

2. Trends in Greenhouse Gas Emissions

2.1 Recent Trends in U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks

In 2012, total U.S. greenhouse gas emissions were 6,525.6 Tg or million metric tons CO₂ Eq. Total U.S. emissions have increased by 4.7 percent from 1990 to 2012, and emissions decreased from 2011 to 2012 by 3.4 percent (227.4 Tg CO₂ Eq.). The decrease from 2011 to 2012 was due to a decrease in the carbon intensity of fuels consumed to generate electricity due to a decrease in coal consumption, with increased natural gas consumption. Additionally, relatively mild winter conditions, especially in regions of the United States where electricity is an important heating fuel, resulted in an overall decrease in electricity demand in most sectors. Since 1990, U.S. emissions have increased at an average annual rate of 0.2 percent.

Figure 2-1: U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions by Gas

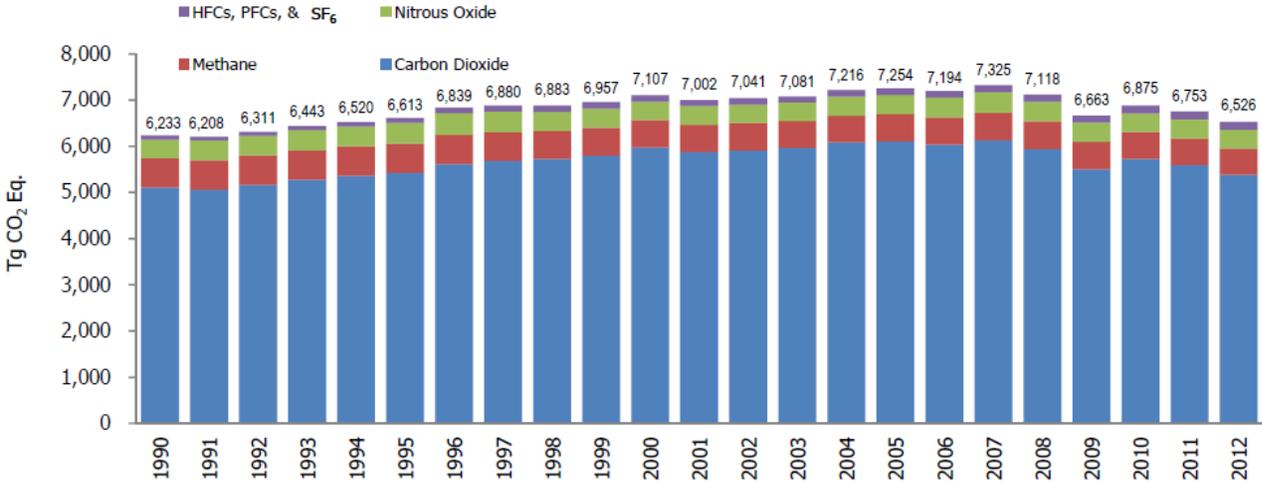


Figure 2-2: Annual Percent Change in U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions

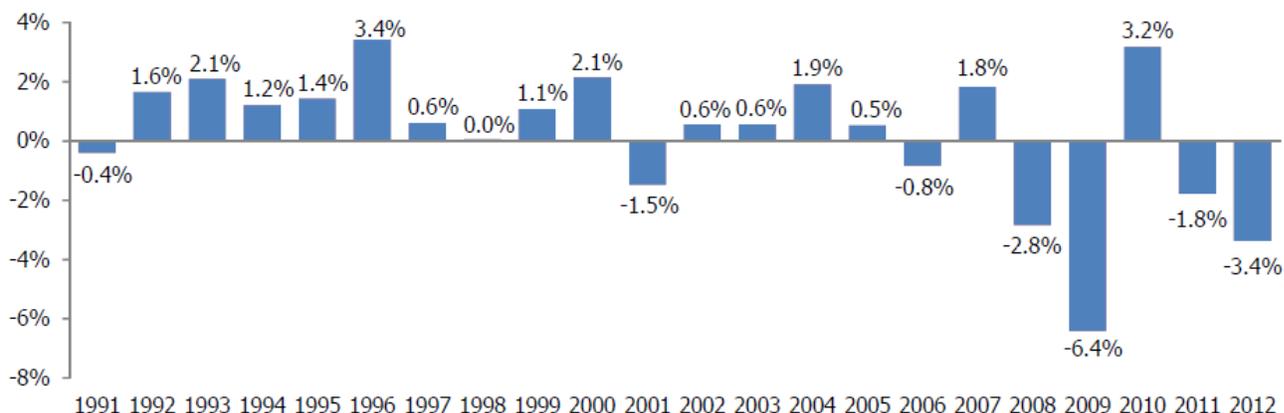
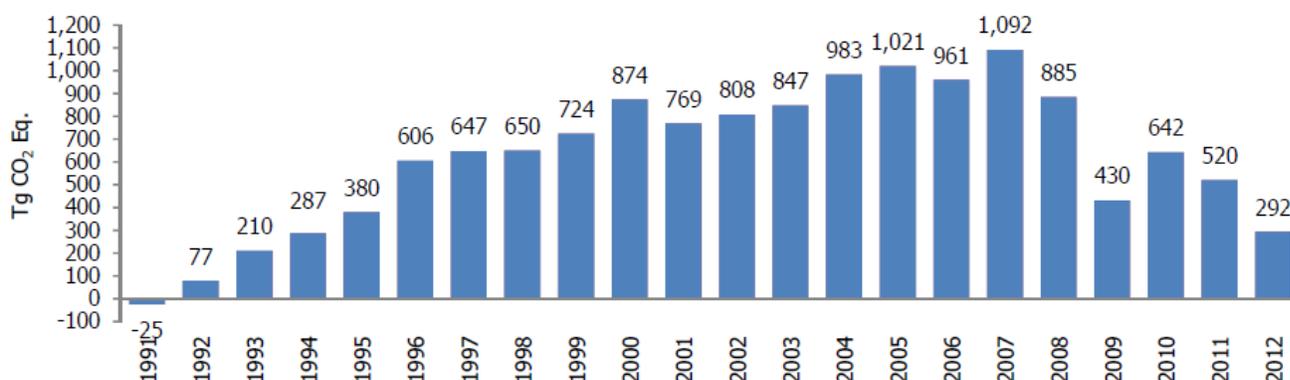


Figure 2-3: Cumulative Change in Annual U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions Relative to 1990



As the largest contributor to U.S. greenhouse gas emissions, carbon dioxide (CO₂) from fossil fuel combustion has accounted for approximately 78 percent of global warming potential (GWP) weighted emissions for the entire time series since 1990, from 76 percent of total GWP-weighted emissions in 1990 to 78 percent in 2012. Emissions from this source category grew by 6.9 percent (327.2 Tg CO₂ Eq.) from 1990 to 2012 and were responsible for most of the increase in national emissions during this period. From 2011 to 2012, these emissions decreased by 3.8 percent (198.8 Tg CO₂ Eq.). Historically, changes in emissions from fossil fuel combustion have been the dominant factor affecting U.S. emission trends.

Changes in CO₂ emissions from fossil fuel combustion are influenced by many long-term and short-term factors, including population and economic growth, energy price fluctuations, technological changes, and seasonal temperatures. On an annual basis, the overall consumption of fossil fuels in the United States fluctuates primarily in response to changes in general economic conditions, energy prices, weather, and the availability of non-fossil alternatives. For example, in a year with increased consumption of goods and services, low fuel prices, severe summer and winter weather conditions, nuclear plant closures, and lower precipitation feeding hydroelectric dams, there would likely be proportionally greater fossil fuel consumption than in a year with poor economic performance, high fuel prices, mild temperatures, and increased output from nuclear and hydroelectric plants.

In the longer-term, energy consumption patterns respond to changes that affect the scale of consumption (e.g., population, number of cars, and size of houses), the efficiency with which energy is used in equipment (e.g., cars, power plants, steel mills, and light bulbs) and behavioral choices (e.g., walking, bicycling, or telecommuting to work instead of driving).

Energy-related CO₂ emissions also depend on the type of fuel or energy consumed and its carbon (C) intensity. Producing a unit of heat or electricity using natural gas instead of coal, for example, can reduce the CO₂ emissions because of the lower C content of natural gas.

A brief discussion of the year to year variability in fuel combustion emissions is provided below, beginning with 2008.

From 2008 to 2009, CO₂ from fossil fuel combustion emissions experienced a decrease of 6.6 percent, the greatest decrease of any year over the course of the twenty three-year period from 1990 to 2012. Various factors contributed to this decrease in emissions. The continued economic downturn resulted in a 2.8 percent decrease in GDP, decreased industrial production and manufacturing output, and a decrease in energy consumption across all sectors. In 2009, the price of coal used to generate electricity increased, while the price of natural gas used to generate electricity decreased significantly. As a result, natural gas was used for a greater share of electricity generation in 2009 than 2008, and coal was used for a smaller share. The fuel switching from coal to natural gas and additional electricity generation from other energy sources in 2009, which included a 6.3 percent increase in hydropower generation from the previous year, resulted in a decrease in carbon intensity, and in turn, a decrease in emissions from electricity generation. From 2008 to 2009, industrial sector emissions decreased significantly as a result of a decrease in output from energy-intensive industries, namely in nonmetallic mineral and primary metal industries. The residential and commercial sectors only experienced minor decreases in emissions as summer and winter weather conditions were less energy-intensive from 2008 to 2009, and the price of electricity only increased slightly. Heating degree days decreased slightly and cooling degree days decreased by 3.5 percent from 2008 to 2009.

From 2009 to 2010, CO₂ emissions from fossil fuel combustion increased by 3.4 percent, which represents one of the largest annual increases in CO₂ emissions from fossil fuel combustion for the twenty three-year period from 1990 to 2012.⁴⁸ This increase is primarily due to an increase in economic output 2009 to 2010, and increased industrial production and manufacturing output (FRB 2013). Carbon dioxide emissions from fossil fuel combustion in the industrial sector increased by 6.6 percent, including increased emissions from the combustion of fuel oil, natural gas and coal. Overall, coal consumption increased by 5.8 percent, the largest annual increase in coal consumption for the twenty three-year period between 1990 and 2012. In 2010, weather conditions remained fairly constant in the winter and were much hotter in the summer compared to 2009, as heating degree days decreased slightly by 0.5 percent and cooling degree days increased by 16.8 percent to their highest levels in the twenty three-year period from 1990 to 2012. As a result of the more energy-intensive summer weather conditions, electricity sales to the residential and commercial end-use sectors in 2010 increased approximately 6.0 percent and 1.8 percent, respectively.

From 2010 to 2011, CO₂ emissions from fossil fuel combustion decreased by 2.5 percent. This decrease is a result of multiple factors including: (1) a decrease in the carbon intensity of fuels consumed to generate electricity due to a decrease in coal consumption, with increased natural gas consumption and a significant increase in hydropower used; (2) a decrease in transportation-related energy consumption due to higher fuel costs, improvements in fuel efficiency, and a reduction in miles traveled; and (3) relatively mild winter conditions resulting in an overall decrease in energy demand in most sectors. Changing fuel prices played a role in the decreasing emissions. A significant increase in the price of motor gasoline in the transportation sector was a major factor leading to a decrease in energy consumption by 1.0 percent. In addition, an increase in the price of coal and a concurrent decrease in natural gas prices led to a 5.7 percent decrease and a 2.5 percent increase in fuel consumption of these fuels by electric generators. This change in fuel prices also reduced the carbon intensity of fuels used to produce electricity in 2011, further contributing to the decrease in fossil fuel combustion emissions.

From 2011 to 2012, CO₂ emissions from fossil fuel combustion decreased by 3.8 percent, with emissions from fossil fuel combustion at their lowest level since 1995. This decrease from 2011 to 2012 is primarily a result of the decrease in the carbon intensity of fuels used to generate electricity due to a slight increase in the price of coal, and a significant decrease in the price of natural gas. The consumption of coal used to generate electricity decreased by 12.3 percent, while consumption of natural gas for electricity generation increased by 20.4 percent. Also, emissions declined in the transportation sector largely due to a small increase in fuel efficiency across different transportation modes and limited new demand for passenger transportation. In 2012, weather conditions remained fairly constant in the summer and were much warmer in the winter compared to 2011, as cooling degree days only increased by 2.2 percent while heating degree days decreased 12.8 percent. This decrease in heating degree days resulted in a decreased demand for heating fuel in the residential and commercial sector, which had a decrease in natural gas consumption of 11.7 and 8.0 percent, respectively.

⁴⁸ This increase also represents the largest absolute and percentage increase since 1988 (EIA 2011a).

Overall, from 1990 to 2012, total emissions of CO₂ increased by 274.5 Tg CO₂ Eq. (5.4 percent), while total emissions of CH₄ decreased by 68.4 Tg CO₂ Eq. (10.8 percent), and total emissions of N₂O increased 11.5 Tg CO₂ Eq. (2.9 percent). During the same period, aggregate weighted emissions of HFCs, PFCs, and SF₆ rose by 74.8 Tg CO₂ Eq. (83.0 percent). Despite being emitted in smaller quantities relative to the other principal greenhouse gases, emissions of HFCs, PFCs, and SF₆ are significant because many of them have extremely high GWPs and, in the cases of PFCs and SF₆, long atmospheric lifetimes. Conversely, U.S. greenhouse gas emissions were partly offset by C sequestration in managed forests, trees in urban areas, agricultural soils, and landfilled yard trimmings. These were estimated to offset 15.0 percent of total emissions in 2012.

Table 2-1 summarizes emissions and sinks from all U.S. anthropogenic sources in weighted units of Tg CO₂ Eq., while unweighted gas emissions and sinks in gigagrams (Gg) are provided in Table 2-2.

Table 2-1: Recent Trends in U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks (Tg CO₂ Eq.)

Gas/Source	1990	2005	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
CO₂	5,108.7	6,112.2	5,936.9	5,506.1	5,722.3	5,592.2	5,383.2
Fossil Fuel Combustion	4,745.1	5,752.9	5,593.4	5,225.7	5,404.9	5,271.1	5,072.3
Electricity Generation	1,820.8	2,402.1	2,360.9	2,146.4	2,259.2	2,158.5	2,022.7
Transportation	1,494.0	1,891.7	1,816.5	1,747.7	1,765.0	1,747.9	1,739.5
Industrial	845.1	827.6	804.1	727.5	775.6	768.7	774.2
Residential	338.3	357.9	346.2	336.4	334.8	324.9	288.9
Commercial	219.0	223.5	224.7	223.9	220.7	221.5	197.4
U.S. Territories	27.9	50.0	41.0	43.8	49.6	49.6	49.6
Non-Energy Use of Fuels	120.8	141.0	128.0	108.1	120.8	117.3	110.3
Iron and Steel Production & Metallurgical Coke							
Production	99.8	66.7	66.8	43.0	55.7	60.0	54.3
Natural Gas Systems	37.7	30.0	32.7	32.2	32.4	35.1	35.2
Cement Production	33.3	45.9	41.2	29.4	31.3	32.0	35.1
Lime Production	11.4	14.0	14.0	10.9	12.8	13.5	13.3
Incineration of Waste	8.0	12.5	11.9	11.7	12.0	12.1	12.2
Ammonia Production	13.0	9.2	8.4	8.5	9.2	9.4	9.4
Other Process Uses of Carbonates	4.9	6.3	5.9	7.6	9.6	9.3	8.0
Cropland Remaining Cropland	7.1	7.9	8.6	7.2	8.6	7.9	7.4
Urea Consumption for Non-Agricultural Purposes	3.8	3.7	4.1	3.4	4.7	4.0	5.2
Petrochemical Production	3.4	4.3	3.6	2.8	3.5	3.5	3.5
Aluminum Production	6.8	4.1	4.5	3.0	2.7	3.3	3.4
Soda Ash Production and Consumption	2.7	2.9	2.9	2.5	2.6	2.6	2.7
Carbon Dioxide Consumption	1.4	1.3	1.8	1.8	2.3	1.8	1.8
Titanium Dioxide Production	1.2	1.8	1.8	1.6	1.8	1.7	1.7
Ferroalloy Production	2.2	1.4	1.6	1.5	1.7	1.7	1.7
Zinc Production	0.6	1.0	1.2	0.9	1.2	1.3	1.4
Glass Production	1.5	1.9	1.5	1.0	1.5	1.3	1.2
Phosphoric Acid Production	1.6	1.4	1.2	1.0	1.1	1.2	1.1
Wetlands Remaining Wetlands	1.0	1.1	1.0	1.1	1.0	0.9	0.8
Lead Production	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Petroleum Systems	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4
Silicon Carbide Production and Consumption	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2
<i>Land Use, Land-Use Change, and Forestry (Sink)^a</i>	<i>(831.1)</i>	<i>(1,030.7)</i>	<i>(981.0)</i>	<i>(961.6)</i>	<i>(968.0)</i>	<i>(980.3)</i>	<i>(979.3)</i>
<i>Wood Biomass and Ethanol Consumption^b</i>	<i>219.4</i>	<i>229.8</i>	<i>254.7</i>	<i>250.5</i>	<i>265.1</i>	<i>268.1</i>	<i>266.8</i>
<i>International Bunker Fuels^c</i>	<i>103.5</i>	<i>113.1</i>	<i>114.3</i>	<i>106.4</i>	<i>117.0</i>	<i>111.7</i>	<i>105.8</i>
CH₄	635.7	585.7	606.0	596.5	585.5	578.3	567.3
Enteric Fermentation	137.9	142.5	147.0	146.1	144.9	143.0	141.0
Natural Gas Systems	156.4	152.0	151.6	142.9	134.7	133.2	129.9
Landfills	147.8	112.1	114.3	115.3	109.9	107.4	102.8
Coal Mining	81.1	53.6	63.5	67.1	69.2	59.8	55.8
Manure Management	31.5	47.6	51.5	50.5	51.8	52.0	52.9
Petroleum Systems	35.8	28.8	28.8	29.1	29.5	30.5	31.7
Forest Land Remaining Forest Land	2.5	8.1	8.7	5.8	4.7	14.0	15.3
Wastewater Treatment	13.2	13.3	13.3	13.1	13.0	12.8	12.8

