Executive Summary

of the *Inventory of U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks: 1990-2003*

Central to any study of climate change is the development of an emissions inventory that identifies and quantifies a country's primary anthropogenic[1] sources and sinks of greenhouse gases. This inventory adheres to both 1) a comprehensive and detailed methodology for estimating sources and sinks of anthropogenic greenhouse gases, and 2) a common and consistent mechanism that enables Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to compare the relative contribution of different emission sources and greenhouse gases to climate change.

In 1992, the United States signed and ratified the UNFCCC. As stated in Article 2 of the UNFCCC, "The ultimate objective of this Convention...is to achieve...stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system. Such a level should be achieved within a time-frame sufficient to allow ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change, to ensure that food production is not threatened and to enable economic development to proceed in a sustainable manner."[2]

Parties to the Convention, by ratifying, "shall develop, periodically update, publish and make available...national inventories of anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of all greenhouse gases not controlled by the *Montreal Protocol*, using comparable methodologies..."[3] The United States views this report as an opportunity to fulfill these commitments.

This chapter summarizes the latest information on U.S. anthropogenic greenhouse gas emission trends from 1990 through 2003. To ensure that the U.S. emissions inventory is comparable to those of other UNFCCC Parties, the estimates presented here were calculated using methodologies consistent with those recommended in the *Revised 1996 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories* (IPCC/UNEP/OECD/IEA 1997), the IPCC *Good Practice Guidance and Uncertainty Management in National Greenhouse Gas Inventories* (IPCC 2000), and the IPCC *Good Practice Guidance for Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry* (IPCC 2003). The structure of this report is consistent with the UNFCCC guidelines for inventory reporting.[4] For most source categories, the IPCC methodologies were expanded, resulting in a more comprehensive and detailed estimate of emissions.

All material taken from the *Inventory of U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks: 1990-2003*, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Atmospheric Programs, EPA 430-R-05-003, April 2005. You may electronically download this document from U.S. EPA's Global Warming web page at: **www.epa.gov/globalwarming/publications/emissions.**

[1] The term "anthropogenic", in this context, refers to greenhouse gas emissions and removals that are a direct result of human activities or are the result of natural processes that have been affected by human activities (IPCC/UNEP/OECD/IEA 1997).

[2] Article 2 of the Framework Convention on Climate Change published by the UNEP/WMO Information Unit on Climate Change. See <http://unfccc.int>.

[3] Article 4(1)(a) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (also identified in Article 12). Subsequent decisions by the Conference of the Parties elaborated the role of Annex 1 Parties in preparing national inventories. See <http://unfccc.int>.

[4] See <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/cop8/08.pdf>.

ES.1. Background Information

Naturally occurring greenhouse gases include water vapor, carbon dioxide (CO_2), methane (CH_4), nitrous oxide (N_2O), and ozone (O_3). Several classes of halogenated substances that contain fluorine, chlorine, or bromine are also greenhouse gases, but they are, for the most part, solely a product of industrial activities. Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) are halocarbons that contain chlorine, while halocarbons that contain bromine are referred to as bromofluorocarbons (i.e., halons). As stratospheric ozone depleting substances, CFCs, HCFCs, and halons are covered under the *Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer*. The UNFCCC defers to this earlier international treaty. Consequently, Parties are not required to include these gases in their national greenhouse gas emission inventories.[5] Some other fluorine-containing halogenated substances—hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs), and sulfur hexafluoride (SF_6)—do not deplete stratospheric ozone but are potent greenhouse gases. These latter substances are addressed by the UNFCCC and accounted for in national greenhouse gas emission inventories.

There are also several gases that do not have a direct global warming effect but indirectly affect terrestrial and/or solar radiation absorption by influencing the formation or destruction of other greenhouse gases, including tropospheric and stratospheric ozone. These gases include carbon monoxide (CO), oxides of nitrogen (NO_x), and non-methane volatile organic compounds (NMVOCs). Aerosols, which are extremely small particles or liquid droplets, such as those produced by sulfur dioxide (SO_2) or elemental carbon emissions, can also affect the absorptive characteristics of the atmosphere.

Although the direct greenhouse gases CO_2, CH_4, and N_2O occur naturally in the atmosphere, human activities have changed their atmospheric concentrations. Since the pre-industrial era (i.e., ending about 1750), concentrations of these greenhouse gases have increased by 31, 150, and 16 percent, respectively (IPCC 2001).

Beginning in the 1950s, the use of CFCs and other stratospheric ozone depleting substances (ODS) increased by nearly 10 percent per year until the mid-1980s, when international concern about ozone depletion led to the entry into force of the *Montreal Protocol*. Since then, the production of ODS is being phased out. In recent years, use of ODS substitutes such as HFCs and PFCs has grown as they begin to be phased in as replacements for CFCs and HCFCs. Accordingly, atmospheric concentrations of these substitutes have been growing (IPCC 2001).

Global Warming Potentials

Gases in the atmosphere can contribute to the greenhouse effect both directly and indirectly. Direct effects occur when the gas itself absorbs radiation. Indirect radiative forcing occurs when chemical transformations of the substance produce other greenhouse gases, when a gas influences the atmospheric lifetimes of other gases, and/or when a gas affects atmospheric processes that alter the radiative balance of the earth (e.g., affect cloud formation or albedo).[6] The IPCC developed the Global Warming Potential (GWP) concept to compare the ability of each greenhouse gas to trap heat in the atmosphere relative to another gas.

The GWP of a greenhouse gas is defined as the ratio of the time-integrated radiative forcing from the instantaneous release of 1 kg of a trace substance relative to that of 1 kg of a reference gas (IPCC 2001). Direct radiative effects occur when the gas itself is a greenhouse gas. The reference gas used is CO_2, and therefore GWP-weighted emissions are measured in teragrams of CO_2 equivalent (Tg CO_2 Eq.).[7] All gases in this Executive Summary are presented in units of Tg CO_2 Eq. The relationship between gigagrams (Gg) of a gas and Tg CO_2 Eq. can be expressed as follows:

$$\text{Tg } CO_2 \text{ Eq} = (\text{Gg of gas}) \times (\text{GWP}) \times \left(\frac{\text{Tg}}{1{,}000 \text{ Gg}}\right)$$

[5] Emissions estimates of CFCs, HCFCs, halons and other ozone-depleting substances are included in this document for informational purposes.

[6] Albedo is a measure of the Earth's reflectivity; see the Glossary (Annex 6.8) for definition.

[7] Carbon comprises 12/44ths of carbon dioxide by weight.

Table ES-1: Global Warming Potentials (100-Year Time Horizon) Used in this Report

Gas	GWP
CO_2	1
CH_4*	21
N_2O	310
HFC-23	11,700
HFC-32	650
HFC-125	2,800
HFC-134a	1,300
HFC-143a	3,800
HFC-152a	140
HFC-227ea	2,900
HFC-236fa	6,300
HFC-4310mee	1,300
CF_4	6,500
C_2F_6	9,200
C_4F_{10}	7,000
C_6F_{14}	7,400
SF_6	23,900

Source: IPCC (1996)
* The methane GWP includes the direct effects and those indirect effects due to the production of tropospheric ozone and stratospheric water vapor. The indirect effect due to the production of CO_2 is not included.

Figure ES-1

U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions by Gas

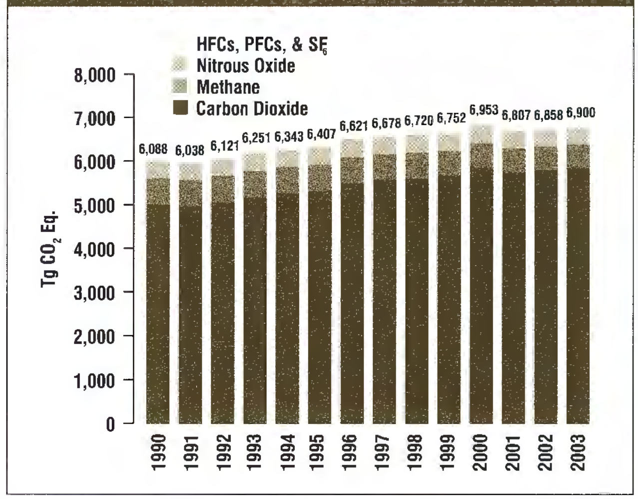


Figure ES-2

Annual Percent Change in U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions

