

Emissions of Greenhouse Gases in the United States 1996

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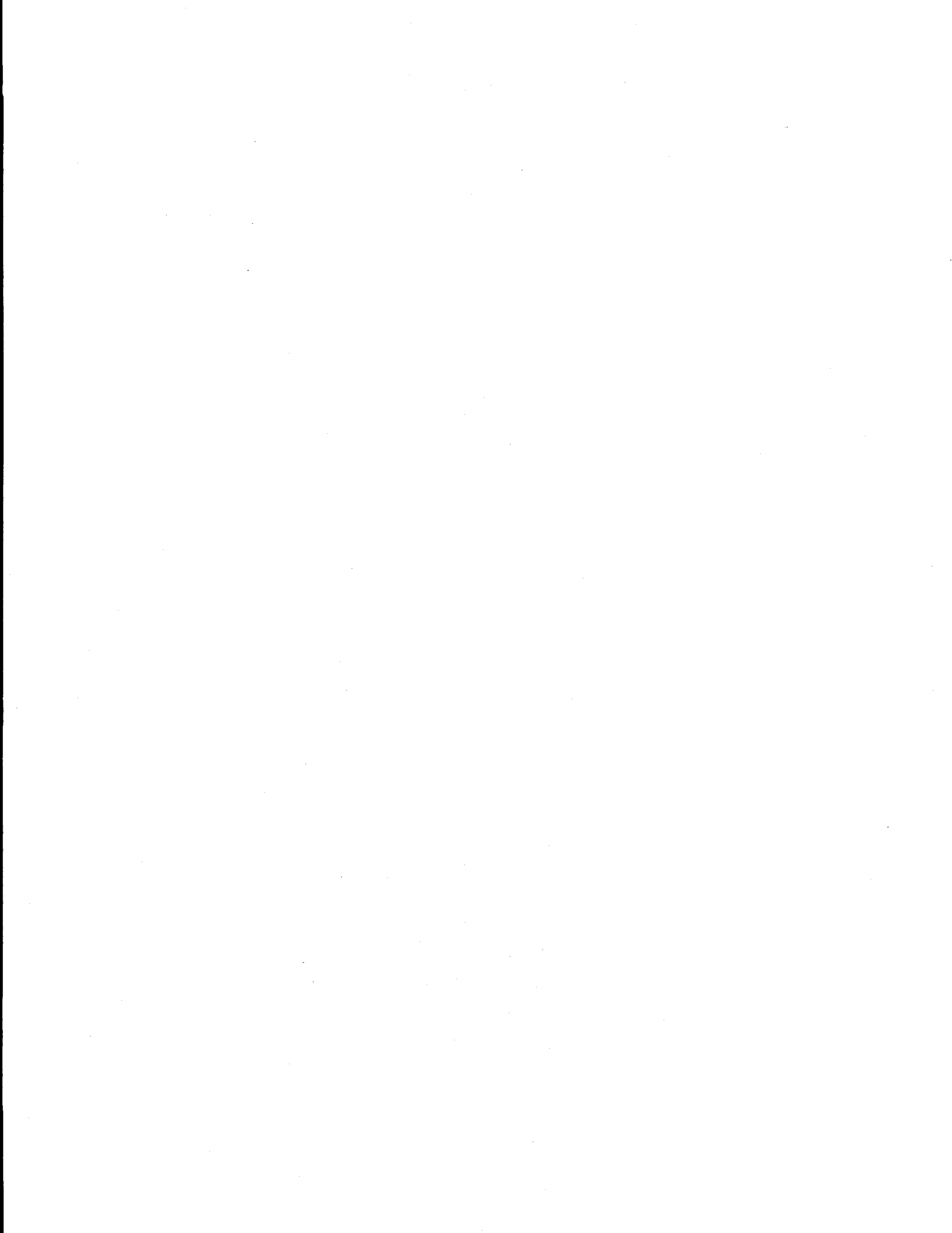
Preface

Title XVI, Section 1605(a) of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (enacted October 24, 1992) provides:

Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary, through the Energy Information Administration, shall develop, based on data available to, and obtained by, the Energy Information Administration, an inventory of the national aggregate emissions of each greenhouse gas for each calendar year of the baseline period of 1987 through 1990. The Administrator of the Energy

Information Administration shall annually update and analyze such inventory using available data. This subsection does not provide any new data collection authority.

The first report in this series, *Emissions of Greenhouse Gases 1985-1990*, was published in September 1993. This report—the fifth annual report, as required by law—presents the Energy Information Administration's latest estimates of emissions for carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, and other greenhouse gases.



Contents

	Page
Executive Summary	ix
1. U.S. Emissions of Greenhouse Gases in Perspective	1
About This Report	1
The Greenhouse Effect and Global Climate Change	1
Global Sources of Greenhouse Gases	3
Relative Forcing Effects of Various Gases	6
Global Climate Change Policy Developments	8
U.S. Emissions in an International Perspective	10
Projected Growth in World Greenhouse Gas Emissions	11
Possible Reduction Scenarios	11
2. Carbon Dioxide Emissions	13
Overview	13
Energy Consumption	14
Sectoral Analysis and Trends	14
Industrial	14
Transportation	15
Residential and Commercial	15
Electric Utilities	16
Industrial Sources	16
Recent Trends	16
Energy Production	16
Industrial Processes	17
Adjustments to Energy Consumption	17
U.S. Territories	17
Bunker Fuels	17
3. Methane Emissions	23
Overview	23
Energy Sources	24
Oil and Gas Production, Processing, and Distribution	24
Coal Mining	25
Stationary Combustion	25
Mobile Combustion	26
Waste Management	26
Landfills	26
Domestic and Commercial Wastewater Treatment	27
Agricultural Sources	28
Enteric Fermentation in Domesticated Animals	28
Solid Waste of Domesticated Animals	28
Rice Cultivation	29
Burning of Crop Residues	29
Industrial Processes	30
Chemical Production	30
Iron and Steel Production	30

4. Nitrous Oxide Emissions	37
Overview	37
Energy Use	38
Mobile Combustion	38
Stationary Combustion	38
Agriculture	39
Recent Trends	39
Fertilizer Use	39
Crop Residue Burning	39
Industrial Processes	39
Recent Trends	40
Adipic Acid Production	40
Nitric Acid Production	40
5. Halocarbons and Other Gases	45
Overview	45
Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs)	46
HFC-23	46
1,2,2,2-Tetrafluoroethane (HFC-134a)	46
1,1-Difluoroethane (HFC-152a)	47
Other HFCs	47
Perfluorocarbons (PFCs)	47
Sulfur Hexafluoride	48
Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs)	49
Trichlorofluoromethane (CFC-11)	49
Dichlorofluoromethane (CFC-12)	49
Freon 113 (CFC-113)	50
Dichlorotetrafluoroethane (CFC-114)	50
Monochloropentafluoroethane (CFC-115)	50
Hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs)	51
Chlorodifluoromethane (HCFC-22)	51
1,1-Dichloro-1-fluoroethane (HCFC-141b)	51
Chlorodifluoroethane (HCFC-142b)	51
Other HCFCs	51
Bromofluorocarbons (Halon)	51
Other Chemicals	52
Carbon Tetrachloride	52
Methyl Chloroform (1,1,1-Trichloroethane)	52
Chloroform	52
Methylene Chloride (Dichloromethane)	52
6. Criteria Pollutants	57
Overview	57
Carbon Monoxide	57
Nitrogen Oxides	58
Nonmethane Volatile Organic Compounds	58
7. Land Use Issues	63
Overview	63
Forests and the Carbon Budget	63
Cropland and the Carbon Budget	65
Methane Emissions from Wetlands	66
Effects of Land Use Changes on Methane and Nitrous Oxide Emissions	66

Appendixes

A. Estimation Methods	69
Carbon Dioxide	69
Methane	79
Nitrous Oxide	91
Halocarbons and Other Gases	93
Criteria Pollutants	94
Land Use Issues	94
B. Carbon Coefficients Used in This Report	99
C. Uncertainty in Emissions Estimates	105
D. Emissions Sources Excluded	117
E. Common Conversion Factors	123

References	125
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Glossary	135
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Tables

ES1. Estimated U.S. Emissions of Greenhouse Gases by Gas, 1989-1996	x
ES2. U.S. Emissions of Greenhouse Gases, Based on Global Warming Potential, 1989-1996	x
1. Global Atmospheric Concentrations of Greenhouse Gases	3
2. Global Natural and Anthropogenic Sources and Absorption of Greenhouse Gases	4
3. Numerical Estimates of Global Warming Potentials Compared With Carbon Dioxide	7
4. Numerical Estimates of Global Warming Potentials, Including Indirect Effects, for Selected Chlorofluorocarbons and Hydrochlorofluorocarbons Compared With Carbon Dioxide	8
5. U.S. Carbon Dioxide Emissions from Energy and Industry, 1989-1996	18
6. U.S. Carbon Dioxide Emissions from Fossil Energy Consumption by End-Use Sector, 1989-1996	18
7. U.S. Carbon Sequestered by Nonfuel Use of Energy, 1989-1996	19
8. U.S. Carbon Dioxide Emissions from Energy Use in the Industrial Sector, 1985-1996	19
9. U.S. Carbon Dioxide Emissions from Energy Use in the Transportation Sector, 1985-1996	20
10. U.S. Carbon Dioxide Emissions from Energy Use in the Residential Sector, 1985-1996	20
11. U.S. Carbon Dioxide Emissions from Energy Use in the Commercial Sector, 1985-1996	20
12. U.S. Carbon Dioxide Emissions from Electric Utilities, 1985-1996	21
13. U.S. Carbon Dioxide Emissions from Gas Flaring, 1989-1996	21
14. U.S. Carbon Dioxide Emissions from Industrial Sources, 1989-1996	22
15. Carbon Emissions from U.S. Territories and International Bunkers, 1989-1996	22
16. U.S. Methane Emissions from Anthropogenic Sources, 1989-1996	31
17. U.S. Methane Emissions from Oil and Gas Operations, 1989-1996	31
18. U.S. Methane Emissions from Coal Mining and Post-Mining Activities, 1989-1996	32
19. U.S. Methane Emissions from Stationary Combustion Sources, 1989-1996	33
20. U.S. Methane Emissions from Mobile Sources, 1989-1996	34
21. U.S. Methane Emissions from Landfills, 1989-1996	34
22. U.S. Methane Emissions from Enteric Fermentation in Domesticated Animals, 1989-1996	35
23. U.S. Methane Emissions from the Solid Waste of Domesticated Animals, 1989-1996	35
24. Area of Land Harvested for Rice and Estimated U.S. Methane Emissions from Flooded Rice Fields, 1989-1996	36
25. U.S. Methane Emissions from Industrial Processes, 1989-1996	36
26. Estimated U.S. Emissions of Nitrous Oxide, 1989-1996	41
27. U.S. Nitrous Oxide Emissions from Mobile Sources, 1989-1996	41
28. U.S. Nitrous Oxide Emissions from Stationary Combustion Sources, 1989-1996	42
29. U.S. Nitrous Oxide Emissions from Nitrogen Fertilizer Use, 1989-1996	43
30. U.S. Nitrous Oxide Emissions from Industrial Processes, 1989-1996	43
31. Estimated 1995 Sales and Emissions of CFCs and Other Greenhouse Gases	53
32. Estimated U.S. Emissions of Halocarbons and Miscellaneous Greenhouse Gases, 1989-1996	54
33. Estimated GWP-Weighted U.S. Emissions of Hydrofluorocarbons, Perfluorocarbons, and Sulfur Hexafluoride, 1989-1996	55

Tables (Continued)

34. U.S. Emissions of Criteria Pollutants, 1989-1996	60
35. U.S. Carbon Monoxide Emissions, 1989-1996	60
36. U.S. Nitrogen Oxide Emissions, 1989-1996	61
37. U.S. Emissions of Nonmethane Volatile Organic Compounds, 1989-1996	62
38. Major Uses of Land in the United States	67
A1. U.S. Fossil Fuel Consumption for Nonfuel Use, 1989-1996	71
A2. Rates of Sequestration for U.S. Fossil Fuel Consumption	72
A3. Energy Consumption in U.S. Territories and International Bunkers, 1989-1996	74
A4. Production Data for Industrial Sources of Carbon Dioxide, 1985-1996	76
A5. Activity Data for Methane Emissions from Oil and Gas Production, Processing, and Distribution, 1985-1996	81
A6. U.S. Coal Production, 1985-1996	82
A7. EMCON Methane Generation Model Parameters	85
A8. U.S. Solid Waste Landfilled, 1985-1996	86
A9. Average Pre-Slaughter Live Weights for U.S. Cattle and Calves, 1985-1996	88
A10. Factors Used To Estimate Methane and Nitrous Oxide Emissions from Burning of Crop Residues	90
A11. Methane Emissions Factors for Industrial Processes	91
B1. Carbon Emissions Coefficients at Full Combustion, 1986-1996	100
B2. Changes in Motor Gasoline Density, 1989-1996	101
B3. Characteristics of Major Reformulated Fuel Additives	101
B4. Consumption-Weighted Emissions Coefficients for Jet Fuel, 1989-1996	103
B5. U.S. Crude Oil Characteristics, 1989-1996	103
B6. Emissions Coefficients for Liquid Petroleum Gas, 1987-1996	104
D1. Estimated U.S. Carbon Dioxide Emissions from Biofuels, 1989-1996	117
D2. Estimated Carbon Emissions from U.S. Military Operations Abroad, 1989-1996	118
D3. Estimated U.S. Carbon Dioxide Emissions from Natural Gas Plants, 1989-1996	119

Figures

ES1. U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions by Gas, 1996	ix
ES2. Emissions Intensity of U.S. Gross Domestic Product, Population, Energy Use, and Electricity Production, 1980-1996	xi
ES3. U.S. Carbon Dioxide Emissions by Sector, 1980-1996	xi
ES4. U.S. Methane Emissions by Source, 1980-1996	xii
ES5. U.S. Nitrous Oxide Emissions by Source, 1980-1996	xii
ES6. U.S. Emissions HFCs, PFCs, and Sulfur Hexafluoride, 1980-1996	xiii
ES7. U.S. Emissions of Selected Criteria Pollutants, 1980-1995	xiii
1. World Carbon Emissions by Region, 1975, 1990, and 2015	11
2. World Carbon Emissions in Four Scenarios, 1990-2015	11
3. Annual Change in U.S. Carbon Dioxide Emissions, 1990-1996	13
4. Indices of U.S. Gross Domestic Product, Population, Energy Consumption, and Carbon Dioxide Emissions, 1990-1996	14
5. Carbon Dioxide Emissions from Electric and Non-electric Sources by Energy End-Use Sector, 1996	14
6. Index of Heating Degree-Days in the United States, 1989-1996	15
7. U.S. Methane Emissions by Source, 1990 and 1996	24
8. U.S. Solid Waste Generated and Landfilled, 1988-1996	27
9. U.S. Emissions of Nitrous Oxide by Source, 1990-1996	37
10. Production, Sales, End Use, and Estimated Emissions of CFC-12, 1980-1996	50
11. Forest Land in the United States, 1620, 1850, 1920, and 1992	65

Executive Summary

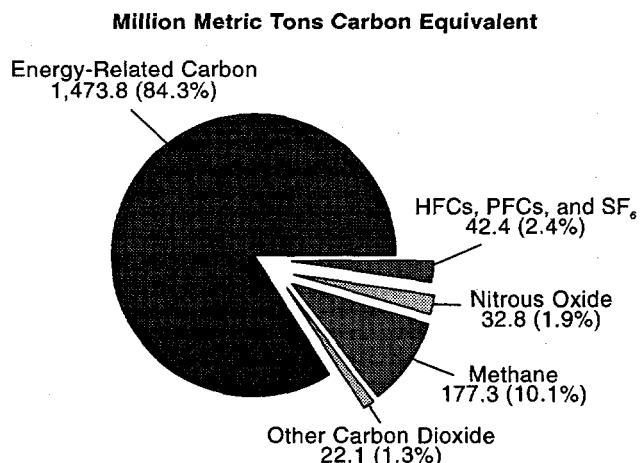
In 1996, U.S. emissions of greenhouse gases increased by 3.4 percent over 1995 emissions, the highest rate of increase in recent years. Although U.S. emissions have been growing since 1991, their growth accelerated in 1996. Greenhouse gas emissions expanded more rapidly than U.S. energy consumption in 1996, and the growth of energy consumption (up 3.2 percent) exceeded the growth of the U.S. economy (up 2.4 percent).¹ Three principal sources contributed to the growth in U.S. greenhouse gas emissions:

- Energy consumption increased more rapidly in 1996 than in recent years, buoyed by strong economic growth and unusually severe weather. Residential and commercial carbon dioxide emissions (including their prorated share of electric utility emissions) expanded by 6.3 and 5.5 percent, respectively.
- The rapid growth of relatively low-carbon natural gas consumption, which has tended to moderate the growth of total carbon dioxide emissions in recent years by "capping" high-carbon coal use, slowed as natural gas prices increased. Consequently, electric utilities met the demand for increased electricity largely with coal-fired power generation. Electric utility carbon dioxide emissions increased by 4.7 percent, divided between a 2.4-percent rise resulting from increased electricity sales and a 2.3-percent increase resulting from the use of fuels with higher carbon content.
- Estimated emissions of exotic gases, such as hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs), and sulfur hexafluoride—paced by increased emissions of HFC-134a, the widely accepted substitute for chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs)—grew by more than 10 percent in 1996, though from very low levels.

Table ES1 shows trends in emissions of the principal greenhouse gases, measured in million metric tons of gas. In Table ES2, the value shown for each gas is weighted by its global warming potential (GWP), which is as a measure of radiative forcing. This concept, developed by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC),² provides a comparative measure of the impacts of different greenhouse gases on global

warming, with the effect of carbon dioxide being equal to 1 (see "Units for Measuring Greenhouse Gases" on page 5). The GWPs for other greenhouse gases are considerably higher (see discussion in Chapter 1). Overall, GWP-weighted emissions rose by 8.3 percent between 1990 and 1996 and by 3.4 percent between 1995 and 1996. On a GWP-weighted basis, carbon dioxide emissions account for 85 percent of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions (Figure ES1). While carbon dioxide emissions are growing, methane and nitrous oxide emissions have been roughly stable.

Figure ES1. U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions by Gas, 1996



Source: EIA estimates documented in this report.

Table ES2 excludes several radiatively important gases: the criteria pollutants carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides, and particulates, as well as CFCs and hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs). These gases have ambiguous effects on climate, which are difficult to quantify. In addition, CFCs and HCFCs are specifically excluded from coverage under the international climate treaty, the Framework Convention on Climate Change. (See Chapters 1, 5, and 6 for discussion related to the effects and emissions of these gases.)

¹Energy Information Administration, *Annual Energy Review 1996*, DOE/EIA-0384(96) (Washington, DC, July 1997), pp. 5 and 367.

²Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, *Climate Change 1995: The Science of Climate Change* (Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 1996).

Executive Summary

The historical emissions estimates for the years 1989 through 1995 presented in this report are only slightly

revised from those in last year's report (see the box on page 2, "What's New in This Report").

Table ES1. Estimated U.S. Emissions of Greenhouse Gases by Gas, 1989-1996
(Million Metric Tons of Gas)

Gas	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	P1996
Carbon Dioxide	5,091.8	5,037.1	4,987.3	5,059.8	5,175.9	5,256.1	5,296.9	5,484.9
Methane	31.3	31.6	31.6	31.7	30.8	31.4	30.9	30.9
Nitrous Oxide	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.4
Halocarbons and Minor Gases								
CFC-11, CFC-12, CFC-113 ..	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
HCFC-22	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
HFCs, PFCs, and SF ₆	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Methyl Chloroform	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	*	*
Criteria Pollutants								
Carbon Monoxide	93.5	91.3	88.3	85.3	85.4	89.6	83.5	NA
Nitrogen Oxides	21.1	20.9	20.6	20.7	21.1	21.5	19.7	NA
Nonmethane VOCs	21.7	21.4	20.8	20.3	20.5	21.1	20.7	NA

*Less than 50,000 tons of gas. Estimated hydrofluorocarbon, perfluorocarbon, and sulfur hexafluoride emissions combined totaled 0.008 million metric tons in 1989, rising to 0.034 million metric tons in 1996.

P = preliminary data. NA = not available.

Note: Data in this table are revised from the data contained in the previous EIA report, *Emissions of Greenhouse Gases in the United States 1995*, DOE/EIA-0573(95) (Washington, DC, October 1996).

Sources: **Carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide emissions:** EIA estimates described in Chapters 2, 3, and 4 of this report. **Halocarbons and minor gases:** 1990 and 1994 estimates from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, *Inventory of U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks, 1990-1994*, EPA-230-R-96-006 (Washington, DC, November 1995), pp. 46-50. Other years from EIA estimates described in Chapter 5 of this report. **Criteria pollutants:** U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, *National Air Pollutant Emission Trends, 1900-1995*, EPA-454/R-96-007 (Research Triangle Park, NC, October 1996), Tables A-1-A-3, pp. A-2-A-16.

Table ES2. U.S. Emissions of Greenhouse Gases, Based on Global Warming Potential, 1989-1996
(Million Metric Tons of Carbon or Carbon Equivalent)

Gas	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	P1996
Carbon	1,389	1,374	1,360	1,380	1,412	1,433	1,445	1,496
Methane	179	181	181	182	177	180	177	177
Nitrous Oxide	38	38	38	38	39	40	38	38
HFCs, PFCs, and SF ₆	26	25	26	28	27	31	36	42
Total	1,632	1,618	1,606	1,628	1,654	1,684	1,696	1,753

P = preliminary data.

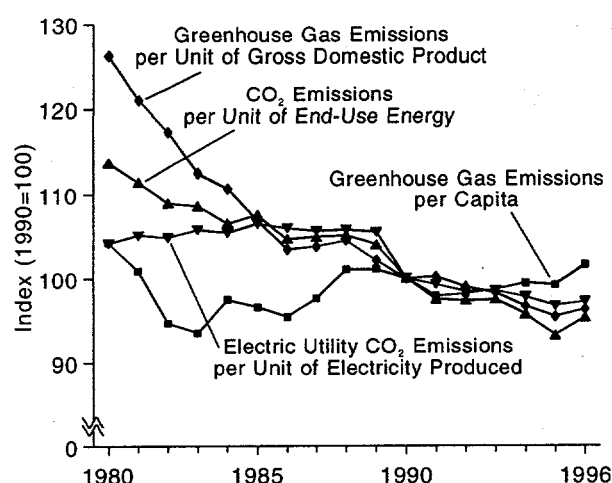
Note: Data in this table are revised from the data contained in the previous EIA report, *Emissions of Greenhouse Gases in the United States 1995*, DOE/EIA-0573(95) (Washington, DC, October 1996).

Sources: EIA estimates documented in this report.

Carbon Dioxide

Some 98.5 percent of U.S. anthropogenic carbon dioxide emissions come from the combustion of fossil fuels. Changes in carbon dioxide emissions can be traced to energy consumption trends and changes in the composition of fossil fuels burned to provide energy services. During the 1980s and early 1990s, the energy intensity of the U.S. economy and the carbon intensity of U.S. energy consumption steadily declined (Figure ES2).

Figure ES2. Emissions Intensity of U.S. Gross Domestic Product, Population, Energy Use, and Electricity Production, 1980-1996



Sources: EIA estimates documented in this report.

Several unrelated factors caused the decline:

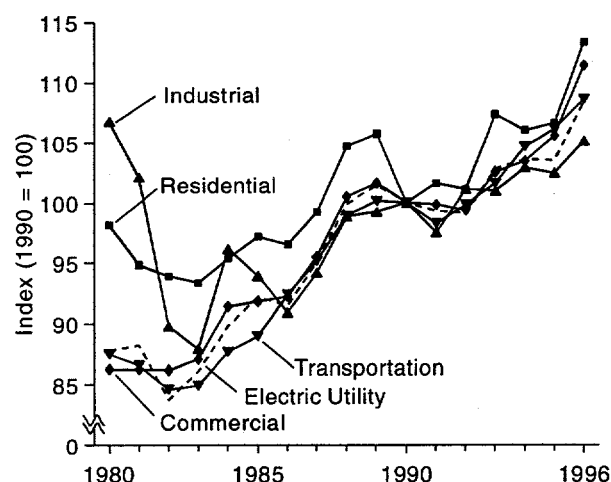
- The deregulation of the natural gas industry bore fruit in the form of greatly increasing gas supplies at low prices. Natural gas use expanded rapidly in the residential, commercial, and industrial sectors, accounting for much of the growth of energy consumption.
- Many events of the period—including the Gulf War, the oil price spike of 1990, the recession of 1991, and the vogue for utility demand-side management programs—tended to restrain the growth of energy consumption.
- Utility operators began to solve nuclear power plant operating problems and, by 1995, were able to produce 17 percent more electricity from nuclear plants than in 1990.
- With more snowfall in the Pacific Northwest, hydroelectric power generation has returned to the levels of the early 1980s. Despite widespread alloca-

tion of water to accommodate salmon, 1996 hydroelectric generation was the second highest on record.

Currently, however, the growth in nuclear power generation has leveled off, and it is unlikely that future hydroelectric generation will often match 1996 levels. World oil prices remain relatively low, and the U.S. economy is growing rapidly.

Severe weather conditions in 1996 produced a series of anomalous results: residential and commercial natural gas consumers used 7.8 percent more natural gas and 3.5 percent more electricity than in 1995, and natural gas prices increased sharply. In response to the price signals, electric utilities reduced their gas consumption by 15 percent and substituted coal. The result was a sharp increase in both total carbon emissions and emissions per kilowatthour for the electric utility sector, accompanied by rapid increases in both direct (from natural gas and heating oil) and indirect (from electricity) emissions from the residential and commercial sectors. Emissions from the industrial and transportation sectors increased by a “more normal” 2.6 percent and 2.3 percent, respectively, in 1996 (Figure ES3).

Figure ES3. U.S. Carbon Dioxide Emissions by Sector, 1980-1996



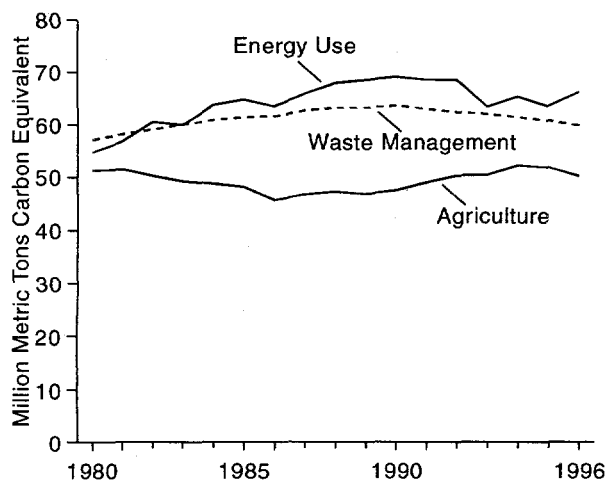
Source: EIA estimates documented in Chapter 2 of this report.

Methane

Methane emissions estimates are more uncertain than those for carbon dioxide. U.S. anthropogenic methane emissions have three principal sources: production and transportation of coal, natural gas, and oil; anaerobic decomposition of municipal waste in landfills; and

raising livestock. Smaller sources include combustion of fossil fuels, rice cultivation, and industrial processes. Estimated 1996 methane emissions are unchanged from emissions in 1995 (Figure ES4).

Figure ES4. U.S. Methane Emissions by Source, 1980-1996



Source: EIA estimates documented in Chapter 3 of this report.

Note: Methane emissions from industrial sources were approximately 750,000 metric tons in 1996.

Methane emissions rose during the late 1980s. The principal cause appears to have been increased production from a group of underground coal mines with very high rates of methane emissions. Meanwhile, emissions from municipal landfills appear to have been stable, because growth in the volume of solid waste generated was offset by a growing volume of waste burned for energy recovery and by increased recovery of methane at landfill sites.

In the 1990s, several factors have tended to limit or reduce estimated methane emissions:

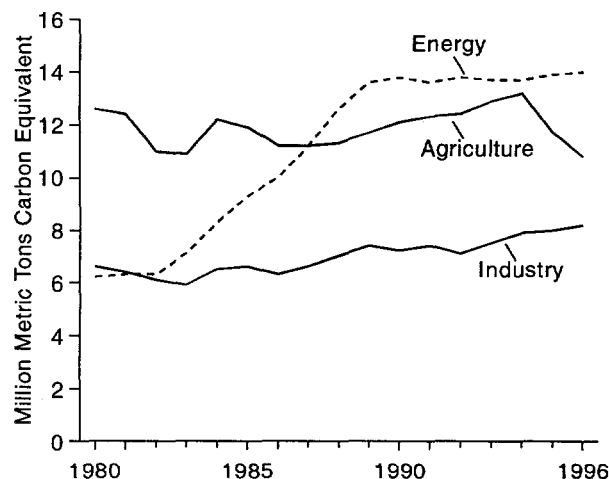
- The rapid expansion of recycling (particularly of paper and garden cuttings) and "waste-to-energy" plants has reduced the volume of material going into landfills. The expansion of landfill methane capture projects (both for energy and emissions control), although much slower, has reduced methane emissions from existing sources.
- Coal mine methane emissions are dominated by a relatively small group of underground coal mines. While the coal industry as a whole has been increasing output in recent years, these mines have suffered from vicissitudes particular to their locations, production economics, and the grades of

coal they produce. Output from these mines does not necessarily track with national trends. Further, a number of them have introduced methane capture programs, which have also reduced emissions.

Nitrous Oxide

Nitrous oxide emissions estimates are more uncertain than estimates of methane emissions, and the uncertainty of the estimation methods makes it difficult to be confident of apparent trends. The principal sources are believed to be "excess" emissions from agricultural soils associated with fertilizer use, industrial process emissions, and emissions from combustion of fossil fuels. Nitrous oxide emissions, estimated at 0.45 million metric tons in 1996, are essentially unchanged since 1990. Declining agricultural emissions (due to reduced use of nitrogen fertilizers) have offset slowly increasing energy-related and industrial emissions (Figure ES5).

Figure ES5. U.S. Nitrous Oxide Emissions by Source, 1980-1996



Source: EIA estimates documented in Chapter 4 of this report.

Halocarbons and Related Compounds

Halocarbons and related compounds include chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs), and other compounds that act as greenhouse gases. Halocarbons have many uses, but most emissions come from their use as refrigerants in cooling equipment, as solvents, or as blowing agents and from fugitive emissions in industrial processes.

CFCs are currently being phased out because they damage the stratospheric ozone layer. The warming effects of CFCs and HCFCs are offset to some extent because they also destroy ozone, which is a potent greenhouse gas. Compounds that contain no chlorine (such as HFCs and PFCs) do not affect ozone, and their effects on climate are therefore easier to measure.

The available data suggest that emissions of CFCs—about 0.2 million metric tons in 1990—are declining. Estimated HCFC emissions (almost entirely HCFC-22, a popular refrigerant for home air conditioners) have been largely stable since 1993. There is little information about emissions of “new” HCFCs, such as HCFC-141b and HCFC-142b, which are CFC substitutes.

HFC emissions were very low—perhaps 0.006 million metric tons—in 1990. Emissions of HFC-23, a byproduct of HCFC-22 production, have also been roughly stable since 1993. Emissions of the CFC substitutes HFC-134a and HFC-152 have risen substantially in the past 3 years, from a base total of less than 0.001 million metric tons in 1990 (Figure ES6). HFC-134a became the standard automobile air conditioner refrigerant in 1994, and emissions will grow rapidly as CFCs are replaced throughout the automobile fleet. Consumption of HFC-152 is growing rapidly, but it has a relatively low global warming potential of 140.

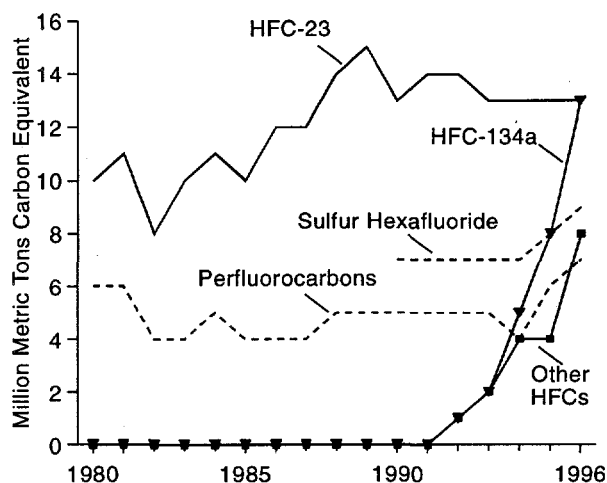
The principal quantifiable source of PFCs is as a fugitive emission from aluminum smelting. Aluminum smelting rebounded in 1996, after declining in the early 1990s, increasing the estimated emissions of PFCs. In recent years, several PFCs have found markets in the semiconductor industry, but it has proved difficult to obtain reliable information about sales and consumption, other than that the numbers are relatively small.

Another compound included in this category is sulfur hexafluoride, which is used primarily as an insulating gas in electrical switchgear. The amounts used are uncertain but appear to be quite small (around 1,000 metric tons per year); however, sulfur hexafluoride has an extremely high global warming potential (around 25,000), and, hence, even small emissions have disproportionate consequences.

Criteria Pollutants

Criteria pollutants (carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides, and nonmethane volatile organic compounds) are reactive gases that usually decay quickly in the atmosphere. They are not necessarily greenhouse gases themselves, but they can promote atmospheric chemical reactions that create tropospheric ozone, which is a potent greenhouse gas. Because the ozone-creating effect of

Figure ES6. U.S. Emissions HFCs, PFCs, and Sulfur Hexafluoride, 1980-1996

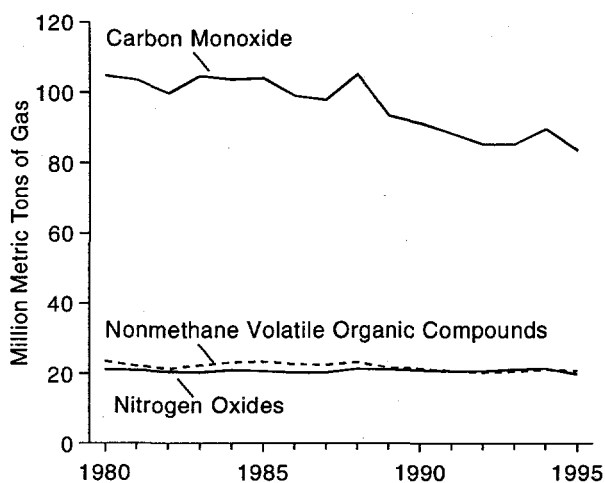


Source: EIA estimates documented in Chapter 5 of this report.

these gases varies with local atmospheric conditions, it is not possible to compute their effects directly. As precursors to urban “smog,” their emissions are regulated under the Clean Air Act. The principal source of emissions of criteria pollutants is the combustion of fossil fuels, particularly in motor vehicles.

According to estimates from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, national-level emissions of carbon monoxide have been declining since the late 1970s (Figure ES7). Emissions of nonmethane volatile organic

Figure ES7. U.S. Emissions of Selected Criteria Pollutants, 1980-1995



Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, *National Air Pollutant Emission Trends, 1900-1995*, EPA-454/96-007 (Research Triangle Park, NC, October 1996), Tables A-1-A-11, pp. A-2-A-16.

compounds and nitrogen oxides have been essentially unchanged in recent years.

Land Use Issues

Changes in land use can also have large, though difficult to quantify, effects on atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases. In the United States, the expansion of forest land and the growth of existing forests are responsible for removing large amounts of carbon from the atmosphere. Several studies of carbon sequestration in U.S. forests suggest that in the late 1980s and early 1990s, some 111 to 238 million metric tons of carbon was sequestered annually, equivalent to about 8 to 17 percent of U.S. anthropogenic carbon emissions.³ However, considerable uncertainty is associated with this estimate—particularly with the amount of carbon sequestered in forest soils.

The IPCC recommends including emissions and sequestration from land use changes in national inventories, and the U.S. "National Communication" for the Framework Convention follows this practice.⁴ The EIA, however, has elected not to include carbon sequestration from forestry in its "total" estimate of U.S. emissions, for the following reasons:

- There is insufficient information to determine the extent, if any, of year-to-year changes in anthropogenic sequestration of carbon. Changes in national sequestration rates can be estimated only at 5-year intervals. The current estimate is an annual average for the period 1987-1992; new data will become available in 1998, covering the 1992-1997 period.
- The magnitude of the sequestration estimate is subject to considerable uncertainty on several counts. The largest source of uncertainty is the amount of carbon sequestered annually in forest soils.

³R.A. Birdsey and L.S. Heath, "Carbon Changes in U.S. Forests," in L.A. Joyce (ed.), *Productivity of America's Forests and Climate Change* (Fort Collins, CO: USDA Forest Service, General Technical Report RM-GTR-271, 1995).

⁴U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, *Inventory of U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks: 1990-1993*, EPA-230-R-94-014 (Washington, DC, September 1994), p. ES-7.

1. U.S. Emissions of Greenhouse Gases in Perspective

About This Report

The Energy Information Administration (EIA) is required by the Energy Policy Act of 1992 to prepare a report on aggregate U.S. national emissions of greenhouse gases for the period 1987-1990, with annual updates thereafter. This report is the fifth annual update, covering national emissions over the period 1989-1995, with preliminary estimates of emissions for 1996. The estimates contained in this report have been revised from those in last year's report (see "What's New in This Report" on page 2). Emissions estimates for carbon dioxide are reported in metric tons of carbon; estimates for other gases are reported in metric tons of gas (see "Units for Measuring Greenhouse Gases" on page 5).

Chapter 1 of this report briefly recapitulates some background information about global climate change and the greenhouse effect and discusses important recent developments in global climate change activities. Chapters 2 through 6 cover emissions of carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, halocarbons, and criteria pollutants, respectively. Chapter 7 describes potential sequestration and emissions of greenhouse gases as a result of land use changes.

Five appendixes are included with this report. Appendix A provides a detailed discussion of emissions sources, estimation methods, and data requirements and sources. Appendix B describes the derivation of the carbon emissions coefficients used for the inventory. Appendix C describes uncertainties in the emissions estimates. Appendix D describes known emissions sources omitted from the main report because they are not deemed to be "anthropogenic," or because of extreme uncertainty. Appendix E provides some convenient conversion factors.

The Greenhouse Effect and Global Climate Change

The Earth is warmed by radiant energy from the Sun. Over time, the amount of energy transmitted to the Earth's surface is equal to the amount of energy re-radiated back into space in the form of infrared radia-

tion, and the temperature of the Earth's surface stays roughly constant. However, the temperature of the Earth is strongly influenced by the existence, density, and composition of the Earth's atmosphere. Many gases in the Earth's atmosphere absorb infrared radiation re-radiated from the Earth's surface, trapping heat in the lower atmosphere. Without the natural greenhouse effect, it is likely that the average temperature of the Earth's surface would be on the order of -19° Celsius, rather than the $+15^{\circ}$ Celsius actually observed.¹ The gases that help trap the Sun's heat close to the Earth's surface are referred to as "greenhouse gases." All greenhouse gases absorb infrared radiation (heat) at particular sets of wavelengths.

The main greenhouse gases are water vapor (H_2O), carbon dioxide (CO_2), methane (CH_4), nitrous oxide (N_2O), and a host of engineered chemicals, such as chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs). Most greenhouse gases occur naturally. Water vapor is by far the most common, with an atmospheric concentration of nearly 1 percent, compared with less than 0.04 percent for carbon dioxide. Concentrations of other greenhouse gases are a fraction of that for carbon dioxide (Table 1).

It was recognized in the early 1960s that concentrations of carbon dioxide in the Earth's atmosphere were increasing every year. Subsequently, it was discovered that atmospheric concentrations of methane, nitrous oxide, and many engineered chemicals were also rising. As current concentrations of greenhouse gases keep the Earth at its present temperature, scientists began to postulate that increasing concentrations of greenhouse gases would make the Earth get even warmer.

In computer-based simulation models, rising concentrations of greenhouse gases nearly always produce an increase in the average temperature of the Earth. Rising temperatures may, in turn, produce changes in weather and in the level of the oceans that might prove disruptive to current patterns of land use and human settlement, as well as to existing ecosystems. To date, it has proved difficult to detect firm evidence of actual temperature changes, in part because the normal temporal and spatial variations in temperature are far larger than the predicted change in the global average

¹Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, *Climate Change 1995: The Science of Climate Change* (Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 1996), p. 57. See also web site www.ipcc.ch.

What's New in This Report

Revised estimates of nonfuel use of fossil fuels. In the past year, information has become available from the Energy Information Administration's (EIA's) 1994 Manufacturing Energy Consumption Survey (MECS), which permits the revision of the EIA's current and historical estimates of nonfuel use of fossil fuels. Several changes were made:

- Nonfuel use of "pentanes plus" has been transferred from the category "Industrial Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG)" to "Industrial Other Petroleum." As a result, LPG-related emissions are decreased, and those related to "Industrial Other Petroleum" use are increased.
- New emissions coefficients distinguish between fuel and nonfuel use of LPG (nonfuel use of LPG is dominated by lower-carbon ethane, while fuel use is dominated by higher-carbon propane and butane). As a result, LPG-related emissions are increased.
- Better accounting for nonfuel use of natural gas and industrial fuel use of LPG and petroleum coke (derived from MECS data) have reduced estimated nonfuel use of natural gas, LPG, and petroleum coke and increased industrial emissions.
- Double counting of "still gas" sent from refiners to pipelines as "supplemental gas" has been eliminated, slightly reducing estimated emissions from industrial "other petroleum" use.

New carbon emissions sources. Several minor sources of carbon dioxide emissions have been detected and are added this year: emissions from shale oil production during 1985-1990 by Unocal, carbon dioxide emissions from geothermal power production, process carbon dioxide emissions from copper smelting, and process emissions from cement production in Puerto Rico. These sources have increased estimated carbon dioxide emissions by less than 0.5 million metric tons of carbon. Estimated carbon dioxide process emissions

from aluminum smelting have been reduced, on the basis of information in the 1994 MECS and other sources.

Preliminary estimates of 1996 emissions of methane, halocarbons, and other gases. In an effort to increase the timeliness of our publication, we have developed methods of estimating 1996 emissions from several sources ahead of available data. This report estimates 1996 methane emissions from landfills on the basis of a forecast of the amount of solid waste landfilled (actual data will not be available until 1998) and methane emissions from coal mines on the basis of estimates of per-mine production from gassy mines based on regional aggregates (actual data will not be available until December 1997). Estimates of 1996 emissions of HFCs and PFCs are based on activity data, trend extrapolation, and, to a lesser degree, modeling results. The "preliminary" 1996 data are consequently somewhat less reliable than 1995 data, and they will be revised in next year's publication to incorporate additional information that becomes available.

Updated coal mine methane information. Unpublished coal mine methane ventilation data and an updated survey of coal mine degasification systems in use, provided by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Coalbed Methane Outreach Program, permitted improved estimates of coal mine methane emissions for 1994-1996.

Revised energy data. Carbon dioxide emissions for 1995 were revised and updated on the basis of final 1995 energy data. Estimated 1996 emissions are based on preliminary energy data published in the July 1997 edition of the *Monthly Energy Review*, which includes "final" petroleum data but preliminary natural gas and coal data. The 1996 estimates will be revised in next year's report. In general, while these revisions inevitably change the data slightly, the changes are rarely larger than a fraction of a percent.

temperature. Even when temperature changes are identified, it is not possible to be certain whether they are random fluctuations that will reverse themselves or are the beginning of a trend. The possible effects of rising temperatures on weather patterns are even more uncertain.

The most recent report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), an international assemblage

of scientists commissioned by the United Nations to study this matter, concluded that:

Our ability to quantify the human influence on global climate is currently limited because the expected signal is still emerging from the noise of natural variability, and because there are uncertainties in key factors. These include the magnitudes and patterns of long-term variability and the time-evolving pattern

Table 1. Global Atmospheric Concentrations of Greenhouse Gases

Item	Carbon Dioxide	Methane	Nitrous Oxide	CFC-11	CFC-12
	(parts per million)			(parts per trillion)	
Preindustrial Atmospheric Concentration . . .	278	0.700	0.275	0	0
1992 Atmospheric Concentration	356	1.714	0.311	268	503
Average Annual Change	1.6	0.008	0.0008	0	7
Average Change (Percent per Year)	0.4	0.6	0.25	0	1.4
Atmospheric Lifetime (Years)	50-200	12	120	50	102

Source: Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, *Climate Change 1995: The Science of Climate Change* (Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 1996), p. 92.

of forcing by, and response to, changes in concentrations of greenhouse gases and aerosols, and land surface changes. Nevertheless, the balance of evidence suggests that there is a discernable human influence on global climate.²

While both the existence and consequences of human-induced global climate change remain uncertain, the threat of climate change has put in train an array of efforts by the U.S. Government and governments abroad to find some mechanism for limiting the risk of climate change and ameliorating possible consequences. To date, efforts have focused on identifying levels and sources of emissions of greenhouse gases and on possible mechanisms for reducing emissions or increasing absorption of greenhouse gases.

Global Sources of Greenhouse Gases

Most greenhouse gases have substantial natural sources in addition to human-made sources, and there are powerful natural mechanisms for removing them from the atmosphere. However, the continuing growth in atmospheric concentrations establishes that, for each of the major greenhouse gases, more gas is being emitted than is being absorbed each year: that is, the natural absorption mechanisms are lagging behind. Table 2 illustrates the relationship between anthropogenic and natural emissions and absorption of the principal greenhouse gases.

Water Vapor. Water vapor, as noted above, is the most common greenhouse gas present in the atmosphere. It is emitted into the atmosphere in enormous volumes, through natural evaporation from oceans, lakes, and soils, and returned to Earth in the form of rain and

snow. Water vapor is so plentiful in the atmosphere already that additional emissions are unlikely to absorb any significant amount of infrared radiation. It is also likely that the amount of water vapor held in the atmosphere is generally in equilibrium, and that increasing emissions of water vapor would not increase atmospheric concentrations.³ According to currently available information, anthropogenic water vapor emissions at the Earth's surface are unlikely to be an important element in either causing or ameliorating climate change.

Carbon Dioxide. Carbon is a common element on the planet, and immense quantities can be found in the atmosphere, in soils, in carbonate rocks, and dissolved in ocean water. All life on Earth participates in the "carbon cycle," by which carbon dioxide (CO₂) is extracted from the air by plants and decomposed into carbon and oxygen, with the carbon being incorporated into plant biomass and the oxygen released to the atmosphere. Plant biomass, in turn, ultimately decays (oxidizes), releasing carbon dioxide back into the atmosphere, or storing organic carbon in soil or rock. There are vast exchanges of carbon dioxide between the ocean and the atmosphere, with the ocean absorbing carbon from the atmosphere and plant life in the ocean absorbing carbon from water, dying, and spreading organic carbon on the sea bottom, where it is eventually incorporated into carbonate rocks such as limestone.

