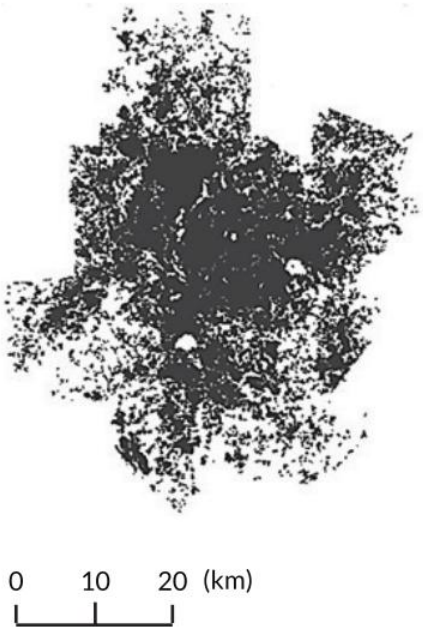
SUSTAINABILITY SOLUTIONS GROUP

Financial aspects of a community energy/climate action plan

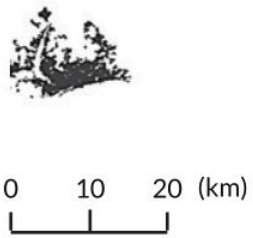
Federation of Canadian Municipalities

The impetus: lock-in effect

Atlanta



Barcelona



Bertaud and Richardson, 2004

Two points

1. Changing the discourse: Climate action as a prosperity agenda
2. How do you finance implementation of a community energy plan/climate action plan?

1.1 The currency of climate change: CO_2e to $

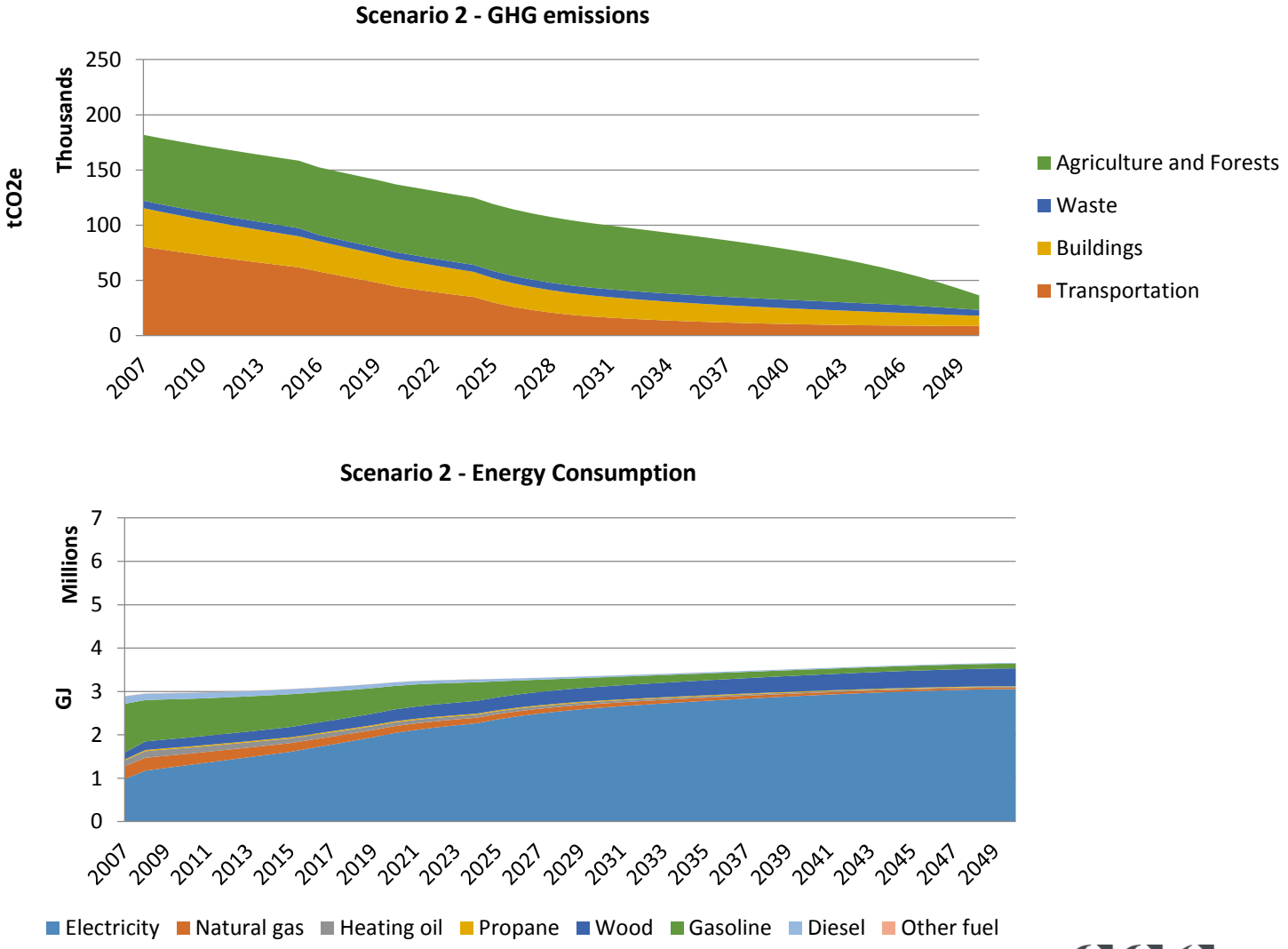
- Reduce household costs
- Reduce municipal costs
- Generate new business opportunities
- Ensure accessibility to employment opportunities
- Generate new employment

