Executive Summary

An emissions inventory that identifies and quantifies a country's anthropogenic[1] sources and sinks of greenhouse gases is essential for addressing climate change. This Inventory adheres to both (1) a comprehensive and detailed set of methodologies for estimating national sources and sinks of anthropogenic greenhouse gases, and (2) a common and consistent format 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 and any related legal instruments that the Conference of the Parties may adopt is to achieve, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Convention, 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]

As a signatory to the UNFCCC, consistent with Article 4[3] and decisions at the First, Second, Fifth, and Nineteenth Conference of Parties,[4] the United States is committed to submitting a national inventory of anthropogenic sources and sinks of greenhouse gases to the UNFCCC by April 15 of each year. The United States views this report, in conjunction with Common Reporting Format (CRF) reporting tables that accompany this report, as an opportunity to fulfill this annual commitment under the UNFCCC.

This executive summary provides the latest information on U.S. anthropogenic greenhouse gas emission trends from 1990 through 2020. The structure of this report is consistent with the UNFCCC guidelines for inventory reporting, as discussed in Box ES-1.[5]

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[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 2006).

[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) and subsequent decisions by the Conference of the Parties elaborated the role of Annex I Parties in preparing national inventories. Article 4 states "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…" See http://unfccc.int for more information.

[4] See UNFCCC decisions 3/CP.1, 9/CP.2, 3/CP.5, and 24/CP.19 at https://unfccc.int/documents.

[5] See http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2013/cop19/eng/10a03.pdf.

Box ES-1: Methodological Approach for Estimating and Reporting U.S. Emissions and Removals, including Relationship to EPA's Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program

In following the UNFCCC requirement under Article 4.1 and related decisions to develop and submit annual national greenhouse gas emission inventories, the emissions and removals presented in this report and this chapter are organized by source and sink categories and calculated using internationally accepted methods provided by the IPCC in the *2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories (2006 IPCC Guidelines)* and where appropriate, its supplements and refinements. Additionally, the calculated emissions and removals in a given year for the United States are presented in a common manner in line with the UNFCCC reporting guidelines for the reporting of inventories under this international agreement. The use of consistent methods to calculate emissions and removals by all nations providing their inventories to the UNFCCC ensures that these reports are comparable. The presentation of emissions and removals provided in this Inventory does not preclude alternative examinations, but rather this Inventory presents emissions and removals in a common format consistent with how countries are to report inventories under the UNFCCC. The report itself, and this chapter, follows this standardized format, and provides an explanation of the application of methods used to calculate emissions and removals.

EPA also collects greenhouse gas emissions data from individual facilities and suppliers of certain fossil fuels and industrial gases through its Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program (GHGRP), which is complementary to the U.S. Inventory.[6] The GHGRP applies to direct greenhouse gas emitters, fossil fuel suppliers, industrial gas suppliers, and facilities that inject carbon dioxide (CO_2) underground for sequestration or other reasons and requires reporting by over 8,000 sources or suppliers in 41 industrial categories.[7] Annual reporting is at the facility level, except for certain suppliers of fossil fuels and industrial greenhouse gases. In general, the threshold for reporting is 25,000 metric tons or more of CO_2 Eq. per year. Facilities in most source categories subject to GHGRP began reporting for the 2010 reporting year while additional types of industrial operations began reporting for reporting year 2011. Methodologies used in EPA's GHGRP are consistent with the *2006 IPCC Guidelines*. While the GHGRP does not provide full coverage of total annual U.S. greenhouse gas emissions and sinks (e.g., the GHGRP excludes emissions from the agricultural, land use, and forestry sectors), it is an important input to the calculations of national-level emissions in the Inventory.

The GHGRP dataset provides not only annual emissions information, but also other annual information such as activity data and emission factors that can improve and refine national emission estimates and trends over time. GHGRP data also allow EPA to disaggregate national inventory estimates in new ways that can highlight differences across regions and sub-categories of emissions, along with enhancing application of QA/QC procedures and assessment of uncertainties. See Annex 9 for more information on specific uses of GHGRP data in the Inventory (e.g., use of Subpart W data in compiling estimates for natural gas systems).

ES.1 Background Information

Greenhouse gases absorb infrared radiation, thereby trapping heat in the atmosphere and making the planet warmer. The most important greenhouse gases directly emitted by humans include carbon dioxide (CO_2), methane (CH_4), nitrous oxide (N_2O), and several fluorine-containing halogenated substances (HFCs, PFCs, SF_6 and NF_3). Although CO_2, CH_4, and N_2O occur naturally in the atmosphere, human activities have changed their atmospheric

[6] On October 30, 2009 the EPA promulgated a rule requiring annual reporting of greenhouse gas data from large greenhouse gas emissions sources in the United States. Implementation of the rule, codified at 40 CFR Part 98, is referred to as EPA's Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program (GHGRP).

[7] See http://www.epa.gov/ghgreporting and http://ghgdata.epa.gov/ghgp/main.do.

concentrations. From the pre-industrial era (i.e., ending about 1750) to 2020, concentrations of these greenhouse gases have increased globally by 47.9, 168.4, and 23.3 percent, respectively (IPCC 2013; NOAA/ESRL 2022a, 2022b, 2022c). This annual report estimates the total national greenhouse gas emissions and removals associated with human activities across the United States.

Global Warming Potentials

The IPCC developed the global warming potential (GWP) concept to compare the ability of a 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 accumulated radiative forcing within a specific time horizon caused by emitting 1 kilogram of the gas, relative to that of the reference gas CO_2 (IPCC 2013); therefore, GWP-weighted emissions are provided in million metric tons of CO_2 equivalent (MMT CO_2 Eq.).[8, 9] Estimates for all gases in this Executive Summary are presented in units of MMT CO_2 Eq. Emissions by gas in unweighted mass kilotons are provided in the Trends and sector chapters of this report and in the Common Reporting Format (CRF) tables that are also part of the submission to the UNFCCC.

UNFCCC reporting guidelines for national inventories require the use of 100-year GWP values from the *IPCC Fourth Assessment Report* (AR4) (IPCC 2007) to ensure that national greenhouse gas inventories reported by all nations are comparable.[10] All estimates are provided throughout the report in both CO_2 equivalents and unweighted units. A comparison of emission estimates using the 100-year AR4 GWP values versus the *IPCC Fifth Assessment Report* (AR5) (IPCC 2013) and the *IPCC Sixth Assessment Report (AR6)* (IPCC 2021) GWP values can be found in Chapter 1 and, in more detail, in Annex 6.1 of this report. The GWP values used in this report are listed below in Table ES-1. The UNFCCC will require countries to shift to use AR5 100-year GWP values in 2024, when countries submit their first reports using updated reporting guidelines under the Paris Agreement.[11]

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

Gas	GWP
CO_2	1
CH_4[a]	25
N_2O	298
HFCs	up to 14,800
PFCs	up to 12,200
SF_6	22,800
NF_3	17,200
Other Fluorinated Gases	See Annex 6

[a] The GWP of CH_4 includes the direct effects and those indirect effects due to the production of tropospheric ozone and stratospheric water vapor. The indirect effect due to production of CO_2 is not included. See Annex 6 for additional information.
Source: IPCC (2007).

8 Carbon comprises 12/44 of carbon dioxide by weight.

9 One million metric ton is equal to 10^{12} grams or one teragram.

10 See http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2013/cop19/eng/10a03.pdf.

11 See https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/transparency-and-reporting/reporting-and-review-under-the-paris-agreement.

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

In 2020, total gross U.S. greenhouse gas emissions were 5,981.4 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MMT CO_2 Eq).[12] Total U.S. emissions have decreased by 7.3 percent from 1990 to 2020, down from a high of 15.7 percent above 1990 levels in 2007. Emissions decreased from 2019 to 2020 by 9.0 percent (590.4 MMT CO_2 Eq.). Net emissions (including sinks) were 5,222.4 MMT CO_2 Eq. in 2020. Overall, net emissions decreased 10.6 percent from 2019 to 2020 and decreased 21.4 percent from 2005 levels as shown in Table ES-2. The sharp decline in emissions from 2019 to 2020 is largely due to the impacts of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic on travel and economic activity. However, the decline also reflects the combined impacts of long-term trends in many factors, including population, economic growth, energy markets, technological changes including energy efficiency, and the carbon intensity of energy fuel choices. Between 2019 and 2020, the decrease in total greenhouse gas emissions was driven largely by a 10.5 percent decrease in CO_2 emissions from fossil fuel combustion, including a 13.3 percent decrease in transportation sector emissions from less travel due to the COVID-19 pandemic and a 10.4 percent decrease in emissions in the electric power sector. The decrease in electric power sector emissions was due to a decrease in electricity demand of about 2.5 percent and also reflects the continued shift from coal to less carbon intensive natural gas and renewables.

Figure ES-1, Figure ES-2, and Figure ES-3 illustrate the overall trends in total U.S. emissions by gas, annual percent changes, and relative change since 1990 for each year of the time series, and Table ES-2 provides information on trends in gross U.S. greenhouse gas emissions and sinks for 1990 through 2020. Unless otherwise stated, all tables and figures provide total gross emissions and exclude the greenhouse gas fluxes from the Land Use, Land-Use Change, and Forestry (LULUCF) sector. For more information about the LULUCF sector see Section ES.3 Overview of Sector Emissions and Trends.

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

Gas/Source	1990	2005	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
CO_2	5,122.5	6,137.6	5,251.8	5,211.0	5,376.7	5,259.1	4,715.7
CH_4[a]	780.8	697.5	657.6	663.8	671.1	668.8	650.4
N_2O[a]	450.5	453.3	449.2	444.6	457.7	456.8	426.1
HFCs	46.5	127.4	168.3	171.1	171.0	175.9	178.8
PFCs	24.3	6.7	4.4	4.2	4.8	4.6	4.4
SF_6	28.8	11.8	6.0	5.9	5.7	5.9	5.4
NF_3	+	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6
Total Gross Emissions (Sources)	**6,453.5**	**7,434.8**	**6,537.9**	**6,501.0**	**6,687.5**	**6,571.7**	**5,981.4**
LULUCF Emissions[a]	**31.4**	**41.3**	**35.4**	**45.5**	**39.8**	**30.3**	**53.2**
CH_4	27.2	30.9	28.3	34.0	30.7	25.5	38.1
N_2O	4.2	10.5	7.1	11.5	9.1	4.8	15.2
LULUCF Carbon Stock Change/CO_2[b]	**(892.0)**	**(831.1)**	**(862.0)**	**(826.7)**	**(809.0)**	**(760.8)**	**(812.2)**
LULUCF Sector Net Total[c]	**(860.6)**	**(789.8)**	**(826.6)**	**(781.2)**	**(769.3)**	**(730.5)**	**(758.9)**
Net Emissions (Sources and Sinks)	**5,592.8**	**6,645.0**	**5,711.2**	**5,719.8**	**5,918.2**	**5,841.2**	**5,222.4**

+ Does not exceed 0.05 MMT CO_2 Eq.

[a] LULUCF emissions of CH_4 and N_2O are reported separately from gross emissions totals. LULUCF emissions include the CH_4 and N_2O emissions reported for Peatlands Remaining Peatlands, Forest Fires, Drained Organic Soils, Grassland Fires, and *Coastal Wetlands Remaining Coastal Wetlands*; CH_4 emissions from *Land Converted to Coastal Wetlands*, Flooded Land Remaining Flooded Land, and Land Converted to Flooded Land; and N_2O emissions from Forest Soils and Settlement Soils.