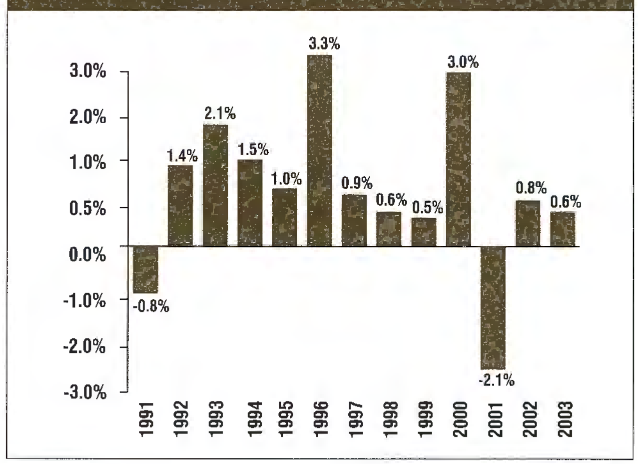
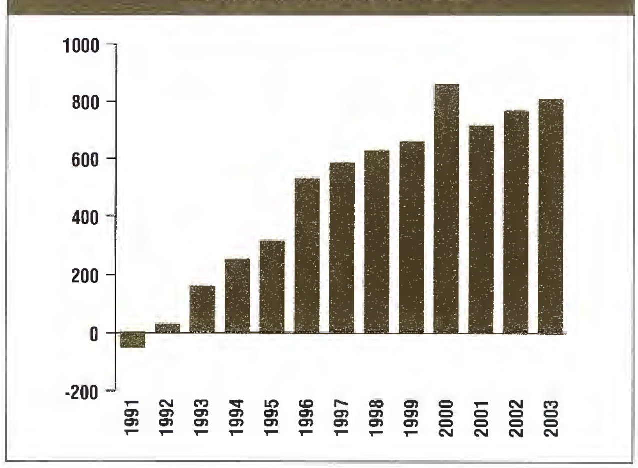


Figure ES-3

Cumulative Change in U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions Relative to 1990



The UNFCCC reporting guidelines for national inventories were updated in 2002,[8] but continue to require the use of GWPs from the IPCC Second Assessment Report (SAR). This requirement ensures that current estimates of aggregate greenhouse gas emissions for 1990 to 2003 are consistent with estimates developed prior to the publication of the IPCC Third Assessment Report (TAR). Therefore, to comply with international reporting standards under the UNFCCC, official emission estimates are reported by the United States using SAR GWP values. All estimates are provided throughout the report in both CO_2 equivalents and unweighted units. A comparison of emission values using the SAR GWPs versus the TAR GWPs can be found in Chapter 1 and in more detail in Annex 6.1. The GWP values used in this report are listed in Table ES-1.

Global warming potentials are not provided for CO, NO_x, NMVOCs, SO_2, and aerosols because there is no agreed-upon method to estimate the contribution of gases that are short-lived in the atmosphere, spatially variable, or have only indirect effects on radiative forcing (IPCC 1996).

[8] See <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/cop8/08.pdf>.

Table ES-2: Recent Trends in U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks (Tg CO_2 Eq.)

Gas/Source	1990	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
CO_2	**5,009.6**	**5,580.0**	**5,607.2**	**5,678.0**	**5,858.2**	**5,744.8**	**5,796.8**	**5,841.5**
Fossil Fuel Combustion	4,711.7	5,263.2	5,278.7	5,345.9	5,545.1	5,448.0	5,501.4	5,551.6
Non-Energy Use of Fuels	108.0	120.3	135.4	141.6	124.7	120.1	118.8	118.0
Iron and Steel Production	85.4	71.9	67.4	64.4	65.7	58.9	55.1	53.8
Cement Manufacture	33.3	38.3	39.2	40.0	41.2	41.4	42.9	43.0
Waste Combustion	10.9	17.8	17.1	17.6	18.0	18.8	18.8	18.8
Ammonia Production and Urea Application	19.3	20.7	21.9	20.6	19.6	16.7	18.6	15.6
Lime Manufacture	11.2	13.7	13.9	13.5	13.3	12.8	12.3	13.0
Natural Gas Flaring	5.8	7.9	6.6	6.9	5.8	6.1	6.2	6.0
Limestone and Dolomite Use	5.5	7.2	7.4	8.1	6.0	5.7	5.9	4.7
Aluminum Production	6.3	5.6	5.8	5.9	5.7	4.1	4.2	4.2
Soda Ash Manufacture and Consumption	4.1	4.4	4.3	4.2	4.2	4.1	4.1	4.1
Petrochemical Production	2.2	2.9	3.0	3.1	3.0	2.8	2.9	2.8
Titanium Dioxide Production	1.3	1.8	1.8	1.9	1.9	1.9	2.0	2.0
Phosphoric Acid Production	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.4
Ferroalloy Production	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.7	1.3	1.2	1.4
Carbon Dioxide Consumption	0.9	0.8	0.9	0.8	1.0	0.8	1.0	1.3
Land-Use Change and Forestry (Sinks)[a]		*(930.0)*	*(881.0)*	*(826.1)*	*(822.4)*	*(826.9)*	*(826.5)*	*(828.0)*
International Bunker Fuels[b]	*113.5*	*109.9*	*114.6*	*105.3*	*101.4*	*97.9*	*89.5*	*84.2*
Biomass Combustion[b]	*216.7*	*233.2*	*217.2*	*222.3*	*226.8*	*200.5*	*207.2*	*216.8*
CH_4	**605.3**	**579.5**	**569.1**	**557.3**	**554.2**	**546.8**	**542.5**	**545.0**
Landfills	172.2	147.4	138.5	134.0	130.7	126.2	126.8	131.2
Natural Gas Systems	128.3	133.6	131.8	127.4	132.1	131.8	130.6	125.9
Enteric Fermentation	117.9	118.3	116.7	116.8	115.6	114.5	114.6	115.0
Coal Mining	81.9	62.6	62.8	58.9	56.2	55.6	52.4	53.8
Manure Management	31.2	36.4	38.8	38.8	38.1	38.9	39.3	39.1
Wastewater Treatment	24.8	31.7	32.6	33.6	34.3	34.7	35.8	36.8
Petroleum Systems	20.0	18.8	18.5	17.8	17.6	17.4	17.1	17.1
Rice Cultivation	7.1	7.5	7.9	8.3	7.5	7.6	6.8	6.9
Stationary Sources	7.8	7.4	6.9	7.1	7.3	6.7	6.4	6.7
Abandoned Coal Mines	6.1	8.1	7.2	7.3	7.7	6.9	6.4	6.4
Mobile Sources	4.8	4.0	3.9	3.6	3.4	3.1	2.9	2.7
Petrochemical Production	1.2	1.6	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.4	1.5	1.5
Iron and Steel Production	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.0	1.0
Agricultural Residue Burning	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.8
Silicon Carbide Production	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
International Bunker Fuels[b]	*0.2*	*0.1*	*0.2*	*0.1*	*0.1*	*0.1*	*0.1*	*0.1*
N_2O	**382.0**	**396.3**	**407.8**	**382.1**	**401.9**	**385.8**	**380.5**	**376.7**
Agricultural Soil Management	253.0	252.0	267.7	243.4	263.9	257.1	252.6	253.5
Mobile Sources	43.7	55.2	55.3	54.6	53.2	49.0	45.6	42.1
Manure Management	16.3	17.3	17.4	17.4	17.8	18.0	17.9	17.5
Human Sewage	13.0	14.7	15.0	15.4	15.6	15.6	15.7	15.9
Nitric Acid Production	17.8	21.2	20.9	20.1	19.6	15.9	17.2	15.8
Stationary Sources	12.3	13.5	13.4	13.5	14.0	13.5	13.5	13.8
Settlements Remaining Settlements	5.5	6.1	6.1	6.2	6.0	5.8	6.0	6.0
Adipic Acid Production	15.2	10.3	6.0	5.5	6.0	4.9	5.9	6.0
N_2O Product Usage	4.3	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8
Waste Combustion	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.5
Agricultural Residue Burning	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.4
Forest Land Remaining Forest Land	0.1	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
International Bunker Fuels[b]	*1.0*	*1.0*	*1.0*	*0.9*	*0.9*	*0.9*	*0.8*	*0.8*
HFCs, PFCs, and SF_6	**91.2**	**121.7**	**135.7**	**134.8**	**138.9**	**129.5**	**138.3**	**137.0**
Substitution of Ozone Depleting Substances	0.4	46.5	56.6	65.8	75.0	83.3	91.5	99.5
Electrical Transmission and Distribution	29.2	21.7	17.1	16.4	15.6	15.4	14.7	14.1
HCFC-22 Production	35.0	30.0	40.1	30.4	29.8	19.8	19.8	12.3
Semiconductor Manufacture	2.9	6.3	7.1	7.2	6.3	4.5	4.4	4.3
Aluminum Production	18.3	11.0	9.1	9.0	9.0	4.0	5.2	3.8
Magnesium Production and Processing	5.4	6.3	5.8	6.0	3.2	2.6	2.6	3.0
Total	**6,088.1**	**6,677.5**	**6,719.7**	**6,752.2**	**6,953.2**	**6,806.9**	**6,858.1**	**6,900.2**
Net Emissions (Sources and Sinks)	**5,046.1**	**5,747.5**	**5,838.8**	**5,926.1**	**6,130.8**	**5,980.1**	**6,031.6**	**6,072.2**

+ Does not exceed 0.05 Tg CO_2 Eq.