1.2 Moving beyond anti-idling…

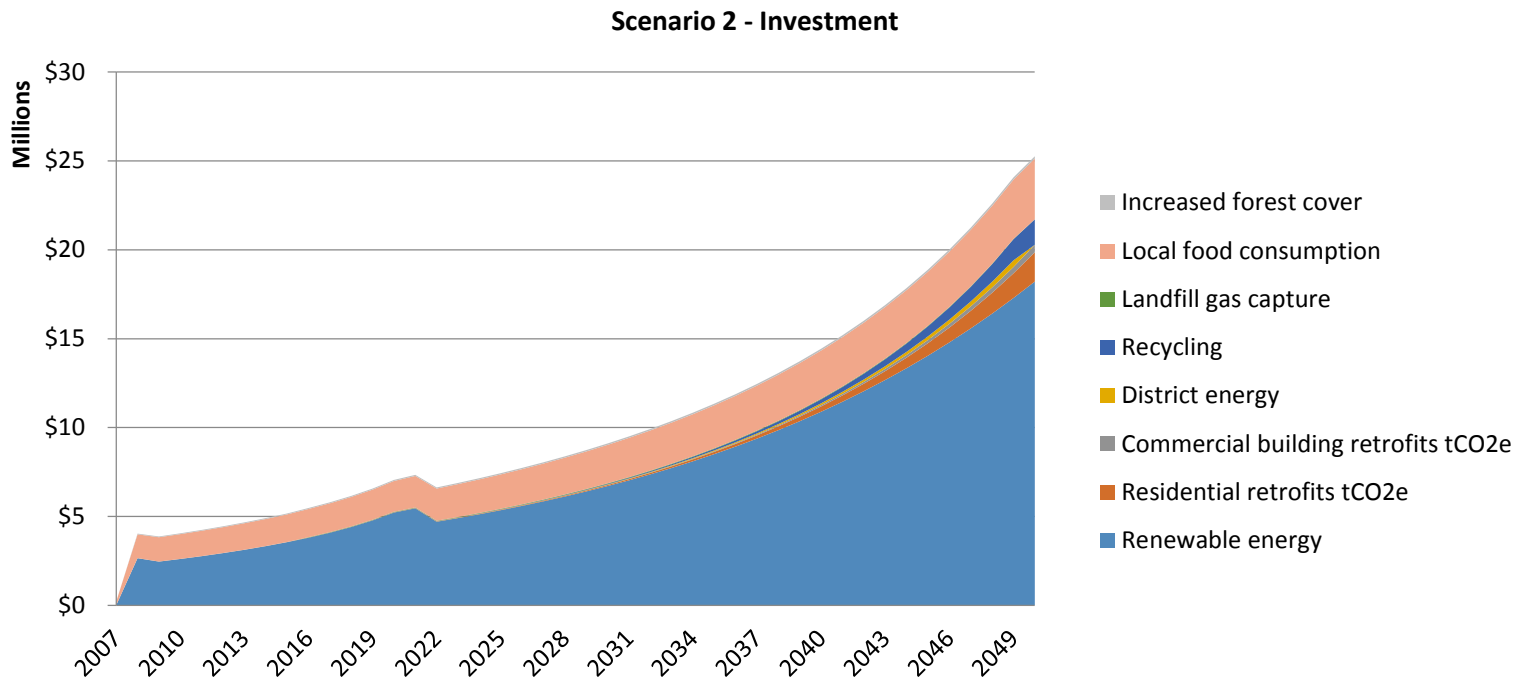
- More efficient resource use
- Infrastructure investment
- Innovation

