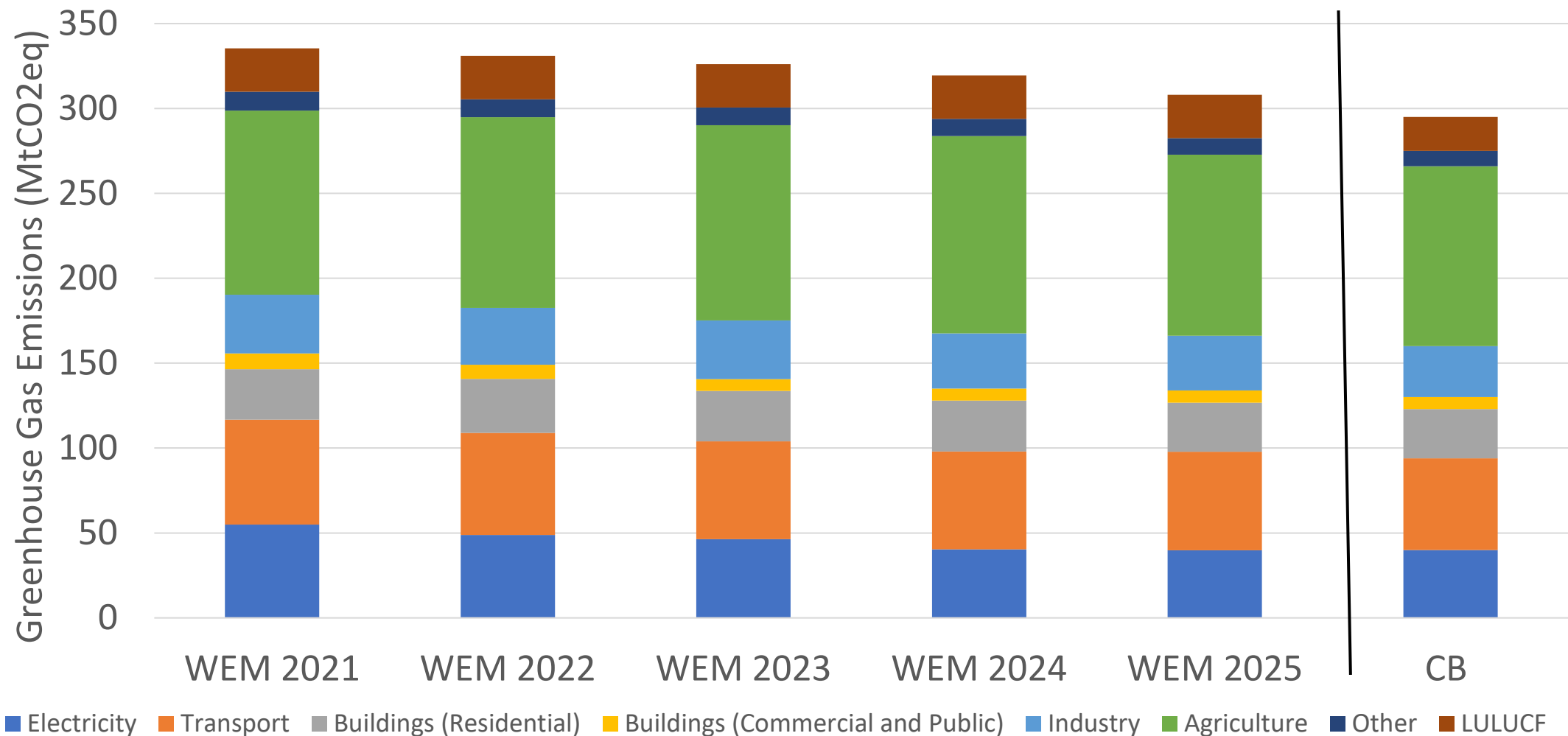
- GHG emissions projected to be 9% - 23% below 2018 levels by 2030 compared with 51% target;
- There have been significant external shocks in the period 2021-2025 including COVID 19 and geopolitical upheavals;
- Much of the current commentary suggests that carbon budgets are unachievable with focus on period to 2030;
- Limited discussion on progress towards 1st carbon budget in terms of sectors or budget overall;
- This is an initial assessment and not a full ex-post analysis.