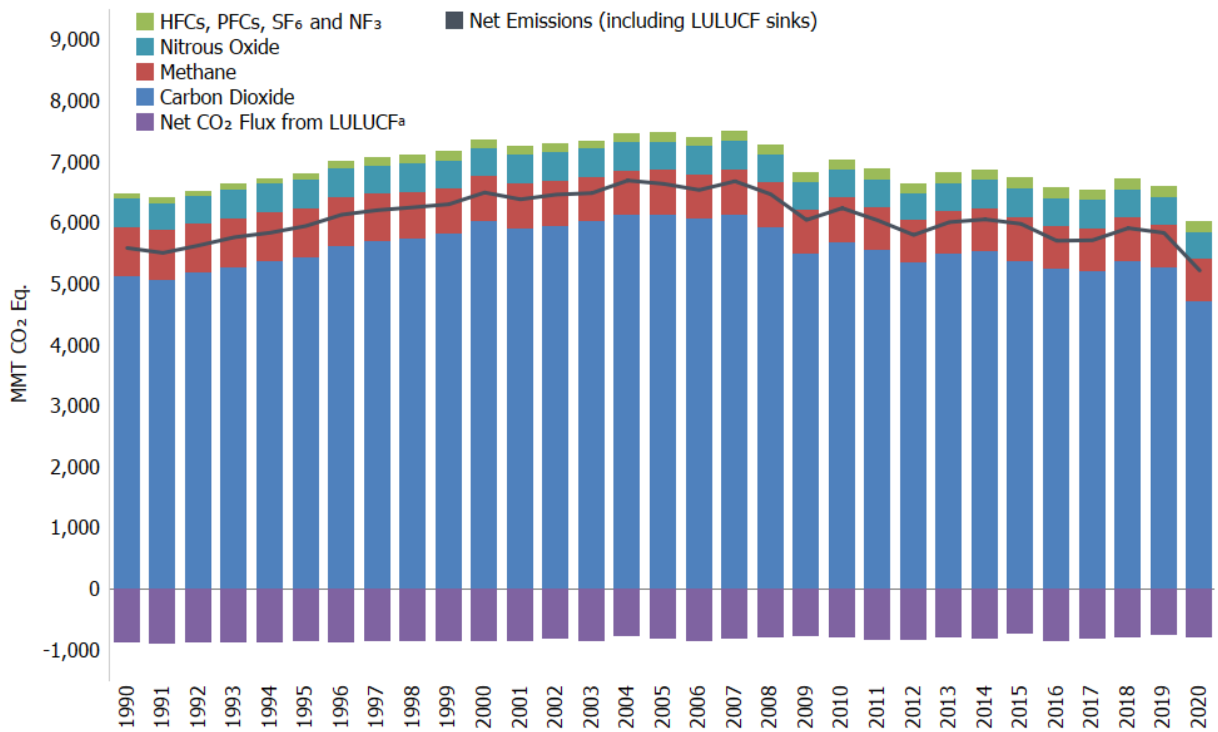
[12] The gross emissions total presented in this report for the United States excludes emissions and removals from Land Use, Land-Use Change, and Forestry (LULUCF). The net emissions total presented in this report for the United States includes emissions and removals from LULUCF.

[b] LULUCF Carbon Stock Change is the net C stock change from the following categories: *Forest Land Remaining Forest Land, Land Converted to Forest Land, Cropland Remaining Cropland,* Land Converted to Cropland, Grassland Remaining Grassland*, Land Converted to Grassland, Wetlands Remaining Wetlands*, Land Converted to Wetlands, *Settlements Remaining Settlements,* and Land Converted to Settlements.

[c] The LULUCF Sector Net Total is the net sum of all LULUCF CH_4 and N_2O emissions to the atmosphere plus net C stock changes.

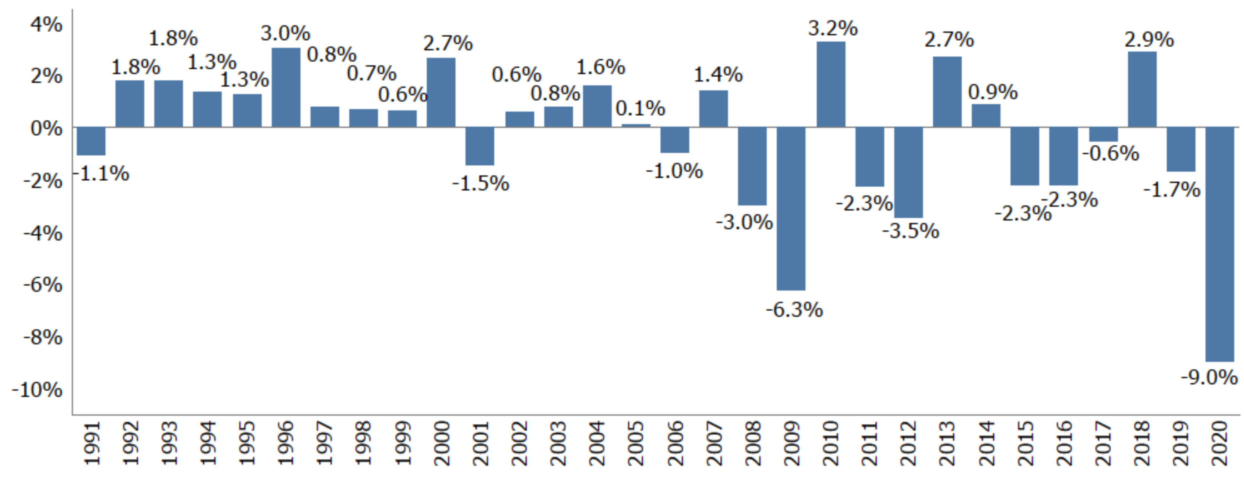
Notes: Total emissions presented without LULUCF. Net emissions presented with LULUCF. Totals may not sum due to independent rounding. Parentheses indicate negative values or sequestration.

Figure ES-1: U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks by Gas



[a] The term "flux" is used to describe the exchange of CO_2 to and from the atmosphere, with net flux being either positive or negative depending on the overall balance. Removal and long-term storage of CO_2 from the atmosphere is also referred to as "carbon sequestration."

Figure ES-2: Annual Percent Change in Gross U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks Relative to the Previous Year



Improvements and Recalculations Relative to the Previous Inventory

Each year, some emission and sink estimates in the Inventory are recalculated and revised to incorporate improved methods and/or data. The most common reason for recalculating U.S. greenhouse gas emission estimates is to update recent historical data. Changes in historical data are generally the result of changes in data supplied by other U.S. government agencies or organizations, as they continue to make refinements and improvements. These improvements are implemented consistently across the previous Inventory's time series (i.e., 1990 to 2019) to ensure that the trend is accurate.

Below are categories with recalculations resulting in an average change over the time series of greater than 2.5 MMT CO_2 Eq.

- Natural Gas Systems (CH_4)
- Land Converted to Grassland: Changes in all Ecosystem Carbon Stocks (CO_2)
- Wastewater Treatment (N_2O)
- Manure Management (CH_4)

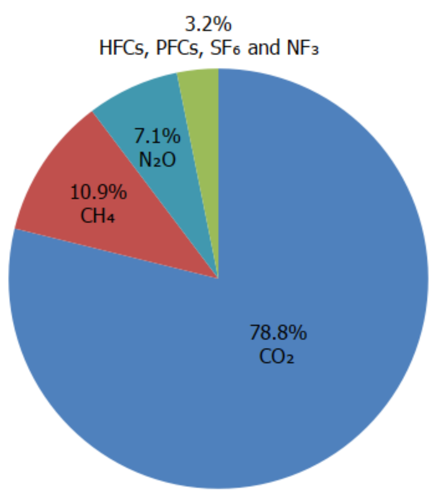
In addition, the Inventory includes new categories not included in the previous Inventory that improve completeness of the national estimates. Specifically, the current report includes CH_4 emissions from post-meter uses (i.e., includes leak emissions from residential and commercial appliances, industrial facilities and power plants, and natural gas fueled vehicles), fugitive CO_2 emissions from coal mining, CO_2 emissions from land converted to flooded land (i.e., lands converted to use as reservoirs and other constructed water bodies), CH_4 emissions from land remaining and land converted to flooded land, and PFC (CF_4) emissions from electrical transmission and distribution.

In each Inventory, the results of all methodological changes and historical data updates and inclusion of new sources and sink estimates are summarized in the Recalculations and Improvements chapter (Chapter 9). For more detailed descriptions of each recalculation including references for data, please see the respective source or sink category description(s) within the relevant report chapter (i.e., Energy chapter (Chapter 3), the Industrial Process and Product Use (IPPU) chapter (Chapter 4) the Agriculture chapter (Chapter 5), the Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) chapter (Chapter 6), and the Waste chapter (Chapter 7)). In implementing improvements, the United States follows the *2006 IPCC Guidelines* (IPCC 2006), which states, "Both methodological changes and refinements over time are an essential part of improving inventory quality. It is good practice to change or refine methods when: available data have changed; the previously used method is not consistent with the IPCC guidelines for that category; a category has become key; the previously used method is insufficient to reflect mitigation activities in a transparent manner; the capacity for inventory preparation has increased; new inventory methods become available; and for correction of errors."

Emissions by Gas

Figure ES-3 illustrates the relative contribution of the greenhouse gases to total U.S. emissions in 2020, weighted by global warming potential. The primary greenhouse gas emitted by human activities in the United States was CO_2, representing 78.8 percent of total greenhouse gas emissions. The largest source of CO_2, and of overall greenhouse gas emissions, was fossil fuel combustion primarily from transportation and power generation. Methane (CH_4) emissions account for 10.9 percent of emissions. The major sources of methane include enteric fermentation associated with domestic livestock, natural gas systems, and decomposition of wastes in landfills. Agricultural soil management, wastewater treatment, stationary sources of fuel combustion, and manure management were the major sources of N_2O emissions. Ozone depleting substance substitute emissions was the primary contributor to aggregate hydrofluorocarbon (HFC) emissions. Perfluorocarbon (PFC) emissions were primarily attributable to electronics manufacturing and primary aluminum production. Electrical transmission and distribution systems accounted for most sulfur hexafluoride (SF_6) emissions. The electronics industry is the only source of nitrogen trifluoride (NF_3) emissions.

Figure ES-3: 2020 U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions by Gas (Percentages based on MMT CO_2 Eq.)



From 1990 to 2020, total emissions of CO_2 decreased by 406.8 MMT CO_2 Eq. (7.9 percent), total emissions of CH_4 decreased by 130.4 MMT CO_2 Eq. (16.7 percent), and emissions of N_2O decreased by 24.4 MMT CO_2 Eq. (5.4 percent). During the same period, emissions of fluorinated greenhouse gases including HFCs, PFCs, SF_6, and NF_3 rose by 89.5 MMT CO_2 Eq. (89.8 percent). From 1990 to 2020, emissions of HFCs increased by 132.2 MMT CO_2 Eq. (284.3 percent) and NF_3 emissions increased by 0.6 MMT CO_2 Eq. (1,195.3 percent), while emissions of PFCs decreased by 19.8 MMT CO_2 Eq. (81.8 percent) and SF_6 emissions decreased by 23.4 MMT CO_2 Eq. (81.3 percent). Despite being emitted in smaller quantities relative to the other principal greenhouse gases, emissions of HFCs, PFCs, SF_6 and NF_3 are significant because many of these gases 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 (C) sequestration in forests, trees in urban areas, agricultural soils, landfilled yard trimmings and food scraps, and coastal wetlands, which together offset 13.6 percent of total emissions in 2020 (as reflected in

Figure ES-1). The following sections describe each gas's contribution to total U.S. greenhouse gas emissions in more detail.

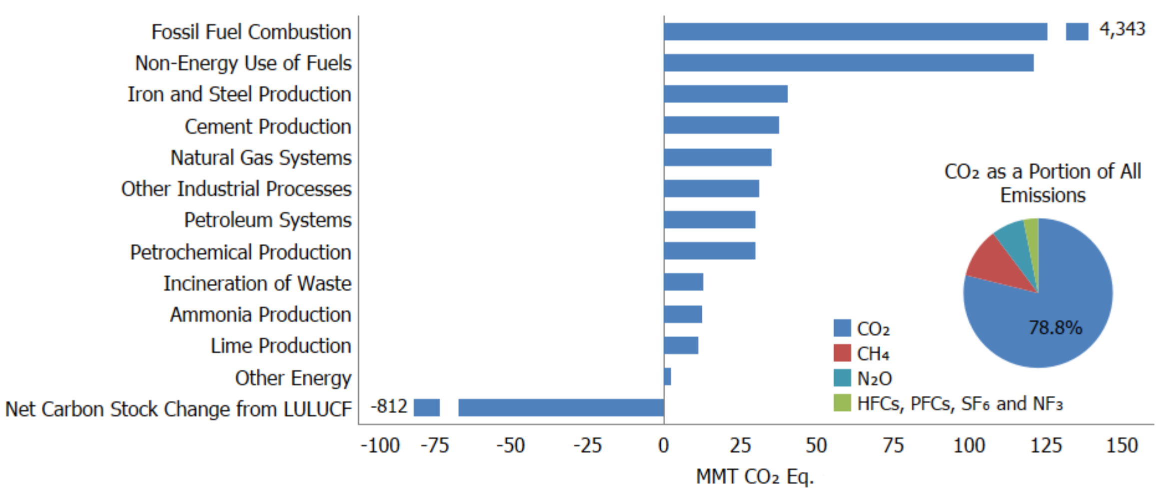
Carbon Dioxide Emissions

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, global carbon fluxes among these various reservoirs are roughly balanced.[13]

Since the Industrial Revolution (i.e., about 1750), global atmospheric concentrations of CO_2 have risen 47.9 percent (IPCC 2013; NOAA/ESRL 2022a), principally due to the combustion of fossil fuels for energy. Globally, an estimated 31,500 MMT of CO_2 were added to the atmosphere through the combustion of fossil fuels in 2019, of which the United States accounted for 15.4 percent.[14]

Within the United States, fossil fuel combustion accounted for 92.1 percent of CO_2 emissions in 2020. Transportation was the largest emitter of CO_2 in 2020 followed by electric power generation. There are 26 additional sources of CO_2 emissions included in the Inventory (see Table 2-1). Although not illustrated in Table ES-4, changes in land use and forestry practices can also lead to net CO_2 emissions (e.g., through conversion of forest land to agricultural or urban use) or to a net sink for CO_2 (e.g., through net additions to forest biomass). See more on these emissions and removals in Table ES-4.