This is the language of economic development, not saving the climate, not “sacrifice”: it works!

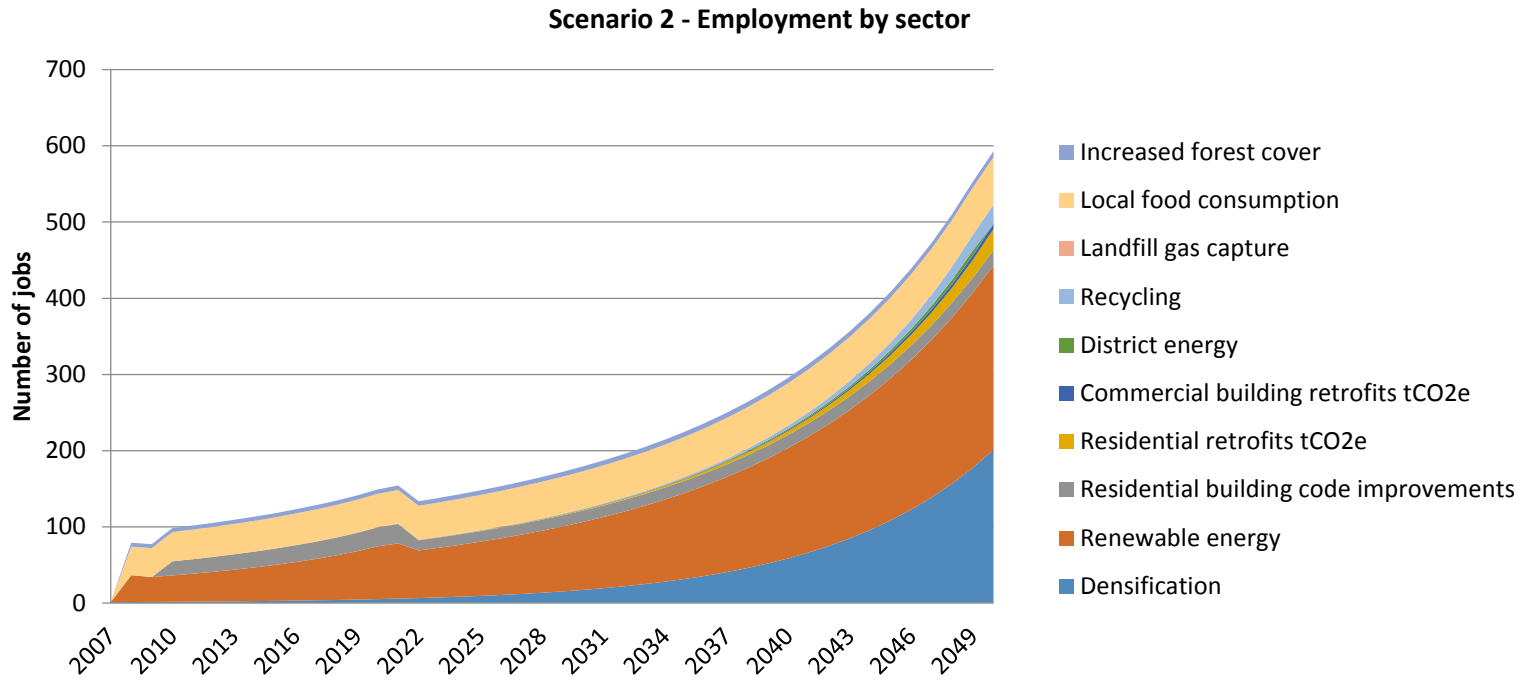
1.3 What does this look like?