Rice Cultivation	7.7	7.5	7.8	7.9	9.3	7.1	7.4
Stationary Combustion	7.5	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.4	6.3	5.7
Abandoned Underground Coal Mines	6.0	5.5	5.3	5.1	5.0	4.8	4.7
Petrochemical Production	2.3	3.1	2.9	2.9	3.1	3.1	3.1
Mobile Combustion	4.6	2.4	1.9	1.8	1.8	1.7	1.7
Composting	0.3	1.6	1.7	1.6	1.5	1.6	1.6
Iron and Steel Production & Metallurgical Coke							
Production	1.0	0.7	0.6	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.6
Field Burning of Agricultural Residues	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3
Ferroalloy Production	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Silicon Carbide Production and Consumption	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Incineration of Waste	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
<i>International Bunker Fuels^c</i>	<i>0.1</i>						
N₂O	398.6	415.8	423.3	412.2	409.3	417.2	410.1
Agricultural Soil Management	282.1	297.3	319.0	316.4	310.1	307.8	306.6
Stationary Combustion	12.3	20.6	21.1	20.8	22.5	21.6	22.0
Manure Management	14.4	17.1	17.8	17.7	17.8	18.0	18.0
Mobile Combustion	44.0	36.9	25.5	22.7	20.7	18.5	16.5
Nitric Acid Production	18.2	16.9	16.9	14.0	16.7	15.8	15.3
Forest Land Remaining Forest Land	2.1	7.0	7.5	5.1	4.2	11.8	12.8
Adipic Acid Production	15.8	7.4	2.6	2.8	4.4	10.6	5.8
Wastewater Treatment	3.5	4.5	4.8	4.8	4.9	5.0	5.0
N ₂ O from Product Uses	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4
Composting	0.4	1.7	1.9	1.8	1.7	1.7	1.8
Settlements Remaining Settlements	1.0	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.5
Incineration of Waste	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
Field Burning of Agricultural Residues	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Wetlands Remaining Wetlands	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
<i>International Bunker Fuels^c</i>	<i>0.9</i>	<i>1.0</i>	<i>1.0</i>	<i>0.9</i>	<i>1.0</i>	<i>1.0</i>	<i>1.0</i>
HFCs	36.9	119.8	136.0	135.1	144.0	148.6	151.2
Substitution of Ozone Depleting Substances ^d	0.3	103.8	122.2	129.6	137.5	141.5	146.8
HCFC-22 Production	36.4	15.8	13.6	5.4	6.4	6.9	4.3
Semiconductor Manufacture	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2
PFCs	20.6	5.6	5.1	3.3	3.8	6.0	5.4
Semiconductor Manufacture	2.2	2.6	2.4	1.7	2.2	3.0	2.9
Aluminum Production	18.4	3.0	2.7	1.6	1.6	2.9	2.5
SF₆	32.6	14.7	10.7	9.6	9.8	10.8	8.4
Electrical Transmission and Distribution	26.7	11.0	8.4	7.5	7.2	7.2	6.0
Magnesium Production and Processing	5.4	2.9	1.9	1.7	2.2	2.9	1.7
Semiconductor Manufacture	0.5	0.7	0.5	0.3	0.4	0.7	0.7
Total	6,233.2	7,253.8	7,118.1	6,662.9	6,874.7	6,753.0	6,525.6
Net Emissions (Sources and Sinks)	5,402.1	6,223.1	6,137.1	5,701.2	5,906.7	5,772.7	5,546.3

+ Does not exceed 0.05 Tg CO₂ Eq.

^a The net CO₂ flux total includes both emissions and sequestration, and constitutes a sink in the United States. Sinks are only included in net emissions total. Parentheses indicate negative values or sequestration.

^b Emissions from Wood Biomass and Ethanol Consumption are not included specifically in summing energy sector totals. Net carbon fluxes from changes in biogenic carbon reservoirs are accounted for in the estimates for Land Use, Land-Use Change, and Forestry.

^c Emissions from International Bunker Fuels are not included in totals.

^d Small amounts of PFC emissions also result from this source.

Note: Totals may not sum due to independent rounding.

Table 2-2: Recent Trends in U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks (Gg)

Gas/Source	1990	2005	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
CO₂	5,108,723	6,112,227	5,936,945	5,506,116	5,722,330	5,592,162	5,383,214
Fossil Fuel Combustion	4,745,067	5,752,860	5,593,424	5,225,717	5,404,903	5,271,097	5,072,271
Electricity Generation	1,820,818	2,402,143	2,360,920	2,146,415	2,259,190	2,158,481	2,022,679
Transportation	1,493,968	1,891,744	1,816,472	1,747,674	1,765,025	1,747,879	1,739,536
Industrial	845,089	827,600	804,121	727,505	775,574	768,715	774,161
Residential	338,347	357,903	346,237	336,363	334,828	324,928	288,883
Commercial	218,963	223,511	224,715	223,941	220,669	221,519	197,431
U.S. Territories	27,882	49,960	40,959	43,818	49,615	49,576	49,582
Non-Energy Use of Fuels	120,842	140,997	127,997	108,115	120,827	117,313	110,313
Iron and Steel Production & Metallurgical Coke Production	99,781	66,666	66,822	43,029	55,746	60,008	54,319
Natural Gas Systems	37,705	29,988	32,707	32,234	32,362	35,082	35,232
Cement Production	33,278	45,910	41,161	29,432	31,256	32,010	35,051
Lime Production	11,420	13,990	13,992	10,914	12,834	13,471	13,318
Incineration of Waste	7,972	12,454	11,867	11,672	12,033	12,142	12,195
Ammonia Production	13,047	9,196	8,414	8,454	9,188	9,428	9,366
Other Process Uses of Carbonates	4,907	6,339	5,885	7,583	9,560	9,335	7,997
Cropland Remaining Cropland	7,084	7,854	8,638	7,224	8,563	7,864	7,381
Urea Consumption for Non-Agricultural Purposes	3,784	3,653	4,065	3,427	4,728	3,999	5,243
Petrochemical Production	3,429	4,330	3,572	2,833	3,455	3,505	3,505
Aluminum Production	6,831	4,142	4,477	3,009	2,722	3,292	3,439
Soda Ash Production and Consumption	2,741	2,868	2,865	2,488	2,612	2,624	2,672
Carbon Dioxide Consumption	1,416	1,321	1,780	1,784	2,253	1,843	1,815
Titanium Dioxide Production	1,195	1,755	1,809	1,648	1,769	1,729	1,742
Ferroalloy Production	2,152	1,392	1,599	1,469	1,663	1,663	1,663
Zinc Production	632	1,030	1,159	943	1,182	1,286	1,422
Glass Production	1,535	1,928	1,523	1,045	1,481	1,299	1,247
Phosphoric Acid Production	1,586	1,396	1,177	1,016	1,130	1,199	1,101
Wetlands Remaining Wetlands	1,033	1,079	992	1,089	1,010	919	830
Lead Production	516	553	547	525	542	538	527
Petroleum Systems	394	306	300	320	332	347	406
Silicon Carbide Production and Consumption	375	219	175	145	181	170	158
<i>Land Use, Land-Use Change, and Forestry (Sink)^a</i>	<i>(831,108)</i>	<i>(1,030,713)</i>	<i>(981,016)</i>	<i>(961,619)</i>	<i>(968,010)</i>	<i>(980,310)</i>	<i>(979,305)</i>
<i>Wood Biomass and Ethanol Consumption^b</i>	<i>219,413</i>	<i>229,844</i>	<i>254,672</i>	<i>250,491</i>	<i>265,110</i>	<i>268,064</i>	<i>266,831</i>
<i>International Bunker Fuels^c</i>	<i>103,463</i>	<i>113,139</i>	<i>114,342</i>	<i>106,410</i>	<i>116,992</i>	<i>111,660</i>	<i>105,805</i>
CH₄	30,272	27,893	28,857	28,406	27,882	27,538	27,013
Enteric Fermentation	6,566	6,785	6,999	6,956	6,898	6,809	6,714
Natural Gas Systems	7,450	7,240	7,218	6,806	6,413	6,343	6,186
Landfills	7,036	5,339	5,444	5,492	5,234	5,112	4,897
Coal Mining	3,860	2,552	3,026	3,194	3,293	2,849	2,658
Manure Management	1,499	2,265	2,452	2,403	2,466	2,478	2,519
Petroleum Systems	1,704	1,374	1,372	1,388	1,407	1,453	1,511
Forest Land Remaining Forest	119	386	416	275	225	664	727
Wastewater Treatment	626	635	635	623	619	611	608
Rice Cultivation	366	358	370	378	444	339	351
Stationary Combustion	355	315	317	316	304	302	271
Abandoned Underground Coal Mines	288	264	253	244	237	231	226
Petrochemical Production	108	150	137	138	146	148	147
Mobile Combustion	218	113	92	87	85	82	81

Composting	15	75	80	75	73	75	76
Iron and Steel Production & Metallurgical Coke Production	46	34	31	17	25	28	29
Field Burning of Agricultural Residues	13	9	13	12	11	12	12
Ferroalloy Production	1	+	+	+	+	+	+
Silicon Carbide Production and Consumption	1	+	+	+	+	+	+
Incineration of Waste	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
<i>International Bunker Fuels^c</i>	7	5	6	5	6	5	4
N₂O	1,286	1,341	1,365	1,330	1,320	1,346	1,323
Agricultural Soil Management	910	959	1,029	1,021	1,000	993	989
Stationary Combustion	40	66	68	67	73	70	71
Manure Management	46	55	57	57	57	58	58
Mobile Combustion	142	119	82	73	67	60	53
Nitric Acid Production	59	55	54	45	54	51	49
Forest Land Remaining Forest Land	7	22	24	16	14	38	41
Adipic Acid Production	51	24	8	9	14	34	19
Wastewater Treatment	11	14	15	16	16	16	16
N ₂ O from Product Uses	14	14	14	14	14	14	14
Composting	1	6	6	6	5	6	6
Settlements Remaining Settlements	3	5	5	5	5	5	5
Incineration of Waste	2	1	1	1	1	1	1
Field Burning of Agricultural Residues	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Wetlands Remaining Wetlands	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
<i>International Bunker Fuels^c</i>	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
HFCs	M						
Substitution of Ozone Depleting Substances ^d	M	M	M	M	M	M	M
HCFC-22 Production	3	1	1	+	1	1	+
Semiconductor Manufacture	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
PFCs	M						
Semiconductor Manufacture	M	M	M	M	M	M	M
Aluminum Production	M	M	M	M	M	M	M
SF₆	1	1	+	+	+	+	+
Electrical Transmission and Distribution	1	+	+	+	+	+	+
Magnesium Production and Processing	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Semiconductor Manufacture	+	+	+	+	+	+	+

+ Does not exceed 0.5 Gg.

M Mixture of multiple gases

^a The net CO₂ flux total includes both emissions and sequestration, and constitutes a sink in the United States. Sinks are only included in net emissions total. Parentheses indicate negative values or sequestration.

^b Emissions from Wood Biomass and Ethanol Consumption are not included specifically in summing energy sector totals. Net carbon fluxes from changes in biogenic carbon reservoirs are accounted for in the estimates for Land Use, Land-Use Change, and Forestry

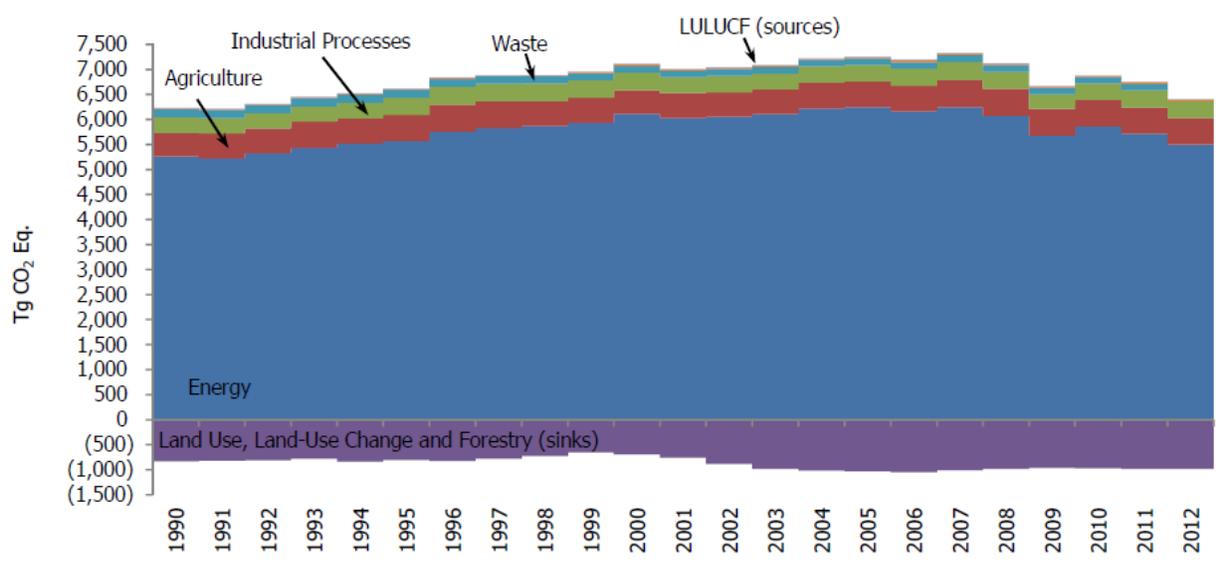
^c Emissions from International Bunker Fuels are not included in totals.

^d Small amounts of PFC emissions also result from this source.

Note: Totals may not sum due to independent rounding.

Emissions of all gases can be summed from each source category into a set of six sectors defined by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). Over the twenty three-year period of 1990 to 2012, total emissions in the Energy, Industrial Processes, and Agriculture sectors grew by 238.8 Tg CO₂ Eq. (4.5 percent), 18.3 Tg CO₂ Eq. (5.8 percent), and 52.3 Tg CO₂ Eq. (11.0 percent), respectively. Emissions from the Waste and Solvent and Other Product Use sectors decreased by 41.1 Tg CO₂ Eq. (24.9 percent) and less than 0.1 Tg CO₂ Eq. (0.4 percent), respectively. Over the same period, estimates of net C sequestration in the Land Use, Land-Use Change, and Forestry sector increased by 124.1 Tg CO₂ Eq. (15.2 percent).

Figure 2-4: U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks by Chapter/IPCC Sector



Note: Relatively smaller amounts of GWP-weighted emissions are also emitted from the Solvent and Other Product Use sectors.

Table 2-3: Recent Trends in U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks by Chapter/IPCC Sector (Tg CO₂ Eq.)