Records from Antarctic ice cores indicate that the carbon cycle has been in a state of imbalance for the past 200 years, with emissions of carbon dioxide to the atmosphere exceeding absorption. Consequently, carbon dioxide concentrations in the atmosphere have been steadily rising.

²Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, *Climate Change 1995: The Science of Climate Change* (Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 1996), p. 5.

³Note, however, that changing air temperature from other causes will change the equilibrium amount of water vapor contained in the atmosphere, and this may be a "feedback" effect acting to accelerate or damp global climate change.

Table 2. Global Natural and Anthropogenic Sources and Absorption of Greenhouse Gases

Gas	Sources		Absorption	Annual Increase in Gas in the Atmosphere
	Natural	Human-Made		
Carbon Dioxide (Million Metric Tons of Carbon) . .	150,000	7,100	154,000	3,100–3,500
Methane (Million Metric Tons of Gas)	110–210	300–450	460–660	35–40
Nitrous Oxide (Million Metric Tons of Gas)	6–12	4–8	10–17	3–5

Source: Summarized from ranges appearing in Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, *Climate Change 1995: The Science of Climate Change* (Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 1996), pp. 17–19.

The most important natural sources of carbon dioxide are releases from the oceans (90 billion metric tons per year), aerobic decay of vegetation (30 billion metric tons), and plant and animal respiration (30 billion metric tons).⁴ Known anthropogenic sources account for 7 billion metric tons of carbon per year. The principal anthropogenic source is the combustion of fossil fuels, which accounts for about three-quarters of total anthropogenic emissions of carbon worldwide. Natural processes—primarily, uptake by the ocean and photosynthesis—absorb substantially all of the naturally produced carbon dioxide and some of the anthropogenic carbon dioxide, leading to an annual net increase in carbon dioxide in the atmosphere of 3.1 to 3.5 billion metric tons.⁵

Methane. Methane (CH_4) is also a common compound. The methane cycle is understood less well than is the carbon cycle. Methane is released primarily by anaerobic decay of vegetation, by the digestive tracts of termites in the tropics, and by several other lesser sources. The principal anthropogenic sources are leakages from the production of fossil fuels, human-promoted anaerobic decay in landfills, and the digestive tracts of domestic animals. The main sources of absorption are thought to be decomposition (into carbon dioxide) in the atmosphere and decomposition by bacteria in soil. Known and unknown sources of methane are estimated to total about 600 million metric tons annually; known sinks (i.e., absorption by natural processes) total about 560 million metric tons. The annual increase in methane concentration in the atmosphere accounts for the difference of 35 to 40 million metric tons.

Nitrous Oxide. The sources and absorption of nitrous oxide (N_2O) are much more speculative than those for other greenhouse gases. The principal sources are thought to be bacterial breakdown of nitrogen compounds in soils, particularly forest soils, and fluxes

from ocean upwellings. The primary human-made sources are enhancement of natural processes through application of nitrogen fertilizers, combustion of fuels, and certain industrial processes. The most important sink is thought to be decomposition in the stratosphere. Worldwide estimated known sources of nitrous oxide total 13 to 20 million metric tons annually, and known sinks total 10 to 17 million metric tons. The annual increase in concentrations in the atmosphere is thought to total about 4 million metric tons.

Halocarbons and Other Chemicals. In the twentieth century, human ingenuity has produced an array of "engineered" chemicals, not normally found in nature, whose special characteristics render them particularly useful. Some engineered chemicals are also greenhouse gases. The best known class of greenhouse chemicals are the chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), particularly CFC-12, often known by its trade name, "freon-12." CFCs have many desirable features: they are relatively simple to manufacture, inert, nontoxic, and nonflammable. Because CFCs are chemically stable, once emitted, they remain in the atmosphere for hundreds or thousands of years. Because they are not found in nature, these molecules absorb reflected infrared radiation at wavelengths that otherwise would be largely unabsorbed, and they are potent greenhouse gases, with a direct radiative forcing effect hundreds or thousands of times greater, gram-per-gram, than that of carbon dioxide.

Because of their long atmospheric lives, a portion of the CFCs emitted into the atmosphere eventually find their way into the stratosphere, where they can be destroyed by sunlight. This reaction, however, releases free chlorine atoms into the stratosphere, and the free chlorine atoms tend to destroy stratospheric ozone, which protects the surface of the Earth from certain wavelengths of potentially damaging solar ultraviolet radiation (ultraviolet radiation, for example, is one

⁴Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, *Climate Change 1995: The Science of Climate Change* (Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 1996), p. 77.

⁵One metric ton equals 1.102 short tons.

Units for Measuring Greenhouse Gases

In this publication, the EIA has elected to report information in forms that are most likely to be familiar to users of the document. Therefore, energy and industrial data are reported in their native units (usually international units). Oil production is reported in thousand barrels per day, and energy production and sales are reported in (higher heating value) British thermal units (Btu).

Emissions data are reported in metric units. We have attempted to bridge the gap between users of metric units and international units by using the familiar "million metric tons" common in European industry instead of the "gigagrams" favored by the scientific community.

Emissions of most greenhouse gases are reported here in terms of the full molecular weight of the gas (as in Table ES1). In Table ES2, however, and subsequently throughout the report, carbon dioxide is reported in carbon units, defined as the weight of the carbon content of carbon dioxide (i.e., just the "C" in CO_2). Carbon dioxide units at full molecular weight can be converted into carbon units by dividing by 44/12, or 3.67. This approach has been adopted for two reasons:

- Carbon dioxide is most commonly measured in carbon units in the scientific community. Scientists argue that not all carbon from combustion is, in

fact, emitted in the form of carbon dioxide. Because combustion is never perfect, some portion of the emissions consists of carbon monoxide, methane, other volatile organic compounds, and particulates. These other gases (particularly carbon monoxide) eventually decay into carbon dioxide, but it is not strictly accurate to talk about "tons of carbon dioxide" emitted.

- Carbon units are more convenient for comparisons with data on fuel consumption and carbon sequestration. Since most fossil fuels are 75 to 90 percent carbon by weight, it is easy and convenient to compare the weight of carbon emissions (in carbon units) with the weight of the fuel burned. Similarly, carbon sequestration in forests and soils is always measured in tons of carbon, and the use of carbon units makes it simple to compare sequestration with emissions.

While carbon dioxide emissions can be measured in tons of carbon, emissions of other gases (such as methane) can also be measured in "carbon dioxide equivalent" units by multiplying their emissions (in metric tons) by their global warming potentials. For comparability, carbon dioxide equivalent units can be converted to "carbon equivalent" by multiplying by 12/44 (as in Table ES2) to provide a measure of the relative effects of various gases on climate.

cause of human and animal skin cancers). The destruction of stratospheric ozone, notwithstanding its potential damage to living organisms, exerts a net cooling effect on the surface of the planet, making the net effects of CFCs on radiative forcing ambiguous.

The threat posed by CFCs to the ozone layer has caused the United States and many other countries to commit themselves to phasing out the production of CFCs and their chemical cousins, hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) pursuant to an international treaty, the 1987 Montreal Protocol. As use of CFCs has declined, many related chemicals have emerged as alternatives, including HCFCs and hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs). HCFCs are similar to CFCs, but they are more reactive and consequently have shorter atmospheric lives, with less effect on the ozone layer and smaller direct global warming effects. HCFCs are also being phased out, but over a much longer time scale.

HFCs have no chlorine, and consequently have no effect on the ozone layer, but they have potentially powerful direct effects on climate. HFCs were rare

before 1990, but in 1994 HFC-134a was adopted as the standard motor vehicle air conditioning refrigerant in virtually all new cars made in America. Consequently, HFC emissions are now rising rapidly, though from a negligible base.

Beyond the halocarbons (CFCs, HFCs, HCFCs, and PFCs) there are a range of engineered chemicals, produced in relatively small quantities, which also have direct radiative forcing effects. These include the perfluorocarbons (CF_4 , C_2F_6 , and C_3F_8) emitted as byproducts of aluminum smelting; some industrial solvents such as carbon tetrachloride, methyl chloroform, and methylene chloride; and other more obscure chemicals such as sulfur hexafluoride (SF_6) and, possibly, other chemicals not yet identified. Some of these compounds are regulated in the United States as ozone depleters, or for toxicity, or both.

Criteria Pollutants. There are three gases, emitted primarily as byproducts of combustion (both of fossil fuels and of biomass), which have an indirect effect on global warming: carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides, and

nonmethane volatile organic compounds (NMVOCs). These compounds, regulated in the United States pursuant to the Clean Air Act, are often referred to (along with particulates, lead, and sulfur dioxide) as "criteria pollutants." The criteria pollutants are reactive compounds, and they tend to remain in the atmosphere for only hours or days. The sequence of reactions that removes them from the atmosphere, however, tends to promote the formation of ozone (O_3), a reactive and unstable molecular form of oxygen. While ozone in the stratosphere protects life on Earth from ultraviolet radiation, ozone at ground level at high concentrations causes respiratory distress in people and animals and also is, itself, a potent (though short-lived) greenhouse gas.⁶

It has not proved possible to make a general determination of the contribution of criteria pollutants to global warming. The reactions that produce ozone are strongly affected by the relative concentrations of various pollutants, the ambient temperature, and local weather. Emissions of criteria pollutants can create very high, though localized, ozone concentrations under favorable conditions (for example, a warm, sunny day combined with still air and low humidity) and negligible concentrations under unfavorable conditions. The criteria pollutants are included in this report for completeness.

Aerosols. Finally, there is a class of gases which probably exert a net cooling effect on the climate. These compounds exert a cooling effect by creating tiny solid particles (aerosols) in the atmosphere, which, in turn, act as nuclei for collections of water droplets and stimulate cloud formation. The clouds, in turn, reflect sunlight back into space, cooling the planet. The most important such gas is sulfur dioxide (SO_2), which is emitted largely as a byproduct from the combustion of sulfur-containing fossil fuels, particularly coal. Sulfur dioxide reacts in the air to form sulfate compounds that are effective in promoting cloud formation. Sulfur dioxide emissions are regulated in the United States under the Clean Air Act and have declined considerably in recent years. Particulate emissions are also likely to exert a net cooling effect by promoting cloud formation.

Relative Forcing Effects of Various Gases

Some greenhouse gases are more potent in affecting global temperatures than are others. As a result, comparable increases in the concentrations of different greenhouse gases can have vastly different heat-trapping effects. Among those identified, carbon dioxide is among the least effective as a greenhouse gas. Other compounds, on a gram-per-gram basis, appear to have much greater effects.⁷

It would be useful to determine the precise relative effectiveness of various greenhouse gases in affecting the Earth's climate. This information would help policy-makers know whether it would be more effective to concentrate effort on reducing the very small emissions of powerful greenhouse gases, such as HFC-134a, or whether they should direct their efforts to controlling the very large emissions of relatively ineffective gases, such as carbon dioxide.

There has been extensive study of the relative effectiveness of various greenhouse gases in trapping the Earth's heat. This research has led to the development of the concept of a "global warming potential," or GWP. The GWP is intended to illustrate the relative impacts on global warming of various gases, compared with that of carbon dioxide. Over the past few years, the IPCC has conducted an extensive research program aimed at summarizing the effects of various greenhouse gases through a set of GWPs. The results of that work were released in 1995 in an IPCC report, *Climate Change 1994*⁸ and updated in *Climate Change 1995*.⁹

The IPCC's work has established that the effects of various gases on global warming are too complex to permit them to be easily summarized as a single number. The complexity takes several forms:

- Each gas absorbs radiation in a particular set of wavelengths, or "window," in the spectrum. In some cases, where concentrations of the gas are low and no other gases block radiation in the same window, small emissions of the gas will have a disproportionate absorptive effect. However, if concentrations of the gas rise over time, a larger and

⁶The Environmental Protection Agency has set a National Ambient Air Quality Standard for acceptable atmospheric concentrations of ozone at 0.12 parts per million. The standard was set on the basis that concentrations of this magnitude could cause respiratory distress in vulnerable individuals, such as asthmatics. Higher concentrations (above 0.3 parts per million) would cause respiratory distress for most individuals.

⁷Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, *Climate Change 1995: The Science of Climate Change* (Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 1996), p. 22.

⁸Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, *Climate Change 1994: Radiative Forcing of Climate Change* (Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 1995).

⁹Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, *Climate Change 1995: The Science of Climate Change* (Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 1996).

larger portion of the total light passing through the "window" will already have been captured, and the marginal effects of additional emissions will not be as large. Therefore, the effect of an additional unit of emission of a gas that is relatively plentiful in the atmosphere, such as water vapor or carbon dioxide, tends to be less than that of a rare gas, such as sulfur hexafluoride. This "diminishing return" effect implies that increasing the concentration of a particular gas reduces the impact of additional quantities of that gas. Thus, the relative impacts of various gases will change as their relative concentrations in the atmosphere change.

- Various natural processes cause many greenhouse gases to decompose into other gases or to be absorbed into the ocean or ground. These processes can be summarized in terms of the "atmospheric lifetime" of a particular gas, or the period of time it would take for natural processes to remove a unit of emissions from the atmosphere. Some gases, such as CFCs, have very long atmospheric lifetimes, in the hundreds of years, while others, such as carbon monoxide, have lives measured in hours or days. Methane, which decays into carbon dioxide over a period of a few years, has a much larger short-run effect on global warming than does an equivalent amount of carbon dioxide. However, over longer and longer periods—from 10 years to 100 years to 500 years, for example—the differences between the GWPs of methane and carbon dioxide become less significant.

- Many gases are chemically active, and they may react in the atmosphere in ways that promote or hinder the formation of other greenhouse gases. For example, nitrogen oxides and carbon monoxide combine to promote the formation of ozone, which is a potent greenhouse gas, while CFCs tend to destroy atmospheric ozone, thus promoting global cooling. These indirect effects have sometimes proved impossible to summarize in terms of global warming potentials. Indirect effects also imply that changes in relative concentrations of various greenhouse gases would tend to change their relative effects.

Despite such complexity, the scientific community is working to develop GWP approximations. Table 3 summarizes the consensus results of the most recent studies by scientists working on behalf of the IPCC, showing estimates of atmospheric lifetimes and global warming potentials across various time scales.

The IPCC has also devoted effort to the study of indirect and interaction effects of various gases—particularly the indirect effects of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) on the ozone layer—compared with their direct radiative forcing effects. The IPCC presented GWP estimates for the first time in 1996 that quantified the direct and indirect effects of certain CFCs and HCFCs (Table 4). Certain chemicals (halon-1301 and carbon tetrachloride, for example) are now believed to exert a net cooling influence—i.e., to have a negative global warming

Table 3. Numerical Estimates of Global Warming Potentials Compared With Carbon Dioxide
(Kilogram of Gas per Kilogram of Carbon Dioxide)

Gas	Lifetime (Years)	Direct Effect for Time Horizons of		
		20 Years	100 Years	500 Years
Carbon Dioxide	Variable	1	1	1
Methane	12 ± 3	56	21	7
Nitrous Oxide	120	280	310	170
HFCs, PFCs, and Other Gases				
HFC-23	264	9,200	12,100	9,900
HFC-125	33	4,800	3,200	11
HFC-134a	15	3,300	1,300	420
HFC-152a	2	460	140	42
HFC-227ea	37	4,300	2,900	950
Perfluoromethane	50,000	4,400	6,500	10,000
Perfluoroethane	10,000	6,200	9,200	14,000
Sulfur Hexafluoride	3,200	16,300	23,900	34,900

Note: The typical uncertainty for global warming potentials is estimated by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change at ±35 percent.

Source: Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, *Climate Change 1995: The Science of Climate Change* (Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 1996), p. 121.

Table 4. Numerical Estimates of Global Warming Potentials, Including Indirect Effects, for Selected Chlorofluorocarbons and Hydrochlorofluorocarbons Compared With Carbon Dioxide
(Kilograms of Gas per Kilogram of Carbon Dioxide)

Gas	Magnitude of Effects			
	20-Year Integration		100-Year Integration	
	Direct Effects	Direct Effects and Indirect Effects	Direct Effects	Direct Effects and Indirect Effects
Chlorofluorocarbons				
CFC-11	4,900	1,200 to 2,900	3,800	540 to 2,100
CFC-12	7,800	6,000 to 6,800	8,100	6,000 to 7,100
CFC-113	4,900	2,800 to 3,800	4,800	2,600 to 3,600
HFCs, PFCs, and Other Gases				
HCFC-22	4,000	3,500 to 3,700	1,500	1,300 to 1,400
HCFC-123	300	60 to 170	90	20 to 50
HCFC-124	1,500	1,300 to 1,400	470	390 to 430
HCFC-141b	1,800	660 to 1,200	600	170 to 370
HCFC-142b	4,100	3,600 to 3,800	1,800	1,600 to 1,700
Halon-1301	6,100	-14,100 to -97,600	5,400	-14,100 to -84,000
Carbon Tetrachloride	1,900	-500 to -2,600	1,400	-650 to -2,400
Methyl Chloroform	300	-400 to -1,000	100	-130 to -320

Note: The typical uncertainty for net global warming potentials (including direct and indirect effects) is estimated by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change at ± 50 percent.

Source: Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, *Climate Change 1995: The Science of Climate Change* (Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 1996), p. 119.

potential. All of the net global warming potentials for CFCs and HCFCs are considerably lower than their direct GWPs. The authors of the IPCC report believe that the relative magnitudes of the net GWPs are fairly reliable, but that the absolute levels have an uncertainty of ± 50 percent.¹⁰

Global Climate Change Policy Developments

Rising concentrations of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere were first detected in the late 1950s. Observations of atmospheric concentrations of methane, nitrous oxide, and other gases began in the late 1970s. However, concern about the effects of rising atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases remained largely the province of atmospheric scientists and climatologists until the mid-1980s, when a series of international

scientific workshops and conferences began to move the topic onto the agenda of United Nations specialized agencies, particularly, the World Meteorological Office.

The IPCC was established under the auspices of the United Nations in late 1988, to accumulate available scientific research on climate change and to provide scientific advice to policymakers. A series of international conferences provided impetus for an international treaty aimed at limiting the human impact on climate. In December 1990, the United Nations established the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate Change (generally called the INC). Beginning in 1991, the INC hosted a series of negotiating sessions that culminated in the signing, by more than 160 countries, including the United States, of the Framework Convention on Climate Change in Rio de Janeiro on May 4, 1992.¹¹ The objective of the Framework Convention ("the Rio Treaty") was to:

¹⁰Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, *Climate Change 1995: The Science of Climate Change* (Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 1996), p. 122.

¹¹This discussion draws on D. Bodanzky, "Prologue to the Climate Convention," in I. Minter and J.A. Leonard (eds.), *Negotiating Climate Change: The Inside Story of the Rio Convention* (Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 1994), pp. 49-66.

... achieve ... stabilization of the greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system.¹²

The Framework Convention, as it emerged from the negotiations, was based on the concept of voluntary commitments by signatories to take steps to implement the objectives of the Convention. These steps, as described in the treaty, include national commitments to prepare and submit for review national action plans and periodic national emissions inventories. Developed country signatories (including the United States), referred to in the language of the convention as "Annexe I Countries," made additional commitments:¹³

*Each of these Parties shall communicate ... detailed information on its policies and measures ... [to limit emissions of greenhouse gases] ... with the aim of returning individually or jointly to their 1990 levels these anthropogenic emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases not controlled by the Montreal Protocol. This information will be reviewed by the Conference of the Parties, at its first session and periodically thereafter ...*¹⁴

The greenhouse gases "controlled by the Montreal Protocol" are CFCs and HCFCs, which are explicitly defined as being outside the scope of the Framework Convention.

Pursuant to the requirement to "communicate ... detailed information" on policies and measures, the outgoing Bush Administration prepared a draft national action plan in December 1992.¹⁵ On April 21, 1993 (Earth Day), President Clinton committed the United States to stabilizing its emissions of greenhouse gases at 1990 levels by the year 2000. The methods proposed

by the Government to achieve this objective were described in the President's *Climate Change Action Plan*, published in October 1993.¹⁶ That document spells out a range of largely voluntary programs intended to achieve the stabilization objective. More detail-oriented readers may wish to consult the *Technical Supplement* to the Plan, published in early 1994, which spells out the assumptions underlying the Plan in greater detail.¹⁷ Subsequent developments are described in the U.S. Government's "national Communications" under the Framework Convention, the most recent of which was released in July 1997.¹⁸

The Conference of the Parties is required to meet annually to discuss the implementation of the Framework Convention, and to review countries' voluntary commitments to limit their emissions. The first such meeting was held in Berlin in April 1995. By 1995, the signatories' focus had shifted from meeting emissions targets for the year 2000 to the question of what steps would be taken beyond 2000.

At Berlin, the Conference of the Parties agreed on "the Berlin Mandate," which was an agreement "to begin a process to enable it [the Conference of the Parties] to take appropriate action for the period beyond 2000 ... through the adoption of a protocol or another legal instrument"¹⁹—in other words, to negotiate a successor agreement to the Framework Convention for the next decade. However, the Berlin Mandate accelerated the "two track" approach to emissions limitation already in evidence in the Framework Convention. There were to be no new commitments for developing countries: rather they were to be encouraged to implement their commitments under the Framework Convention. Meanwhile, the Annexe I countries would move ahead with negotiating additional measures.

¹²United Nations, "Report of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Framework on Convention on Climate Change on the Work of the Second Part of Its Fifth Session, Held at New York from 30 April to 9 May 1992," UN Document A/AC.237/18, Part II (May 15, 1992). See also web site www.unep.ch/unfccc/fca6.html.

¹³The Annexe I countries are Australia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom (Great Britain and Northern Ireland), the European Economic Community, and the United States.

¹⁴United Nations, "Report of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Framework on Convention on Climate Change on the Work of the Second Part of Its Fifth Session, Held at New York from 30 April to 9 May 1992," UN Document A/AC.237/18, Part II (May 15, 1992).

¹⁵U.S. Department of State, *National Action Plan for Global Climate Change*, Publication 10026 (Washington, DC, December 1992).

¹⁶President William J. Clinton, *The Climate Change Action Plan* (Washington, DC, October 1993), p. i. See also web site gcrio.gcrio.org/USCCAP.

¹⁷U.S. Department of Energy, *The Climate Change Action Plan: Technical Supplement*, DOE/PO-0011 (Washington DC, March 1994).

¹⁸U.S. Department of State, *Climate Action Plan*, Publication 10496 (Washington, DC, July 1997).

¹⁹United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, "Report of the Conference of the Parties on Its First Session, Held at Berlin from 28 March to 7 April 1995 (Addendum)," Part 2: "Action Taken by the Conference of the Parties at Its First Session," FCCC/CP/1995/7/Add.1 (6 June 1995), p. 5. See also web site www.unep.ch/unfccc/fca3e.html.

The past several years have been spent in considering the possible forms the successor agreement might take. The most recent report of the IPCC has been cited by member governments, including the U.S. Government, as evidence that motivates further measures to limit emissions of greenhouse gases. The second Conference of the Parties was held in Geneva in July 1996. At that meeting, the Conference issued a "Ministerial Declaration" to the effect that the Governments present would:

Instruct their representatives to accelerate negotiations on the text of a legally-binding protocol or other legal instrument to be completed in due time for adoption at the Third Session of the Conference of the Parties. The outcome should fully encompass the remit of the Berlin Mandate, in particular,

- policies and measures including, as appropriate . . .
- quantified legally-binding objectives for emission limitations and significant overall reductions within specified timeframes, such as 2005, 2010, 2020, with respect to their anthropogenic emissions . . .²⁰

At the June 26, 1997, "Earth Summit+5" Conference held at the United Nations, President Clinton committed to three initiatives aimed at curbing greenhouse gases: (1) The United States pledged \$1 billion over a 5-year period to promote energy efficiency and alternative energy sources in the developing world. (2) The Overseas Private Investment Corporation will strengthen environmental guidelines in hopes of encouraging all U.S. companies to hold to more stringent environmental standards. (3) In the United States, government will work with industry to install solar panels on 1 million roofs by 2010.²¹

While the United States has yet to announce a specific target and timetable in anticipation of the Kyoto summit in December, the European community has announced that it will support reductions that average 15 percent under 1990 levels by 2010, when the European countries are considered as a whole. The U.S. position stresses joint implementation between developed and developing countries, emissions trading, and flexible approaches—positions that are not popular with many developing and other developed countries. Thus, as of mid-year 1997, the United States and other countries have yet to agree on binding protocols.

Several factors inhibit quick progress toward agreement on fixed stabilization commitments. One key area of concern relates to the prospective costs of pursuing a cap on carbon emissions. Substitution away from carbon-based fuels will have economic costs that affect both energy-using and energy-producing nations. There is considerable debate as to the magnitude of such costs.²² Differences in views reflect relative levels of optimism regarding opportunities for technological substitution; whether policy initiatives are pursued in a national or international context; and whether and when all nations contributing to carbon emissions pledge to pursue stabilization goals.

U.S. Emissions in an International Perspective

The United States is the world's largest single emitter of carbon dioxide, accounting for about 23 percent of energy-related carbon emissions worldwide. The U.S. share of methane and nitrous oxide emissions, although uncertain, is likely to be much lower than its share of carbon dioxide emissions, as the principal sources of methane and nitrous oxide emissions are more common outside than within the United States. In the case of halocarbons and other gases, the U.S. share is likely to be considerably larger than 23 percent, because the use of cooling and refrigeration equipment is probably much more pervasive in the United States than elsewhere in the world.

In recent decades, the carbon dioxide emissions of North America and Western Europe have been growing relatively slowly. The worldwide growth in energy-related carbon dioxide emissions has come from rapid growth in the developing world. The most striking development in the 1990s has been the rapid reduction in energy consumption (and hence carbon emissions) in the countries of the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, where emissions dropped by more than 20 percent between 1989 and 1992 and continued to decline through 1994. Emissions reductions in former communist countries were sufficient to stabilize world energy-related carbon dioxide emissions at 1990 levels through 1994, despite continuing rapid growth in the developing world.

²⁰United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, "Review of the Implementation of the Convention and of Decisions of the First Session of the Conference of the Parties: Ministerial Declaration," FCCC/CP/1996/L.17 (18 July 1996), p. 3.

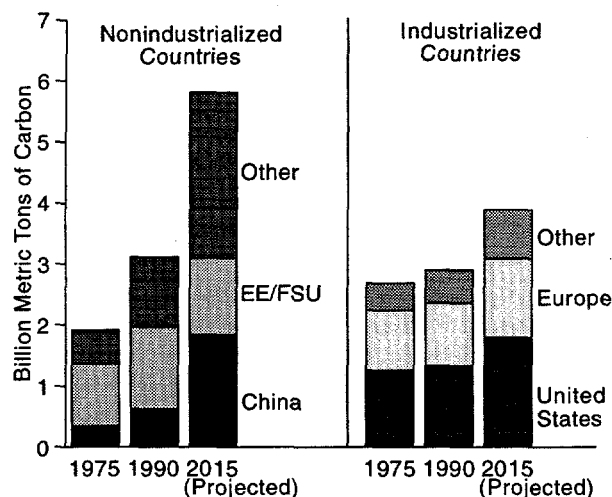
²¹The text of President Clinton's speech can be found at web site www.usia.gov/topical/global/enviro/clinton.html.

²²See, for example, R. Repetto, World Resources Institute, "How Will Protecting the Climate Affect the Economy? A Guide for the Perplexed," paper presented at the International Climate Change Conference (Baltimore, MD, June 12, 1997).

Projected Growth in World Greenhouse Gas Emissions

The EIA provided a projection of worldwide carbon emissions estimates in its *International Energy Outlook 1997*.²³ That projection suggests that the post-communist decline in energy consumption is a one-time phenomenon, and that energy consumption in the former communist countries will "bottom out" in the next few years and begin to rise again. Since the EIA also expects rapid growth in energy consumption in the developing world to continue, the prospect is for continued growth in world carbon emissions. As indicated in Figure 1, by 2015, if there is no change in policy, emissions from China will equal or surpass those of the United States. Rapid growth in other developing countries will mean that the total emissions, if unabated, will increase from 1990 levels of about 6 billion metric tons to almost 10 billion metric tons by 2015. Of this increase, almost 3 billion metric tons is projected to come from the nonindustrialized world and about 1 billion metric tons from the industrialized world.

Figure 1. World Carbon Emissions by Region, 1975, 1990, and 2015

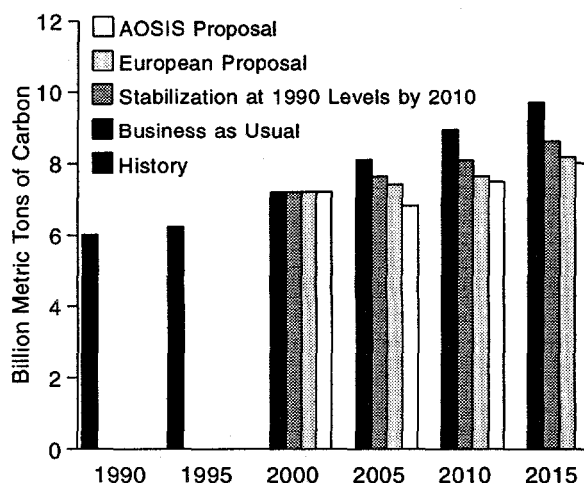


Source: Energy Information Administration, *International Energy Outlook 1997*, DOE/EIA-0484(97) (Washington, DC, April 1997).

Possible Reduction Scenarios

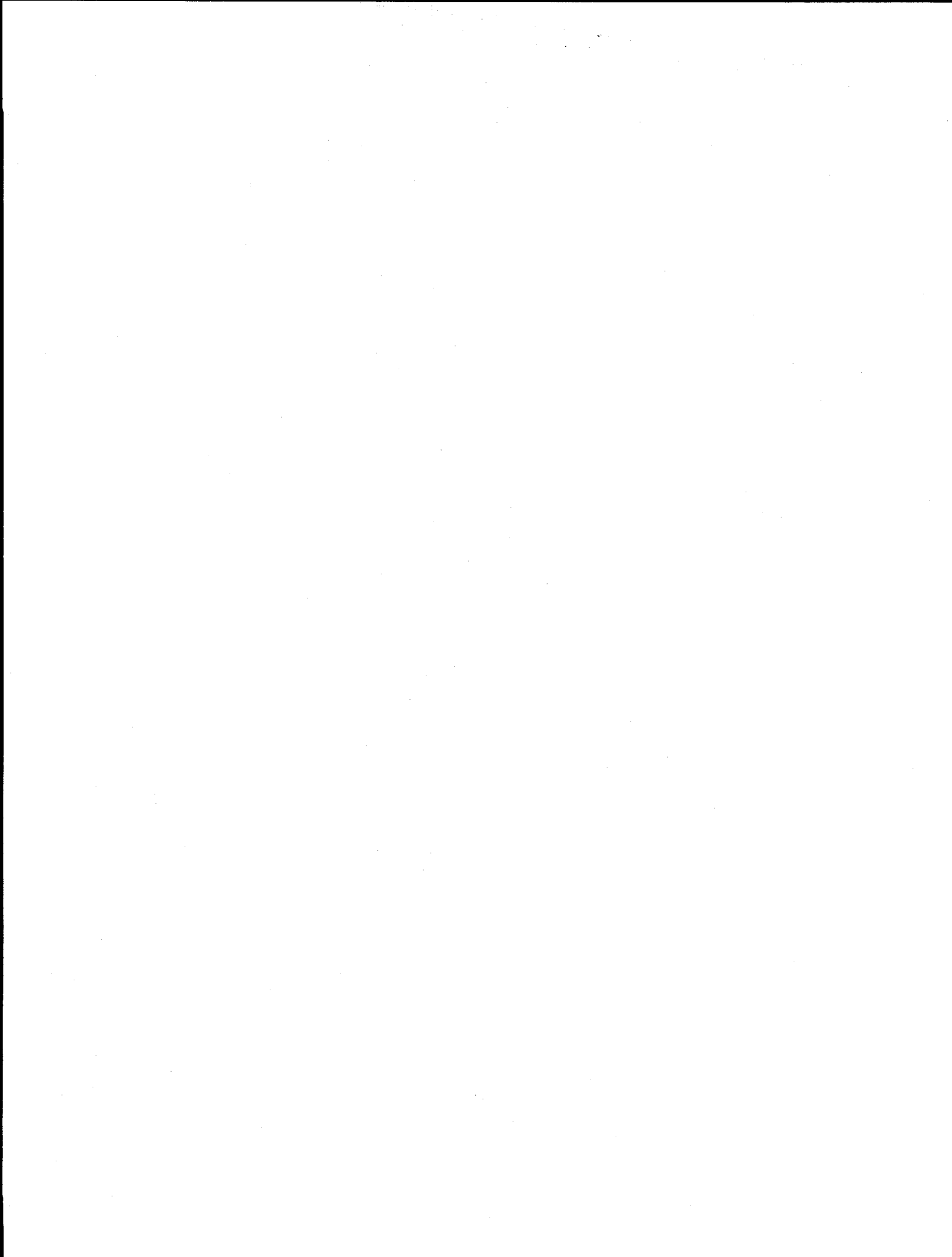
The current situation has implications for possible reduction scenarios. There have been various proposals for addressing greenhouse gas emissions in a global context. To date they focus on the industrialized world. Figure 2 presents total projected emissions worldwide for four scenarios: (1) business as usual; (2) 1990 stabilization by 2010; (3) the European proposal of 15 percent below 1990 levels by 2010 (assumed for purposes of this analysis to be adopted by all industrialized countries); and (4) the Alliance of Small Island States proposal of 20 percent below 1990 levels by 2005. All assume stabilization after the target year. None of the scenarios involves limits on emissions from developing countries. Without such limits for the developing world, even in the most aggressive scenario—in which the industrialized world would reduce its emissions by about 2 billion metric tons below the business as usual projection—the total amount of carbon emitted annually into the atmosphere in 2015 would still be about 2 billion metric tons higher than it was in 1990.

Figure 2. World Carbon Emissions in Four Scenarios, 1990-2015



Source: Energy Information Administration, Office of Integrated Analysis and Forecasting.

²³Energy Information Administration, *International Energy Outlook 1997*, DOE/EIA-0484(97) (Washington, DC, April 1997). See also web site www.eia.doe.gov/oiaf/ieo97/front.html.



2. Carbon Dioxide Emissions

Overview

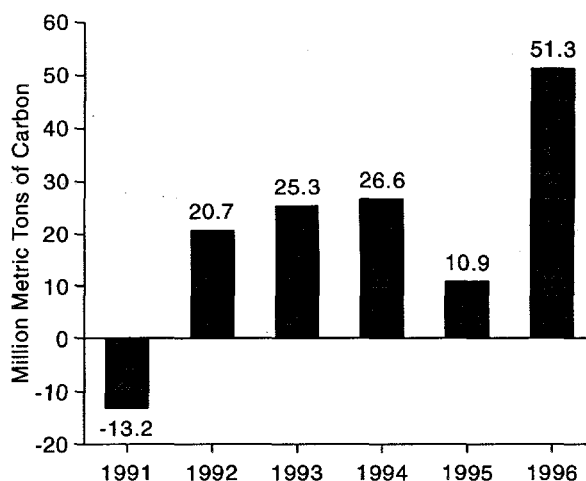
U.S. Anthropogenic Carbon Dioxide Emissions, 1990-1996

	Carbon Dioxide	Carbon Equivalent
Estimated 1996 Emissions (Million Metric Tons)	5,484.9	1,495.9
Change Compared to 1995 (Million Metric Tons)	188.0	51.3
Change from 1995 (Percent)	3.5	3.5
Change Compared to 1990 (Million Metric Tons)	447.8	122.1
Change from 1990 (Percent)	8.9	8.9

U.S. carbon dioxide emissions are caused largely by the combustion of coal, natural gas, and petroleum.²⁴ A fraction (less than 2 percent) comes from other sources, including the manufacture of cement and lime. Total estimated emissions increased by 3.5 percent (51.3 million metric tons) from 1995 values of about 1,445 million metric tons of carbon to about 1,496 million metric tons of carbon in 1996 (Table 5).²⁵ Compared to 1990 emissions levels, the increase is about 122 million metric tons or almost 9 percent;²⁶ 1996 marked the fifth consecutive year showing an annual increase in U.S. carbon emissions, and the 1995-1996 annual increase was greater than for any year since 1990 (Figure 3).

Three factors contributed to the 1995-1996 growth in U.S. carbon emissions: (1) the economy grew at a fairly robust rate of 2.4 percent; (2) total energy consumption

Figure 3. Annual Change in U.S. Carbon Dioxide Emissions, 1990-1996



Source: Estimates presented in this chapter.

grew by 3.2 percent; and (3) the largest growth in the energy sector was in coal consumption, which was up by almost 5 percent. Thus, not only did energy use increase, so also did its average carbon content, reversing a trend prevalent in most of the 1990s, when the growth in energy consumption and emissions lagged behind trends in the economy (Figure 4).

In 1996, weather-related factors contributed significantly to increased energy use and relatively greater reliance on coal. Increased heating requirements, especially in the Midwest, spurred higher demand for both natural gas and electricity. The rise in natural gas demand for heating drove gas prices up by more than 30 percent during the winter months of the last quarter of 1996 and caused power generators to switch from natural gas to coal for their fuel requirements.²⁷ From an emissions standpoint, these developments more than offset the benefits of increased hydropower production associated with above-normal precipitation in the West.

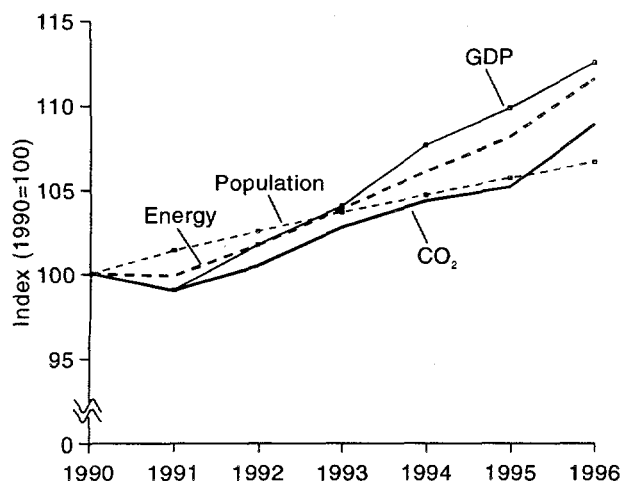
²⁴For a detailed discussion of emissions sources and the approach taken for estimation, see Appendixes A and B.

²⁵Following common practice in the scientific community, this report presents estimates of carbon dioxide emissions in units of carbon. If desired, carbon units can be converted to carbon dioxide at full molecular weight by multiplying tons of carbon by 3.667.

²⁶Estimates of carbon dioxide emissions are much less uncertain than the estimates of emissions of other greenhouse gases. Estimates of underlying fuel consumption data are believed to be reliable within plus or minus 3 to 5 percent (see discussion in Appendix C).

²⁷Fuel switching was achieved through dispatch decisions among various generation facilities and through power purchases.

Figure 4. Indices of U.S. Gross Domestic Product, Population, Energy Consumption, and Carbon Dioxide Emissions, 1990-1996



Sources: Carbon dioxide emissions are EIA estimates documented in this report. Energy consumption, gross domestic product (constant dollars), and population are reported in Energy Information Administration, *Annual Energy Review* 1996, DOE/EIA-0384(96) (Washington, DC, July 1997), pp. 5, 13, and 367.

Energy Consumption

Energy End-Use Sector Sources of Carbon Dioxide Emissions, 1990-1996

Sector	Million Metric Tons Carbon		Percent Change	
	1990	1996	1990-1996	1995-1996
Transportation	432.1	469.0	8.6	2.3
Industrial	453.8	476.9	5.1	2.6
Commercial	206.8	230.3	11.4	5.5
Residential	253.1	286.8	13.3	6.3

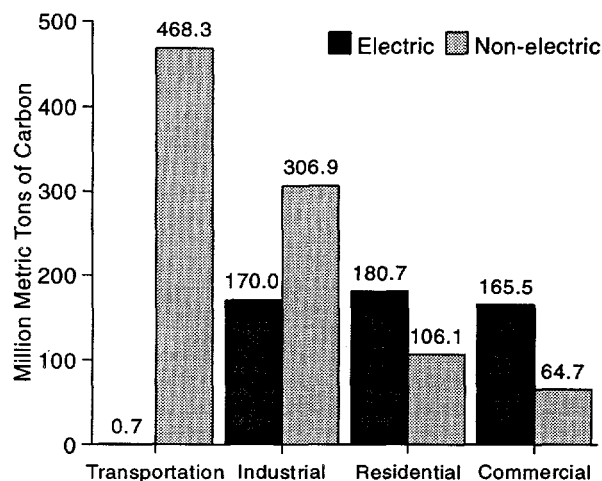
Note: Electric utility emissions are distributed across sectors.

Sectoral Analysis and Trends

EIA energy statistics partition total energy consumption into four end-use sectors: industrial, transportation, residential, and commercial. For all the sectors except

transportation, a substantial portion of the energy used is consumed as electricity. In the future most of the growth in energy consumption is expected to be in the transportation sector and in the use of electricity. In this report, emissions for each sector are defined as the sum of emissions resulting from the direct burning of fuels plus emissions associated with the production of electric power used in the sector. This approach makes sectoral analysis more meaningful and helps to reveal the full value of electricity conservation. Not only is delivered energy saved but also the substantial amount of energy (and associated emissions) taken as "losses" in electric power generation. About two-thirds of the carbon dioxide emissions in the residential and commercial sectors are derived from electricity (Figure 5).

Figure 5. Carbon Dioxide Emissions from Electric and Non-electric Sources by Energy End-Use Sector, 1996



Source: Estimates presented in this chapter.

Industrial

Industrial primary energy consumption exceeded 32 quadrillion Btu in 1996, up 0.7 quadrillion Btu from 1995.²⁸ Over the past decade, the industrial sector has accounted for one-half of all U.S. energy consumption growth. About one-third of end-use carbon dioxide emissions are accounted for by the industrial sector (Table 6), which comprises manufacturing industries, the largest part of the sector, along with mining, construction, agriculture, fisheries, and forestry. Energy consumption is dominated by the need for heat and power; however, a large share of industrial energy use involves consumption of raw materials for petrochemical feedstocks. Natural gas and electricity consumption each account for about one-third of the

²⁸Energy Information Administration, *Monthly Energy Review*, DOE/EIA-0384(97/7) (Washington, DC, July 1997), p. 25.

energy consumed in this sector (with losses in electricity generation included).

Although some carbon in the "nonfuel" use of energy is sequestered (Table 7), emissions amounted to about 477 million metric tons of carbon in 1996, up by more than 2 percent from the previous year (Table 8). Energy efficiency improvements, combined with low growth in energy-intensive industries, have moderated trends in carbon dioxide emissions while total industrial output has expanded. Between 1990 and 1996, emissions for this sector increased by 23 million metric tons of carbon, or more than 5 percent.

Transportation

Fuel use for transportation exceeded 24 quadrillion Btu in 1996, and gasoline consumption exceeded 7.8 million barrels per day.²⁹ More than two-thirds of U.S. oil consumption is for transportation, which accounts for about one-third of U.S. carbon dioxide emissions. Growth in this sector is more rapid than in the other end-use sectors. Low fuel prices, low stock turnover of existing older vehicles, and stable average fuel efficiency in vehicles all contribute to expanding energy consumption. In addition, of the newer vehicles being purchased, a higher proportion of them are sports utility vehicles or light trucks. Thus, even though fuel economy may be stable by category, the shift to less fuel-efficient vehicles means a higher growth rate in consumption.

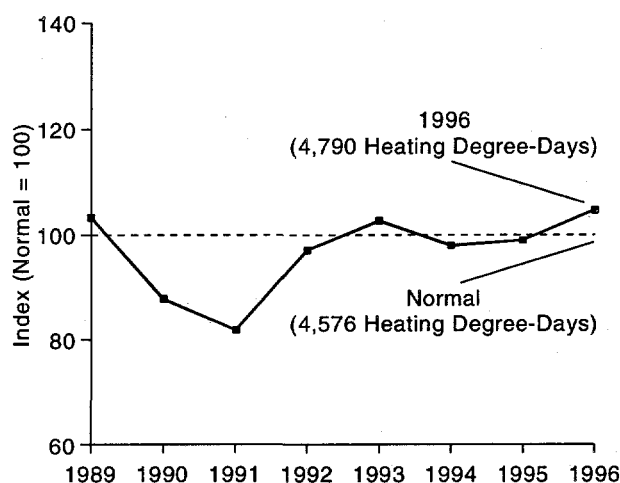
Motor gasoline accounts for nearly two-thirds of transportation sector energy consumption. Together with emissions from distillate, residual, and jet fuels, total emissions were about 469 million metric tons of carbon for the transportation sector in 1996 (Table 9). Transportation sector emissions have accounted for more than 35 million metric tons, or more than 29 percent, of the national increase in emissions from the end-use sectors since 1990 (Table 6), and transportation could shortly overtake the industrial sector as the largest source of emissions.³⁰

Residential and Commercial

In 1996 energy consumption in the residential and commercial sectors combined totaled 33 quadrillion Btu, up 1.5 quadrillion Btu from 1995. Increased use of natural gas and electricity accounted for most of the change in energy use. Electricity supplies two-thirds of the energy used in these sectors.

Of the 19 quadrillion Btu of energy consumed in the residential sector in 1996, nearly half was used for heating and cooling. Carbon dioxide emissions from this sector accounted for less than one-fifth of U.S. emissions (Table 6). Most of the emissions from the residential sector are associated with the use of natural gas and electricity for space heating and air conditioning and thus are subject to the vagaries of the weather. In 1996 residential emissions jumped by more than 6 percent, as severe weather (Figure 6) increased the consumption of distillate fuels and natural gas. In the 6 years since 1990, residential emissions have accounted for 34 million metric tons, or about 28 percent, of the increase in carbon dioxide emissions from all end-use sectors (Table 10).

Figure 6. Index of Heating Degree-Days in the United States, 1989-1996



Notes: Data exclude Alaska and Hawaii. Degree-days are relative measurements of outdoor air temperature. Heating degree-days are deviations from the mean daily temperature below 65 degrees Fahrenheit.

Source: Energy Information Administration, *Annual Energy Review 1996*, DOE/EIA-0384(96) (Washington, DC, July 1997, p. 23).

Energy consumption in the commercial sector was about 14 quadrillion Btu in 1996. Electricity use accounted for more than one-half of that amount, with lighting the largest single use. The commercial sector contributes the smallest share of carbon dioxide emissions among the end-use sectors, making up about 15 percent of the total. Since this sector includes all business establishments that are not engaged in transportation or in manufacturing or other industrial activity

²⁹Energy Information Administration, *Monthly Energy Review*, DOE/EIA-0384(97/7) (Washington, DC, July 1997), pp. 25 and 57.

³⁰Energy Information Administration, *Annual Energy Outlook 1997*, DOE/EIA-0383(97) (Washington, DC, December 1996). See web site www.eia.doe.gov/oiaf/aeo97/homepage.html.