Illustrative Carbon Budget Trajectory (CCAC 2021)



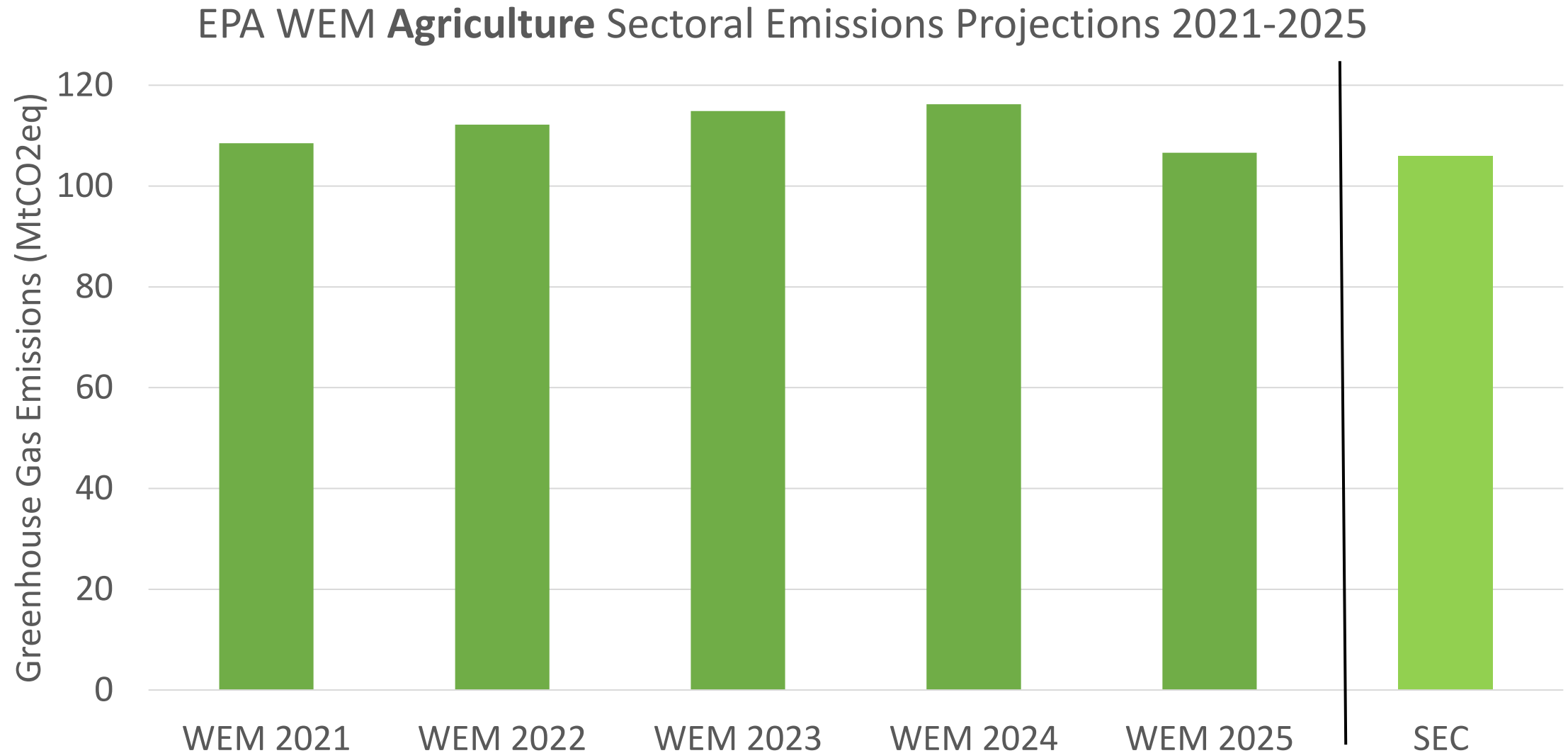
Carbon Budget

EPA WEM Total GHG Projections 2021-2025



8% reduction between 2021 and 2025 ... WEM 2025 projection 4.4% above Carbon Budget ... LULUCF (2021-2025) unchanged