[a] Sinks are only included in net emissions total, and are based partially on projected activity data. Parentheses indicate negative values (or sequestration).

[b] Emissions from International Bunker Fuels and Biomass combustion are not included in totals.

Note: Totals may not sum due to independent rounding.

ES.2. Recent Trends in U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks

In 2003, total U.S. greenhouse gas emissions were 6,900.2 Tg CO_2 Eq. Overall, total U.S. emissions have risen by 13 percent from 1990 to 2003, while the U.S. gross domestic product has increased by 46 percent over the same period (BEA 2004). Emissions rose slightly from 2002 to 2003, increasing by 0.6 percent (42.2 Tg CO_2 Eq.). The following factors were primary contributors to this increase: 1) moderate economic growth in 2003, leading to increased demand for electricity and fossil fuels, 2) increased natural gas prices, causing some electric power producers to switch to burning coal, and 3) a colder winter, which caused an increase in the use of heating fuels, primarily in the residential end-use sector.

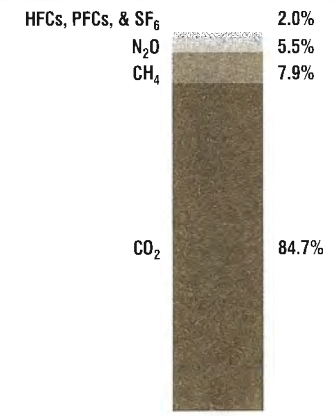
Figure ES-1 through Figure ES-3 illustrate the overall trends in total U.S. emissions by gas, annual changes, and absolute change since 1990. Table ES-2 provides a detailed summary of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions and sinks for 1990 through 2003.

Figure ES-4 illustrates the relative contribution of the direct greenhouse gases to total U.S. emissions in 2003. The primary greenhouse gas emitted by human activities in the United States was CO_2, representing approximately 85 percent of total greenhouse gas emissions. The largest source of CO_2, and of overall greenhouse gas emissions, was fossil fuel combustion. Methane emissions, which have steadily declined since 1990, resulted primarily from decomposition of wastes in landfills, natural gas systems, and enteric fermentation associated with domestic livestock. Agricultural soil management and mobile source fossil fuel combustion were the major sources of N_2O emissions. The emissions of substitutes for ozone depleting substances and emissions of HFC-23 during the production of HCFC-22 were the primary contributors to aggregate HFC emissions. Electrical transmission and distribution systems accounted for most SF_6 emissions, while PFC emissions resulted from semiconductor manufacturing and as a by-product of primary aluminum production.

Overall, from 1990 to 2003, total emissions of CO_2 increased by 832.0 Tg CO_2 Eq. (17 percent), while CH_4 and N_2O emissions decreased by 60.4 Tg CO_2 Eq. (10 percent) and 5.2 Tg CO_2 Eq. (1 percent), respectively. During the same period, aggregate weighted emissions of HFCs, PFCs, and SF_6 rose by 45.8 Tg CO_2 Eq. (50 percent). Despite being emitted in smaller quantities relative to the other principal greenhouse gases, emissions of HFCs, PFCs, and SF_6 are significant because many of them have extremely high global warming potentials and, in the cases of PFCs and SF_6, long atmospheric lifetimes. Conversely, U.S. greenhouse gas emissions were partly offset by carbon sequestration in forests, trees in urban areas, agricultural soils, and landfilled yard trimmings and food scraps, which, in aggregate, offset 12 percent of total emissions in 2003. The following sections describe each gas' contribution to total U.S. greenhouse gas emissions in more detail.

Figure ES-4

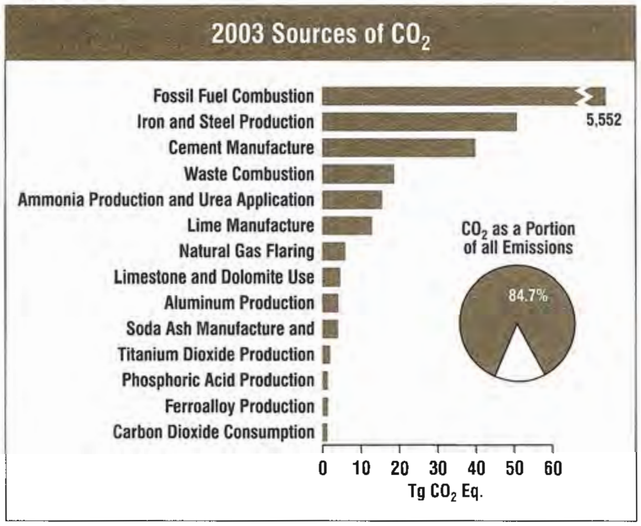
2003 Greenhouse Gas Emissions by Gas



Carbon Dioxide Emissions

The global carbon cycle is made up of large carbon flows and reservoirs. Billions of tons of carbon in the form of CO_2 are absorbed by oceans and living biomass (i.e., sinks) and are emitted to the atmosphere annually through natural processes (i.e., sources). When in equilibrium, carbon fluxes among these various reservoirs are roughly balanced. Since the Industrial Revolution, atmospheric concentrations of CO_2 have risen about 31 percent (IPCC 2001), principally due to the combustion of fossil fuels. Within the United States, fuel combustion accounted for 95 percent of CO_2 emissions in 2003. Globally, approximately 24,240 Tg of CO_2 were added

Figure ES-5



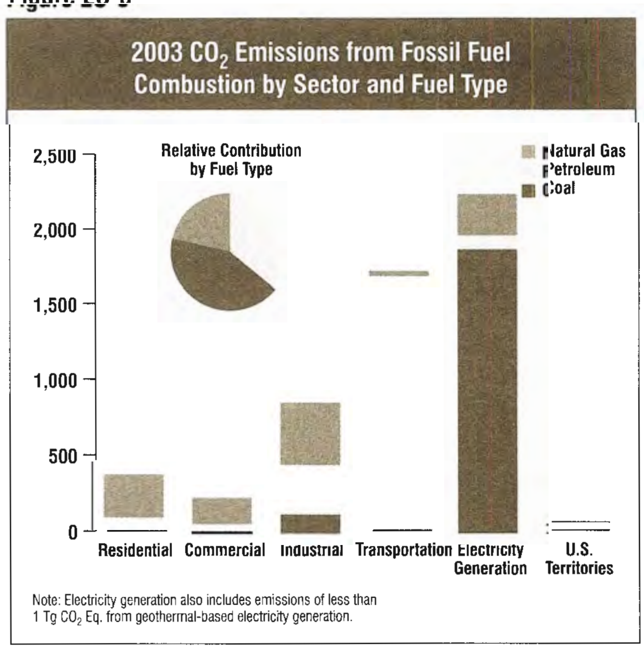
to the atmosphere through the combustion of fossil fuels in 2000, of which the United States accounted for about 23 percent.[9] Changes in land use and forestry practices can also emit CO_2 (e.g., through conversion of forest land to agricultural or urban use) or can act as a sink for CO_2 (e.g., through net additions to forest biomass).

As the largest source of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions, CO_2 from fossil fuel combustion has accounted for a nearly constant 80 percent of GWP weighted emissions since 1990. Emissions of CO_2 from fossil fuel combustion increased at an average annual rate of 1.3 percent from 1990 to 2003. The fundamental factors influencing this trend include (1) a generally growing domestic economy over the last 13 years, and (2) significant growth in emissions from transportation activities and electricity generation. Between 1990 and 2003, CO_2 emissions from fossil fuel combustion increased from 4,711.7 Tg CO_2 Eq. to 5,551.6 Tg CO_2 Eq.—an 18 percent total increase over the thirteen-year period. Historically, changes in emissions from fossil fuel combustion have been the dominant factor affecting U.S. emission trends.

From 2002 to 2003, these emissions increased by 50.2 Tg CO_2 Eq. (1 percent). A number of factors played a major role in the magnitude of this increase. The U.S. economy experienced moderate growth from 2002, causing an increase in the demand for fuels. The price of natural gas escalated dramatically, causing some electric power producers to switch to coal, which remained at relatively stable prices. Colder winter conditions brought on more demand for heating fuels, primarily in the residential sector. Though a cooler summer partially offset demand for electricity as the use of air-conditioners decreased, electricity consumption continued to increase in 2003. The primary drivers behind this trend were the growing economy and the increase in U.S. housing stock. Use of nuclear and renewable fuels remained relatively stable. Nuclear capacity decreased slightly, for the first time since 1997. Use of renewable fuels rose slightly due to increases in the use of hydroelectric power and biofuels.