Chapter/IPCC Sector	1990	2005	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Energy	5,260.1	6,243.5	6,071.1	5,674.6	5,860.6	5,712.9	5,498.9
Fossil Fuel Combustion	4,745.1	5,752.9	5,593.4	5,225.7	5,404.9	5,271.1	5,072.3
Natural Gas Systems	194.2	182.0	184.3	175.2	167.0	168.3	165.1
Non-Energy Use of Fuels	120.8	141.0	128.0	108.1	120.8	117.3	110.3
Coal Mining	81.1	53.6	63.5	67.1	69.2	59.8	55.8
Petroleum Systems	36.2	29.1	29.1	29.5	29.9	30.9	32.1
Stationary Combustion	19.7	27.2	27.8	27.4	28.9	28.0	27.7
Mobile Combustion	48.6	39.3	27.4	24.5	22.5	20.2	18.2
Incineration of Waste	8.4	12.9	12.2	12.0	12.4	12.5	12.6
Abandoned Underground Coal Mines	6.0	5.5	5.3	5.1	5.0	4.8	4.7
Industrial Processes	316.1	334.9	335.9	287.8	324.6	342.9	334.4
Substitution of Ozone Depleting Substances	0.3	103.8	122.2	129.6	137.5	141.5	146.8
Iron and Steel Production & Metallurgical Coke Production	100.7	67.4	67.5	43.4	56.3	60.6	54.9
Cement Production	33.3	45.9	41.2	29.4	31.3	32.0	35.1
Nitric Acid Production	18.2	16.9	16.9	14.0	16.7	15.8	15.3
Lime Production	11.4	14.0	14.0	10.9	12.8	13.5	13.3
Ammonia Production	13.0	9.2	8.4	8.5	9.2	9.4	9.4
Other Process Uses of Carbonates	4.9	6.3	5.9	7.6	9.6	9.3	8.0
Petrochemical Production	5.7	7.5	6.5	5.7	6.5	6.6	6.6
Electrical Transmission and Distribution	26.7	11.0	8.4	7.5	7.2	7.2	6.0
Aluminum Production	25.3	7.1	7.2	4.6	4.3	6.2	5.9
Adipic Acid Production	15.8	7.4	2.6	2.8	4.4	10.6	5.8
Urea Consumption for Non-Agricultural Purposes	3.8	3.7	4.1	3.4	4.7	4.0	5.2
HCFC-22 Production	36.4	15.8	13.6	5.4	6.4	6.9	4.3
Semiconductor Manufacture	2.9	3.5	3.0	2.2	2.8	3.9	3.7
Soda Ash Production and Consumption	2.7	2.9	2.9	2.5	2.6	2.6	2.7

Carbon Dioxide Consumption	1.4	1.3	1.8	1.8	2.3	1.8	1.8
Titanium Dioxide Production	1.2	1.8	1.8	1.6	1.8	1.7	1.7
Magnesium Production and Processing	5.4	2.9	1.9	1.7	2.2	2.9	1.7
Ferroalloy Production	2.2	1.4	1.6	1.5	1.7	1.7	1.7
Zinc Production	0.6	1.0	1.2	0.9	1.2	1.3	1.4
Glass Production	1.5	1.9	1.5	1.0	1.5	1.3	1.2
Phosphoric Acid Production	1.6	1.4	1.2	1.0	1.1	1.2	1.1
Lead Production	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Silicon Carbide Production and Consumption	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Solvent and Other Product Use	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4
Agriculture	473.9	512.2	543.4	538.9	534.2	528.3	526.3
Agricultural Soil Management	282.1	297.3	319.0	316.4	310.1	307.8	306.6
Enteric Fermentation	137.9	142.5	147.0	146.1	144.9	143.0	141.0
Manure Management	45.8	64.6	69.3	68.2	69.6	70.0	70.9
Rice Cultivation	7.7	7.5	7.8	7.9	9.3	7.1	7.4
Field Burning of Agricultural Residues	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.4
Land Use, Land-Use Change, and Forestry (Emissions)	13.7	25.5	27.3	20.5	20.0	36.0	37.8
Forest Land Remaining Forest Land	4.6	15.1	16.2	10.8	8.9	25.7	28.1
Cropland Remaining Cropland	7.1	7.9	8.6	7.2	8.6	7.9	7.4
Settlements Remaining Settlements	1.0	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.5
Wetlands Remaining Wetlands	1.0	1.1	1.0	1.1	1.0	0.9	0.8
Waste	165.0	133.2	136.0	136.5	131.1	128.5	124.0
Landfills	147.8	112.1	114.3	115.3	109.9	107.4	102.8
Wastewater Treatment	16.6	17.8	18.1	17.9	17.9	17.8	17.8
Composting	0.7	3.3	3.5	3.3	3.2	3.3	3.3
Total Emissions	6,233.2	7,253.8	7,118.1	6,662.9	6,874.7	6,753.0	6,525.6
<i>Net CO₂ Flux From Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry (Sinks)^a</i>	<i>(831.1)</i>	<i>(1,030.7)</i>	<i>(981.0)</i>	<i>(961.6)</i>	<i>(968.0)</i>	<i>(980.3)</i>	<i>(979.3)</i>
Net Emissions (Sources and Sinks)	5,402.1	6,223.1	6,137.1	5,701.2	5,906.7	5,772.7	5,546.3

^a The net CO₂ flux total includes both emissions and sequestration, and constitutes a sink in the United States. Sinks are only included in net emissions total. Please refer to Table 2-9 for a breakout by source.

Note: Totals may not sum due to independent rounding.

Note: Parentheses indicate negative values or sequestration.

Energy

Energy-related activities, primarily fossil fuel combustion, accounted for the vast majority of U.S. CO₂ emissions for the period of 1990 through 2012. In 2012, approximately 82 percent of the energy consumed in the United States (on a Btu basis) was produced through the combustion of fossil fuels. The remaining 18 percent came from other energy sources such as hydropower, biomass, nuclear, wind, and solar energy (see Figure 2-5 and Figure 2-6). A discussion of specific trends related to CO₂ as well as other greenhouse gas emissions from energy consumption is presented in the Energy chapter. Energy-related activities are also responsible for CH₄ and N₂O emissions (40 percent and 9 percent of total U.S. emissions of each gas, respectively). Table 2-4 presents greenhouse gas emissions from the Energy chapter, by source and gas.

Figure 2-5: 2012 Energy Chapter Greenhouse Gas Sources

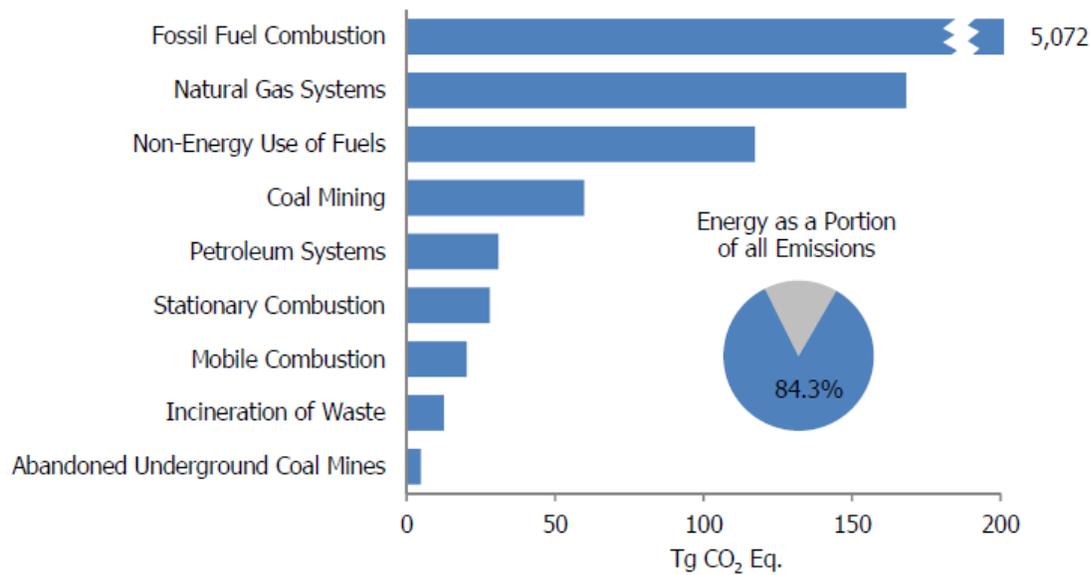


Figure 2-6: 2012 U.S. Fossil Carbon Flows (Tg CO₂ Eq.)

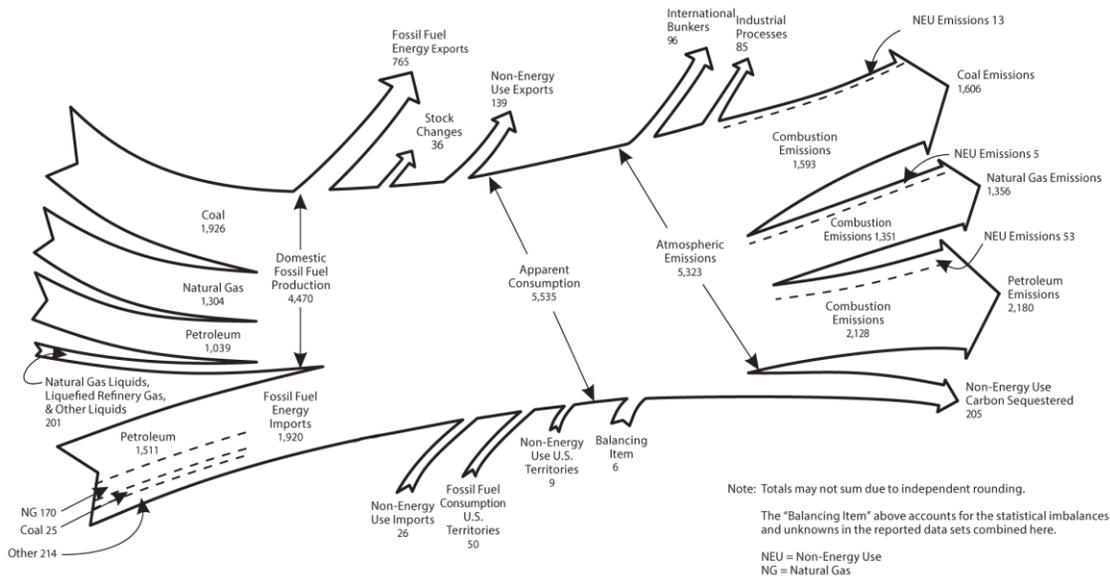


Table 2-4: Emissions from Energy (Tg CO₂ Eq.)

Gas/Source	1990	2005	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
CO₂	4,912.0	5,936.6	5,766.3	5,378.1	5,570.5	5,436.0	5,230.4
Fossil Fuel Combustion	4,745.1	5,752.9	5,593.4	5,225.7	5,404.9	5,271.1	5,072.3
Electricity Generation	1,820.8	2,402.1	2,360.9	2,146.4	2,259.2	2,158.5	2,022.7
Transportation	1,494.0	1,891.7	1,816.5	1,747.7	1,765.0	1,747.9	1,739.5
Industrial	845.1	827.6	804.1	727.5	775.6	768.7	774.2
Residential	338.3	357.9	346.2	336.4	334.8	324.9	288.9
Commercial	219.0	223.5	224.7	223.9	220.7	221.5	197.4
U.S. Territories	27.9	50.0	41.0	43.8	49.6	49.6	49.6
Non-Energy Use of Fuels	120.8	141.0	128.0	108.1	120.8	117.3	110.3
Natural Gas Systems	37.7	30.0	32.7	32.2	32.4	35.1	35.2

Incineration of Waste	8.0	12.5	11.9	11.7	12.0	12.1	12.2
Petroleum Systems	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4
<i>Biomass - Wood^a</i>	215.2	206.9	199.9	188.2	192.5	195.2	194.0
<i>International Bunker Fuels^b</i>	103.5	113.1	114.3	106.4	117.0	111.7	105.8
<i>Biomass - Ethanol^a</i>	4.2	22.9	54.7	62.3	72.6	72.9	72.8
CH₄	291.4	249.0	257.8	252.8	246.5	236.5	229.6
Natural Gas Systems	156.4	152.0	151.6	142.9	134.7	133.2	129.9
Coal Mining	81.1	53.6	63.5	67.1	69.2	59.8	55.8
Petroleum Systems	35.8	28.8	28.8	29.1	29.5	30.5	31.7
Stationary Combustion	7.5	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.4	6.3	5.7
Abandoned Underground Coal							
Mines	6.0	5.5	5.3	5.1	5.0	4.8	4.7
Mobile Combustion	4.6	2.4	1.9	1.8	1.8	1.7	1.7
Incineration of Waste	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
<i>International Bunker Fuels^b</i>	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
N₂O	56.8	57.9	47.0	43.8	43.6	40.5	38.9
Stationary Combustion	12.3	20.6	21.1	20.8	22.5	21.6	22.0
Mobile Combustion	44.0	36.9	25.5	22.7	20.7	18.5	16.5
Incineration of Waste	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
<i>International Bunker Fuels^b</i>	0.9	1.0	1.0	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.0
Total	5,260.1	6,243.5	6,071.1	5,674.6	5,860.6	5,712.9	5,498.9

+ Does not exceed 0.05 Tg CO₂ Eq.

^aEmissions from Wood Biomass and Ethanol Consumption are not included specifically in summing energy sector totals. Net carbon fluxes from changes in biogenic carbon reservoirs are accounted for in the estimates for Land Use, Land-Use Change, and Forestry

^bEmissions from International Bunker Fuels are not included in totals.

Note: Totals may not sum due to independent rounding.

Carbon dioxide emissions from fossil fuel combustion are presented in Table 2-5 based on the underlying U.S. energy consumer data collected by EIA. Estimates of CO₂ emissions from fossil fuel combustion are calculated from these EIA “end-use sectors” based on total consumption and appropriate fuel properties (any additional analysis and refinement of the EIA data is further explained in the Energy chapter of this report). EIA’s fuel consumption data for the electric power sector comprises electricity-only and combined-heat-and-power (CHP) plants within the NAICS 22 category whose primary business is to sell electricity, or electricity and heat, to the public (nonutility power producers can be included in this sector as long as they meet they electric power sector definition). EIA statistics for the industrial sector include fossil fuel consumption that occurs in the fields of manufacturing, agriculture, mining, and construction. EIA’s fuel consumption data for the transportation sector consists of all vehicles whose primary purpose is transporting people and/or goods from one physical location to another. EIA’s fuel consumption data for the industrial sector consists of all facilities and equipment used for producing, processing, or assembling goods (EIA includes generators that produce electricity and/or useful thermal output primarily to support on-site industrial activities in this sector). EIA’s fuel consumption data for the residential sector consists of living quarters for private households. EIA’s fuel consumption data for the commercial sector consists of service-providing facilities and equipment from private and public organizations and businesses (EIA includes generators that produce electricity and/or useful thermal output primarily to support the activities at commercial establishments in this sector). Table 2-5 and Figure 2-7 summarize CO₂ emissions from fossil fuel combustion by end-use sector. Figure 2-8 further describes the total emissions from fossil fuel combustion, separated by end-use sector, including CH₄, and N₂O in addition to CO₂.

Table 2-5: CO₂ Emissions from Fossil Fuel Combustion by End-Use Sector (Tg CO₂ Eq.)

End-Use Sector	1990	2005	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Transportation	1,497.0	1,896.5	1,821.2	1,752.2	1,769.5	1,752.1	1,743.4
Combustion	1,494.0	1,891.7	1,816.5	1,747.7	1,765.0	1,747.9	1,739.5
Electricity	3.0	4.7	4.7	4.5	4.5	4.3	3.9
Industrial	1,531.8	1,564.6	1,501.4	1,329.5	1,416.6	1,393.6	1,367.1
Combustion	845.1	827.6	804.1	727.5	775.6	768.7	774.2
Electricity	686.7	737.0	697.3	602.0	641.1	624.9	592.9
Residential	931.4	1,214.7	1,189.2	1,122.9	1,175.2	1,115.9	1,014.3
Combustion	338.3	357.9	346.2	336.4	334.8	324.9	288.9
Electricity	593.0	856.7	842.9	786.5	840.4	791.0	725.5
Commercial	757.0	1,027.2	1,040.8	977.4	993.9	959.8	897.9
Combustion	219.0	223.5	224.7	223.9	220.7	221.5	197.4
Electricity	538.0	803.7	816.0	753.5	773.3	738.3	700.4
U.S. Territories^a	27.9	50.0	41.0	43.8	49.6	49.6	49.6
Total	4,745.1	5,752.9	5,593.4	5,225.7	5,404.9	5,271.1	5,072.3
Electricity Generation	1,820.8	2,402.1	2,360.9	2,146.4	2,259.2	2,158.5	2,022.7

Note: Totals may not sum due to independent rounding. Combustion-related emissions from electricity generation are allocated based on aggregate national electricity consumption by each end-use sector.

^a Fuel consumption by U.S. Territories (i.e., American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, Wake Island, and other U.S. Pacific Islands) is included in this report.

