

# Inventory of U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks

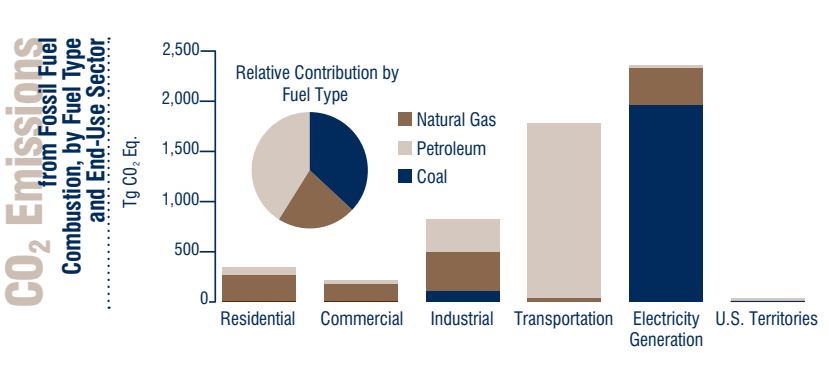
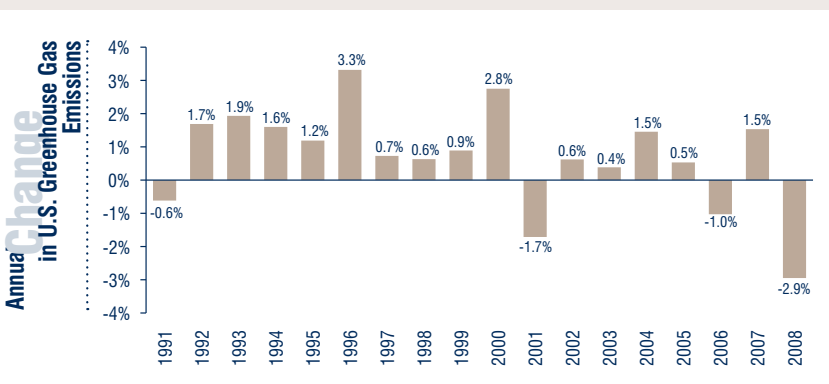
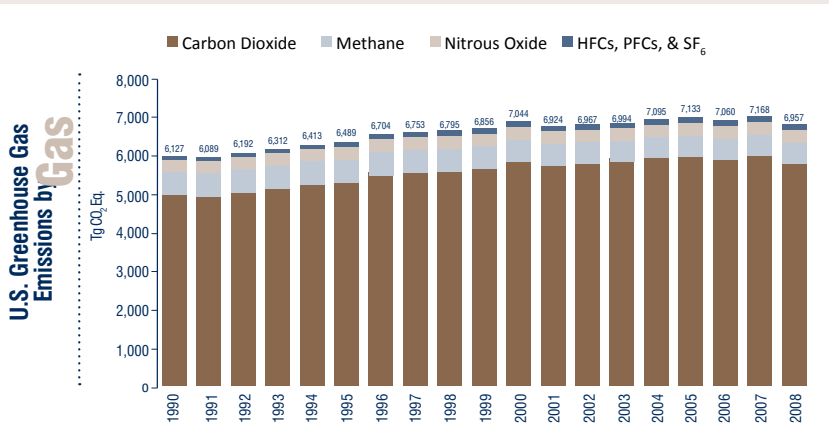
## U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks (Tg CO<sub>2</sub> Equivalents)

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### Change from 1990 to 2008

## 1990 – 2008 Trends

- Total GHG emissions rose 13.5 percent since 1990
- Dominant gas emitted was CO<sub>2</sub>, mostly from fossil fuel combustion
- Methane emissions decreased by 7.5 percent
- Nitrous oxide emissions decreased by 1.3 percent
- HFC, PFC, and SF<sub>6</sub> emissions have grown by 65.9 percent



+ Does not exceed 0.05 Tg CO<sub>2</sub> Eq.  
<sup>a</sup> Sinks are only included in net emissions totals.  
<sup>b</sup> Emissions from International Bunker Fuels and Wood Biomass and Ethanol Consumption are not included in totals.  
 Note: Totals may not sum due to independent rounding. Emissions weighted using GWP values from IPCC Second Assessment Report (1996) in keeping with UNFCCC reporting guidelines.