(agriculture, mining, or construction), most of the energy consumed is electricity and natural gas. Commercial sector carbon dioxide emissions increased by almost 17 million metric tons, or 5.5 percent, to 230 million metric tons in 1996 from 218 million metric tons in 1995 (Table 11). Between 1990 and 1996, the commercial sector accounted for 24 million tons, or about 19 percent of the total increase in U.S. carbon dioxide emissions.

Electric Utilities

Electric Utility Carbon Dioxide Emissions by Fuel Input, 1990 and 1995

Fuel	Million Metric Tons Carbon		Percent Change	
	1990	1996	1990-1996	1995-1996
Petroleum	26.8	15.5	-41.9	12.4
Natural Gas	41.2	40.3	-2.1	-14.5
Coal	409.0	460.9	12.7	6.5
Geothermal	0.1	*	-39.0	10.3
Total	477.0	516.8	8.3	4.7

*Less than 0.05 million metric tons.

Although end users create the demand for electricity, electricity producers (primarily electric utilities) make decisions about how to meet that demand, based on fuel prices and capacity availability. In 1996 consumption of electric power increased by 2.4 percent, but utility carbon emissions increased by about 4.7 percent (Table 12) because coal-fired generation met a disproportionately large share of the increased demand for electricity.

Although utility efforts to improve efficiency in production and to implement demand-side management programs have kept emissions lower than they otherwise would have been,³¹ emissions from the burning of fossil fuels to meet end-use demand between 1990 and 1996 accounted for an increase of 40 million metric tons of carbon. Coal, which in recent years has fueled about one-half of all U.S. electric power generation, produces more carbon emissions per kilowatthour of electricity generated than do the other fossil fuels. The existence of underutilized coal-fired capacity in the United States

may be contributing to the current increase in coal use. In the future, however, expansion of natural-gas-fired generation could slow further growth in emissions.

Industrial Sources

U.S. Carbon Dioxide Emissions from Industrial Sources, 1990-1996

Estimated 1996 Emissions (Million Metric Tons Carbon)	22.1
Change Compared to 1995 (Million Metric Tons Carbon)	0.1
Change from 1995 (Percent)	0.3
Change Compared to 1990 (Million Metric Tons Carbon)	3.3
Change from 1990 (Percent)	17.6

Recent Trends

Emissions from industrial sources (other than energy consumption) account for only about 1.5 percent of total U.S. carbon dioxide emissions. These emissions depend largely on the level of activity in the construction industries and production at oil and gas wells. The remaining, relatively minor sources are limestone and dolomite consumption, soda ash manufacture and consumption, carbon dioxide manufacture, and aluminum production. Emissions from these sources have remained in the range of 16 to 19 million metric tons per year since 1990.

Energy Production

When an oil field is developed for petroleum extraction, any natural gas associated with that field may be flared if its use is not economically justifiable. This is typically the case with a remote site or when the gas is of poor quality or minimal volume. In the United States, the total amount of natural gas vented or flared has increased in recent years, from about 150 billion cubic feet in 1990 to 284 billion cubic feet in 1995; however, it is estimated that the amount may have dropped to 263 billion cubic feet in 1996. The portion flared caused 3.4 million metric tons of carbon emissions in 1996 (Table 13).

³¹As reported to the EIA, electric utilities save about 1 to 2 percent of energy demand through demand-side management programs. See Energy Information Administration, *U.S. Electric Utility Demand Side Management 1994*, DOE/EIA-0589(94) (Washington, DC, December 1995).

Industrial Processes

Industrial processes account for about 17 to 19 million metric tons of carbon emissions per year (Table 14). Since 1990, emissions from industrial processes have increased, with increases in emissions from cement manufacture and limestone consumption partially offset by a decrease in emissions from aluminum manufacture. More than one-half of the emissions from industrial process are from cement manufacture. When calcium carbonate is heated (calcined) in a kiln, it is converted to lime and carbon dioxide. The lime is combined with other materials to produce clinker (an intermediate product from which cement is made), and the carbon dioxide is released to the atmosphere. In 1996, the United States manufactured an estimated 79 million metric tons of cement, resulting in emissions of about 10 million metric tons of carbon.

There are numerous other industrial processes in which carbonate minerals are used in ways that release carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, including the use of limestone in flue gas desulfurization and the manufacture and some uses of soda ash. Approximately 5 million metric tons of carbon per year are emitted from these sources. Carbon dioxide is also released during aluminum smelting, when carbon anodes (with the carbon ultimately derived from nonfuel use of fossil fuels) are vaporized in the presence of aluminum oxide.

Adjustments to Energy Consumption

Under the Framework Convention, parties to the agreement committed to providing information on emissions trends, using methods that would facilitate international comparison of emissions estimates. To support such comparisons, a generalized reporting format was adopted. The format differs slightly from that used in the preparation of U.S. national energy statistics, primarily with respect to the definition of "consumption" and the treatment of energy consumption in U.S. territories and consumption of bunker fuels for international transport.

EIA's energy data for the United States cover the 50 States and the District of Columbia but not the U.S.

territories. Bunker fuels (fuel consumed by ships and aircraft fueled in the United States and engaged in international trade) are subsumed in EIA's transportation sector energy consumption data. By contrast, energy data used by the International Energy Agency for the United States include U.S. territories and exclude bunker fuels. Finally, the generalized format uses a "top-down" approach to estimate "apparent energy consumption" from data on energy production and trade. For most countries around the world, this is the best approach, because energy consumption is not always accurately reported. For the United States, however, the EIA provides information (used for estimates in this report) on consumption by end-use sector and fuel type for a wide array of petroleum products, coal, and natural gas.

Collectively, these differences in treatment can produce variations of several percentage points in reported energy consumption and, hence, in the estimates of carbon emissions. The methodology for calculating U.S. territories' emissions and other adjustments is described in Appendix A.

U.S. Territories

In this report, carbon dioxide emissions for the U.S. territories (Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, Micronesia, and Wake Island) are included as an adjustment. Their combined energy consumption is only about 0.5 quadrillion Btu and is concentrated on petroleum products; only Puerto Rico uses coal. Together, they are estimated to have emitted almost 11 million metric tons of carbon in 1996 (Table 15). Emissions from Puerto Rico's cement production are also included in this total.

Bunker Fuels

In this report, emissions from bunker fuels are subsumed in the estimates of carbon emissions from energy consumption.³² These emissions are also shown separately in Table 15. The estimate is based on purchases of fuel by ocean-going ships in U.S. ports and by international air carriers in U.S. airports. In 1996 bunker fuel emissions amounted to about 22 million metric tons of carbon.

³²"Bunker fuels" comprise fuel consumed by ships and aircraft traveling internationally. In trade and national accounts statistics, bunker fuels are treated as exports rather than domestic consumption.

Carbon Dioxide Emissions

Table 5. U.S. Carbon Dioxide Emissions from Energy and Industry, 1989-1996
(Million Metric Tons of Carbon)

Fuel Type or Process	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	P1996
Energy Consumption								
Petroleum	606.6	591.1	576.8	587.1	590.4	603.5	599.5	620.8
Coal	479.7	481.4	475.7	478.1	494.4	495.6	498.2	523.7
Natural Gas	274.6	273.2	278.1	286.3	296.1	302.2	313.6	318.4
Geothermal	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	*	*	*
Total Energy Consumption ..	1,360.9	1,345.8	1,330.6	1,351.5	1,380.9	1,401.3	1,411.4	1,463.0
Adjustments to U.S. Energy								
U.S. Territories	9.2	9.1	10.7	9.6	10.6	11.4	11.2	10.8
Total Adjustments	9.2	9.1	10.7	9.6	10.6	11.4	11.2	10.8
Other Sources								
Cement Production	8.9	8.9	8.7	8.8	9.3	9.8	9.9	10.1
Other Industrial	8.1	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.5	8.7
Gas Flaring	1.7	1.8	2.1	2.1	2.9	2.9	3.7	3.4
Total Other Sources	18.6	18.8	18.8	18.9	20.1	20.8	22.1	22.1
Total	1,388.7	1,373.7	1,360.2	1,379.9	1,411.6	1,433.5	1,444.6	1,495.9

*Less than 0.05 million metric tons.

P = preliminary data.

Notes: Data in this table are revised from the data contained in the previous EIA report, *Emissions of Greenhouse Gases in the United States 1995*, DOE/EIA-0573(95) (Washington, DC, October 1996). Emissions coefficients are annualized for coal, motor gasoline, liquefied petroleum gases, jet fuel, and crude oil. Includes emissions from bunker fuels. Totals may not equal sum of components due to independent rounding.

Source: EIA estimates documented in this chapter and in Appendix A.

Table 6. U.S. Carbon Dioxide Emissions from Fossil Energy Consumption by End-Use Sector, 1989-1996
(Million Metric Tons of Carbon)

End Use	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	P1996
Energy Consumption								
Residential	267.6	253.1	257.2	255.9	271.6	268.3	269.7	286.8
Commercial	210.1	206.8	206.5	205.5	212.0	213.8	218.3	230.3
Industrial	450.4	453.8	442.4	458.8	458.2	467.0	464.9	476.9
Transportation	432.7	432.1	424.5	431.4	439.1	452.2	458.5	469.0
Total Energy	1,360.9	1,345.8	1,330.6	1,351.5	1,380.9	1,401.3	1,411.4	1,463.0
Electric Utility ^a	484.0	477.0	473.7	472.9	490.3	494.0	493.7	516.8

^aEstimates of additional carbon dioxide emissions from the use of flue gas desulfurization are included in Table 14.

P = preliminary data.

Notes: Includes energy from petroleum, coal, and natural gas. Electric utility emissions are distributed across consumption sectors. Data in this table are revised from the data contained in the previous EIA report, *Emissions of Greenhouse Gases in the United States 1995*, DOE/EIA-0573(95) (Washington, DC, October 1996). Totals may not equal sum of components due to independent rounding.

Source: EIA estimates documented in this chapter and in Appendix A.

Table 7. U.S. Carbon Sequestered by Nonfuel Use of Energy, 1989-1996
(Million Metric Tons of Carbon)

End Use	1989	1990	1991 [*]	1992	1993	1994	1995	P1996
Industrial								
Petroleum								
Liquefied Petroleum Gases	16.0	16.2	18.6	18.7	18.2	20.9	21.4	22.9
Distillate Fuel	0.3	0.4	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Residual Fuel	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Asphalt and Road Oil	22.6	24.1	22.2	22.7	23.7	24.2	24.3	24.2
Lubricants	1.8	1.9	1.7	1.7	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.7
Other	16.7	18.5	18.6	19.6	18.6	19.5	19.0	19.4
Pentanes Plus	1.1	1.2	0.7	0.9	4.0	3.8	4.4	4.7
Petrochemical Feed	11.1	12.6	12.6	13.4	13.6	14.1	13.6	13.7
Petroleum Coke	1.9	2.6	2.2	3.4	2.3	2.5	2.7	2.9
Waxes and Miscellaneous	3.7	3.4	3.7	2.7	2.7	2.9	2.7	2.7
Coal	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.8	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.5
Natural Gas	4.4	4.1	3.9	3.5	4.0	5.0	5.1	5.4
Transportation								
Lubricants	1.7	1.8	1.6	1.6	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.6
Total	64.1	67.5	67.6	69.2	69.0	74.2	74.5	76.4

P = preliminary data.

Note: Data in this table are revised from the data contained in the previous EIA report, *Emissions of Greenhouse Gases in the United States 1995*, DOE/EIA-0573(95) (Washington, DC, October 1996).

Source: EIA estimates documented in this chapter and in Appendix A.

Table 8. U.S. Carbon Dioxide Emissions from Energy Use in the Industrial Sector, 1985-1996
(Million Metric Tons of Carbon)

Fuel	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	P1996
Petroleum												
Motor Gasoline	4.2	4.0	3.9	3.7	3.8	3.5	3.7	3.7	3.5	3.7	3.8	3.8
LPG	16.7	14.6	14.6	15.0	13.6	12.0	12.1	12.7	12.1	12.9	12.6	13.1
Distillate Fuel	23.0	23.2	23.6	23.9	22.3	22.9	21.9	22.1	21.2	21.4	21.6	22.6
Residual Fuel	15.6	15.5	12.3	11.5	8.7	8.8	7.1	8.2	9.5	9.0	7.8	7.9
Lubricants	1.7	1.6	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.9	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.8	1.8	1.7
Kerosene	0.9	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4
Other	39.1	42.3	44.3	48.4	48.0	51.4	48.4	55.3	49.5	52.1	49.4	55.3
Total	101.2	101.7	101.1	104.8	98.9	100.8	95.1	103.9	97.8	101.3	97.4	104.8
Coal	67.8	64.7	66.1	71.1	69.4	68.4	64.8	62.5	62.1	62.6	61.4	59.3
Natural Gas	98.9	93.1	101.8	106.9	112.8	118.3	120.2	125.9	130.8	133.4	139.5	142.8
Electricity	158.3	152.9	158.4	165.7	169.3	166.3	162.3	166.5	167.4	169.7	165.9	170.0
Total	426.1	412.5	427.3	448.6	450.4	453.8	442.4	458.8	458.2	467.0	464.9	476.9

P = preliminary data.

Notes: Data in this table are revised from the data contained in the previous EIA report, *Emissions of Greenhouse Gases in the United States 1995*, DOE/EIA-0573(95) (Washington, DC, October 1996). Totals may not equal sum of components due to independent rounding.

Source: Energy Information Administration estimates, based on energy data from *State Energy Data Report 1994*, DOE/EIA-0214(94) (Washington, DC, October 1996); *Monthly Energy Review*, DOE/EIA-0535(97/07) (Washington, DC, July 1997); and emissions coefficients shown in Table B1 of this report.

Carbon Dioxide Emissions

Table 9. U.S. Carbon Dioxide Emissions from Energy Use in the Transportation Sector, 1985-1996
(Million Metric Tons of Carbon)

Fuel	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	P1996
Petroleum												
Motor Gasoline	245.1	252.8	259.0	264.9	264.2	260.9	259.5	263.4	271.7	276.4	282.2	286.7
LPG	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.6	0.6	0.6
Jet Fuel	48.0	51.6	54.6	57.3	58.8	60.1	58.1	57.6	58.1	60.4	60.0	62.7
Distillate Fuel	63.3	65.3	66.9	72.9	75.8	75.7	72.6	75.3	77.3	82.5	83.8	88.2
Residual Fuel	16.7	18.5	19.2	19.6	20.8	21.9	22.0	23.0	19.4	19.1	18.5	17.3
Lubricants	1.6	1.5	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.8	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.7	1.7	1.6
Aviation Gas	0.9	1.1	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7
Total	376.1	391.2	402.7	417.6	422.6	421.6	414.9	421.9	429.2	441.3	447.5	457.9
Natural Gas	7.5	7.2	7.7	9.1	9.4	9.8	8.9	8.8	9.3	10.2	10.4	10.5
Electricity	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.7
Total	384.4	399.1	411.1	427.5	432.7	432.1	424.5	431.4	439.1	452.2	458.5	469.0

P = preliminary data.

Notes: Data in this table are revised from the data contained in the previous EIA report, *Emissions of Greenhouse Gases in the United States 1995*, DOE/EIA-0573(95) (Washington, DC, October 1996). Totals may not equal sum of components due to independent rounding.

Source: Energy Information Administration estimates, based on energy data from *State Energy Data Report 1994*, DOE/EIA-0214(94) (Washington, DC, October 1996); *Monthly Energy Review*, DOE/EIA-0535(97/07) (Washington, DC, July 1997); and emissions coefficients shown in Table B1 of this report.

Table 10. U.S. Carbon Dioxide Emissions from Energy Use in the Residential Sector, 1985-1996
(Million Metric Tons of Carbon)

Fuel	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	P1996
Petroleum												
LPG	5.6	5.5	6.2	6.1	6.9	6.2	6.7	6.5	6.8	6.8	6.8	7.2
Distillate Fuel	19.7	20.0	20.3	21.0	20.6	16.5	16.4	17.1	18.0	17.4	17.6	18.5
Kerosene	3.0	2.3	2.2	2.7	2.2	1.2	1.4	1.2	1.4	1.2	1.3	1.5
Total	28.3	27.8	28.7	29.8	29.6	24.0	24.4	24.8	26.3	25.4	25.8	27.3
Coal	1.8	1.8	1.7	1.7	1.5	1.6	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.4
Natural Gas	65.7	63.8	63.9	68.5	70.9	65.1	67.5	69.4	73.4	71.7	71.7	77.4
Electricity	150.2	150.8	156.9	165.0	165.6	162.5	163.9	160.2	170.5	169.8	170.8	180.8
Total	246.0	244.2	251.2	265.0	267.6	253.1	257.2	255.9	271.6	268.3	269.7	286.8

P = preliminary data.

Notes: Data in this table are revised from the data contained in the previous EIA report, *Emissions of Greenhouse Gases in the United States 1995*, DOE/EIA-0573(95) (Washington, DC, October 1996). Totals may not equal sum of components due to independent rounding.

Source: Energy Information Administration estimates, based on energy data from *State Energy Data Report 1994*, DOE/EIA-0214(94) (Washington, DC, October 1996); *Monthly Energy Review*, DOE/EIA-0535(97/07) (Washington, DC, July 1997); and emissions coefficients shown in Table B1 of this report.

Table 11. U.S. Carbon Dioxide Emissions from Energy Use in the Commercial Sector, 1985-1996
(Million Metric Tons of Carbon)

Fuel	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	P1996
Petroleum												
Motor Gasoline	1.8	2.0	2.1	2.1	2.0	2.1	1.6	1.5	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5
LPG	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.3
Distillate Fuel	12.3	11.8	11.7	11.3	10.6	9.6	9.5	9.2	9.2	9.2	9.3	9.8
Residual Fuel	4.8	6.2	5.6	5.6	4.9	5.0	4.5	4.1	3.7	3.7	3.6	3.3
Kerosene	0.6	1.0	0.9	0.5	0.5	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.5
Total	20.7	21.9	21.5	20.6	19.2	18.0	17.1	16.1	14.9	14.9	15.0	15.3
Coal	2.7	2.7	2.6	2.6	2.3	2.4	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.1	2.1	2.1
Natural Gas	36.0	34.3	36.0	39.5	40.3	38.8	40.4	41.5	43.1	42.9	44.8	47.4
Electricity	130.4	131.7	137.5	145.1	148.4	147.5	146.8	145.6	151.8	153.9	151.6	165.5
Total	189.9	190.7	197.4	207.8	210.1	206.8	206.5	205.5	212.0	213.8	213.5	230.3

P = preliminary data.

Notes: Data in this table are revised from the data contained in the previous EIA report, *Emissions of Greenhouse Gases in the United States 1995*, DOE/EIA-0573(95) (Washington, DC, October 1996). Totals may not equal sum of components due to independent rounding.

Source: Energy Information Administration estimates, based on energy data from *State Energy Data Report 1994*, DOE/EIA-0214(94) (Washington, DC, October 1996); *Monthly Energy Review*, DOE/EIA-0535(97/07) (Washington, DC, July 1997); and emissions coefficients shown in Table B1 of this report.

Table 12. U.S. Carbon Dioxide Emissions from Electric Utilities, 1985-1996
(Million Metric Tons of Carbon)

Fuel	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	P1996
Petroleum	23.8	31.5	27.4	33.8	36.2	26.8	25.2	20.3	22.2	20.5	13.8	15.5
Heavy Fuel Oil	21.2	28.9	24.6	30.7	32.4	24.2	22.9	18.2	20.0	18.0	11.6	12.9
Light Fuel Oil	1.7	1.6	1.8	2.2	2.9	1.7	1.6	1.3	1.5	1.9	1.8	2.2
Petroleum Coke	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.4	0.5
Coal	370.3	365.9	383.7	403.7	406.5	409.0	407.3	411.9	428.6	429.4	432.7	460.9
Natural Gas	45.5	38.7	42.2	39.0	41.2	41.2	41.1	40.7	39.5	44.0	47.2	40.3
Geothermal	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total	439.6	436.2	453.4	476.6	484.0	477.0	473.7	472.9	490.3	494.0	493.7	516.8

*Less than 0.05 million metric tons.

P = preliminary data.

Notes: Electric utilities include Independent Power Producers but exclude cogeneration facilities. Data in this table are revised from the data contained in the previous EIA report, *Emissions of Greenhouse Gases in the United States 1995*, DOE/EIA-0573(95) (Washington, DC, October 1996). Totals may not equal sum of components due to independent rounding.

Source: Energy Information Administration estimates, based on energy data from *State Energy Data Report 1994*, DOE/EIA-0214(94) (Washington, DC, October 1996); *Monthly Energy Review*, DOE/EIA-0535(97/07) (Washington, DC, July 1997); and emissions coefficients shown in Table B1 of this report.

Table 13. U.S. Carbon Dioxide Emissions from Gas Flaring, 1989-1996

Item	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	P1996
Basic Data								
Total Natural Gas Vented and Flared (Billion Cubic Feet)	101.56	111.08	127.64	124.23	175.92	176.83	225.49	203.33
Btu Content of Flare Gas (Btu per Cubic Foot)	1,107	1,105	1,108	1,110	1,106	1,106	1,106	1,106
Carbon Emissions from Flaring								
(Million Metric Tons)	1.68	1.83	2.11	2.06	2.90	2.92	3.72	3.36

P = preliminary data.

Note: Data in this table are revised from the data contained in the previous EIA report, *Emissions of Greenhouse Gases in the United States 1995*, DOE/EIA-0573(95) (Washington, DC, October 1996).

Sources: Energy Information Administration, *Natural Gas Annual*, DOE/EIA-0131 (Washington, DC, 1989-1995), and *Natural Gas Monthly*, DOE/EIA-0130(97/05) (Washington, DC, May 1997); and U.S. Department of Energy, *An Evaluation of the Relationship Between the Production and Use of Energy and Atmospheric Methane Emissions*, DOE/NBB-0088P (Washington, DC, April 1990).

Table 14. U.S. Carbon Dioxide Emissions from Industrial Sources, 1989-1996
(Million Metric Tons of Carbon)

Source	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	P1996
Cement Manufacture								
Clinker Production	8.84	8.90	8.66	8.75	9.25	9.82	9.85	10.06
Masonry Cement	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02
Total	8.86	8.91	8.68	8.77	9.27	9.84	9.87	10.09
Other Industrial								
Limestone Consumption								
Lime Manufacture	3.33	3.39	3.36	3.47	3.63	3.70	3.96	4.09
Iron Smelting	0.64	0.56	0.52	0.45	0.44	0.45	0.45	0.42
Steelmaking	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.05	0.05
Glass Manufacture	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.04	0.05	0.06	0.07	0.07
Flue Gas Desulfurization	0.53	0.52	0.55	0.54	0.51	0.56	0.56	0.56
Total	4.56	4.54	4.50	4.54	4.67	4.82	5.09	5.20
Dolomite Consumption	0.08	0.09	0.10	0.08	0.07	0.08	0.06	0.07
Soda Ash Manufacture	0.93	0.92	0.92	0.94	0.91	0.92	1.04	1.03
Soda Ash Consumption								
Glass Manufacture	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Flue Gas Desulfurization	0.50	0.49	0.52	0.51	0.48	0.53	0.53	0.53
Sodium Silicate	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.06	0.06	0.07	0.06
Sodium Tripolyphosphate	0.04	0.04	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03
Total	0.59	0.58	0.61	0.59	0.58	0.62	0.63	0.63
Carbon Dioxide Manufacture	0.23	0.24	0.25	0.26	0.26	0.27	0.29	0.30
Aluminum Production	1.61	1.62	1.65	1.62	1.48	1.32	1.35	1.44
Shale Oil Production	0.04	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Other Industrial	8.05	8.04	8.03	8.03	7.97	8.03	8.45	8.65
Total	16.91	16.96	16.71	16.80	17.25	17.87	18.32	18.74

*Less than 0.005 million metric tons.

P = preliminary data.

Notes: Data in this table are revised from the data contained in the previous EIA report, *Emissions of Greenhouse Gases in the United States 1995*, DOE/EIA-0573(95) (Washington, DC, October 1996). Totals may not equal sum of components due to independent rounding.

Sources: Methodologies and sources of trend data documented in Appendix A.

Table 15. Carbon Emissions from U.S. Territories and International Bunkers, 1989-1996
(Million Metric Tons of Carbon)

Item	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	P1996
U.S. Territories	9.2	9.1	10.7	9.6	10.6	11.4	11.2	10.8
Bunker Fuels	22.1	21.9	23.1	24.4	22.0	21.5	22.7	22.0

P = preliminary data.

Note: Data in this table are revised from the data contained in the previous EIA report, *Emissions of Greenhouse Gases in the United States 1995*, DOE/EIA-0573(95) (Washington, DC, October 1996).

Source: Estimates documented in this chapter.

3. Methane Emissions

Overview

U.S. Anthropogenic Methane Emissions, 1990-1996

	Methane	Carbon Equivalent
Estimated 1996 Emissions (Million Metric Tons)	30.9	177.0
Change Compared to 1995 (Million Metric Tons)	*	-0.1
Change from 1995 (Percent)	-0.1	**
Change Compared to 1990 (Million Metric Tons)	-0.7	-4.0
Change from 1990 (Percent)	-3.3	-2.2

*Less than 0.05 million metric tons.

**Less than 0.05 percent.

Estimated U.S. anthropogenic methane emissions totaled 30.9 million metric tons in 1996, virtually unchanged from 1995 levels but well below the 31.6 million metric tons emitted in 1990 (Table 16). Methane emissions are dwarfed by carbon dioxide emissions when measured as tons of native gas emitted (a ratio of 1 ton of methane for every 175 tons of carbon dioxide). The overall effect of methane on global climate is substantial, however, because the capacity of methane to trap heat in the atmosphere is estimated to be 21 times greater than that of carbon dioxide. Methane accounts for 10 percent of U.S. anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions when weighted for global warming potential (see discussion in Chapter 1).

In comparison with estimates of carbon dioxide emissions, which are likely to be accurate to within 3 to 5 percent, estimates of methane emissions carry significant uncertainty (see Appendix C). Most carbon dioxide emissions are the result of fossil fuel combustion for energy production. For economic reasons, energy consumption in the United States is carefully accounted for, and thus emissions estimates can be derived in a fairly direct manner from well-documented data on fuel shipments. In contrast, methane emissions usually are accidental or incidental to biological processes and are not metered in any systematic way.³³ Thus, emissions are difficult to calculate, and estimates often require proxy measurements. For example, emissions from landfills are typically estimated by using models developed from a combination of methane recovery data and laboratory experiments on the methane yield of waste decomposition.

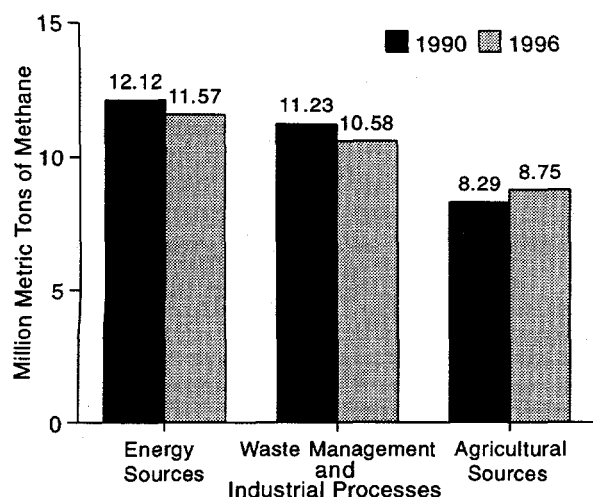
Major Sources of U.S. Methane Emissions, 1990-1996

Source	Million Metric Tons Methane		Percent Change	
	1990	1996	1990-1996	1995-1996
Energy	12.1	11.6	-4.1	3.8
Waste Management	11.1	10.4	-6.0	-1.5
Agriculture	8.3	8.8	5.6	-3.3
Industrial Processes	0.1	0.1	13.0	-0.1

There are three principal sources of U.S. methane emissions: energy production and consumption, waste management, and agriculture (Figure 7). Emissions

³³Wherever possible, estimates of methane emissions are based on measured data. In some cases, however, measured data are incomplete or unavailable. In the absence of measured data, emissions are calculated by multiplying some known activity data, such as coal production or natural gas throughput, by an emissions factor derived from a small sample of the relevant emissions source or through laboratory experiments. For a more detailed discussion of where measured data were used and how emissions factors were developed, see Appendix A. The absence of measured emissions data for most sources of methane emissions and the reliance on emissions factors constitute a significant source of uncertainty. For more specific information on the individual sources of uncertainty, see Appendix C.

Figure 7. U.S. Methane Emissions by Source, 1990 and 1996



Source: Estimates presented in this chapter.

from energy sources represent just under 38 percent of all methane emissions, having increased by 430,000 metric tons between 1995 and 1996, largely as the result of a rebound in natural gas vented at oil wells after a sharp 1-year drop in 1995. Emissions from waste management, which account for about one-third of the total, have declined steadily between 1990 and 1996 (Table 16) as the amount of waste reaching landfills has decreased and the volume of methane recovered has increased. All but a very small portion of the remaining emissions can be attributed to agricultural sources. More than 90 percent of emissions from agricultural sources result from animal husbandry, with about two-thirds of that share traced to enteric fermentation and one-third emitted from animal wastes. Between 1990 and 1994, emissions from animal sources grew steadily as animal populations and animal sizes increased. More recently, emissions from this source have begun to recede, with animal populations declining in response to market conditions.

Energy Sources

Methane emissions from energy sources in 1996 were estimated at 11.6 million metric tons, up from 11.1 million metric tons in 1995 yet nearly 500,000 metric tons below 1990 levels. The 1996 increase resulted from

a large rise in gas vented at oil wells during the year. This jump offsets a 1995 drop that appears to have been an isolated incident and thus does not reflect a fundamental change in the long-term emissions trend. Emissions from energy sources are likely to remain below 1990 levels due to a reduction in emissions from coal mines. Methane emissions from U.S. coal mines in 1996 were more than 15 percent below 1990 levels. Increased methane recovery and a decline in emissions from ventilation systems in the Nation's gassiest mines can be credited for this trend.

Oil and Gas Production, Processing, and Distribution

U.S. Methane Emissions from Oil and Gas Production, Processing, and Distribution, 1990-1996

Estimated 1996 Emissions (Million Metric Tons Methane)	6.8
Change Compared to 1995 (Million Metric Tons Methane)	0.5
Change from 1995 (Percent)	7.6
Change Compared to 1990 (Million Metric Tons Methane)	0.2
Change from 1990 (Percent)	3.2

As the demand for natural gas has increased during this decade, the volume of fugitive methane emissions from gas processing plants and gate stations has also increased. Similarly, as additional pipeline has been added to the distribution system, the opportunity for leaks has increased.³⁴ As a result, there have been slow, steady increases in methane emissions from the oil and natural gas system, accelerated by growth in the volume of associated gas vented from oil wells, to a level of 6.73 million metric tons in 1994 (Table 17). In 1995, a sharp decrease in vented gas, from 1 million metric tons to just 680,000 metric tons, led to a concomitant drop in overall emissions from the oil and gas system to 6.32 million metric tons.³⁵ The drop proved temporary as venting levels rebounded to more

³⁴New pipeline is almost always plastic and has a much lower emission rate than older cast iron pipe; however, additional miles of plastic pipe will result in some added emissions.

³⁵The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates that the companies participating in the Natural Gas STAR program have together avoided 205,000 metric tons of methane emissions in 1994, 293,000 metric tons in 1995, and 305,000 metric tons in 1996. Program participants report annually on emissions reductions achieved through such activities as equipment replacement, enhanced inspection and maintenance, and improved operations management. Participating companies may either use their own techniques to estimate reductions achieved or employ default values developed by the EPA and the Gas Research Institute.

than 1.14 million metric tons in 1996, raising overall emissions to 6.8 million metric tons and renewing the upward trend in emissions from this source.³⁶

Coal Mining

U.S. Methane Emissions from Coal Mining, 1990-1996

Estimated 1996 Emissions (Million Metric Tons Methane)	3.9
Change Compared to 1995 (Million Metric Tons Methane)	-0.1
Change from 1995 (Percent)	-1.3
Change Compared to 1990 (Million Metric Tons Methane)	-0.7
Change from 1990 (Percent)	-15.1

In 1996, U.S. methane emissions from coal mining declined slightly from 1995 levels, dropping by 50,000 metric tons to 3.93 million metric tons (Table 18). Emissions levels continue to be significantly below the 1990 estimate of 4.63 million metric tons. Increased methane recovery and reduced emissions from the ventilation systems of the Nation's gassiest mines are responsible for the reduced emissions levels.³⁷ A cursory examination of national coal production data for 1996 would suggest that this decline is remarkable. In 1996, a record 1.06 billion short tons of coal were produced, driven by a nearly 6-percent increase in coal consumption for electricity generation. Further, growth in production from underground mines matched that of surface mines at nearly 3 percent. Underground coal had lost market share to surface coal during the 1990s as a result of the sulfur restrictions in the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990. In 1996, however, increased productivity in underground mines and a drop in prices for sulfur allowances to as low as \$65.00 per ton once again made medium- and high-sulfur coal from Eastern underground mines competitive.

Despite record coal production in 1996, emissions from coal mines decreased slightly from 1995 levels. The decline can be attributed to a reduction of more than 100,000 metric tons in emissions from the ventilation systems of the Nation's gassiest mines—a result of

production consolidation, aggressive pre-mining degasification, and methane recovery for energy. More than two-thirds of the reduction in emissions from ventilation systems occurred at the mines of two companies: Jim Walters Resources, operating in the Warrior Basin in Alabama, and the CONSOL Coal Group mines in Buchanan, Virginia.

Stationary Combustion

U.S. Methane Emissions from Stationary Combustion, 1990-1996

Estimated 1996 Emissions (Million Metric Tons Methane)	0.59
Change Compared to 1995 (Million Metric Tons Methane)	*
Change from 1995 (Percent)	0.3
Change Compared to 1990 (Million Metric Tons Methane)	0.02
Change from 1990 (Percent)	3.4

*Less than 0.005 million metric tons.

U.S. methane emissions from stationary combustion rose modestly from 592,000 metric tons in 1995 to 594,000 metric tons in 1996 (Table 19). The 1996 total is about 19,000 metric tons above 1990 levels. Emissions levels for stationary combustion are driven by residential wood consumption, which typically represents about 90 percent of all emissions from stationary combustion. Methane emissions are the result of incomplete combustion. Residential woodstoves and fireplaces provide much less efficient combustion than industrial or utility boilers. Thus, while the residential sector consumes less than half the wood that the industrial sector consumes, emissions from wood consumption in the residential sector are 35 or more times those in the industrial sector.

Preliminary estimates of 1996 emissions from residential wood combustion indicate a small decrease of about 1,000 metric tons from 1995 levels. Yet, emissions from residential wood combustion remained 13,000 metric tons higher than in 1990, accounting for more than two-thirds of the increase in overall methane emissions from stationary combustion between 1990 and 1996. Coal and fuel oil consumption increased at electric utilities

³⁶For a detailed discussion of the uncertainty associated with these estimates, see Appendix C.

³⁷Gassy mines are defined as those underground coal mines with measured emissions from ventilation exhaust in excess of 100,000 cubic feet of methane per day in any one of seven survey years: 1980, 1985, 1988, 1990, 1993, 1994, or 1996.

during 1996 as power markets grew more competitive and natural gas prices rose. In the residential sector, natural gas consumption grew rapidly. These increases offset the small decline in emissions from residential wood consumption, leading to an increase of 2,000 metric tons in overall methane emissions from stationary combustion.

Estimates of residential wood combustion are highly uncertain.³⁸ The universe of wood consumers is large and heterogeneous, and wood for residential consumption usually comes from sources outside the documented economy. The Energy Information Administration (EIA) relies on its Residential Energy Consumption Survey (RECS) to estimate residential wood consumption. The survey includes only primary residences and thus systematically underestimates consumption by an estimated 5 percent.³⁹ More importantly, the last RECS was completed in 1993. Residential wood consumption since that time is estimated by scaling the 1993 number to heating degree days. Therefore, the estimate is driven by weather patterns, which are, of course, unpredictable from year to year.

Mobile Combustion

U.S. Methane Emissions from Mobile Combustion, 1990-1996

Estimated 1996 Emissions (Million Metric Tons Methane)	0.25
Change Compared to 1995 (Million Metric Tons Methane)	*
Change from 1995 (Percent)	-1.5
Change Compared to 1990 (Million Metric Tons Methane)	-0.02
Change from 1990 (Percent)	-8.9

*Less than 0.005 million metric tons.

Methane emissions from mobile combustion in 1996 were 249,000 metric tons, virtually unchanged from 1995 emissions, which were 7,000 metric tons above the 1994 level but more than 24,000 metric tons below the 1990 level (Table 20). Methane emissions from mobile sources declined slowly but steadily from 1980 through 1994, primarily because of a 58-percent decrease in emissions from passenger cars. Catalytic converters, used on U.S. automobiles to control emissions, have

grown more efficient in reducing methane emissions over time. Thus, as the U.S. fleet is replaced, the remaining automobiles have lower emissions profiles than their earlier counterparts. The last large leap in catalytic converter technology occurred around 1988, and the annual reductions attributable to fleet turnover are now diminishing. Since 1994, decreases in emissions from passenger cars have been more than offset by increases in emissions from the rapidly growing fleet of light-duty trucks and by a 4.5-percent increase in vehicle miles traveled. In 1996, vehicle miles traveled in the United States increased by about 2 percent, offsetting any marginal reductions in methane emissions attributable to fleet turnover.

Waste Management

Landfills

U.S. Methane Emissions from Landfills, 1990-1996

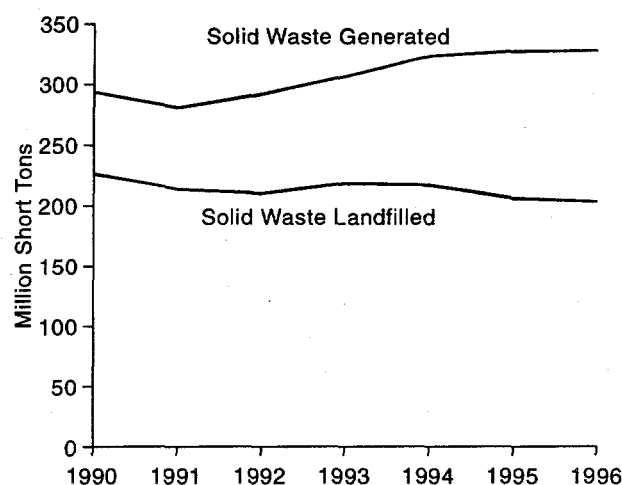
Estimated 1996 Emissions (Million Metric Tons Methane)	10.3
Change Compared to 1995 (Million Metric Tons Methane)	-0.2
Change from 1995 (Percent)	-1.6
Change Compared to 1990 (Million Metric Tons Methane)	-0.7
Change from 1990 (Percent)	-6.2

Estimated methane emissions from U.S. landfills have declined each year since reaching a peak of 10.96 million metric tons in 1990. An estimated 10.28 million metric tons of methane were emitted from U.S. landfills in 1996, down by 170,000 metric tons from the 1995 level and by more than 6 percent from the 1990 level (Table 21). There are two significant trends contributing to the continuing decline. First, gross methane generation at landfills grew slowly (less than 1 percent annually) between 1990 and 1995 and was unchanged from 1995 to 1996. While municipal solid waste (MSW) generation continued to increase, the share of generated waste reaching landfills diminished significantly between 1990 and 1996 (Figure 8). The share of waste being recycled or incinerated rather than landfilled

³⁸For a discussion of uncertainty, see Appendix C.

³⁹Energy Information Administration, *Renewable Energy Annual 1996*, DOE/EIA-0603(96) (Washington, DC, March 1997), p. 147.

Figure 8. U.S. Solid Waste Generated and Landfilled, 1988-1996



Source: *Biocycle*, "Nationwide Survey: The State of Garbage in America" (various years).

grew from 16 to 38 percent during that period.⁴⁰ Second, the estimated volume of methane recovery for flaring or energy utilization has nearly doubled since 1990. Absent the increase in methane recovery, net emissions of methane from U.S. landfills would have risen slightly between 1990 and 1996.

In 1990, approximately 940,000 metric tons of methane were recovered for energy use, and an additional 300,000 metric tons were recovered and flared. By 1996, these numbers had grown to an estimated 1.68 million metric tons and 650,000 metric tons, respectively, preventing more than 2.3 million metric tons of potential methane emissions. Future rates of methane recovery are subject to a complex and often conflicting mix of regulatory, tax, and energy market influences and thus are uncertain.

Future trends in MSW generation are more predictable. According to the EPA's Office of Solid Waste, MSW generation in the United States is expected to increase by slightly more than 4 percent between 1996 and 2000.⁴¹ While per capita generation is expected to remain unchanged, a growing population will increase overall generation. The increase can be expected to bring the volume of waste generated in 2000 to 340.6 million short tons. In contrast to waste generation, which is trending upward, the share of waste generated

that will reach landfills is expected to decline from 62 percent in 1996 to 55 percent in 2000. With waste combustion expected to remain stable as a share of waste generation at approximately 15 percent, predicted declines in landfilling are attributable to increased curbside recycling.

Domestic and Commercial Wastewater Treatment

U.S. Methane Emissions from Domestic and Commercial Wastewater Treatment, 1990-1996

Estimated 1996 Emissions (Million Metric Tons Methane)	0.16
Change Compared to 1995 (Million Metric Tons Methane)	*
Change from 1995 (Percent)	0.9
Change Compared to 1990 (Million Metric Tons Methane)	0.01
Change from 1990 (Percent)	6.4

* Less than 0.005 million metric tons.

Methane generation from wastewater is the result of anaerobic decomposition of organic matter in the water. Thus, emissions are driven by the share of organic matter in the wastewater stream and the conditions under which it decomposes. Wastewater may be treated aerobically or anaerobically. If it is untreated, the organic matter may decompose under a combination of conditions. Waste with a high organic content, such as pulp and paper waste or foodstuff, will deplete available oxygen rapidly, with significant portions degrading anaerobically. Because of difficulties in characterizing wastewater management practices and flaring or energy recovery practices, estimates of emissions are scaled to U.S. population data. Driven by a slowly growing U.S. population, methane emissions from domestic and commercial wastewater treatment rose by less than 1 percent between 1995 and 1996, increasing emissions from this source to 0.16 million metric tons. Industrial wastewater treatment estimates are equally uncertain, but because of their potential magnitude,

⁴⁰"Nationwide Survey: The State of Garbage in America, 1997," *Biocycle* (April 1997), pp. 60-67.

⁴¹U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response, *Characterization of Municipal Solid Waste in the United States: 1995 Update*, EPA 530-S-96-001 (Washington, DC, March 1996), p. 2.

they have been excluded pending the availability of more reliable data.⁴²

Agricultural Sources

Agriculture represents a significant source of methane, with emissions of nearly 9 million metric tons in 1996, or 28 percent of all U.S. anthropogenic methane emissions. Approximately 94 percent of all methane emissions from agricultural sources can be traced to animal husbandry, with emissions from enteric fermentation accounting for 5.46 million metric tons and emissions from the solid waste of livestock representing another 2.76 million metric tons. Enteric fermentation occurs when carbohydrates are broken down in the digestive track of herbivores, such as cattle, sheep, and goats. As microorganisms in the forestomach (rumen) of these animals assist in the digestion of the large quantities of cellulose found in the plant material, they produce methane, nearly all (90 percent) of which is released as part of normal respiration and eructation. The remainder is released as flatus. As the solid waste of livestock decomposes under anaerobic conditions, methane is also released. Other minor sources of agricultural methane—rice cultivation and crop residue burning—together accounted for 540,000 metric tons of methane emissions in 1996.

Enteric Fermentation in Domesticated Animals

U.S. Methane Emissions from Enteric Fermentation in Domesticated Animals, 1990-1996

Estimated 1996 Emissions (Million Metric Tons Methane)	5.5
Change Compared to 1995 (Million Metric Tons Methane)	-0.2
Change from 1995 (Percent)	-2.8
Change Compared to 1990 (Million Metric Tons Methane)	0.3
Change from 1990 (Percent)	6.3

Methane emissions from enteric fermentation in domesticated animals were estimated at 5.46 million metric tons for 1996, down 150,000 metric tons from 1995 levels but up by more than 6 percent from 1990 (Table 22). The trend of increasing populations of beef cattle slowed in 1995, with the number of beef cows and beef bulls rising only slightly while the number of feedlot beef cattle and replacement heifers declined marginally. This shift grew more significant in 1996, as populations of beef cattle on range and dairy cattle diminished and only populations of feedlot beef cattle rose. These declines followed 4 years of expanding populations between 1990 and 1994. Increases in emission levels between 1990 and 1994 were exacerbated by a simultaneous rise in the average size of cattle, as measured by their live weight at slaughter. This trend, like that for cattle population, began to be reversed in 1995, with the decline in average animal size growing more rapid in 1996. Average size of beef and dairy cattle returned to levels just above those for 1993, and average calf size at time of slaughter was at its lowest level since 1990.

Solid Waste of Domesticated Animals

U.S. Methane Emissions from Solid Waste of Domesticated Animals, 1990-1996

Estimated 1996 Emissions (Million Metric Tons Methane)	2.8
Change Compared to 1995 (Million Metric Tons Methane)	-0.1
Change from 1995 (Percent)	-4.1
Change Compared to 1990 (Million Metric Tons Methane)	0.1
Change from 1990 (Percent)	4.9

Methane emissions from the solid waste of domesticated animals are estimated at 2.76 million metric tons in 1996, down 120,000 metric tons from 1995 levels. Emissions levels, however, remained above the 1990 level of 2.6 million metric tons (Table 23). In 1996, 37 percent of these emissions were attributable to dairy cattle waste, and another one-third could be traced to

⁴² Absent other sources of emissions factors, estimates of emissions from industrial wastewater depend entirely on factors provided by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). Using these factors results in an estimate of just over 7 million metric tons for 1996. This number is substantial, equal to about 23 percent of all other U.S. anthropogenic methane emissions. Included in the total are more than 3 million metric tons from beer brewing and almost 2 million metric tons from pulp and paper. Also included are more than 1 million metric tons from petroleum refining—a less intuitive source of significant emissions. Because of its magnitude relative to all other emissions sources, the estimate of emissions from industrial wastewater seems implausible, but it does fit in the context of the IPCC's estimated 25 million metric tons of emissions from industrial wastewater throughout the developed world.

swine marketed for consumption.⁴³ Emissions from dairy cattle waste grew by 9 percent between 1990 and 1994 before falling by 4 percent between 1994 and 1996. Emissions from the waste of marketed swine rose by 11 percent between 1990 and 1994 before declining by about 6 percent from 1994 to 1996. Together, these two sources accounted for 60 percent of the overall increase in emissions from the solid waste of domesticated animals between 1990 and 1996.