Figure ES-4: 2020 Sources of CO_2 Emissions



Note: Emissions from Aluminum Production, Carbide Production, Carbon Dioxide Consumption, Ferroalloy Production, Lead Production, Magnesium Production, Other Process Uses of Carbonates, Phosphoric Acid Production, Soda Ash, Titanium Dioxide, Urea Consumption, and Zinc Production are included in Other Industrial Processes. Emissions from Abandoned Oil and Gas Wells and Coal Mining are included in Other Energy.

As the largest source of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions, CO_2 from fossil fuel combustion has accounted for 75.3 percent of GWP-weighted total U.S. gross emissions across the time series. Between 1990 and 2020, CO_2 emissions from fossil fuel combustion decreased from 4,731.2 MMT CO_2 Eq. to 4,342.7 MMT CO_2 Eq., an 8.2 percent total

[13] The term "flux" is used to describe the exchange of CO_2 to and from the atmosphere, with net flux being either positive or negative depending on the overall balance. Removal and long-term storage of CO_2 from the atmosphere is also referred to as "carbon sequestration."

[14] Global CO_2 emissions from fossil fuel combustion were taken from International Energy Agency *CO_2 Emissions from Fossil Fuels Combustion Overview.* See https://webstore.iea.org/co2-emissions-from-fuel-combustion-2020-highlights (IEA 2021). The publication has not yet been updated to include complete global 2020 data.

decrease. Conversely, CO_2 emissions from fossil fuel combustion decreased by 1,409.4 MMT CO_2 Eq. from 2005 levels, a decrease of 24.5 percent. From 2019 to 2020, these emissions decreased by 509.7 MMT CO_2 Eq. (10.5 percent).

Historically, changes in emissions from fossil fuel combustion have been the driving factor affecting U.S. emission trends. Changes in CO_2 emissions from fossil fuel combustion are influenced by many long-term and short-term factors. Important drivers include: (1) changes in demand for energy; and (2) a general decline in the carbon intensity of fuels combusted for energy in recent years by non-transport sectors of the economy. Long-term factors affecting energy demand include population and economic trends, technological changes including energy efficiency, shifting energy fuel choices, and various policies at the national, state, and local level. In the short term, the overall consumption and mix of fossil fuels in the United States fluctuates primarily in response to changes in general economic conditions, overall energy prices, the relative price of different fuels, weather, and the availability of non-fossil alternatives. Between 2019 and 2020, reduced economic activity and decreased travel due to the COVID-19 pandemic had significant impacts on energy use and fossil fuel combustion emissions.

The five major fuel-consuming economic sectors are transportation, electric power, industrial, residential, and commercial and are described below. Carbon dioxide emissions are produced by the electric power sector as fossil fuel is consumed to provide electricity to one of the other four sectors, or "end-use" sectors, see Figure ES-5. Note that this Figure reports emissions from U.S. Territories as their own end-use sector due to incomplete data for their individual end-use sectors. Fossil fuel combustion for electric power also includes emissions of less than 0.5 MMT CO_2 Eq. from geothermal-based generation.

Figure ES-5: 2020 CO_2 Emissions from Fossil Fuel Combustion by Sector and Fuel Type

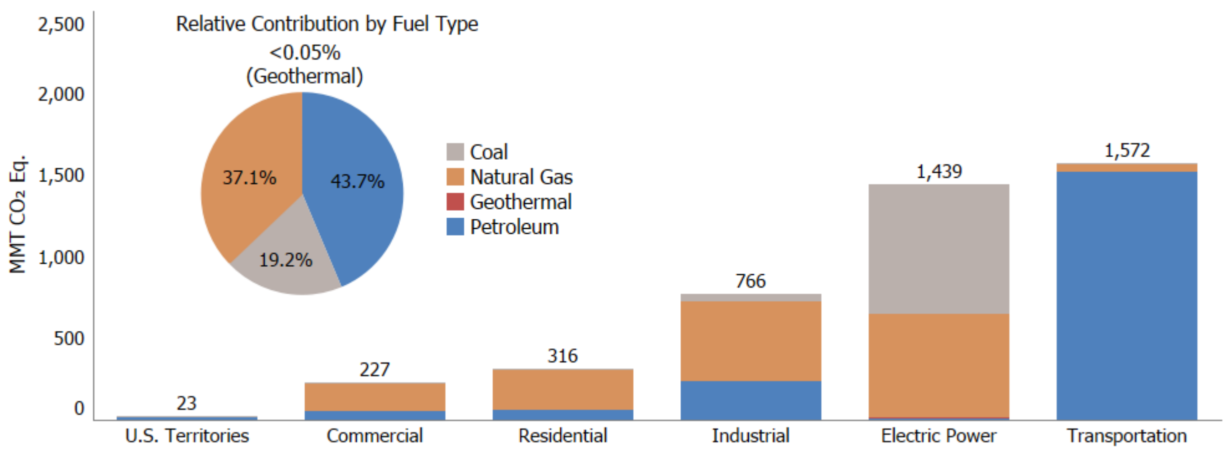
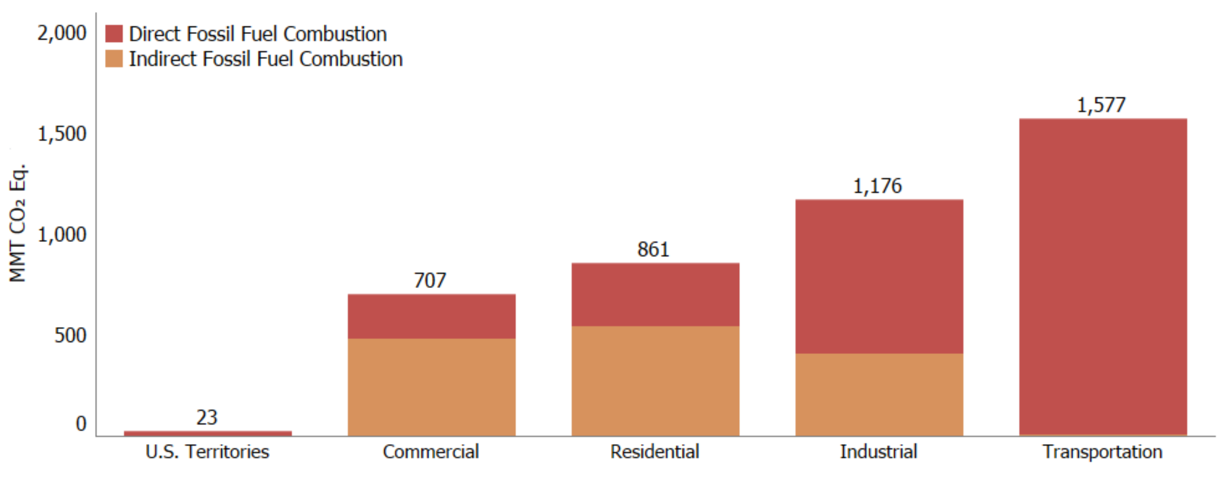


Table ES-6 summarizes CO_2 emissions from fossil fuel combustion by end-use sector including electric power emissions. For Figure ES-6, electric power emissions have been distributed to each end-use sector on the basis of each sector's share of aggregate electricity use (i.e., indirect fossil fuel combustion). This method of distributing emissions assumes that each end-use sector uses electricity that is generated from the national average mix of fuels according to their carbon intensity. Emissions from electric power are also addressed separately after the end-use sectors are discussed.

Figure ES-6: 2020 End-Use Sector Emissions of CO_2 from Fossil Fuel Combustion



Transportation End-Use Sector. Transportation activities accounted for 36.2 percent of U.S. CO_2 emissions from fossil fuel combustion in 2020, with the largest contributors being passenger vehicles (38.5 percent), followed by freight trucks (26.3 percent) and light-duty trucks (18.9 percent). Annex 3.2 presents the total emissions from all transportation and mobile sources, including CO_2, CH_4, N_2O, and HFCs.

In terms of the overall trend, from 1990 to 2020, total transportation CO_2 emissions increased due, in large part, to increased demand for travel[15] 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 2019 to 2020, transportation CO_2 emissions decreased 13.3 percent, primarily as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and associated restrictions that led to less travel. While an increased demand for travel has led to generally increasing CO_2 emissions since 1990, improvements in average new vehicle fuel economy since 2005 has slowed the rate of increase of CO_2 emissions. In 2020, petroleum-based products supplied 94.5 percent of the energy consumed for transportation, primarily from gasoline consumption in automobiles and other highway vehicles (57.3 percent), diesel fuel for freight trucks (26.5 percent), jet fuel for aircraft (9.6 percent), and natural gas, residual fuel, aviation gasoline, and liquefied petroleum gases (1.0 percent). The remaining 5.5 percent is associated with renewable fuels (i.e., biofuels).

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 used by industry, accounted for 27.1 percent of CO_2 emissions from fossil fuel combustion in 2020. Approximately 65.2 percent of these emissions resulted from direct fossil fuel combustion to produce steam and/or heat for industrial processes. The remaining emissions resulted from the use of electricity for motors, electric furnaces, ovens, lighting, and other applications. Total direct and indirect emissions from the industrial sector have declined by 22.0 percent since 1990. This decline is 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. From 2019 to 2020, total energy use in the industrial sector decreased by 4.4 percent partially as a result of reductions in economic and manufacturing activity due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Residential and Commercial End-Use Sectors. The residential and commercial end-use sectors accounted for 19.8 and 16.3 percent, respectively, of CO_2 emissions from fossil fuel combustion in 2020. The residential and commercial sectors relied heavily on electricity for meeting energy demands, with 63.3 and 67.9 percent, respectively, of their emissions attributable to electricity use for lighting, heating, cooling, and operating

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[15] VMT estimates are based on data from FHWA Highway Statistics Table VM-1 (FHWA 1996 through 2021). In 2007 and 2008 light-duty VMT decreased 3.0 percent and 2.3 percent, respectively. Note that the decline in light-duty VMT from 2006 to 2007 is due at least in part to a change in FHWA's methods for estimating VMT. In 2011, FHWA changed its methods for estimating VMT by vehicle class, which led to a shift in VMT and emissions among on-road vehicle classes in the 2007 to 2020 time period. In absence of these method changes, light-duty VMT growth between 2006 and 2007 would likely have been higher.

appliances. The remaining emissions were due to the consumption of natural gas and petroleum for heating and cooking. Total direct and indirect emissions from the residential sector have decreased by 7.6 percent since 1990. Total direct and indirect emissions from the commercial sector have decreased by 7.7 percent since 1990. From 2019 to 2020, a decrease in heating degree days (9.4 percent) reduced energy demand for heating in the residential and commercial sectors. This was partially offset by a 1.5 percent increase in cooling degree days compared to 2019, which impacted demand for air conditioning in the residential and commercial sectors. This, combined with people staying home in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, resulted in a 1.7 percent increase in residential sector electricity use. From 2019 to 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic reduced economic and manufacturing activity which contributed to 5.4 percent lower energy use in the commercial sector.

Electric Power. The United States relies on electricity to meet a significant portion of its energy demands. Electricity generators used 31.2 percent of U.S. energy from fossil fuels and emitted 33.1 percent of the CO_2 from fossil fuel combustion in 2020. The type of energy source used to generate electricity is the main factor influencing emissions.[16] The mix of fossil fuels used also impacts emissions. The electric power sector is the largest consumer of coal in the United States. The coal used by electricity generators accounted for 91.4 percent of all coal consumed for energy in the United States in 2020.[17] However, the amount of coal and the percent of total electricity generation from coal has been decreasing over time. Coal-fired electric generation (in kilowatt-hours [kWh]) decreased from 54.2 percent of generation in 1990 to 19.9 percent in 2020.[18] This corresponded with an increase in natural gas generation and non-fossil fuel renewable energy generation, largely from wind and solar energy. Natural gas generation (in kWh) represented 10.7 percent of electric power generation in 1990 and increased over the thirty-one-year period to represent 39.5 percent of electric power generation in 2020. Wind and solar generation (in kWh) represented 0.1 percent of electric power generation in 1990 and increased over the thirty-one-year period to represent 11.1 percent of electric power generation in 2020. Economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, combined with a warmer winter, led to a decrease in electricity use of about 2.5 percent in 2020, and the trend of decreased coal use and increased use of natural gas and renewable energy continued. Between 2019 and 2020, coal electricity generation dropped by 19.9 percent, natural gas generation increased by 2.9 percent, and renewable energy generation increased by 7.9 percent.

Across the time series, changes in electricity generation and the carbon intensity of fuels used for electric power have a significant impact on CO_2 emissions. While CO_2 emissions from fossil fuel combustion from the electric power sector have decreased by 20.9 percent since 1990, the carbon intensity of the electric power sector, in terms of CO_2 Eq. per QBtu input, has significantly decreased during that same timeframe by 19.2 percent. This decoupling of the level of electric power generation and the resulting CO_2 emissions is shown in Figure ES-7.