Conversions and Units

| Global Warming Potentials<br>(100 Year Time Horizon) |                  |                  |
|------------------------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Gas                                                  | GWP              |                  |
|                                                      | SAR <sup>a</sup> | AR4 <sup>b</sup> |
| Carbon dioxide (CO <sub>2</sub> )                    | 1                | 1                |
| Methane (CH <sub>4</sub> )*                          | 21               | 25               |
| Nitrous oxide (N <sub>2</sub> O)                     | 310              | 298              |
| HFC-23                                               | 11,700           | 14,800           |
| HFC-125                                              | 2,800            | 3,500            |
| HFC-134a                                             | 1,300            | 1,430            |
| HFC-143a                                             | 3,800            | 4,470            |
| HFC-152a                                             | 140              | 124              |
| HFC-227ea                                            | 2,900            | 3,220            |
| HFC-236fa                                            | 6,300            | 9,810            |
| HFC-4310mee                                          | 1,300            | 1,640            |
| CF <sub>4</sub>                                      | 6,500            | 7,390            |
| C <sub>2</sub> F <sub>6</sub>                        | 9,200            | 12,200           |
| C <sub>4</sub> F <sub>10</sub>                       | 7,000            | 8,860            |
| C <sub>6</sub> F <sub>14</sub>                       | 7,400            | 9,300            |
| SF <sub>6</sub>                                      | 23,900           | 22,800           |

<sup>a</sup> *IPCC Second Assessment Report* (1996)  
<sup>b</sup> *IPPC Fourth Assessment Report* (2007)  
\* The methane GWP includes the direct effects and those indirect effects due to the production of tropospheric ozone and stratospheric water vapor. The indirect effect due to the production of CO<sub>2</sub> is not included.  
Note: GWP values from the *IPCC Second Assessment Report* are used in accordance with UNFCCC guidelines.

Global Warming Potential (GWP) is defined as the cumulative radiative forcing effects of a gas over a specified time horizon resulting from the emission of a unit mass of gas relative to a reference gas. The GWP-weighted emissions of direct greenhouse gases in the U.S. Inventory are presented in terms of equivalent emissions of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), using units of teragrams of carbon dioxide equivalents (Tg CO<sub>2</sub> Eq.).

**Conversion:**  
Tg = 10<sup>9</sup> kg = 10<sup>6</sup> metric tons  
= 1 million metric tons

The molecular weight of carbon is 12, and the molecular weight of oxygen is 16; therefore, the molecular weight of CO<sub>2</sub> is 44 (i.e., 12+ [16×2]), as compared to 12 for carbon alone. Thus, the weight ratio of carbon to carbon dioxide is 12/44.

Conversion from gigagrams of gas to teragrams of carbon dioxide equivalents:

Tg CO<sub>2</sub> Eq.= $\left(\frac{\text{Gg of gas}}{1}\right)\times(\text{GWP})\times\left(\frac{\text{Tg}}{1,000\text{ Gg}}\right)$

Energy Conversions

The common energy unit used in international reports of greenhouse gas emissions is the joule. A joule is the energy required to move an object one meter with the force of one Newton. A terajoule (TJ) is one trillion (10<sup>12</sup>) joules. A British thermal unit (Btu, the customary U.S. energy unit) is the quantity of heat required to raise the temperature of one pound of water one degree Fahrenheit at or near 39.2 Fahrenheit.

1 TJ =  
2.388 × 10<sup>11</sup> calories  
23.88 metric tons of crude oil equivalent  
9.478 × 10<sup>8</sup> Btu  
277,800 kilowatt-hours

Energy Units

|       |                      |                          |
|-------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Btu   | British thermal unit | 1 Btu                    |
| MBtu  | Thousand Btu         | 1 × 10 <sup>3</sup> Btu  |
| MMBtu | Million Btu          | 1 × 10 <sup>6</sup> Btu  |
| BBtu  | Billion Btu          | 1 × 10 <sup>9</sup> Btu  |
| TBtu  | Trillion Btu         | 1 × 10 <sup>12</sup> Btu |
| QBtu  | Quadrillion Btu      | 1 × 10 <sup>15</sup> Btu |

Unit Conversions

|                    |                           |                                               |
|--------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| 1 pound            | = 0.454 kilograms         | = 16 ounces                                   |
| 1 kilogram         | = 2.205 pounds            | = 35.27 ounces                                |
| 1 short ton        | = 0.9072 metric tons      | = 2,000 pounds                                |
| 1 metric ton       | = 1.1023 short tons       | = 1,000 kilograms                             |
| 1 cubic foot       | = 0.02832 cubic meters    | = 28.3168 liters                              |
| 1 cubic meter      | = 35.315 cubic feet       | = 1,000 liters                                |
| 1 U.S. gallon      | = 3.78541 liters          | = 0.03175 barrels = 0.02381 barrels petroleum |
| 1 liter            | = 0.2642 U.S. gallons     | = 0.0084 barrels = 0.0063 barrels petroleum   |
| 1 barrel           | = 31.5 U.S. gallons       | = 119 liters = 0.75 barrels petroleum         |
| 1 barrel petroleum | = 42 U.S. gallons         | = 159 liters                                  |
| 1 foot             | = 0.3048 meters           | = 12 inches                                   |
| 1 meter            | = 3.28 feet               | = 39.37 inches                                |
| 1 mile             | = 1.609 kilometers        | = 5,280 feet                                  |
| 1 kilometer        | = 0.6214 miles            | = 3,280.84 feet                               |
| 1 square mile      | = 2.590 square kilometers | = 640 acres                                   |
| 1 square kilometer | = 0.386 square miles      | = 100 hectares                                |
| 1 acre             | = 43,560 square feet      | = 0.4047 hectares = 4,047 square meters       |