About one-half of the increase in emissions from dairy cattle waste between 1990 and 1994 was attributable to a shift in the method used for handling the solid waste of dairy cattle in six States: Arizona, Florida, Nevada, North Carolina, North Dakota, and Texas. Waste management techniques in these States shifted toward liquid systems, especially anaerobic lagoons. Solid waste managed in anaerobic lagoons realizes a much larger share of its maximum potential methane production than waste managed in any other fashion. The remaining portion of the increase can be traced to growing cattle populations and a rise in the average size and productivity of dairy cattle between 1990 and 1994. With dairy cattle populations and average sizes stabilizing in 1995 and receding toward 1990 levels in 1996, almost all the remaining increase in emissions from dairy cattle waste compared to 1990 is the result of the shift toward higher emitting management practices.

Methane emissions from the waste of market swine also escalated between 1990 and 1994 and stabilized in 1995 in step with swine populations. In 1996, swine populations dropped to their lowest levels since 1990, reducing emissions to just over 4 percent above 1990 levels.

The October 1996 edition of *Emissions of Greenhouse Gases in the United States 1995* erroneously stated that market swine populations grew by 13 percent in 1995, thus overestimating emissions for that year by about 130,000 metric tons. Swine populations were virtually unchanged in 1995 from 1994 levels, as reflected in the revised emissions estimate for that year.

Rice Cultivation

Methane emissions from flooded rice fields are estimated at 400,000 metric tons for 1996, down 7.9 percent

from 1995 levels and nearly indistinguishable from 1990 levels (Table 16). This represented the second consecutive year of declines after emissions reached a high of 460,000 metric tons in 1994. The decreases are attributed to reductions in the number of acres cultivated. Area harvested decreased from 1.46 million hectares to 1.35 million hectares⁴⁴ between 1994 and 1995, with the decline distributed throughout the six major U.S. rice-producing States: Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Arkansas, Missouri and California. The declining trend accelerated in 1996, particularly in Arkansas, where the production area dropped from 540,000 hectares to 470,000 hectares, and Mississippi, where it dropped from 116,000 hectares to 84,000 hectares.

U.S. Methane Emissions from Rice Cultivation, 1990-1996

Estimated 1996 Emissions (Million Metric Tons Methane)	0.40
Change Compared to 1995 (Million Metric Tons Methane)	-0.03
Change from 1995 (Percent)	-7.9
Change Compared to 1990 (Million Metric Tons Methane)	*
Change from 1990 (Percent)	-0.7

*Less than 0.005 million metric tons.

Burning of Crop Residues

Methane emissions from the burning of crop residues rose by 14.8 percent from 1995 levels, to 139,000 metric tons in 1996 (Table 16).⁴⁵ Emission levels rebounded from a sharp (20 percent) decline between 1994 and 1995. The decline was caused by a large decrease in crop output during 1995, including a 25-percent drop in corn production and significant decreases in the output of sorghum and soybeans. In 1996, corn, soybean, and sorghum production returned to or exceeded 1994 levels, leaving emissions 7.4 percent above the estimated 1990 level.

⁴³The EPA's Atmospheric Pollution Prevention Division has indicated that a recent shift in the swine industry toward facilities using liquid manure management systems has led to increased emissions from animal wastes over the past 3 years. At the time of this publication, EIA was unable to quantify the magnitude of the shift, but future estimates will be adjusted as additional information becomes available.

⁴⁴One hectare equals 2.47 acres.

⁴⁵Recent research indicates that crop residue burning in the United States is far less widespread than previously estimated, and emissions from this source may be as small as one-twentieth of current EIA estimates. EIA will review and update current estimation methods for this source as additional information becomes available.

U.S. Methane Emissions from Burning of Crop Residues, 1990-1996

Estimated 1996 Emissions (Million Metric Tons Methane)	0.14
Change Compared to 1995 (Million Metric Tons Methane)	0.02
Change from 1995 (Percent)	15.0
Change Compared to 1990 (Million Metric Tons Methane)	0.01
Change from 1990 (Percent)	7.4

Industrial Processes

Chemical Production

Methane emissions from chemical production in 1996 rose slightly from 1995 levels, to 74,000 metric tons

U.S. Methane Emissions from Chemical Production, 1990-1996

Estimated 1996 Emissions (Million Metric Tons Methane)	0.07
Change Compared to 1995 (Million Metric Tons Methane)	*
Change from 1995 (Percent)	2.6
Change Compared to 1990 (Million Metric Tons Methane)	0.02
Change from 1990 (Percent)	32.8

*Less than 0.005 million metric tons.

(Table 25). Increased production of ethylene and styrene left emission levels nearly a third higher than in 1990. The increases largely reflect the strong economic growth during the intervening period. Because ethylene is one of the principal feedstocks of styrene, their production levels tend to move together, and increased emissions from one are usually accompanied by increased emissions from the other.

Iron and Steel Production

After plummeting by 13 percent in 1991, emissions from iron and steel production climbed slowly and steadily through 1995, before declining slightly in 1996. Methane emissions from iron and steel production in 1996 were 2,000 metric tons lower than their 1995 levels (Table 25). The 59,000 metric tons emitted in 1996 were equal to 1994 levels and nearly 5 percent less than the 62,000 metric tons emitted in 1990.

U.S. Methane Emissions from Iron and Steel Production, 1990-1996

Estimated 1996 Emissions (Million Metric Tons Methane)	0.06
Change Compared to 1995 (Million Metric Tons Methane)	*
Change from 1995 (Percent)	-3.3
Change Compared to 1990 (Million Metric Tons Methane)	*
Change from 1990 (Percent)	-4.8

*Less than 0.005 million metric tons.

Table 16. U.S. Methane Emissions from Anthropogenic Sources, 1989-1996
(Million Metric Tons of Methane)

Source	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Energy Sources								
Coal Mining	4.31	4.63	4.38	4.28	3.50	3.90	3.98	3.93
Oil and Gas	6.48	6.59	6.73	6.78	6.78	6.73	6.32	6.80
Stationary Combustion	0.87	0.57	0.60	0.63	0.55	0.54	0.59	0.59
Mobile Sources	0.29	0.27	0.26	0.26	0.25	0.24	0.25	0.25
Total Energy Sources	11.95	12.07	11.97	11.96	11.08	11.42	11.15	11.57
Waste Management								
Landfills	10.89	10.96	10.85	10.74	10.68	10.57	10.45	10.28
Waste Water Treatment	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16
Total Waste Management	11.04	11.11	11.00	10.89	10.83	10.73	10.60	10.44
Agricultural Sources								
Ruminant Animals	5.08	5.13	5.31	5.39	5.46	5.62	5.61	5.46
Animal Waste	2.60	2.63	2.73	2.81	2.81	2.88	2.88	2.76
Rice Paddies	0.38	0.40	0.39	0.44	0.40	0.46	0.43	0.40
Crop Residue Burning	0.12	0.13	0.12	0.14	0.11	0.15	0.12	0.14
Total Agricultural Sources	8.18	8.29	8.55	8.77	8.79	9.11	9.05	8.75
Industrial Processes	0.12	0.12	0.11	0.12	0.12	0.13	0.13	0.13
Total	31.29	31.59	31.63	31.74	30.82	31.38	30.93	30.90

Notes: Data in this table are revised from the data contained in the previous EIA report, *Emissions of Greenhouse Gases in the United States 1995*, DOE/EIA-0573(95) (Washington, DC, October 1996). Totals may not equal sum of components due to independent rounding.

Sources: EIA estimates presented in this chapter. Crop residue burning—U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service, *Crop Production* annual reports. Emissions calculations based on Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, *Greenhouse Gas Inventory Reference Manual*, IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories, Vol. 3 (Paris, France, 1995), pp. 4.50-4.62.

Table 17. U.S. Methane Emissions from Oil and Gas Operations, 1989-1996
(Million Metric Tons of Methane)

Source	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	P1996
Oil and Gas Production								
Natural Gas Wellheads	0.28	0.29	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.31	0.31	0.32
Oil Wells	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04
Gathering Pipelines	1.08	1.07	1.03	1.03	0.92	0.84	0.74	0.74
Gas Processing Plants	0.55	0.62	0.69	0.68	0.70	0.70	0.72	0.72
Heaters, Separators, Dehydrators ..	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.18	0.19	0.19	0.19
Total	2.12	2.19	2.23	2.23	2.15	2.08	2.01	2.02
Gas Venting	0.77	0.75	0.81	0.83	0.97	1.01	0.68	1.14
Gas Transmission and Distribution ...	3.51	3.56	3.60	3.64	3.57	3.56	3.55	3.55
Oil Refining and Transportation	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.09	0.09	0.09
Total	6.48	6.59	6.73	6.78	6.78	6.73	6.32	6.80

P = preliminary data.

Notes: Data in this table are revised from the data contained in the previous EIA report, *Emissions of Greenhouse Gases in the United States 1995*, DOE/EIA-0573(95) (Washington, DC, October 1996). Totals may not equal sum of components due to independent rounding.

Sources: M.R. Harrison and R.M. Cowgill, *Tier 2 Summary of Methane Emissions from the Natural Gas Industry*, Prepared for the Gas Research Institute and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (Washington, DC, June 1996); *World Oil* (February issue, various years); American Gas Association, *Gas Facts* (various years); Energy Information Administration, *Natural Gas Annual*, DOE/EIA-0131 (various years); Radian Corporation, *Global Emissions of Methane from Petroleum Sources* (February 1992); Energy Information Administration, *Annual Energy Review 1995*, DOE/EIA-0384(95) (Washington, DC, July 1996); Energy Information Administration, *Petroleum Supply Annual*, DOE/EIA-0340 (Washington, DC, various years).

Table 18. U.S. Methane Emissions from Coal Mining and Post-Mining Activities, 1989-1996
(Million Metric Tons of Methane)

Source	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Surface Mining								
Mining	0.41	0.43	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.45	0.45	0.46
Post-Mining	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04
Underground Mining								
Ventilation (Gassy Mines)	1.98	2.13	2.04	2.10	1.82	1.85	1.89	1.77
Ventilation (Nongassy Mines)	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.03	0.03
Degasification	1.51	1.62	1.50	1.46	1.15	1.43	1.47	1.51
Post-Mining	0.59	0.64	0.61	0.61	0.53	0.60	0.60	0.61
Methane Recovery for Energy (-)	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.37	0.48	0.49	0.50	0.50
Net Emissions	4.31	4.63	4.38	4.28	3.50	3.90	3.98	3.93

Notes: Data in this table are revised from the data contained in the previous EIA report, *Emissions of Greenhouse Gases in the United States 1995*, DOE/EIA-0573(95) (Washington, DC, October 1996). Totals may not equal sum of components due to independent rounding.

Sources: Coal production numbers from Energy Information Administration, *Coal Production*, DOE/EIA-0118 (Washington, DC, various years), and *Coal Industry Annual*, DOE/EIA-0584(94) and (95) (Washington, DC, 1994 and 1995). Methane recovery rates from U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Air and Radiation, *Anthropogenic Methane Emissions in the United States: Estimates for 1990, Report to Congress* (Washington, DC, April 1993), pp. 3-19-3-24; and *Identifying Opportunities for Methane Recovery at U.S. Coal Mines: Draft Profiles of Selected Gassy Underground Coal Mines* (Washington, DC, September 1994), pp. 6-6-6-8. Ventilation data for 1985, 1988, 1990, and 1993 provided by G. Finfinger, U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Mines, Pittsburgh Research Center. Ventilation data for 1994 and 1996 provided by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Atmospheric Pollution Prevention Division, Coalbed Methane Outreach Program.

Table 19. U.S. Methane Emissions from Stationary Combustion Sources, 1989-1996
(Thousand Metric Tons of Methane)

Source	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Residential								
Coal	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Distillate Fuel	5	4	4	5	5	5	5	5
Natural Gas	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	6
LPG	1	*	1	*	1	1	1	1
Wood	809	512	541	569	483	474	526	525
Total	821	522	550	579	494	484	536	536
Commercial								
Coal	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Fuel Oil	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Natural Gas	4	3	4	4	4	4	4	4
LPG	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Wood	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Total	6	5	6	6	6	6	6	6
Industrial								
Coal	7	7	7	6	6	6	6	6
Fuel Oil	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1
Natural Gas	12	13	13	13	14	14	15	15
LPG	3	2	3	3	3	3	3	3
Wood	13	13	12	13	13	13	14	14
Total	36	36	35	37	37	38	39	40
Electric Utility								
Coal	10	10	10	10	11	11	11	11
Fuel Oil	1	1	1	1	1	1	*	*
Natural Gas	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Wood	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Total	12	11	11	11	12	12	12	12
Total All Fuels								
Coal	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18
Fuel Oil	9	7	7	7	8	7	7	7
Natural Gas	21	21	22	22	23	24	24	25
LPG	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	4
Wood	823	525	553	582	497	487	540	539
Total	874	575	603	632	549	540	592	594

*Less than 500 metric tons of methane.

^aEstimate. Underlying energy data not available.

Notes: Data in this table are revised from the data contained in the previous EIA report, *Emissions of Greenhouse Gases in the United States 1995*, DOE/EIA-0573(95) (Washington, DC, October 1996). Totals may not equal sum of components due to independent rounding.

Sources: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, *Compilation of Air Pollutant Emission Factors*, AP-42, web site www.epa.gov/ttn/chief; Energy Information Administration, *State Energy Data Report 1994*, DOE/EIA-0214(94) (Washington, DC, October 1996); *Monthly Energy Review*, DOE/EIA-0035(97/07) (Washington, DC, July 1997); and *Annual Energy Review 1996*, DOE/EIA-0384(96) (Washington, DC, July 1997), p. 267.

Table 20. U.S. Methane Emissions from Mobile Sources, 1989-1996
(Thousand Metric Tons of Methane)

Item	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	P1996
Motor Vehicles								
Passenger Cars	162	151	143	139	122	108	106	99
Buses	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Motorcycles	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Light-Duty Trucks	66	64	62	62	68	73	85	87
Other Trucks	24	24	24	25	26	27	29	29
Total	259	246	235	232	222	215	226	221
Other Transport	28	27	27	28	26	26	27	27
Total Transport	287	273	262	260	249	242	252	249

P = preliminary data.

Sources: Calculations based on vehicle miles traveled from U.S. Department of Transportation, *Federal Highway Statistics*, various years, Table VM-1. Vehicle emissions coefficients from Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, *Greenhouse Gas Inventory Reference Manual*, IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories, Vol. 3 (Paris, France, 1995), pp. 1.72-1.82. Distribution of passenger car and light duty truck fleet model years for 1983, 1985, 1988, 1991, and 1994 according to data in the Energy Information Administration's "Residential Transportation Energy Consumption Surveys" for those years. Distribution for passenger cars and light duty trucks in other years computed by interpolation. Distribution of bus and other truck fleet according to model year computed assuming 10-percent attrition per annum of pre-1983 fleet for each year after 1984.

Table 21. U.S. Methane Emissions from Landfills, 1989-1996
(Million Metric Tons of Methane)

Type	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Gross Emissions	12.1	12.2	12.3	12.4	12.5	12.6	12.6	12.6
Methane Recovery (Energy)	0.9	0.9	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.6	1.7
Methane Assumed Flared	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.7
Net Emissions	10.9	11.0	10.9	10.7	10.7	10.6	10.4	10.3

Note: Data in this table are revised from the data contained in the previous EIA report, *Emissions of Greenhouse Gases in the United States 1995*, DOE/EIA-0573(95) (Washington, DC, October 1996).

Sources: Municipal solid waste landfilled from *Biocycle*, "Nationwide Survey: The State of Garbage in America" (1989-1996). Emissions calculations based on S.A. Thorneloe et al., "Estimate of Methane Emissions from U.S. Landfills," Prepared for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Research and Development, in departmental review (April 1994), and D. Augenstein, "The Greenhouse Effect and U.S. Landfill Methane," *Global Environmental Change* (December 1992), pp. 311-328. Methane recovered and flared from S.A. Thorneloe, "Landfill Gas Recovery Utilization—Options and Economics," presented at the Sixteenth Annual Conference by the Institute of Gas Technology on Energy from Biomass and Wastes, Orlando, Florida (March 5, 1992), and J. Pacey, "Methane Recovery from Landfills," presented at the 1995 Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Mitigation Research Symposium, Washington, DC (June 27-29, 1995).

Table 22. U.S. Methane Emissions from Enteric Fermentation in Domesticated Animals, 1989-1996
(Million Metric Tons of Methane)

Animal Type	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Cattle	4.80	4.84	5.02	5.10	5.18	5.35	5.36	5.21
Sheep	0.14	0.15	0.15	0.14	0.14	0.13	0.12	0.11
Pigs	0.08	0.08	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.08
Goats	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02
Horses	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.03	0.03	0.03
Total	5.08	5.13	5.31	5.39	5.46	5.62	5.61	5.46

Notes: Data in this table are revised from the data contained in the previous EIA report, *Emissions of Greenhouse Gases in the United States 1995*, DOE/EIA-0573(95) (Washington, DC, October 1996). Totals may not equal sum of components due to independent rounding.

Sources: Cattle, sheep, and pig population data provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service, Livestock, Dairy and Poultry Service. Goat and horse population figures extrapolated from U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, *Census of Agriculture*, 1982, 1987, and 1992. Emissions calculations based on U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Air and Radiation, *Anthropogenic Methane Emissions in the United States: Estimates for 1990* (Washington, DC, April 1993), and P.J. Crutzen, I. Aselmann, and W.S. Seiler, "Methane Production by Domestic Animals, Wild Ruminants, Other Herbivorous Fauna, and Humans," *Tellus*, Vol. 38B (1986), pp. 271-284.

Table 23. U.S. Methane Emissions from the Solid Waste of Domesticated Animals, 1989-1996
(Thousand Metric Tons of Methane)

Type of Animal	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Cattle	1,203	1,222	1,244	1,314	1,317	1,349	1,344	1,300
Beef Cattle	243	249	264	271	278	288	289	281
Dairy Cattle	960	973	980	1,042	1,039	1,061	1,054	1,019
Swine	1,223	1,234	1,306	1,312	1,308	1,343	1,338	1,259
Market Swine	849	861	912	924	918	958	952	896
Breeding Swine	374	373	394	388	390	385	387	363
Poultry	152	157	161	167	172	178	183	187
Caged Layers	83	83	84	86	88	90	91	92
Broilers	69	73	77	81	84	88	92	96
Other Animals	18	18	17	17	16	15	15	14
Sheep	5	5	5	5	5	4	4	4
Goats	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Horses	12	12	11	11	11	10	10	9
Total	2,596	2,630	2,729	2,810	2,814	2,885	2,879	2,760

Notes: Data in this table are revised from the data contained in the previous EIA report, *Emissions of Greenhouse Gases in the United States 1995*, DOE/EIA-0573(95) (Washington, DC, October 1996). Totals may not equal sum of components due to independent rounding.

Sources: Population data for horses and goats extrapolated from U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, *Census of Agriculture*, 1982, 1987, and 1992. Population data for all other animals from U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service, Livestock, Dairy and Poultry Branch. Typical animal sizes from U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Air and Radiation, *Anthropogenic Methane Emissions in the United States: Estimates for 1990, Report to Congress* (Washington, DC, April 1993). Cattle sizes adjusted by annual slaughter weight from U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service, Livestock, Dairy and Poultry Branch. Maximum methane production, and waste management systems used from L.M. Safley, M.E. Casada, et al., *Global Methane Emissions from Livestock and Poultry Manure* (Washington, DC: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, February 1992), pp. 24-27, and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, *Inventory of U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks 1990-1994*, EPA-230-496-006 (Washington, DC, November 1995), Appendix D. Methane Conversion Factors from Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, *Greenhouse Gas Inventory Reference Manual*, IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories, Vol. 3 (Paris, France, 1995), pp. 4.33-4.41.

Table 24. Area of Land Harvested for Rice and Estimated U.S. Methane Emissions from Flooded Rice Fields, 1989-1996

Item	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Area Harvested (Thousand Hectares) . . .	1,202	1,267	1,241	1,380	1,243	1,455	1,355	1,229
Methane Emissions-Low Estimate (Thousand Metric Tons)	121	127	124	138	126	147	137	126
Methane Emissions-High Estimate (Thousand Metric Tons)	642	674	656	732	668	779	727	670

Source: Rice area harvested data from U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service, *Crop Production* annual reports. Emissions calculations based on Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, *Greenhouse Gas Inventory Reference Manual*, IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories, Vol. 3 (Paris, France, 1995), pp. 4.46-4.55.

Table 25. U.S. Methane Emissions from Industrial Processes, 1989-1996
(Thousand Metric Tons of Methane)

Source	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	P1996
Chemical Production								
Ethylene	16	17	18	18	19	22	21	22
Ethylene Dichloride	2	3	2	3	3	3	3	3
Styrene	15	15	15	16	18	20	21	22
Methanol	7	8	8	7	10	10	10	10
Carbon Black	15	14	13	15	16	16	17	17
Total	55	56	57	60	66	72	72	74
Iron and Steel Production								
Coke ^a	11	11	9	9	9	8	9	8
Sinter	7	6	5	6	6	6	6	6
Pig Iron	46	45	40	43	43	44	46	44
Total	64	62	54	57	58	59	61	59
Total Industrial Processes	119	117	111	117	124	131	133	133

^aBased on total U.S. production of metallurgical coke, including non-iron and steel uses.

P = preliminary data.

Note: Totals may not equal sum of components due to independent rounding.

Sources: American Iron and Steel Institute, *Annual Statistical Report* (Washington, DC, various years); Chemical Manufacturers Association, *U.S. Chemical Industry Statistical Handbook* (Washington, DC, various years), p. 223; Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, *Greenhouse Gas Inventory Reference Manual*, IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories, Vol. 3 (Paris, France, 1995), p. 2.6.

4. Nitrous Oxide Emissions

Overview

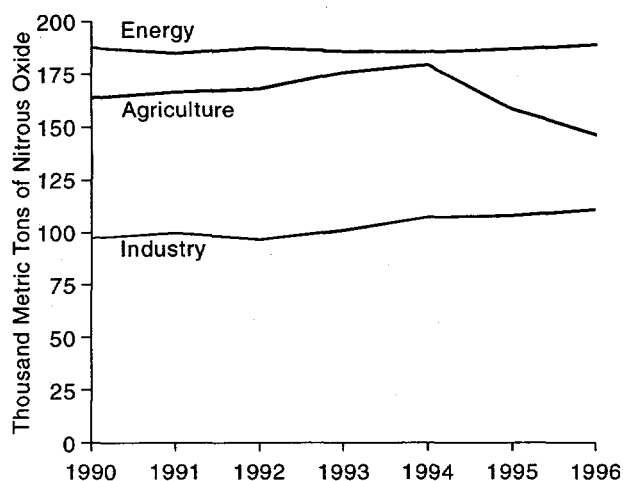
U.S. Anthropogenic Nitrous Oxide Emissions, 1990-1996

	Nitrous Oxide	Carbon Equivalent
Estimated 1996 Emissions (Million Metric Tons)	0.446	37.7
Change Compared to 1995 (Million Metric Tons)	-0.004	-0.3
Change from 1995 (Percent)	-1.8	-1.8
Change Compared to 1990 (Million Metric Tons)	-0.008	-0.7
Change from 1990 (Percent)	-0.8	-0.8

In contrast to carbon dioxide and methane, nitrous oxide is released in small quantities from anthropogenic sources; however, nitrous oxide's 100-year global warming potential (GWP) of 310 makes it a significant contributor to atmospheric warming.⁴⁶ As indicated in Table 26, the EIA estimates that anthropogenic nitrous oxide emissions in the United States totaled 446,000 metric tons in 1996. Sources for which data are available show decreased emissions in 1996 associated with agricultural activities.⁴⁷ Although there are many known natural and anthropogenic sources, emissions of nitrous oxide have been difficult to quantify on a global scale, primarily because it has been one of the least studied greenhouse gases to date.

Figure 9 shows estimated U.S. emissions of nitrous oxide by source over the period 1990-1996. The largest source of anthropogenic nitrous oxide emissions is energy use, which includes mobile source combustion from passenger cars, buses, motorcycles, and trucks,

Figure 9. U.S. Emissions of Nitrous Oxide by Source, 1990-1996



Source: Estimates presented in this chapter.

and stationary source combustion from residential, industrial, and electric utility energy use. Energy use was responsible for the release of a total of 189,000 metric tons of nitrous oxide in 1996, an increase of 1,000 metric tons (1.2 percent) over the 1995 level.

Principal Sources of U.S. Anthropogenic Nitrous Oxide Emissions, 1990-1996

Source	Thousand Metric Tons Nitrous Oxide		Percent Change	
	1990	1996	1990- 1996	1995- 1996
Energy Use	188	189	0.4	0.9
Agriculture	164	146	-11.0	-7.9
Industrial	97	111	14.1	2.6

⁴⁶Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, *Climate Change 1995: The Science of Climate Change* (Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 1996), p. 121.

⁴⁷Discussion about data sources, methods of estimation, and other detailed background information is contained in the nitrous oxide section of Appendix A.

The second-largest source of nitrous oxide emissions is agriculture, primarily fertilizer application and a small amount released from the burning of crop residues. Emissions of nitrous oxide from agricultural sources in 1996 are estimated at 146,000 metric tons, a decrease of 18,000 metric tons (11.0 percent) from 1990 and a decrease of 13,000 metric tons (7.9 percent) from 1995. These estimates are derived from data on nitrogen-based fertilizer use, which declined in 1996; however, there is substantial uncertainty and debate regarding the emissions implications of the use of nitrogen-based fertilizers. Models used for estimation are based on limited sources of experimental data. For more information about the methods and assumptions behind the estimates, see Appendix A.

Another important source of nitrous oxide emissions is industrial production of adipic acid and nitric acid, which together accounted for emissions of 111,000 metric tons of nitrous oxide in 1996, an increase of 14,000 metric tons (14.1 percent) from 1990 levels and an increase of 3,000 thousand metric tons (2.6 percent) from 1995 levels. Table 26 shows trends in nitrous oxide emissions for the period 1989-1996. The largest increase in nitrous oxide emissions over the period was from industry.

Overall, fertilizer use (which amplifies the natural flux of nitrous oxide from soil) and motor vehicle fuel combustion combine to account for approximately 65 percent of estimated emissions. Rapid growth in emissions from energy use was largely responsible for the increase in anthropogenic nitrous oxide emissions observed during the 1980s. In the 1990s, emissions from energy use have remained roughly stable (Figure 9).

Energy Use

Nitrous oxide emissions from both mobile and stationary sources are a byproduct of fuel combustion. Energy-related emissions in 1996 are estimated at 188,000 metric tons, approximately 42 percent of total U.S. anthropogenic nitrous oxide emissions (Table 26).

Mobile Combustion

Nitrous oxide emissions from motor vehicles are influenced by a variety of factors, including fleet size, vehicle miles traveled, and emissions control technologies. In addition, vehicles equipped with catalytic converters to reduce emissions of nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide, and nonmethane volatile organic

compounds emit up to 20 times more nitrous oxide than comparable vehicles without catalytic converters.⁴⁸ Emissions from air, rail, and water transportation sources and from farm and construction equipment are included as "Other Mobile Sources" in Table 27.

U.S. Nitrous Oxide Emissions from Energy Use, 1990-1996

Estimated 1996 Emissions (Thousand Metric Tons Nitrous Oxide)	188.6
Change Compared to 1995 (Thousand Metric Tons Nitrous Oxide)	1.6
Change from 1995 (Percent)	0.9
Change Compared to 1990 (Thousand Metric Tons Nitrous Oxide)	0.7
Change from 1990 (Percent)	0.4

Nitrous oxide emissions from mobile source combustion in 1996 are estimated at 148,000 metric tons (Table 27). Approximately 88 percent of the emissions can be attributed to motor vehicles. Although passenger car fuel efficiency increased slightly in 1996, the fuel savings were roughly offset by increases in vehicle miles traveled, fleet size, fuel used per vehicle, and share of fleet with catalytic converters. Catalytic converters tend to increase emissions of nitrous oxide. This was particularly true of the early three-way catalyst systems used between 1983 and 1989; however, emissions from the advanced three-way catalyst systems introduced in 1990 are significantly lower. As a result, most of the 25-percent increase in emissions since 1987 occurred prior to 1991. Emissions have roughly stabilized in the 1990s, as vehicles with older higher-emitting catalytic converters have been retired and replaced with vehicles with advanced three-way catalyst systems.

Stationary Combustion

During combustion, nitrous oxide is produced as a result of chemical interactions between nitric oxide and other combustion products. With most conventional combustion systems, high temperatures destroy almost all nitrous oxide, limiting the quantity that escapes; therefore, emissions from these systems are typically low.

⁴⁸J.C. Kramlich and W.P. Linak, "Nitrous Oxide Behavior in the Atmosphere, and in Combustion and Industrial Systems," *Progress in Energy and Combustion Science*, Vol. 20 (1994), p. 196.

In 1996, estimated nitrous oxide emissions from stationary combustion sources increased modestly, by 2,000 metric tons from 1995 (Table 28). Estimated nitrous oxide emissions from stationary combustion sources have increased by only 7.4 percent since 1989. Coal-fired combustion systems produced approximately three-quarters of the 1996 emissions, and electric utilities accounted for approximately two-thirds of the total.

Agriculture

U.S. Nitrous Oxide Emissions from Agriculture, 1990-1996

Estimated 1996 Emissions (Thousand Metric Tons Nitrous Oxide)	146.2
Change Compared to 1995 (Thousand Metric Tons Nitrous Oxide)	-12.5
Change from 1995 (Percent)	-7.9
Change Compared to 1990 (Thousand Metric Tons Nitrous Oxide)	-18.0
Change from 1990 (Percent)	-11.0

Recent Trends

On a global scale, agricultural practices contribute approximately 70 percent of anthropogenic nitrous oxide emissions.^{49,50} Their contribution was approximately 33 percent of U.S. emissions in 1996. Nitrogen flux to the atmosphere from the application of fertilizer is the principal source of agriculture-related emissions in the United States and appears to be the single largest contributor of domestic anthropogenic nitrous oxide emissions, although estimates of agricultural nitrous oxide emissions are very uncertain (see Appendix C). The disposal of crop residues by burning also produces nitrous oxide that is released into the atmosphere; however, the amount is relatively minor, at 5,000 metric tons or 3.4 percent of total emissions of nitrous oxide from agricultural sources in 1996.

⁴⁹Estimates for agriculture-related nitrous oxide emissions were the only estimates of anthropogenic nitrous oxide emissions available for 1995. The amount of nitrous oxide emitted from agricultural sources in 1994 was 179,000 metric tons, and this number, rather than the estimate for 1995, was included in the aggregate nitrous oxide emissions estimates presented in the beginning of this chapter.

⁵⁰A.R. Mosier, "Nitrous Oxide Emissions from Agricultural Soils," in A.R. van Amstel (ed.), *International IPCC Workshop Proceedings: Methane and Nitrous Oxide, Methods in National Emissions Inventories and Options for Control* (Bilthoven, Netherlands: RIVM, 1993), p. 277.

⁵¹A.F. Bouwman, "Exchange of Greenhouse Gases Between Terrestrial Ecosystems and the Atmosphere," in A.F. Bouwman (ed.), *Soils and the Greenhouse Effect* (New York, NY: John Wiley and Sons, 1990).

Fertilizer Use

Nitrous oxide uptake and emissions occur naturally as a result of nitrification and denitrification processes in soil. When nitrogen-based fertilizers are added to the soil, emissions generally increase, unless application precisely matches plant uptake and soil capture.⁵¹ The EIA estimates that 141,000 metric tons of nitrous oxide were released into the atmosphere as a result of fertilization practices in 1996 (Table 29). This represents a decrease of 19,000 metric tons (11.7 percent) compared with the amount released in 1990 and a decrease of 13,000 metric tons (8.6 percent) compared with the amount released in 1995.

Crop Residue Burning

As described in Chapter 3, incomplete combustion of agricultural wastes produces various gases, including methane and nitrous oxide. In 1996, the burning of crop residues produced estimated emissions of approximately 5,000 metric tons of nitrous oxide (Table 26). Large fluctuations in annual crop production result in negligible variations in emissions, because only a small fraction of crops become waste, only 10 percent of crop waste is assumed to be burned, and less than 1 percent of the burned waste is released as nitrous oxide. The amount of nitrous oxide emitted as a result of this agricultural practice has been roughly stable since 1980.

Industrial Processes

U.S. Nitrous Oxide Emissions from Industrial Processes, 1990-1996

Estimated 1996 Emissions (Thousand Metric Tons Nitrous Oxide)	111.0
Change Compared to 1995 (Thousand Metric Tons Nitrous Oxide)	2.8
Change from 1995 (Percent)	2.6
Change Compared to 1990 (Thousand Metric Tons Nitrous Oxide)	13.7
Change from 1990 (Percent)	14.1

Recent Trends

Nitrous oxide is also emitted as a byproduct of certain chemical production processes. Table 30 provides estimates of emissions from the production of adipic acid and nitric acid, the two principal known sources. Emissions from the combination of these two processes have increased by 14,000 metric tons (14.1 percent) since 1990 and by 3,000 metric tons (2.6 percent) since 1995.

Adipic Acid Production

Adipic acid is a fine, white powder that is used primarily in the manufacture of nylon fibers and plastics, such as carpet yarn, clothing, and tire cord. Other uses of adipic acid include production of plasticizers for polyvinyl chloride and polyurethane resins, lubricants, insecticides, and dyes.

In the United States, three companies, which operate a total of four plants, manufacture adipic acid by oxidizing a ketone-alcohol mixture with nitric acid. Nitrous oxide is an intrinsic byproduct of this chemical reaction. For every metric ton of adipic acid produced, 0.3 metric tons of nitrous oxide is created.⁵² Currently, two plants (accounting for approximately 77 percent of total production) control emissions by thermally

decomposing the nitrous oxide, and 98 percent of the potential emissions from those plants are eliminated by this technique.⁵³

Since 1994, adipic acid production has totaled about 800,000 metric tons, resulting in stable estimated nitrous oxide emissions from this source; however, this level of production represents an increase of 70,000 metric tons (9.2 percent) from the 1993 level.⁵⁴ Some of the growth can be attributed to increased demand for nylon fibers and polyvinyl chloride, beginning in 1994.

Nitric Acid Production

Nitric acid is a primary ingredient in fertilizers. The process for manufacturing this acid involves oxidizing ammonia (NH_3) with a platinum catalyst. Nitrous oxide emissions are a direct result of the oxidation. Measurements at a DuPont plant indicate emissions factors of 2 to 9 grams of nitrous oxide per kilogram of nitric acid manufactured.⁵⁵

The 9.1 million tons of nitric acid manufactured in 1996 resulted in estimated emissions of 50,000 metric tons of nitrous oxide. There is, however, a considerable degree of uncertainty associated with this estimate, because the emissions factor for the DuPont plant may not in fact be generalizable across the industry (see Appendix A).

⁵²M.H. Thiemens and W.C. Trogler, "Nylon Production: An Unknown Source of Atmospheric Nitrous Oxide," *Science*, Vol. 251, No. 4996 (February 1991).

⁵³Radian Corporation, *Nitrous Oxide Emissions from Adipic Acid Manufacturing* (Rochester, NY, January 1992), p. 10.

⁵⁴Chemical Manufacturers Association, Inc., *U.S. Chemical Industry Statistical Handbook* (Washington, DC, 1996).

⁵⁵R.A. Reimer, R.A. Parrett, and C.S. Slaten, "Abatement of N_2O Emission Produced in Adipic Acid," in *Proceedings of the Fifth International Workshop on Nitrous Oxide Emissions* (Tsukuba, Japan, July 1992).

Table 26. Estimated U.S. Emissions of Nitrous Oxide, 1989-1996
(Thousand Metric Tons of Nitrous Oxide)

Source	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Agriculture								
Fertilizer	154	159	162	163	171	174	154	141
Crop Residue Burning	5	5	5	5	4	6	5	5
Total	159	164	167	168	176	179	159	146
Energy Use								
Mobile Sources	147	150	148	150	147	147	148	148
Stationary Combustion	38	38	37	37	38	39	39	41
Total	184	188	185	188	186	186	187	189
Industrial Sources	100	97	100	96	101	107	108	111
Total	444	449	452	452	463	472	454	446

Notes: Data in this table are revised from the data contained in the previous EIA report, *Emissions of Greenhouse Gases in the United States 1995*, DOE/EIA-0573(95) (Washington, DC, October 1996). Totals may not equal sum of components due to independent rounding.

Sources: Estimates presented in this chapter. Crop residue burning—U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service, *Crop Production* annual reports. Emissions calculations based on Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, *Greenhouse Gas Inventory Reference Manual*, IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories, Vol. 3 (Paris, France, 1995), pp. 4.69-4.73.

Table 27. U.S. Nitrous Oxide Emissions from Mobile Sources, 1989-1996
(Thousand Metric Tons of Nitrous Oxide)

Item	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	P1996
Motor Vehicles								
Passenger Cars	87	90	88	90	83	78	76	75
Buses	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Motorcycles	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Light-Duty Trucks	35	36	35	35	39	43	46	46
Other Trucks	7	7	8	8	8	8	9	9
Total	130	133	131	133	131	130	131	130
Other Mobile Sources	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	18
Total Mobile Sources	147	150	148	150	147	147	148	148

P = preliminary data.

*Less than 500 metric tons of nitrous oxide.

Notes: Data in this table are revised from the data contained in the previous EIA report, *Emissions of Greenhouse Gases in the United States 1995*, DOE/EIA-0573(95) (Washington, DC, October 1996). Totals may not equal sum of components due to independent rounding.

Sources: Calculations based on vehicle miles traveled from U.S. Department of Transportation, *Federal Highway Statistics*, various years, Table VM-1. Vehicle emissions coefficients from Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, *Greenhouse Gas Inventory Reference Manual*, IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories, Vol. 3 (Paris, France, 1995), pp. 1.64-1.68.

Table 28. U.S. Nitrous Oxide Emissions from Stationary Combustion Sources, 1989-1996
(Thousand Metric Tons of Nitrous Oxide)

Source	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Commercial	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Coal	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Fuel Oil	1	1	1	1	*	*	*	*
Natural Gas	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Wood	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Residential	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	2
Coal	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Fuel Oil	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Natural Gas	1	*	*	1	1	1	1	1
Industrial	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Coal	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Fuel Oil	5	5	5	5	5	6	5	6
Natural Gas	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Electric Utility	25	25	25	25	26	26	26	27
Coal	24	24	24	24	25	25	25	27
Fuel Oil	1	1	1	1	1	1	*	*
Natural Gas	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Fuel Totals								
Coal	28	28	28	28	29	29	29	30
Fuel Oil	8	7	7	7	7	8	7	8
Natural Gas	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Wood	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Total (All Fuels)	38	38	37	37	38	39	39	41

*Less than 500 metric tons of nitrous oxide.

Notes: Data in this table are revised from the data contained in the previous EIA report, *Emissions of Greenhouse Gases in the United States 1995*, DOE/EIA-0573(95) (Washington, DC, October 1996).

Totals may not equal sum of components due to independent rounding.

Sources: Emissions coefficients from Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, *Greenhouse Gas Inventory Reference Manual*, IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories, Vol. 3 (Paris, France, 1995), p. 1.50. Energy consumption data from Energy Information Administration, *State Energy Data Report 1994*, DOE/EIA-0214(94) (Washington, DC, October 1996); and *Monthly Energy Review*, DOE/EIA-0035(97/07) (Washington, DC, July 1997).

Table 29. U.S. Nitrous Oxide Emissions from Nitrogen Fertilizer Use, 1989-1996
(Thousand Metric Tons of Nitrous Oxide)

Source	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Low Estimate	15	16	16	16	17	17	15	14
Median Estimate	154	159	162	163	171	174	154	141
High Estimate	1,545	1,594	1,620	1,628	1,713	1,737	1,539	1,407

Note: Data in this table are revised from the data contained in the previous EIA report, *Emissions of Greenhouse Gases in the United States 1995*, DOE/EIA-0573(95) (Washington, DC, October 1996).

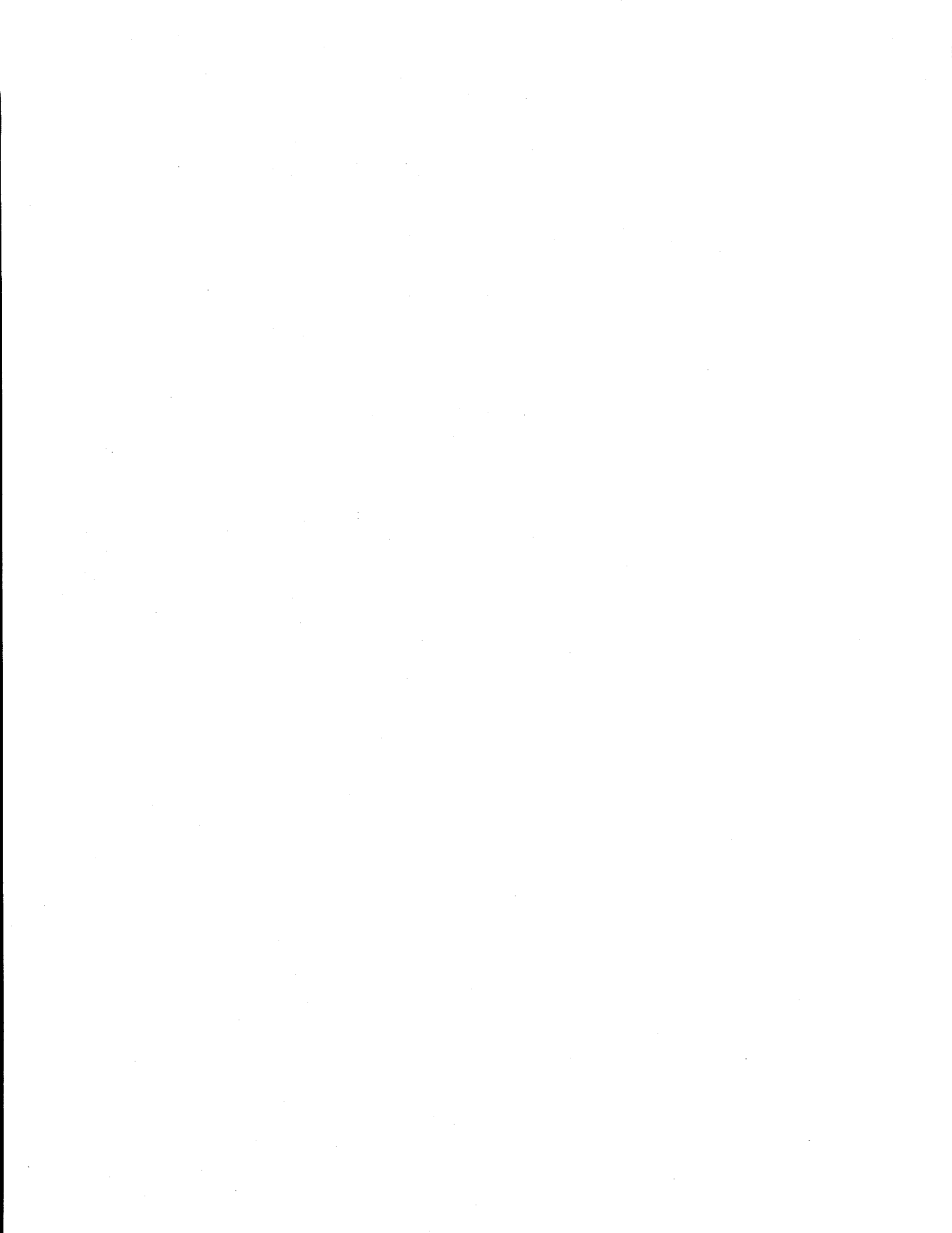
Sources: Emissions coefficients from Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, *Methane and Nitrous Oxide Methods in National Emissions Inventories and Options for Control*, Proceedings, Research for Man and Environment (Netherlands, February 1993), p. 274. Total nitrogen content of U.S. fertilizer consumption: 1988-1994, Tennessee Valley Authority; 1995-1996, Association of American Plant Food Control Officials, *Commercial Fertilizers* (Washington, DC, 1995 and 1996).

Table 30. U.S. Nitrous Oxide Emissions from Industrial Processes, 1989-1996
(Thousand Metric Tons of Nitrous Oxide)

Source	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Adipic Acid								
Controlled Sources	3	3	4	3	4	4	4	4
Uncontrolled Sources	51	51	53	49	53	56	56	58
Total	55	54	57	52	56	60	60	61
Nitric Acid	45	43	43	44	45	47	48	50
Total Known Industrial Sources ...	100	97	100	96	101	107	108	111

Notes: Data in this table are revised from the data contained in the previous EIA report, *Emissions of Greenhouse Gases in the United States 1995*, DOE/EIA-0573(95) (Washington, DC, October 1996). Totals may not equal sum of components due to independent rounding.

Sources: Data sources and methods documented in Appendix A.



5. Halocarbons and Other Gases

Overview

Total U.S. Emissions of Hydrofluorocarbons, Perfluorocarbons, and Sulfur Hexafluoride, 1990-1996

Estimated 1996 Emissions (Million Metric Tons Carbon Equivalent)	42.4
Change Compared to 1995 (Million Metric Tons Carbon Equivalent)	6.4
Change from 1995 (Percent)	17.9
Change Compared to 1990 (Million Metric Tons Carbon Equivalent)	17.4
Change from 1990 (Percent)	69.5

This chapter considers two main groups of gases:

- Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs), and sulfur hexafluoride, which have unambiguous effects on global climate
- Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs), and other chlorine-containing gases, which have ambiguous effects on global climate, because they tend to react with ozone.

Emissions of the first group listed above continued their rapid rise in 1995. HFCs were first widely used commercially in the 1990s, when they were introduced as replacements for chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), whose use is being phased out, pursuant to the Montreal Protocol, because they damage the Earth's ozone layer.

CFCs, HCFCs, and several other chlorine-containing gases have ambiguous effects on global climate change, because their capacity to absorb reflected infrared radiation is offset to some degree by their tendency to react with ozone, which is itself a greenhouse gas. Hence, ozone-depleting substances are not directly included in the total emissions of greenhouse gases

described in this report. Emissions of ozone-depleting substances are, however, described in this chapter, because their emissions are believed to have some effect on global climate.

Table 31 summarizes the 1995 U.S. emissions and global warming potentials of the halocarbons and other gases described in this chapter. Establishments emitting more than 25,000 pounds annually of many ozone-depleting substances are required to report their emissions, disposals, and recycling of the substances to the EPA's Toxics Release Inventory (TRI).⁵⁶ These data exclude many greenhouse gases and most small-scale emissions, but they offer insight into manufacturing emissions. Additionally, the Alternative Fluorocarbons Environmental Acceptability Study (AFEAS) reports on production, sales, and emissions of a range of manufactured greenhouse gases and ozone-depleting substances for most of the world, but it does not disaggregate emissions by country.⁵⁷

Table 32 summarizes U.S. emissions by gas from 1989 to 1996. Emissions of CFCs have declined rapidly in the 1990s, although the rate of decline appears to have slowed considerably in 1996. Emissions of HCFCs have expanded. Emissions of HFCs, driven by rapid growth in the use of HFC-134a in motor vehicle air conditioners, have grown rapidly in the past 3 years and will continue to do so through the 1990s. After declining in the early 1990s, emissions of PFCs have begun to increase, due in part to the commercial introduction of new PFCs. New perfluoropolyethers (PFPEs) have also been introduced onto the market. Emissions of other gases (such as methyl chloroform), which are either ozone-depleting substances or carcinogens, or both, have declined considerably in recent years.