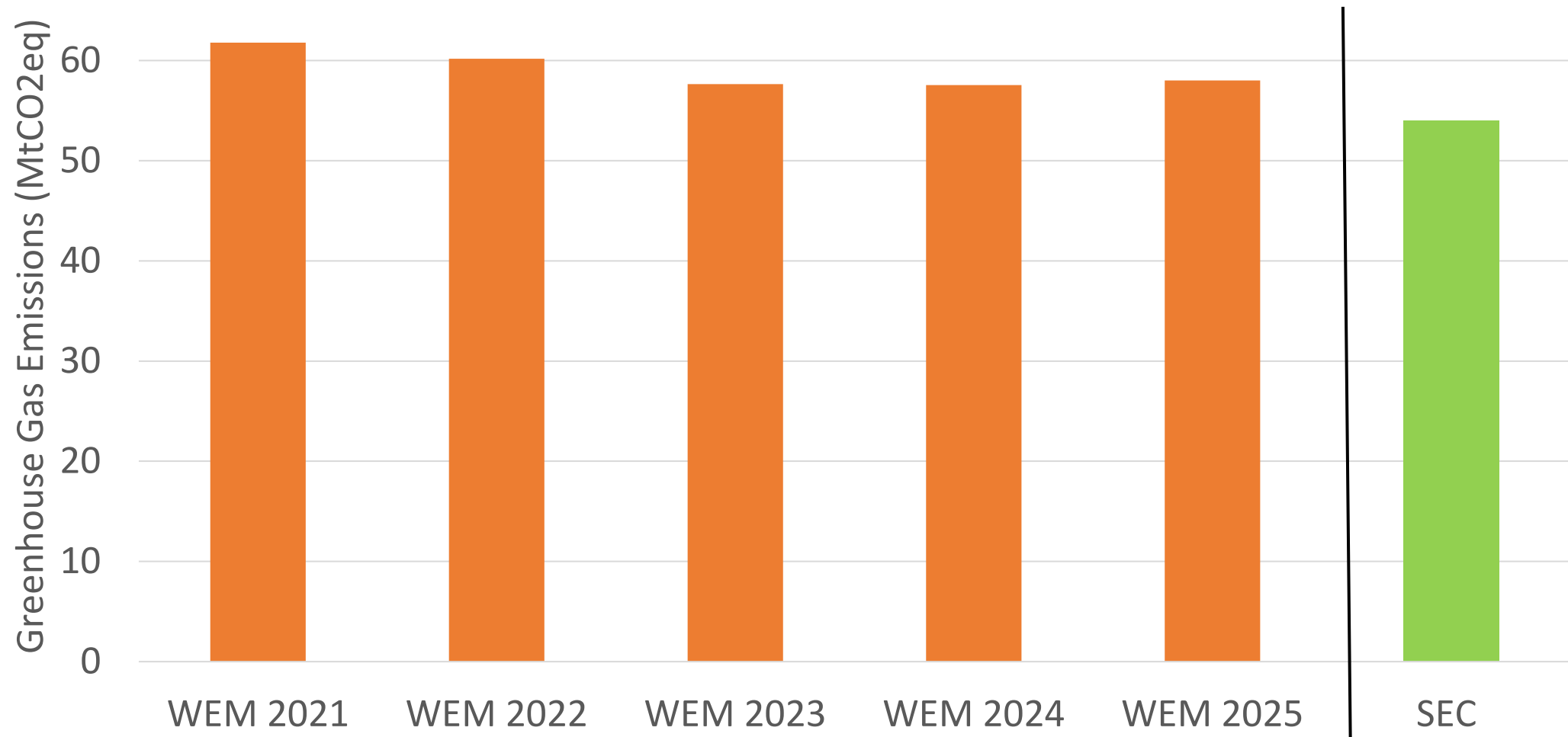
Agriculture



2% reduction between 2021 and 2025 ... WEM 2025 projection 0.6% above SEC ... Inventory and fertiliser