| Prefix/Symbol | Factor                             |
|---------------|------------------------------------|
| Tera (T)      | 10 <sup>12</sup> 1,000,000,000,000 |
| Giga (G)      | 10 <sup>9</sup> 1,000,000,000      |
| Mega (M)      | 10 <sup>6</sup> 1,000,000          |
| Kilo (k)      | 10 <sup>3</sup> 1,000              |
| Hecto (h)     | 10 <sup>2</sup> 100                |
| Deca (da)     | 10 <sup>1</sup> 10                 |
| —             | 10 <sup>0</sup> 1                  |
| Deci (d)      | 10 <sup>-1</sup> .1                |
| Centi (c)     | 10 <sup>-2</sup> .01               |
| Milli (m)     | 10 <sup>-3</sup> .001              |
| Micro (μ)     | 10 <sup>-6</sup> .000001           |
| Nano (n)      | 10 <sup>-9</sup> .000000001        |
| Pico (p)      | 10 <sup>-12</sup> .000000000001    |

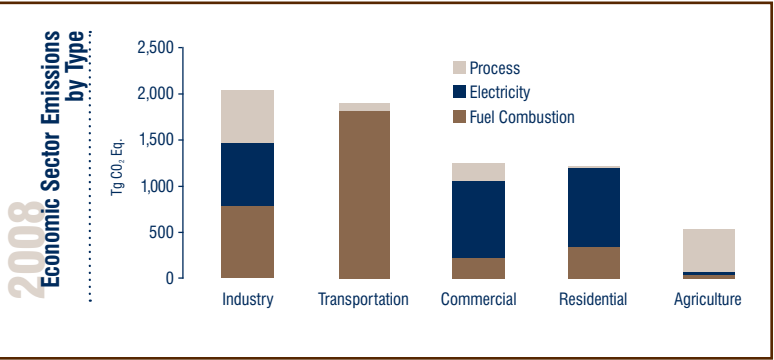
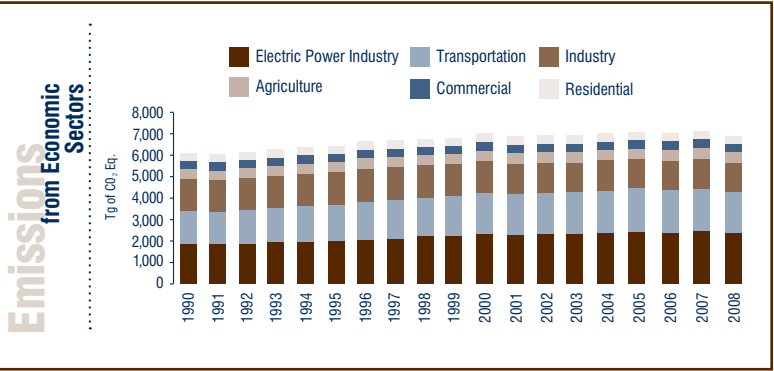
Economic Sectors

U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions Allocated to Economic Sectors (Tg CO<sub>2</sub> Eq.)

| Implied Sectors         | 1990           | 1995           | 2000           | 2005           | 2006           | 2007           | 2008           |
|-------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Electric Power Industry | 1,867.2        | 1,993.7        | 2,336.8        | 2,443.5        | 2,387.5        | 2,454.0        | 2,404.2        |
| Transportation          | 1,545.0        | 1,695.2        | 1,932.3        | 2,016.1        | 1,993.0        | 2,003.5        | 1,886.1        |
| Industry                | 1,506.6        | 1,531.3        | 1,469.1        | 1,350.9        | 1,380.2        | 1,374.2        | 1,342.4        |
| Agriculture             | 433.2          | 460.8          | 485.3          | 494.1          | 515.1          | 518.0          | 504.1          |
| Commercial              | 395.1          | 399.6          | 387.3          | 399.0          | 389.2          | 404.4          | 410.9          |
| Residential             | 345.9          | 367.6          | 386.7          | 370.7          | 334.9          | 356.2          | 359.3          |
| U.S. Territories        | 33.7           | 40.7           | 46.9           | 58.9           | 60.0           | 57.8           | 49.9           |
| <b>Total Emissions</b>  | <b>6,126.8</b> | <b>6,488.8</b> | <b>7,044.5</b> | <b>7,133.2</b> | <b>7,059.9</b> | <b>7,168.1</b> | <b>6,956.8</b> |