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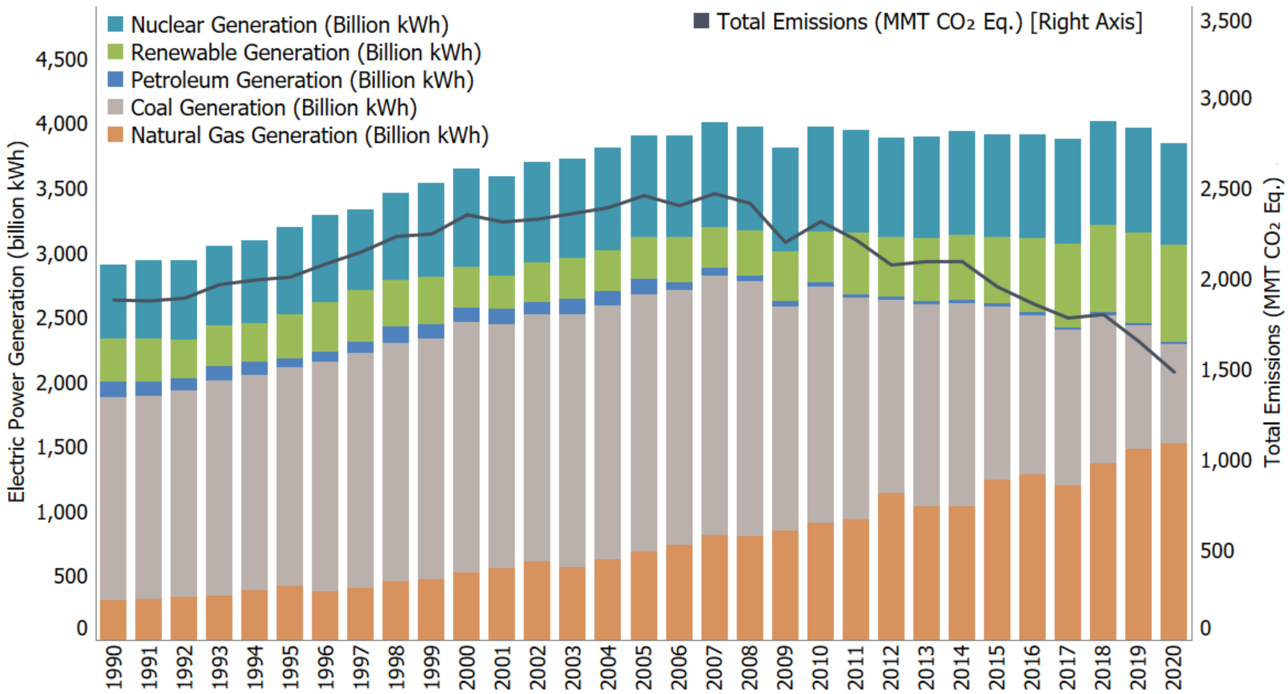
[16] In line with the reporting requirements for inventories submitted under the UNFCCC, CO_2 emissions from biomass combustion have been estimated separately from fossil fuel CO_2 emissions and are not included in the electricity sector totals and trends discussed in this section. Net carbon fluxes from changes in biogenic carbon reservoirs are accounted for in the estimates for Land Use, Land-Use Change, and Forestry.

[17] See Table 6.2 Coal Consumption by Sector of EIA (2022a).

[18] Values represent electricity *net* generation from the electric power sector. See Table 7.2b Electricity Net Generation: Electric Power Sector of EIA (2022a).

Figure ES-7: Electric Power Generation and Emissions



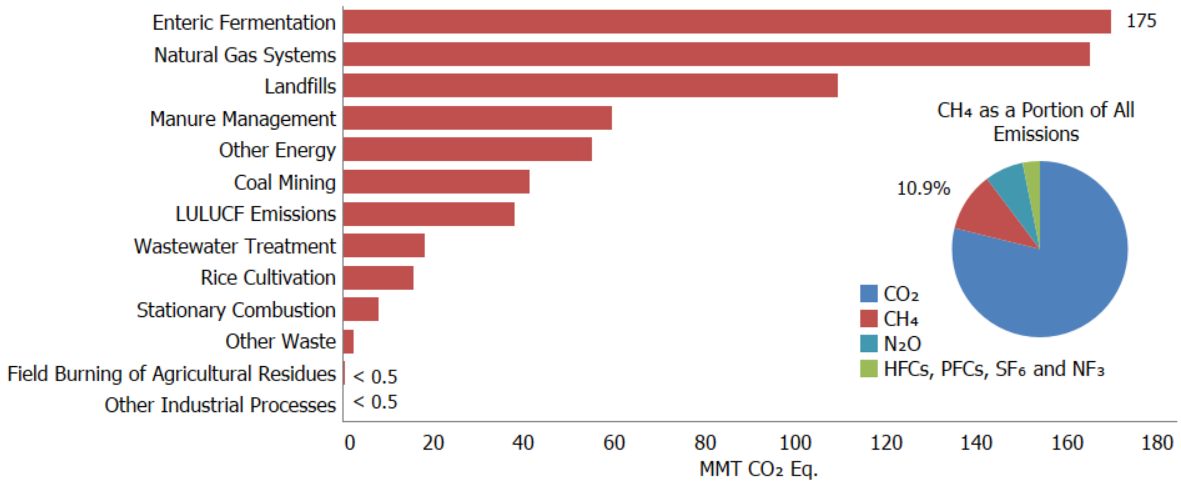
Other significant CO_2 trends included the following:

- Carbon dioxide emissions from natural gas and petroleum systems increased by 24.0 MMT CO_2 Eq. (57.9 percent) from 1990 to 2020. This increase is due primarily to increases in the production segment, where flaring emissions from associated gas flaring, tanks, and miscellaneous production flaring have increased over time.
- Carbon dioxide emissions from iron and steel production and metallurgical coke production have decreased by 67.0 MMT CO_2 Eq. (64.0 percent) from 1990 through 2020. This decrease is primarily due to restructuring of the industry, technological improvements, and increased scrap steel utilization.
- Total C stock change (i.e., net CO_2 removals) in the LULUCF sector decreased by 9.0 percent between 1990 and 2020. This decrease was primarily due to a decrease in the rate of net C accumulation in forest C stocks and *Cropland Remaining Cropland,* as well as an increase in emissions from *Land Converted to Settlements*.

Methane Emissions

Methane (CH_4) is significantly more effective than CO_2 at trapping heat in the atmosphere–by a factor of 25 over a 100-year time frame based on the *IPCC Fourth Assessment Report* estimate (IPCC 2007). Over the last two hundred and fifty years, the concentration of CH_4 in the atmosphere increased by 168.4 percent (IPCC 2013; NOAA/ESRL 2022b). Within the United States, the main anthropogenic sources of CH_4 include enteric fermentation from domestic livestock, natural gas systems, landfills, domestic livestock manure management, coal mining, and petroleum systems (see Figure ES-8).

Figure ES-8: 2020 Sources of CH_4 Emissions



Note: Methane emissions from Abandoned Oil and Gas Wells, Abandoned Underground Coal Mines, Incineration of Waste, and Mobile Combustion are included in Other Energy. Methane emissions from anaerobic digestion at biogas facilities and composting are included in Other Waste. Methane emissions from Carbide Production and Consumption, Ferroalloy Production, Iron and Steel Production, and Petrochemical Production are included in Other Industrial Processes. LULUCF emissions include the CH_4 reported for Peatlands Remaining Peatlands, Forest Fires, Drained Organic Soils, Grassland Fires, and *Coastal Wetlands Remaining Coastal Wetlands*, *Land Converted to Coastal Wetlands*, Flooded Land Remaining Flooded Land, and Land Converted to Flooded Land.

Significant trends for the largest sources of U.S. CH_4 emissions include the following:

- Enteric fermentation was the largest anthropogenic source of CH_4 emissions in the United States in 2020, accounting for 175.2 MMT CO_2 Eq. of CH_4 (26.9 percent of total CH_4 emissions) and representing an increase of 11.7 MMT CO_2 Eq. (7.2 percent) since 1990. This increase in emissions from 1990 to 2020 generally follows the increasing trends in cattle populations.

- Natural gas systems were the second largest anthropogenic source category of CH_4 emissions in the United States in 2020, accounting for 164.9 MMT CO_2 Eq. of CH_4 (25.4 percent of total CH_4 emissions). Emissions decreased by 30.6 MMT CO_2 Eq. (15.7 percent) since 1990 largely due to decreases in emissions from distribution, transmission, and storage.

- Landfills were the third largest anthropogenic source of CH_4 emissions in the United States in 2020, accounting for 109.3 MMT CO_2 Eq. (16.8 percent of total CH_4 emissions) and representing a decrease of 67.2 MMT CO_2 Eq. (38.1 percent) since 1990, with small year-to-year increases. This downward trend in emissions coincided with increased landfill gas collection and control systems, and a reduction of decomposable materials (i.e., paper and paperboard, food scraps, and yard trimmings) discarded in MSW landfills over the time series.[19]

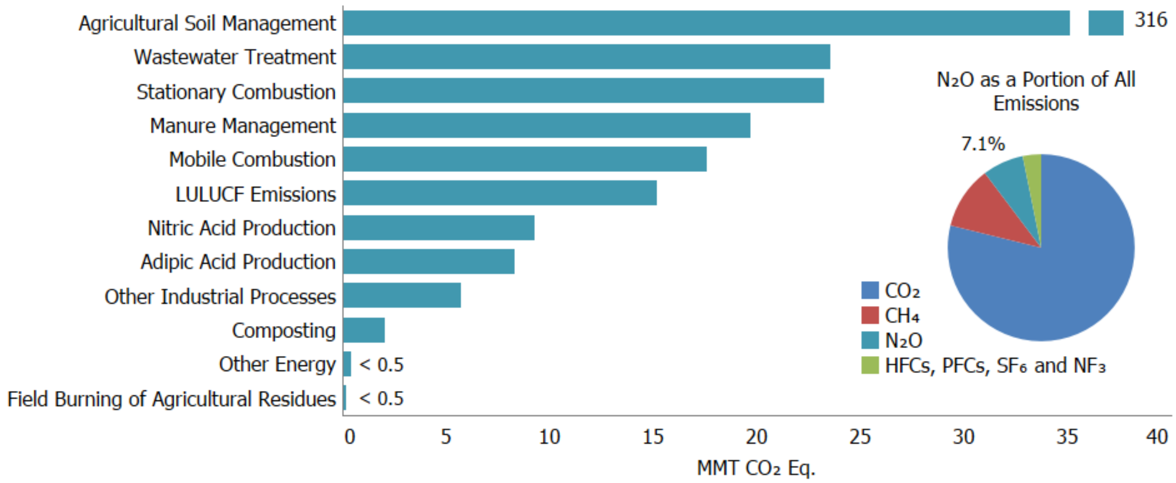
Nitrous Oxide Emissions

Nitrous oxide (N_2O) is produced by biological processes that occur in soil and water and by a variety of anthropogenic activities in the agricultural, energy, industrial, and waste management fields. While total N_2O emissions are much lower than CO_2 emissions, N_2O is nearly 300 times more powerful than CO_2 at trapping heat in the atmosphere over a 100-year time frame (IPCC 2007). Since 1750, the global atmospheric concentration of N_2O has risen by 23.3 percent (IPCC 2013; NOAA/ESRL 2022c). The main anthropogenic activities producing N_2O in the

[19] Carbon dioxide emissions from landfills are not included specifically in summing waste sector totals. Net carbon fluxes from changes in biogenic carbon reservoirs and decay of disposed wood products are accounted for in the estimates for LULUCF.

United States are agricultural soil management, wastewater treatment, stationary fuel combustion, manure management, fuel combustion in motor vehicles, and nitric acid production (see Figure ES-9).

Figure ES-9: 2020 Sources of N_2O Emissions



Note: Nitrous oxide emissions from Petroleum Systems, Natural Gas Systems, and Incineration of Waste are included in Other Energy. Nitrous oxide emissions from Caprolactam, Glyoxal, and Glyoxylic Acid Production, Electronics Industry, and Product Uses are included in Other Industrial Processes. LULUCF emissions include N_2O emissions reported for Peatlands Remaining Peatlands, Forest Fires, Drained Organic Soils, Grassland Fires, *Coastal Wetlands Remaining Coastal Wetlands*, Forest Soils and Settlement Soils.