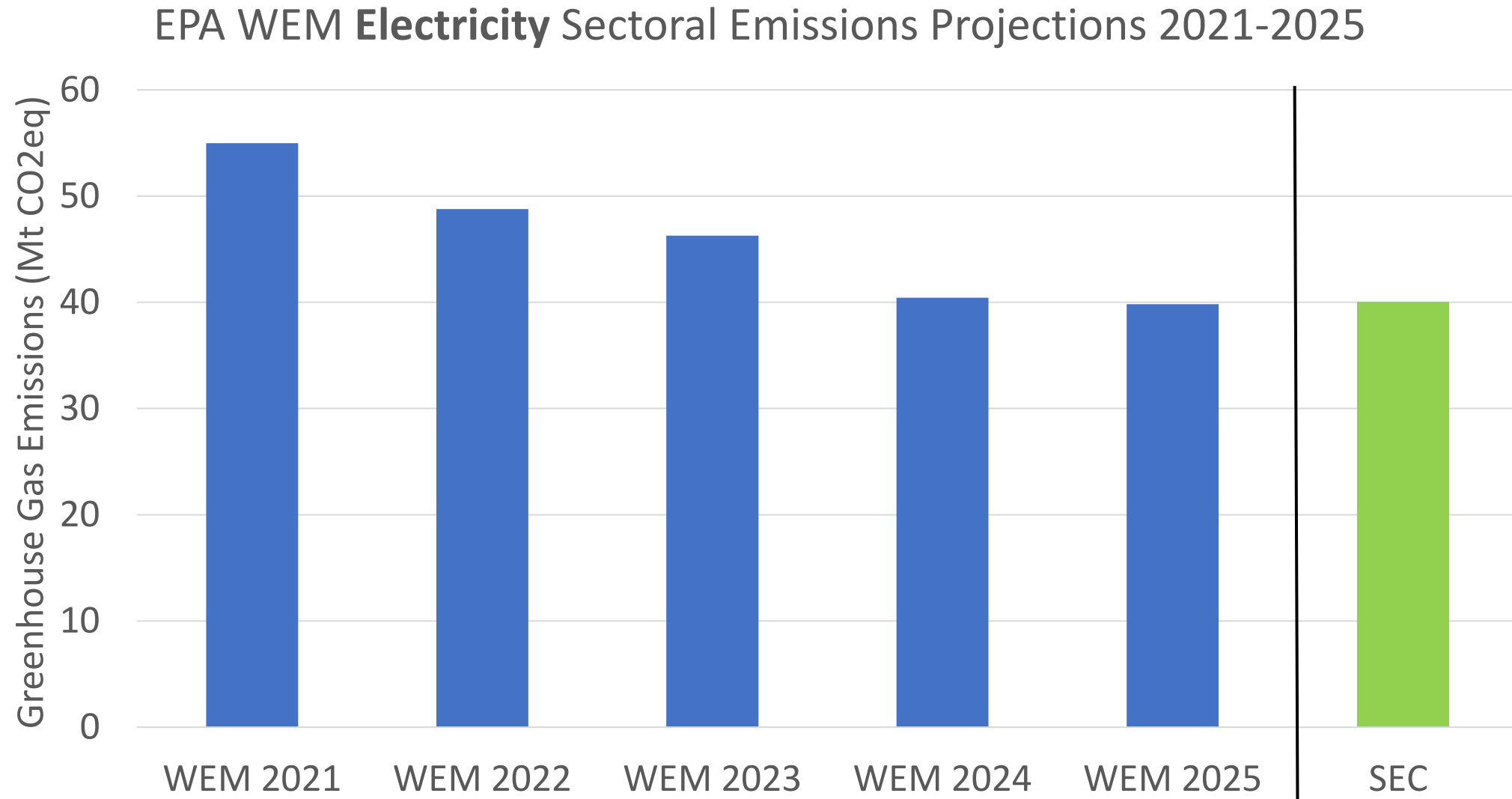
Transport

EPA WEM **Transport** Sectoral Emissions Projections 2021-2025



6% reduction between 2021 and 2025 ... WEM 2025 projection 7.4% above SEC ... Significant system inertia