Figure 2-7: 2012 CO₂ Emissions from Fossil Fuel Combustion by Sector and Fuel Type

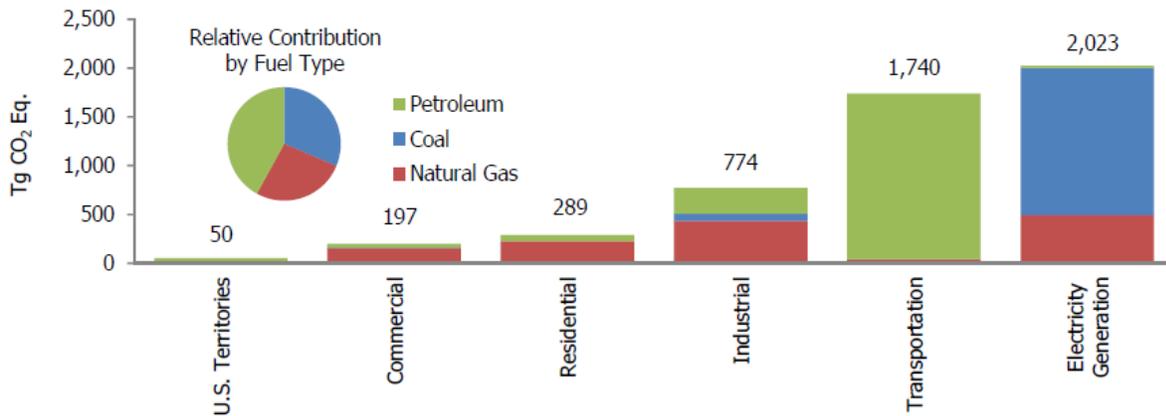
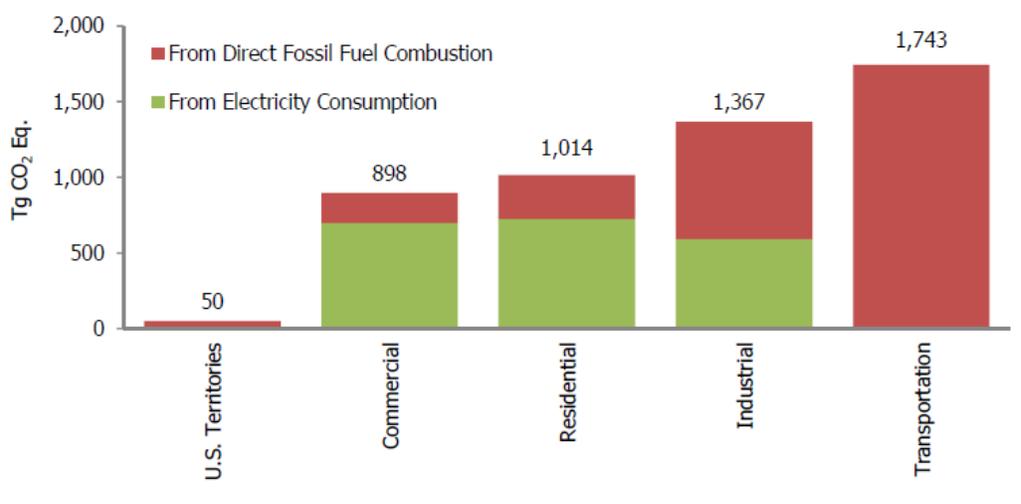


Figure 2-8: 2012 End-Use Sector Emissions of CO₂ from Fossil Fuel Combustion



The main driver of emissions in the Energy sector is CO₂ from fossil fuel combustion. Electricity generation is the largest emitter of CO₂, and electricity generators consumed 35 percent of U.S. energy from fossil fuels and emitted 40 percent of the CO₂ from fossil fuel combustion in 2012. Electricity generation emissions can also be allocated to the end-use sectors that are consuming that electricity, as presented in Table 2-5. The transportation end-use sector accounted for 1,743.4 Tg CO₂ Eq. in 2012 or approximately 34 percent of total CO₂ emissions from fossil fuel combustion. The industrial end-use sector accounted for 27 percent of CO₂ emissions from fossil fuel combustion. The residential and commercial end-use sectors accounted for 20 and 18 percent, respectively, of CO₂ emissions from fossil fuel combustion. Both of these end-use sectors were heavily reliant on electricity for meeting energy needs, with electricity consumption for lighting, heating, air conditioning, and operating appliances contributing 72 and 78 percent of emissions from the residential and commercial end-use sectors, respectively. Significant trends in emissions from energy source categories over the twenty three-year period from 1990 through 2012 included the following:

- Total CO₂ emissions from fossil fuel combustion increased from 4,745.1 Tg CO₂ Eq. in 1990 to 5,072.3 Tg CO₂ Eq. in 2012—a 6.9 percent total increase over the twenty three-year period. From 2011 to 2012, these emissions decreased by 198.8 Tg CO₂ Eq. (3.8 percent).
- CH₄ emissions from natural gas systems were the second largest anthropogenic source of CH₄ emissions in the United States with 129.9 Tg CO₂ Eq. emitted into the atmosphere in 2012; emissions have decreased by 26.6 Tg CO₂ Eq. (17.0 percent) since 1990.
- CO₂ emissions from non-energy use of fossil fuels decreased by 10.5 Tg CO₂ Eq. (8.7 percent) from 1990 through 2012. Emissions from non-energy uses of fossil fuels were 110.3 Tg CO₂ Eq. in 2012, which constituted 2.0 percent of total national CO₂ emissions.
- N₂O emissions from stationary combustion increased by 9.7 Tg CO₂ Eq. (79.3 percent) from 1990 through 2012. N₂O emissions from this source increased primarily as a result of an increase in the number of coal fluidized bed boilers in the electric power sector.
- CO₂ emissions from incineration of waste (12.2 Tg CO₂ Eq. in 2012) increased by 4.2 Tg CO₂ Eq. (53.0 percent) from 1990 through 2012, as the volume of plastics and other fossil carbon-containing materials in municipal solid waste grew.

The decrease in CO₂ emissions from fossil fuel combustion in 2012 was a result of multiple factors including: (1) a decrease in the carbon intensity of fuels consumed by power producers to generate electricity due to significant decrease in the price of natural gas compared to the slight increase in the price of coal; (2) a decrease in transportation sector emissions attributed to a small increase in fuel efficiency across different transportation modes and limited new demand for passenger transportation; and (3) much warmer winter conditions resulting in a decreased demand for heating fuel in the residential and commercial sectors.

Industrial Processes

Greenhouse gas emissions are produced as the by-products of many non-energy-related industrial activities. For example, industrial processes can chemically transform raw materials, which often release waste gases such as CO₂, CH₄, and N₂O. These processes include iron and steel production and metallurgical coke production, cement production, ammonia production, urea consumption, lime production, other process uses of carbonates (e.g., flux stone, flue gas desulfurization, and glass manufacturing), soda ash production and consumption, titanium dioxide production, phosphoric acid production, ferroalloy production, CO₂ consumption, silicon carbide production and consumption, aluminum production, petrochemical production, nitric acid production, adipic acid production, lead production, and zinc production (see Figure 2-9). Industrial processes also release HFCs, PFCs and SF₆. In addition to their use as ODS substitutes, HFCs, PFCs, SF₆, and other fluorinated compounds are employed and emitted by a number of other industrial sources in the United States. These industries include aluminum production, HCFC-22 production, semiconductor manufacture, electric power transmission and distribution, and magnesium metal production and processing. Table 2-6 presents greenhouse gas emissions from industrial processes by source category.

Figure 2-9: 2012 Industrial Processes Chapter Greenhouse Gas Sources

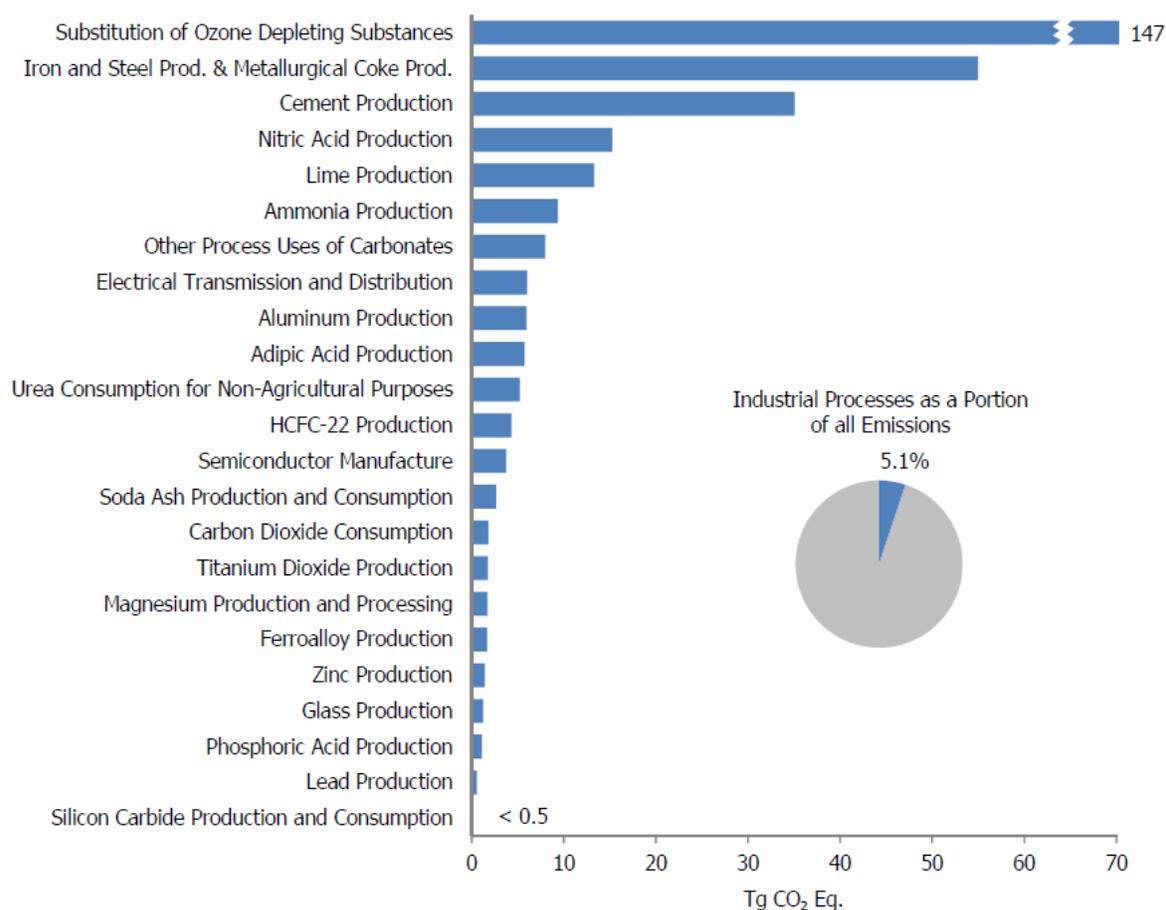


Table 2-6: Emissions from Industrial Processes (Tg CO₂ Eq.)

Gas/Source	1990	2005	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
CO ₂	188.6	166.7	161.0	119.7	142.3	147.4	144.6
Iron and Steel Production & Metallurgical Coke Production	99.8	66.7	66.8	43.0	55.7	60.0	54.3

<i>Iron and Steel Production</i>	97.3	64.6	64.5	42.1	53.7	58.6	53.8
<i>Metallurgical Coke Production</i>	2.5	2.0	2.3	1.0	2.1	1.4	0.5
Cement Production	33.3	45.9	41.2	29.4	31.3	32.0	35.1
Lime Production	11.4	14.0	14.0	10.9	12.8	13.5	13.3
Ammonia Production	13.0	9.2	8.4	8.5	9.2	9.4	9.4
Other Process Uses of Carbonates	4.9	6.3	5.9	7.6	9.6	9.3	8.0
Urea Consumption for Non-Agricultural Purposes	3.8	3.7	4.1	3.4	4.7	4.0	5.2
Petrochemical Production	3.4	4.3	3.6	2.8	3.5	3.5	3.5
Aluminum Production	6.8	4.1	4.5	3.0	2.7	3.3	3.4
Soda Ash Production and Consumption	2.7	2.9	2.9	2.5	2.6	2.6	2.7
Carbon Dioxide Consumption	1.4	1.3	1.8	1.8	2.3	1.8	1.8
Titanium Dioxide Production	1.2	1.8	1.8	1.6	1.8	1.7	1.7
Ferroalloy Production	2.2	1.4	1.6	1.5	1.7	1.7	1.7
Zinc Production	0.6	1.0	1.2	0.9	1.2	1.3	1.4
Glass Production	1.5	1.9	1.5	1.0	1.5	1.3	1.2
Phosphoric Acid Production	1.6	1.4	1.2	1.0	1.1	1.2	1.1
Lead Production	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Silicon Carbide Production and Consumption	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2
CH₄	3.3	3.9	3.6	3.3	3.6	3.7	3.7
Petrochemical Production	2.3	3.1	2.9	2.9	3.1	3.1	3.1
Iron and Steel Production & Metallurgical Coke	1.0	0.7	0.6	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.6
<i>Iron and Steel Production</i>	1.0	0.7	0.6	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.6
<i>Metallurgical Coke Production</i>	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Ferroalloy Production	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Silicon Carbide Production and Consumption	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
N₂O	34.0	24.4	19.4	16.8	21.1	26.5	21.0
Nitric Acid Production	18.2	16.9	16.9	14.0	16.7	15.8	15.3
Adipic Acid Production	15.8	7.4	2.6	2.8	4.4	10.6	5.8
HFCs	36.9	119.8	136.0	135.1	144.0	148.6	151.2
Substitution of Ozone Depleting Substances ^a	0.3	103.8	122.2	129.6	137.5	141.5	146.8
HCFC-22 Production	36.4	15.8	13.6	5.4	6.4	6.9	4.3
Semiconductor Manufacture	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2
PFCs	20.6	5.6	5.1	3.3	3.8	6.0	5.4
Semiconductor Manufacture	2.2	2.6	2.4	1.7	2.2	3.0	2.9
Aluminum Production	18.4	3.0	2.7	1.6	1.6	2.9	2.5
SF₆	32.6	14.7	10.7	9.6	9.8	10.8	8.4
Electrical Transmission and Distribution	26.7	11.0	8.4	7.5	7.2	7.2	6.0
Magnesium Production and Processing	5.4	2.9	1.9	1.7	2.2	2.9	1.7
Semiconductor Manufacture	0.5	0.7	0.5	0.3	0.4	0.7	0.7
Total	316.1	334.9	335.9	287.8	324.6	342.9	334.4

+ Does not exceed 0.05 Tg CO₂ Eq.

^a Small amounts of PFC emissions also result from this source.

Overall, emissions from the Industrial Processes sector increased by 5.8 percent from 1990 to 2012. Significant trends in emissions from industrial processes source categories over the twenty three-year period from 1990 through 2012 included the following:

- HFC emissions from ODS substitutes have been increasing from small amounts in 1990 to 146.8 Tg CO₂ Eq. in 2012. This increase results from efforts to phase out CFCs and other ODS' in the United States. In the short term, this trend is expected to continue, and will likely accelerate over the next decade as HCFCs—which are interim substitutes in many applications—are phased out under the provisions of the Copenhagen Amendments to the Montreal Protocol.
- Combined CO₂ and CH₄ emissions from iron and steel production and metallurgical coke production decreased by 9.3 percent to 54.9 Tg CO₂ Eq. from 2011 to 2012, and have declined overall by 45.8 Tg CO₂

Eq. (45.5 percent) from 1990 through 2012, due to restructuring of the industry, technological improvements, and increased scrap steel utilization.

- CO₂ emissions from ammonia production (9.4 Tg CO₂ Eq. in 2012) decreased by 3.7 Tg CO₂ Eq. (28.2 percent) since 1990. Ammonia production relies on natural gas as both a feedstock and a fuel, and as such, market fluctuations and volatility in natural gas prices affect the production of ammonia. Urea consumption for non-agricultural purposes (5.2 Tg CO₂ Eq. in 2012) increased by 1.5 Tg CO₂ Eq. (38.6 percent) since 1990.
- N₂O emissions from adipic acid production were 5.8 Tg CO₂ Eq. in 2012, and have decreased significantly since 1990 due to both the widespread installation of pollution control measures in the late 1990s and plant idling in the late 2000s. Emissions from adipic acid production have decreased by 63.6 percent since 1990 and by 67.2 percent since a peak in 1995.
- PFC emissions from aluminum production decreased by 86.4 percent (15.9 Tg CO₂ Eq.) from 1990 to 2012, due to both industry emission reduction efforts and lower domestic aluminum production.

Solvent and Other Product Use

Greenhouse gas emissions are produced as a by-product of various solvent and other product uses. In the United States, N₂O Emissions from Product Uses, the only source of greenhouse gas emissions from this sector, accounted for 4.4 Tg CO₂ Eq., or less than 0.1 percent of total U.S. greenhouse gas emissions in 2012 (see Table 2-7).

Table 2-7: N₂O Emissions from Solvent and Other Product Use (Tg CO₂ Eq.)

Gas/Source	1990	2005	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
N ₂ O	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4
N ₂ O from Product Uses	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4
Total	4.4						

In 2012, N₂O emissions from product uses constituted 1.1 percent of U.S. N₂O emissions. From 1990 to 2012, emissions from this source category decreased by 0.4 percent, though slight increases occurred in intermediate years.

Agriculture

Agricultural activities contribute directly to emissions of greenhouse gases through a variety of processes, including the following source categories: enteric fermentation in domestic livestock, livestock manure management, rice cultivation, agricultural soil management, and field burning of agricultural residues.

In 2012, agricultural activities were responsible for emissions of 526.3 Tg CO₂ Eq., or 8.1 percent of total U.S. greenhouse gas emissions. CH₄ and N₂O were the primary greenhouse gases emitted by agricultural activities. CH₄ emissions from enteric fermentation and manure management represented about 24.9 percent and 9.3 percent of total CH₄ emissions from anthropogenic activities, respectively, in 2012. Agricultural soil management activities, such as fertilizer use and other cropping practices, were the largest source of U.S. N₂O emissions in 2012, accounting for 74.8 percent.