Significant trends for the largest sources of U.S. emissions of N_2O include the following:

- Agricultural soils were the largest anthropogenic source of N_2O emissions in 2020, accounting for 316.2 MMT CO_2 Eq. (74.2 percent of N_2O emissions) and 5.3 percent of total greenhouse gas emissions in the United States. These emissions increased by 0.2 MMT CO_2 Eq. (0.1 percent) from 1990 to 2020, but have fluctuated during that period due to annual variations in weather patterns, fertilizer use, and crop production.
- Wastewater treatment, both domestic and industrial, was the second largest anthropogenic source of N_2O emissions in 2020, accounting for 23.5 MMT CO_2 Eq. (5.5 percent of N_2O emissions) and 0.4 percent of total greenhouse gas emissions in the United States in 2020. Emissions from wastewater treatment increased by 6.9 MMT CO_2 Eq. (41.8 percent) since 1990 as a result of growing U.S. population and protein consumption. Nitrous oxide emissions from industrial wastewater treatment sources fluctuated throughout the time series with production changes associated with the treatment of wastewater from the pulp and paper manufacturing, meat and poultry processing, fruit and vegetable processing, starch-based ethanol production, petroleum refining, and brewery industries.
- Nitrous oxide emissions from manure management accounted for 19.7 MMT CO_2 Eq. (4.6 percent of N_2O emissions) and 0.3 percent of total greenhouse gas emissions in the United States in 2020. These emissions increased by 5.7 MMT CO_2 Eq. (41.2 percent) from 1990 to 2020. While the industry trend has been a shift toward liquid systems, driving down the emissions per unit of nitrogen excreted (dry manure handling systems have greater aerobic conditions that promote N_2O emissions), increases in specific animal populations have driven an increase in overall manure management N_2O emissions over the time series.
- Nitrous oxide emissions from mobile combustion decreased by 27.2 MMT CO_2 Eq. (61.0 percent) from 1990 to 2020, primarily as a result of national vehicle emissions standards and emission control technologies for on-road vehicles.

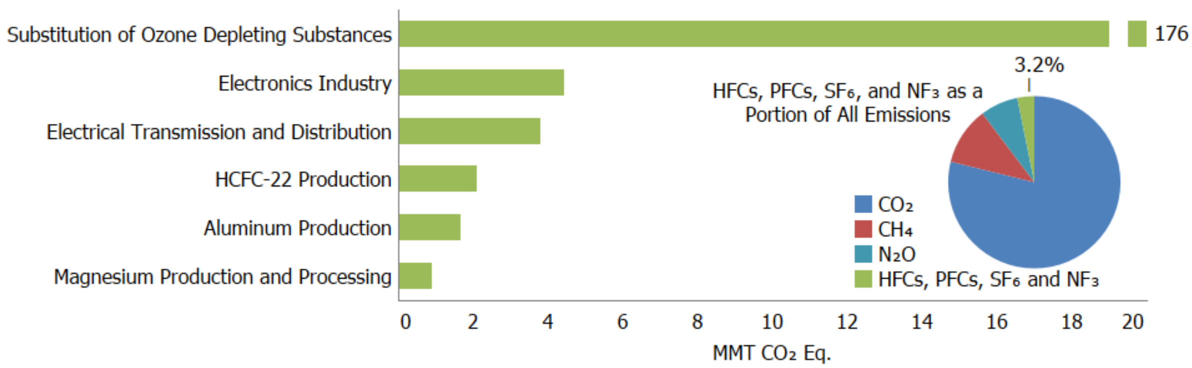
HFC, PFC, SF_6, and NF_3 Emissions

Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) are synthetic chemicals that are used as alternatives to ozone depleting substances (ODS), which are being phased out under the Montreal Protocol and Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990. Hydrofluorocarbons do not deplete the stratospheric ozone layer and therefore have been used as alternatives under the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer.

Perfluorocarbons (PFCs) are emitted from the production of electronics and aluminum and also (in smaller quantities) from their use as alternatives to ozone depleting substances. Sulfur hexafluoride (SF_6) is emitted from the manufacturing and use of electrical transmission and distribution equipment as well as the production of electronics and magnesium. NF_3 is emitted from electronics production. One HFC, HFC-23, is emitted during production of HCFC-22 and electronics (see Figure ES-10).

HFCs, PFCs, SF_6, and NF_3 are potent greenhouse gases. In addition to having very high global warming potentials, SF_6, NF_3, 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 (IPCC 2021).

Figure ES-10: 2020 Sources of HFCs, PFCs, SF_6, and NF_3 Emissions



Some significant trends for the largest sources of U.S. HFC, PFC, SF_6, and NF_3 emissions include the following:

- Hydrofluorocarbon and perfluorocarbon emissions resulting from their use as substitutes for ODS (e.g., chlorofluorocarbons [CFCs]) are the largest share of fluorinated emissions (93.2 percent) in 2020 and have been consistently increasing, from small amounts in 1990 to 176.3 MMT CO_2 Eq. in 2020. This increase was in large part the result of efforts to phase out CFCs and other ODS in the United States.
- PFC, HFC, SF_6, and NF_3 emissions from the electronics industry have increased by 24.7 percent from 1990 to 2020, reflecting the competing influences of industrial growth and the adoption of emission reduction technologies. Within that time span, emissions peaked at 9.0 MMT CO_2 Eq. in 1999, the initial year of EPA's PFC Reduction/Climate Partnership for the Semiconductor Industry, and have since declined to 4.4 MMT CO_2 Eq. in 2020 (a 50.9 percent decrease relative to 1999).
- Sulfur hexafluoride emissions from electric power transmission and distribution systems decreased by 83.6 percent (19.4 MMT CO_2 Eq.) from 1990 to 2020. There are two factors contributing to this decrease: (1) a sharp increase in the price of SF_6 during the 1990s and (2) a growing awareness of the environmental impact of SF_6 emissions through programs such as EPA's SF_6 Emission Reduction Partnership for Electric Power Systems.
- Emissions from HCFC-22 production were 2.1 MMT CO_2 Eq. in 2020, a 95.4 percent decrease from 1990 emissions. The decrease from 1990 emissions was caused primarily by a reduction in the HFC-23 emission rate (kg HFC-23 emitted/kg HCFC-22 produced). The emission rate was lowered by optimizing the production process and capturing much of the remaining HFC-23 for use or destruction.

- PFC emissions from aluminum production decreased by 92.2 percent (19.8 MMT CO_2 Eq.) from 1990 to 2020, due to both industry emission reduction efforts and lower domestic aluminum production.

ES.3 Overview of Sector Emissions and Trends

Figure ES-11 and Table ES-3 aggregate emissions and sinks by the sectors defined by the UNFCCC reporting guidelines to promote comparability across countries. Over the thirty-one-year period of 1990 to 2020, total emissions from the Industrial Processes and Product Use, and Agriculture sectors grew by, 30.2 MMT CO_2 Eq. (8.7 percent), and 42.8 MMT CO_2 Eq. (7.8 percent), respectively. Emissions from the Energy and Waste sectors decreased by 486.5 MMT CO_2 Eq. (9.1 percent) and 58.6 MMT CO_2 Eq. (27.4 percent) respectively. Over the same period, net carbon (C) sequestration in the LULUCF sector decreased by 79.8 MMT CO_2 (9.0 percent decrease in total net C sequestration), while emissions from the LULUCF sector (i.e., CH_4 and N_2O) increased by 21.8 MMT CO_2 Eq. (69.6 percent).

Figure ES-11: U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks by IPCC Sector/Category

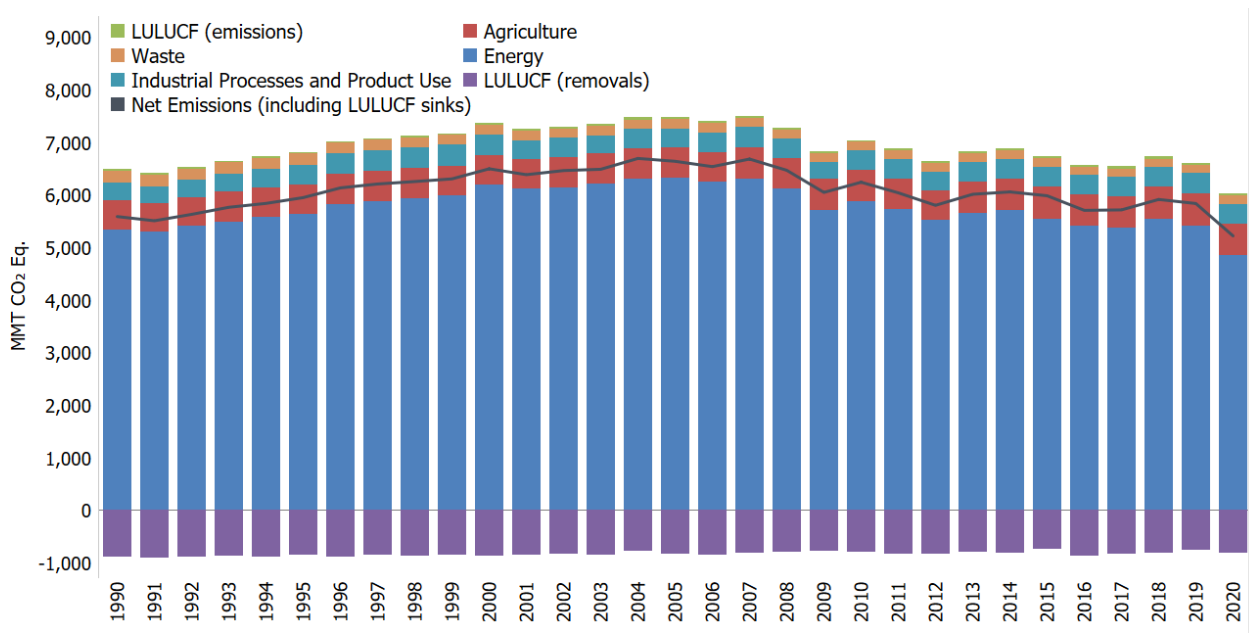


Table ES-3: Recent Trends in U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks by IPCC Sector/Category (MMT CO_2 Eq.)

IPCC Sector/Category	1990	2005	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Energy	5,341.1	6,319.8	5,413.1	5,372.7	5,539.5	5,409.8	4,854.7
Industrial Processes and Product Use	346.2	365.9	369.0	369.4	373.4	379.5	376.4
Agriculture	551.9	573.6	601.9	603.2	616.7	622.9	594.7
Waste	214.2	175.6	153.9	155.7	157.9	159.6	155.6
Total Gross Emissions[a] (Sources)	**6,453.5**	**7,434.8**	**6,537.9**	**6,501.0**	**6,687.5**	**6,571.7**	**5,981.4**
LULUCF Sector Net Total[b]	(860.6)	(789.8)	(826.6)	(781.2)	(769.3)	(730.5)	(758.9)
Net Emissions (Sources and Sinks)[c]	**5,592.8**	**6,645.0**	**5,711.2**	**5,719.8**	**5,918.2**	**5,841.2**	**5,222.4**

[a] Total emissions without LULUCF.
[b] The LULUCF Sector Net Total is the sum of all LULUCF CH_4 and N_2O emissions to the atmosphere plus net carbon stock changes in units of MMT CO_2 Eq.
[c] Net emissions with LULUCF.

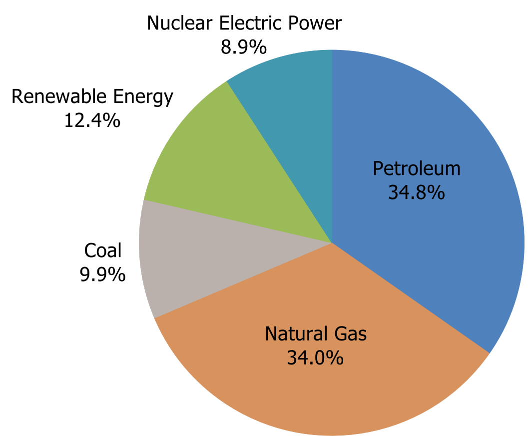
Notes: Total emissions presented without LULUCF. Net emissions presented with LULUCF. Totals may not sum due to independent rounding. Parentheses indicate negative values or sequestration.

Energy

The Energy chapter contains emissions of all greenhouse gases resulting from stationary and mobile energy activities including fuel combustion and fugitive fuel emissions, and the use of fossil fuels for non-energy purposes. Energy-related activities, primarily fossil fuel combustion, accounted for the vast majority of U.S. CO_2 emissions for the period of 1990 through 2020. Energy-related activities are also responsible for CH_4 and N_2O emissions (41.4 percent and 9.6 percent of total U.S. emissions of each gas, respectively). Overall, emission sources in the Energy chapter account for a combined 81.2 percent of total U.S. greenhouse gas emissions in 2020.

In 2020, 78.8 percent of the energy used in the United States (on a Btu basis) was produced through the combustion of fossil fuels. The remaining 21.2 percent came from other energy sources, such as hydropower, biomass, nuclear, wind, and solar energy (see Figure ES-12).