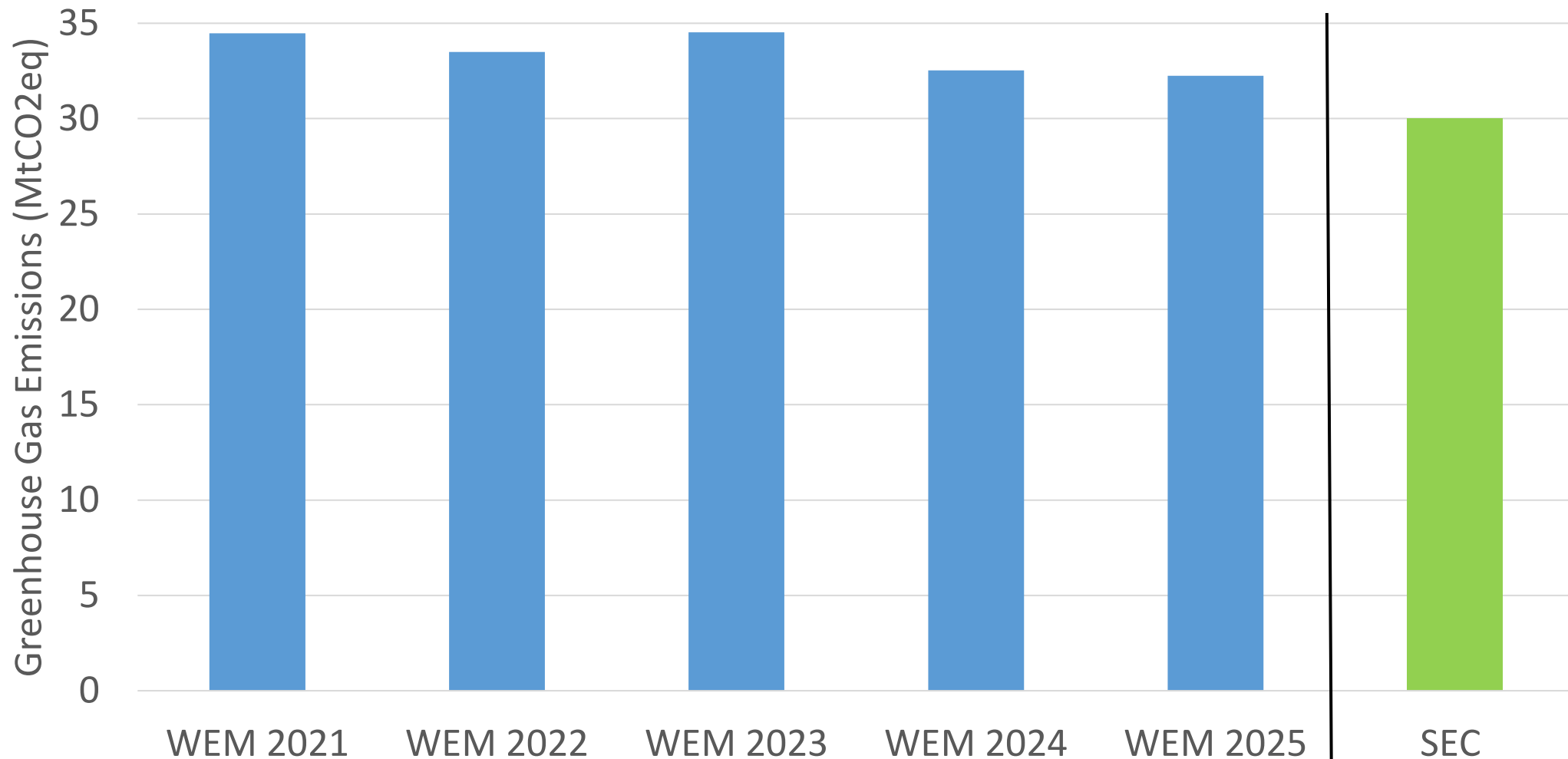
Electricity



28% reduction between 2021 and 2025 ... WEM 2025 projection 0.4% below SEC ... Electricity imports

Industry

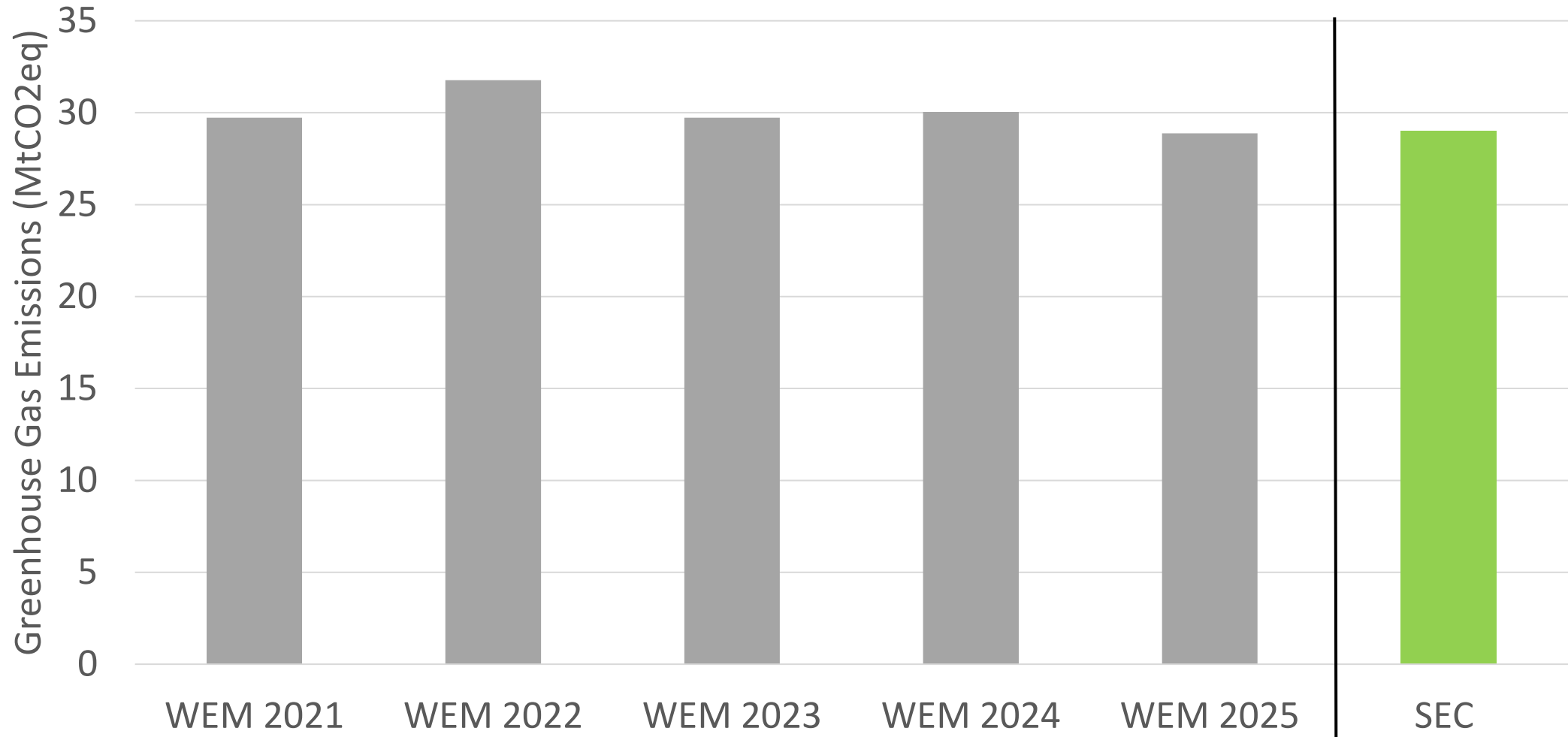
EPA WEM **Industry** Sectoral Emissions Projections 2021-2025