Figure 2-10: 2012 Agriculture Chapter Greenhouse Gas Sources

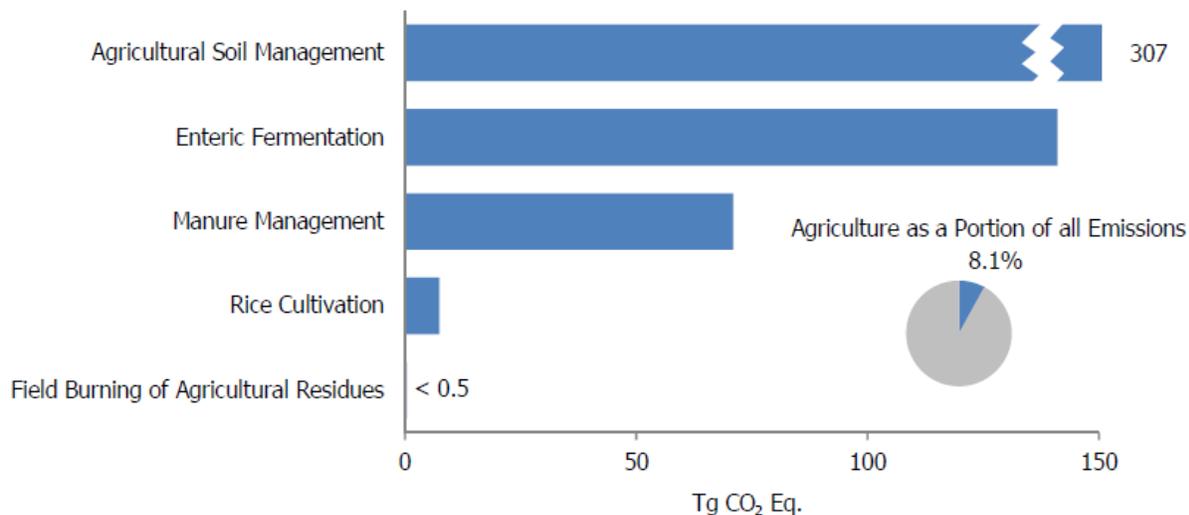


Table 2-8: Emissions from Agriculture (Tg CO₂ Eq.)

Gas/Source	1990	2005	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
CH₄	177.3	197.7	206.5	204.7	206.2	202.4	201.5
Enteric Fermentation	137.9	142.5	147.0	146.1	144.9	143.0	141.0
Manure Management	31.5	47.6	51.5	50.5	51.8	52.0	52.9
Rice Cultivation	7.7	7.5	7.8	7.9	9.3	7.1	7.4
Field Burning of Agricultural Residues	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3
N₂O	296.6	314.5	336.9	334.2	327.9	325.8	324.7
Agricultural Soil Management	282.1	297.3	319.0	316.4	310.1	307.8	306.6
Manure Management	14.4	17.1	17.8	17.7	17.8	18.0	18.0
Field Burning of Agricultural Residues	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Total	473.9	512.2	543.4	538.9	534.2	528.3	526.3

Note: Totals may not sum due to independent rounding.

Some significant trends in U.S. emissions from Agriculture source categories include the following:

- Agricultural soils produced approximately 74.8 percent of N₂O emissions in the United States in 2012. Estimated emissions from this source in 2012 were 306.6 Tg CO₂ Eq. Annual N₂O emissions from agricultural soils fluctuated between 1990 and 2012, although overall emissions were 8.7 percent higher in 2012 than in 1990. Year-to-year fluctuations are largely a reflection of annual variation in weather patterns, synthetic fertilizer use, and crop production.
- Enteric fermentation was the largest source of CH₄ emissions in the United States in 2012, at 141.0 Tg CO₂ Eq. Generally, from 1990 to 1995 emissions increased and then decreased from 1996 to 2004. These trends were mainly due to fluctuations in beef cattle populations and increased digestibility of feed for feedlot cattle. Emissions generally increased from 2005 to 2007, as both dairy and beef populations underwent increases and the literature for dairy cow diets indicated a trend toward a decrease in feed digestibility for those years. Emissions decreased again from 2008 to 2012 as beef cattle populations again decreased. Regarding trends in other animals, during the timeframe of this analysis, populations of sheep have decreased 53 percent while horse populations have nearly doubled, with each annual increase ranging from about 2 to 9 percent. Goat and swine populations have increased 25 percent and 23 percent, respectively, during this timeframe, though with some slight annual decreases. The population of American bison almost tripled, while mules and asses have increased by more than a factor of six.

- Overall, emissions from manure management increased 54.7 percent between 1990 and 2012. This encompassed an increase of 68.0 percent for CH₄, from 31.5 Tg CO₂ Eq. in 1990 to 52.9 Tg CO₂ Eq. in 2012; and an increase of 25.5 percent for N₂O, from 14.4 Tg CO₂ Eq. in 1990 to 18.0 Tg CO₂ Eq. in 2012. The majority of the increase observed in CH₄ resulted from swine and dairy cow manure, where emissions increased 53 and 116 percent, respectively, from 1990 to 2012. From 2011 to 2012, there was a 1.7 percent increase in total CH₄ emissions, mainly due to minor shifts in the animal populations and the resultant effects on manure management system allocations.

Land Use, Land-Use Change, and Forestry

When humans alter the terrestrial biosphere through land use, changes in land use, and land management practices, they also alter the background carbon fluxes between biomass, soils, and the atmosphere. Forest management practices, tree planting in urban areas, the management of agricultural soils, and the landfilling of yard trimmings and food scraps have resulted in an uptake (sequestration) of carbon in the United States, which offset about 15.0 percent of total U.S. greenhouse gas emissions in 2012. Forests (including vegetation, soils, and harvested wood) accounted for approximately 88 percent of total 2012 net CO₂ flux, urban trees accounted for 9 percent, mineral and organic soil carbon stock changes accounted for 1 percent, and landfilled yard trimmings and food scraps accounted for 1 percent of the total net flux in 2012. The net forest sequestration is a result of net forest growth, increasing forest area, and a net accumulation of carbon stocks in harvested wood pools. The net sequestration in urban forests is a result of net tree growth and increased urban forest size. In agricultural soils, mineral and organic soils sequester approximately 4 times as much C as is emitted from these soils through liming and urea fertilization. The mineral soil C sequestration is largely due to the conversion of cropland to hay production fields, the limited use of bare-summer fallow areas in semi-arid areas, and an increase in the adoption of conservation tillage practices. The landfilled yard trimmings and food scraps net sequestration is due to the long-term accumulation of yard trimming and food scraps carbon in landfills.

Land use, land-use change, and forestry activities in 2012 resulted in a net C sequestration of 979.3 Tg CO₂ Eq. (267.1 Tg C) (Table 2-9). This represents an offset of approximately 18.2 percent of total U.S. CO₂ emissions, or 15.0 percent of total greenhouse gas emissions in 2012. Between 1990 and 2012, total land use, land-use change, and forestry net C flux resulted in a 17.8 percent increase in CO₂ sequestration, primarily due to an increase in the rate of net C accumulation in forest C stocks, particularly in aboveground and belowground tree biomass, and harvested wood pools.

Table 2-9: Net CO₂ Flux from Land Use, Land-Use Change, and Forestry (Tg CO₂ Eq.)

Sink Category	1990	2005	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Forest Land Remaining Forest Land	(704.6)	(927.2)	(871.0)	(849.4)	(855.7)	(867.1)	(866.5)
Cropland Remaining Cropland	(51.9)	(29.1)	(29.8)	(29.2)	(27.6)	(27.5)	(26.5)
Land Converted to Cropland	26.9	20.9	16.8	16.8	16.8	16.8	16.8
Grassland Remaining Grassland	(9.6)	5.6	6.8	6.8	6.7	6.7	6.7
Land Converted to Grassland	(7.3)	(8.3)	(8.7)	(8.7)	(8.6)	(8.6)	(8.5)
Settlements Remaining Settlements	(60.4)	(80.5)	(83.9)	(85.0)	(86.1)	(87.3)	(88.4)
Other (Landfilled Yard Trimmings and Food Scraps)	(24.2)	(12.0)	(11.2)	(12.9)	(13.6)	(13.5)	(13.0)
Total	(831.1)	(1,030.7)	(981.0)	(961.6)	(968.0)	(980.3)	(979.3)

Note: Totals may not sum due to independent rounding. Parentheses indicate net sequestration.

Land use, land-use change, and forestry source categories also resulted in emissions of CO₂, CH₄, and N₂O that are not included in the net CO₂ flux estimates presented in Table 2-9. The application of crushed limestone and dolomite to managed land (i.e., soil liming) and urea fertilization resulted in CO₂ emissions of 7.4 Tg CO₂ Eq. in 2012, an increase of about 4.2 percent relative to 1990. Lands undergoing peat extraction resulted in CO₂ emissions of 0.8 Tg CO₂ Eq. and N₂O emissions of less than 0.1 Tg CO₂ Eq. N₂O emissions from the application of synthetic fertilizers to forest soils have increased from 0.1 Tg CO₂ Eq. in 1990 to 0.4 Tg CO₂ Eq. in 2012. Settlement soils in 2012 resulted in direct N₂O emissions of 1.5 Tg CO₂ Eq., a 48.2 percent increase relative to 1990. Emissions from forest fires in 2012 resulted in CH₄ emissions of 15.3 Tg CO₂ Eq., and in N₂O emissions of 12.5 Tg CO₂ Eq. (Table 2-10).

Table 2-10: Emissions from Land Use, Land-Use Change, and Forestry (Tg CO₂ Eq.)

Source Category	1990	2005	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
CO₂	8.1	8.9	9.6	8.3	9.6	8.8	8.2
Cropland Remaining Cropland: Liming of Agricultural Soils	4.7	4.3	5.0	3.7	4.8	3.9	3.9
Cropland Remaining Cropland: Urea Fertilization	2.4	3.5	3.6	3.6	3.8	4.0	3.4
Wetlands Remaining Wetlands: Peatlands Remaining Peatlands	1.0	1.1	1.0	1.1	1.0	0.9	0.8
CH₄	2.5	8.1	8.7	5.8	4.7	14.0	15.3
Forest Land Remaining Forest Land: Forest Fires	2.5	8.1	8.7	5.8	4.7	14.0	15.3
N₂O	3.1	8.4	9.0	6.5	5.7	13.3	14.3
Forest Land Remaining Forest Land: Forest Fires	2.0	6.6	7.1	4.7	3.9	11.4	12.5
Settlements Remaining Settlements: Settlement Soils	1.0	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.5
Forest Land Remaining Forest Land: Forest Soils	0.1	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
Wetlands Remaining Wetlands: Peatlands Remaining Peatlands	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Total	13.7	25.5	27.3	20.5	20.0	36.0	37.8

+ Less than 0.05 Tg CO₂ Eq.

Note: Totals may not sum due to independent rounding.

Other significant trends from 1990 to 2012 in emissions from land use, land-use change, and forestry source categories include:

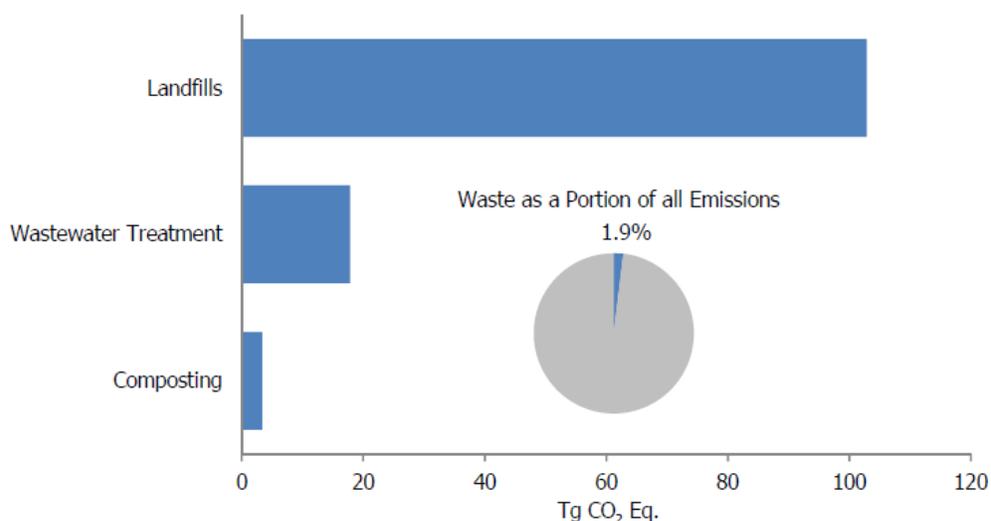
- Net C sequestration by forest land (i.e., carbon stock accumulation in the five carbon pools) has increased by approximately 23 percent. This is primarily due to increased forest management and the effects of previous reforestation. The increase in intensive forest management resulted in higher growth rates and higher biomass density. The tree planting and conservation efforts of the 1970s and 1980s continue to have a significant impact on sequestration rates. Finally, the forested area in the United States increased over the past twenty three-years, although only at an average rate of 0.2 percent per year.
- Net sequestration of C by urban trees has increased by 46.3 percent over the period from 1990 to 2012. This is primarily due to an increase in urbanized land area in the United States.
- Annual C sequestration in landfilled yard trimmings and food scraps has decreased by 46.1 percent since 1990. Food scrap generation has grown by 53 percent since 1990, and though the proportion of food scraps discarded in landfills has decreased slightly from 82 percent in 1990 to 78 percent in 2012, the tonnage disposed in landfills has increased considerably (by 46 percent). Overall, the decrease in the landfill disposal rate of yard trimmings has more than compensated for the increase in food scrap disposal in landfills.

Waste

Waste management and treatment activities are sources of greenhouse gas emissions (see Figure 2-11). In 2012, landfills were the third largest source of U.S. anthropogenic CH₄ emissions, accounting for 18.1 percent of total U.S. CH₄ emissions.⁴⁹ Additionally, wastewater treatment accounts for 14.3 percent of Waste emissions, 2.2 percent of U.S. CH₄ emissions, and 1.2 percent of N₂O emissions. Emissions of CH₄ and N₂O from composting grew from 1990 to 2012, and resulted in emissions of 3.3 Tg CO₂ Eq. in 2012. A summary of greenhouse gas emissions from the Waste chapter is presented in Table 2-11.

⁴⁹ Landfills also store carbon, due to incomplete degradation of organic materials such as wood products and yard trimmings, as described in the Land Use, Land-Use Change, and Forestry chapter.

Figure 2-11: 2012 Waste Chapter Greenhouse Gas Sources



Overall, in 2012, waste activities generated emissions of 124.0 Tg CO₂ Eq., or 1.9 percent of total U.S. greenhouse gas emissions.

Table 2-11: Emissions from Waste (Tg CO₂ Eq.)

Gas/Source	1990	2005	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
CH₄	161.2	127.0	129.3	130.0	124.5	121.8	117.2
Landfills	147.8	112.1	114.3	115.3	109.9	107.4	102.8
Wastewater Treatment	13.2	13.3	13.3	13.1	13.0	12.8	12.8
Composting	0.3	1.6	1.7	1.6	1.5	1.6	1.6
N₂O	3.8	6.2	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.7	6.8
Wastewater Treatment	3.5	4.5	4.8	4.8	4.9	5.0	5.0
Composting	0.4	1.7	1.9	1.8	1.7	1.7	1.8
Total	165.0	133.2	136.0	136.5	131.1	128.5	124.0

Note: Totals may not sum due to independent rounding.

Some significant trends in U.S. emissions from waste source categories include the following:

- From 1990 to 2012, net CH₄ emissions from landfills decreased by 44.9 Tg CO₂ Eq. (30.4 percent), with small increases occurring in interim years. This downward trend in overall emissions is the result of increases in the amount of landfill gas collected and combusted as well as reduction in the amount of decomposable materials (i.e., paper and paperboard, food scraps, and yard trimmings) discarded in MSW landfills over the time series,⁵⁰ which has more than offset the additional CH₄ emissions resulting from an increase in the amount of municipal solid waste landfilled.
- Combined CH₄ and N₂O emissions from composting have generally increased since 1990, from 0.7 Tg CO₂ Eq. to 3.3 Tg CO₂ Eq. in 2012, which represents slightly less than a five-fold increase over the time series. The growth in composting since the 1990s is attributable to primarily two factors: (1) steady growth in population and residential housing, and (2) the enactment of legislation by state and local governments that discouraged the disposal of yard trimmings in landfills.
- From 1990 to 2012, CH₄ and N₂O emissions from wastewater treatment decreased by 0.4 Tg CO₂ Eq. (3.0 percent) and increased by 1.6 Tg CO₂ Eq. (45.4 percent), respectively. Methane emissions from domestic

⁵⁰ The CO₂ produced from combusted landfill CH₄ at landfills is not counted in national inventories as it is considered part of the natural C cycle of decomposition.

wastewater treatment have decreased since 1997 due to decreasing percentages of wastewater being treated in anaerobic systems, including reduced use of on-site septic systems and central anaerobic treatment systems. Nitrous oxide emissions from wastewater treatment processes gradually increased across the time series as a result of increasing U.S. population and protein consumption.

2.2 Emissions by Economic Sector

Throughout this report, emission estimates are grouped into six sectors (i.e., chapters) defined by the IPCC and detailed above: Energy; Industrial Processes; Solvent and Other Product Use; Agriculture; Land Use, Land-Use Change, and Forestry; and Waste. While it is important to use this characterization for consistency with UNFCCC reporting guidelines, it is also useful to allocate emissions into more commonly used sectoral categories. This section reports emissions by the following U.S. economic sectors: residential, commercial, industry, transportation, electricity generation, and agriculture, as well as U.S. territories.