Table 33 shows U.S. emissions (in million metric tons carbon equivalent) of those gases for which reliable global warming potentials (GWPs) have been developed. GWPs represent estimates of the relative impacts on global warming of various greenhouse gases, compared with that of carbon dioxide. As such, they can be used to convert emissions estimates for different gases

⁵⁶U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1995 Toxics Release Inventory: Public Data Release (Washington, DC, April 1997), p. 14.

⁵⁷Alternative Fluorocarbons Environmental Acceptability Study, Production, Sales and Atmospheric Release of Fluorocarbons Through 1995 (Washington, DC, January 1997).

into equivalent carbon emissions for comparative purposes. CFCs, HFCs, HCFCs, and PFCs generally are highly potent greenhouse gases, with large GWPs. Hence, the carbon-equivalent emissions of these gases (Table 33) are often several orders of magnitude larger than their actual emissions (Table 32).

Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs)

U.S. Emissions of Hydrofluorocarbons, 1990-1996

Estimated 1996 Emissions (Million Metric Tons Carbon Equivalent)	26.4
Change Compared to 1995 (Million Metric Tons Carbon Equivalent)	5.3
Change from 1995 (Percent)	24.9
Change Compared to 1990 (Million Metric Tons Carbon Equivalent)	13.1
Change from 1990 (Percent)	98.5

HFCs are compounds containing carbon, hydrogen, and fluorine. Because they contain only carbon, hydrogen, and fluorine, they do not destroy ozone. Consequently, they are a desirable CFC replacement. Ironically, the characteristic that makes them a desirable replacement from an ozone perspective also makes them potent greenhouse gases with no offsetting indirect effects.

The market for HFCs is expanding as CFCs are being phased out. It is difficult to keep pace with the variety of HFCs that are being developed and the quantities being produced. Consequently, accurate data are difficult to obtain.

HFC-23

HFC-23 is created as a byproduct in the production of HCFC-22. Small amounts are also used in semiconductor manufacture. On its Form EIA-1605, DuPont reported emissions of about 1,100 metric tons of

HFC-23 in 1995.⁵⁸ Total U.S. emissions are estimated at between 2 and 4 percent of total HCFC-22 production, implying 3,000 to 5,000 metric tons per year.⁵⁹ Although this total seems small, the GWP of HFC-23 is very large at 11,700—giving it a substantial direct effect without any known offsetting indirect effects. The Climate Change Action Plan includes a voluntary program with HCFC-22 producers to reduce HFC-23 emissions.

1,2,2,2-Tetrafluoroethane (HFC-134a)

HFC-134a, with a GWP of 1,300, is gaining importance as a replacement for CFCs, especially in automotive air conditioners. Emissions for 1990 were estimated at only 500 metric tons, but they are growing significantly as HFC-134a gains market share. In 1993, Ford sold nearly 40,000 vehicles each of which used approximately 2 pounds of HFC-134a in its air conditioner.⁶⁰ Previous models used about 2.5 pounds of CFC-12. Essentially all 1994 and subsequent model year automobiles use HFC-134a as the refrigerant in their air conditioners. HFC-134a conversion packages are now available for older cars.

Automobile air conditioners are subject to leakage, with sufficient refrigerant leaking out (15 to 30 percent of the charge) over a 5-year period to require servicing. On its Form EIA-1605, General Motors (GM) reported total emissions of nearly 1,000 metric tons from GM-made vehicles on the road in 1995. GM based this estimate on an assumed annual leakage rate of 10 percent per year. Given that GM controls roughly one-third of the U.S. automobile market, the reported GM emissions value implies that total U.S. HFC-134a emissions from mobile air conditioners were equal to about 3,000 metric tons in 1995. Emissions from this source are expected to increase dramatically in the near future, as the replacement of vehicles using CFCs proceeds at a rapid pace.

HFC-134a is also used as a refrigerant in most new refrigerators built in the United States and in commercial chillers, but leakage from these sources is much less significant than that from automotive air conditioners. Leakage occurs primarily during servicing of the units rather than during normal operation. Short-term uses of HFC-134a, on the other hand, are becoming a significant source of emissions.

⁵⁸Form EIA-1605 is a greenhouse gas emissions and emissions reductions reporting form, which is submitted to EIA on a voluntary basis by entities interested in creating a public record of their emissions reduction activities.

⁵⁹U.S. Department of Energy, *The Climate Change Action Plan: Technical Supplement*, DOE/PO-0011 (Washington, DC, March 1994), p. 67.

⁶⁰Information obtained during spoken communication with Ford representatives.

According to AFEAS, worldwide sales of HFC-134a for short-term applications (including aerosols and open-cell foam blowing) jumped almost fourfold between 1994 and 1995, reaching 10,500 metric tons, or 14 percent of total 1995 sales for all uses.⁶¹ HFC-134a has the distinct advantage of being the only nonflammable liquefied gas propellant available on the market. The EPA estimated total 1995 emissions of HFC-134a at about 11,000 metric tons.

1,1-Difluoroethane (HFC-152a)

As a non-ozone-depleting substance with a GWP of only 140, HFC-152a is an attractive potential replacement for CFCs. It can be used as a blowing agent, an ingredient in refrigerant blends (e.g., in R-500), and in fluoropolymer manufacturing applications. It is also compatible with the components used in aerosol products. Unlike CFCs, however, HFC-152a is flammable.

Only one company (DuPont) produces HFC-152a, using the trade name Dymel-152a, and in 1995 the company reported having doubled its production capacity to 35 million pounds since 1992.⁶² DuPont scientists believe that HFC-152a will capture the primary share of the propellant market, because it is less expensive than HFC-134a (the primary alternative), has a much lower GWP, and is a better solvent (an important characteristic if ingredients are to remain in solution).⁶³ DuPont probably was producing HFC-152a at nearly full capacity in 1994, corresponding to production of about 8,000 metric tons. The company reported 1994 HFC-152a emissions of 180 metric tons on its Form EIA-1605. In 1995, however, DuPont's reported emissions dropped to only 18 metric tons. The EPA estimated 1990 emissions of HFC-152a at only 300 metric tons, rising to 1,500 metric tons in 1994, then dropping back to 900 metric tons in 1995.

Other HFCs

Several other "new" hydrofluorocarbons with considerable radiative forcing potential are beginning to appear on the market. They include HFC-32 (CH_2F_2) and HFC-125 (C_2HF_5), with 100-year GWPs of 650 and 2,800, respectively, both of which are used as com-

ponents in refrigerant blends. The EPA estimated 1995 emissions of HFC-125 at 2,270 metric tons.⁶⁴ Other prospective HFCs include HFC-143a ($\text{C}_2\text{H}_3\text{F}_3$), HFC-227ea (C_3HF_7), and HFC-236fa ($\text{C}_3\text{H}_2\text{F}_6$), with 100-year GWPs of 3,800, 2,900, and 6,300, respectively. The EPA has estimated 1995 emissions of HFC-227ea at 1,860 metric tons and HFC-143a emissions at 40 metric tons.

Perfluorocarbons (PFCs)

U.S. Emissions of Perfluorocarbons, 1990-1996

Estimated 1996 Emissions (Million Metric Tons Carbon Equivalent)	6.8
Change Compared to 1995 (Million Metric Tons Carbon Equivalent)	0.4
Change from 1995 (Percent)	6.6
Change Compared to 1990 (Million Metric Tons Carbon Equivalent)	1.6
Change from 1990 (Percent)	31.6

Perfluorocarbons are compounds composed of carbon and fluorine. Because they contain no chlorine, they are not harmful to ozone and therefore do not possess the indirect cooling effects of CFCs. As a result, they are unambiguously greenhouse gases. PFC emissions are not regulated or reported, although their high GWPs (6,900 for perfluoromethane and 9,200 for perfluoroethane) have drawn the attention of the Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP). PFCs are also characterized by long atmospheric lifetimes (up to 50,000 years); hence, unlike HFCs, they are essentially permanent additions to the atmosphere. As byproducts of aluminum production, they arise during discrete periods of process inefficiency. Emissions can be reduced by improving process efficiency. The Voluntary Aluminum Industrial Partnership, aimed at reducing PFC emissions from the aluminum industry, is a CCAP initiative.

⁶¹Alternative Fluorocarbons Environmental Acceptability Study, *Production, Sales and Atmospheric Release of Fluorocarbons Through 1995* (Washington, DC, January 1997), p. 8.

⁶²"DuPont Set to Expand Markets for Ozone-Safe HFC-152a Product," *Ozone Depletion Online Today* (Alexandria, VA, June 9, 1995).

⁶³"DuPont Chemist Sees HFC-152a as Most Viable Ozone-Safe Aerosol Propellant Candidate," *Spray Technology & Marketing* (December 1994), p. 38; and "DuPont Scientist Says HFC-152a Offers Ozone-Safe, VOC-Free Option for Aerosol Industry," *Spray Technology & Marketing* (April 1995).

⁶⁴U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, *Inventory of U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks, 1990-1994*, EPA-230-R-96-006 (Washington, DC, November 1995), p. 47.

The principal quantifiable source of PFCs is as a by-product of aluminum smelting. The EPA estimates that 0.6 kilogram of perfluoromethane (CF_4 , also known as carbon tetrafluoride) and 0.06 kilogram of perfluoroethane (C_2F_6) are emitted as a result of each metric ton of aluminum smelted.⁶⁵ These coefficients, in conjunction with aluminum production figures, suggest U.S. emissions of 2,030 metric tons of perfluoromethane and 203 metric tons of perfluoroethane in 1995.

Another source of PFC emissions is semiconductor manufacturing. Perfluoromethane and perfluoroethane are used as etchants and cleaning agents in semiconductor manufacturing. Although anywhere from 5 to 95 percent of the CF_4 and C_2F_6 is destroyed, the process produces fugitive emissions of perfluoroethane, perfluoromethane, and sulfur hexafluoride. The U.S. consumed an estimated 800 tons of perfluoroethane and perfluoromethane in 1995.⁶⁶ PFC emissions from the semiconductor industry are believed to account for 5 to 10 percent of total U.S. emissions.⁶⁷ The EPA's Atmospheric Pollution Prevention Division believes that emissions of PFCs, HFC-23, and sulfur hexafluoride from the semiconductor industry totaled about 1 million metric tons carbon equivalent in 1994, with about 60 to 70 percent of GWP-weighted emissions caused by perfluoroethane.⁶⁸ This is equivalent to emissions of about 300 metric tons of perfluoroethane and considerably smaller amounts of the other gases.

The EIA is unable at present to quantify trends in emissions of these chemicals used by the semiconductor industry; however, qualitative information suggests that emissions may grow more slowly in the future. Since 1992, DuPont—the sole manufacturer of perfluoroethane—has been asking its customers to limit PFC use.⁶⁹ More recently, 23 semiconductor manufacturing firms joined a new EPA program to reduce PFC emissions voluntarily. In addition, a number of PFC distributors are developing PFC emissions control equipment.⁷⁰

A variety of other perfluorinated compounds are beginning to be used in the semiconductor industry, including C_3F_8 (manufactured by 3M), C_4F_{10} (with a

GWP of 7,000), C_6F_{14} (with a GWP of 7,400), NF_3 (manufactured by Air Products), and CHF_3 . The EPA estimates 1995 emissions of PFCs and PFPEs (exclusive of perfluoromethane and perfluoroethane) at 1,030 metric tons.⁷¹

Sulfur Hexafluoride

U.S. Emissions of Sulfur Hexafluoride, 1990-1996

Estimated 1996 Emissions (Million Metric Tons Carbon Equivalent)	9.2
Change Compared to 1995 (Million Metric Tons Carbon Equivalent)	0.7
Change from 1995 (Percent)	8.9
Change Compared to 1990 (Million Metric Tons Carbon Equivalent)	2.6
Change from 1990 (Percent)	40.4

Sulfur hexafluoride (SF_6) is used as an insulator for circuit breakers, switch gear, and other electrical equipment. In addition, its extremely low atmospheric concentration makes it a useful atmospheric tracer gas for a variety of experimental purposes. It is also a fugitive emission from certain semiconductor manufacturing processes.

Sulfur hexafluoride has a high GWP of 23,900, but it is not produced or used in large quantities. In 1989, global production and emissions were estimated at 5,000 metric tons.⁷² The EPA estimates annual U.S. production of sulfur hexafluoride at 6,000 metric tons and emissions at about 1,000 metric tons annually. This is equivalent to emissions of more than 6 million metric tons of carbon. EPA's estimates indicate an increase in emissions between 1994 and 1995, from 1,030 metric tons to 1,290 metric tons.⁷³

⁶⁵U.S. Department of Energy, *The Climate Change Action Plan: Technical Supplement*, DOE/PO-0011 (Washington, DC, March 1994), p. 67.

⁶⁶"PFCs Can Be Recycled with New Technology," American Institute of Chemical Engineers, Press Release (March 12, 1997).

⁶⁷"EPA Launches PFC Reduction Program," *Chemical Week* (July 31, 1996).

⁶⁸U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Air and Radiation, Atmospheric Pollution Prevention Division, personal communication, August 29, 1996.

⁶⁹On the other hand, 3M has begun to market C_3F_8 to the semiconductor industry as a substitute for CF_4 and C_2F_6 .

⁷⁰"EPA Launches PFC Reduction Program," *Chemical Week* (July 31, 1996). Without emissions control efforts, PFC emissions would be expected to rise as the use of PFCs in the semiconductor industry increases.

⁷¹U.S. Department of State, *Climate Action Plan*, Publication 10496 (Washington, DC, July 1997).

⁷²M.K.W. Ko, N.D. Sze, W.C. Wang, G. Shia, A. Goldman, F.J. Murcray, D.G. Murcray, and C.P. Rinsland, "Atmospheric Sulfur Hexafluoride: Sources, Sinks, and Greenhouse Warming," *Journal of Geophysical Research*, Vol. 98 (1993), p. 10,500.

⁷³U.S. Department of State, *Climate Action Plan*, Publication 10496 (Washington, DC, July 1997), p. 71.

The EPA's Atmospheric Pollution Prevention Division reports that sulfur hexafluoride is also used in small amounts in the semiconductor industry and also as a cover gas in magnesium manufacturing and die casting,⁷⁴ accounting for a small fraction of estimated emissions.

Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs)

CFCs are derivatives of hydrocarbons, which are composed of carbon and hydrogen atoms. In CFCs, the hydrogen atoms are replaced with chlorine and fluorine atoms, yielding an array of nontoxic, nonflammable gases useful in a wide variety of applications. CFCs have no natural source, and their high molecular stability allows them to migrate to the stratosphere, where they destroy ozone. Although molecule for molecule they absorb thousands of times more infrared radiation than does carbon dioxide, their net warming affect is reduced because of their effect on ozone. Ozone (O₃), beneficial in the stratosphere for its ability to absorb harmful ultraviolet radiation, is also a potent greenhouse gas. Thus, while the direct effect of CFCs is a warming potential far greater than that of carbon dioxide, their indirect effect on ozone reduces their net radiative forcing effects by half.⁷⁵

The Copenhagen Amendments of the Montreal Protocol suggested phasing out CFCs by 1996. The United States is implementing these provisions through the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 and subsequent EPA regulations, which specify allowable production quotas and taxes on inventories and stocks. All production ceased in January 1996, with the exception of small amounts used in metered dose inhalers for asthma patients, for which no substitutes are available. Emissions of CFCs contained in mobile air conditioners, chillers, and other equipment built prior to the regulations will continue at least into the next decade. As just one example, the EPA estimates that in 1999 80,000 CFC-using centrifugal

chillers—57 percent of the total—will still be in service.⁷⁶

Trichlorofluoromethane (CFC-11)

CFC-11 is used principally as a blowing agent for foams and packaging materials and as a refrigerant in large commercial chillers. Sales have been declining steadily since 1989, with production following roughly the same trend, except for a spike in 1992.⁷⁷ In 1994, production and sales declined by nearly 80 percent, to only 7,000 metric tons,⁷⁸ implying that CFC-11 has been phased out of the blowing agent market completely, with residual CFC-11 probably used only to recharge existing chillers. This will be a shrinking source of emissions, as no new CFC-11 chillers are being built, and existing chillers are likely to be retrofitted to use other coolants. Furthermore, existing CFC-11 chillers are being replaced by new chillers, as evidenced by the sharp 32-percent increase in U.S. chiller sales between 1994 and 1995.⁷⁹ According to a DuPont spokesperson, chiller retrofits are being performed at the rate of 1,000 units per year, and chiller replacements are being made at the rate of 4,000 units per year.⁸⁰ Nonetheless, chiller replacements are proceeding more slowly than originally expected, according to a survey released by the Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Institute (ARI).⁸¹

Dichlorofluoromethane (CFC-12)

CFC-12 is often known by its trade name, "freon-12." Exceedingly versatile, its end uses include air conditioning (both automotive and commercial); refrigeration (refrigerators and freezers of varying scales); and as a blowing agent for foams, insulations, and packaging. Pursuant to the Montreal Protocol, production and sales dropped dramatically in 1990 and 1991, falling below estimates of end-use applications and emissions. In recent years, end use has gradually declined as CFCs are phased out (Figure 10).⁸²

⁷⁴U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Air and Radiation, Atmospheric Pollution Prevention Division, personal communication, August 29, 1996.

⁷⁵See Chapter 1 of this report, especially Table 4.

⁷⁶"Efficiency Cited in CFC Conversions," *Koldfax* (April 1996).

⁷⁷U.S. International Trade Commission, *Synthetic Organic Chemicals: United States Production and Sales, 1993* (Washington, DC, November 1994), p. 3-21.

⁷⁸U.S. International Trade Commission, *Synthetic Organic Chemicals: United States Production and Sales, 1994* (Washington, DC, March 1995), p. 3-21.

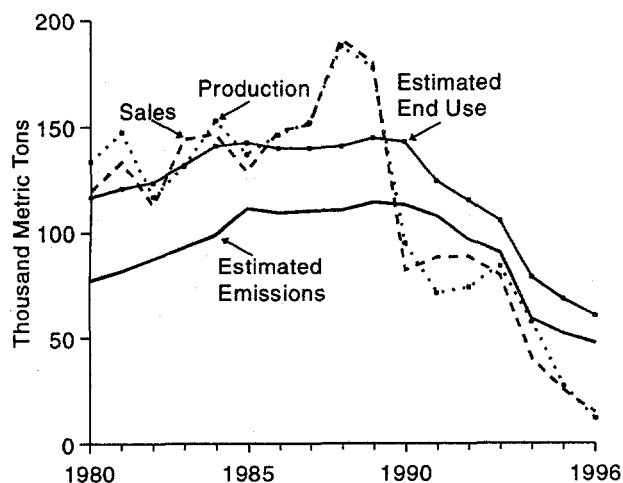
⁷⁹U.S. Department of Commerce, *Current Industrial Reports—Refrigeration, Air Conditioning, and Warm Air Heating Equipment—MA35M, Annual 1995* (Washington, DC, August 16, 1996), Table 2.

⁸⁰"DuPont Calculates the Cost of CFC Phaseout in Billions," *ACHR News* (November 4, 1996).

⁸¹ARI Press Release (April 10, 1997).

⁸²U.S. International Trade Commission, *Synthetic Organic Chemicals: United States Production and Sales, 1993* (Washington, DC, November 1994), p. 3-21.

Figure 10. Production, Sales, End Use, and Estimated Emissions of CFC-12, 1980-1996



Sources: Production and Sales—International Trade Commission, *Synthetic Organic Chemicals* (various years). Estimated End Use and Emissions—EIA estimates based on sales of CFC-using equipment.

AFEAS data suggest that use of CFC-12 as a blowing agent dropped by more than 90 percent between 1988 and 1995.⁸³ The use of CFC-12 in refrigeration, however, declined more slowly until 1994. During 1994, automobile, refrigerator, and commercial chiller manufacturers essentially ceased using CFC-12 in their products completely.

With production of CFC-12 ending and prices rising sharply, a significant black market in CFCs has developed. A number of individuals have been arrested for smuggling CFC-12 into the United States, particularly in Florida.⁸⁴ Houston has also become a major port of entry for CFCs smuggled in from Mexico. As of mid-1996, U.S. Customs believed that CFC-12 was the most commonly smuggled commodity after illicit drugs.⁸⁵

Current emissions of CFC-12 from the now dwindling stock of existing equipment are probably on the order of 60,000 to 70,000 metric tons. In the next few years,

however, emissions should decline rapidly. At present, emissions are being sustained by the large stock of CFC-using equipment, such as refrigerators and automobile air conditioners. Approximately 40 million pounds of CFC-12—about two-thirds of total U.S. consumption—are used each year to recharge mobile air conditioners. However, the high prices and limited availability of CFC-12 will increasingly force people to discard or retrofit rather than repair CFC-using equipment when it fails.

Freon 113 (CFC-113)

CFC-113, also known as "freon 113," is used principally as a solvent. In particular, it is a useful cleaner for electronic circuit boards, because it volatilizes easily and will not damage the circuitry. Such an end use, and others consistent with it as detailed in AFEAS, imply that emissions of CFC-113 are roughly equivalent to production.

Estimated emissions of CFC-113 have been declining rapidly since 1989. In 1995, emissions of CFC-113 reported in the Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) were about 1,180 metric tons—down substantially from 11,000 metric tons in 1992.⁸⁶ Recycling and treatment of CFC-113 have also declined in recent years, indicating that CFC-113 is being phased out in favor of alternatives.

Dichlorotetrafluoroethane (CFC-114)

CFC-114 is used principally as a solvent. According to AFEAS, roughly two-thirds of all CFC-114 sales go toward short-lifetime end uses, such as cleaning and drying agents, with the rest being used in closed-cell foams and refrigeration applications, where the compound may remain trapped for up to 12 years.⁸⁷ In addition, the U.S. Department of Energy uses CFC-114 in the enrichment of uranium. Emissions reported in the TRI, which are a reasonable proxy for industrial emissions, were only 460 metric tons in 1995.⁸⁸

Monochloropentafluoroethane (CFC-115)

CFC-115 is used primarily as a blending agent for some specialty refrigerants. Northern hemisphere sales in

⁸³ Alternative Fluorocarbons Environmental Acceptability Study, *Production, Sales and Atmospheric Release of Fluorocarbons Through 1995* (Washington, DC, January 1997), p. 10.

⁸⁴ "CFC Smuggling a Big Business in Miami," *Christian Science Monitor* (August 23, 1995), p. 3.

⁸⁵ "Freon Makes Its Way Across Texas Border," *Chicago Tribune* (August 17, 1996).

⁸⁶ U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, *1995 Toxics Release Inventory: Public Data Release* (Washington, DC, April 1997), p. 82.

⁸⁷ Alternative Fluorocarbons Environmental Acceptability Study, *Production, Sales and Atmospheric Release of Fluorocarbons Through 1993* (Washington, DC, March 1995), p. 2-10.

⁸⁸ U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, *1995 Toxics Release Inventory: Public Data Release* (Washington, DC, April 1997), p. 80.

1994 were only 7,000 metric tons.⁸⁹ Emissions as reported in the TRI were less than 300 metric tons per year in the early 1990s, declining to 130 metric tons in 1995.⁹⁰

Hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs)

HCFCs are essentially CFCs that include one or more hydrogen atoms. The presence of hydrogen makes the resulting compounds less stable, and as a result they are more susceptible to photodecomposition, have much shorter atmospheric lifetimes than CFCs, and consequently are less likely to migrate to the stratosphere where they would destroy ozone. As a result, they are popular interim substitutes for CFCs. The Copenhagen Amendments placed HCFCs under control, with HCFC-22 slated for elimination by 2020 and all others by 2030. HCFCs still have high GWPs, which are compounded by the fact that they have weaker indirect cooling effects than do CFCs.

Chlorodifluoromethane (HCFC-22)

HCFC-22 is the most commonly used refrigerant for home air conditioning systems. It is the most widely available and least expensive potential substitute for CFCs in a variety of applications; however, the available evidence suggests that HCFC-22 gained most of its market share at the expense of CFCs in the late 1980s. Total U.S. sales of HCFC-22 declined from 108,000 metric tons in 1991 to 97,000 metric tons in 1994. Production has historically exceeded sales by a substantial margin.

Estimated emissions of HCFC-22 have been rising slowly, although 1995 saw a more substantial increase of 10 percent. AFEAS data suggest that the increased usage of HCFC-22 for long- and medium-lifetime uses has created a "banked" inventory of the compound that is now being emitted.

1,1-Dichloro-1-fluoroethane (HCFC-141b)

HCFC-141b is a relatively new commercial product, used primarily as a solvent and as a blowing agent for

closed-cell foams, with a net GWP of 270. Northern hemisphere sales rose from less than 1,000 metric tons in 1990 to 112,000 metric tons in 1995.⁹¹ Emissions as reported in the 1995 TRI totaled 5,000 metric tons.⁹² Based on the extensive use of HCFC-141b in solvents and closed-cell foams, it is likely that emissions of this chemical expanded substantially in 1996.

Chlorodifluoroethane (HCFC-142b)

HCFC-142b is a CFC replacement with a net GWP of 1,650. U.S. production and sales data are not available. AFEAS collects information on worldwide production, which, taken in conjunction with information on northern hemisphere sales, can be used to estimate a ceiling on U.S. sales or emissions. Worldwide production doubled between 1990 and 1994, from 19,000 metric tons to 38,000 metric tons, but production appears to be stabilizing, having increased by only 1 percent between 1994 and 1995. Most HCFC-142b (more than 80 percent in 1995) is sold for long-lifetime applications—particularly as a blowing agent for closed-cell foams.⁹³ Total emissions as reported in the 1995 TRI were 3,150 metric tons.⁹⁴

Other HCFCs

A number of HCFCs may gain importance as CFCs are phased out in the near future. HCFC-123 is a potential replacement for CFC-11 in refrigeration applications, and HCFC-124 is a potential replacement for CFC-12 in sterilizers. The TRI reported HCFC-123 and HCFC-124 emissions of 50 and 340 metric tons, respectively, in 1995.⁹⁵ The EPA estimates 1994 total HCFC-124 emissions at 2,000 metric tons. The EPA believes that 1990 emissions of these chemicals were negligible.

Bromofluorocarbons (Halons)

Bromofluorocarbons are similar to CFCs except that they contain at least one bromine atom. They are inert, nontoxic, and evaporate without leaving any residue, making them popular for use as fire suppressants for high-value equipment, such as computer centers and aircraft. The trade name "halon" is applied to several of

⁸⁹Alternative Fluorocarbons Environmental Acceptability Study, *Production, Sales and Atmospheric Release of Fluorocarbons Through 1994* (Washington, DC, October 1995), p. 7.

⁹⁰U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, *1995 Toxics Release Inventory: Public Data Release* (Washington, DC, April 1997), p. 84.

⁹¹Alternative Fluorocarbons Environmental Acceptability Study, *Production, Sales and Atmospheric Release of Fluorocarbons Through 1995* (Washington, DC, January 1997), p. 8.

⁹²U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, *1995 Toxics Release Inventory: Public Data Release* (Washington, DC, April 1997), p. 78.

⁹³Alternative Fluorocarbons Environmental Acceptability Study, *Production, Sales and Atmospheric Release of Fluorocarbons Through 1995* (Washington, DC, January 1997), p. 10.

⁹⁴U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, *1995 Toxics Release Inventory: Public Data Release* (Washington, DC, April 1997), p. 76.

⁹⁵U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, *1995 Toxics Release Inventory: Public Data Release* (Washington, DC, April 1997), pp. 76 and 80.

these chemicals, which are used as fire suppressants. Halons are particularly destructive to stratospheric ozone; consequently, production will cease in 1996 under agreements in the Montreal Protocol. The U.S. military, which uses a significant volume of halons to protect sensitive equipment, is involved in a program to reduce emissions through recycling, using substitutes, and preventing leakage of halons in existing systems. Emissions of halons are low, although the exact figure is uncertain.

Other Chemicals

Several other chemicals combine high GWPs and significant emissions levels to produce potential effects on global climate: carbon tetrachloride, methyl chloroform, chloroform, methylene chloride, and sulfur hexafluoride. Several of these chemicals are regulated under the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990.

Carbon Tetrachloride

Carbon tetrachloride is a chemical whose uses have varied. Originally used as a household cleanser and dry-cleaning solvent, it was determined to be carcinogenic, and such uses were terminated. Most carbon tetrachloride is now used as a feedstock in the production of CFC-11 and CFC-12. Carbon tetrachloride is regulated by the Clean Air Act Amendments as a known carcinogen and under the Montreal Protocol as an ozone-depleting chemical. Its production was phased out in January 1996. Much like CFCs, carbon tetrachloride has a high direct GWP (1,400), which is completely offset by its indirect cooling effect of destroying ozone. Its net effect favors global cooling.⁹⁶

Production and sales data for carbon tetrachloride have not been available in recent years. The TRI listed 1995 emissions of carbon tetrachloride at roughly 200 metric tons, down from nearly 300 metric tons in 1994.⁹⁷ The TRI suggests that about 900 metric tons were recycled in 1995 and an additional 24,400 metric tons destroyed. Emissions estimates presented in Table 32 were developed from sales data and production data for CFC-11 and CFC-12. A rough approximation of emissions is determined by calculating (on a stoichiometric basis) the

portion of total carbon tetrachloride sales that goes toward production of CFCs and assuming that the rest is used as a solvent and consequently emitted to the atmosphere.

Methyl Chloroform (1,1,1-Trichloroethane)

Like carbon tetrachloride, methyl chloroform is regulated under the Clean Air Act Amendments as an ozone-depleting chemical covered by the Montreal Protocol. Used primarily as a solvent, it was required to be phased out by 1996. It has indirect cooling effects akin to those of carbon tetrachloride and the CFCs, but its GWP is only 110. As a result, its net effect is likely to promote global cooling.⁹⁸ Estimated emissions have been declining rapidly, from 316,000 metric tons in 1990 to only 46,000 metric tons in 1995 (Table 32). In 1995, the TRI reported emissions (presumably largely from manufacturers) of 10,300 metric tons, with recycling of 28,900 metric tons and disposals of 3,200 metric tons.⁹⁹

Chloroform

Chloroform is used primarily as a feedstock for HCFC-22, with secondary use as a solvent. It is a fairly weak greenhouse gas with a GWP of 5. Total emissions should be low, because most chloroform is incorporated into HCFC-22 during its production. As a carcinogen, chloroform is reported to the TRI. The TRI indicates that emissions have been decreasing and were only 4,800 metric tons in 1995.¹⁰⁰

Methylene Chloride (Dichloromethane)

Like chloroform, methylene chloride is a weak greenhouse gas (GWP of 9). Its short atmospheric lifetime of less than 1 year probably prevents it from reaching the stratosphere where it would be damaging to ozone. As a result, its indirect cooling effects are likely to be small. A potential carcinogen, methylene chloride emissions are regulated and included in the TRI, with 1995 emissions of 26,000 metric tons, down significantly from 46,000 metric tons in 1990. The TRI indicates substantial activity in recycling and disposal, with about 45,000 metric tons recycled and 21,000 metric tons undergoing disposal in 1995.¹⁰¹

⁹⁶Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, *Climate Change 1995: The Science of Climate Change* (Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 1996), p. 119.

⁹⁷U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, *1995 Toxics Release Inventory: Public Data Release* (Washington, DC, April 1997), pp. 76, 94-95.

⁹⁸K.P. Shine, Y. Fouquart, V. Ramaswamy, S. Solomon, and J. Srinivasan, "Radiative Forcing," in *Climate Change 1994: Radiative Forcing of Climate Change* (Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 1995), p. 177.

⁹⁹U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, *1995 Toxics Release Inventory: Public Data Release* (Washington, DC, April 1997), pp. 88, 108-109.

¹⁰⁰U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, *1995 Toxics Release Inventory: Public Data Release* (Washington, DC, April 1997), p. 76.

¹⁰¹U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, *1995 Toxics Release Inventory: Public Data Release* (Washington, DC, April 1997), pp. 80, 98-99.

Table 31. Estimated 1995 Sales and Emissions of CFCs and Other Greenhouse Gases
(Thousand Metric Tons)

Compound	Chemical Formula	100-Year Global Warming Potential (CO ₂ = 1)	1995 TRI Emissions	1995 U.S. Emissions	Principal Uses
Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs)					
Trichlorofluoromethane (CFC-11)	CFCl ₃	1,320	0.4	36.0	Blowing agent, chillers
Dichlorodifluoromethane (CFC-12) . . .	CF ₂ Cl ₂	6,650	1.5	52.0	Auto air conditioners, chillers, blowing agent
Freon 113 (CFC-113)	C ₂ F ₃ Cl ₃	9,300	1.2	17.0	Solvent
CFC-114	C ₂ F ₄ Cl ₂	9,300	0.5	2.0	Solvent
CFC-115	C ₂ F ₅ Cl	9,300	0.1	3.0	Solvent, refrigerant
Hydrochlorofluorocarbons					
Chlorodifluoromethane (HCFC-22) . . .	CF ₂ HCl	1,350	5.6	92.0	Residential air conditioners
HCFC-123	C ₂ F ₃ HCl ₂	93	0.1	2.0	Refrigerant
HCFC-124	C ₂ F ₄ HCl	480	0.3	5.0	Sterilant
HCFC-141b	C ₂ H ₃ FCI ₂	270	5.0	22.0	CFC replacement
Chlorodifluoroethane (HCFC-142b) . .	C ₂ H ₃ F ₂ Cl	1,650	3.1	8.2	CFC replacement
Bromofluorocarbons (Halons)					
Halon-1211	CClF ₂ Br	NA	--	1.0	Fire extinguisher
Halon-1301	CF ₃ Br	-31,400	--	2.0	Fire extinguisher
Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs)					
HFC-23	CHF ₃	11,700	NA	4.2	HCFC byproduct
HFC-125	C ₂ HF ₅	2,800	NA	2.3	CFC/HCFC replacement
HFC-134a	CH ₂ FCF ₃	1,300	NA	12.0	Air conditioners, refrigeration
HFC-143a	C ₂ H ₃ F ₃	3,800	NA	--	Refrigerant blends
HFC-152a	C ₂ H ₄ F ₂	140	NA	0.9	Aerosol propellant
HFC-227ea	C ₃ HF ₇	2,900	NA	1.9	CFC replacement
Perfluorocarbons (PFCs)					
Perfluoromethane	CF ₄	6,900	NA	2.0	Byproduct, semiconductor manufacture
Perfluoroethane	C ₂ F ₆	9,200	NA	0.2	Byproduct, semiconductor manufacture
Decafluorobutane	C ₄ F ₁₀	7,000	NA	--	Semiconductor manufacture
Other Chemicals					
Carbon Tetrachloride	CCl ₄	-1,550	0.2	5.0	CFC feedstock, solvents
Methyl Chloroform	C ₂ Cl ₃ H ₃	-700	10.3	46.0	Solvent
Methylene Chloride	CH ₂ Cl ₂	9	26.0	26.0	Solvent
Chloroform	CHCl ₃	5	4.8	4.8	HCFC feedstock
Sulfur Hexafluoride	SF ₆	23,900	NA	1.2	Insulator, cover gas

NA = not available. -- = less than 500 metric tons.

Sources: Chemical formulae and global warming potentials from Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, *Climate Change 1995: The Science of Climate Change* (Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 1996), pp. 119 and 121. TRI emissions from U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, *1995 Toxics Release Inventory: Public Data Release*, EPA-745-R-95-001 (Washington, DC, April 1997), p. 73. Estimated 1995 U.S. emissions from U.S. Department of State, *Climate Action Report*, Publication 10496 (Washington, DC, July 1997), pp. 71-72.

Table 32. Estimated U.S. Emissions of Halocarbons and Miscellaneous Greenhouse Gases, 1989-1996
(Thousand Metric Tons of Gas)

Gas	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	P1996
Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs)								
CFC-11	80	60	54	48	39	37	36	10
CFC-12	114	113	108	97	90	59	52	47
CFC-113	78	50	39	28	20	17	17	16
Other CFCs	0	9	9	9	8	8	5	4
Halons	0	3	3	3	3	3	3	2
Hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs)								
HCFC-22	76	72	82	92	100	105	92	93
HCFC-141b	0	*	1	3	8	16	22	33
HCFC-142b	0	0	3	3	6	10	8	11
Other HCFCs	0	2	3	3	4	4	7	9
Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs)								
HFC-23	5	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
HFC-134a	0	1	1	3	6	10	12	22
HFC-152a	0	*	*	1	1	2	1	1
Other HFCs	0	0	0	0	0	2	5	7
Perfluorocarbons (PFCs)	3	3	3	3	2	2	3	3
Other Chemicals								
Carbon Tetrachloride	0	30	0	26	22	16	5	5
Methyl Chloroform	296	316	224	215	122	78	46	26
Sulfur Hexafluoride	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

*Less than 500 metric tons.

P = preliminary data. NA = not available.

Sources: 1990 and 1994 emissions estimates from U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, *Inventory of Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks, 1990-1994*, EPA-230-R-96-006 (Washington, DC, November 1995), pp. 46-50. 1995 estimates from U.S. Department of State, *Climate Action Report*, Publication 10496 (Washington, DC, July 1997), pp. 71-72. Other years estimated from methods described in Appendix A.

Table 33. Estimated GWP-Weighted U.S. Emissions of Hydrofluorocarbons, Perfluorocarbons, and Sulfur Hexafluoride, 1989-1996
(Million Metric Tons Carbon Equivalent)

Gas	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	P1996
Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs)								
HFC-23	14.87	13.29	13.65	14.31	12.65	13.27	13.40	13.40
HFC-134a	0.00	0.00	0.32	1.23	2.10	3.69	4.27	7.68
HFC-152a	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.04	0.04	0.06	0.03	0.04
HFC-125	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.86	1.73	2.67
HFC-227	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.70	1.47	2.37
HFC-143a	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.04
HFC-4310	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.18	0.18
Total	14.87	13.30	13.98	15.58	14.79	18.59	21.13	26.39
Perfluorocarbons (PFCs)								
CF ₄	4.55	4.57	4.65	4.56	4.17	3.72	3.81	4.04
C ₂ F ₆	0.61	0.61	0.62	0.61	0.56	0.50	0.51	0.54
C ₄ F ₁₀	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.02
PFCs/PFPEs	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.06	2.22
Total	5.16	5.18	5.27	5.17	4.73	4.22	6.40	6.82
Sulfur Hexafluoride	6.44	6.52	6.98	7.38	7.63	7.91	8.41	9.15
Total Emissions	26.47	24.99	26.23	28.13	27.14	30.72	35.93	42.36

Sources: 1990 and 1994 emissions estimates from U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, *Inventory of Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks, 1990-1994*, EPA-230-R-96-006 (Washington, DC, November 1995), pp. 46-50. 1995 estimates from U.S. Department of State, *Climate Action Report*, Publication 10496 (Washington, DC, July 1997), pp. 71-72. Other years estimated from methods described in Appendix A. Global warming potentials used to convert emissions to carbon-equivalent basis from Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, *Climate Change 1995: The Science of Climate Change* (Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 1996), pp. 119 and 121.



6. Criteria Pollutants

Overview

U.S. Emissions of Criteria Pollutants, 1990-1995

Source	Million Metric Tons of Gas		Percent Change	
	1990	1995	1990- 1995	1994- 1995
Carbon Monoxide	91.2	83.5	-8.5	-6.8
Nitrogen Oxides	20.9	19.7	-5.9	-8.3
Nonmethane Volatile Organic Compounds	21.4	20.7	-3.1	-1.8

This chapter presents emissions estimates for the criteria pollutants carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen oxides (NO_x), and nonmethane volatile organic compounds (NMVOCs).¹⁰² The Clean Air Act of 1970 required that air quality standards be established for pollutants with adverse effects on public health or welfare. They are termed "criteria pollutants" because the EPA based each National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) on health-based criteria from scientific studies. Although these gases are not considered to be greenhouse gases themselves, estimates of their emissions are presented here because of their indirect impacts on atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases, including carbon dioxide, methane, and ozone.

Ozone is produced largely from atmospheric chemical reactions involving these criteria pollutants. While stratospheric ozone absorbs harmful ultraviolet solar radiation, ozone in the troposphere exhibits the greenhouse properties that warm the Earth's surface. The temperature differential between the radiation absorbed

by stratospheric ozone and the radiation redirected to the Earth's surface by tropospheric ozone determines the magnitude of ozone's greenhouse effect. Ozone is highly reactive with other atmospheric gases, and its concentration is influenced by meteorological conditions. As a result, it remains in the troposphere for only hours or days. Hence, concentrations of tropospheric ozone tend to be centered around cities where high levels of criteria pollutants are found. Ozone concentrations are measured at individual urban sites throughout the United States. The EPA reported that the composite average ozone concentration for its 573 U.S. testing sites has declined by 6 percent since 1986.¹⁰³

The EPA Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards has compiled emissions data for the various criteria pollutants in the document *National Air Pollutant Emission Trends, 1900-1995*.¹⁰⁴ The emissions estimates in this report are based on that document. The EPA continues to modify emissions data with improved estimation methods and updated information.

Since the passage of the Clean Air Act of 1970 and subsequent amendments, implementation of pollution control measures and replacement of older, less fuel-efficient vehicles have restrained potential growth in criteria pollutant emissions that otherwise would have been expected from growth in the economy, increased driving, and expansion of industrial output. In short, emissions of both carbon monoxide and NMVOCs are currently significantly below peak levels seen in the early 1970s despite year-to-year fluctuations. Although emissions of nitrogen oxides are now higher than in 1970, the level of emissions has been relatively stable in the 1990s (Table 34).

Carbon Monoxide

Most emissions of carbon monoxide result from incomplete oxidation during combustion of fuels used for transportation (Table 35). Transportation emissions,

¹⁰²All estimates and projections presented in this chapter are taken directly from U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, *National Air Pollutant Emission Trends, 1900-1995*, EPA-454/R-96-007 (Research Triangle Park, NC, October 1996). See web site www.epa.gov/docs/airprog/oar/emtrnd.

¹⁰³U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, *National Air Quality and Emissions Trends Report, 1995*, EPA-454/R-96-005 (Research Triangle Park, NC, October 1996), p. 68.

¹⁰⁴U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, *National Air Pollutant Emission Trends, 1900-1995*, EPA-454/R-96-007 (Research Triangle Park, NC, October 1996).

U.S. Carbon Monoxide Emissions, 1990-1995

Estimated 1995 Emissions (Million Metric Tons of Gas)	83.5
Change Compared to 1994 (Million Metric Tons of Gas)	-6.1
Change from 1994 (Percent)	-6.8
Change Compared to 1990 (Million Metric Tons of Gas)	-7.8
Change from 1990 (Percent)	-8.5

primarily from highway vehicles, accounted for about 79 percent of 1995 emissions. Total emissions in 1995 amounted to about 83.5 million metric tons, an amount considerably below the peak of roughly 116.2 million metric tons seen in the early 1970s. Between 1994 and 1995, carbon monoxide emissions decreased by 6.8 percent, due largely to decreases in emissions of 3 million metric tons each from highway vehicles (down by 5.2 percent) and forest fires (down by 68.3 percent). Otherwise, 1995 emissions were generally the same or slightly below 1990 levels. One exception was emissions from "other off-highway vehicles," which were not as well controlled as other sources. Emissions from this source during 1995 were 0.8 million metric tons (6.5 percent) higher than in 1990. Carbon monoxide emissions are expected to decrease through the year 2000 as a result of more stringent tailpipe standards and other factors.

Nitrogen Oxides**U.S. Emissions of Nitrogen Oxides, 1990-1995**

Estimated 1995 Emissions (Million Metric Tons of Gas)	19.7
Change Compared to 1994 (Million Metric Tons of Gas)	-1.8
Change from 1994 (Percent)	-8.3
Change Compared to 1990 (Million Metric Tons of Gas)	-1.2
Change from 1990 (Percent)	-5.9

Nitrogen oxide emissions are related to air-fuel mixes and combustion temperatures during the burning of fuels. Emissions are reduced by the deployment of pollution control equipment, such as catalytic converters. Since 1989, total U.S. emissions of nitrogen oxides have hovered around 21 million metric tons per year (Table 36). Although this does not represent a decline (as seen with the other criteria pollutants), it is much lower than the rate of growth in fuel consumption (such as consumption of gasoline by motorists and coal by electric utilities). Emissions are split between transportation and stationary sources. Although total emissions of nitrogen oxide during 1995 (19.7 million metric tons) were about 5.8 percent lower than their 1990 levels, they were approximately 5.6 percent greater than the 1970 levels. In the future, emissions are expected to decline with implementation of various additional emissions control measures.

Nonmethane Volatile Organic Compounds**U.S. Emissions of Nonmethane Volatile Organic Compounds, 1990-1995**

Estimated 1995 Emissions (Million Metric Tons of Gas)	20.7
Change Compared to 1994 (Million Metric Tons of Gas)	-0.4
Change from 1994 (Percent)	-1.8
Change Compared to 1990 (Million Metric Tons of Gas)	-0.7
Change from 1990 (Percent)	-3.1

NMVOCs are a principal component in the chemical and physical atmospheric reactions that form ozone and other photochemical oxidants. Nearly half (47.9 percent) of the 20.7 million metric tons of NMVOC emissions during 1995 came from industrial processes (Table 37), of which solvent use was the largest source. Most (70.1 percent) of the remaining 10.8 million metric tons of emissions were from combustion of transportation fuels. Emissions of NMVOCs declined by some 7.8 million metric tons (25.4 percent) from 1970 through the 1990s, while fuel consumption in the transportation sector increased and activity in the industrial sector

expanded.¹⁰⁵ This improvement was accomplished by some reformulation of petroleum products, implementation of pollution abatement measures, and changes in industrial processes. Emissions from solvent utilization declined as a result of the substitution of water-based emulsified asphalt for asphalt liquefied with petroleum distillates.

Emissions of NMVOCs amounted to about 20.7 million metric tons in 1995, down by 1.8 percent from their level in 1994. Although NMVOC emissions from both solid waste disposal and industrial sources were higher in 1995 than in 1990, total emissions were modestly

lower (0.7 million metric tons or 3.1 percent). Emissions are expected to decline through the year 2000 (although the rate of decline will be limited), as fleet turnover progressively results in a greater share of vehicles being operated with emission controls in place, and as lower emitting industrial processes are more widely used. As for the criteria pollutants as a group, these forecasts are based on existing laws and regulations scheduled to come into effect. They do not take into account the possible outcome of more stringent measures that have been proposed and are not yet law, but which will likely affect future emissions.

¹⁰⁵U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, *National Air Pollutant Emission Trends 1900-1995*, EPA-454/R-96-007 (Research Triangle Park, NC, October 1996).

Table 34. U.S. Emissions of Criteria Pollutants, 1989-1996
(Million Metric Tons of Gas)

Source	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Carbon Monoxide	93.5	91.3	88.3	85.3	85.4	89.6	83.5	NA
Nitrogen Oxides	21.1	20.9	20.6	20.7	21.1	21.5	19.7	NA
Nonmethane VOCs	21.7	21.4	20.8	20.3	20.5	21.1	20.7	NA

NA = not available.