Figure ES-12: 2020 U.S. Energy Consumption by Energy Source (Percent)



Industrial Processes and Product Use

The Industrial Processes and Product Use (IPPU) chapter contains information on greenhouse gas emissions generated and emitted as the byproducts of non-energy-related industrial processes, which involve the chemical or physical transformation of raw materials and can release waste gases such as CO_2, CH_4, N_2O, and fluorinated gases (e.g., HFC-23). These processes include iron and steel production and metallurgical coke production, cement production, petrochemical production, ammonia production, lime production, other process uses of carbonates (e.g., flux stone, flue gas desulfurization, and soda ash consumption not associated with glass manufacturing), nitric acid production, adipic acid production, urea consumption for non-agricultural purposes, aluminum production, HCFC-22 production, glass production, soda ash production, ferroalloy production, titanium dioxide production, caprolactam production, zinc production, phosphoric acid production, lead production, and silicon carbide production and consumption. Most of these industries also emit CO_2 from fossil fuel combustion which, in line with IPCC sectoral definitions, is included in the Energy Sector.

This chapter also contains information on the release of HFCs, PFCs, SF_6, and NF_3 and other fluorinated compounds used in industrial manufacturing processes and by end-consumers (e.g., residential and mobile air conditioning). These industries include electronics industry, electric power transmission and distribution, and magnesium metal production and processing. In addition, N_2O is used in and emitted by electronics industry and anesthetic and aerosol applications, and CO_2 is consumed and emitted through various end-use applications. In 2020, emissions resulting from use of the substitution of ODS (e.g., chlorofluorocarbons [CFCs]) by end-consumers was the largest source of IPPU emissions and accounted for 176.3 MMT CO_2 Eq, or 46.8 percent of total IPPU emissions.

IPPU activities are responsible for 3.5, 0.1, and 5.5 percent of total U.S. CO_2, CH_4, and N_2O emissions respectively as well as for all U.S. emissions of fluorinated gases including HFCs, PFCs, SF_6 and NF_3. Overall, emission sources in the IPPU chapter accounted for 6.3 percent of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions in 2020.

Agriculture

The Agriculture chapter contains information on anthropogenic emissions from agricultural activities (except fuel combustion, which is addressed in the Energy chapter, and some agricultural CO_2, CH_4, and N_2O fluxes, which are addressed in the Land Use, Land-Use Change, and Forestry chapter).

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

In 2020, agricultural activities were responsible for emissions of 549.7 MMT CO_2 Eq., or 9.9 percent of total U.S. greenhouse gas emissions. Methane, N_2O, and CO_2 are greenhouse gases emitted by agricultural activities. Methane emissions from enteric fermentation and manure management represented 26.9 percent and 9.2 percent of total CH_4 emissions from anthropogenic activities, respectively, in 2020. Agricultural soil management activities, such as application of synthetic and organic fertilizers, deposition of livestock manure, and growing N-fixing plants, were the largest contributors to U.S. N_2O emissions in 2020, accounting for 74.2 percent of total N_2O emissions. Carbon dioxide emissions from the application of crushed limestone and dolomite (i.e., soil liming) and urea fertilization represented 0.2 percent of total CO_2 emissions from anthropogenic activities.

Land Use, Land-Use Change, and Forestry

The LULUCF chapter contains emissions and removals of CO_2 and emissions of CH_4 and N_2O from managed lands in the United States. Consistent with the *2006 IPCC Guidelines*, emissions and removals from managed lands are considered to be anthropogenic, while emissions and removals from unmanaged lands are considered to be natural.[20] The share of managed land in the U.S. is approximately 95 percent of total land included in the Inventory.[21] More information on the definition of managed land used in the Inventory is provided in Chapter 6.

Overall, the Inventory results show that managed land is a net sink for CO_2 (C sequestration). The primary drivers of fluxes on managed lands include forest management practices, tree planting in urban areas, the management of agricultural soils, lands remaining and lands converted to reservoirs and other constructed waterbodies, landfilling of yard trimmings and food scraps, and activities that cause changes in C stocks in coastal wetlands. The main drivers for forest C sequestration include forest growth and increasing forest area (i.e., afforestation), as well as a net accumulation of C stocks in harvested wood pools. The net sequestration in *Settlements Remaining Settlements,* which occurs predominantly from urban forests (i.e., Settlement Trees) and landfilled yard trimmings and food scraps, is a result of net tree growth and increased urban forest area, as well as long-term accumulation of yard trimmings and food scraps carbon in landfills.

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[20] See http://www.ipcc-nggip.iges.or.jp/public/2006gl/pdf/4_Volume4/V4_01_Ch1_Introduction.pdf.

[21] The current land representation does not include land in U.S. Territories, but there are planned improvements to include these regions in future Inventories. U.S. Territories represent approximately 0.1 percent of the total land base for the United States. See Box 6-2 in Chapter 6 of this report.

The LULUCF sector in 2020 resulted in a net increase in C stocks (i.e., net CO_2 removals) of 812.2 MMT CO_2 Eq.[22] The removals of C offset 13.6 percent of total (i.e., gross) greenhouse gas emissions in 2020. Emissions of CH_4 and N_2O from LULUCF activities in 2020 were 53.2 MMT CO_2 Eq. and represent 0.9 percent of total greenhouse gas emissions.[23] Carbon dioxide removals from C stock changes are presented in Table ES-4 along with CH_4 and N_2O emissions for LULUCF source categories.

Between 1990 and 2020, total C sequestration in the LULUCF sector decreased by 9.0 percent, primarily due to a decrease in the rate of net C accumulation in forests and *Cropland Remaining Cropland,* as well as an increase in CO_2 emissions from *Land Converted to Settlements*. The overall net flux from LULUCF (i.e., net sum of all CH_4 and N_2O emissions to the atmosphere plus net carbon stock changes in units of MMT CO_2 eq.) resulted in a removal of 758.9 MMT CO_2 Eq. in 2020.

Flooded lands were the largest source of CH_4 emissions from the LULUCF sector in 2020, totaling 19.9 MMT CO_2 Eq. (797 kt of CH_4). Forest fires were the second largest source and resulted in CH_4 emissions of 13.6 MMT CO_2 Eq. (545 kt of CH_4), followed by *Coastal Wetlands Remaining Coastal Wetlands* with CH_4 emissions of 3.8 MMT CO_2 Eq. (154 kt of CH_4).

Forest fires were the largest source of N_2O emissions from the LULUCF sector in 2020, totaling 11.7 MMT CO_2 Eq. (39 kt of N_2O). Nitrous oxide emissions from fertilizer application to settlement soils in 2020 totaled 2.5 MMT CO_2 Eq. (8 kt of N_2O).

Table ES-4: U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Removals (Net Flux) from Land Use, Land-Use Change, and Forestry (MMT CO_2 Eq.)

Land-Use Category	1990	2005	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Forest Land Remaining Forest Land[a]	(769.7)	(674.0)	(717.3)	(670.1)	(664.6)	(631.8)	(642.2)
Land Converted to Forest Land[b]	(98.6)	(99.1)	(99.5)	(99.5)	(99.5)	(99.5)	(99.5)
Cropland Remaining Cropland	(23.2)	(29.0)	(22.7)	(22.3)	(16.6)	(14.5)	(23.3)
Land Converted to Cropland[c]	51.8	52.0	54.1	54.3	54.0	53.9	54.4
Grassland Remaining Grassland[d]	7.1	9.4	8.6	9.9	10.3	13.1	5.1
Land Converted to Grassland[c]	(3.1)	(37.0)	(22.6)	(22.7)	(22.4)	(21.5)	(24.1)
Wetlands Remaining Wetlands[e]	14.7	17.2	15.8	15.9	15.9	15.9	15.8
Land Converted to Wetlands[e]	7.1	1.2	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6
Settlements Remaining Settlements[f]	(107.6)	(113.5)	(121.5)	(125.3)	(124.9)	(124.5)	(123.7)
Land Converted to Settlements[c]	60.8	82.8	77.8	77.9	78.0	77.9	77.9
LULUCF Carbon Stock Change/CO_2[g]	**(892.0)**	**(831.1)**	**(862.0)**	**(826.7)**	**(809.0)**	**(760.8)**	**(812.2)**
LULUCF CH_4 and N_2O Emissions[h]	**31.4**	**41.3**	**35.4**	**45.5**	**39.8**	**30.3**	**53.2**
CH_4	27.2	30.9	28.3	34.0	30.7	25.5	38.1
N_2O	4.2	10.5	7.1	11.5	9.1	4.8	15.2
LULUCF Sector Net Total[i]	**(860.6)**	**(789.8)**	**(826.6)**	**(781.2)**	**(769.3)**	**(730.5)**	**(758.9)**

[a] Includes the net changes to carbon stocks stored in all forest ecosystem pools and harvested wood products, emissions from fires on both *Forest Land Remaining Forest Land* and *Land Converted to Forest Land,* emissions from N fertilizer additions on both *Forest Land Remaining Forest Land* and *Land Converted to Forest Land*, and CH_4 and N_2O emissions from drained organic soils on both *Forest Land Remaining Forest Land* and *Land Converted to Forest Land.*

[b] Includes the net changes to carbon stocks stored in all forest ecosystem pools.

[c] Includes changes in mineral and organic soil carbon stocks for all land use conversions to cropland, grassland, and settlements, respectively. Also includes aboveground/belowground biomass, dead wood, and litter carbon stock changes for conversion of forest land to cropland, grassland, and settlements, respectively.

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[22] LULUCF Carbon Stock Change is the net C stock change from the following categories: *Forest Land Remaining Forest Land, Land Converted to Forest Land, Cropland Remaining Cropland,* Land Converted to Cropland, Grassland Remaining Grassland, *Land Converted to Grassland, Wetlands Remaining Wetlands*, Land Converted to Wetlands, *Settlements Remaining Settlements,* and Land Converted to Settlements.

[23] LULUCF emissions include the CH_4 and N_2O emissions reported for Peatlands Remaining Peatlands, Forest Fires, Drained Organic Soils, Grassland Fires, and *Coastal Wetlands Remaining Coastal Wetlands*; CH_4 emissions from *Land Converted to Coastal Wetlands;* and N_2O emissions from Forest Soils and Settlement Soils.

[d] Estimates include CH_4 and N_2O emissions from fires on both Grassland Remaining Grassland and *Land Converted to Grassland.*
[e] Estimates include CH_4 emissions from Flooded Land Remaining Flooded Land and Land Converted to Flooded Land.
[f] Estimates include N_2O emissions from N fertilizer additions on both *Settlements Remaining Settlements* and Land Converted to Settlements because it is not possible to separate the activity data at this time.
[g] LULUCF Carbon Stock Change includes any C stock gains and losses from all land use and land use conversion categories.
[h] LULUCF emissions include the CH_4 and N_2O emissions reported for Peatlands Remaining Peatlands, Forest Fires, Drained Organic Soils, Grassland Fires, and *Coastal Wetlands Remaining Coastal Wetlands*; CH_4 emissions from *Land Converted to Coastal Wetlands*, Flooded Land Remaining Flooded Land, and Land Converted to Flooded Land; and N_2O emissions from Forest Soils and Settlement Soils.
[i] The LULUCF Sector Net Total is the net sum of all LULUCF CH_4 and N_2O emissions to the atmosphere plus net carbon stock changes in units of MMT CO_2 Eq.
Notes: Totals may not sum due to independent rounding. Parentheses indicate net sequestration.

Waste

The Waste chapter contains emissions from waste management activities (except incineration of waste, which is addressed in the Energy chapter). Landfills were the largest source of anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions from waste management activities, generating 109.3 MMT CO_2 Eq. and accounting for 70.3 percent of total greenhouse gas emissions from waste management activities, and 16.8 percent of total U.S. CH_4 emissions.[24] Additionally, wastewater treatment generated emissions of 41.8 MMT CO_2 Eq. and accounted for 26.9 percent of total Waste sector greenhouse gas emissions, 2.8 percent of U.S. CH_4 emissions, and 5.5 percent of U.S. N_2O emissions in 2020. Emissions of CH_4 and N_2O from composting are also accounted for in this chapter, generating emissions of 2.3 MMT CO_2 Eq., and 2.0 MMT CO_2 Eq., respectively. Anaerobic digestion at biogas facilities generated CH_4 emissions of 0.2 MMT CO_2 Eq., accounting for 0.1 percent of emissions from the waste sector. Overall, emission sources accounted for in the Waste chapter generated 155.6 MMT CO_2 Eq., or 2.6 percent of total U.S. greenhouse gas emissions in 2020.