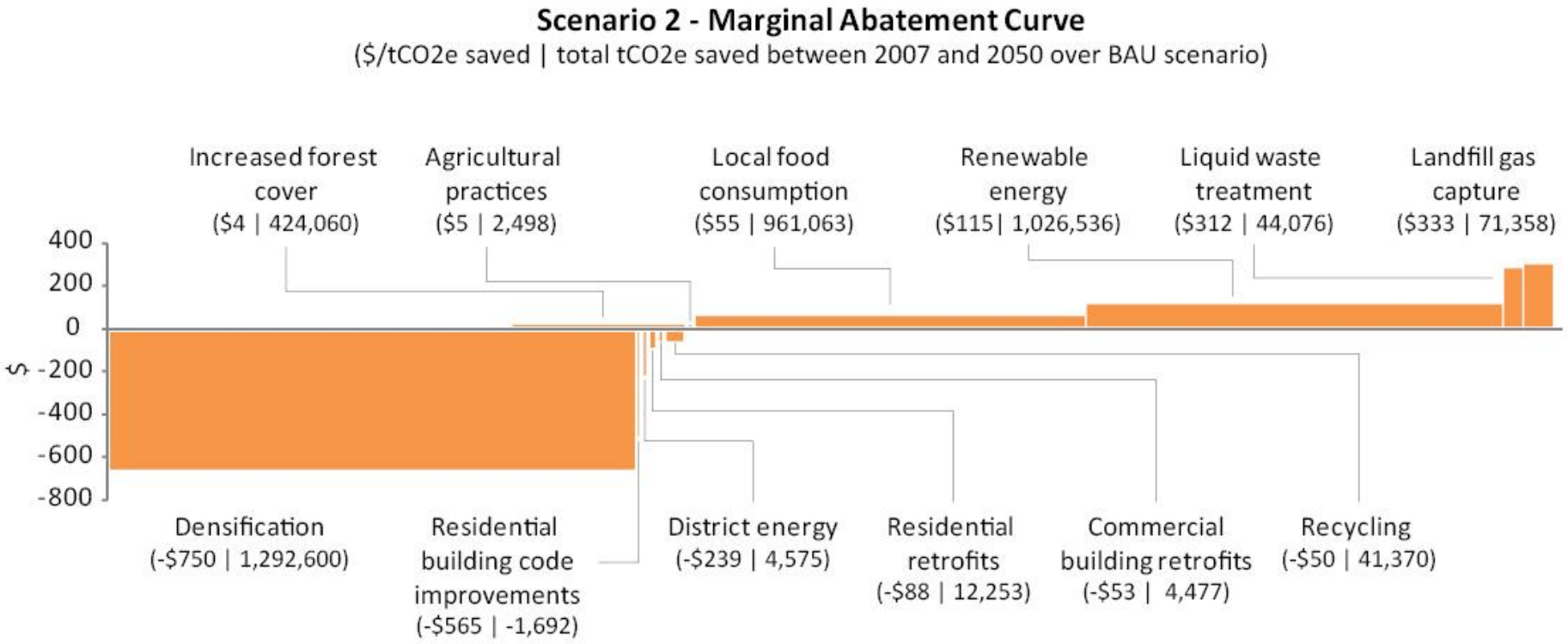
1.4 It takes money!