The four major end-use sectors contributing to CO_2 emissions from fossil fuel combustion are industrial, transportation, residential, and commercial. Electricity generation also emits CO_2, although these emissions are produced as they consume fossil fuel to provide electricity to one of the four end-use sectors. For the discussion below, electricity generation emissions have been distributed to each end-use sector on the basis of each sector's share of aggregate electricity consumption. This method of distributing emissions assumes that each end-use sector consumes electricity that is generated from the national average mix of fuels according to their carbon intensity. In reality, sources of

Figure ES-6



[9] Global CO_2 emissions from fossil fuel combustion were taken from Marland et al. (2003) <http://cdiac.esd.ornl.gov/trends/emis/tre_glob.htm>.

electricity vary widely in carbon intensity. By assuming the same carbon intensity for each end-use sector's electricity consumption, for example, emissions attributed to the residential end-use sector may be underestimated, while emissions attributed to the industrial end-use sector may be overestimated. Emissions from electricity generation are also addressed separately after the end-use sectors have been discussed.

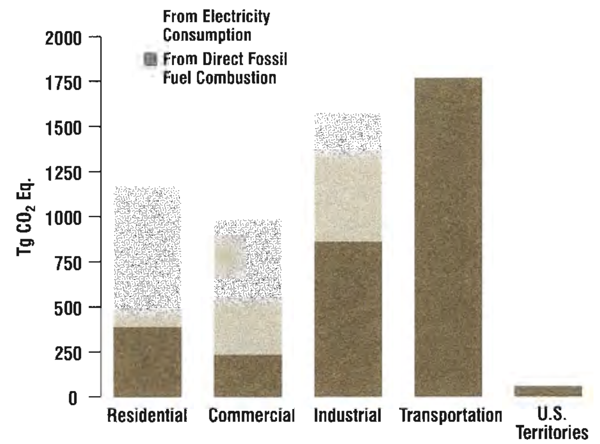
Note that emissions from U.S. territories are calculated separately due to a lack of specific consumption data for the individual end-use sectors.

Figure ES-6, Figure ES-7, and Table ES-3 summarize CO_2 emissions from fossil fuel combustion by end-use sector.

Transportation End-Use Sector. Transportation activities (excluding international bunker fuels) accounted for 32 percent of CO_2 emissions from fossil fuel combustion in 2003.[10] Virtually all of the energy consumed in this end-use sector came from petroleum products. Over 60 percent of the emissions resulted from gasoline consumption for personal vehicle use. The remaining emissions came from other transportation activities, including the combustion of diesel fuel in heavy-duty vehicles and jet fuel in aircraft.

Figure ES-7

2003 End-Use Sector Emissions of CO_2 from Fossil Fuel Combustion



Industrial End-Use Sector. Industrial CO_2 emissions, resulting both directly from the combustion of fossil fuels and indirectly from the generation of electricity that is consumed by industry, accounted for 28 percent of CO_2 from fossil fuel combustion in 2003. About half of these emissions resulted from direct fossil fuel combustion to produce steam and/or heat for industrial processes. The other half of the emissions

Table ES-3: CO_2 Emissions from Fossil Fuel Combustion by End-Use Sector (Tg CO_2 Eq.)

End-Use Sector	1990	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Transportation	**1,449.8**	**1,606.4**	**1,636.5**	**1,693.9**	**1,741.0**	**1,723.1**	**1,755.4**	**1,770.4**
Combustion	1,446.8	1,603.3	1,633.4	1,690.8	1,737.7	1,719.7	1,752.3	1,767.2
Electricity	3.0	3.1	3.1	3.2	3.4	3.4	3.2	3.2
Industrial	**1,553.9**	**1,703.0**	**1,668.5**	**1,651.2**	**1,684.4**	**1,587.4**	**1,579.0**	**1,572.9**
Combustion	882.8	963.8	911.6	888.1	905.0	878.2	876.6	858.6
Electricity	671.1	739.2	757.0	763.1	779.4	709.3	702.4	714.3
Residential	**924.8**	**1,040.7**	**1,044.4**	**1,063.5**	**1,124.2**	**1,116.2**	**1,145.0**	**1,168.9**
Combustion	339.6	370.6	338.6	359.3	379.1	367.0	371.4	385.1
Electricity	585.3	670.2	705.8	704.2	745.0	749.2	773.6	783.8
Commercial	**755.1**	**876.7**	**892.9**	**901.2**	**959.5**	**972.7**	**973.9**	**983.1**
Combustion	224.2	237.2	219.7	222.3	235.2	226.7	230.0	234.0
Electricity	530.9	639.5	673.2	678.9	724.3	745.9	743.9	749.2
U.S. Territories	**28.0**	**36.4**	**36.3**	**36.2**	**35.9**	**48.6**	**48.1**	**56.2**
Total	**4,711.7**	**5,263.2**	**5,278.7**	**5,345.9**	**5,545.1**	**5,448.0**	**5,501.4**	**5,551.6**
Electricity Generation	**1,790.3**	**2,051.9**	**2,139.0**	**2,149.3**	**2,252.1**	**2,207.8**	**2,223.0**	**2,250.5**

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.

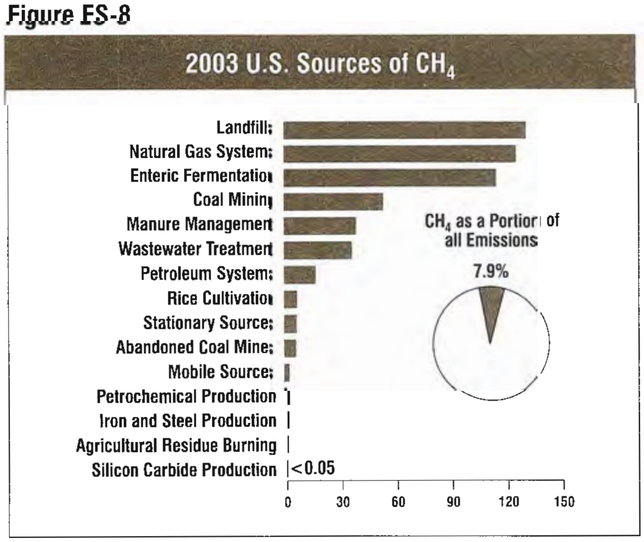
[10] If emissions from international bunker fuels are included, the transportation end-use sector accounted for 33 percent of U.S. emissions from fossil fuel combustion in 2003.

resulted from consuming electricity for motors, electric furnaces, ovens, lighting, and other applications.

Residential and Commercial End-Use Sectors. The residential and commercial end-use sectors accounted for 21 and 18 percent, respectively, of CO_2 emissions from fossil fuel combustion in 2003. Both sectors relied heavily on electricity for meeting energy demands, with 67 and 76 percent, respectively, of their emissions attributable to electricity consumption for lighting, heating, cooling, and operating appliances. The remaining emissions were due to the consumption of natural gas and petroleum for heating and cooking.

Electricity Generation. The United States relies on electricity to meet a significant portion of its energy demands, especially for lighting, electric motors, heating, and air conditioning. Electricity generators consumed 35 percent of U.S. energy from fossil fuels and emitted 41 percent of the CO_2 from fossil fuel combustion in 2003. The type of fuel combusted by electricity generators has a significant effect on their emissions. For example, some electricity is generated with low CO_2 emitting energy technologies, particularly non-fossil options such as nuclear, hydroelectric, or geothermal energy. However, electricity generators rely on coal for over half of their total energy requirements and accounted for 93 percent of all coal consumed for energy in the United States in 2003. Consequently, changes in electricity demand have a significant impact on coal consumption and associated CO_2 emissions.

Figure ES-8



Other significant CO_2 trends included the following:

- Carbon dioxide emissions from iron and steel production decreased to 53.8 Tg CO_2 Eq. in 2003, and have declined by 31.7 Tg CO_2 Eq. (37 percent) from 1990 through 2003, due to reduced domestic production of pig iron, sinter, and coal coke.
- Carbon dioxide emissions from waste combustion (18.8 Tg CO_2 Eq. in 2003) increased by 7.9 Tg CO_2 Eq. (72 percent) from 1990 through 2003, as the volume of plastics and other fossil carbon-containing materials in municipal solid waste grew.
- Net CO_2 sequestration from land-use change and forestry decreased by 214.0 Tg CO_2 Eq. (21 percent) from 1990 through 2003. This decline was primarily attributable to forest soils, a result of the slowed rate of forest area increases after 1997.

Methane Emissions

According to the IPCC, CH_4 is more than 20 times as effective as CO_2 at trapping heat in the atmosphere. Over the last two hundred and fifty years, the concentration of CH_4 in the atmosphere increased by 150 percent (IPCC 2001). Experts believe that over half of this atmospheric increase was due to emissions from anthropogenic sources, such as landfills, natural gas and petroleum systems, agricultural activities, coal mining, wastewater treatment, stationary and mobile combustion, and certain industrial processes (see Figure ES-8).