ES.4 Other Information

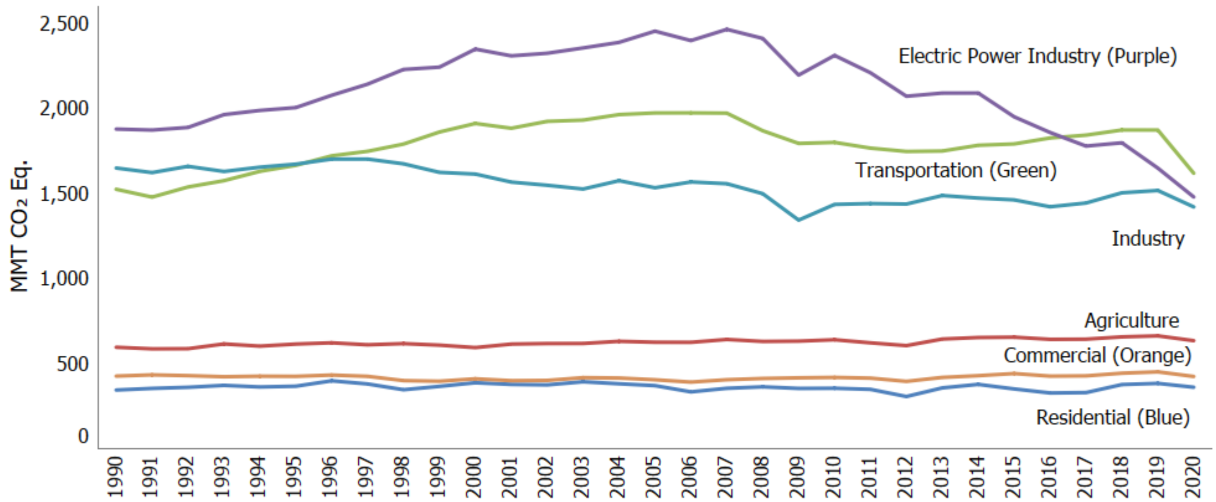
Emissions by Economic Sector

Throughout the *Inventory of U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks* report, emission estimates are grouped into five sectors (i.e., chapters) defined by the IPCC: Energy, IPPU, Agriculture, LULUCF, and Waste. It is also useful to characterize emissions according to commonly used economic sector categories: residential, commercial, industry, transportation, electric power, and agriculture. Emissions from U.S. Territories are reported as their own end-use sector due to a lack of specific consumption data for the individual end-use sectors within U.S. Territories. For more information on trends in the Land use, Land Use Change and Forestry sector, see Section ES.2 Recent Trends in U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks.

Figure ES-13 shows the trend in emissions by economic sector from 1990 to 2020, and Table ES-5 summarizes emissions from each of these economic sectors.

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

Figure ES-13: U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions Allocated to Economic Sectors



Note: Emissions and removals from Land Use, Land-Use Change, and Forestry are excluded from figure above. Excludes U.S. Territories.

Table ES-5: U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions Allocated to Economic Sectors (MMT CO_2 Eq.)

Economic Sectors	1990	2005	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Transportation	1,526.4	1,975.5	1,828.0	1,845.2	1,874.7	1,874.3	1,627.6
Electric Power Industry	1,880.5	2,456.7	1,860.5	1,780.6	1,799.8	1,651.0	1,482.2
Industry	1,652.4	1,536.2	1,424.4	1,446.7	1,507.6	1,521.7	1,426.2
Agriculture	596.8	626.3	643.4	644.4	657.9	663.9	635.1
Commercial	427.1	405.4	426.9	428.5	444.2	452.1	425.3
Residential	345.1	371.0	327.8	329.9	377.4	384.2	362.0
U.S. Territories	25.1	63.7	26.8	25.8	25.8	24.6	23.0
Total Gross Emissions (Sources)	**6,453.5**	**7,434.8**	**6,537.9**	**6,501.0**	**6,687.5**	**6,571.7**	**5,981.4**
LULUCF Sector Net Total[a]	**(860.6)**	**(789.8)**	**(826.6)**	**(781.2)**	**(769.3)**	**(730.5)**	**(758.9)**
Net Emissions (Sources and Sinks)	**5,592.8**	**6,645.0**	**5,711.2**	**5,719.8**	**5,918.2**	**5,841.2**	**5,222.4**

[a] The LULUCF Sector Net Total is the net sum of all LULUCF CH_4 and N_2O emissions to the atmosphere plus net carbon stock changes.

Notes: Total emissions presented without LULUCF. Total net emissions presented with LULUCF. Totals may not sum due to independent rounding. Parentheses indicate negative values or sequestration.

Using this categorization, emissions from transportation activities accounted for the largest portion (27.2 percent) of total U.S. greenhouse gas emissions in 2020. Electric power accounted for the second largest portion (24.8 percent) of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions in 2020, while emissions from industry accounted for the third largest portion (23.8 percent). Emissions from industry have in general declined over the past decade, due to a number of factors, including structural changes in the U.S. economy (i.e., shifts from a manufacturing-based to a service-based economy), fuel switching, and energy efficiency improvements.

The remaining 24.2 percent of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions were contributed by, in order of magnitude, the agriculture, commercial, and residential sectors, plus emissions from U.S. Territories. Activities related to agriculture accounted for 10.6 percent of U.S. emissions; unlike other economic sectors, agricultural sector emissions were dominated by N_2O emissions from agricultural soil management and CH_4 emissions from enteric fermentation. An increasing amount of carbon is stored in agricultural soils each year, but this CO_2 sequestration is assigned to the LULUCF sector rather than the agriculture economic sector. The commercial and residential sectors accounted for 7.1 percent and 6.1 percent of emissions, respectively, and U.S. Territories accounted for 0.4

percent of emissions; emissions from these sectors primarily consisted of CO_2 emissions from fossil fuel combustion. 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, landfilling of yard trimmings, and changes in C stocks in coastal wetlands.

Electricity is ultimately used in the economic sectors described above. Table ES-6 presents greenhouse gas emissions from economic sectors with emissions related to electric power distributed into end-use categories (i.e., emissions from electric power generation are allocated to the economic sectors in which the electricity is used). To distribute electricity emissions among end-use sectors, emissions from the source categories assigned to electric power were allocated to the residential, commercial, industry, transportation, and agriculture economic sectors according to retail sales of electricity for each end-use sector (EIA 2022 and Duffield 2006).[25] 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 incineration of waste, CH_4 and N_2O from stationary sources, and SF_6 from electrical transmission and distribution systems.

When emissions from electricity use are distributed among these end-use sectors, industrial activities and transportation account for the largest shares of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions (30.3 percent and 27.3 percent, respectively) in 2020. The residential and commercial sectors contributed the next largest shares of total U.S. greenhouse gas emissions in 2020 (15.4 and 15.4 percent, respectively). Emissions from the commercial and residential sectors increase substantially when emissions from electricity use are included, due to their relatively large share of electricity use for energy (e.g., lighting, cooling, appliances). Figure ES-14 shows the trend in these emissions by sector from 1990 to 2020.

Table ES-6: U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions with Electricity-Related Emissions Distributed by Economic Sector (MMT CO_2 Eq.)

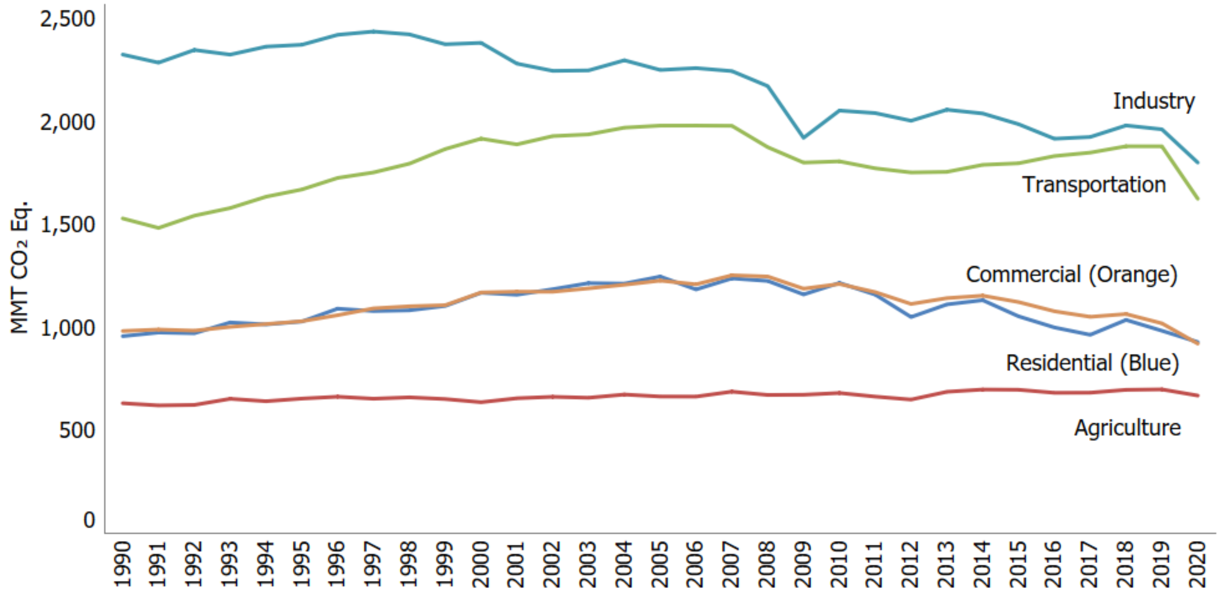
Economic Sectors	1990	2005	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Industry	2,326.5	2,251.6	1,917.5	1,926.4	1,983.1	1,964.7	1,813.7
Transportation	1,529.6	1,980.3	1,832.4	1,849.6	1,879.5	1,879.1	1,632.4
Residential	957.6	1,247.2	999.9	964.3	1,036.7	984.1	923.1
Commercial	982.7	1,227.4	1,078.6	1,051.7	1,065.3	1,020.1	919.7
Agriculture	631.9	664.6	682.6	683.2	697.1	699.1	669.5
U.S. Territories	25.1	63.7	26.8	25.8	25.8	24.6	23.0
Total Gross Emissions (Sources)	**6,453.5**	**7,434.8**	**6,537.9**	**6,501.0**	**6,687.5**	**6,571.7**	**5,981.4**
LULUCF Sector Net Total[a]	**(860.6)**	**(789.8)**	**(826.6)**	**(781.2)**	**(769.3)**	**(730.5)**	**(758.9)**
Net Emissions (Sources and Sinks)	**5,592.8**	**6,645.0**	**5,711.2**	**5,719.8**	**5,918.2**	**5,841.2**	**5,222.4**

[a] The LULUCF Sector Net Total is the net sum of all LULUCF CH_4 and N_2O emissions to the atmosphere plus net carbon stock changes.

Notes: Emissions from electric power are allocated based on aggregate electricity use in each end-use sector. Totals may not sum due to independent rounding. Parentheses indicate negative values or sequestration.

[25] U.S. Territories consumption data that are obtained from EIA are only available at the aggregate level and cannot be broken out by end-use sector. The distribution of emissions to each end-use sector for the 50 states does not apply to territories data.

Figure ES-14: U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions with Electricity-Related Emissions Distributed to Economic Sectors



Note: Emissions and removals from Land Use, Land-Use Change, and Forestry are excluded from figure above. Excludes U.S. Territories.

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

Total greenhouse gas 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 use, 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 total gross domestic product as a measure of national economic activity; and (4) emissions per capita.

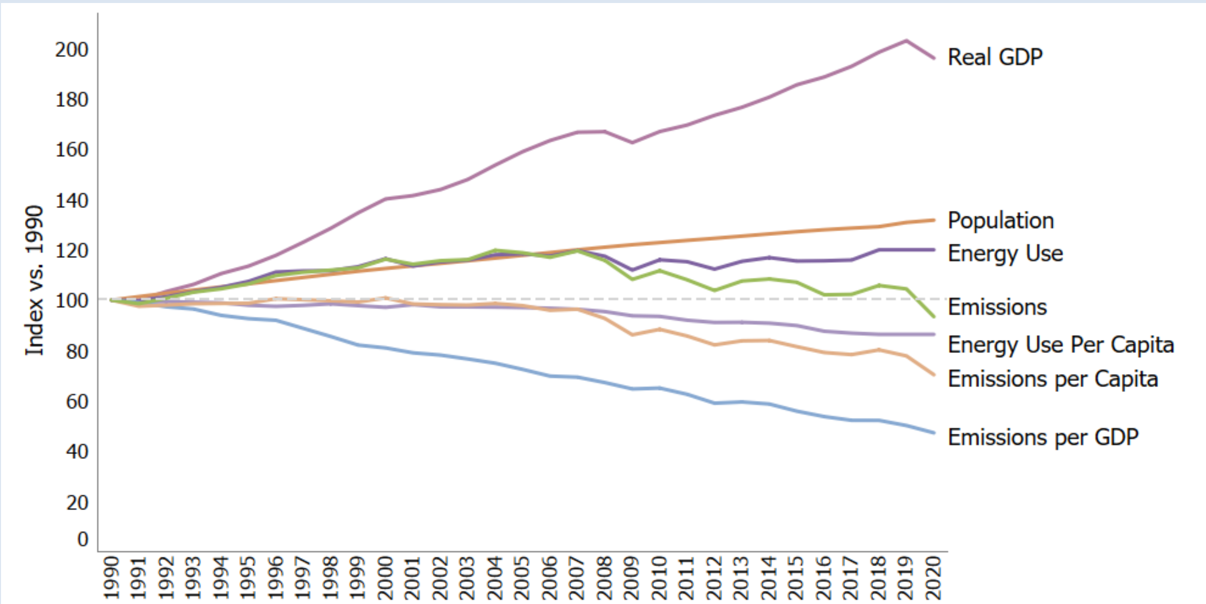
Table ES-7 provides data on various statistics related to U.S. greenhouse gas emissions normalized to 1990 as a baseline year. These values represent the relative change in each statistic since 1990. Greenhouse gas emissions in the United States have declined at an average annual rate of 0.2 percent since 1990, although changes from year to year have been significantly larger. This growth rate is slightly slower than that for total energy use and fossil fuel consumption, and overall gross domestic product (GDP), and national population (see Figure ES-15). The direction of these trends started to change after 2005, when greenhouse gas emissions, total energy use, and fossil fuel consumption began to peak. Greenhouse gas emissions in the United States have decreased at an average annual rate of 1.4 percent since 2005. Fossil fuel consumption has decreased at a slower rate than emissions since 2005, while total energy use, GDP, and national population, generally, continued to increase noting 2020 was impacted by COVID-19 pandemic.