Using this categorization, emissions from electricity generation accounted for the largest portion (32 percent) of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions in 2012. Transportation activities, in aggregate, accounted for the second largest portion (28 percent). Emissions from industry accounted for about 20 percent of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions in 2012. In contrast to electricity generation and transportation, emissions from industry have in general declined over the past decade. The long-term decline in these emissions has been due to structural changes in the U.S. economy (i.e., shifts from a manufacturing-based to a service-based economy), fuel switching, and efficiency improvements. The remaining 21 percent of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions were contributed by the residential, agriculture, and commercial sectors, plus emissions from U.S. territories. The residential sector accounted for 5 percent, and primarily consisted of CO₂ emissions from fossil fuel combustion. Activities related to agriculture accounted for roughly 9 percent of U.S. emissions; unlike other economic sectors, agricultural sector emissions were dominated by N₂O emissions from agricultural soil management and CH₄ emissions from enteric fermentation, rather than CO₂ from fossil fuel combustion. The commercial sector accounted for roughly 5 percent of emissions, while U.S. territories accounted for less than 1 percent. Carbon dioxide was also emitted and sequestered (in the form of C) by a variety of activities related to forest management practices, tree planting in urban areas, the management of agricultural soils, and landfilling of yard trimmings.

Table 2-12 presents a detailed breakdown of emissions from each of these economic sectors by source category, as they are defined in this report. Figure 2-12 shows the trend in emissions by sector from 1990 to 2012.

Figure 2-12: Emissions Allocated to Economic Sectors

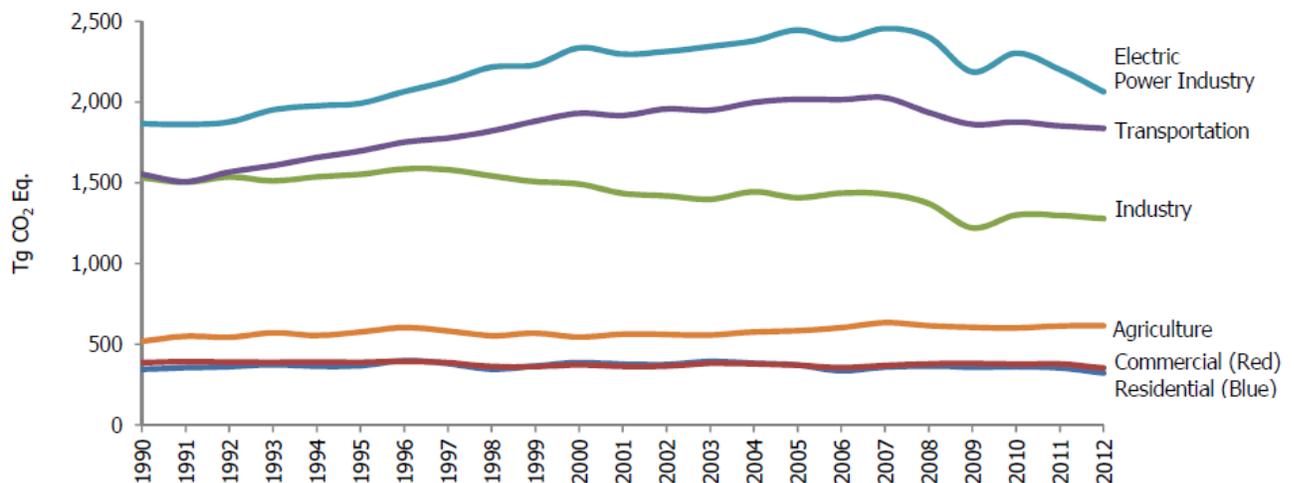


Table 2-12: U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions Allocated to Economic Sectors (Tg CO₂ Eq. and Percent of Total in 2012)

Sector/Source	1990	2005	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	Percent ^a
Electric Power Industry	1,866.1	2,445.7	2,401.8	2,187.0	2,302.5	2,200.9	2,064.0	31.6%
CO ₂ from Fossil Fuel Combustion	1,820.8	2,402.1	2,360.9	2,146.4	2,259.2	2,158.5	2,022.7	31.0%
Stationary Combustion	7.7	16.5	17.3	17.2	18.9	18.0	18.8	0.3%
Incineration of Waste	8.4	12.9	12.2	12.0	12.4	12.5	12.6	0.2%
Electrical Transmission and Distribution	26.7	11.0	8.4	7.5	7.2	7.2	6.0	0.1%
Other Process Uses of Carbonates	2.5	3.2	2.9	3.8	4.8	4.7	4.0	0.1%
Transportation	1,553.2	2,017.2	1,935.2	1,862.4	1,876.4	1,852.1	1,837.0	28.2%
CO ₂ from Fossil Fuel Combustion	1,494.0	1,891.7	1,816.5	1,747.7	1,765.0	1,747.9	1,739.5	26.7%
Substitution of Ozone Depleting Substances	+	77.8	83.6	83.5	81.3	76.9	72.9	1.1%
Mobile Combustion	47.4	37.5	25.6	22.7	20.6	18.3	16.3	0.2%
Non-Energy Use of Fuels	11.8	10.2	9.5	8.5	9.5	9.0	8.3	0.1%
Industry	1,531.5	1,407.5	1,371.5	1,220.5	1,300.5	1,297.5	1,278.4	19.6%
CO ₂ from Fossil Fuel Combustion	814.0	780.8	758.7	680.8	727.9	719.3	723.2	11.1%
Natural Gas Systems	194.2	182.0	184.3	175.2	167.0	168.3	165.1	2.5%
Non-Energy Use of Fuels	103.3	122.8	109.8	95.6	103.2	100.1	93.9	1.4%
Coal Mining	81.1	53.6	63.5	67.1	69.2	59.8	55.8	0.9%
Iron and Steel Production	100.7	67.4	67.5	43.4	56.3	60.6	54.9	0.8%
Cement Production	33.3	45.9	41.2	29.4	31.3	32.0	35.1	0.5%
Petroleum Systems	36.2	29.1	29.1	29.5	29.9	30.9	32.1	0.5%
Substitution of Ozone Depleting Substances	+	6.4	8.5	10.9	13.5	15.0	16.4	0.3%
Nitric Acid Production	18.2	16.9	16.9	14.0	16.7	15.8	15.3	0.2%
Lime Production	11.4	14.0	14.0	10.9	12.8	13.5	13.3	0.2%
Ammonia Production	13.0	9.2	8.4	8.5	9.2	9.4	9.4	0.1%
Petrochemical Production	5.7	7.5	6.5	5.7	6.5	6.6	6.6	0.1%
Aluminum Production	25.3	7.1	7.2	4.6	4.3	6.2	5.9	0.1%
Adipic Acid Production	15.8	7.4	2.6	2.8	4.4	10.6	5.8	0.1%
Urea Consumption for Non-Agricultural Purposes	3.8	3.7	4.1	3.4	4.7	4.0	5.2	0.1%
Abandoned Underground Coal Mines	6.0	5.5	5.3	5.1	5.0	4.8	4.7	0.1%
N ₂ O from Product Uses	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	0.1%
HCFC-22 Production	36.4	15.8	13.6	5.4	6.4	6.9	4.3	0.1%
Other Process Uses of Carbonates	2.5	3.2	2.9	3.8	4.8	4.7	4.0	0.1%
Semiconductor Manufacture	2.9	3.5	3.0	2.2	2.8	3.9	3.7	0.1%
Stationary Combustion	4.9	4.7	4.2	3.7	4.0	3.9	3.7	0.1%
Soda Ash Production and Consumption	2.7	2.9	2.9	2.5	2.6	2.6	2.7	+
Carbon Dioxide Consumption	1.4	1.3	1.8	1.8	2.3	1.8	1.8	+
Titanium Dioxide Production	1.2	1.8	1.8	1.6	1.8	1.7	1.7	+
Magnesium Production and Processing	5.4	2.9	1.9	1.7	2.2	2.9	1.7	+
Ferroalloy Production	2.2	1.4	1.6	1.5	1.7	1.7	1.7	+
Zinc Production	0.6	1.0	1.2	0.9	1.2	1.3	1.4	+
Mobile Combustion	0.9	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.4	+
Glass Production	1.5	1.9	1.5	1.0	1.5	1.3	1.2	+
Phosphoric Acid Production	1.6	1.4	1.2	1.0	1.1	1.2	1.1	+
Lead Production	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	+
Silicon Carbide Production and Consumption	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	+
Agriculture	518.1	583.6	615.3	605.3	600.9	612.7	614.1	9.4%
N ₂ O from Agricultural Soil Management	282.1	297.3	319.0	316.4	310.1	307.8	306.6	4.7%
Enteric Fermentation	137.9	142.5	147.0	146.1	144.9	143.0	141.0	2.2%
Manure Management	45.8	64.6	69.3	68.2	69.6	70.0	70.9	1.1%
CO ₂ from Fossil Fuel Combustion	31.0	46.8	45.4	46.7	47.6	49.4	51.0	0.8%
CH ₄ and N ₂ O from Forest Fires	4.5	14.7	15.9	10.5	8.6	25.3	27.7	0.4%
Rice Cultivation	7.7	7.5	7.8	7.9	9.3	7.1	7.4	0.1%

Liming of Agricultural Soils	4.7	4.3	5.0	3.7	4.8	3.9	3.9	0.1%
Urea Fertilization	2.4	3.5	3.6	3.6	3.8	4.0	3.4	0.1%
CO ₂ and N ₂ O from Managed Peatlands	1.0	1.1	1.0	1.1	1.0	0.9	0.8	+
Mobile Combustion	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.54	+
N ₂ O from Forest Soils	0.1	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	+
Field Burning of Agricultural Residues	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.4	+
Stationary Combustion	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Commercial	385.3	370.4	379.2	381.9	376.6	378.3	352.7	5.4%
CO ₂ from Fossil Fuel Combustion	219.0	223.5	224.7	223.9	220.7	221.5	197.4	3.0%
Landfills	147.8	112.1	114.3	115.3	109.9	107.4	102.8	1.6%
Substitution of Ozone Depleting Substances	+	12.3	17.2	20.1	23.6	27.0	30.3	0.5%
Wastewater Treatment	13.2	13.3	13.3	13.1	13.0	12.8	12.8	0.2%
Human Sewage	3.5	4.5	4.8	4.8	4.9	5.0	5.0	0.1%
Composting	0.7	3.3	3.5	3.3	3.2	3.3	3.3	0.1%
Stationary Combustion	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.1	+
Residential	345.4	371.3	365.4	357.9	360.0	353.6	321.4	4.9%
CO ₂ from Fossil Fuel Combustion	338.3	357.9	346.2	336.4	334.8	324.9	288.9	4.4%
Substitution of Ozone Depleting Substances	0.3	7.3	12.9	15.1	19.1	22.6	27.2	0.4%
Stationary Combustion	5.7	4.6	4.8	5.0	4.5	4.5	3.9	0.1%
Settlement Soil Fertilization	1.0	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.5	+
U.S. Territories	33.7	58.2	49.8	47.9	58.0	57.9	57.9	0.9%
CO ₂ from Fossil Fuel Combustion	27.9	50.0	41.0	43.8	49.6	49.6	49.6	0.8%
Non-Energy Use of Fuels	5.7	8.1	8.7	3.9	8.2	8.2	8.2	0.1%
Stationary Combustion	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	+
Total Emissions	6,233.2	7,253.8	7,118.1	6,662.9	6,874.7	6,753.0	6,525.6	100.0%
Sinks	<i>(831.1)</i>	<i>(1,030.7)</i>	<i>(981.0)</i>	<i>(961.6)</i>	<i>(968.0)</i>	<i>(980.3)</i>	<i>(979.3)</i>	-15.0%
CO ₂ Flux from Forests	<i>(704.6)</i>	<i>(927.2)</i>	<i>(871.0)</i>	<i>(849.4)</i>	<i>(855.7)</i>	<i>(867.1)</i>	<i>(866.5)</i>	-13.3%
Urban Trees	<i>(60.4)</i>	<i>(80.5)</i>	<i>(83.9)</i>	<i>(85.0)</i>	<i>(86.1)</i>	<i>(87.3)</i>	<i>(88.4)</i>	-1.4%
Landfilled Yard Trimmings and Food Scraps	<i>(24.2)</i>	<i>(12.0)</i>	<i>(11.2)</i>	<i>(12.9)</i>	<i>(13.6)</i>	<i>(13.5)</i>	<i>(13.0)</i>	-0.2%
CO ₂ Flux from Agricultural Soil Carbon Stocks	<i>(41.9)</i>	<i>(11.0)</i>	<i>(14.9)</i>	<i>(14.3)</i>	<i>(12.7)</i>	<i>(12.5)</i>	<i>(11.4)</i>	-0.2%
Net Emissions	5,402.1	6,223.1	6,137.1	5,701.2	5,906.7	5,772.7	5,546.3	85.0%

Note: Includes all emissions of CO₂, CH₄, N₂O, HFCs, PFCs, and SF₆. Parentheses indicate negative values or sequestration. Totals may not sum due to independent rounding.

+ Does not exceed 0.05 Tg CO₂ Eq. or 0.05 percent.

^a Percent of total emissions for year 2012.

^b Includes the effects of net additions to stocks of carbon stored in harvested wood products.

Emissions with Electricity Distributed to Economic Sectors

It can also be useful to view greenhouse gas emissions from economic sectors with emissions related to electricity generation distributed into end-use categories (i.e., emissions from electricity generation are allocated to the economic sectors in which the electricity is consumed). The generation, transmission, and distribution of electricity, which is the largest economic sector in the United States, accounted for 32 percent of total U.S. greenhouse gas emissions in 2012. Emissions increased by 11 percent since 1990, as electricity demand grew and fossil fuels remained the dominant energy source for generation. Electricity generation-related emissions decreased from 2011 to 2012 by 6.2 percent, primarily due to decreased CO₂ emissions from fossil fuel combustion. Electricity sales to the residential and commercial end-use sectors in 2012 decreased approximately 3.4 percent and 0.1 percent, respectively. The trend in the residential and commercial sectors can largely be attributed to milder, less energy-intensive winter conditions compared to 2011. Electricity sales to the industrial sector in 2012 decreased by approximately 0.6 percent. Overall, in 2012, the amount of electricity generated (in kWh) decreased by 1.5 percent from the previous year. As a result, CO₂ emissions from the electric power sector decreased by 6.2 percent as the consumption of coal and petroleum for electricity generation decreased by 12.3 percent and 27.6 percent,

respectively, in 2012 and the consumption of natural gas for electricity generation, increased by 20.4 percent. Table 2-13 provides a detailed summary of emissions from electricity generation-related activities.

Table 2-13: Electricity Generation-Related Greenhouse Gas Emissions (Tg CO₂ Eq.)

Gas/Fuel Type or Source	1990	2005	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
CO₂	1,831.2	2,417.8	2,375.7	2,161.9	2,276.0	2,175.3	2,038.9
Fossil Fuel Combustion	1,820.8	2,402.1	2,360.9	2,146.4	2,259.2	2,158.5	2,022.7
<i>Coal</i>	1,547.6	1,983.8	1,959.4	1,740.9	1,827.6	1,722.7	1,511.2
<i>Natural Gas</i>	175.3	318.8	361.9	372.2	399.0	408.8	492.2
<i>Petroleum</i>	97.5	99.2	39.2	33.0	32.2	26.6	18.8
<i>Geothermal</i>	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
Incineration of Waste	8.0	12.5	11.9	11.7	12.0	12.1	12.2
Other Process Uses of Carbonates	2.5	3.2	2.9	3.8	4.8	4.7	4.0
CH₄	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.5
Stationary Combustion*	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.5
Incineration of Waste	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
N₂O	7.8	16.4	17.2	17.2	18.8	18.0	18.6
Stationary Combustion*	7.4	16.0	16.8	16.8	18.5	17.6	18.3
Incineration of Waste	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
SF₆	26.7	11.0	8.4	7.5	7.2	7.2	6.0
Electrical Transmission and Distribution	26.7	11.0	8.4	7.5	7.2	7.2	6.0
Total	1,866.1	2,445.7	2,401.8	2,187.0	2,302.5	2,200.9	2,064.0

Note: Totals may not sum due to independent rounding.

* Includes only stationary combustion emissions related to the generation of electricity.

+ Does not exceed 0.05 Tg CO₂ Eq.

To distribute electricity emissions among economic end-use sectors, emissions from the source categories assigned to the electricity generation sector were allocated to the residential, commercial, industry, transportation, and agriculture economic sectors according to each economic sector's share of retail sales of electricity consumption (EIA 2011, Duffield 2006). These source categories include CO₂ from Fossil Fuel Combustion, CH₄ and N₂O from Stationary Combustion, Incineration of Waste, Other Process Uses of Carbonates, and SF₆ from Electrical Transmission and Distribution Systems. Note that only 50 percent of the Other Process Uses of Carbonates emissions were associated with electricity generation and distributed as described; the remainder of Other Process Uses of Carbonates emissions were attributed to the industrial processes economic end-use sector.⁵¹

When emissions from electricity are distributed among these sectors, transportation activities account for the largest share of total U.S. greenhouse gas emissions (28.2 percent), followed closely by emissions from industry (27.9 percent). Emissions from the residential and commercial sectors also increase substantially when emissions from electricity are included. In all sectors except agriculture, CO₂ accounts for more than 80 percent of greenhouse gas emissions, primarily from the combustion of fossil fuels.