Note: Data in this table are revised from the data contained in the previous EIA report, *Emissions of Greenhouse Gases in the United States 1995*, DOE/EIA-0573(95) (Washington, DC, October 1996).

Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, *National Air Pollutant Emission Trends, 1900-1995*, EPA-454/R-96-007 (Research Triangle Park, NC, October 1996), pp. A-5, A-9, and A-16.

Table 35. U.S. Carbon Monoxide Emissions, 1989-1996
(Million Metric Tons)

Source	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Transportation								
Highway Vehicles	59.92	57.02	56.31	54.30	54.61	56.09	53.18	NA
Aircraft	0.87	0.88	0.87	0.89	0.92	0.96	0.95	NA
Railroads	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.12	NA
Vessels	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.06	0.06	0.06	NA
Other Off-Highway	12.14	12.24	12.21	12.46	12.76	13.07	13.04	NA
Total	73.09	70.31	69.56	67.82	68.47	70.30	67.35	NA
Stationary Source Fuel Combustion								
Electric Utilities	0.29	0.28	0.29	0.28	0.29	0.29	0.29	NA
Industrial	0.61	0.61	0.61	0.61	0.61	0.61	0.61	NA
Commercial-Institutional	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.08	0.08	0.07	NA
Residential	5.73	3.57	3.85	4.07	3.47	3.41	2.57	NA
Total	6.70	4.55	4.81	5.03	4.45	4.38	3.54	NA
Total Energy-Related Emissions ...	79.79	74.85	74.37	72.85	72.91	74.68	70.90	NA
Industrial Processes	4.78	4.74	4.64	4.71	4.79	4.91	5.15	NA
Solid Waste Disposal								
Incineration	0.79	0.77	0.78	0.78	0.79	0.80	0.81	NA
Open Burning	0.79	0.76	0.77	0.77	0.78	0.79	0.79	NA
Total	1.58	1.53	1.54	1.56	1.57	1.58	1.60	NA
Miscellaneous								
Forest Fires	2.73	5.51	3.12	1.52	1.44	3.73	1.18	NA
Other Burning	4.64	4.62	4.62	4.63	4.64	4.65	4.67	NA
Total	7.37	10.14	7.74	6.15	6.08	8.39	5.85	NA
Total All Sources	93.52	91.26	88.29	85.27	85.35	89.56	83.50	NA
Carbon Content of Carbon Monoxide ..	40.08	39.11	37.84	36.54	36.58	38.39	35.79	NA
Carbon Content of Energy-Related Carbon Monoxide	34.20	32.09	31.88	31.23	31.26	32.01	30.39	NA

NA = not available.

Note: Data in this table are revised from the data contained in the previous EIA report, *Emissions of Greenhouse Gases in the United States 1995*, DOE/EIA-0573(95) (Washington, DC, October 1996).

Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, *National Air Pollutant Emission Trends, 1900-1995*, EPA-454/R-96-007 (Research Triangle Park, NC, October 1996), Table A-1, pp. A-2-A-5.

Table 36. U.S. Nitrogen Oxide Emissions, 1989-1996
(Million Metric Tons)

Source	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Transportation								
Highway Vehicles	6.97	6.79	6.69	6.75	6.81	6.96	6.90	NA
Aircraft	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.14	0.14	NA
Railroads	0.84	0.84	0.84	0.86	0.86	0.86	0.90	NA
Vessels	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.17	0.17	0.18	NA
Other Off-Highway	1.46	1.45	1.41	1.47	1.55	1.64	1.51	NA
Total	9.55	9.37	9.23	9.37	9.52	9.77	9.62	NA
Stationary Source Fuel Combustion								
Electric Utilities	6.90	6.82	6.79	6.78	7.05	6.98	5.65	NA
Industrial	2.91	2.95	2.88	2.92	2.90	2.91	2.85	NA
Commercial-Institutional	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.27	NA
Residential	0.38	0.36	0.37	0.38	0.37	0.37	0.36	NA
Total	10.47	10.41	10.32	10.35	10.60	10.54	9.13	NA
Total Energy-Related Emissions ...	20.02	19.78	19.54	19.72	20.12	20.31	18.75	NA
Industrial Processes	0.70	0.70	0.68	0.70	0.71	0.73	0.63	NA
Solid Waste Disposal								
Incineration	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	NA
Open Burning	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	NA
Total	0.08	0.07	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	NA
Miscellaneous								
Forest Fires	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	NA
Other Burning	0.26	0.34	0.26	0.23	0.20	0.34	0.21	NA
Total	0.27	0.34	0.26	0.23	0.20	0.34	0.21	NA
Total All Sources	21.06	20.89	20.56	20.72	21.11	21.45	19.67	NA

*Less than 5,000 metric tons.

NA = not available.

Note: Data in this table are revised from the data contained in the previous EIA report, *Emissions of Greenhouse Gases in the United States 1995*, DOE/EIA-0573(95) (Washington, DC, October 1996).

Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, *National Air Pollutant Emission Trends 1900-1995*, EPA-454/R-96-007 (Research Triangle Park, NC, October 1996), Table A-2, pp. A-6-A-9.

Table 37. U.S. Emissions of Nonmethane Volatile Organic Compounds, 1989-1996
(Million Metric Tons)

Source	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Transportation								
Highway Vehicles	6.52	6.22	5.90	5.51	5.54	5.81	5.54	NA
Aircraft	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.18	0.18	0.19	0.19	NA
Railroads	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	NA
Vessels	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	NA
Other Off-Highway	1.66	1.67	1.68	1.71	1.74	1.77	1.77	NA
Total	8.43	8.14	7.82	7.47	7.54	7.85	7.58	NA
Stationary Source Fuel Combustion								
Electric Utilities	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	NA
Industrial	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	NA
Commercial-Institutional	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	NA
Residential	1.07	0.66	0.72	0.76	0.65	0.63	0.47	NA
Total	1.24	0.83	0.88	0.92	0.81	0.80	0.64	NA
Total Energy-Related Emissions ...	9.67	8.97	8.71	8.39	8.35	8.65	8.22	NA
Industrial Processes	9.38	9.41	9.32	9.47	9.60	9.78	9.93	NA
Solid Waste Disposal								
Incineration	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	NA
Open Burning	0.25	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.25	0.25	NA
Other	1.78	1.76	1.76	1.76	1.76	1.76	1.88	NA
Total	2.08	2.05	2.05	2.06	2.06	2.06	2.19	NA
Miscellaneous								
Forest Fires	0.30	0.70	0.40	0.15	0.19	0.34	0.12	NA
Other Burning	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.28	0.28	NA
Total	0.58	0.97	0.67	0.42	0.47	0.62	0.40	NA
Total All Sources	21.71	21.41	20.75	20.34	20.48	21.11	20.74	NA

NA = not available.

Notes: Data in this table are revised from the data contained in the previous EIA report, *Emissions of Greenhouse Gases in the United States 1995*, DOE/EIA-0573(95) (Washington, DC, October 1996). Totals may not equal sum of components due to independent rounding.

Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, *National Air Pollutant Emission Trends 1900-1995*, EPA-454/R-96-007 (Research Triangle Park, NC, October 1996), Table A-3, pp. A-10-A-16.

7. Land Use Issues

Overview

Emissions of carbon dioxide from the combustion of fossil fuels are relatively small compared to carbon dioxide emissions and absorption from natural processes. As noted in Chapter 1, natural processes in the oceans and biomass are responsible for the majority of carbon dioxide absorption and emissions on a global scale. This is also true of methane and nitrous oxide. Most methane and nitrous oxide are created by bacteria in soils and wetlands. Although these facts demonstrate that the most important natural processes affecting greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere are not subject to human control, modifications in land use can influence their concentrations in amounts that are still significant.

The magnitude of this influence is difficult to measure. Natural processes, particularly below-ground growth and soil dynamics, are often highly variable, unpredictable, and therefore difficult to measure. Analysts can only estimate emissions or sequestration on the basis of relatively small sample surveys and extrapolate (with associated uncertainty) to much larger regions. A related problem arises in distinguishing between human-caused and natural phenomena. An electric power plant is clearly a human artifact. Trees growing back over abandoned farmland are a more ambiguous case.

Forests and the Carbon Budget

The most important changes in land use affecting the U.S. share of the carbon budget are those that increase or reduce forest land. Each year, a very large amount of carbon dioxide, on the order of 100 billion metric tons, is removed from the atmosphere and sequestered into biomass and soil worldwide.¹⁰⁶ At the same time, carbon is released to the atmosphere from vegetative respiration, combustion of wood in natural or purpose-

ly set forest fires or as fuel, degradation of manufactured wood products, and the natural decay of rotting vegetative detritus. The net numerical difference, or flux, between carbon sequestration and carbon release due to natural factors can be viewed as a measure of the relative contribution of biomass to the carbon cycle.

Annual world carbon flux is difficult to measure but is thought to be close to zero; in other words, sequestration and respiration are roughly in balance worldwide.¹⁰⁷ In the United States, however, the live components of forests and the wood products produced from them (including paper and wood-based construction materials) sequestered a net of approximately 111 million metric tons of carbon (407 million metric tons of carbon dioxide) in 1992, including 12 million metric tons of carbon sequestered in wood products and 15 million metric tons of carbon sequestered in landfilled wood product waste.¹⁰⁸ A further 127 million metric tons of carbon were believed to be sequestered in forest soils and the forest floor in 1992. For purposes of comparison, this estimated amount of sequestered carbon offset approximately 17 percent of the 1,381 million metric tons of carbon (or 5,068 million metric tons of carbon dioxide) emitted in the United States in 1992 from the burning of fossil fuels (see Chapter 2).

Estimates of carbon sequestration for years after 1992 are not currently available, but the U.S. Forest Service has made projections through the year 2040. A linear interpolation between the 1992 estimate and year 2000 projection was used to determine projections for intervening years, including 1996. Based on this interpolation, the carbon flux for 1996 was projected to be approximately 17 percent lower than the 1992 estimate. This results in projected carbon sequestration in 1996 of 198 million metric tons, equivalent to approximately 13 percent of U.S. carbon dioxide emissions for the year

¹⁰⁶Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, *Greenhouse Gas Inventory Reference Manual*, IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories, Vol. 3 (Paris, France, 1995), p. 5.2.

¹⁰⁷Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, *Greenhouse Gas Inventory Reference Manual*, IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories, Vol. 3 (Paris, France, 1995), p. 5.2.

¹⁰⁸R.A. Birdsey and L.S. Heath, "Carbon Changes in U.S. Forests," in L.A. Joyce (ed.), *Productivity of America's Forests and Climate Change*, General Technical Report RM-GTR-271 (Fort Collins, CO: USDA Forest Service, 1995).

(based on carbon emissions of 1,485 million metric tons).¹⁰⁹

The current inventory of carbon in U.S. forests is enormous. A study by researchers Richard Birdsey and Linda Heath of the U.S. Forest Service estimated that U.S. forest ecosystems contained 54.6 billion metric tons of carbon in 1992¹¹⁰—the equivalent of nearly 40 years of U.S. carbon emissions from fossil fuel consumption.

Table 38 (located at the end of this chapter) shows U.S. Department of Agriculture Economic Research Service estimates of the major uses of land in the United States, developed through a periodic sample survey that is updated every 5 years (the last update was in 1992). The USDA publication that gives the most comprehensive view of land use, *Major Uses of Land in the United States*, indicates that between 1987 and 1992 there was a net increase of 6 million acres of forest land.¹¹¹ Table 38 indicates that "Forest-Use Land" remained stable at 648 million acres between 1987 and 1992. However, "Special-Use Areas" include extensive forest land in the form of National Parks and wilderness areas. In 1992, forested "Special-Use Areas" accounted for nearly 89 million acres.¹¹² As a result, forested land in the United States totaled roughly 737 million acres.

The 737 million acres of U.S. forest land represents approximately two-thirds of the area that was forested in the United States in the year 1600 (1.04 billion acres).¹¹³ Figure 11 graphically illustrates the extent of forest land in the coterminous United States in 1620, 1850, 1920, and 1992.

Three important facts are highlighted by these maps. First, slightly less than 50 percent of the land area of the present-day United States has contained forest during recent centuries, primarily because large areas have been inhospitable to trees during that time. This limits maximum potential carbon sequestration. Areas suitable for forest are concentrated primarily east of the Mississippi, in the Pacific Northwest, in Idaho, and in

limited portions of several other States. The second fact highlighted by these maps is that very little of the extensive forest present in 1620 remained by 1920, most having been cleared for agriculture and to produce timber; by 1920, the clearing of forests for agriculture had largely come to an end, as agriculture became concentrated in superior locations in the Midwest. Third, large areas returned to forest between 1920 and 1992, especially in the East, where abandonment of agriculture set the stage for large-scale forest regrowth.

Aggregate annual carbon flux generally follows trends in forest cover, except when biomass density on forest lands changes dramatically. This can happen when there is extensive timber harvesting (which changes the carbon sequestration potential from higher levels to lower levels, and can even result in a temporary net loss of carbon from the system) or from a long-term lull in harvesting (which results in forest land that sequesters relatively large amounts of carbon).

The regrowth of U.S. forests has had important impacts on net U.S. carbon dioxide emissions. Overall, U.S. forests have been a net carbon sink since 1952. According to Birdsey and Heath, between 1952 and 1992, carbon stored on U.S. forest land increased by a net of 11.3 billion metric tons, an average net increase of 281 million metric tons per year, and an amount that offset approximately 25 percent of U.S. emissions of carbon for the period.¹¹⁴ In addition to reforestation associated with the abandonment of agriculture in the East, more than 4 million acres of marginal cropland have been reforested since 1974 under such Federal programs as the Conservation Reserve Program, Agricultural Conservation Program, and Forestry Incentives Program.¹¹⁵ Birdsey and Heath estimated that U.S. forests will continue to be net carbon sinks well into the future, sequestering carbon at an average net annual rate of 178 million metric tons between 1992 and 2040 (not including sequestration into wood products and landfills), for a total increase in stored carbon of 8.5 billion metric tons.¹¹⁶

¹⁰⁹R.A. Birdsey and L.S. Heath, "Carbon Changes in U.S. Forests," in L.A. Joyce (ed.), *Productivity of America's Forests and Climate Change*, General Technical Report RM-GTR-271 (Fort Collins, CO: USDA Forest Service, 1995).

¹¹⁰R.A. Birdsey and L.S. Heath, "Carbon Changes in U.S. Forests," in L.A. Joyce (ed.), *Productivity of America's Forests and Climate Change*, General Technical Report RM-GTR-271 (Fort Collins, CO: USDA Forest Service, 1995).

¹¹¹A. Daugherty, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service, *Major Uses of Land in the United States: 1992*, Agricultural Economic Report Number 723 (Washington, DC, September, 1995), p. 4.

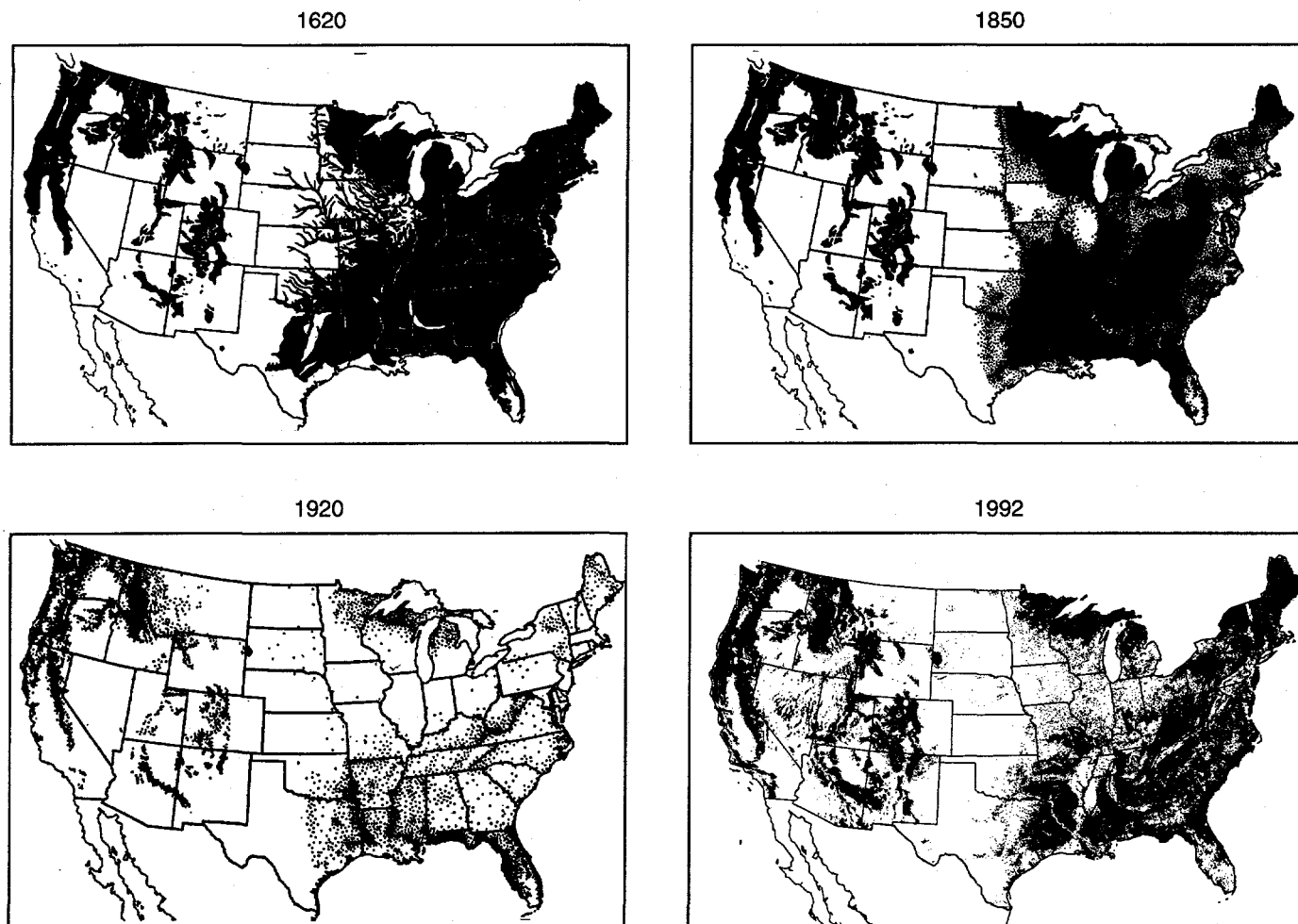
¹¹²D.S. Powell, J.L. Faulkner, D.R. Darr, Z. Zhu, and D.W. MacCleery, *Forest Resources of the United States, 1992*, USDA Forest Service General Technical Report RM-234 (Washington, DC, September 1993), p. 1.

¹¹³D.S. Powell, J.L. Faulkner, D.R. Darr, Z. Zhu, and D.W. MacCleery, *Forest Resources of the United States, 1992*, USDA Forest Service General Technical Report RM-234 (Washington, DC, September 1993), p. 1.

¹¹⁴R.A. Birdsey and L.S. Heath, "Carbon Changes in U.S. Forests," in L.A. Joyce (ed.), *Productivity of America's Forests and Climate Change*, General Technical Report RM-GTR-271 (Fort Collins, CO: USDA Forest Service, 1995).

¹¹⁵F.C. Cabbage, "Federal Land Conversion Programs," in *Forests and Global Change*, Vol. 1 (Washington, DC, 1992), p. 184.

¹¹⁶R.A. Birdsey and L.S. Heath, "Carbon Changes in U.S. Forests," in L.A. Joyce (ed.), *Productivity of America's Forests and Climate Change*, General Technical Report RM-GTR-271 (Fort Collins, CO: USDA Forest Service, 1995).

Figure 11. Forest Land in the United States, 1620, 1850, 1920, and 1992

Notes: Maps for 1620, 1850, and 1920 represent estimates of the extent of virgin forest. They are presented as a surrogate for total forest cover because most of the forest clearing evident in the 1920 map occurred after 1850; thus, any forest present in 1920 but not indicated on that map would have been relatively young, secondary forest with a potential for future carbon sequestration roughly indistinguishable from that of young forests on newly cleared land.

Sources: **1620, 1850, 1920:** W. Greeley, U.S. Forest Service, "The Relation of Geography to Timber Supply," *Economic Geography*, Vol. 1 (1925), p. 1. **1992:** U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, AVHRR Forest Type Map, 1993 RPA Program, Forest Inventory and Analysis (Starkville, MS, December 1992), modified for printing by Pacific Meridian Resources (Emeryville, CA, 1996).

Cropland and the Carbon Budget

It is difficult to be specific about how much carbon might be gained or lost through transformations of grasslands, pasturelands, or croplands into different uses. Although the amount of carbon in a square meter of forest might be on the order of 9 to 26 kilograms, depending on the condition of the forest and the age

and species of trees, typical estimates of carbon storage in cultivated lands range from a far lower 1 to 8 kilograms per square meter, and estimates for uncultivated (but cultivatable) lands range from a similarly low 2 to 10 kilograms per square meter.¹¹⁷ Thus, there is less carbon to be gained or lost relative to forest land, and the range of possible outcomes per unit of land is consequently smaller.

¹¹⁷See the scattergram in L.K. Mann, "Changes in Soil Carbon Storage After Cultivation," *Soil Science*, Vol. 142, No. 5 (November 1986), p. 284.

Between 1987 and 1992, the extent of cropland in use in the United States increased by 9 million acres, while the amount of idle cropland declined by 12 million acres. The shift from idled to cultivated and grazed cropland should, in principle, lead to small decreases in net carbon storage as cultivation reduces soil carbon. Shifts from any of the above to urban land, the fastest single land use growth category, should lead to stable or slightly reduced storage. Land in urban areas, as measured by the Bureau of the Census, totaled 55.9 million acres in 1990, up from 47.3 million acres in 1980.¹¹⁸

Methane Emissions from Wetlands

The range of observed methane fluxes from U.S. wetlands is enormous. One survey of experiments conducted in the United States found estimates ranging from a negative flux (methane absorption) to a flux of 213 grams of methane per square meter per year, largely dependent on habitat type.¹¹⁹ Thus, it is difficult to extrapolate from experimental data to large-scale emissions estimates.

Comparisons of estimates of global methane fluxes from wetlands versus temperate zone wetlands alone tend to indicate that methane emissions from temperate-zone wetlands are minimal—typically between 5 and 10 million metric tons of methane per year for worldwide temperate-zone wetlands (which include U.S. wetlands)—when compared with estimated global wetlands emissions of 110 million metric tons.¹²⁰ The U.S. share of all temperate-zone wetlands is about 57

percent, and U.S. wetlands lost during the 1980s accounted for about 0.5 percent of the extent of wetlands at the beginning of the decade. Consequently, the reduction in natural methane emissions from U.S. wetlands lost might be on the order of 10,000 to 20,000 metric tons annually over the decade.

Effects of Land Use Changes on Methane and Nitrous Oxide Emissions

The scientific literature suggests that grass and forest lands are both weak natural sinks for methane and weak natural sources of nitrous oxide, although adequate research to establish accurate estimates of aggregate methane and nitrous oxide emissions and sequestration is lacking. Natural soils apparently serve as methane sinks: well-aerated soils contain a class of bacteria called "methanotrophs" which use methane as food and oxidize it into carbon dioxide. Experiments indicate that cultivation reduces methane uptake by soils and increases nitrous oxide emissions.¹²¹ Exactly how much methane is absorbed by natural soils, and how much nitrous oxide is emitted, is difficult to estimate, although total amounts are very small.

It is known that conversion of forests and grasslands to cropland accelerates nitrogen cycling and increases nitrous oxide emissions from the soil. It is not known with certainty by how much (see Appendix A).¹²²

¹¹⁸U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, 1990 *Census of Population and Housing, Population and Housing Unit Counts, United States*, CPH-2-1 (Washington, DC, 1993).

¹¹⁹See E. Matthews and I. Fung, "Methane Emissions from Natural Wetlands: Global Distribution, Area, and Environmental Characteristics," *Global Biogeochemical Cycles*, Vol. 1, No. 1 (March 1987); and K. Bartlett and R.C. Harriss, "Review and Assessment of Methane Emissions from Wetlands," *Chemosphere*, Vol. 26, Nos. 1-4 (1993), p. 280.

¹²⁰See E. Matthews and I. Fung, "Methane Emissions from Natural Wetlands: Global Distribution, Area, and Environmental Characteristics," *Global Biogeochemical Cycles*, Vol. 1, No. 1 (March 1987); and K. Bartlett and R.C. Harriss, "Review and Assessment of Methane Emissions from Wetlands," *Chemosphere*, Vol. 26, Nos. 1-4 (1993), p. 280.

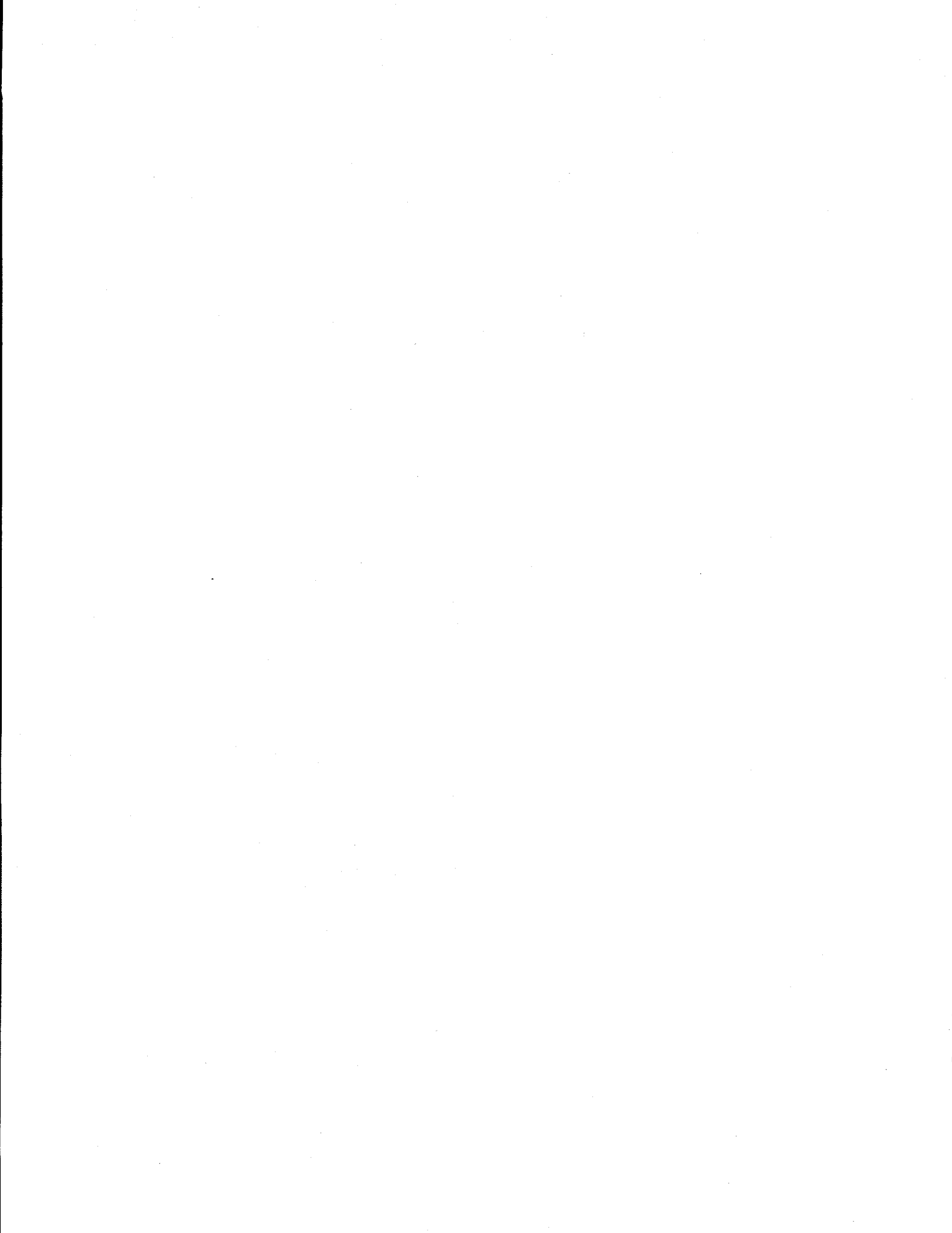
¹²¹A. Mosier et al., "Methane and Nitrous Oxide Fluxes in Native, Fertilized, and Cultivated Grasslands," *Nature*, Vol. 350, No. 6316 (March 28, 1991), pp. 330-332.

¹²²A. Mosier, "Nitrous Oxide Emissions from Agricultural Soils," paper presented at RIVM International Workshop on Methane and Nitrous Oxide: Methods in National Emission Inventories and Options for Control (Amersfoort, The Netherlands, February 3-5, 1993).

Table 38. Major Uses of Land in the United States
(Million Acres)

Land Use	1978	1982	1987	1992
Cropland	471	469	464	460
Used for Crops	369	383	331	338
Idle Cropland	26	21	68	56
Pasture	76	65	65	67
Grassland Pasture and Range	587	597	591	591
Forest-Use Land	703	655	648	648
Grazed Land	172	158	155	145
Other Use	531	497	493	503
Special Use Areas	158	270	279	281
Miscellaneous Other Land	345	274	283	283
Total Land Area	2,264	2,265	2,265	2,263

Sources: A. Daugherty, *Major Uses of Land in the United States: 1987*, Economic Research Service Report 643 (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Agriculture, January 1991), p. 4; and A. Daugherty, *Major Uses of Land in the United States: 1992*, Agricultural Economic Report Number 723 (Washington, DC, September 1995), p. 4.



Appendix A

Estimation Methods

The organization of this appendix generally follows the organization of the body of the report: the discussion is divided by greenhouse gas and by emissions source.

Carbon Dioxide

Most U.S. anthropogenic carbon dioxide emissions result from energy consumption. Energy production contributes a small amount from the flaring of natural gas at oil and gas wells, and a number of industrial processes also emit carbon dioxide through non-combustion processes. The largest single source of emissions from these processes is the calcination of limestone in cement production. Other sources include lime manufacture, limestone and dolomite consumption, soda ash manufacture and consumption, industrial carbon dioxide manufacture, and aluminum production. Lastly, some small adjustments are made to reach the total for national emissions. Each emissions source for carbon dioxide, the estimation methods used, and the data sources are described here.

Several emissions sources are excluded from the carbon dioxide emissions presented in this report, due either to the uncertainty of estimates or because they are based on biomass combustion (which is assumed to be consumed sustainably with a net flux of carbon dioxide to the atmosphere equal to zero). Should the energy use of biomass fuels result in a long-term decline in the total carbon embodied in standing biomass (e.g., forests), the net release of carbon would be treated as a land use issue (see Chapter 7).

Energy Consumption

Emissions Sources

Most U.S. commercial energy is produced through the combustion of fossil fuels, such as coal, natural gas, and petroleum. Chemically, the main components of fossil fuels are hydrocarbons, made up of molecules containing hydrogen and carbon atoms. When these fuels are burned, atmospheric oxygen combines with the hydrogen atoms to create water vapor and with the carbon atoms to create carbon dioxide. In theory, if the amount

of fuel burned and the amount of carbon in the fuel is known, the volume of carbon dioxide emitted into the atmosphere can be computed with a high degree of precision. In practice, however, a combination of real-world complexities can reduce the precision of the estimate. These complexities are discussed further in this appendix. Nonetheless, energy-related carbon dioxide emissions are known with greater reliability than are other greenhouse gas emissions sources, and the uncertainty of the estimate is probably 10 percent or less. Appendix C, "Uncertainty in Emissions Estimates," contains an extended discussion of the nature and sources of uncertainty in the estimates presented in this report.

One real-world complexity is that not all the carbon in fuel is perfectly combusted. About 1.5 percent of the carbon in fossil fuels is emitted in the form of carbon monoxide, which swiftly decays into carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. Another 1 percent is emitted in the form of volatile organic compounds (including methane), which also eventually decay into carbon dioxide. The carbon dioxide emissions reported in Chapter 2 include all "potential" carbon dioxide emissions from the sources covered, including both carbon dioxide emitted directly and carbon emitted in other forms (such as carbon monoxide) that rapidly decay into carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

Estimation Methods

Carbon emissions in this report were calculated by multiplying energy consumption for each fuel type by an associated carbon emissions coefficient. The result was then modified by subtracting carbon sequestered by nonfuel use. This section describes the derivation of information on energy consumption, emissions coefficients, and carbon sequestered by nonfuel use.

Consumption Data

The Energy Information Administration (EIA) collects a wide variety of information from primary suppliers on a frequent basis and from energy consumers less often, but still in a timely manner. Thus, levels of energy consumption in the United States are fairly well

known by end-use sector and detailed fuel type.¹²³ To estimate carbon dioxide emissions, the EIA uses annual data from the four end-use sectors (residential, commercial, industrial, and transportation) and for all the fossil fuels (coal, natural gas, and the full slate of petroleum products). The petroleum products include asphalt and road oil, aviation gasoline, distillate fuel, jet fuel, kerosene, liquefied petroleum gases (LPGs), lubricants, motor gasoline, residential fuel, and other petroleum products. Definitions and chemical characteristics of the fossil fuels are documented in the appendixes of the EIA's recurring reports: the *Annual Energy Review* (AER) and *State Energy Data Report* (SEDR), as well as the *Petroleum Supply Annual*, *Coal Industry Annual*, and *Natural Gas Annual*. This approach to estimate emissions enables EIA to provide detailed information about trends in sources of emissions.

Information about consumption of "other petroleum" is derived from unpublished EIA data. In recent years, these products have included crude oil, naphtha <401°F, other oil ≥401°F, motor gasoline blending components, miscellaneous products, petroleum coke, pentanes plus, still gas, special naphthas, waxes, and unfinished oils.

Emissions Coefficients

The amount of carbon released when a fossil fuel is burned depends on the density, carbon content, and gross heat of combustion of the fuel.¹²⁴ Most of the coefficients for major fuels are assumed to be constant over time. However, for motor gasoline, liquefied petroleum gases (LPG), jet fuel, and crude oil, EIA developed annualized carbon emissions coefficients to reflect changes in chemical composition or product mix over the years. Appendix B contains a more detailed discussion of the methodology employed for developing the coefficients. Table B1 in Appendix B presents a full listing of all factors for crude oil, natural gas, and the complete slate of petroleum products.

Corrections to Energy Consumption Information

While, in general, emissions can be estimated simply by multiplying fuel consumption by the appropriate emissions coefficients, several small adjustments to EIA

energy statistics are necessary to eliminate double counting or miscounting of emissions. Usually the adjustments amount to less than 0.1 percent of energy-related carbon emissions. They include:

- **Ethanol.** About 70 million barrels of ethanol are included in annual U.S. gasoline consumption after 1992. Because ethanol is a biofuel, the carbon it contains should not be counted as an emission. Hence, carbon from ethanol is deducted from transportation gasoline consumption. Ethanol consumption is reported in the *Renewable Energy Annual* and the *Petroleum Supply Annual*.
- **Synthetic gas from coal.** Small amounts of "supplemental gas"—particularly, gas from the Great Plains Coal Gasification Plant in North Dakota—are manufactured from coal. The coal is counted in industrial energy consumption, and the gas is shipped into the pipeline system. EIA deducts the carbon in synthetic gas (as reported in the *Natural Gas Annual*) from industrial coal emissions.
- **Still gas to pipelines.** Several refineries sell small volumes of "still gas" as supplemental gas to pipelines. EIA deducts the carbon in still gas sales to pipelines (as reported in the *Natural Gas Annual*) from industrial "other petroleum" consumption.
- **Carbon dioxide in geothermal steam.** Geothermal steam at The Geysers in Guerneville, California, where most U.S. geothermal electric power is generated, contains appreciable amounts of carbon dioxide dissolved in the steam, which is released into the atmosphere when the steam is brought to the Earth's surface for power production. This year, EIA has included emissions from this source, at a rate of less than 0.1 million metric tons of carbon per year.

Carbon Sequestration: Nonfuel Use of Fossil Fuels

Gross emissions can be estimated by multiplying fossil fuel consumption by an emissions factor embodying the estimated carbon content of the fuel. However, portions of the fossil fuels consumed are not actually combusted but are used as chemical feedstocks, construction materials, lubricants, solvents, or reducing agents (Table A1). The EIA estimates "nonfuel" use of fossil fuels

¹²³Although some of EIA's detailed sectoral surveys are conducted only every 3 years on a sample basis, the EIA collects information about apparent consumption of petroleum products (taken as "petroleum product supplied") in mandatory monthly surveys of primary suppliers (e.g., refiners, pipeline operators, importers/exporters, and bulk terminal operators).

¹²⁴Combustion of hydrocarbons results in the production of carbon dioxide, water vapor, and heat. In the United States, the heat resulting from combustion is generally measured as the heat associated with production of water vapor and carbon dioxide. This is commonly referred to as the "higher" or "gross" heating value and is used in EIA statistics on thermal energy. The estimates in this report consistently employ coefficients that reflect the higher heating value assumption. Internationally, however, the "lower" heating value is used. If the lower heating value were used, the Btu content of the fuel would be 5 to 10 percent lower, and the coefficients would be 5 to 10 percent larger, but the carbon emissions estimate would be unchanged. This is sometimes a source of discrepancy. See OECD, *Estimation of Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks* (Final Report) (Paris, France, August 1991), pp. 2-12-2-15.

Table A1. U.S. Fossil Fuel Consumption for Nonfuel Use, 1989-1996
(Quadrillion Btu)

End Use	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	P1996
Petroleum								
Asphalt and Road Oil	1.10	1.17	1.08	1.10	1.15	1.17	1.18	1.18
Liquefied Petroleum Gases	1.18	1.20	1.38	1.39	1.35	1.55	1.59	1.70
Pentanes Plus	0.08	0.08	0.04	0.06	0.28	0.26	0.30	0.32
Lubricants	0.35	0.36	0.32	0.33	0.34	0.35	0.35	0.34
Industrial	0.18	0.19	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.18	0.18	0.17
Transportation	0.17	0.18	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.17	0.17	0.16
Petrochemical Feed	0.96	1.12	1.15	1.20	1.22	1.26	1.21	1.20
Petroleum Coke	0.14	0.18	0.16	0.25	0.17	0.18	0.19	0.21
Special Naphtha	0.11	0.11	0.09	0.10	0.10	0.08	0.07	0.07
Other (Waxes and Misc.)	0.23	0.22	0.25	0.20	0.19	0.20	0.19	0.19
Coal	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.04	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03
Natural Gas to Chemical Plants	0.58	0.59	0.59	0.61	0.63	0.69	0.71	0.76
Total	4.66	4.98	5.04	5.23	5.18	5.51	5.52	5.68

P = preliminary data.

Notes: Asphalt and lubricants are as reported in the EIA's *State Energy Data Report 1994*, DOE/EIA-0214(94) (Washington, DC, October 1996) for 1989-1994, and *Monthly Energy Review*, DOE/EIA-0035(97/07) (Washington, DC, July 1997). Some slight differences exist between this table and the *Annual Energy Review*. Data in this table are revised from the data contained in the previous EIA report, *Emissions of Greenhouse Gases in the United States 1995*, DOE/EIA-0573(95) (Washington, DC, October 1996).

Source: Energy Information Administration, *Annual Energy Review 1996*, DOE/EIA-0384(96) (Washington, DC, July 1997), Table 1.16, p. 35, and underlying estimates.

annually in Table 1.16 of the *Annual Energy Review*.¹²⁵ For this report, EIA has gone one step further and determined the fate of the carbon in fuels used for nonfuel purposes (Table A2). In some cases, the carbon winds up in the atmosphere; in other cases, it does not. The principal nonfuel uses of fossil fuels, the methods of estimating nonfuel consumption, and the fate of the carbon are listed below.

- **Natural Gas.** Nonfuel use of natural gas is based on periodic (1985, 1988, 1991, and 1994) reports in the EIA's Manufacturing Energy Consumption Survey (MECS). Based on MECS, nonfuel use is divided into three categories: nitrogenous fertilizers, other chemical use, and all other nonfuel uses. Feedstock use of natural gas to make nitrogenous fertilizers is a nonsequestering use, since the underlying chemical in nitrogenous fertilizers is ammonia (NH₄), which is manufactured by steam reforming of natural gas and reacting the synthesis gas with atmospheric nitrogen, leaving the carbon in the feedstock literally "up in the air." In many cases, the carbon dioxide is recovered to make urea or for industrial use. However, carbon in urea and industrial carbon dioxide are generally only temporarily delayed on their way to the atmosphere.

EIA assumes that other nonfuel use in the chemical industry result in 100-percent carbon sequestration. Natural gas is used as a feedstock for a range of chemical products other than ammonia, particularly methanol. Although the methanol used to make methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE) winds up in the gasoline pool and is combusted, EIA already counts the carbon in MTBE in gasoline emissions, and to count it again in the feedstock would be double counting.

Future research on the fate of the carbon in feedstocks for other chemical industry uses will probably gradually reduce the 100-percent sequestration share currently assumed.

- **Liquefied Petroleum Gases (LPG).** Nonfuel use of LPG (ethane, propane, and butane) is estimated on the basis of sales of these products to the chemical industry, as reported by the American Petroleum Institute (API) in its annual survey, *Sales of Natural Gas Liquids and Liquefied Refinery Gases*, from which EIA deducts chemical industry fuel use of LPG as reported periodically in the MECS. Most of the ethane, propane, and butane used by the chemical industry is used to manufacture ethylene, propylene, and butadiene, respectively, all of which are

¹²⁵Energy Information Administration, *Annual Energy Review 1996*, DOE/EIA-0384(96) (Washington, DC, July 1997), p. 35.

Table A2. Rates of Sequestration for U.S. Fossil Fuel Consumption

Fuel Type	Fraction of Fuel Combusted	Fraction of Nonfuel Use of Energy Sequestered
Petroleum		
Motor Gasoline	0.990	--
LPG	0.995	0.80
Jet Fuel	0.990	--
Distillate Fuel	0.990	0.50
Residual Fuel	0.990	0.50
Asphalt and Road Oil	0.990	1.00
Lubricants	0.990	0.50
Petrochemical Feed	0.990	0.75
Aviation Gas	0.990	--
Kerosene	0.990	--
Petroleum Coke	0.990	0.50
Special Naphtha	0.990	0.00
Other		
Aviation Gas		
Blending Components ...	0.990	--
Crude Oil	0.990	--
Naphtha <401°F	0.990	0.75
Other Oil ≥401°F	0.990	0.50
Petrochemical Feed		
Still Gas	0.990	0.80
Motor Gasoline		
Blending Components ...	0.990	--
Miscellaneous	0.990	1.00
Natural Gasoline	0.990	--
Plant Condensate	0.990	--
Pentanes Plus	0.990	0.80
Still Gas	0.995	--
Special Naphthas	0.990	0.00
Unfinished Oils	0.990	--
Unfractionated Stream ...	0.990	--
Waxes	0.990	1.00
Coal		
Residential and Commercial	0.990	--
Industrial Coking	0.990	0.75
Industrial Other	0.990	--
Electric Utility	0.990	--
Natural Gas		
Flare Gas	1.000	--
Natural Gas	0.995	0.29-0.52
Crude Oil	0.990	--

Sources: EIA estimates documented in this chapter; and Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, *Greenhouse Gas Inventory Reference Manual*, IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories, Vol. 3 (Paris, France, 1995), pp. 1.24-1.29.

intermediate products for plastics. Following the recommendation of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), EIA assumes that 80 percent of nonfuel use is sequestered in plastics, synthetic rubber, and related products.¹²⁶

- **Asphalt and Road Oil.** EIA assumes that asphalt and road oil use is nonfuel use by definition, and that all carbon in asphalt and road oil is sequestered.
- **Pentanes Plus.** "Pentanes Plus" are hydrocarbons heavier than butane extracted from natural gas at gas processing plants. Their principal uses are as contributors to the gasoline pool and as petrochemical feedstocks. Nonfuel use of pentanes plus is estimated on the basis of the API's annual survey of natural gas liquids and refinery gases sold to the chemical industry. Following IPCC practice for LPG, EIA assumes that 80 percent of the carbon in pentanes plus used by the chemical industry is sequestered.
- **Petrochemical Feedstocks.** The EIA's petroleum surveys recognize two categories of products called "petrochemical feedstocks." These are presumably naphtha and gas oils destined for ethylene crackers, and probably some mix of aromatic hydrocarbons (benzene, toluene, and xylene) and feedstocks used to make aromatic hydrocarbons. All petrochemical feedstock supplies are included in nonfuel use by definition, and, following the practice of the IPCC, EIA assumes that 75 percent of the carbon in synthetic feedstocks and 50 percent of the carbon in gas oil feedstock is sequestered in plastics, synthetic fibers, and related products.
- **Distillate and Residual Fuels.** The MECS reports small volumes (10 million barrels and 1 million barrels, respectively) of distillate and residual oils used for nonfuel purposes in the chemical industry. Following the practice for gas oil petrochemical feedstocks, EIA assumes 50-percent sequestration. Future research may shed more light on the industrial processes that use these fuels.
- **Petroleum Coke.** Petroleum coke is a coal-like solid, about 90 percent carbon by weight, created after intensive extraction of lighter hydrocarbons from petroleum feedstocks by oil refiners. Most petroleum coke is used in the refineries as fuel or as a catalyst. EIA estimates nonfuel use by taking the quantity of petroleum coke supplied and deducting

¹²⁶Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, *Greenhouse Gas Inventory Reference Manual*, Revised 1996 Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories, Vol. 3 (Paris, France, 1997), p. 1.28.

all known fuel uses (refinery use from the *Petroleum Supply Annual*, electric utility use from the *Electric Power Annual*, and industrial use from the MECS). EIA assumes that 50 percent of the carbon in petroleum coke for nonfuel use is sequestered. It should be noted, however, that significant sequestering nonfuel uses of petroleum coke in the United States are difficult to identify. The principal identified nonfuel use is for sacrificial anodes in primary aluminum smelting, a nonsequestering use that EIA counts separately under process emissions (see the next section). It appears that petroleum coke is also used in small quantities by many different industries as a reducing agent (a source of carbon monoxide that, in turn, can be used to scour oxygen from products such as lead oxide (to produce lead) or iron oxide (to produce iron). These are, however, nonsequestering uses.