Table ES-7: Recent Trends in Various U.S. Data (Index 1990 = 100)

Variable	1990		2005		2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Avg. Annual Growth Rate Since 1990[a]	Avg. Annual Growth Rate Since 2005[a]
Greenhouse Gas Emissions[b]	100		115		101	101	104	102	93	-0.2%	-1.4%
Energy Use[c]	100		119		116	116	120	119	109	0.3%	-0.5%
GDP[d]	100		159		189	193	199	203	196	2.3%	1.4%
Population[e]	100		118		128	129	129	131	132	0.9%	0.8%

[a] Average annual growth rate.
[b] GWP-weighted values.
[c] Energy content-weighted values (EIA 2022).
[d] GDP in chained 2009 dollars (BEA 2022).
[e] U.S. Census Bureau (2021).

Figure ES-15: U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions Per Capita and Per Dollar of Gross Domestic Product (GDP)



Source: BEA (2021), U.S. Census Bureau (2021), and emission estimates in this report.

Key Categories

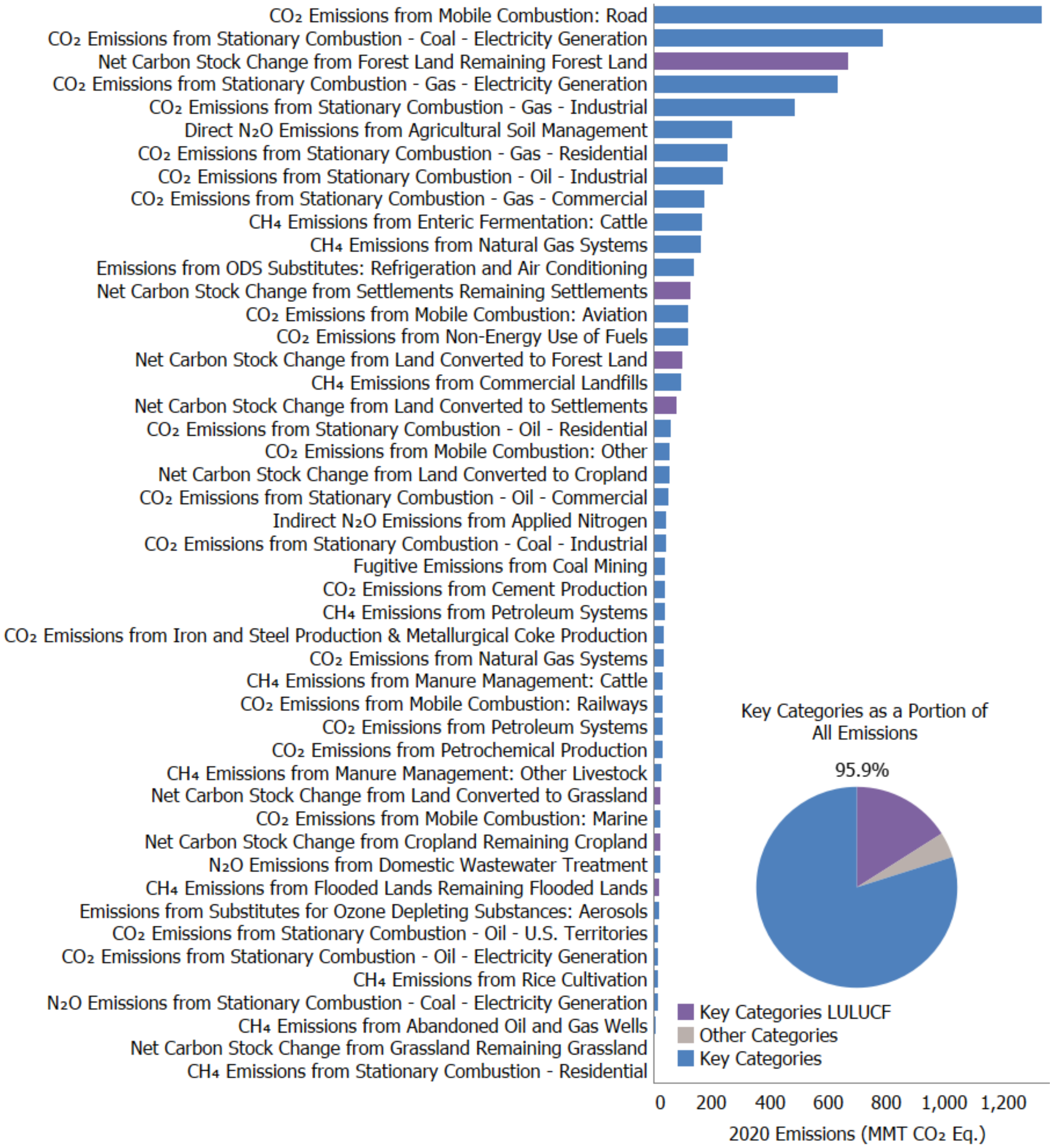
The *2006 IPCC Guidelines* (IPCC 2006) defines a key category as a "[category] that is prioritized within the national inventory system because its estimate has a significant influence on a country's total inventory of greenhouse gases in terms of the absolute level, the trend, or the uncertainty in emissions and removals."[26] A key category analysis identifies priority source or sink categories for focusing efforts to improve overall Inventory quality. In addition, a qualitative review of key categories and non-key categories can also help identify additional source and sink categories to consider for improvement efforts, including reducing uncertainty.

Figure ES-16 presents the 2020 key categories identified by the Approach 1 level assessment, including the LULUCF sector. A level assessment using Approach 1 identifies all source and sink categories that cumulatively account for 95 percent of total (i.e., gross) emissions in a given year when assessed in descending order of absolute magnitude.

For a complete list of key categories and more information regarding the overall key category analysis, including approaches accounting for uncertainty and the influence of trends of individual source and sink categories, see the Introduction chapter, Section 1.5 – Key Categories and Annex 1.

[26] See Chapter 4 "Methodological Choice and Identification of Key Categories" in IPCC (2006). See http://www.ipcc-nggip.iges.or.jp/public/2006gl/vol1.html.

Figure ES-16: 2020 Key Categories (Approach 1 including LULUCF)[a]



[a] For a complete list of key categories and detailed discussion of the underlying key category analysis, see Annex 1. Bars indicate key categories identified using Approach 1 level assessment including the LULUCF sector. The absolute values of net CO_2 emissions from LULUCF are presented in this figure but reported separately from gross emissions totals. Refer to Table ES-4 for a breakout of emissions and removals for LULUCF by source/sink category.

Quality Assurance and Quality Control (QA/QC)

The United States seeks continuous improvements to the quality, transparency, and usability 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. The procedures followed for the Inventory have been formalized in accordance with the U.S. Inventory QA/QC plan for the Inventory, and the UNFCCC reporting guidelines and *2006 IPCC Guidelines*. The QA process includes expert and public reviews for both the Inventory estimates and the Inventory report.

Box ES-3: Use of Ambient Measurements Systems for Validation of Emission Inventories

In following the UNFCCC requirement under Article 4.1 to develop and submit national greenhouse gas emission inventories, the emissions and sinks presented in this report are organized by source and sink categories and calculated using internationally accepted methods provided by the IPCC.[27] Several recent studies have estimated emissions at the national or regional level with estimated results that sometimes differ from EPA's estimate of emissions. EPA has engaged with researchers on how remote sensing, ambient measurement, and inverse modeling techniques for estimating greenhouse gas emissions could assist in improving the understanding of inventory estimates. In working with the research community to improve national greenhouse gas inventories, EPA follows guidance from the IPCC on the use of measurements and modeling to validate emission inventories.[28] An area of particular interest in EPA's outreach efforts is how ambient measurement data can be used to assess estimates or potentially be incorporated into the Inventory in a manner consistent with this Inventory report's transparency of its calculation methodologies, and the ability of these techniques to attribute emissions and removals from remote sensing to anthropogenic sources, as defined by the IPCC for this report, versus natural sources and sinks.

The *2019 Refinement to the IPCC 2006 Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories* (IPCC 2019) Volume 1 General Guidance and Reporting, Chapter 6: Quality Assurance, Quality Control and Verification notes that atmospheric concentration measurements can provide independent data sets as a basis for comparison with inventory estimates. The *2019 Refinement* provides guidance on conducting such comparisons (as summarized in Table 6.2 of IPCC [2019] Volume 1, Chapter 6) and provides guidance on using such comparisons to identify areas of improvement in national inventories (as summarized in Box 6.5 of IPCC [2019] Volume 1, Chapter 6) given the technical complexity of such comparisons. Further, it identified fluorinated gases as one of most suitable greenhouse gases for such comparisons. The *2019 Refinement* makes this conclusion on fluorinated gases based on the lack of confounding natural sources, the potential uncertainties in bottom-up inventory methods, the long atmospheric lifetimes of many of these gases, and the well-known loss mechanisms. Unlike most other gases in the Inventory, since there are no known natural sources of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), the HFC emission sources included in this Inventory account for the majority of total emissions detectable in the atmosphere, and the estimates derived from atmospheric measurements are driven solely by anthropogenic emissions. More information on findings from applying this guidance in comparing recent HFC emission studies conducted by NOAA with modeled bottom-up emissions are included under the QA/QC and Verification discussion in Chapter 4, Section 4.24 Substitution of Ozone Depleting Substances in the IPPU chapter of this report.

Consistent with the *2019 Refinement*, a key element to facilitate such comparisons is a gridded prior inventory as an input to inverse modeling. To improve the ability to compare the national-level greenhouse gas inventory with measurement results that may be at other scales, a team at Harvard University along with EPA and other coauthors developed a gridded inventory of U.S. anthropogenic methane emissions with 0.1° x 0.1° spatial resolution, monthly temporal resolution, and detailed scale-dependent error characterization. The gridded inventory is designed to be consistent with the 1990 to 2014 U.S. EPA *Inventory of U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks* estimates for the year 2012, which presents national totals for different source types.[29] This gridded inventory is consistent with the recommendations contained in two National Academies of Science reports examining greenhouse gas emissions data (National Research Council 2010; National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine 2018).

Finally, in addition to use of atmospheric concentration measurement data for comparison with Inventory data, in this year's Inventory, information from top-down studies has been directly incorporated in the Natural Gas Systems calculations to quantify emissions from well blowout events. For more information, see Recalculations

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[27] See http://www.ipcc-nggip.iges.or.jp/public/index.html.

[28] See http://www.ipcc-nggip.iges.or.jp/meeting/pdfiles/1003_Uncertainty%20meeting_report.pdf.

[29] See https://www.epa.gov/ghgemissions/gridded-2012-methane-emissions.

Discussion section in 3.6 Natural Gas Systems.

Uncertainty Analysis of Emission Estimates

Uncertainty assessment is an essential element of a complete inventory of greenhouse gas emissions and removals because it helps to inform and prioritize inventory improvements. Recognizing the benefit of conducting an uncertainty analysis, the UNFCCC reporting guidelines follow the recommendations of the *2006 IPCC Guidelines* (IPCC 2006), Volume 1, Chapter 3 and require that countries provide single estimates of uncertainty for source and sink categories. In addition to quantitative uncertainty assessments, a qualitative discussion of uncertainty is presented for each source and sink category identifying specific factors affecting the uncertainty surrounding the estimates provided in accordance with UNFCCC reporting guidelines. Some of the current estimates, such as those for CO_2 emissions from energy-related combustion activities, are considered to have low uncertainties. This is because the amount of CO_2 emitted from energy-related combustion activities is directly related to the amount of fuel consumed, the fraction of the fuel that is oxidized, and the carbon content of the fuel, and for the United States, the uncertainties associated with estimating those factors is relatively small. For some other categories of emissions, however, inherent variability or a lack of data increases the uncertainty or systematic error associated with the estimates presented. Finally, an analysis is conducted to assess uncertainties associated with the overall emissions, sinks and trends estimates. The overall uncertainty surrounding total net greenhouse gas emissions is estimated to be -5 to +6 percent in 1990 and -5 to +6 percent in 2020. When the LULUCF sector is excluded from the analysis the uncertainty is estimated to be -2 to +5 percent in 1990 and -2 to +5 percent in 2020.