Some significant trends in U.S. emissions of CH_4 include the following:

- Landfills are the largest anthropogenic source of CH_4 emissions in the United States. In 2003, landfill CH_4 emissions were 131.2 Tg CO_2 Eq. (approximately 24 percent of total CH_4 emissions), which represents a decline of 41.1 Tg CO_2 Eq., or 24 percent, since 1990.
- Methane emissions from coal mining declined by 28.1 Tg CO_2 Eq. (34 percent) from 1990 to 2003, as a result of the mining of less gassy coal from underground mines and the increased use of methane collected from degasification systems.

Nitrous Oxide Emissions

Nitrous oxide is produced by biological processes that occur in soil and water and by a variety of anthropogenic activities in the agricultural, energy-related, industrial, and waste management fields. While total N_2O emissions are much lower than CO_2 emissions, N_2O is approximately 300 times more powerful than CO_2 at trapping heat in the atmosphere. Since 1750, the atmospheric concentration of N_2O has risen by approximately 16 percent (IPCC 2001). The main anthropogenic activities producing N_2O in the United States are agricultural soil management, fuel combustion in motor vehicles, manure management, nitric acid production, human sewage, and stationary fuel combustion (see Figure ES-9).

Some significant trends in U.S. emissions of N_2O include the following:

- Agricultural soil management activities such as fertilizer application and other cropping practices were the largest source of U.S. N_2O emissions, accounting for 67 percent (253.5 Tg CO_2 Eq.).
- In 2003, N_2O emissions from mobile combustion were 42.1 Tg CO_2 Eq. (approximately 11 percent of U.S. N_2O emissions). From 1990 to 2003, N_2O emissions from mobile combustion decreased by 4 percent.

HFC, PFC, and SF_6 Emissions

HFCs and PFCs are families of synthetic chemicals that are being used as alternatives to the ODSs, which are being phased out under the Montreal Protocol and Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990. HFCs and PFCs do not deplete the stratospheric ozone layer, and are therefore acceptable alternatives under the *Montreal Protocol*.

These compounds, however, along with SF_6, are potent greenhouse gases. In addition to having high global warming potentials, SF_6 and PFCs have extremely long atmospheric lifetimes, resulting in their essentially irreversible accumulation in the atmosphere once emitted. Sulfur hexafluoride is the most potent greenhouse gas the IPCC has evaluated.

Other emissive sources of these gases include HCFC-22 production, electrical transmission and distribution systems, semiconductor manufacturing, aluminum production, and magnesium production and processing (see Figure ES-10).

Figure ES-9

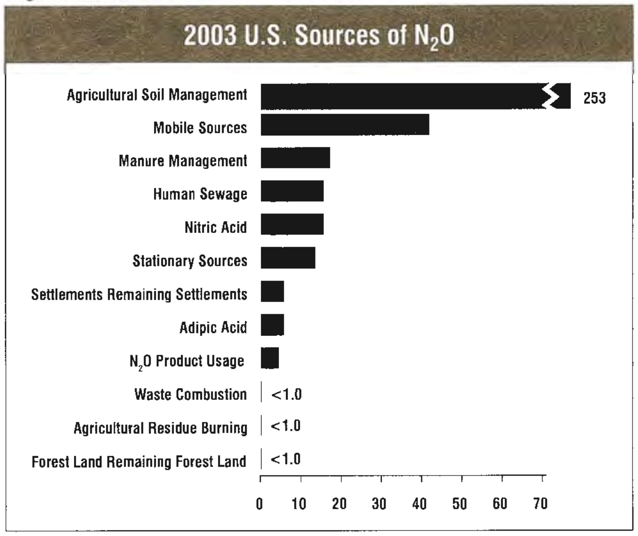
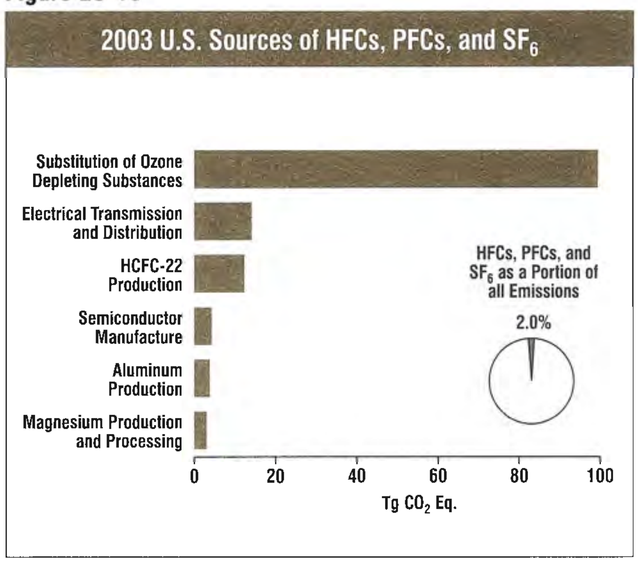


Figure ES-10



Some significant trends in U.S. HFC, PFC, and SF_6 emissions include the following:

- Emissions resulting from the substitution of ozone depleting substances (e.g., CFCs) have been increasing from small amounts in 1990 to 99.5 Tg CO_2 Eq. in 2003. Emissions from substitutes for ozone depleting substances are both the largest and the fastest growing source of HFC, PFC and SF_6 emissions.
- The increase in ODS emissions is offset substantially by decreases in emission of HFCs, PFCs, and SF_6 from other sources. Emissions from aluminum production decreased by 79 percent (14.5 Tg CO_2 Eq.) from 1990 to 2003, due to both industry emission reduction efforts and

lower domestic aluminum production. Emissions from the production of HCFC-22 decreased by 65 percent (22.6 Tg CO_2 Eq.), due to a steady decline in the emission rate of HFC-23 (i.e., the amount of HFC-23 emitted per kilogram of HCFC-22 manufactured) and the use of thermal oxidation at some plants to reduce HFC-23 emissions. Emissions from electric power transmission and distribution systems decreased by 52 percent (15.1 Tg CO_2 Eq.) from 1990 to 2003, primarily because of higher purchase prices for SF_6 and efforts by industry to reduce emissions.

ES.3. Overview of Sector Emissions and Trends

In accordance with the *Revised 1996 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories* (IPCC/UNEP/OECD/IEA 1997), and the 2003 *UNFCCC Guidelines on Reporting and Review* (UNFCCC 2003), this Inventory of U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks is segregated into six sector-specific chapters. Figure ES-11 and Table ES-4 aggregate emissions and sinks by these chapters.

Energy

The Energy chapter contains emissions of all greenhouse gases resulting from stationary and mobile energy activities including fuel combustion and fugitive fuel emissions. Energy-related activities, primarily fossil fuel combustion, accounted for the vast majority of U.S. CO_2 emissions for the period of 1990 through 2003. In 2003, approximately 86 percent of the energy consumed in the United States was produced through the combustion of fossil fuels. The remaining 14 percent came from other energy sources such as hydropower, biomass, nuclear, wind, and solar energy (see Figure ES-12). Energy related activities are also responsible for CH_4 and N_2O emissions (39 percent and 15 percent of total U.S. emissions, respectively). Overall, emission sources in the Energy chapter account for a combined 87 percent of total U.S. greenhouse gas emissions in 2003.

Figure ES-11

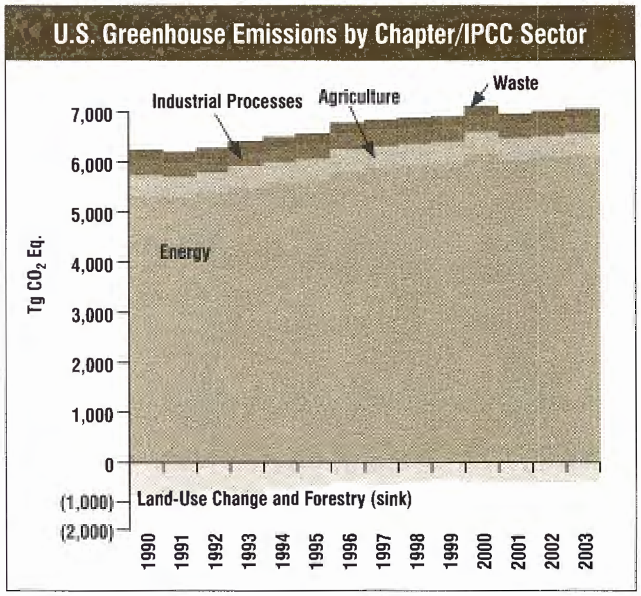


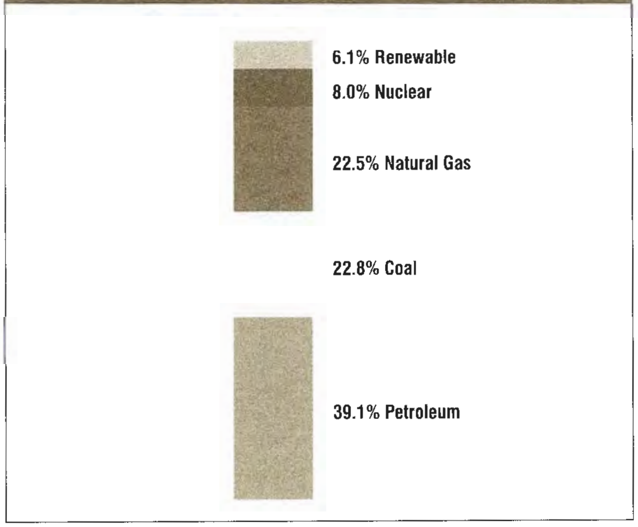
Table ES-4: Recent Trends in U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks by Chapter/IPCC Sector (Tg CO_2 Eq.)