Table 2-14 presents a detailed breakdown of emissions from each of these economic sectors, with emissions from electricity generation distributed to them. Figure 2-13 shows the trend in these emissions by sector from 1990 to 2012.

⁵¹ Emissions were not distributed to U.S. territories, since the electricity generation sector only includes emissions related to the generation of electricity in the 50 states and the District of Columbia.

Figure 2-13: Emissions with Electricity Distributed to Economic Sectors

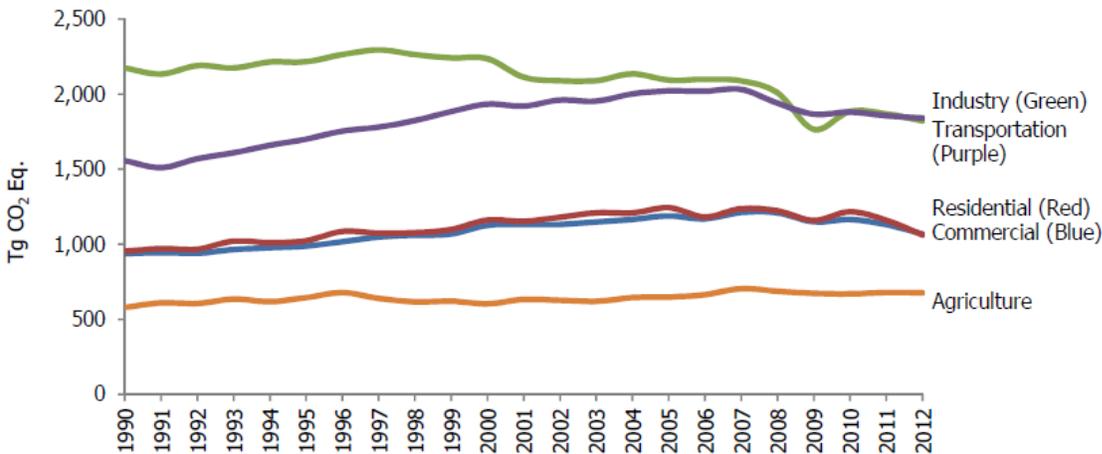


Table 2-14: U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions by Economic Sector and Gas with Electricity-Related Emissions Distributed (Tg CO₂ Eq.) and Percent of Total in 2012

Sector/Gas	1990	2005	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	Percent ^a
Industry	2,173.9	2,093.7	2,009.0	1,766.0	1,885.4	1,869.2	1,821.2	27.9%
Direct Emissions	1,531.5	1,407.5	1,371.5	1,220.5	1,300.5	1,297.5	1,278.4	19.6%
CO ₂	1,141.6	1,097.4	1,059.5	925.0	1,001.3	997.6	993.3	15.2%
CH ₄	284.3	245.6	254.4	248.9	243.4	233.6	227.3	3.5%
N ₂ O	42.4	33.0	27.8	24.8	29.4	34.7	29.1	0.4%
HFCs, PFCs, and SF ₆	63.2	31.6	29.8	21.8	26.3	31.6	28.7	0.4%
Electricity-Related	642.4	686.2	637.5	545.5	584.9	571.7	542.8	8.3%
CO ₂	630.4	678.4	630.6	539.3	578.2	565.1	536.2	8.2%
CH ₄	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	+
N ₂ O	2.7	4.6	4.6	4.3	4.8	4.7	4.9	0.1%
SF ₆	9.2	3.1	2.2	1.9	1.8	1.9	1.6	+
Transportation	1,556.3	2,022.0	1,939.9	1,866.9	1,880.9	1,856.4	1,841.0	28.2%
Direct Emissions	1,553.2	2,017.2	1,935.2	1,862.4	1,876.4	1,852.1	1,837.0	28.2%
CO ₂	1,505.8	1,901.9	1,826.0	1,756.2	1,774.5	1,756.9	1,747.8	26.8%
CH ₄	4.4	2.1	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.4	0.0%
N ₂ O	43.0	35.4	24.0	21.2	19.1	16.9	14.9	0.2%
HFCs ^b	+	77.8	83.6	83.5	81.3	76.9	72.9	1.1%
Electricity-Related	3.1	4.8	4.8	4.6	4.6	4.3	3.9	0.1%
CO ₂	3.1	4.8	4.7	4.5	4.5	4.3	3.9	0.1%
CH ₄	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
N ₂ O	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
SF ₆	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Commercial	936.7	1,188.6	1,209.3	1,149.6	1,164.7	1,131.1	1,067.5	16.4%
Direct Emissions	385.3	370.4	379.2	381.9	376.6	378.3	352.7	5.4%
CO ₂	219.0	223.5	224.7	223.9	220.7	221.5	197.4	3.0%
CH ₄	162.1	128.0	130.3	130.9	125.4	122.7	118.0	1.8%
N ₂ O	4.2	6.6	7.0	6.9	6.9	7.1	7.1	0.1%
HFCs	+	12.3	17.2	20.1	23.6	27.0	30.3	0.5%
Electricity-Related	551.4	818.3	830.2	767.7	788.1	752.8	714.8	11.0%
CO ₂	541.1	808.9	821.2	758.9	779.0	744.1	706.0	10.8%
CH ₄	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	+
N ₂ O	2.3	5.5	5.9	6.0	6.4	6.1	6.5	0.1%
SF ₆	7.9	3.7	2.9	2.6	2.5	2.5	2.1	+
Residential	953.1	1,243.5	1,222.9	1,159.2	1,216.5	1,160.1	1,061.7	16.3%
Direct Emissions	345.4	371.3	365.4	357.9	360.0	353.6	321.4	4.9%

CO ₂	338.3	357.9	346.2	336.4	334.8	324.9	288.9	4.4%
CH ₄	4.6	3.6	3.8	4.0	3.6	3.6	3.1	+
N ₂ O	2.1	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.2	+
HFCs	0.3	7.3	12.9	15.1	19.1	22.6	27.2	0.4%
Electricity-Related	607.8	872.3	857.5	801.4	856.5	806.5	740.3	11.3%
CO ₂	596.4	862.3	848.2	792.2	846.7	797.1	731.3	11.2%
CH ₄	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	+
N ₂ O	2.6	5.8	6.1	6.3	7.0	6.6	6.7	0.1%
SF ₆	8.7	3.9	3.0	2.8	2.7	2.6	2.2	+
Agriculture	579.4	647.7	687.1	673.1	669.3	678.2	676.3	10.4%
Direct Emissions	518.1	583.6	615.3	605.3	600.9	612.7	614.1	9.4%
CO ₂	39.2	55.7	55.1	55.0	57.2	58.2	59.2	0.9%
CH ₄	179.9	206.0	215.4	210.6	211.1	216.5	217.0	3.3%
N ₂ O	298.9	321.8	344.8	339.7	332.5	338.0	338.0	5.2%
Electricity-Related	61.4	64.1	71.8	67.9	68.4	65.5	62.2	1.0%
CO ₂	60.2	63.4	71.0	67.1	67.7	64.7	61.5	0.9%
CH ₄	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
N ₂ O	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.6	+
SF ₆	0.9	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	+
U.S. Territories	33.7	58.2	49.8	47.9	58.0	57.9	57.9	0.9%
Total	6,233.2	7,253.8	7,118.1	6,662.9	6,874.7	6,753.0	6,525.6	100.0%

Note: Emissions from electricity generation are allocated based on aggregate electricity consumption in each end-use sector.

Totals may not sum due to independent rounding.

+ Does not exceed 0.05 Tg CO₂ Eq. or 0.05 percent.

^a Percent of total emissions for year 2012.

^b Includes primarily HFC-134a.

Industry

The industrial end-use sector includes CO₂ emissions from fossil fuel combustion from all manufacturing facilities, in aggregate. This sector also includes emissions that are produced as a by-product of the non-energy-related industrial process activities. The variety of activities producing these non-energy-related emissions includes methane emissions from petroleum and natural gas systems, fugitive CH₄ emissions from coal mining, by-product CO₂ emissions from cement manufacture, and HFC, PFC, and SF₆ by-product emissions from semiconductor manufacture, to name a few. Since 1990, industrial sector emissions have declined. The decline has occurred both in direct emissions and indirect emissions associated with electricity use. However, the decline in direct emissions has been sharper. In theory, emissions from the industrial end-use sector should be highly correlated with economic growth and industrial output, but heating of industrial buildings and agricultural energy consumption are also affected by weather conditions. In addition, structural changes within the U.S. economy that lead to shifts in industrial output away from energy-intensive manufacturing products to less energy-intensive products (e.g., from steel to computer equipment) also have a significant effect on industrial emissions.

Transportation

When electricity-related emissions are distributed to economic end-use sectors, transportation activities accounted for 28 percent of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions in 2012. The largest sources of transportation greenhouse gases in 2012 were passenger cars (43.1 percent), light duty trucks, which include sport utility vehicles, pickup trucks, and minivans (18.4 percent), freight trucks (21.9 percent), commercial aircraft (6.2 percent), rail (2.5 percent), and ships and boats (2.2 percent). These figures include direct emissions from fossil fuel combustion used in transportation and emissions from non-energy use (i.e. lubricants) used in transportation, as well as HFC emissions from mobile air conditioners and refrigerated transport allocated to these vehicle types.

Although average fuel economy over this period increased slightly due primarily to the retirement of older vehicles, average fuel economy among new vehicles sold annually gradually declined from 1990 to 2004. The decline in new vehicle fuel economy between 1990 and 2004 reflected the increasing market share of light duty trucks, which grew

from about one-fifth of new vehicle sales in the 1970s to slightly over half of the market by 2004. Increasing fuel prices have since decreased overall light duty truck sales, and average new vehicle fuel economy has improved since 2005 as the market share of passenger cars increased. Over the 1990s through early this decade, growth in vehicle travel substantially outweighed improvements in vehicle fuel economy; however, the rate of Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) growth slowed considerably starting in 2005 (and declined rapidly in 2008) while average vehicle fuel economy increased. In 2012, VMT increased by 0.6 percent. Additionally, consumption of diesel fuel has continued to increase recently, due in part to an increase in commercial activity and freight trucking as a result of the economic recovery. Table 2-15 provides a detailed summary of greenhouse gas emissions from transportation-related activities with electricity-related emissions included in the totals.

In terms of the overall trend, from 1990 to 2012, transportation emissions rose by 18 percent due, in large part, to increased demand for travel with limited gains in fuel efficiency over the same time period. The number of vehicle miles traveled by light-duty motor vehicles (passenger cars and light-duty trucks) increased 35 percent from 1990 to 2012, as a result of a confluence of factors including population growth, economic growth, urban sprawl, and low fuel prices during the beginning of this period.

From 2008 to 2009, CO₂ emissions from the transportation end-use sector declined 0.5 percent. The decrease in emissions could largely be attributed to decreased economic activity in 2009 and an associated decline in the demand for transportation. Modes such as medium- and heavy-duty trucks were significantly impacted by the decline in freight transport. From 2009 to 2012, CO₂ emissions from the transportation end-use sector stabilized even as economic activity rebounded slightly.

Almost all of the energy consumed for transportation was supplied by petroleum-based products, with more than half being related to gasoline consumption in automobiles and other highway vehicles. Other fuel uses, especially diesel fuel for freight trucks and jet fuel for aircraft, accounted for the remainder. The primary driver of transportation-related emissions was CO₂ from fossil fuel combustion, which increased by 16 percent from 1990 to 2012. This rise in CO₂ emissions, combined with an increase in HFCs from close to zero emissions in 1990 to 72.9 Tg CO₂ Eq. in 2012, led to an increase in overall emissions from transportation activities of 18 percent.

Table 2-15: Transportation-Related Greenhouse Gas Emissions (Tg CO₂ Eq.)

Gas/Vehicle	1990	2005	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Passenger Cars	657.4	712.6	817.9	811.5	805.8	798.0	793.8
CO ₂	629.3	662.3	769.3	766.0	763.7	760.1	759.8
CH ₄	2.6	1.1	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.8
N ₂ O	25.4	17.8	14.7	12.4	10.9	9.4	8.0
HFCs	+	31.4	32.9	32.1	30.4	27.6	25.2
Light-Duty Trucks	336.6	553.1	354.8	359.9	359.1	343.1	338.4
CO ₂	321.1	505.9	312.8	317.4	317.6	303.8	301.2
CH ₄	1.4	0.7	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
N ₂ O	14.1	13.7	5.2	5.2	4.7	4.1	3.6
HFCs	+	32.8	36.4	37.0	36.5	34.9	33.3
Medium- and Heavy-Duty Trucks	231.1	408.4	427.0	389.2	402.9	402.4	403.4
CO ₂	230.1	396.0	413.9	376.3	390.0	389.6	390.6
CH ₄	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1
N ₂ O	0.8	1.1	1.4	1.1	1.1	1.0	0.9
HFCs	+	11.1	11.6	11.6	11.6	11.7	11.7
Buses	8.4	12.1	17.4	16.5	16.3	17.5	18.6
CO ₂	8.4	11.8	17.0	16.1	15.9	17.0	18.2
CH ₄	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
N ₂ O	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
HFCs	+	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
Motorcycles	1.8	1.7	4.5	4.3	3.8	3.7	4.3
CO ₂	1.7	1.6	4.4	4.2	3.8	3.7	4.2
CH ₄	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
N ₂ O	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Commercial Aircraft^a	110.9	134.0	128.5	120.7	114.4	115.7	114.4

CO ₂	109.9	132.7	127.3	119.5	113.3	114.6	113.3
CH ₄	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
N ₂ O	1.1	1.3	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1
Other Aircraft^b	78.3	59.7	48.2	36.8	40.5	34.2	32.1
CO ₂	77.5	59.1	47.8	36.4	40.1	33.9	31.8
CH ₄	0.1	+	+	+	+	+	+
N ₂ O	0.7	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.3
Ships and Boats^c	45.1	45.2	45.9	39.3	45.3	47.0	40.8
CO ₂	44.5	44.5	45.2	38.7	44.6	46.3	40.1
CH ₄	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
N ₂ O	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.6
HFCs	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Rail	39.0	53.0	50.7	43.4	46.3	48.0	46.9
CO ₂	38.5	50.3	47.9	40.7	43.5	45.3	44.1
CH ₄	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
N ₂ O	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.3
HFCs	+	2.2	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3
Other Emissions from Electricity Generation ^d	0.1	0.1	+	+	+	+	+
Pipelines^e	36.0	32.2	35.6	36.7	37.1	37.8	40.1
CO ₂	36.0	32.2	35.6	36.7	37.1	37.8	40.1
Lubricants	11.8	10.2	9.5	8.5	9.5	9.0	8.3
CO ₂	11.8	10.2	9.5	8.5	9.5	9.0	8.3
Total Transportation	1,556.4	2,022.0	1,939.9	1,866.9	1,880.9	1,856.4	1,841.0
<i>International Bunker Fuels^f</i>	<i>104.5</i>	<i>114.3</i>	<i>115.5</i>	<i>107.5</i>	<i>118.2</i>	<i>112.8</i>	<i>106.9</i>

Note: Totals may not sum due to independent rounding. Passenger cars and light-duty trucks include vehicles typically used for personal travel and less than 8,500 lbs; medium- and heavy-duty trucks include vehicles larger than 8,500 lbs. HFC emissions primarily reflect HFC-134a.

+ Does not exceed 0.05 Tg CO₂ Eq.

^a Consists of emissions from jet fuel consumed by domestic operations of commercial aircraft (no bunkers).

^b Consists of emissions from jet fuel and aviation gasoline consumption by general aviation and military aircraft.

^c Fluctuations in emission estimates are associated with fluctuations in reported fuel consumption, and may reflect data collection problems.

^d Other emissions from electricity generation are a result of waste incineration (as the majority of municipal solid waste is combusted in “trash-to-steam” electricity generation plants), electrical transmission and distribution, and a portion of Other Process Uses of Carbonates (from pollution control equipment installed in electricity generation plants).

^e CO₂ estimates reflect natural gas used to power pipelines, but not electricity. While the operation of pipelines produces CH₄ and N₂O, these emissions are not directly attributed to pipelines in the US Inventory.

^f Emissions from International Bunker Fuels include emissions from both civilian and military activities; these emissions are not included in the transportation totals.

Commercial

The commercial sector is heavily reliant on electricity for meeting energy needs, with electricity consumption for lighting, heating, air conditioning, and operating appliances. The remaining emissions were largely due to the direct consumption of natural gas and petroleum products, primarily for heating and cooking needs. Energy-related emissions from the residential and commercial sectors have generally been increasing since 1990, and are often correlated with short-term fluctuations in energy consumption caused by weather conditions, rather than prevailing economic conditions. Landfills and wastewater treatment are included in this sector, with landfill emissions decreasing since 1990 and wastewater treatment emissions increasing slightly.