- **Still Gas.** Still gas is the gas that floats to the top of distillation columns in oil refineries. Its chemical composition is a highly variable blend of free hydrogen, methane, carbon monoxide, and heavier hydrocarbons, depending on the refinery process, the feedstock, and process conditions. EIA estimates nonfuel use by deducting all known fuel uses (refinery fuel use from the *Petroleum Supply Annual* and pipeline gas supplies from the *Natural Gas Annual*). The remainder is assumed to be dispatched to chemical plants as a feedstock. Following the IPCC practice for LPG, EIA assumes that 80 percent of the carbon in still gas is sequestered.
- **Special Naphtha.** "Special naphtha" is a catch-all for an array of hydrocarbon-based solvents, such as hexane and the volatile oils used in petroleum-based paint. In general, solvents evaporate into the atmosphere after use as "nonmethane volatile organic compounds" and swiftly weather into atmospheric carbon dioxide. EIA assumes that all special naphthas are for nonfuel use and that no carbon in special naphtha is sequestered.
- **Lubricants.** The most common petroleum-based lubricant is motor oil, but the category also includes numerous other products, such as industrial greases. Following the IPCC, EIA assumes that 50 percent of the carbon in lubricants is sequestered. The ultimate fate of lubricants is not easy to determine. For example, it is often the case that "recycling" motor oil means burning it as boiler fuel.
- **Waxes and Polishes.** The principal use of waxes is to make wax paper and food packaging materials,

which usually end up in landfills. Following the IPCC, EIA assumes 100-percent nonfuel use and 100-percent carbon sequestration for these materials.

- **Miscellaneous.** EIA assumes 100-percent nonfuel use and 100-percent carbon sequestration for this category.
- **Coal.** Arguably, the manufacture of coke is the largest nonfuel use of coal. By convention, however, coke manufacture is treated as a fuel use. This is not unreasonable, because coke is almost always ultimately combusted. Coke is manufactured by "cooking" high-grade coal in huge ovens in the absence of oxygen. Volatile materials, moisture, and certain categories of impurities are driven off, leaving behind a high-carbon material suitable for metallurgical use. Among the byproducts of the process are "coal tars" or "coal liquids," which typically are rich in aromatic hydrocarbons, such as benzene. Coal tars generally are used as feedstocks in the chemical industry. "Nonfuel use" of coal, as defined for this report, consists of the coal tars driven off during the manufacture of coke. Coal tar production was obtained, for years prior to 1995, from the International Trade Commission's *Synthetic Organic Chemicals*. Since 1995, production has been estimated on the basis of the ratio of 1994 coke production to coal tar production. Following the IPCC guidelines, EIA assumes that 75 percent of the carbon in coal tars is sequestered.

Carbon Sequestration: Fraction Combusted

A small amount of carbon sequestration is associated with the combustion of fossil fuels. Using IPCC assumptions, EIA assumes that oxidation of liquid and solid fuels during combustion is 99 percent complete, and that 1 percent of the carbon remains sequestered. Oxidation of gaseous fuels (LPG and natural gas) is assumed to be 99.5 percent complete.¹²⁷ Conceptually, fuel may be "lost" before combustion due to evaporation, leaks, or spills; it may be subject to incomplete combustion and vented to the atmosphere in the form of volatile organic compounds or particulates; or it may remain at the site of combustion in the form of carbon-containing ash or soot.

Data Sources

Fossil Fuel Consumption (1980-1994): Energy Information Administration, *State Energy Data Report*, DOE/EIA-0214(94) (Washington, DC, September 1996). **(1995-1996):** Energy Information Administration, *Monthly Energy Review*, DOE/EIA-0035(97/07) (Washington, DC,

¹²⁷Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, *Greenhouse Gas Inventory Reference Manual*, IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories, Vol. 3 (Paris, France, 1995), p. 1.33.

July 1997); *Petroleum Supply Annual* 1996, DOE/EIA-0340(96) (Washington, DC, June 1997); *Natural Gas Annual* 1995, DOE/EIA-0131(95) (Washington, DC, October 1996); and *Renewable Energy Annual* 1996, DOE/EIA-0603(96) (Washington, DC, March 1997).

Nonfuel Use of Energy and Biofuels Consumption: Energy Information Administration, *Annual Energy Review* 1996, DOE/EIA-384(96) (Washington, DC, July 1997); *Manufacturing Energy Consumption Survey* 1991, DOE/EIA-0512(91) (Washington, DC, December 1994); and preliminary material from the 1994 MECS posted on the EIA web site (www.eia.doe.gov); American Petroleum Institute, *Sales of Natural Gas Liquids and Liquefied Refinery Gas* (various years); U.S. International Trade Commission, *Synthetic Organic Chemicals*, USITC Publication 2933 (various years through 1994); and Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, *Greenhouse Gas Inventory Reference Manual*, IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories, Vol. 3 (Paris, France, 1995), p. 1.27.

Adjustments to U.S. Energy Consumption

In recent years, there have been several estimates of U.S. carbon emissions, some of which differ by as much as 5 percent. Two significant reasons for the differences in emissions estimates (beyond those associated with differences in coefficients) are the definitions of "energy

consumption" and "the United States" employed by researchers. Subtle differences in definition can produce variations of several percentage points in reported energy consumption and, hence, in carbon emissions. Some estimates include U.S. territories while others exclude them. If consumption is estimated as "apparent consumption" based on production plus imports minus exports plus stock change, then statistical discrepancies will be included in consumption. International bunkers are sometimes counted as domestic consumption and sometimes as exports. This section describes how each adjustment is accommodated in the EIA estimates.

U.S. Territories

Emissions Sources

EIA's energy data for the United States cover only the 50 States and the District of Columbia. In contrast, energy data produced by the International Energy Agency for the United States cover the 50 States plus U.S. territories, including Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, Micronesia, and Wake Island. Annual energy consumption in the U.S. territories is only about 0.5 quadrillion Btu (Table A3). Because all the U.S. territories are islands, their consumption consists primarily of petroleum products. For the territories as a group, oil consumption ranges between 200,000 and 250,000 barrels per day, and coal

Table A3. Energy Consumption in U.S. Territories and International Bunkers, 1989-1996
(Quadrillion Btu)

Place	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	P1996
U.S. Territories								
Puerto Rico	0.31	0.30	0.37	0.32	0.33	0.35	0.32	0.31
Virgin Islands	0.12	0.11	0.12	0.11	0.13	0.13	0.16	0.16
American Samoa	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Guam	0.01	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.05	0.06	0.05	0.05
Micronesia	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Wake Island	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02
Total	0.47	0.47	0.55	0.49	0.54	0.58	0.57	0.55
U.S. Bunker Fuels	1.06	1.05	1.11	1.17	1.06	1.03	1.09	1.04

*Less than 5 trillion Btu.

P = preliminary data.

Notes: Energy consumption in Micronesia ranged from 0.002 to 0.004 quadrillion Btu. Data in this table are revised from the data contained in the previous EIA report, *Emissions of Greenhouse Gases in the United States 1995*, DOE/EIA-0573(95) (Washington, DC, October 1996).

Sources: **U.S. Territories:** Energy Information Administration, *International Energy Annual*, DOE/EIA-0219 (various years), and unpublished data included in "Other" countries in the Asia/Pacific region. Data are shown in tables of "Apparent Consumption of Petroleum Products." Data for 1996 based on unpublished preliminary information. **Bunker Fuels:** Jet Fuel—Oak Ridge National Laboratory, *Transportation Energy Data Book* (Oak Ridge, TN, various years); Distillate and Residual Fuel Oils, 1987-1990—Energy Information Administration, *International Energy Annual*, DOE/EIA-0219 (Washington, DC, 1987-1990); Distillate and Residual Fuel Oils, 1991-1995—Energy Information Administration, *Fuel Oil and Kerosene Sales*, DOE/EIA-0535 (Washington, DC, 1991-1995).

consumption averages about 300,000 short tons per year, mostly in Puerto Rico.

Estimation Methods

Energy consumption for U.S. territories is converted to carbon emissions by using the same emissions coefficients applied to U.S. energy data. Carbon emissions for U.S. territories ranges from 10 to 12 million metric tons per year (see Table 15 in Chapter 2). Because a large portion of reported energy consumption in U.S. territories is from "other petroleum," there is a degree of uncertainty about the correct emissions factor to be used in this area, as well as the reliability of underlying data.

Data Sources

1980-1995: Energy Information Administration, *International Energy Annual*, DOE/EIA-0219 (Washington, DC, various years), and unpublished estimates for Wake Island, American Samoa, and the Pacific Trust Territories, which are included as "Other" in the Far East and Oceania region in the *International Energy Annual*. **1996:** EIA estimate.

International Bunker Fuels

Emissions Sources

The term "international bunker fuels" refers to fuel purchased by merchant ships in U.S. ports and by international air carriers in U.S. airports. By convention, trade statistics treat sales of bunker fuels as exports by the selling country, because the purchaser promptly hauls the fuel outside national boundaries. This convention is followed by organizations that prepare international energy statistics, such as the United Nations and the International Energy Agency.

Bunker fuels, however, are an export without a corresponding import, because the purchasing ship generally burns the fuel on the high seas. EIA energy statistics, which are based on domestic sales of products, treat bunker fuels sales in the same way as sales of other fuels, i.e., as domestic energy consumption. Carbon emissions from bunker fuels are, therefore, already counted in the domestic energy consumption of the United States—primarily as transportation-related consumption of residual oil. Those who wish to under-

stand the differences between emissions inventories based on international energy statistics and EIA data will, however, need to know the amount of energy consumption and the amount of carbon emissions associated with international bunkers. Table A3, therefore, shows U.S. international bunker fuel usage.¹²⁸ The amount is about 1.1 quadrillion Btu (or 500,000 barrels per day), largely of residual oil. It accounts for emissions of about 19 to 24 million metric tons of carbon annually (see Table 15 in Chapter 2).

Estimation Methods

The appropriate carbon coefficient is applied to estimated annual consumption for several fuels (including residual and distillate fuels, as well as kerosene-type jet fuels), with the assumption that 99 percent of the fuel is combusted.

Data Sources

Distillate and Residual Fuels (1980-1990): Energy Information Administration, *International Energy Annual*, DOE/EIA-0219 (Washington, DC, 1980-1990). **(1991-1996):** Energy Information Administration, *Fuel Oil and Kerosene Sales*, DOE/EIA-0535 (Washington, DC, 1991-1996). **Jet Fuels (1980-1995):** Oak Ridge National Laboratory, *Transportation Energy Data Book* (Oak Ridge, TN, various years).

Industrial Sources

Carbon dioxide emissions from "industrial sources" are industrial emissions that are not caused by the combustion or feedstock use of commercial fossil fuels. These emissions typically are created either by the combustion of waste products containing fossil carbon (natural gas flaring) or by chemical reactions with carbon-containing minerals (for example, calcining sodium carbonate [limestone] to make lime or cement).

Energy Production

Emissions Sources

U.S. energy production also generates small volumes of carbon dioxide emissions. The two principal sources are flaring of natural gas and venting of carbon dioxide produced in conjunction with natural gas.¹²⁹ When a field is developed for petroleum extraction, any

¹²⁸Up to 1990, bunker fuel consumption was reported by the U.S. Department of Commerce on the basis of trade data. Since 1991, bunker fuel data have been collected by the EIA on the basis of sales of specialized marine fuels by wholesalers. These data do not distinguish between international and domestic bunker fuel, nor do they provide for aviation bunkers. For recent years, international aviation bunkers and international marine bunkers are estimated on the basis of computations made by Oak Ridge National Laboratory in its *Transportation Energy Data Book*, Edition 13, p. A-5. International bunkers are assumed to account for 25 percent of marine distillate sales, 75 percent of marine fuel oil sales, and 15 percent of kerosene-based jet fuel sales.

¹²⁹See discussion of carbon dioxide manufacture for the treatment of vented carbon dioxide.

natural gas associated with that field may be flared if its use is not economically justifiable. This is typically the case for remote sites or when the gas is of poor quality or minimal volume. During natural gas production, flaring may be used for disposal of waste products (e.g., hydrogen sulfide), capacity testing, or as a result of process upsets.

Estimation Methods

The method for estimating emissions from natural gas flaring is based on the volume of vented and flared gas reported to the EIA by each State. The composite volume is scaled by a State-specific flaring percentage to ascertain the amount of natural gas flared in that State. The percent flared value is taken from a 1990 Department of Energy study that determined the relative split between venting and flaring for each State.¹³⁰ To calculate carbon emissions, the State figures are aggregated, converted into Btu, and then multiplied by an emissions coefficient of 14.92 million metric tons of carbon per quadrillion Btu.

As estimates presented in Chapter 2 indicate, natural gas flaring is a minor source of emissions, accounting for only about 1.5 to 2.0 million metric tons of carbon annually. There is some uncertainty associated with this estimate, given that operators in the field are not required to meter gas that is vented or flared. Further, methods used by States to determine vented and flared gas statistics are not uniform.

Data Sources

Venting and Flaring (1980-1995): Energy Information Administration, *Natural Gas Annual*, DOE/EIA-0131 (Washington, DC, various years). **(1996):** *Natural Gas Monthly*, DOE/EIA-0130(96/06) (Washington, DC, May 1997).

Industrial Processes

In addition to energy-related emissions, carbon dioxide is also produced during certain industrial processes. The primary source of industrial emissions is limestone (CaCO_3) calcination to create lime (CaO). These two compounds are basic materials in a variety of manufacturing processes, particularly cement, iron and steel, and glass. Other sources of industrial emissions include the production and use of soda ash (Na_2CO_3), the manufacture of carbon dioxide, and aluminum production.

For this source category, emissions estimates are based on the compound used in the industrial process. Table A4 shows activity data for industrial processes. By multiplying the amount of production or consumption of the compound by a carbon coefficient (the relative amount of carbon in that compound), a process-specific estimate is derived. In recent years, industrial sources have accounted for about 17 to 18 million metric tons of carbon annually. Each industrial process, emissions source, and estimation method is discussed below.

Table A4. Production Data for Industrial Sources of Carbon Dioxide, 1985-1996
(Thousand Metric Tons)

Item	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	P1996
Cement Clinker	60,153	62,265	62,341	62,740	62,860	63,326	61,608	62,184	65,745	69,787	69,983	71,525
Masonry Cement	2,956	3,238	3,303	3,261	2,988	2,911	2,592	2,806	2,962	3,613	3,603	3,564
Lime Produced	14,234	13,131	14,273	15,469	15,560	15,832	15,667	16,199	16,932	17,300	18,500	19,100
Limestone in Iron Smelting ..	6,858	5,469	4,081	4,178	4,276	3,955	3,635	3,098	2,561	2,538	2,615	2,564
Limestone in Steelmaking ..	689	734	797	866	1,059	682	738	612	1,087	1,225	1,126	949
Limestone in Glass	367	526	685	463	241	255	269	354	439	482	598	600
Limestone in FGD	2,586	3,017	3,923	3,783	4,387	4,369	4,606	4,479	4,274	4,639	4,650	4,700
Dolomite	2,465	1,794	1,122	882	641	687	732	641	549	601	428	500
Soda Ash Production	5,959	6,671	6,990	7,618	8,208	8,147	8,152	8,269	8,051	8,111	9,167	9,056
Soda Ash in Glass	3,084	3,152	3,343	3,390	3,294	3,177	2,997	3,082	3,095	3,150	3,130	3,040
Soda Ash in FGD	157	168	206	211	222	179	155	156	146	173	172	192
Sodium Silicate	628	718	864	737	792	740	789	838	913	1,008	1,066	973
Sodium Tripolyphosphate ..	555	560	532	498	526	451	419	399	426	423	426	426
Aluminum Manufacture	3,500	3,037	3,343	3,944	4,030	4,048	4,121	4,042	3,695	3,299	3,375	3,600
Copper Primary Smelting ..	1,057	1,074	1,127	1,406	1,477	1,577	1,580	1,710	1,790	1,840	1,930	2,000

P = preliminary data.

Sources: U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Mines, *Mineral Commodity Summaries* (Washington, DC, various years). U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Mines, *Cement Annual Report* (Washington, DC, various years). American Iron and Steel Institute, *Annual Statistical Report* (Washington, DC, various years). U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Mines, *Soda Ash Annual Report* (Washington, DC, various years) (soda ash production calculated from quantity of trona ore production). U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Mines, *Crushed Stone Annual Report* (Washington, DC, various years). Chemical Manufacturers Association, *U.S. Chemical Industry Statistical Handbook 1996* (Washington, DC, September 1996). Energy Information Administration unpublished survey data, *Steam Electric Plant Operation and Design Report, Form EIA-767* (Washington, DC, various years). Freedonia Group, Inc., *Carbon Dioxide*, Business Research Report B286 (Cleveland, OH, November 1991), and *Carbon Dioxide*, Industry Study 564 (Cleveland, OH, February 1994).

¹³⁰U.S. Department of Energy, *An Evaluation of the Relationship Between the Production and Use of Energy and Atmospheric Methane Emissions*, DOE/NBB-0088P (Washington, DC, April 1990). See Appendix C.

Cement Manufacture

More than half of the carbon dioxide emissions from industrial sources originate from cement manufacturing (see Chapter 2).

Emissions Sources. Four basic materials are required to make cement: calcium, silicon, aluminum, and iron. Substrates of these materials are ground into a powder and heated in a kiln. While in the kiln, limestone (the predominant source of calcium) is broken down into carbon dioxide and lime. The carbon dioxide is driven off into the atmosphere. After the kilning process has been completed, cement clinker is left.

Estimation Methods. One mole of calcined limestone produces one mole of carbon dioxide and one mole of lime. Since virtually all of the lime produced is absorbed into the clinker, the lime content of clinker is assumed to be representative of the amount of carbon dioxide emitted. In order to estimate emissions from cement manufacture, a carbon coefficient must be calculated. The EIA has adopted the IPCC recommendation that 64.6 percent of cement clinker is lime.¹³¹ Multiplying this lime content factor by the ratio of carbon produced to lime produced yields the coefficient for cement clinker. A separate coefficient is necessary for estimating emissions from the additional lime used to produce masonry cement. In this case, the amount of lime not accounted for as clinker is assumed to be 3 percent.¹³² This factor is then multiplied by the same production ratio of carbon to lime, generating the carbon coefficient for masonry cement.

Lime Manufacture

Lime is an important chemical with a variety of industrial, chemical, and environmental applications.

Emissions Sources. Lime production involves three main stages: stone preparation, calcination, and hydration. Carbon dioxide is generated during the calcination stage, when limestone is roasted at high temperatures, just as it is released during clinker production. The carbon dioxide is driven off as a gas and normally exits the system with the stack gas.

Estimation Methods. Based on the ratio of the molecular weight of carbon dioxide to the weight of calcium carbonate, the EIA assumes that 785 metric tons of carbon dioxide, or 214 metric tons of carbon, are released for every 1,000 metric tons of lime produced. This factor is applied to annual levels of lime manufacture to estimate potential emissions. The EIA does

not account for the instances in which the carbon dioxide is recovered or reabsorbed. Representatives of the National Lime Association believe that 10 to 20 percent of the carbon dioxide emitted in lime manufacture is recovered for industrial use or reabsorbed from the atmosphere by chemical reactions induced by the use of lime.

Limestone and Dolomite Consumption

These are basic raw materials used by a wide variety of industries, including the construction, agriculture, chemical, and metallurgical industries.

Emissions Sources. Limestone (including dolomite) can be used as a flux or purifier in metallurgical furnaces, as a sorbent in flue gas desulfurization (FGD) systems in utility and industrial plants, or as a raw material in glass manufacturing. Limestone is heated during these processes, generating carbon dioxide as a byproduct.

Estimation Methods. Assuming that limestone has a carbon content of 12 percent and dolomite 13.2 percent, the EIA applies the appropriate factor to the annual level of consumption in the iron smelting, steelmaking, and glass manufacture industries, and in flue gas desulfurization systems that use this sorbent. This amounts to 120 metric tons of carbon for every 1,000 metric tons of limestone consumed, or 132 metric tons of carbon for every 1,000 tons of dolomite consumed (when dolomite is distinguished in the data).

Soda Ash Manufacture and Consumption

Commercial soda ash (sodium carbonate) is used in many familiar consumer products, such as glass, soap and detergents, paper, textiles, and food.

Emissions Sources. Two methods are used to manufacture natural soda ash in the United States. The majority of production comes from Wyoming, where soda ash is manufactured by calcination of trona ore in the form of naturally occurring sodium sesquicarbonate. For every mole of soda ash created in this reaction, one mole of carbon dioxide is also produced and vented to the atmosphere. The other process used to manufacture soda ash is carbonation of brines; however, the carbon dioxide driven off in this process is captured and reused.

Once manufactured, most soda ash is consumed in glass and chemical production. Other uses include water treatment, flue gas desulfurization, soap and detergent production, and pulp and paper production. As soda ash is processed for these purposes, additional

¹³¹International Panel on Climate Change, *Greenhouse Gas Inventory Reference Manual*, IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories, Vol. 3 (Paris, France, 1995), p. 2.4.

¹³²U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, *Inventory of U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks: 1990-1993* (Washington, DC, 1994), p. 32.

carbon dioxide may be emitted if the carbon is oxidized. Because of the limited availability of specific information about such emissions, only certain uses of soda ash are considered in this report. Sodium silicate and sodium tripolyphosphate are included as chemicals manufactured from soda ash and components of detergents.

Estimation Methods. For soda ash manufacture, in order to ensure that carbon dioxide from the carbonation of brines is not included in emissions estimates, the calculations in this report are derived solely from trona ore production figures. Approximately 1.8 metric tons of trona ore are required to yield 1 metric ton of soda ash. This amounts to 97 million metric tons of carbon for every 1,000 tons of trona ore produced annually. For soda ash consumption, the EIA applies a factor of 113 metric tons of carbon for every 1,000 metric tons of soda ash consumed in glass manufacturing or in flue gas desulfurization.

Carbon Dioxide Manufacture

Emissions Source. Carbon dioxide is produced from a small number of natural wells and as a byproduct of chemical (i.e., ammonia) manufacturing. The Freedonia Group has determined that, in the United States, there is an 80 to 20 percent split between carbon dioxide produced as a byproduct and carbon dioxide produced from wells.¹³³ Emissions of byproduct carbon dioxide are incorporated into the natural gas energy consumption estimates as nonfuel, nonsequestered carbon and therefore are not included here to avoid double counting.

Most carbon dioxide produced from wells is injected back into the ground for enhanced oil recovery. This process sequesters the carbon dioxide, at least in the short run. Conceptually, only carbon dioxide produced from wells and diverted to industrial use is emitted to the atmosphere.

Estimation Methods. The Freedonia Group estimates that nonsequestering industrial use of carbon dioxide resulted in emissions of 1.3 million metric tons of carbon in 1993.¹³⁴ If 20 percent of this industrial use is supplied by wells, emissions can be estimated at 0.26 million metric tons of carbon. Based on the Freedonia report, the 1996 estimate is calculated by assuming an annual 4.2-percent increase, implying emissions of 0.30 million metric tons of carbon.

Aluminum Manufacture

Aluminum is an element used in alloys. Because it is light in weight, malleable, and not readily corroded or tarnished, it is used as a principal material for kitchen utensils, aircraft, some automobiles, bicycles, and other manufactured products. The United States is a major producer of aluminum and also an importer, depending on market conditions.

Emissions Sources. As part of the primary aluminum smelting process, alumina (aluminum oxide, Al_2O_3) is vaporized by a powerful electric current. Emissions from the electricity used to generate the current are included with emissions from industrial electricity consumption and are not counted separately. The current also vaporizes a carbon "sacrificial anode," typically manufactured from petroleum coke. This is a nonsequestering nonfuel use of a fossil fuel. To avoid double counting, 50 percent of nonfuel use of petroleum coke is carried as "sequestering." Thus, process emissions from aluminum smelting can be considered as a deduction from the sequestering portion of nonfuel use of petroleum coke.

Estimation Methods. In previous years, following the work of Abrahamson, EIA has used the midpoint of a range of emissions factors of 1.5 to 2.2 metric tons of carbon dioxide (0.41 to 0.60 metric tons of carbon) emitted per metric ton of aluminum smelted.¹³⁵ The 1994 MECS indicated that nonfuel use of fuels by aluminum smelters (SIC 3334) totaled 40 trillion Btu in 1994.¹³⁶ The composition of nonfuel use by fuel type has been withheld for confidentiality purposes, but it is probable that most of the 40 trillion Btu consists of petroleum coke, which would imply an emissions factor of about 0.338 metric tons of carbon per metric ton of aluminum smelted (0.04 quadrillion Btu of coke \times 27.85 million metric tons of carbon per quadrillion Btu / 3.295 million metric tons of aluminum smelted in 1994). For this year's report, EIA used an emissions factor of 0.4 metric tons carbon per metric ton of aluminum smelted, which is at the low end of Abrahamson's range and also equals the mass balance for a "typical" aluminum smelter from another source.¹³⁷

Data Sources for Industrial Processes

Cement and Clinker Production (1980-1995): U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Mines, *Cement Annual Report* (Washington, DC, various years). (1996):

¹³³The Freedonia Group, Inc., *Carbon Dioxide*, Business Research Report B286 (Cleveland, OH, November 1991), p. 46.

¹³⁴The Freedonia Group, Inc., *Carbon Dioxide*, Industry Study 564 (Cleveland, OH, February 1994), p. 37.

¹³⁵D. Abrahamson, "Aluminum and Global Warming," *Nature*, Vol. 356 (April 1992), p. 484.

¹³⁶The 1994 MECS data have not yet been published; however, this information has been posted on EIA's web site at www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/mecs/contents.html.

¹³⁷Drexel University Project Team, *Energy Analysis of 108 Industrial Processes* (Lilburn, GA: The Fairmont Press, 1996), p. 282.

U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. Geological Service, Office of Minerals, Faxback Service.

Lime Manufacture: (1980-1995): U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Mines, *Mineral Commodity Summaries* (Washington, DC, various years). **(1996):** U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. Geological Service, Office of Minerals, Faxback Service.

Limestone Consumption in Iron Smelting, Steelmaking, and Glass Manufacture: (1980-1995): U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Mines, *Crushed Stone Report* (Washington, DC, various years). **(1996):** EIA estimate. **Limestone Consumption in Flue Gas Desulfurization: (1980-1995):** Energy Information Administration, unpublished survey data, Form EIA-767, "Steam Electric Plant Operation and Design Report" (Washington, DC, various years).

Soda Ash Manufacture and Soda Ash Consumption in Glass Making: (1980-1995): U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Mines, *Soda Ash Report* (Washington, DC, various years). **(1996):** U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. Geological Service, Office of Minerals, Faxback Service. **Soda Ash Consumption in Flue Gas Desulfurization (1980-1995):** Energy Information Administration, unpublished survey data, Form EIA-767, "Steam Electric Plant Operation and Design Report" (Washington, DC, various years). **Sodium Silicate and Sodium Tripolyphosphate: (1980-1994):** Chemical Manufacturers Association, *U.S. Chemical Industry Statistical Handbook 1994* (Washington, DC, September 1995). **(1995):** *Chemical and Engineering News*, "Growth of Top 50 Chemicals Slowed in 1995 from Very High 1994 Rate" (April 1996).

Carbon Dioxide: Freedonia Group, Inc., *Carbon Dioxide*, Business Research Report B286 (Cleveland, OH, November 1991), and *Carbon Dioxide*, Industry Study 564 (Cleveland, OH, February 1994).

Aluminum: (1980-1994): U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Mines, *Aluminum Report* (Washington, DC, various years). **(1995):** U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. Geological Service, Office of Minerals, Faxback Service.

Methane

Energy Sources

Oil and Gas Production, Processing, and Distribution

Emissions Sources

Natural gas may be released from the oil and gas system at several points, including oil wells, oil refineries, natural gas wellheads, gas processing plants, and gas

transmission and distribution pipelines. Because methane is the principal constituent of natural gas (representing about 95 percent of the mixture) releases of natural gas lead to methane emissions.

Oil and Gas Production and Processing. As natural gas extracted at the wellhead is transferred to processing plants through gathering pipelines, leakage occurs from valves, meters, and flanges. Pneumatic valves, pressurized with natural gas, emit gas when they are reset. Natural gas also escapes when gathering pipelines are emptied for maintenance. After the gas reaches the processing plant, additional emissions occur as a result of leakage, maintenance operations, and system upsets. System upsets result from sudden increases in pressure that require the release of gas as a safety measure or, failing that, result in a system rupture. Such events are uncommon in the U.S. oil and gas system and contribute only a minor amount to overall emissions.

Gas Transmission and Distribution. High-pressure transmission pipelines are used to transport natural gas from production fields and gas processing facilities to distribution pipelines. Gas pressure is lowered at gate stations before it enters the local distribution system. Natural gas may escape in transport through leaky pipes and valves. It also may be released as part of compressor exhaust, while pneumatic devices are being reset, and during routine maintenance.

Oil Refining and Transportation. Methane leaks from equipment when methane and oil are separated during the refining process. When oil is transferred to storage tanks at the refinery, methane is emitted via vapor displacement. Methane not destroyed during flaring operations will also be vented to the atmosphere. Vapor displacement emissions also occur during loading and unloading of oil barges and tankers.

Gas Venting. When an oil reservoir is developed for extraction, associated natural gas is often produced at the wellhead. If the flow of associated gas is too small or intermittent to be of value, the gas is vented or flared. Associated gas with an insufficient heat content to be marketed may also be vented or flared. If a site lacks the necessary gathering and processing facilities for associated gas, that gas may also be vented or flared. When gas is flared, its methane content is converted to carbon dioxide (see emissions estimates in Chapter 2 and methods above), but when it is vented, methane is released directly to the atmosphere.

Estimation Methods

Oil and Gas Production and Processing. Estimates of emissions from oil and gas wells are scaled to the

number of wells in operation, emissions from gathering pipelines are pegged to pipeline miles, and emissions from gas processing plants vary with gas throughput. Activity data for the oil and gas system are shown in Table A5. Estimates of methane emissions from these sources are scaled to point-in-time estimates appearing in a study prepared jointly by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Gas Research Institute (EPA/GRI).¹³⁸ With a more representative sample and more recent data, the EPA/GRI study improved substantially on previous estimates of emissions from the natural gas system. This report uses emissions factors developed on the basis of that study, replacing factors developed from earlier studies.

Gas Transmission and Distribution. Methane emissions from transmission and distribution pipeline and gate stations are also estimated by using emissions factors from the joint EPA/GRI study. The emissions estimates are scaled to pipeline mileage, with separate emissions factors for plastic and nonplastic pipeline.

Oil Refining and Transportation. Estimates of emissions from this source are calculated by using emissions factors from a 1992 Radian Corporation report¹³⁹ in conjunction with refinery data collected by the EIA.

Gas Venting. The EIA collects State-level data on the volume of gas either vented or flared. The portion of venting versus flaring is not collected. However, a 1990 Department of Energy study estimated the shares of gas vented and flared in each State.¹⁴⁰ These shares are applied to annual State venting and flaring data, and the results are aggregated to estimate national emissions.

Data Sources

Oil and Gas Production and Processing. Natural gas wellheads, gross gas withdrawals, and gas processing plant throughput can be found in EIA's *Natural Gas Annual*, DOE/EIA-0031 (various years). Numbers of operating oil wells are available annually in the February issue of the *World Oil* journal.

Gas Transmission and Distribution. Transmission and distribution pipeline data are published annually by the American Gas Association in *Gas Facts*.

Oil Refining and Transportation. Data on volume of crude oil refined and volume of crude oil transported on marine vessels can be found in EIA's *Annual Energy*

Review, DOE/EIA-0384 (Washington, DC, various years), and *Petroleum Supply Annual*, DOE/EIA-0340 (Washington, DC, various years).

Gas Venting. State data on gas venting and flaring can be found in EIA's *Natural Gas Annual*, DOE/EIA-0131(95) (Washington, DC, various years).

Coal Mining

Emissions Sources

As coal is formed from organic material by natural chemical and physical processes, methane is also produced. The methane is stored in the pores (open spaces) of the coal itself and in cracks and fractures within the coalbed. As coal is mined, the pressure surrounding the stored methane decreases, allowing much of it to be released into the operating coal mine (in the case of an underground mine) or into the atmosphere (in the case of a surface mine). The methane remaining in the coal pores is emitted when the coal is transported and pulverized for combustion. There are five avenues for methane emissions from coal mines:

Ventilation Systems in Underground Mines. Methane in concentrations over 5 percent is explosive and presents a mortal danger to coal miners. To meet safety standards set by the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) requiring levels of methane concentration to be maintained well below the 5 percent threshold, mine operators use large fans to provide a steady airflow across the mine face and ventilate the mine shaft. Typically, these ventilation systems release substantial quantities of methane in the fan exhaust.

Degasification Systems in Underground Mines. When the volume of gas in underground mines is too high to be practically reduced to safe levels by standard ventilation techniques, degasification systems are employed. Degasification may take place before mining or may take the form of gob-wells or in-mine horizontal boreholes. Methane captured by degasification systems may be vented, flared, or recovered for energy. Twenty-four U.S. mines are currently known to have operating degasification systems in place, 12 of which recover gas for energy use.

Surface Mines. Because coal mined from the surface has formed at lower temperature and pressure than coal from underground mines, its methane content is lower. Further, because the coal is located near the

¹³⁸M.R. Harrison and R.M. Cowgill, *Tier 2 Summary of Methane Emissions from the Natural Gas Industry*, Draft Final Report, Prepared for the Gas Research Institute and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (January 1996).

¹³⁹Radian Corporation, *Global Emissions of Methane from Petroleum Sources*, Prepared for the American Petroleum Institute (Research Triangle Park, NC, February 1992).

¹⁴⁰U.S. Department of Energy, *An Evaluation of the Relationship Between the Production and Use of Energy and Atmospheric Methane Emissions*, DOE/NBB-0088P (Washington, DC, April 1990).

Table A5. Activity Data for Methane Emissions from Oil and Gas Production, Processing, and Distribution, 1985-1996

Item	Units ^a	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Natural Gas Wellheads	Thousand Wells	242	242	249	257	263	270	277	276	284	288	294	304
Producing Oil Wells	Thousand Wells	647	629	620	627	607	602	610	594	584	582	575	574
Gathering Pipelines	Thousand Wells	94	94	94	92	91	90	86	86	77	70	62	62
Total Gas Throughput	Tcf	13	13	13	13	13	15	16	16	16	16	17	17
Total Gas Withdrawals	Tcf	20	19	20	21	21	22	22	22	23	24	24	24
Transmission System Pipelines	Thousand Miles	271	271	274	275	276	280	282	285	270	268	265	265
Distribution Pipeline													
Main Pipeline	Thousand Miles	753	769	784	800	818	837	858	883	914	919	935	935
Plastic	Thousand Miles	126	138	152	166	183	202	222	244	269	284	298	298
Nonplastic	Thousand Miles	628	631	632	634	635	635	636	639	646	635	637	637
Service Pipeline	Thousand Miles	389	400	411	449	461	474	494	494	515	524	524	524
Plastic	Thousand Miles	140	151	163	201	212	226	246	246	267	276	276	276
Nonplastic	Thousand Miles	248	248	248	248	248	248	248	248	248	248	248	248
Total Distribution Pipeline	Thousand Miles	389	400	411	449	461	474	494	494	515	524	524	524
Marine Transport													
Net Crude Imports	Kbd	3,201	4,178	4,674	5,107	5,843	5,894	5,782	6,083	6,787	7,063	7,230	7,482
Net Crude Exports	Kbd	204	154	151	155	142	109	116	89	98	99	95	110
Alaskan Crude Production	Kbd	1,825	1,867	1,962	2,017	1,874	1,773	1,798	1,714	1,582	1,559	1,484	1,396
Total Marine Transport	Kbd	5,230	6,199	6,787	7,279	7,859	7,776	7,696	7,886	8,467	8,721	8,809	8,988
Refinery Crude Input	Mbd	12	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	14	14	14	14

^aUnits: Tcf = trillion cubic feet; Kbd = thousand barrels per day; Mbd = million barrels per day.

Sources: Natural Gas Wellheads, Total Gas Throughput, and Total Gas Withdrawals—Energy Information Administration, *Natural Gas Annual*, DOE/EIA-0131 (various years). Producing Oil Wells—*World Oil*, February issue (various years). Gathering Pipelines, Transmission Pipelines, and Distribution Pipelines—American Gas Association, *Gas Facts* (various years). Net Crude Imports, Net Crude Exports, Refinery Crude Input, and Alaskan Crude Production—Energy Information Administration, *Petroleum Supply Annual*, DOE/EIA-0340 (various years).

surface, methane has had ample opportunity to migrate to the atmosphere before mining. Thus, while methane emissions from surface mines are heterogeneous in nature, they are systematically smaller than emissions from underground mines.

Post-Mining Emissions. Methane that remains in coal pores after either underground or surface mining will desorb slowly as the coal is transported (typically by train) to the end user. Because coal that is consumed in large industrial or utility boilers is pulverized before combustion, methane remaining in the coal pores after transport will be released prior to combustion.

Methane Recovery for Energy. In some cases (for example, in some mining degasification systems), methane is emitted from coal mines in sufficiently high volumes and concentrations to permit commercial recovery of the gas as either pipeline gas or fuel for electric power generation. Since coal mine methane recovered commercially is combusted, the quantities recovered are subtracted from estimates of total coal mine methane emissions.

Estimation Methods

Ventilation Systems in Underground Mines. Emissions from this source are segregated into two classes: emissions from "gassy" mines and emissions from "nongassy" mines.¹⁴¹ Because methane concentrations and airflow in gassy mines are carefully monitored by the MSHA, a fairly reliable set of data can be derived for emissions from ventilation systems in gassy mines. However, MSHA data are voluminous inconsistent in format, and difficult to compile, and they are available for only a subsample of years (1980, 1985, 1988, 1990, 1993, and 1994). Thus, the available data are used in conjunction with coal production data for those years to develop emissions factors per ton of coal mined on a basin-by-basin level.¹⁴² Emissions factors for nonsample years are interpolated or extrapolated. The resulting emissions factors are then multiplied by production data to estimate emissions from this source (for detailed production data, see Table A6). For 1996, a subsample of ventilation emissions from the 80 gassiest U.S. mines was obtained. Emissions from the remaining gassy mines are estimated by assuming that

¹⁴¹Gassy mines are defined as those underground coal mines with measured emissions from ventilation exhaust in excess of 100,000 cubic feet of methane per day.

¹⁴²For purposes of this analysis, the Northern Appalachia basin includes Pennsylvania, Northern West Virginia, Maryland, and Ohio; the Central Appalachia basin includes Eastern Kentucky, Virginia, Southern West Virginia, and Tennessee; the Warrior basin includes Alabama; the Illinois basin includes Illinois, Indiana, Western Kentucky, Iowa, and Oklahoma; and the Western basin includes Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming.

Table A6. U.S. Coal Production, 1985-1996
(Million Metric Tons)

Mine Type and Basin	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	P1996
Underground												
Northern Appalachia	85.5	86.1	89.3	89.4	91.0	95.6	93.6	92.6	69.7	90.8	88.6	NA
Central Appalachia	148.4	150.8	153.9	157.9	163.8	178.7	165.3	164.2	149.1	155.0	151.0	NA
Warrior Basin	13.1	12.0	13.0	13.5	14.8	15.9	15.5	14.5	14.1	13.1	16.0	NA
Illinois Basin	52.1	58.0	59.8	60.5	59.2	62.8	63.5	66.4	50.8	62.8	62.6	NA
Western	19.0	18.7	20.8	23.9	27.5	31.3	30.8	31.1	34.1	40.3	40.8	NA
Total Underground	318.2	326.9	338.3	346.7	357.2	385.1	369.4	369.4	318.5	362.1	359.4	369.9
Surface	483.3	480.7	495.2	515.4	532.4	548.4	534.2	535.5	539.2	575.5	577.6	594.4
Total	801.6	807.7	833.5	862.1	889.7	933.6	903.6	904.9	857.7	937.6	937.0	964.2

P = preliminary data. NA = not available.

Note: Total underground may not equal sum of basin production due to the exclusion of mines producing less than 10,000 short tons annually from basin totals. These mines are assumed to have negligible methane emissions. Annual production from such mines has ranged from 400,000 to 2,000,000 million metric tons over the time period covered and has declined as a result of industry consolidation.

Sources: Coal production data from Energy Information Administration, *Coal Production*, DOE/EIA-0118 (Washington, DC, various years), and *Coal Industry Annual*, DOE/EIA-0584(95) and (96) (Washington, DC, 1995 and 1996).

they represent the same share of total emissions from gassy mines as they did in 1994.

Emissions from nongassy mines make up less than 2 percent of all emissions from underground mines.¹⁴³ Basin-level emissions factors for nongassy mines were established by dividing 2 percent of each basin's estimated emissions from nongassy mines for 1988 by that year's production levels. The resulting emissions factors are applied to annual production data.

Degasification Systems in Underground Mines. Degasification emissions are not monitored by any regulatory agency. Where degasification does occur, the method of disposition (e.g., venting, flaring, sale for energy) may not be tabulated. Emissions from degasification systems are estimated by multiplying annual production in mines known to have degasification systems in place by a per-ton emissions factor. Because mine-by-mine production data are not yet available for the current year, emissions from degasification systems are scaled to increases in underground coal production.

Surface Mines. Emissions from U.S. surface mines have not been systematically measured. However, studies on surface coal mines in the United States, England, France, and Canada suggest a range of 0.3 to 2.0 cubic meters per metric ton of coal mined.¹⁴⁴ This report adopts the central value of that range and multiplies it by U.S. surface coal production.

Post-Mining Emissions. Like emissions from surface mines, post-mining emissions are not measured systematically. Thus, global average emissions factors must be applied. Post-mining emissions for coal mined from the surface are estimated to be very low, between 0.0 and 0.2 cubic meters per metric ton of coal mined. In contrast, post-mining emissions from underground coal are estimated to be more significant, between 0.9 and 4.0 cubic meters of methane per metric ton of coal mined.¹⁴⁵ The central values of these ranges are adopted and multiplied by annual production data for this report.

Methane Recovery for Energy. Methane recovery for energy is restricted to a small sample of mines that typically meter their gas sales. Thus, total methane recovery can be estimated from the volume and heat content of sales.

Data Sources

Ventilation Systems in Underground Mines. Coal mine ventilation data for the approximately 200 gassiest U.S. mines were drawn from a database prepared by the Department of Interior's Bureau of Mines for the years 1980, 1985, 1988, 1990, and 1993. Ventilation data for 1994 and a subsample of data for 1996 were obtained from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Atmospheric Pollution Prevention Division, Coalbed Methane Outreach Program. Coal production

¹⁴³M.A. Trevits, G.L. Finfinger, and J.C. LaScola, "Evaluation of U.S. Coal Mine Emission," in Society for Mining, Metallurgy and Exploration, *Proceedings of the Fifth U.S. Mine Ventilation Symposium* (Littlejohn Co., 1991).

¹⁴⁴Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, *Greenhouse Gas Inventory Reference Manual*, IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventory, Vol. 3 (Paris, France, 1994), pp. 1.98-1.131.

¹⁴⁵Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, *Greenhouse Gas Inventory Reference Manual*, IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventory, Vol. 3 (Paris, France, 1994), pp. 1.98-1.131.

data are reported to the EIA on Form EIA-7A, "Coal Production Report." Basin-level emissions for nongassy mines in 1988 were calculated by the EPA's Office of Air and Radiation, in *Anthropogenic Methane Emissions in the United States: Estimates for 1990* (Washington, DC, April 1993), pp. 3-19-3-24.

Degasification Systems in Underground Mines. Emissions factors for this source are derived from estimates of 1988 emissions from degasification systems prepared by the EPA's Office of Air and Radiation, in *Anthropogenic Methane Emissions in the United States: Estimates for 1990* (Washington, DC, April 1993), pp. 3-19-3-24. Annual production figures are reported to the EIA on Form EIA-7A, "Coal Production Report."

Surface Mines. Emissions factors for surface mines are found in the IPCC *Greenhouse Gas Inventory Reference Manual*. Coal production data are reported to the EIA on Form EIA-7A, "Coal Production Report."

Post-Mining Emissions. Emissions factors for post-mining emissions are found in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, *Greenhouse Gas Inventory Reference Manual*. Coal production data are reported to the EIA on Form EIA-7A, "Coal Production Report."

Methane Recovery for Energy. Volumes of methane recovered during 1993 were obtained from U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Air and Radiation, *Identifying Opportunities for Methane Recovery at U.S. Coal Mines: Draft Profiles of Selected Gassy Underground Coal Mines* (Washington, DC, September 1994), p. 6-6. Recovery volumes for 1995 were obtained from the EPA's Coalbed Methane Outreach Program. Recovery for 1994 was interpolated from 1993 and 1995 data, and recovery for 1996 was assumed to remain stable at 1995 levels.

Stationary Combustion

Emissions Sources

The principal products of fuel combustion are carbon dioxide and water vapor. When fuel combustion is incomplete, methane may also be released. The volume of methane released varies according to the efficiency and temperature of the combustion process. Most stationary sources are large, comparatively efficient boilers, such as those found in the industrial and utility sectors, and thus have low levels of methane emissions. However, a significant amount of wood is consumed in residential woodstoves and fireplaces, which are typically inefficient combustion chambers. Wood combustion in these devices produces most of the U.S. methane emissions from stationary sources.

Estimation Methods

An emissions factor based on fuel type (for example, coal, wood, natural gas) and combustion technology (for example, utility boiler, industrial boiler, woodstove) is applied to consumption data for each fuel and technology type.

Data Sources

Emissions coefficients for stationary fuel were obtained from the EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, *Compilation of Air Pollutant Emission Factors*, AP-42, and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, *Greenhouse Gas Inventory Reference Manual*, IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories, Vol. 3 (Paris, France, 1994). Fuel consumption data were drawn from EIA's *State Energy Data Report 1994: Consumption Estimates*, DOE/EIA-0214(94) (Washington, DC, October 1996), for 1980-1994; and *Monthly Energy Review*, DOE/EIA-0035(97/07) (Washington, DC, July 1997). Residential wood fuel consumption data were derived from EIA's *Renewable Energy Annual 1996*, DOE/EIA-0603(96) (Washington, DC, April 1997), p. 10.

Mobile Combustion

Emissions Sources

Methane emissions from mobile combustion are, like those from stationary combustion, the result of incomplete fuel combustion. In automobiles, methane emissions result when oxygen levels in the combustion chamber drop below levels sufficient for complete combustion. The effects of incomplete combustion in automobiles may be moderated somewhat by post-combustion emissions controls, such as catalytic converters. Methane emissions are also generated by fuel combustion in other modes of transport, including aircraft, ships, and locomotives. There is, however, some evidence that jet airplane engines may consume ambient methane during flight, reducing their net emissions.¹⁴⁶

Estimation Methods

Methane emissions from highway vehicles, such as automobiles, light-duty trucks, motorcycles, buses, and heavy-duty trucks, are estimated by applying emissions factors (per vehicle mile traveled) to vehicle use data. The emissions factors vary by vehicle type. Because of improving technology and more stringent environmental regulations, they have declined over time. For

¹⁴⁶C.W. Spicer, M.W. Holdren, D.L. Smith, D.P. Hughes, and M.D. Smith, "Chemical Composition of Exhaust from Aircraft Turbine Engines," *Journal of Engineering for Gas Turbines and Power*, Vol. 114 (January 1992), pp. 111-117.

nonhighway sources, emissions coefficients in terms of volume of fuel consumed are applied directly to consumption data without year-to-year modifications.

Data Sources

Emissions factors for all vehicles are provided by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, *Greenhouse Gas Inventory Reference Manual*, IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories, Vol. 3 (Paris, France, 1994), pp. 1.64-1.68.