Chapter/IPCC Sector	1990	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Energy	5,141.7	5,712.8	5,737.7	5,802.6	5,985.3	5,877.3	5,920.7	5,963.4
Industrial Processes	299.9	327.1	334.9	329.2	332.1	304.7	315.4	308.6
Solvent and Other Product Use	4.3	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8
Agriculture	426.5	432.8	449.8	425.9	444.1	437.5	432.4	433.3
Land-Use Change and Forestry (Emissions)	5.6	6.4	6.5	6.6	6.3	6.2	6.4	6.4
Waste	210.1	193.7	186.0	183.1	180.6	176.5	178.3	183.8
Total	**6,088.1**	**6,677.5**	**6,719.7**	**6,752.2**	**6,953.2**	**6,806.9**	**6,858.1**	**6,900.2**
Land-Use Change and Forestry (Sinks)	(1042.0)	(930.0)	(881.0)	(826.1)	(822.4)	(826.9)	(826.5)	(828.0)
Net Emissions (Sources and Sinks)	**5,046.1**	**5,747.5**	**5,838.8**	**5,926.1**	**6,130.8**	**5,980.1**	**6,031.6**	**6,072.2**

* Sinks are only included in net emissions total, and are based partially on projected activity data.
Note: Totals may not sum due to independent rounding. Parentheses indicate negative values (or sequestration).

Figure ES-12

2003 U.S. Energy Consumption by Energy Source



Industrial Processes

The Industrial Processes chapter contains by-product or fugitive emissions of greenhouse gases from industrial processes not directly related to energy activities such as fossil fuel combustion. For example, industrial processes can chemically transform raw materials, which often release waste gases such as CO_2, CH_4, and N_2O. The processes include iron and steel production, cement manufacture, ammonia manufacture and urea application, lime manufacture, limestone and dolomite use (e.g., flux stone, flue gas desulfurization, and glass manufacturing), soda ash manufacture and use, titanium dioxide production, phosphoric acid production, ferroalloy production, CO_2 consumption, aluminum production, petrochemical production, silicon carbide production, nitric acid production, and adipic acid production. Additionally, emissions from industrial processes release HFCs, PFCs and SF_6. Overall, emission sources in the Industrial Process chapter account for 4.5 percent of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions in 2003.

Solvent and Other Product Use

The Solvent and Other Product Use chapter contains greenhouse gas emissions that are produced as a by-product of various solvent and other product uses. In the United States, emissions from N_2O Product Usage, the only source of greenhouse gas emissions from this sector, accounted for less than 0.1 percent of total U.S. anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions on a carbon equivalent basis in 2003.

Agriculture

The Agricultural chapter contains anthropogenic emissions from agricultural activities (except fuel combustion, which is addressed in the Energy chapter). 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. Methane and N_2O were the primary greenhouse gases emitted by agricultural activities. Methane emissions from enteric fermentation and manure management represented about 21 percent and 7 percent of total CH_4 emissions from anthropogenic activities, respectively in 2003. Agricultural soil management activities such as fertilizer application and other cropping practices were the largest source of U.S. N_2O emissions in 2003, accounting for 67 percent. In 2003, emission sources accounted for in the Agricultural chapters were responsible for 6.3 percent of total U.S. greenhouse gas emissions.

Land-Use Change and Forestry

The Land-Use Change and Forestry chapter contains emissions and removals of CO_2 from forest management, other land-use activities, and land-use change. 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 a net uptake (sequestration) of carbon in the United States. Forests (including vegetation, soils, and harvested wood) accounted for approximately 91 percent of total 2003 sequestration, urban trees accounted for 7 percent, agricultural soils (including mineral and organic soils and the application of lime) accounted for 1 percent, and landfilled yard trimmings and food scraps accounted for 1 percent of the total sequestration in 2003. The net forest sequestration is a result of net forest growth and increasing forest area, as well as a net accumulation of carbon stocks in harvested wood pools. The net sequestration in urban forests is a result of net tree growth in these areas. In agricultural soils, mineral soils account for a net carbon sink that is approximately one and a third times larger than the sum of

Table ES-5: Net CO_2 Flux from Land-Use Change and Forestry (Tg CO_2 Eq.)

Sink Category	1990	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Forest Land Remaining Forest Land	**(949.3)**	**(851.0)**	**(805.5)**	**(751.7)**	**(747.9)**	**(750.9)**	**(751.5)**	**(752.7)**
Changes in Forest Carbon Stocks	(949.3)	(851.0)	(805.5)	(751.7)	(747.9)	(750.9)	(751.5)	(752.7)
Cropland Remaining Cropland	**(8.1)**	**(7.4)**	**(4.3)**	**(4.3)**	**(5.7)**	**(7.1)**	**(6.2)**	**(6.6)**
Changes in Agricultural Soil Carbon Stocks	(8.1)	(7.4)	(4.3)	(4.3)	(5.7)	(7.1)	(6.2)	(6.6)
Settlements Remaining Settlements	**(84.7)**	**(71.6)**	**(71.2)**	**(70.0)**	**(68.9)**	**(68.9)**	**(68.8)**	**(68.7)**
Urban Trees	(58.7)	(58.7)	(58.7)	(58.7)	(58.7)	(58.7)	(58.7)	(58.7)
Landfilled Yard Trimmings and Food Scraps	(26.0)	(12.9)	(12.5)	(11.4)	(10.2)	(10.3)	(10.2)	(10.1)
Total	**(1,042.0)**	**(930.0)**	**(881.0)**	**(826.1)**	**(822.4)**	**(826.9)**	**(826.5)**	**(828.0)**

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

emissions from organic soils and liming. The mineral soil carbon sequestration is largely due to conversion of cropland to permanent pastures and hay production, a reduction in summer fallow areas in semi-arid areas, an increase in the adoption of conservation tillage practices, and an increase in the amounts of organic fertilizers (i.e., manure and sewage sludge) applied to agriculture lands. The landfilled yard trimmings and food scraps net sequestration is due to the long-term accumulation of yard trimming carbon and food scraps in landfills.

Land use, land-use change, and forestry activities in 2003 resulted in a net carbon sequestration of 828.0 Tg CO_2 Eq. (Table ES-5). This represents an offset of approximately 14 percent of total U.S. CO_2 emissions, or 12 percent of total gross greenhouse gas emissions in 2003. Total land use, land-use change, and forestry net carbon sequestration declined by approximately 21 percent between 1990 and 2003. This decline was primarily due to a decline in the rate of net carbon accumulation in forest carbon stocks. Annual carbon accumulation in landfilled yard trimmings and food scraps also slowed over this period, as did annual carbon accumulation in agricultural soils. As described above, the constant rate of carbon accumulation in urban trees is a reflection of limited underlying data (i.e., this rate represents an average for 1990 through 1999).

Land use, land-use change, and forestry activities in 2003 also resulted in emissions of N_2O (6.4 Tg CO_2 Eq.). Total N_2O emissions from the application of fertilizers to forests and settlements increased by approximately 14 percent between 1990 and 2003.

Waste

The Waste chapter contains emissions from waste management activities (except waste incineration, which is addressed in the Energy chapter). Landfills were the largest source of anthropogenic CH_4 emissions, accounting for 24 percent of total U.S. CH_4 emissions.[11] Wastewater treatment systems are a potentially significant source of N_2O emissions; however, methodologies are not currently available to develop a complete estimate. Nitrous oxide emissions from the treatment of the human sewage component of wastewater were estimated, however, using a simplified methodology. Overall, in 2003, emission sources accounted for in the Waste chapter generated 2.7 percent of total U.S. greenhouse gas emissions.