Residential

The residential sector is heavily reliant on electricity for meeting energy needs, with electricity consumption for lighting, heating, air conditioning, and operating appliances. The remaining emissions were largely due to the direct

consumption of natural gas and petroleum products, primarily for heating and cooking needs. Emissions from the residential sectors have generally been increasing since 1990, and are often correlated with short-term fluctuations in energy consumption caused by weather conditions, rather than prevailing economic conditions. In the long-term, this sector is also affected by population growth, regional migration trends, and changes in housing and building attributes (e.g., size and insulation).

Agriculture

The agriculture sector includes a variety of processes, including enteric fermentation in domestic livestock, livestock manure management, and agricultural soil management. In 2012, agricultural soil management was the largest source of N₂O emissions, and enteric fermentation was the second largest source of CH₄ emissions in the United States. This sector also includes small amounts of CO₂ emissions from fossil fuel combustion by motorized farm equipment like tractors. The agriculture sector is less reliant on electricity than the other sectors.

Box 2-1: Methodology for Aggregating Emissions by Economic Sector

In presenting the Economic Sectors in the annual Inventory of U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks, the Inventory expands upon the standard IPCC sectors common for UNFCCC reporting. Discussing greenhouse gas emissions relevant to U.S.-specific sectors improves communication of the report's findings.

In the Electricity Generation economic sector, CO₂ emissions from the combustion of fossil fuels included in the EIA electric utility fuel consuming sector are apportioned to this economic sector. Stationary combustion emissions of CH₄ and N₂O are also based on the EIA electric utility sector. Additional sources include CO₂, CH₄, and N₂O from waste incineration, as the majority of municipal solid waste is combusted in “trash-to-steam” electricity generation plants. The Electricity Generation economic sector also includes SF₆ from Electrical Transmission and Distribution, and a portion of CO₂ from Other Process Uses of Carbonates (from pollution control equipment installed in electricity generation plants).

In the Transportation economic sector, the CO₂ emissions from the combustion of fossil fuels included in the EIA transportation fuel consuming sector are apportioned to this economic sector (additional analyses and refinement of the EIA data is further explained in the Energy chapter of this report). Additional emissions are apportioned from the CH₄ and N₂O from Mobile Combustion, based on the EIA transportation sector. Substitutes of Ozone Depleting Substitutes are apportioned based on their specific end-uses within the source category, with emissions from transportation refrigeration/air-conditioning systems to this economic sector. Finally, CO₂ emissions from Non-Energy Uses of Fossil Fuels identified as lubricants for transportation vehicles are included in the Transportation economic sector.

For the Industry economic sector, the CO₂ emissions from the combustion of fossil fuels included in the EIA industrial fuel consuming sector, minus the agricultural use of fuel explained below, are apportioned to this economic sector. Stationary and mobile combustion emissions of CH₄ and N₂O are also based on the EIA industrial sector, minus emissions apportioned to the Agriculture economic sector described below. Substitutes of Ozone Depleting Substitutes are apportioned based on their specific end-uses within the source category, with most emissions falling within the Industry economic sector (minus emissions from the other economic sectors). Additionally, all process-related emissions from sources with methods considered within the IPCC Industrial Process guidance have been apportioned to this economic sector. This includes the process-related emissions (i.e., emissions from the actual process to make the material, not from fuels to power the plant) from such activities as Cement Production, Iron and Steel Production and Metallurgical Coke Production, and Ammonia Production. Additionally, fugitive emissions from energy production sources, such as Natural Gas Systems, Coal Mining, and Petroleum Systems are included in the Industry economic sector. A portion of CO₂ from Other Process Uses of Carbonates (from pollution control equipment installed in large industrial facilities) are also included in the Industry economic sector. Finally, all remaining CO₂ emissions from Non-Energy Uses of Fossil Fuels are assumed to be industrial in nature (besides the lubricants for transportation vehicles specified above), and are attributed to the Industry economic sector.

As agriculture equipment is included in EIA's industrial fuel consuming sector surveys, additional data is used to extract the fuel used by agricultural equipment, to allow for accurate reporting in the Agriculture economic sector

from all sources of emissions, such as motorized farming equipment. Energy consumption estimates are obtained from Department of Agriculture survey data, in combination with separate EIA fuel sales reports. This supplementary data is used to apportion CO₂ emissions from fossil fuel combustion, and CH₄ and N₂O emissions from stationary and mobile combustion (all data is removed from the Industrial economic sector, to avoid double-counting). The other emission sources included in this economic sector are intuitive for the agriculture sectors, such as N₂O emissions from Agricultural Soils, CH₄ from Enteric Fermentation (i.e., exhalation from the digestive tracts of domesticated animals), CH₄ and N₂O from Manure Management, CH₄ from Rice Cultivation, CO₂ emissions from Liming of Agricultural Soils and Urea Application, and CH₄ and N₂O from Forest Fires. N₂O emissions from the Application of Fertilizers to tree plantations (termed “forest land” by the IPCC) are also included in the Agriculture economic sector.

The Residential economic sector includes the CO₂ emissions from the combustion of fossil fuels reported for the EIA residential sector. Stationary combustion emissions of CH₄ and N₂O are also based on the EIA residential fuel consuming sector. Substitutes of Ozone Depleting Substitutes are apportioned based on their specific end-uses within the source category, with emissions from residential air-conditioning systems to this economic sector. N₂O emissions from the Application of Fertilizers to developed land (termed “settlements” by the IPCC) are also included in the Residential economic sector.

The Commercial economic sector includes the CO₂ emissions from the combustion of fossil fuels reported in the EIA commercial fuel consuming sector data. Stationary combustion emissions of CH₄ and N₂O are also based on the EIA commercial sector. Substitutes of Ozone Depleting Substitutes are apportioned based on their specific end-uses within the source category, with emissions from commercial refrigeration/air-conditioning systems to this economic sector. Public works sources including direct CH₄ from Landfills and CH₄ and N₂O from Wastewater Treatment and Composting are included in this economic sector.

Box 2-2: Recent Trends in Various U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions-Related Data

Total emissions can be compared to other economic and social indices to highlight changes over time. These comparisons include: (1) emissions per unit of aggregate energy consumption, because energy-related activities are the largest sources of emissions; (2) emissions per unit of fossil fuel consumption, because almost all energy-related emissions involve the combustion of fossil fuels; (3) emissions per unit of electricity consumption, because the electric power industry—utilities and non-utilities combined—was the largest source of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions in 2012; (4) emissions per unit of total gross domestic product as a measure of national economic activity; or (5) emissions per capita.

Table 2-16 provides data on various statistics related to U.S. greenhouse gas emissions normalized to 1990 as a baseline year. Greenhouse gas emissions in the United States have grown at an average annual rate of 0.2 percent since 1990. This rate is slightly faster than that for total energy consumption and slightly slower than growth in national population since 1990 and much slower than that for electricity consumption and overall gross domestic product, respectively. Total U.S. greenhouse gas emissions are growing at a rate similar to that of fossil fuel consumption since 1990 (see Table 2-16).

Table 2-16: Recent Trends in Various U.S. Data (Index 1990 = 100)

Chapter/IPCC Sector	1990	2005	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	Growth ^a
Greenhouse Gas Emissions ^b	100	116	114	107	110	108	105	0.2%
Energy Consumption ^c	100	119	118	113	117	116	113	0.6%
Fossil Fuel Consumption ^c	100	119	116	109	113	111	108	0.4%
Electricity Consumption ^c	100	134	136	131	137	137	135	1.4%
GDP ^d	100	159	166	161	165	168	173	2.5%
Population ^e	100	118	122	123	124	125	125	1.0%

^a Average annual growth rate

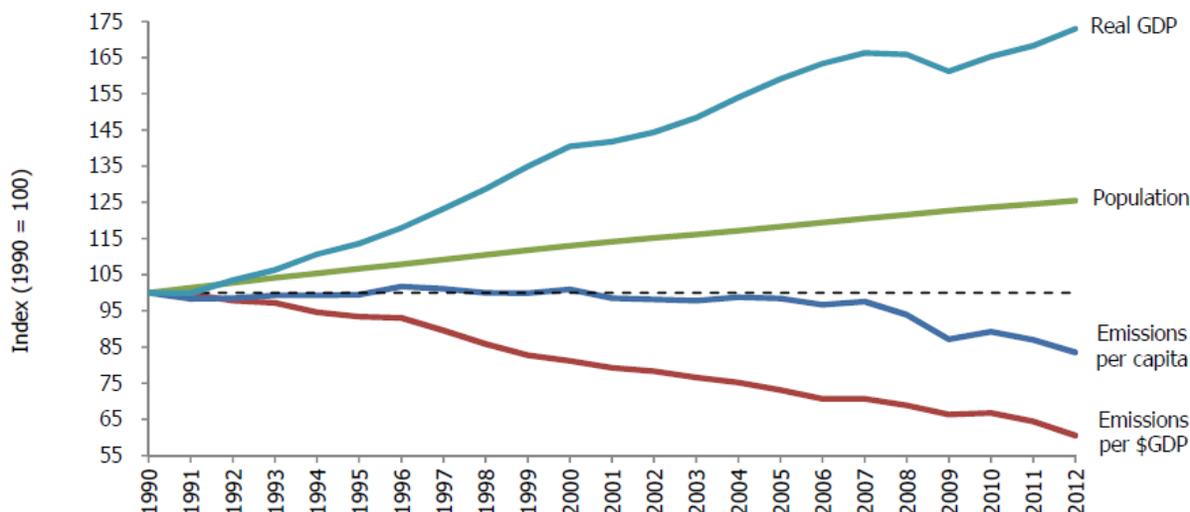
^b GWP-weighted values

^c Energy-content-weighted values (EIA 2014)

^d Gross Domestic Product in chained 2005 dollars (BEA 2013)

^e U.S. Census Bureau (2013)

Figure 2-14: U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions Per Capita and Per Dollar of Gross Domestic Product



Source: BEA (2011), U.S. Census Bureau (2011), and emission estimates in this report.

2.3 Indirect Greenhouse Gas Emissions (CO, NO_x, NMVOCs, and SO₂)

The reporting requirements of the UNFCCC⁵² request that information be provided on indirect greenhouse gases, which include CO, NO_x, NMVOCs, and SO₂. These gases do not have a direct global warming effect, but indirectly affect terrestrial radiation absorption by influencing the formation and destruction of tropospheric and stratospheric ozone, or, in the case of SO₂, by affecting the absorptive characteristics of the atmosphere. Additionally, some of these gases may react with other chemical compounds in the atmosphere to form compounds that are greenhouse gases. Carbon monoxide is produced when carbon-containing fuels are combusted incompletely. Nitrogen oxides (i.e., NO and NO₂) are created by lightning, fires, fossil fuel combustion, and in the stratosphere from N₂O. Non-CH₄ volatile organic compounds—which include hundreds of organic compounds that participate in atmospheric chemical reactions (i.e., propane, butane, xylene, toluene, ethane, and many others)—are emitted primarily from transportation, industrial processes, and non-industrial consumption of organic solvents. In the United States, SO₂ is primarily emitted from coal combustion for electric power generation and the metals industry. Sulfur-containing compounds emitted into the atmosphere tend to exert a negative radiative forcing (i.e., cooling) and therefore are discussed separately.

One important indirect climate change effect of NMVOCs and NO_x is their role as precursors for tropospheric ozone formation. They can also alter the atmospheric lifetimes of other greenhouse gases. Another example of indirect greenhouse gas formation into greenhouse gases is CO's interaction with the hydroxyl radical—the major atmospheric sink for CH₄ emissions—to form CO₂. Therefore, increased atmospheric concentrations of CO limit the number of hydroxyl molecules (OH) available to destroy CH₄.

⁵² See <<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2006/sbsta/eng/09.pdf>>.

Since 1970, the United States has published estimates of emissions of CO, NO_x, NMVOCs, and SO₂ (EPA 2013),⁵³ which are regulated under the Clean Air Act. Table 2-17 shows that fuel combustion accounts for the majority of emissions of these indirect greenhouse gases. Industrial processes—such as the manufacture of chemical and allied products, metals processing, and industrial uses of solvents—are also significant sources of CO, NO_x, and NMVOCs.

Table 2-17: Emissions of NO_x, CO, NMVOCs, and SO₂ (Gg)

Gas/Activity	1990	2005	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
NO_x	21,782	17,366	14,440	13,395	12,579	12,574	11,882
Mobile Fossil Fuel Combustion	10,862	10,250	8,481	7,809	7,307	7,214	6,732
Stationary Fossil Fuel Combustion	10,023	5,847	4,698	4,365	4,031	3,787	3,538
Oil and Gas Activities	139	317	386	464	543	621	621
Forest Land Remaining Forest Land	76	246	266	175	144	424	464
Industrial Processes	591	566	510	488	466	444	444
Waste Combustion	82	128	85	81	77	73	73
Agricultural Burning	8	6	8	8	8	8	8
Waste	+	2	2	1	1	1	1
Solvent Use	1	3	4	3	2	1	1
CO	132,748	74,956	62,582	52,618	51,807	59,918	61,343
Mobile Fossil Fuel Combustion	119,360	58,062	46,003	39,219	39,468	37,486	37,486
Forest Land Remaining Forest Land	2,711	8,783	9,481	6,250	5,124	15,125	16,553
Stationary Fossil Fuel Combustion	5,000	4,644	3,959	4,036	4,112	4,188	4,188
Industrial Processes	4,125	1,553	1,376	1,326	1,277	1,232	1,232
Waste Combustion	978	1,402	1,244	1,164	1,085	1,005	1,005
Oil and Gas Activities	302	318	238	366	493	621	621
Agricultural Burning	268	184	270	247	241	255	253
Waste	1	7	6	5	5	5	5
Solvent Use	5	2	6	5	3	1	1
NMVOCs	20,930	13,080	11,878	11,545	11,563	11,164	10,971
Mobile Fossil Fuel Combustion	10,932	5,667	5,059	4,652	4,596	4,118	3,925
Solvent Use	5,216	3,851	2,992	2,838	2,684	2,531	2,531
Oil and Gas Activities	554	510	1,580	1,806	2,032	2,257	2,257
Industrial Processes	2,422	1,982	1,548	1,544	1,540	1,538	1,538
Stationary Fossil Fuel Combustion	912	715	530	553	576	602	602
Waste Combustion	222	241	114	103	92	81	81
Waste	673	114	54	49	44	38	38
Agricultural Burning	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
SO₂	20,935	13,180	9,350	8,236	7,029	5,898	4,739
Stationary Fossil Fuel Combustion	18,407	11,529	8,289	7,208	6,128	5,048	3,895
Industrial Processes	1,307	829	690	656	622	621	621
Oil and Gas Activities	390	180	135	125	115	105	105
Mobile Fossil Fuel Combustion	793	616	217	228	147	109	103
Waste Combustion	38	25	18	17	16	14	14
Waste	+	1	1	1	+	+	+
Solvent Use	+	+	1	1	+	+	+
Agricultural Burning	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

Source: (EPA 2013) except for estimates from Field Burning of Agricultural Residues.

NA (Not Available)

Note: Totals may not sum due to independent rounding.

+ Does not exceed 0.5 Gg.

⁵³ NO_x and CO emission estimates from Field Burning of Agricultural Residues were estimated separately, and therefore not taken from EPA (2013).

Box 2-3: Sources and Effects of Sulfur Dioxide

Sulfur dioxide (SO₂) emitted into the atmosphere through natural and anthropogenic processes affects the earth's radiative budget through its photochemical transformation into sulfate aerosols that can (1) scatter radiation from the sun back to space, thereby reducing the radiation reaching the earth's surface; (2) affect cloud formation; and (3) affect atmospheric chemical composition (e.g., by providing surfaces for heterogeneous chemical reactions). The indirect effect of sulfur-derived aerosols on radiative forcing can be considered in two parts. The first indirect effect is the aerosols' tendency to decrease water droplet size and increase water droplet concentration in the atmosphere. The second indirect effect is the tendency of the reduction in cloud droplet size to affect precipitation by increasing cloud lifetime and thickness. Although still highly uncertain, the radiative forcing estimates from both the first and the second indirect effect are believed to be negative, as is the combined radiative forcing of the two (IPCC 2001). However, because SO₂ is short-lived and unevenly distributed in the atmosphere, its radiative forcing impacts are highly uncertain.

Sulfur dioxide is also a major contributor to the formation of regional haze, which can cause significant increases in acute and chronic respiratory diseases. Once SO₂ is emitted, it is chemically transformed in the atmosphere and returns to the earth as the primary source of acid rain. Because of these harmful effects, the United States has regulated SO₂ emissions in the Clean Air Act.

Electricity generation is the largest anthropogenic source of SO₂ emissions in the United States, accounting for 63.3 percent in 2012. Coal combustion contributes nearly all of those emissions (approximately 92 percent). Sulfur dioxide emissions have decreased in recent years, primarily as a result of electric power generators switching from high-sulfur to low-sulfur coal and installing flue gas desulfurization equipment.