6% reduction between 2021 and 2025 ... WEM 2025 projection 7.5% above SEC ... Includes process emissions

Residential

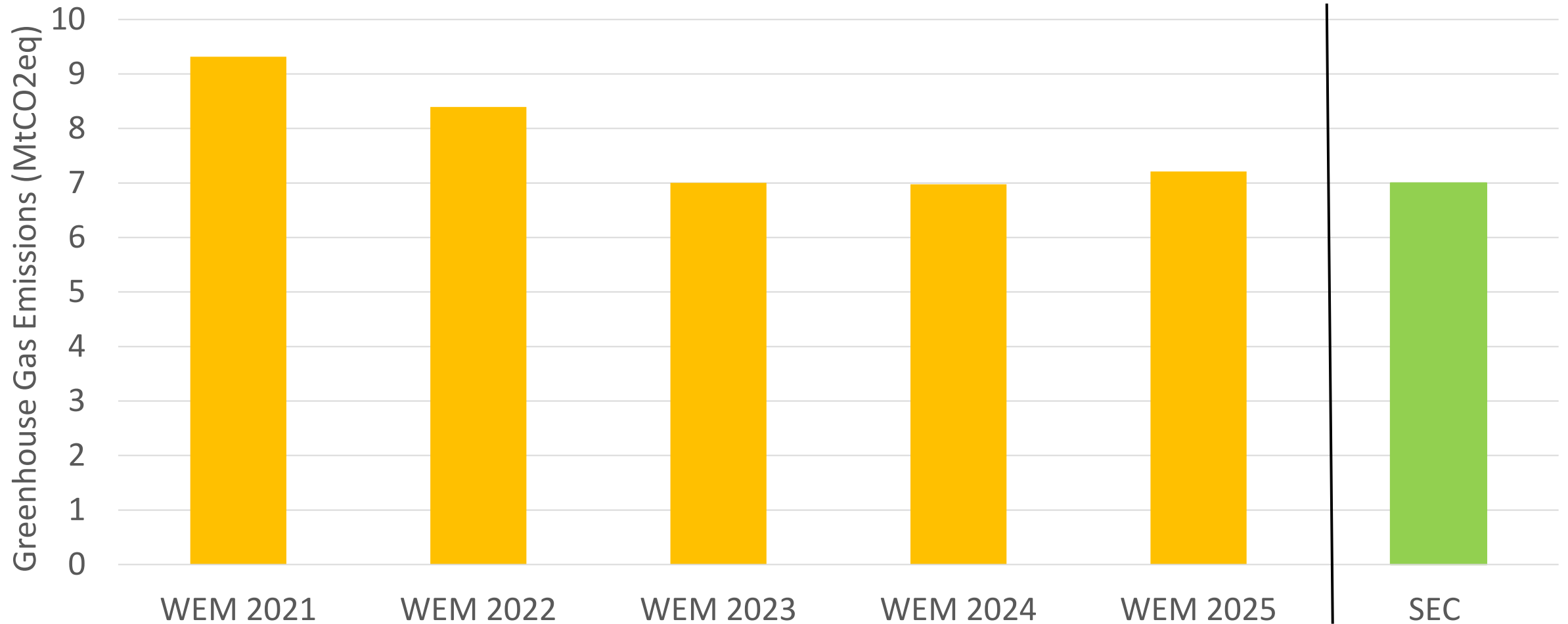
EPA WEM Residential Sectoral Emissions Projections 2021-2025