ES.4. Other Information

Emissions by Economic Sector

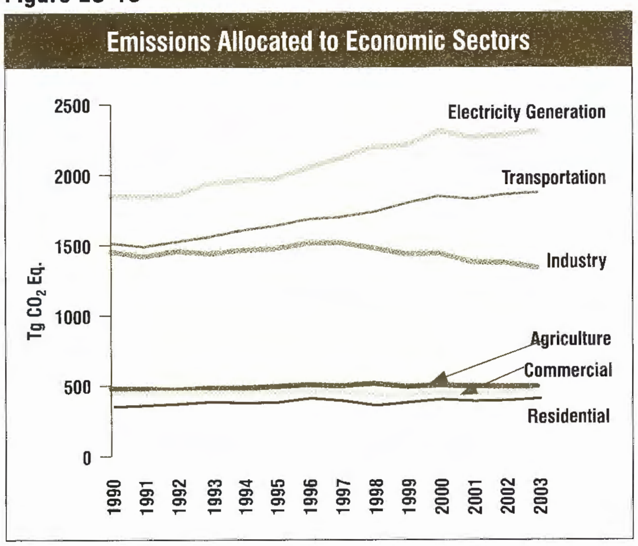
Throughout this report, emission estimates are grouped into six sectors (i.e., chapters) defined by the IPCC: Energy, Industrial Processes, Solvent Use, Agriculture, Land-Use Change and Forestry, and Waste. While it is important to use this characterization for consistency with UNFCCC reporting guidelines, it is also useful to allocate emissions into more commonly used sectoral categories. This section reports

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

emissions by the following economic sectors: Residential, Commercial, Industry, Transportation, Electricity Generation, and Agriculture, and U.S. Territories. Table ES-6 summarizes emissions from each of these sectors, and Figure ES-13 shows the trend in emissions by sector from 1990 to 2003.

Using this categorization, emissions from electricity generation accounted for the largest portion (33 percent) of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions in 2003. Transportation activities, in aggregate, accounted for the second largest portion (27 percent). Emissions from industry accounted for 19 percent of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions in 2003. In contrast to electricity generation and transportation, emissions from industry have declined over the past decade, as structural changes have occurred in the U.S. economy (i.e., shifts from a manufacturing based to a service-based economy), fuel switching has occurred, and efficiency improvements have been made. The remaining 21 percent of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions were contributed by the residential, agriculture, and commercial economic sectors, plus emissions from U.S. Territories. Residences accounted for about 6 percent, and primarily consisted of CO_2 emissions from fossil fuel combustion. Activities related to agriculture accounted for roughly 7 percent of U.S. emissions; these emissions were dominated by N_2O emissions from agricultural soils instead of CO_2 from fossil fuel combustion. The commercial sector accounted for about 7 percent of emissions, while U.S. territories accounted for 1 percent.

Figure ES-13



Carbon dioxide was also emitted and sequestered 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.

Electricity is ultimately consumed in the economic sectors described above. Table ES-7 presents 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). To distribute electricity emissions among end-use sectors, emissions from the source categories assigned to electricity generation were allocated to the residential, commercial, industry, transportation, and agriculture economic sectors

Table ES-6: U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions Allocated to Economic Sectors (Tg CO_2 Eq.)

Economic Sector	1990	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Electric Power Industry	1,841.8	2,104.6	2,186.8	2,197.3	2,299.0	2,254.9	2,269.7	2,296.2
Transportation	1,506.8	1,693.0	1,728.7	1,790.0	1,839.6	1,819.8	1,851.6	1,864.4
Industry	1,446.1	1,509.1	1,470.6	1,427.9	1,431.8	1,371.0	1,365.7	1,331.4
Agriculture	473.3	492.0	508.4	486.9	495.3	488.6	485.6	486.4
Commercial	435.4	445.2	424.2	426.8	440.7	431.4	440.2	453.5
Residential	350.9	391.0	358.4	379.5	399.7	387.1	391.6	406.1
U.S. Territories	33.8	42.7	42.7	43.9	47.0	54.1	53.6	62.3
Total	**6,088.1**	**6,677.5**	**6,719.7**	**6,752.2**	**6,953.2**	**6,806.9**	**6,858.1**	**6,900.2**
Land-Use Change and Forestry Sinks	(1,042.0)	(930.0)	(881.0)	(826.1)	(822.4)	(826.9)	(826.5)	(828.0)
Net Emissions (Sources and Sinks)	**5,046.1**	**5,747.5**	**5,838.8**	**5,926.1**	**6,130.8**	**5,980.1**	**6,031.6**	**6,072.2**

Note: Totals may not sum due to independent rounding. Emissions include CO_2, CH_4, HFCs, PFCs, and SF_6.

Table ES-7: U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions by Economic Sector with Electricity-Related Emissions Distributed (Tg CO_2 Eq.)

Economic Sector	1990	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Industry	2,075.7	2,247.3	2,223.2	2,190.1	2,207.7	2,074.0	2,062.9	2,040.1
Transportation	1,509.9	1,696.1	1,731.8	1,793.2	1,843.0	1,823.2	1,854.8	1,867.6
Commercial	981.6	1,083.8	1,093.5	1,104.9	1,161.8	1,170.6	1,178.5	1,196.8
Residential	953.0	1,060.3	1,060.0	1,082.9	1,141.4	1,129.6	1,159.5	1,183.7
Agriculture	534.1	547.4	568.6	537.3	552.3	555.5	548.8	549.8
U.S. Territories	33.8	42.7	42.7	43.9	47.0	54.1	53.6	62.3
Total	**6,088.1**	**6,677.5**	**6,719.7**	**6,752.2**	**6,953.2**	**6,806.9**	**6,858.1**	**6,900.2**
Land-Use Change and Forestry Sinks	(1,042.0)	(930.0)	(881.0)	(826.1)	(822.4)	(826.9)	(826.5)	(828.0)
Net Emissions (Sources and Sinks)	**5,046.1**	**5,747.5**	**5,838.8**	**5,926.1**	**6,130.8**	**5,980.1**	**6,031.6**	**6,072.2**

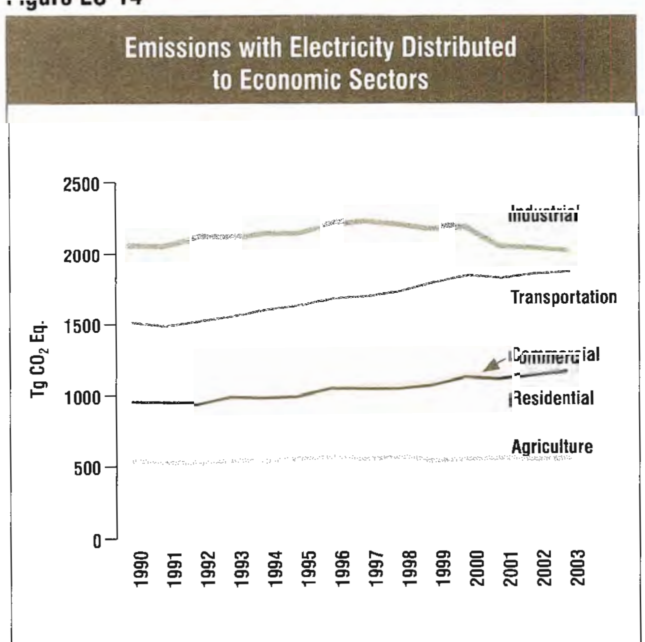
according to retail sales of electricity.[12] These source categories include CO_2 from fossil fuel combustion and the use of limestone and dolomite for flue gas desulfurization, CO_2 and N_2O from waste combustion, CH_4 and N_2O from stationary sources, and SF_6 from electrical transmission and distribution systems.

When emissions from electricity are distributed among these sectors, industry accounts for the largest share of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions (30 percent) in 2003. Emissions from the residential and commercial sectors also increase substantially due to their relatively large share of electricity consumption (e.g., lighting, appliances, etc.). Transportation activities remain the second largest contributor to emissions. In all sectors except agriculture, CO_2 accounts for more than 75 percent of greenhouse gas emissions, primarily from the combustion of fossil fuels. Figure ES-14 shows the trend in these emissions by sector from 1990 to 2003.

Ambient Air Pollutant Emissions

In the United States, CO, NO_x, NMVOCs, SO_2 are referred to as "ambient air pollutants," and are regulated under the Clean Air Act in an effort to protect human health and the environment. These pollutants 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 SO_2, by affecting the absorptive characteristics of the atmosphere. Additionally, some of these pollutants may react with other chemical compounds in the atmosphere to form compounds that are greenhouse gases. Since 1970, the United States has published estimates of annual emissions of ambient air pollutants (EPA 2004).[13] Table ES-9 shows that fuel combustion accounts for the majority of emissions of these 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.

Figure ES-14



Note: Does not include U.S. territories

[12] 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.

[13] NO_x and CO emission estimates from field burning of agricultural residues were estimated separately, and therefore not taken from EPA (2004).

Box ES-1: 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 nonutilities combined—was the largest source of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions in 2003; 4) emissions per unit of total gross domestic product as a measure of national economic activity; or 5) emissions per capita.