1.5 It takes work!



1.6 Some efforts will save money..



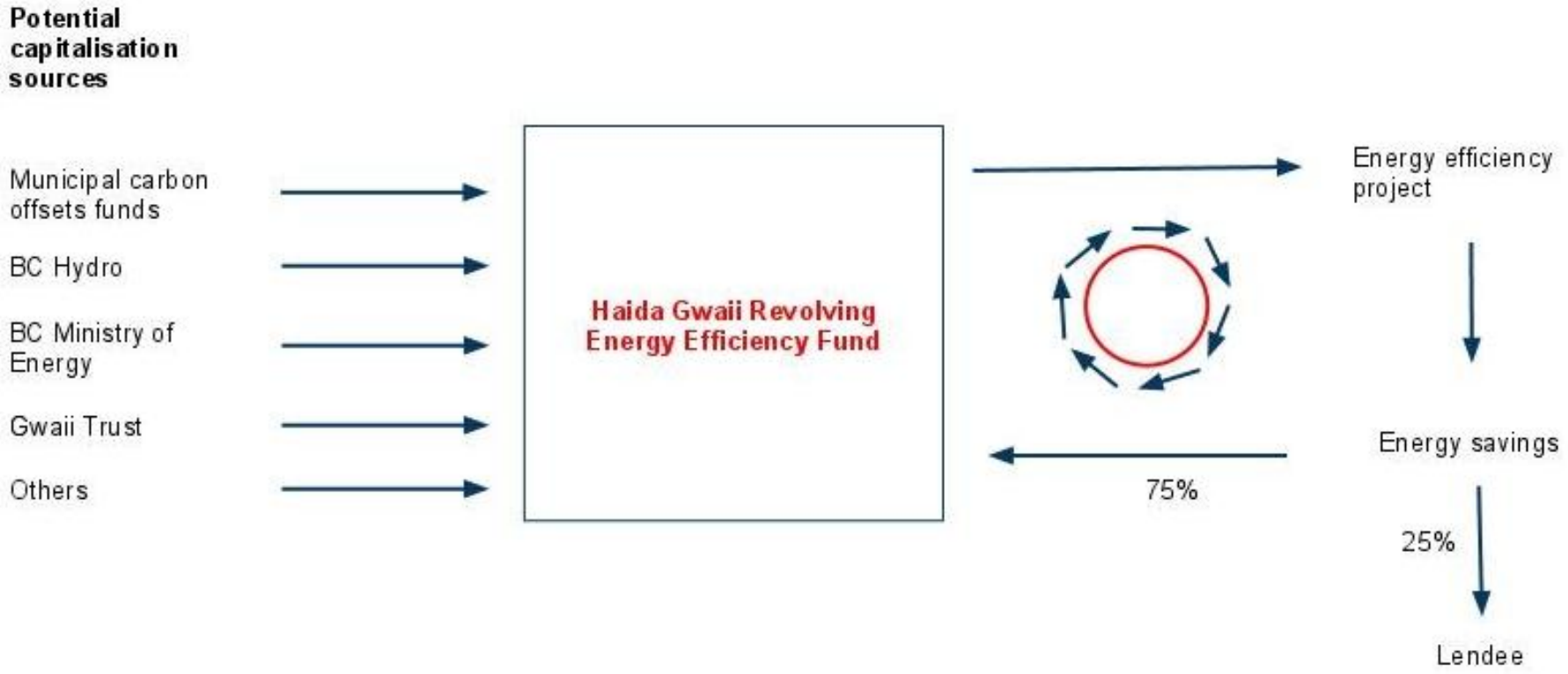
2.1 Implementation

- The municipality can't do it on its own!
- Its not only about money…
  - Natural capital: a site for a wind turbine or a hydro scheme, or wood fuel/biomass for burning.
  - Manufactured capital: a building in which to have meetings or on which to place solar panels
  - Human/Organisational capital: e.g. skills or training, labour (whether voluntary or paid) knowledge and information, opportunities for trialling/piloting and building experience.
  - Social capital:e.g. personal contacts, credibility, licenses (which are usually granted on the basis of a level of trust), publicity.
  - Financial capital: funding whether as a grant, loan
  - Cultural capital: e.g. inspiration, moral support, a catalyst to action.

2.2 North Cowichan

Capital	Resources
Natural capital	Land, community forest
Manufactured capital	Applying technologies in municipal facilities.
Human/organisational capital	Community energy manager, expertise in the community
Social capital	Community climate action committee; Mayor is an active supporter.
Financial capital	0.5% tax levy
Cultural capital	Community climate action fair

2.3 Strategy #1: Revolving loan fund



2.4 Strategy #2: Energy utility

Neighbourhood Utility, creative commons: Christopher Porter

In summary

- Climate action = economic development
- Its not only about money- consider six capitals
- Strategy #1- revolving loan fun
- Strategy #2- energy utility