3% reduction between 2021 and 2025 ... WEM 2025 projection 0.4% below SEC ... Retrofitting, prices and growth

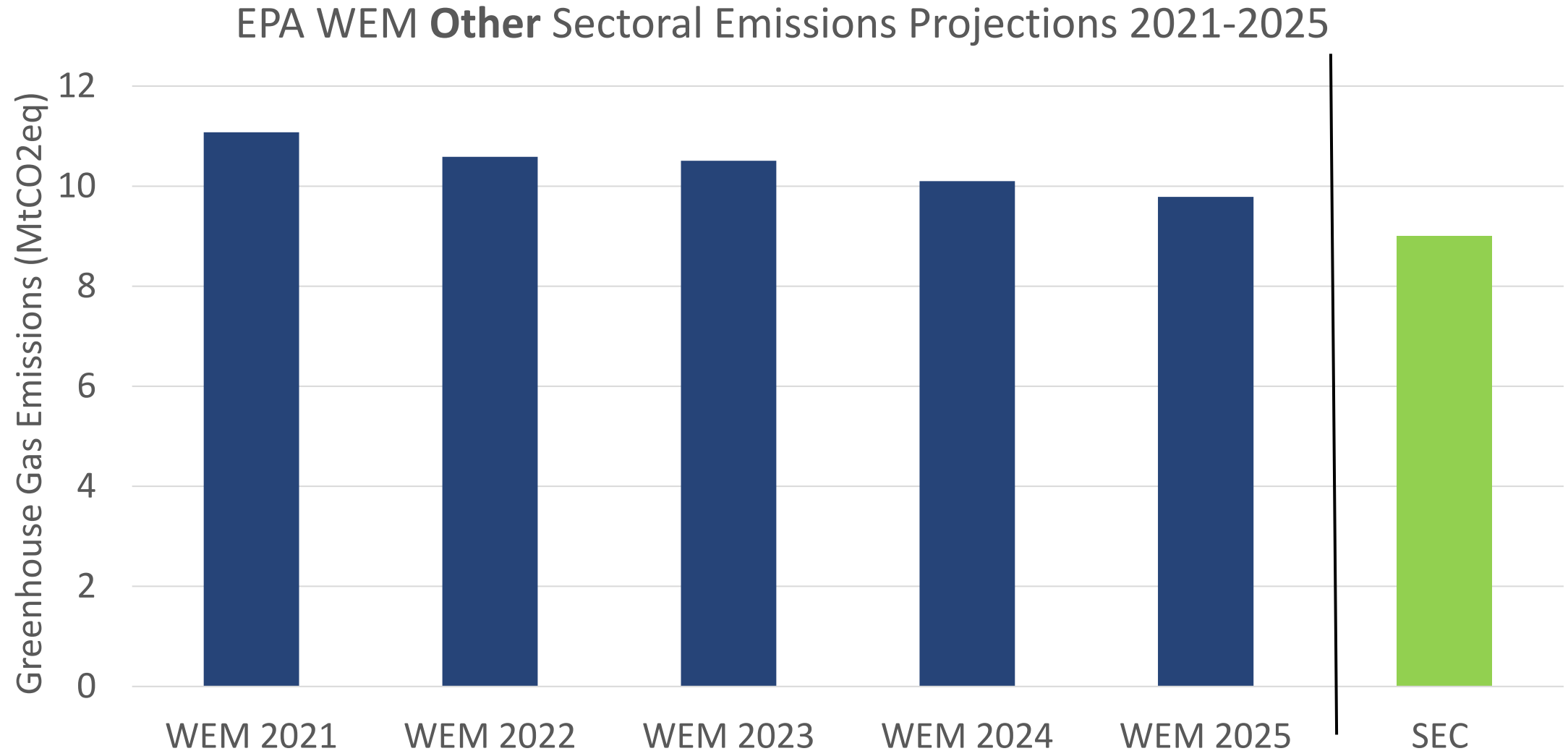
Commercial and Public

EPA WEM Commercial & Public Sectoral Emissions Projections 2021-2025



23% reduction between 2021 and 2025 ... WEM 2025 projection 3% above SEC ... Retrofitting, prices and growth

