

Step Forward: Walking at UGA

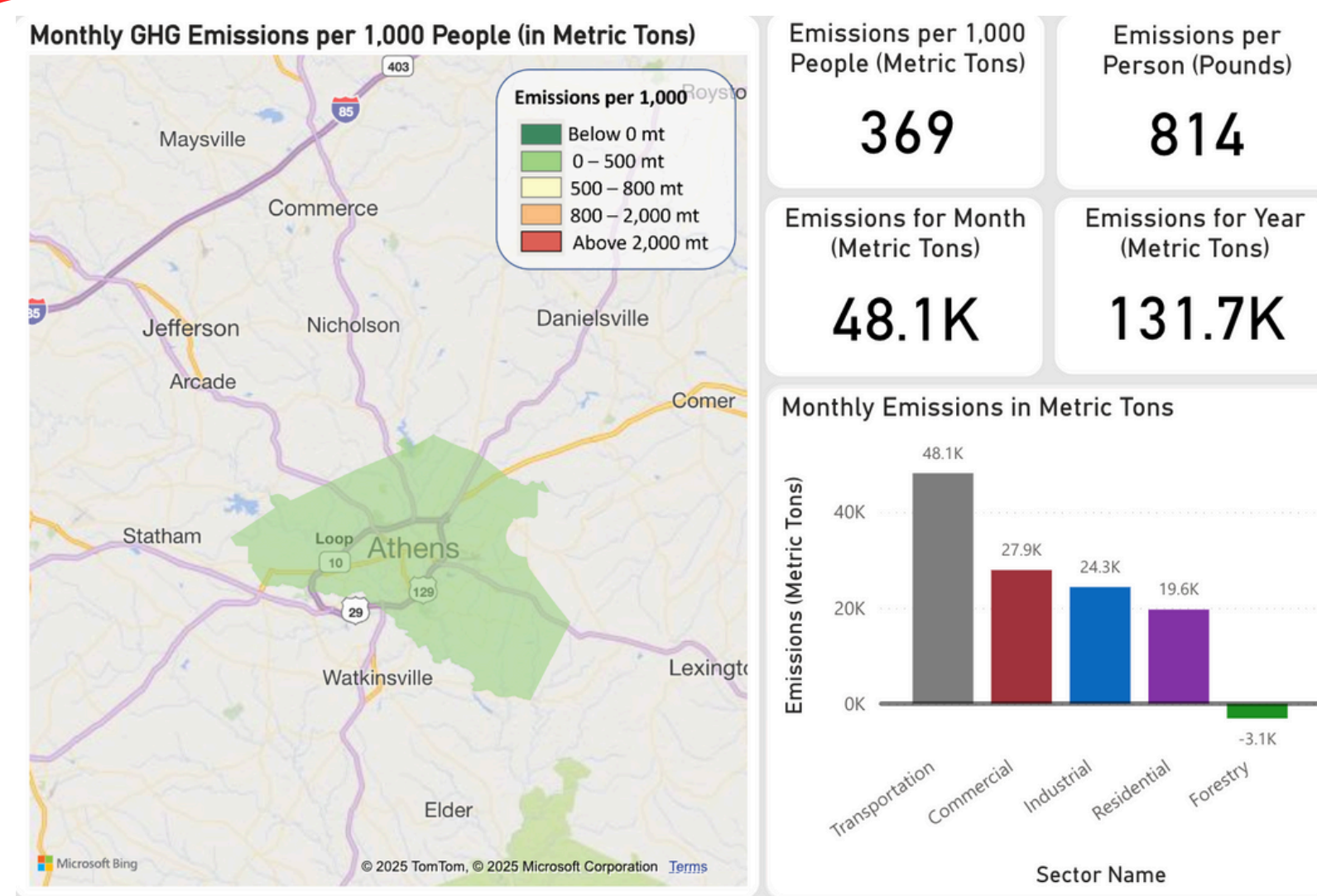
Environmental

Climate Action



- Over 75% of global warming is directly attributed to Greenhouse Gas emissions
- Fossil Fuel emissions coming from vehicles are the single largest contributor to GHGs, making transportation the #1 sector for Greenhouse Gas emissions in the US

Walking instead of driving around Athens is how you can take action against global warming and climate change!!



Emission data from the transportation sector of Athens-Clark County, April 2025. In a given school month, transportation emissions account for 40.4% of all emissions in Athens-Clarke County.

Interview Question:

How will this trip impact your idea of walking as a means of alternative transportation?

"I already walked to campus frequently before the trip, which helped me with the amount of walking we had to do on this trip. I'm living even farther from campus next year, but with the experience walking so often on this trip, I will be more open to making the trek to campus instead of driving."

Social

Encourages Human Interaction

- Walking naturally creates opportunities for face-to-face interaction
- Whether that's chatting on the way to class or running into someone at Tate Plaza
- Allows all students to participate in university life, whether you have a car or not

Promotes a Healthy Lifestyle



Regular brisk walking can help you:

- Maintain a healthy weight
- Prevent various conditions such as heart disease, stroke, and high blood pressure
- Improve your mood, cognition, memory and sleep
- Reduce stress and tension

Study Abroad Group Data

- This data highlights increased activity that leads to health benefits when walking is the main form of a student's transportation



Interview Questions:

How did you feel about the social aspect of walking on this trip?

"Walking around with group members was one of my favorite parts of the trip. I feel like if I was driving around the whole trip I would've missed out on seeing important things"

How will that translate to when you're in Athens?

"I am living in a Sorority house on Milledge next year so walking to class will be a great opportunity to get to know some girls I haven't interacted with a lot."

How did you physically feel about the amount of walking you did on this trip?

"Although it was tiring because we were walking 10 miles some days, when I'm back in Athens, it won't be like that. Now I feel like it would be easy to walk a mile to and from class instead of driving and paying for parking."

Economic

Student Finances



- It is a common and often true stereotype that college students do not always have a lot of money
- Walking is a great opportunity to cut expenses
- Students can save money on gas, car maintenance, insurance, and parking permits by walking
- Avoid UGA parking citations and downtown tickets

How UGA Can Benefit:

- Delay or eliminate the need for new parking lots or structures, which cost millions of dollars
- Less wear and tear on roads, such as cracks and potholes, can help lower long-term maintenance costs

How Local Businesses Can Benefit:

- When people walk they are more likely to be intrigued to enter stores and restaurants
- If someone walks, they do not have to pay for a parking meter or have timed parking leaving them more time to shop or get food
- Make downtown a more attractive atmosphere, drawing in more customers

Sources

- <https://www.epa.gov/ghgemissions/transportation-sector-emissions>
- <https://www.drawdownga.org/climate-solutions-trackers-and-tools/ghg-emissions-tracker/#city-tracker>
- <https://www.mayoclinic.org/healthy-lifestyle/fitness/in-depth/walking/art-20046261>