Table ES-8 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 1.0 percent since 1990. This rate is slower than that for total energy or fossil fuel consumption and much slower than that for either electricity consumption or overall gross domestic product. Total U.S. greenhouse gas emissions have also grown more slowly than national population since 1990 (see Figure ES-15). Overall, global atmospheric CO_2 concentrations—a function of many complex anthropogenic and natural processes—are increasing at 0.5 percent per year.

Table ES-8: Recent Trends in Various U.S. Data (Index 1990 = 100) and Global Atmospheric CO_2 Concentration

Variable	1991	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	Growth Rate[f]
Greenhouse Gas Emissions[a]	99	110	110	111	114	112	113	113	**1.0%**
Energy Consumption[b]	100	112	113	114	117	114	116	116	**1.2%**
Fossil Fuel Consumption[b]	99	112	113	114	117	115	116	116	**1.2%**
Electricity Consumption[b]	102	117	121	124	128	125	129	130	**2.1%**
GDP[c]	100	122	127	133	138	139	142	146	**3.0%**
Population[d]	101	109	110	112	113	114	115	116	**1.1%**
Atmospheric CO_2 Concentration[e]	100	103	104	104	104	105	105	106	**0.5%**

[a] GWP weighted values
[b] Energy content weighted values (EIA 2004)
[c] Gross Domestic Product in chained 2000 dollars (BEA 2004)
[d] (U.S. Census Bureau 2004)
[e] Mauna Loa Observatory, Hawaii (Keeling and Whorf 2004)
[f] Average annual growth rate

Figure ES-15

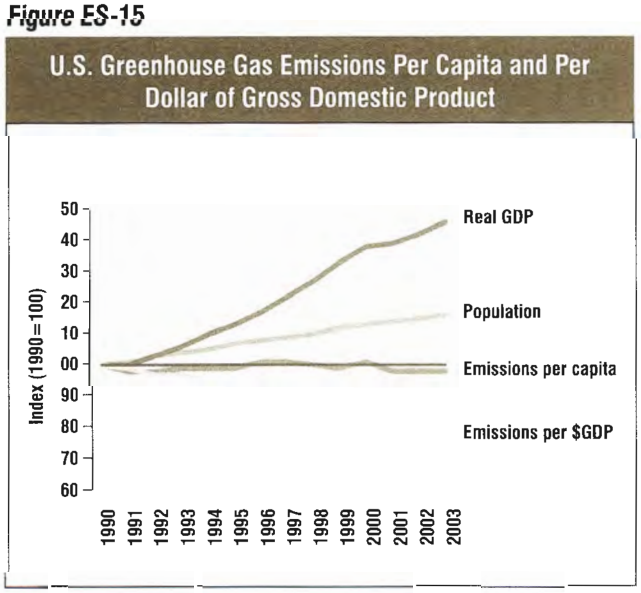


Table ES-9: Emissions of NO_x, CO, NMVOCs, and SO_2 (Gg)

Gas/Activity	1990	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
NO_x	**22,860**	**22,284**	**21,964**	**20,530**	**20,288**	**19,414**	**18,850**	**18,573**
Stationary Fossil Fuel Combustion	9,884	9,578	9,419	8,344	8,002	7,667	7,523	7,222
Mobile Fossil Fuel Combustion	12,134	11,768	11,592	11,300	11,395	10,823	10,389	10,418
Oil and Gas Activities	139	130	130	109	111	113	135	124
Waste Combustion	82	140	145	143	114	114	134	121
Industrial Processes	591	629	637	595	626	656	630	648
Solvent Use	1	3	3	3	3	3	5	4
Agricultural Burning	28	34	35	34	35	35	33	33
Waste	0	3	3	3	2	2	2	2
CO	**130,580**	**101,138**	**98,984**	**94,361**	**92,895**	**89,329**	**87,451**	**85,077**
Stationary Fossil Fuel Combustion	4,999	3,927	3,927	5,024	4,340	4,377	4,020	4,454
Mobile Fossil Fuel Combustion	119,482	90,284	87,940	83,484	83,680	79,972	78,574	75,526
Oil and Gas Activities	302	333	332	145	146	147	116	125
Waste Combustion	978	2,668	2,826	2,725	1,670	1,672	1,672	1,674
Industrial Processes	4,124	3,153	3,163	2,156	2,217	2,339	2,308	2,431
Solvent Use	4	1	1	46	46	45	46	65
Agricultural Burning	689	767	789	767	790	770	707	794
Waste	1	5	5	13	8	8	8	8
NMVOCs	**20,937**	**16,994**	**16,403**	**15,869**	**15,228**	**15,048**	**14,222**	**13,939**
Stationary Fossil Fuel Combustion	912	1,016	1,016	1,045	1,077	1,080	926	1,007
Mobile Fossil Fuel Combustion	10,933	7,928	7,742	7,586	7,230	6,872	6,560	6,351
Oil and Gas Activities	555	442	440	414	389	400	340	345
Waste Combustion	222	313	326	302	257	258	281	263
Industrial Processes	2,426	2,038	2,047	1,813	1,773	1,769	1,725	1,711
Solvent Use	5,217	5,100	4,671	4,569	4,384	4,547	4,256	4,138
Agricultural Burning	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Waste	673	157	161	140	119	122	133	125
SO_2	**20,936**	**17,091**	**17,189**	**15,917**	**14,829**	**14,452**	**13,928**	**14,463**
Stationary Fossil Fuel Combustion	18,407	15,104	15,191	13,915	12,848	12,461	11,946	12,477
Mobile Fossil Fuel Combustion	793	659	665	704	632	624	631	634
Oil and Gas Activities	390	312	310	283	286	289	315	293
Waste Combustion	39	29	30	30	29	30	24	28
Industrial Processes	1,306	985	991	984	1,031	1,047	1,009	1,029
Solvent Use	0	1	1	1	1	1	2	2
Agricultural Burning	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Waste	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

Source: (EPA 2004) except for estimates from field burning of agricultural residues.
\+ Does not exceed 0.5 Gg
NA (Not Available)
Note: Totals may not sum due to independent rounding.

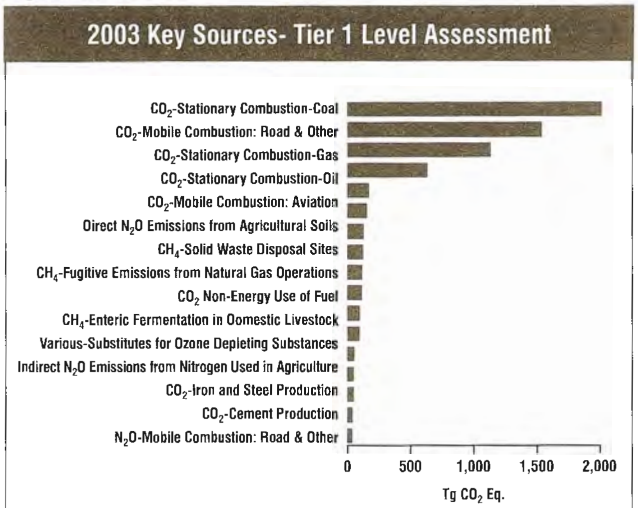
Quality Assurance and Quality Control (QA/QC)

The United States seeks to continually improve the quality, transparency and credibility of the inventory of U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks. To assist in these efforts, the United States implemented a systematic approach to QA/QC. While QA/QC has always been an integral part of the U.S. national system for inventory development, the procedures followed for the current inventory have been formalized in accordance with the QA/QC plan and the UNFCCC reporting guidelines.

Uncertainty Analysis of Emission Estimates

While the current U.S. emissions inventory provides a solid foundation for the development of a more detailed and comprehensive national inventory, there are uncertainties associated with the emission estimates. Some of the current

Figure ES-16



Note: For a complete discussion of the key source analysis see Annex 1.

estimates, such as those for CO_2 emissions from energy-related activities and cement processing, are considered to have low uncertainties. For some other categories of emissions, however, a lack of data or an incomplete understanding of how emissions are generated increases the uncertainty associated with the estimates presented. Acquiring a better understanding of the uncertainty associated with inventory estimates is an important step in helping to prioritize future work and improve the overall quality of the inventory. Recognizing the benefit of conducting an uncertainty analysis, the UNFCCC reporting guidelines follow the recommendations of the *IPCC Good Practice Guidance and Uncertainty Management in National Greenhouse Gas Inventories* and require that countries provide single point estimates of uncertainty for many source and sink categories.

Currently, a qualitative discussion of uncertainty is presented for all source and sink categories. Within the discussion of each emission source, specific factors affecting the uncertainty surrounding the estimates are discussed. Most sources also contain a quantitative uncertainty assessment, in accordance with UNFCCC reporting guidelines.

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EPA 430-S-05-001
April 2005
Office of Atmospheric Programs (6204J)
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