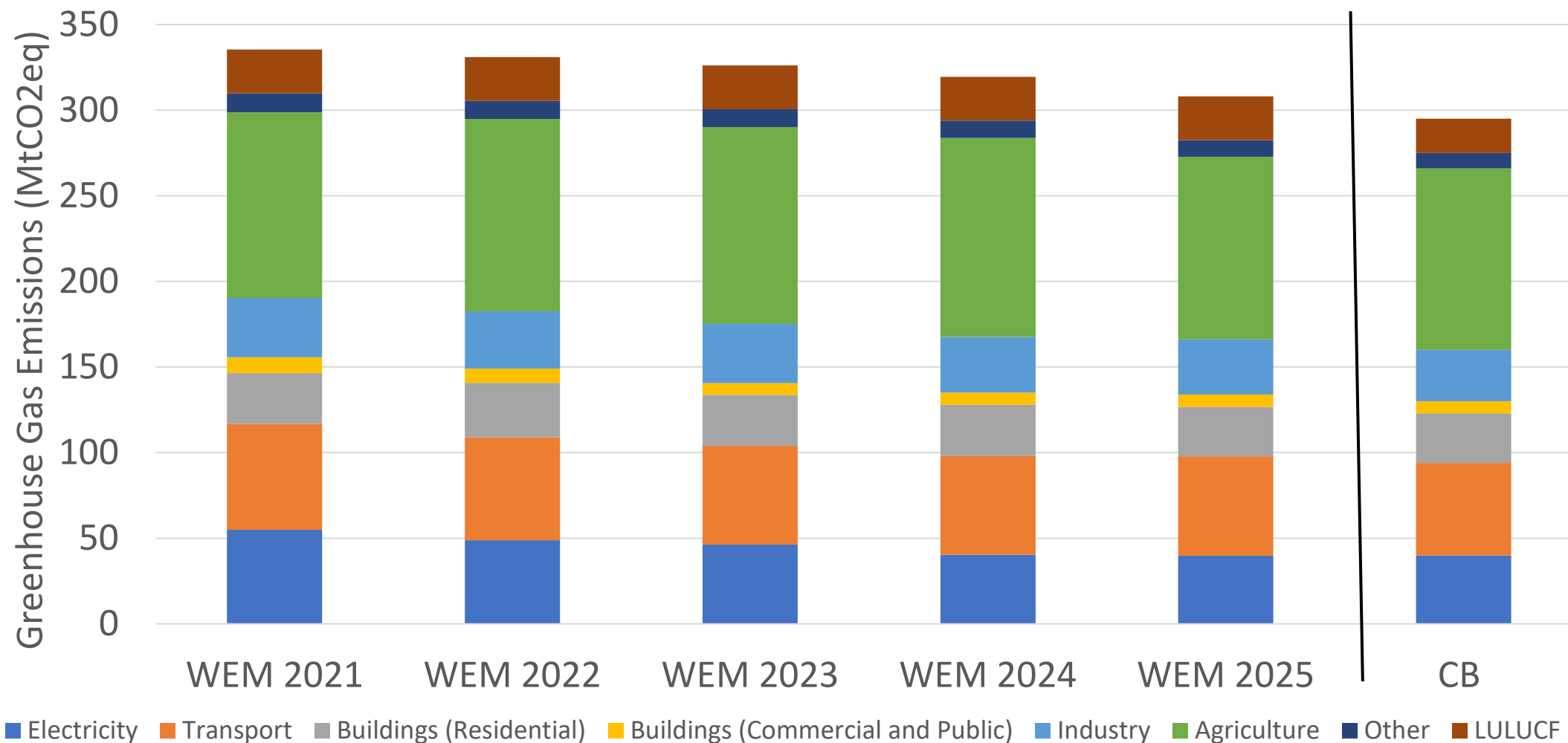
Other



12% reduction between 2021 and 2025 ... WEM 2025 projection 8.8% above SEC

Carbon Budget

EPA WEM Total GHG Projections 2021-2025



8% reduction between 2021 and 2025 ... WEM 2025 projection 4.4% above Carbon Budget ... LULUCF (2021-2025) unchanged

Closing Comments

- Since 2021, we have closed the gap to meeting the 1st carbon budget from 14% (40 Mt) to 4% (13 Mt);
- There have been many factors pushing the emissions up and down over this period;
- While most discourse commentary suggests that carbon budgets are unachievable, we are very close to meeting the first carbon budget;
- It is possible to meet the second carbon budget but unclear whether political or societal will is there to do so;

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