U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions Allocated to Economic Sectors with Electricity Distributed (Tg CO<sub>2</sub> Eq.)

| Implied Sectors        | 1990           | 1995           | 2000           | 2005           | 2006           | 2007           | 2008           |
|------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Industry               | 2,179.8        | 2,228.0        | 2,239.2        | 2,071.1        | 2,077.3        | 2,084.2        | 2,018.4        |
| Transportation         | 1,548.2        | 1,698.3        | 1,935.8        | 2,020.9        | 1,997.6        | 2,008.6        | 1,890.8        |
| Commercial             | 946.8          | 1,000.2        | 1,141.5        | 1,216.5        | 1,202.2        | 1,240.1        | 1,250.6        |
| Residential            | 954.0          | 1,024.5        | 1,162.4        | 1,242.2        | 1,180.3        | 1,226.9        | 1,215.6        |
| Agriculture            | 464.2          | 497.1          | 518.7          | 523.5          | 542.5          | 550.5          | 531.6          |
| U.S. Territories       | 33.7           | 40.7           | 46.9           | 58.9           | 60.0           | 57.8           | 49.9           |
| <b>Total Emissions</b> | <b>6,126.8</b> | <b>6,488.8</b> | <b>7,044.5</b> | <b>7,133.2</b> | <b>7,059.9</b> | <b>7,168.1</b> | <b>6,956.8</b> |



Carbon Information

Conversion Factors to Energy Units (Heat Equivalents) Heat Contents and Carbon Content Coefficients of Various Fuel Types

Converting Various Physical Units to Energy Units—The values in the following table provide conversion factors from physical units to energy equivalent units and from energy units to carbon contents. These factors can be used as default factors, if local data are not available.

| Fuel Type           | Heat Content                 | Carbon (C) Content Coefficients | Carbon Dioxide (CO <sub>2</sub> ) per Physical Unit |
|---------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| Solid Fuels         | Million Btu/Metric Ton       | kg C/Million Btu                | kg CO <sub>2</sub> /Metric Ton                      |
| Anthracite Coal     | 24.88                        | 28.28                           | 2,579.9                                             |
| Bituminous Coal     | 26.33                        | 25.44                           | 2,456.6                                             |
| Sub-bituminous Coal | 18.89                        | 26.50                           | 1,835.9                                             |
| Lignite             | 14.18                        | 26.65                           | 1,385.6                                             |
| Coke                | 27.56                        | 31.00                           | 3,131.9                                             |
| Unspecified Coal    | 27.56                        | 25.34                           | 2,560.0                                             |
| Gas Fuels           | Btu/Cubic Foot               | kg C/Million Btu                | kg CO <sub>2</sub> /Cubic Foot                      |
| Natural Gas         | 1,028                        | 14.46                           | 0.0545                                              |
| Liquid Fuels        | Million Btu/Petroleum Barrel | kg C/Million Btu                | kg CO <sub>2</sub> /Petroleum Barrel                |
| Motor Gasoline      | 5.22                         | 19.46                           | 372.2                                               |
| Distillate Fuel Oil | 5.83                         | 20.17                           | 430.8                                               |
| Residual Fuel Oil   | 6.29                         | 20.48                           | 472.1                                               |
| Jet Fuel            | 5.67                         | 19.70                           | 409.5                                               |
| Aviation Gasoline   | 5.05                         | 18.86                           | 349.0                                               |
| LPG                 | 3.70                         | 16.83                           | 228.6                                               |
| Kerosene            | 5.67                         | 19.96                           | 415.1                                               |
| Still Gas           | 6.00                         | 18.20                           | 400.3                                               |
| Petroleum Coke      | 6.02                         | 27.85                           | 615.1                                               |
| Pentanes Plus       | 4.62                         | 19.10                           | 323.6                                               |
| Unfinished Oils     | 5.83                         | 20.31                           | 433.8                                               |

Note: For fuels with variable heat contents and carbon content coefficients, 2008 U.S. average values are presented. All factors are presented in gross calorific values (GCV) (i.e., higher heating values). LPG = Liquefied Petroleum Gas.

CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions from Fossil Fuel Combustion = Fuel Combusted × Carbon Content Coefficient × Fraction Oxidized × (44/12)  
*May include adjustments for carbon stored in fossil fuel-based products, emissions from international bunker fuels, or emissions from territories.*

**Carbon Intensity of Different Fuel Types**  
The amount of carbon in fossil fuels per unit of energy content varies significantly by fuel type. For example, coal contains the highest amount of carbon per unit of energy, while petroleum has about 25 percent less carbon than coal, and natural gas about 45 percent less.

For more information on calculating CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per kWh, download eGRID at:  
<http://www.epa.gov/cleanenergy/egrid>

For other related information, see:  
<http://www.epa.gov/climatechange> and  
<http://unfccc.int>