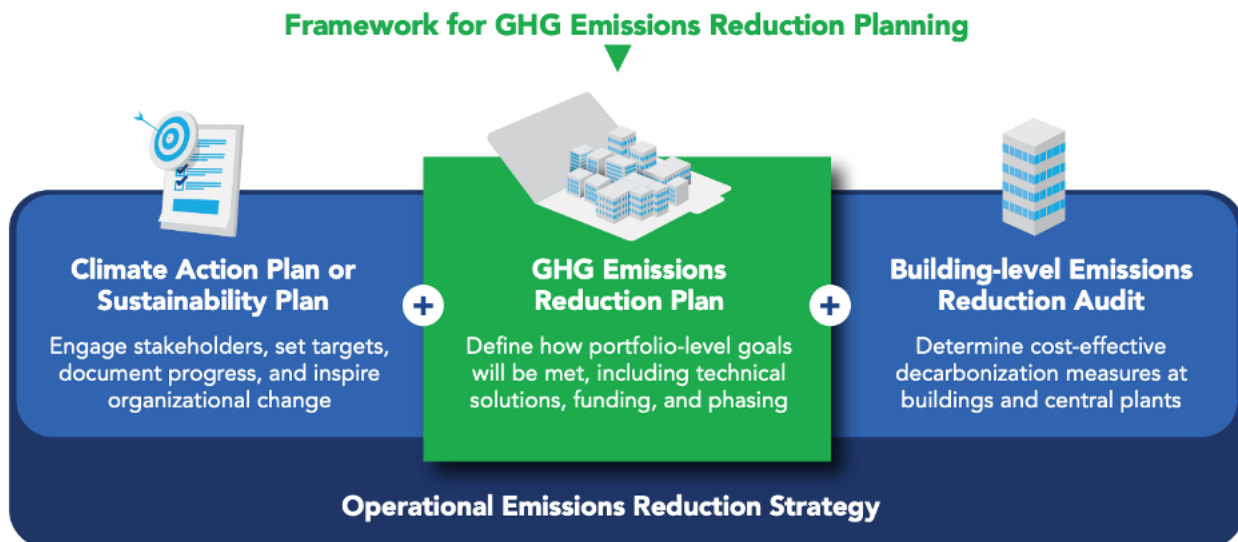


A key milestone for Better Climate Challenge partners is the creation of an Emissions Reduction Plan (ERP) that clearly defines how they will meet their GHG emissions reduction target. Some Better Climate Challenge partners may already have a high-level sustainability plan (e.g., Climate Action Plan (CAP) or Sustainability Roadmap), however, these types of plans typically do not include details about specific measures and projects. The purpose of this fact sheet is to identify the relationship between a CAP, ERP, and building level audits and define how these strategies can work together to help an organization meet their emissions reduction targets.



Overview

CAPs tend to provide an overview of the organization’s plan to reduce emissions and explain why they are making a commitment. As such, they often focus on GHG emissions target setting, stakeholder engagement, and broad strategies to reduce emissions. While this is beneficial, they differ from ERPs in some key ways.

As defined by the Framework for Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Planning: Building Portfolios, an ERP lays out the details around how an organization will meet its emissions reductions targets over the longer term (often a 10 year time horizon). An ERP is informed by strategic building audits and portfolio-level policies that combine the most effective pathways to reduce emissions. An ERP lays out an approach for prioritizing emission reduction projects, when the projects will be completed, and how they will be financed.

Building-level emissions reduction audits provide the detailed analysis needed to select measures appropriate for each site. DOE’s [GHG Emissions Reduction Audits: A Checklist for Owners](#) provides guidance on specifying an effective audit.

Both CAPs and ERPs define emissions reduction efforts for portfolios of buildings and should be revised periodically. While it is not necessary to develop a CAP to achieve GHG targets, they can set a strong foundation within an organization and serve as a starting point for the development of an ERP.

CAP and ERP Key Features

Climate Action Plan (CAP)	Emissions Reduction Plan (ERP)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Focuses on GHG emissions target setting	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Communicates strategy for achieving GHG emissions reductions targets
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Inspires organizational change	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Provides tangible solutions
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Provides a broad overview of the organization's plan to reduce emissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Establishes more detailed emissions reduction plans across a portfolio
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Can serve as a starting point for developing an ERP	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ May be part of a larger climate strategy and support a CAP
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Engages and aligns stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Establishes roles and responsibilities of stakeholders for implementing emissions reductions
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Provides policy direction	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Provides phasing/prioritization

The Bottom Line

Organizations may use different terminology to name their plan, however, Better Climate Challenge partners should aim to develop a plan that contains the information defined in the [Framework for Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Planning: Building Portfolios](#).

Without stakeholders engaged and aligned around GHG emissions reduction targets, the most complete ERP may not gain traction. Similarly, without the detailed emissions reduction plans within an ERP, the GHG reduction targets may not be realized. While the content of a CAP and an ERP may be a single document or executed separately, the components of a CAP and an ERP can go hand in hand to support significant emissions reductions across an organization