The EIA collects data on miles traveled in personal transportation vehicles (cars and light-duty trucks) as part of its tri-annual Residential Transportation Energy Consumption Survey (RTECS): Energy Information Administration, *Household Vehicles Energy Consumption 1994*, DOE/EIA-0464(94) (Washington, DC, July 1996, and previous years). This survey contains data for the years 1983, 1985, 1988, 1991, and 1994. Emissions for intervening years were estimated by interpolating between the weighted average estimates of survey years. Vehicle miles traveled for nonhousehold vehicles (fleets, rental cars, etc.), motorcycles, buses, and heavy-duty trucks were obtained from the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, *Highway Statistics 1995* (Washington, DC, 1996).

Data on fuel consumption for ships, locomotives, farm equipment, and construction equipment are available in EIA's *Fuel Oil and Kerosene Sales 1996*, DOE/EIA-0535(95) (Washington, DC, September 1997). Fuel consumption data for jet and piston-powered aircraft are contained in EIA's *Petroleum Supply Annual 1996*, DOE/EIA-0340(96)/1 (Washington, DC, May 1997). Data on fuel consumption by recreational boats are taken from S.C. Davis and S.G. Strang, *Transportation Energy Data Book*, Edition 15, ORNL-6856 (Oak Ridge, TN: Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Center for Transportation Analysis, May 1995).

Landfill Methane Emissions

Emissions Sources

After organic wastes (e.g., food, paper, yard waste) are placed in landfills, they begin to decompose. Aerobic bacteria, consuming oxygen, convert organic material to carbon dioxide, heat, and water. When available oxygen is depleted, anaerobic bacteria, including methanogens, begin digesting the waste and producing methane. Methanogenic anaerobes are highly sensitive to temperature, pH, and moisture levels. Because U.S. sanitary landfills are essentially closed systems designed to

minimize entry and exit of moisture, conditions within a landfill are largely a product of the composition of the waste it contains. Thus, methane is likely to be produced at different rates and volumes both across different landfills and within a single landfill.

The biogas produced in a landfill is typically between 35 and 50 percent methane. At these levels, methane is highly explosive. Often, landfill operators put methane control systems in place to prevent migration of high concentrations to buildings. Methane captured by control systems may be vented to the atmosphere or flared, but it is also a potentially valuable energy resource. Where landfills produce steady, large volumes of methane and landfill gas-to-energy prices are competitive with other energy alternatives, recovered gas may be used as an energy resource. In most cases, the gas is converted to electricity and used for on-site energy needs or sold to local utilities. In some cases, the gas is transported via pipeline to a local end-user.

Estimation Methods

Data on methane emissions from landfills are limited to those landfills with methane recovery systems in place. For more than 100 U.S. landfills with gas recovery systems in place, Thorne et al. measured or estimated methane emissions at 2.1 million metric tons for 1992.¹⁴⁷ Methane emissions from landfills without gas recovery systems have not been measured, and even the number of landfills is subject to considerable uncertainty. Emissions from a given landfill are largely the product of the composition of the waste it contains and an array of site-specific factors. Waste composition data on a landfill-specific basis are nonexistent; however, national-level waste flow and waste composition data are available, and their reliability has improved over time. Thus, for this report, all waste not disposed of in a landfill with measured emissions is treated as if it has flowed to one very large national landfill.

To estimate methane emissions from all waste not disposed of in a landfill with measured emissions, waste volumes are subjected to a slightly modified version of the EMCON Methane Generation Model.¹⁴⁸ This model divides the waste into three categories: readily decomposable, moderately decomposable, and slowly decomposable, each with its own set of emissions characteristics. The EMCON model provides both a high methane yield scenario and a low methane yield scenario. For each category of decomposable waste, a time lag until methane generation begins is estimated, as well as a time constant during which the methane

¹⁴⁷S.A. Thorne et al., M.R.J. Doorn, L.A. Stefanski, M.A. Barlaz, R.L. Peer, and D.L. Epperson, "Estimate of Methane Emissions from U.S. Landfills," Prepared for U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Research and Development (April 1994).

¹⁴⁸D. Augenstein, "The Greenhouse Effect and U.S. Landfill Methane," *Global Environment Change* (December 1992), pp. 311-328.

yield of the waste is realized. The methane yield represents the total amount of methane that a given amount of waste will produce over its lifetime. For example, under a low methane yield scenario, slowly decomposing waste will begin producing methane after a 5-year lag and will continue emitting over a 40-year period. Table A7 shows the EMCON methane generation model parameters.

Waste flows were estimated from 1940 through 1996. Waste in place in the Nation's landfills was assumed to represent the waste stream for all previous years plus the current year's additions. The landfills examined by Thorne et al. contained 9.2 percent of the waste estimated to be in place in the Nation's landfills during 1992. This report assumes that the share of waste in these landfills and the share in all other landfills remained constant over time. Thus, the EMCON model was applied to 90.8 percent of the waste generated each year.

To estimate emissions from those landfills with measured data for 1992 but no data for other years, the EMCON model was recalibrated to produce the 2.1 million metric tons of measured emissions in 1992. The recalibrated model, with methane yields almost twice as large as the original, was then applied to 9.2 percent of the waste stream for all years. These much higher

yields are not unexpected, as gas recovery systems are most economically employed in high-emitting landfills.

Data Sources

Data on waste generated and landfilled for the period 1988 through 1996 (Table A8) were drawn from *Biocycle* magazine.¹⁴⁹ These data were not collected by *Biocycle* prior to 1988. Waste generated and landfilled for the period 1960 through 1987 was estimated from data produced by Franklin Associates. On behalf of the EPA's Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response, Franklin Associates have estimated municipal solid waste (MSW) generated and landfilled for the years 1960 through 1996.¹⁵⁰ In contrast to the *Biocycle* data, which include all waste going to landfills, including construction and demolition (C&D) waste and sludge, the Franklin data include only MSW going to landfills.

In order to account for categories of waste other than MSW going to landfills between 1960 and 1987, an average ratio of waste generation estimated by *Biocycle* and waste generation estimated by Franklin Associates for 1988 through 1996 was calculated. The annual average ratio during this period was 1.47 to 1. Thus, all Franklin estimates for 1960 through 1987 were multiplied by 1.47 to estimate overall waste generation and landfilling for those years. To further extend waste

Table A7. EMCON Methane Generation Model Parameters

Waste Category	Decomposable Portion (Percent by Dry Weight)	Methane Yield (Cubic Feet per Pound)	Lag Time (Years)	Time Constant
High Yield (Default)				
Readily Decomposable	4.0	4.50	0.2	3
Moderately Decomposable . . .	45.0	3.55	1.5	10
Slowly Decomposable	5.2	0.50	5.0	20
Low Yield (Default)				
Readily Decomposable	4.0	2.75	0.3	4
Moderately Decomposable . . .	45.0	1.95	2.0	20
Slowly Decomposable	5.2	0.29	5.0	40
High Yield (Modified)				
Readily Decomposable	4.0	8.82	0.0	3
Moderately Decomposable . . .	45.0	6.96	2.0	10
Slowly Decomposable	5.2	0.98	5.0	20
Low Yield (Modified)				
Readily Decomposable	4.0	5.39	0.0	4
Moderately Decomposable . . .	45.0	3.82	2.0	20
Slowly Decomposable	5.2	0.57	5.0	40

Source: D. Augenstein, "The Greenhouse Effect and U.S. Landfill Methane," *Global Environmental Change* (December 1992), pp. 311-328.

¹⁴⁹Nationwide Survey: The State of Garbage in America," *Biocycle* (1988-1996).

¹⁵⁰Franklin Associates, Ltd., *Characterization of Municipal Solid Waste in the United States*, Worksheets, 1992 update, Prepared for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Municipal Solid and Industrial Solid Waste Division (July 1992). See U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response, *Characterization of Municipal Solid Waste in the United States: 1996 Update*, EPA 530-S-96-001 (Washington DC, March 1997).

Table A8. U.S. Solid Waste Landfilled, 1985-1996
(Million Metric Tons)

Item	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Waste Generated	244.4	266.4	254.6	264.7	278.4	293.0	296.4	297.1
Waste Landfilled	226.3	226.1	213.3	210.1	217.9	216.4	205.8	203.0
Total Waste in Place	205.3	205.2	193.6	190.6	197.7	196.4	186.8	184.2

Source: *Biocycle*, "Nationwide Survey: The State of Garbage in America 1988-1997." Total waste in place from estimates documented in Chapter 3.

generation estimates back to 1940, a regression equation relating waste generation to GNP and population was developed.

Methane recovery data were estimated from the measured recovery data provided by S.A. Thorneloe, M.R.J. Doorn, L.A. Stefanski, M.A. Barlaz, R.L. Peer, and D.L. Epperson, "Estimate of Methane Emissions from U.S. Landfills," prepared for U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Research and Development (April 1994). There were 105 known landfills with methane recovery systems in place in 1992, and 130 landfills were identified as having recovery systems in place by 1994. Electricity generating capacity from these landfills was reported at 300 megawatts in 1992 and 360 megawatts in 1994 (J. Pacey, S.A. Thorneloe, and M. Doorn, "Methane Recovery from Landfills and an Overview of EPA's Research Program for Landfill Gas Utilization," presented at the 1995 Greenhouse Gas Emission and Mitigation Research Symposium, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, DC, June 27-29, 1995). This report assumed that methane recovery and electricity capacity maintained a constant ratio and interpolated the 1993 estimate of recovery and flaring. The 1995 and 1996 estimates were extrapolated from the 1992 to 1994 trend.

Domestic and Commercial Wastewater Treatment

Emissions Sources

Emissions of methane from the treatment of wastewater occur when liquid waste streams containing high concentrations of organic materials are treated anaerobically (in the absence of oxygen). Anaerobic processes used in the United States are anaerobic digestion, aerobic, and facultative (combining aerobic and anaerobic processes) stabilization lagoons, septic tanks, and cesspools.¹⁵¹ Treatment of wastewater solids using anaerobic digestion is the most obvious potential

source of methane emissions; however, emission of significant quantities of methane from this process requires that the digester gas be vented rather than recovered or flared. Anaerobic and facultative lagoons involve retention of wastewater in impoundments, where the organic materials in the wastewater undergo bacterial decomposition. The growth of algae, which absorb carbon dioxide and release oxygen as a result of photosynthesis, sustains aerobic conditions at least near the surface of the lagoon. Bacteria deplete oxygen at the bottom of the lagoon, producing conditions suitable for methanogenic bacteria. The extent of the resulting anaerobic zone and the associated methane generation depend on such factors as organic loadings and lagoon depth. In facultative lagoons, unlike anaerobic lagoons, a significant aerobic zone persists.

Nearly 75 percent of U.S. households are served by sewers that deliver domestic wastewater to central treatment plants. Septic tanks or cesspools treat domestic wastewater from most of the remaining households (24 percent).¹⁵² Anaerobic digestion is frequently used to treat sludge solids at U.S. municipal wastewater treatment plants; however, anecdotal evidence suggests that neither recovery nor flaring of digester gas is common in the United States and that equipment for recovery and flaring of digester gas is poorly designed or maintained, allowing most of the methane produced to be released to the atmosphere.¹⁵³

Estimation Methods

Insufficient information is available to develop separate estimates of methane emissions from each of the sources discussed above. Information on the type of treatment used by the thousands of municipal and industrial treatment facilities is simply not available. For instance, no reliable statistics were found for the use of anaerobic digestion at municipal treatment facilities. Knowledge regarding the emissions of methane from lagoons, septic systems, and cesspools is limited.

¹⁵¹U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Policy, Planning and Evaluation, *International Anthropogenic Methane Emissions: Estimates for 1990*, EPA 230-R-93-010 (Washington, DC, January 1994), p. 10-9.

¹⁵²U.S. Census, 1980, 1990.

¹⁵³William Hahn, Science Applications International Corporation, personal communication (May 23, 1996).

Another difficulty is the overlap between municipal and industrial treatment systems. Many industrial concerns discharge wastewater, which may or may not have been treated, into municipal systems. Therefore, it is necessary to base the current estimate of methane emissions from wastewater treatment on the highly simplified approach recommended by the IPCC,¹⁵⁴ which assumes that each person in a developed nation contributes 0.5 kilogram of BOD₅ to domestic wastewater annually, and 15 percent of this wastewater is treated anaerobically, yielding 0.22 kilogram of methane per kilogram of BOD₅ in the wastewater.¹⁵⁵ It is assumed that recovery of methane at municipal wastewater treatment facilities is negligible.

Data Source

Estimate of the U.S. resident population on July 1 of each year were obtained from the U.S. Census Bureau.

Agricultural Sources

Enteric Fermentation in Domesticated Animals

Emissions Sources

The breakdown of carbohydrates in the digestive track of herbivores (including insects and humans) results in the production of methane.¹⁵⁶ The volume of methane produced from this process (enteric fermentation) is largest in those animals that possess a rumen, or forestomach, such as cattle, sheep, and goats. The forestomach allows these animals to digest large quantities of cellulose found in plant material. This digestion is accomplished by microorganisms in the rumen, some of which are methanogenic bacteria. These bacteria produce methane while removing hydrogen from the rumen. The majority (about 90 percent) of the methane produced by the methanogenic bacteria is released through normal animal respiration and eructation. The remainder is released as flatus.

Estimation Methods

The level of methane emissions from enteric fermentation in domesticated animals is a function of several variables, including quantity and quality of feed intake, the growth rate of the animals, their productivity (reproduction and/or lactation), and their mobility. To estimate emissions from enteric fermentation, the animals are divided into distinct, relatively homogeneous groups. For a representative animal in each group, feed intake, growth rate, activity levels, and productivity are estimated. An emissions factor per animal is developed from these variables. The factor is then multiplied by population data for the animal group to calculate an overall emissions estimate. The method for developing these factors differs somewhat for cattle as opposed to all other animals.

Cattle. Because emissions from cattle represent about 95 percent of U.S. emissions from enteric fermentation, they are given particular scrutiny. The U.S. cattle population is separated into dairy and beef cattle. Dairy cattle are then divided into replacement heifers 0-12 months old, replacement heifers 12-24 months old, and mature cows. Beef cattle are divided into six classes: replacements 0-12 months old, replacements 12-24 months old, mature cows, bulls, steers and heifers raised for slaughter under the weanling system, and steers and heifers raised for slaughter under the yearling system. These populations are then multiplied by emissions factors developed for each category of cattle within the U.S. population as it was composed in 1990.¹⁵⁷

Because characteristics critical in determining energy intake, and thus emissions rates, for cattle—such as growth rates and milk production—change annually, an effort is made to scale emissions factors to these changes. Emissions rates are pegged to average slaughter weights for calves and adult cattle respectively (Table A9).¹⁵⁸

¹⁵⁴Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, *Greenhouse Gas Inventory Reference Manual*, IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories, Vol. 3 (Paris, France, 1995), pp. 6.21-6.23.

¹⁵⁵Biological oxygen demand (BOD) represents the oxygen consumed by bacteria to decompose organic matter contained in a wastewater stream. It provides a measure of the organic loading of wastewater, which is the primary determinant of its potential to produce methane. BOD₅ is a standardized measurement of BOD that measures the oxygen consumed over a 5-day period.

¹⁵⁶P.J. Crutzen, I. Aselmann, and W.S. Seiler, "Methane Production by Domestic Animals, Wild Ruminants, Other Herbivorous Fauna, and Humans," *Tellus*, Vol. 38B (1986), p. 272.

¹⁵⁷U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Air and Radiation, *Anthropogenic Methane Emissions in the United States: Estimates for 1990* (Washington, DC, April 1993), p. 5-3.

¹⁵⁸In the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency publication *Inventory of U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks: 1990-1994*, emissions from dairy cattle for the period 1990-1994 are scaled directly to average milk production per cow. Applying that method to data used in this report yields overall estimates roughly 0.5 percent higher than those using slaughter weights only. However, to maintain consistency with earlier estimates, and because this variation is well within the band of error for these estimates, this change in method was not implemented.

Table A9. Average Pre-Slaughter Live Weights for U.S. Cattle and Calves, 1985-1996
(Pounds)

Animal Class	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Cattle	1,098	1,101	1,105	1,120	1,134	1,136	1,163	1,169	1,161	1,189	1,183	1,169
Calves	234	239	239	252	260	281	346	376	388	384	372	341

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Internet Site @gopher.usda.mannlib.cornell.edu.

Other Animals. For sheep, pigs, goats, and horses, populations are not disaggregated below the species level. Emissions factors for each animal group are multiplied by their respective populations. Emissions factors are drawn from the work of Crutzen et al.¹⁵⁹

Data Sources

Population and slaughter weight data for cattle and population data for sheep and swine were obtained from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service, Livestock, Dairy, and Poultry Branch, web site www.mannlib.cornell.edu. Population data for goats and horses were extrapolated from the U.S. Department of Commerce *Census of Agriculture* for the years 1982, 1987, and 1992.¹⁶⁰

Solid Waste of Domesticated Animals

Emission Sources

When the solid waste of animals is allowed to decompose under anaerobic conditions, methane is produced. The volume of methane produced varies according to the amount of organic material susceptible to decomposition within the waste (volatile solids) and the manner in which the waste is managed. Liquid-based waste management systems, in addition to providing a suitable anaerobic environment, provide the moisture necessary for methanogenic bacterial cell production and acid stabilization.¹⁶¹ Thus, they result in the most substantial methane emissions.

Estimation Methods

Methane emissions from the solid waste of domesticated animals are estimated by linking emissions to the

volume of solid waste produced by a given animal, the volatile solids in that waste, and the manner in which the waste is managed. The volume of waste produced is controlled by the animal's size, diet, and energy requirements. As a proxy for these variables, typical animal mass as estimated in a 1990 inventory of livestock and poultry prepared by the EPA¹⁶² is used to determine emissions per animal. Animal sizes are adopted directly for all animals except cattle, whose masses are adjusted annually on the basis of live slaughter weights as reported by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Volatile solids produced per kilogram of animal weight, maximum methane-producing capacity of each animal's waste, and the share of waste managed in each management system are adopted from the work of Safley et al.¹⁶³ For all animals except dairy cattle, the share of waste managed in each management system is also drawn from Safley et al.

Because the methods for managing the waste of dairy cattle in Arizona, Florida, Nevada, North Carolina, North Dakota, and Texas have changed since 1990 (when estimates were prepared by Safley et al.), emissions for this group are analyzed separately for the years 1990-1996. To do so, national-level methane conversion factors and waste management system distribution are applied only to national population data after netting out dairy cattle in these six States, which are then examined individually on the basis of shifts in waste management techniques since 1990. The updated methane conversion factors and waste management system shares are obtained from the EPA report, *Inventory of U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks: 1990-1994*.¹⁶⁴ Emissions from dairy cattle in these six States are totaled and added to the emissions estimates for dairy cattle in the rest of the United States.

¹⁵⁹P.J. Crutzen, I. Aselmann, and W.S. Seiler, "Methane Production by Domestic Animals, Wild Ruminants, Other Herbivorous Fauna, and Humans," *Tellus*, Vol. 38B (1986), pp. 274-275.

¹⁶⁰U.S. Department of Commerce, Economics and Statistics Administration, Bureau of the Census, *Census of Agriculture, United States Summary and State Data*, Vol. 1, "Geographic Area Series," Part 51 (Washington, DC, 1982, 1987, and 1992).

¹⁶¹U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Air and Radiation, *Anthropogenic Methane Emissions in the United States: Estimates for 1990* (Washington, DC, April 1993).

¹⁶²U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Air and Radiation, *Anthropogenic Methane Emissions in the United States: Estimates for 1990* (Washington, DC, April 1993).

¹⁶³L.M. Safley, M.E. Casada, J. Woodbury, and K. Roos, *Global Methane Emissions from Livestock and Poultry Manure* (Washington, DC: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, February 1992), p. 18.

¹⁶⁴U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Policy, Planning and Evaluation, *Inventory of U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks: 1990-1994*, EPA-230-R-96-006 (Washington, DC, November 1995), Appendix D.

Data Sources

Population and slaughter weight data for cattle, and population data for sheep, poultry, and swine were obtained from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), National Agricultural Statistics Service, Livestock, Dairy, and Poultry Branch, from web site www.mannlib.cornell.edu. Average broiler chicken populations for each year were estimated by multiplying the estimated number of broiler chickens slaughtered annually by 0.1425, based on their 7-week life cycle as recommended by the USDA's Economic Research Service.¹⁶⁵ Population data for goats and horses were extrapolated from the U.S. Department of Commerce's *Census of Agriculture* for the years 1982, 1987, and 1992.¹⁶⁶

Rice Cultivation

Emissions Sources

As organic material decays under anaerobic conditions in flooded rice fields, methane is produced. Between 60 and 90 percent of the methane generated is oxidized by other bacteria in the soil, and an additional portion leaches into groundwater. The majority of the methane that remains moves through rice plants by diffusive transport to reach the atmosphere. A smaller amount of methane reaches the atmosphere by bubbling from the soil and diffusion through the water column.

Estimation Methods

A daily emissions rate range has been developed from studies of rice fields in California,¹⁶⁷ Louisiana,¹⁶⁸ and Texas.¹⁶⁹ The high and low ends of the range, 0.1065 to 0.5639 grams of methane per square meter of land cultivated, are applied to the growing season length and the harvested area for each State that produces rice. In States with a second ("ratoon") crop, the additional area harvested is incorporated into the estimates.

¹⁶⁵Personal communication (May 1993).

¹⁶⁶U.S. Department of Commerce, Economics and Statistics Administration, Bureau of the Census, *Census of Agriculture, United States Summary and State Data*, Vol. 1, "Geographic Area Series," Part 51 (Washington, DC, 1982, 1987, and 1992).

¹⁶⁷R. Sass, F. Fisher, S. Lewis, M. Jund, and F. Turner, "Methane Emissions from Rice Fields: Effect of Soil Properties," *Global Biogeochemical Cycles*, Vol. 8 (1994), p. 135.

¹⁶⁸R.J. Cicerone, J.D. Shetter, and C.C. Delwiche, "Seasonal Variation of Methane Flux from a California Rice Paddy," *Journal of Geophysical Research*, Vol. 88 (1983), pp. 7203-7209.

¹⁶⁹C.W. Lindau and P.K. Bolich, "Methane Emissions from Louisiana First and Ratoon Rice Crop," *Soil Science*, Vol. 156 (1993), pp. 42-48.

¹⁷⁰A. Strehler and W. Stutzle, "Biomass Residues," in D.O. Hall and R.P. Overend (eds.), *Biomass: Regenerable Energy* (Chichester, UK: John Wiley and Sons, 1987), p. 85.

¹⁷¹These emissions are not considered to be a net release of carbon dioxide, given the uptake of carbon that occurs during the next cropping cycle's vegetative regrowth.

¹⁷²Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, *Greenhouse Gas Inventory Reference Manual*, IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories, Vol. 3 (Paris, France, 1995), p. 2.6.

Data Sources

Rice area harvested and length of growing season data were obtained from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service, *Crop Production* (annual reports).

Burning of Crop Residues

Emissions Sources

Crop residues contain substantial shares of carbon, between 40 and 50 percent of dry matter.¹⁷⁰ When crop residues are burned for fodder, land supplementation, or fuel, incomplete combustion results in methane emissions.¹⁷¹

Estimation Methods

In keeping with the methods recommended by the IPCC,¹⁷² this report assumes that 10 percent of all crop residues are burned. The dry weight and carbon content of each crop are determined (Table A10) and used in conjunction with estimated combustion efficiencies to derive methane emissions.

Data Sources

Sizes of crops harvested were obtained from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service, *Crop Production* (annual reports).

Industrial Processes

Chemical Production

Emissions Sources

A wide variety of organic compounds (those containing carbon) are used as feedstocks in chemical production. High temperatures are often used to "crack" the molecular bonds of the compounds, with different temperatures producing specific chemicals. The process

Table A10. Factors Used To Estimate Methane and Nitrous Oxide Emissions from Burning of Crop Residues

Crop Type	Ratio of Residue to Crop Volume	Dry Matter Content (Percent)	Carbon Content (Percent)	Nitrogen Content (Percent)
Barley	1.2	85.0	45.7	0.43
Beans	2.1	85.4	^c 45.0	^a 2.30
Corn	1.0	78.0	47.1	0.81
Oats	1.3	^b 90.1	^a 42.0	^a 0.84
Peas	1.5	^b 90.2	^c 45.0	^c 2.30
Peanuts	1.0	90.1	^c 42.3	^c 1.10
Potatoes	0.4	^c 86.7	42.3	1.10
Rice	1.4	85.0	41.4	0.67
Rye	1.6	^c 90.0	^c 48.5	^c 0.70
Sorghum	1.4	88.0	^a 34.0	^d 0.85
Soybeans	2.1	86.7	^a 44.0	^d 2.30
Sugar Beets	0.2	^c 90.0	40.7	2.28
Sugar Cane	1.2	37.2	47.0	0.19
Wheat	1.3	85.0	48.5	0.28

Sources: A. Strehler and W. Stutzle, "Biomass Residues," in D. Hall and R. Overend (eds.), *Biomass: Regenerable Energy* (Chichester, UK: John Wiley and Sons, 1987), except where indicated by: (a) C. Li, S. Frohling, and R. Harriss, "Modeling Carbon Biogeochemistry in Agricultural Soils," *Global Biogeochemical Cycles*, Vol. 8 (September 1994); (b) E. Darley, *Emission Factors from Burning Agricultural Wastes Collected in California*, Final Report, CAL/ARB Project 4-011 (Riverside, CA: University of California, 1977); (c) U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Policy, Planning and Evaluation, *Inventory of U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks: 1990-1993*, EPA 230-R-94-014 (Washington, DC, September 1994); (d) G. Barnard, "Use of Agricultural Residues as Fuel," in J. Pasztor and L. Kristoferson (eds.), *Bioenergy and the Environment* (Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 1990).

of cracking produces a number of chemical byproducts, including methane.

Estimation Methods

The IPCC has published emissions factors for methane emitted during the manufacture of ethylene, ethylene dichloride, styrene, methanol, and carbon black¹⁷³ (Table A11). Production figures for the chemicals are multiplied by those emissions factors.

Data Sources

Chemical production figures were obtained from the Chemical Manufacturers Association, *U.S. Chemical Industry Statistical Handbook* (Washington, DC, various years).

Iron and Steel Production

Emissions Sources

Coke, sinter, and pig iron are the principal material inputs for the production of iron and steel. Coke is

produced by heating coal in the absence of oxygen. One of the gaseous byproducts of this process is methane. During the next step in the production process, coke, iron ore, and flux materials are combined to form sinter. The coke is burned to create heat, causing the sinter to agglomerate. During agglomeration, methane is released. Coke and iron are then added to flux materials in a blast furnace and reduced to iron, slag, and exhaust gases. Methane is one of the exhaust gases.

Estimation Methods

The IPCC has published emissions factors for methane emitted during the production of coke, sinter, and pig iron.¹⁷⁴ Production figures for iron and steel inputs are multiplied by those emissions factors.

Data Sources

Coke, sinter, and pig iron production data are published annually by the American Iron and Steel Institute in its *Annual Statistical Report* (Washington, DC, various years).

¹⁷³Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, *Greenhouse Gas Inventory Reference Manual*, IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories, Vol. 3 (Paris, France, 1994), p. 2.6.

¹⁷⁴Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, *Greenhouse Gas Inventory Reference Manual*, IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories, Vol. 3 (Paris, France, 1994), p. 2.6.

Table A11. Methane Emissions Factors for Industrial Processes
(Grams of Methane Emitted per Kilogram of Product Produced)

Industrial Product	Methane Emissions Factor
Coke	0.5
Sinter	0.5
Pig Iron	0.9
Carbon Black	11.0
Ethylene	1.0
Dichloroethylene	0.4
Styrene	4.0
Methanol	2.0

Source: Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, *Greenhouse Gas Inventory Reference Manual*, IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories, Vol. 3, p. 2.6.

Nitrous Oxide

Most anthropogenic nitrous oxide emissions in the United States can be attributed to agricultural and energy-related sources. In particular, fertilizer use (which amplifies the natural flux of nitrous oxide from soil) and motor vehicle fuel combustion combined to account for approximately 65 percent of 1996 estimated emissions of nitrous oxide (although the range of uncertainty associated with emissions from fertilizer use is quite large). Emissions estimates in this report include fertilizer application; burning of crop residues; mobile source combustion from passenger cars, buses, motorcycles, trucks, and other minor sources; stationary source combustion from residential, industrial, and electric utility energy use; and industrial production of adipic acid and nitric acid.

Energy Use

Mobile Combustion

Emissions Sources

Nitrous oxide emissions are produced as a byproduct of fuel combustion. During combustion, nitrous oxide is produced as a result of chemical interactions between nitric oxide and other combustion products. With most conventional combustion systems, high temperatures limit the quantity of nitrous oxide that escapes; therefore, emissions from these systems are typically low. Mobile sources of fuel combustion include passenger cars, buses, motorcycles, light-duty and other trucks,

air, rail, and water transportation sources, and farm and construction equipment.

Estimation Methods and Data Sources

See section on methane emissions from mobile combustion, above.

Stationary Combustion

Emissions Sources

As with mobile sources, nitrous oxide emissions are produced as a byproduct of fuel combustion. The three fuels of primary importance burned by stationary sources are coal, fuel oil, and natural gas. Combustion systems powered by coal produce the most nitrous oxide, approximately 75 percent of annual emissions. As a sector, electric utilities consistently account for more than one-half of total emissions. Other important sources are commercial facilities, industrial facilities, and residences.

Estimation Methods

Nitrous oxide emissions from stationary combustion are estimated by multiplying fuel consumption figures for each fuel type and stationary source by emissions factors for each type of fuel. The emissions factors used in this report differ from those used in previous years; therefore, emissions estimates may also be different from those presented in last year's report. Emissions are estimated by applying emissions factors for coal, oil, and natural gas to EIA's consumption data for each fuel in the commercial, residential, industrial, and electric utility sectors.

Data Sources

Fuel consumption data are from the EIA's *State Energy Data Report* (EIA-0214(94)) database. The emissions factors used in this report are those recommended by the IPCC as derived from studies of numerous conventional systems.¹⁷⁵

Agriculture

Fertilizer Use

Emissions Sources

Nitrous oxide uptake and emissions occur naturally as a result of nitrification and denitrification processes in soil. When nitrogen-based fertilizers are added to the soil, emissions generally increase, unless application

¹⁷⁵G.G. De Soete, "Nitrous Oxide from Combustion and Industry: Chemistry, Emissions and Control," in A.R. van Amstel (ed.), *International IPCC Workshop Proceedings: Methane and Nitrous Oxide, Methods in National Emissions Inventories and Options for Control* (Bilthoven, Netherlands: RIVM, 1993), pp. 287-337.

precisely matches plant uptake and soil capture.¹⁷⁶ A variety of other factors, including certain soil properties and moisture content, are known to influence the rate of emissions. Although these factors have been identified, they have not been systematically quantified, and EIA is not aware of data that would allow them to be incorporated into emissions estimates.

Estimation Methods

Emissions factors ranging in magnitude from 0.001 to 0.1 gram nitrogen (in nitrous oxide) per gram of nitrogen in fertilizer are applied to the nitrogen content of fertilizer used annually in the United States, producing low, median, and high estimates. In 1996, the median estimate (which assumes that 1 percent of the nitrogen in fertilizer is emitted as nitrous oxide—also the percentage recommended by the IPCC¹⁷⁷) indicates that 141,000 metric tons of nitrous oxide was released into the atmosphere as a result of fertilization practices.

Data Sources

Estimates of total U.S. fertilizer consumption were obtained from reports by the Tennessee Valley Authority Fertilizer Research Center for various years through 1994—J.T. Berry et al., *Commercial Fertilizers* (Muscle Shoals, AL: Tennessee Valley Authority, Fertilizer Research Center, Reports for 1986-1991 and 1993-1994)—and from the Association of American Plant Food Control Officials for 1995 and 1996.

Estimates for prior years have been modified from those in last year's report to represent the nitrogen content of annual fertilizer consumption for the calendar year. The emissions factor for nitrous oxide was taken from A.R. Mosier, "Nitrous Oxide Emissions from Agricultural Soils," in A.R. van Amstel (ed.), *International IPCC Workshop Proceedings: Methane and Nitrous Oxide, Methods in National Emissions Inventories and Options for Control* (Bilthoven, Netherlands: RIVM, 1993), p. 281.

Crop Residue Burning

Emissions Sources

Crop residue is commonly disposed of by incorporation into the soil, spreading over the soil surface to prevent

erosion, as animal bedding, or through burning. Burning crop residue releases nitrous oxide into the atmosphere. The burning of crop residue occurs throughout the United States, although it is illegal in certain areas. There are no accurate estimates of the amount of crop residue burned in the United States.

Estimation Methods and Data Sources

See section on methane emissions from burning crop residues, above.

Industrial Processes

Adipic Acid Production

Emissions Sources

Manufacture of adipic acid is one of the two principal sources of nitrous oxide from industrial processes. Adipic acid is used primarily in the manufacture of nylon fibers and plastics in carpet yarn, clothing, and tire cord. Other uses of adipic acid include production of plasticizers for polyvinyl chloride and polyurethane resins, lubricants, insecticides, and dyes. In the United States, three companies, which operate a total of four plants, manufacture adipic acid by oxidizing a ketone-alcohol mixture with nitric acid. Creation of nitrous oxide is an intrinsic byproduct of this chemical reaction.

Estimation Methods

Emissions of nitrous oxide from production of adipic acid are calculated by multiplying adipic acid production figures by nitrous oxide emissions coefficients. For every metric ton of adipic acid produced, 0.3 metric ton of nitrous oxide is created.¹⁷⁸ Currently, two plants (accounting for approximately 77 percent of total production) control emissions by thermally decomposing the nitrous oxide, and 98 percent of the potential emissions from those plants are eliminated by this technique.¹⁷⁹

Data Sources

Adipic acid production figures were obtained *Chemical and Engineering News*, annual report on the "Top 50 Industrial Chemicals" (April issue, various years). For 1996, U.S. total adipic acid production was estimated

¹⁷⁶A.F. Bouwman, "Exchange of Greenhouse Gases Between Terrestrial Ecosystems and the Atmosphere," in A.F. Bouwman (ed.), *Soils and the Greenhouse Effect* (New York, NY: John Wiley and Sons, 1990).

¹⁷⁷Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, *Greenhouse Gas Inventory Reference Manual*, IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories, Vol. 3 (Paris, France, 1994), p. 4.77.

¹⁷⁸M.H. Thiemens and W.C. Trogler, "Nylon Production: An Unknown Source of Atmospheric Nitrous Oxide," *Science*, Vol. 251, No. 4996 (February 22, 1991), p. 932.

¹⁷⁹Radian Corporation, *Nitrous Oxide Emissions from Adipic Acid Manufacturing* (Rochester, NY, January 1992), p. 10.

from information on adipic acid production and industry characteristics, obtained from the Dupont Company, as well as information reported on DuPont's Form EIA-1605, "Voluntary Reporting of Greenhouse Gases." Dupont's 1996 Form EIA-1605 submission contained data on nitrous oxide emissions for 1992 through 1995. The adipic acid emissions coefficient was taken from M. Thiemens and W. Troglor, "Nylon Production: An Unknown Source of Atmospheric Nitrous Oxide," *Science*, Vol. 251, No. 4996 (February 22, 1991), p. 932.

Nitric Acid Production

Emissions Sources

Nitric acid is a primary ingredient in fertilizers. The process for manufacturing this acid involves oxidizing ammonia (NH_3) with a platinum catalyst. Nitrous oxide emissions are a direct result of the oxidation.

Estimation Methods

Measurements at a DuPont plant indicate emissions factors of 2 to 9 grams of nitrous oxide per kilogram of nitric acid manufactured.¹⁸⁰ The emissions estimates presented in this report are calculated by multiplying the annual quantity of nitric acid produced by the midpoint (5.5 grams nitrous oxide per kilogram of product) of the emissions range determined at the DuPont plant. There is, however, a considerable degree of uncertainty associated with this estimate, because the emissions factor for the DuPont plant may not in fact be generalizable across the industry.

Data Sources

Nitric acid production figures were based on data published by the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, in its annual and quarterly *Current Industrial Reports* on fertilizer materials. See also web site www.census.gov/cir/www/mq28a.html. The nitric acid emissions coefficient was taken from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, *Greenhouse Gas Inventory Reference Manual*, IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories, Vol. 3 (Paris, France, 1995), p. 2.9.

Halocarbons and Other Gases

Emissions Sources

Halocarbons and other gases have hundreds of uses, but the bulk of emissions come from a few broad categories of use:

- As refrigerants or working fluids in air conditioning and refrigeration equipment
- As solvents in various industrial processes
- As blowing agents for making insulating foams
- As fugitive emissions from various industrial processes, including the manufacture of halocarbons.

The emissions profile differs for each emissions source. Refrigerants are used in a closed cycle inside cooling equipment, and they tend to leak out when the equipment is scrapped or serviced. Some portion of the refrigerants is captured and recycled or destroyed, rather than emitted, when equipment is serviced. Halocarbons in solvent applications are often recycled, but net consumption (after recycling) is probably a good indicator of emissions. Halocarbons used as blowing agents can be characterized by the type of foam manufactured: halocarbons used to make "open cell" foam are released to the atmosphere immediately, while halocarbons used to make "closed cell" foam are trapped within the foam for the life of the foam, which can vary (depending on the use) from a few weeks to many years.

Estimation Methods

In general, the EIA has relied on estimates of halocarbon emissions published by the EPA. However, the EPA has not prepared estimates for all years and all gases. The EIA has therefore extended EPA emissions estimates using various methods.

In general, estimating emissions of halocarbons begins with determining the level of annual consumption of the halocarbon and distributing consumption across the principal end-use applications. Emissions from each end-use application are then computed from the assumed emissions characteristics of the application. Alternatively, industrial emissions from large corporations can be determined directly for some chemicals by reference to companies' reporting under the EPA's Toxics Release Inventory (TRI).

In a few important cases, emissions factors for fugitive emissions from industrial processes have been developed: HFC-23 emissions from HCFC-22 manufacture (4 percent of HCFC-22 production) and perfluoromethane and perfluoroethane emissions from aluminum smelting (0.6 kilogram CF_4 per metric ton aluminum and 0.06 kilogram C_2F_6 per metric ton aluminum). In these cases, emissions can be calculated by multiplying the underlying activity factor by the emissions factor.

¹⁸⁰R.A. Reimer, R.A. Parrett, and C.S. Slaten, "Abatement of N_2O Emission Produced in Adipic Acid," in *Proceedings of the Fifth International Workshop on Nitrous Oxide Emissions* (Tsukuba, Japan, July 1992).

Finally, emissions of HFC-134a are estimated by multiplying the number of vehicles manufactured that use HFC-134a as a refrigerant by estimated charge sizes and leakage rates provided by personal communications with Ford and General Motors.

Data Sources

EPA estimates of emissions of halocarbons and other gases can be found in U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, *Inventory of U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks: 1990-1994*, EPA-230-R-96-006 (Washington, DC, November 1995). EPA estimates for 1995 are published in U.S. Department of State, *Climate Action Plan*, Publication 10496 (Washington, DC, July 1997), pp. 71-72.

Information on halocarbon production, consumption, and sales is spotty. Information on production and sales of some compounds, up to 1994, is provided in U.S. International Trade Commission, *Synthetic Organic Chemicals: United States Production and Sales, 1994*, USITC Publication 2933 (Washington, DC, November 1995). The Alternative Fluorocarbons Environmental Acceptability Study (AFEAS) provides information on "world" and "northern hemisphere" production, sales, and emissions of certain halocarbons, as well as a breakdown of sales by anticipated end use: Alternative Fluorocarbons Environmental Acceptability Study, *Production, Sales and Atmospheric Release of Fluorocarbons Through 1995* (Washington, DC, January 1997). The end-use share data can be used to (crudely) estimate U.S. consumption for particular types of end uses. Large industrial emitters of certain halocarbons are required to report emissions, destruction, and recycling of these compounds. This information is published in U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, *1996 Toxics Release Inventory: Public Data Release* (Washington, DC, June 1997).

Emissions factors for HFC-23, perfluoroethane, and perfluoromethane can be found in U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, *Inventory of U.S. Greenhouse Gases Emissions and Sinks: 1990-1993*, EPA-230-R-94-014 (Washington, DC, September 1994), p. 38.

Criteria Pollutants

The estimates presented in this report are taken directly from the EPA report, *National Air Pollutant Emission Trends: 1900-1995*, EPA-454/R-96-007 (Research Triangle Park, NC, October 1996) (see also web site www.epa.gov/airprog/oar/emtrnd/index.htm). Chapter 6 of the EPA report, published in October 1995, summarizes the methodologies used in estimating emissions and revisions to these methodologies as they have occurred.

Since the information is too extensive to be included here, only a simplified description is provided below.

Emissions either for individual sources or for many sources combined were calculated from basic activity data as indicators of trends. The national activity data used to calculate the individual source categories were obtained from many different sources. Activity data are used in conjunction with emissions factors, which relate the quantity of emissions to the activity, and assumptions about control efficiency. Emissions factors are generally available from the EPA's *Compilation of Air Pollutant Emission Factors*, AP-42, often referred to as the AP-42 emissions factors. The EPA currently derives the overall emissions control efficiency of a source category from a variety of sources, including published reports, the 1985 NAPAP (National Acid Precipitation and Assessment Program) emissions inventory, and other EPA databases.

Land Use Issues

A large amount of carbon, on the order of 170 million metric tons, is removed from the atmosphere (sequestered) by forest land in the United States each year. An additional 12 million metric tons is locked into long-term storage in wood products, and approximately 15 million metric tons of carbon enters landfills in the form of wood and paper waste, where processes that cause the carbon to be released to the atmosphere may take up to 60 years or longer.

Less well understood or quantifiable are the impacts of the various types of land uses on other greenhouse gases. Chapter 7 and this section also briefly discuss methane emissions from wetlands, as well as methane and nitrous oxide emissions (and uptake) from forest land, grassland, cropland, pasture, and rangeland. It appears that methane and nitrous oxide emissions attributable to changes in land use in the United States are relatively small, making a negligible contribution to GWP-weighted concentrations of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. However, there is considerable uncertainty associated with estimates of land-use-related emissions of these gases.

Carbon Sequestration

Carbon Cycling in Forests

Sequestration/Emissions Sources

Every year in the United States and throughout the world a large amount of carbon dioxide is removed from the atmosphere and sequestered into biomass. At the same time, carbon is released to the atmosphere

from vegetative respiration, combustion of wood as fuel, degradation of manufactured wood products, consumption of biomass by herbivores, and the natural decay of expired vegetation.

Changes in forest land have a more important impact on U.S. anthropogenic contributions to greenhouse gas emissions than changes in any other type of land. Forests sequester atmospheric carbon in biomass and soil. Photosynthesis is responsible for sequestering carbon into live vegetation, while mortality of roots, foliage, and stems and branches adds carbon to the soil.

On average, the amount of carbon stored in U.S. forests is 17.7 kilograms per square meter of forest land (using an estimate by Forest Service Researcher Richard Birdsey). The range in forest storage across States is large: from 9 kilograms per square meter in Nevada to 26 kilograms per square meter in Alaska, according to Birdsey.¹⁸¹

The opposite of photosynthesis is respiration, the release of carbon to the atmosphere through decomposition of dead biomass and as a byproduct of internal mechanisms within living plants. Trees add new cell layers each year. Old and new cells require energy for maintenance. Growth and increased maintenance cause respiration to increase. Eventually, because of limitations to total tree foliage area, the rate of photosynthesis cannot continue to outpace respiration, and trees pass through a stage of rough equilibrium between photosynthesis and respiration. When respiration exceeds photosynthesis, mortality follows. This causes the cycle to shift into reverse, as stored carbon in individual trees is released through decay (which in nonmanaged systems is utilized by new trees that emerge in place of the dead and dying ones). The cycle is somewhat different at the forest level, where continual additions to soil carbon from decaying biomass can cause the forest to remain an active carbon sink.

Carbon is also sequestered in wood products and landfills. Forests produce a number of wood products, most notably paper and lumber. Carbon in lumber may remain sequestered for decades or centuries, depending on the end use of the product. Carbon in paper products and wood products that are landfilled may remain sequestered for long periods of time, although no accurate national estimates have been made of the retention time of carbon in landfilled waste.

Estimation Methods

Estimates of carbon uptake and release by U.S. forests are made by multiplying biomass volume growth rates from compilations of national forest inventories and ecosystem studies by associated carbon sequestration rates based on estimates of the carbon content of the biomass of various forest types. Forest statistics include acreage and age of distinct forest types, and carbon sequestration rates are based on biomass equations developed in several ecosystem studies conducted throughout the United States. National forest acreages, ages, and forest types are obtained from periodic assessments conducted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The carbon flux estimates presented in this report are based on statistics for the coterminous United States (excluding Alaska and Hawaii, for which adequate statistics are lacking). Carbon sequestration estimates include carbon flux by live trees and other vegetation, "dead" flux of carbon entering the forest floor and soil, and fluxes of carbon to wood products and landfills. A considerable amount of carbon enters the soil, the forest floor, and understory vegetation, which, aside from living trees, are the other major repositories of organic carbon in forest ecosystems. Estimates of carbon storage in trees are based on periodic forest inventories designed to provide estimates of timber volume, growth, removals and mortality.¹⁸² Above-ground tree biomass is calculated by multiplying estimated timber volumes by conversion factors derived from the national biomass inventory.¹⁸³

Birdsey and Heath's estimates of total acreages of distinct types of forest land are obtained from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which is required to conduct comprehensive assessments of all forest and range land resources on both public and private lands under the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act (RPA) of 1974. The Forest Service collects information on the Nation's timber resources from four regions. Each region contains subregions (a total of nine subregions nationally). Each subregion periodically collects local estimates of forest resources. The average cycle of periodic surveys nationally is 10 years. Because the Forest Service produces RPA assessment updates every 5 years, it is assumed that approximately one-half of the information contained in each update is new, and one-half is old. The last RPA update was published in

¹⁸¹R.A. Birdsey, *Carbon Storage and Accumulation in United States Forest Ecosystems*, USDA Forest Service General Technical Report WO-59 (Washington, DC, 1992), p. 3.

¹⁸²K.L. Waddell, D. Oswald, D. Daniel, Powell, and S. Douglas, *Forest Statistics of the United States, 1987*, USDA Forest Service Resource Bulletin PNW-RB-168 (Pacific Northwest Research Station, Portland, OR, 1989).

¹⁸³N.D. Cost, J. Howard, and B. Mead, W.H. McWilliams, W.B. Smith, D.D. Van Hooser, and E.H. Wharton, *The Biomass Resource of the United States*, USDA Forest Service General Technical Report WO-57 (1990).

1992,¹⁸⁴ accordingly, the estimates of carbon sequestration in Chapter 7 are for 1992. The next RPA assessment will occur in 1997, and the report will not be available until some time in 1998. Hence, carbon sequestration estimates for years after 1992 are not likely to be available until 1998 or 1999 (although projections based on previous trends have already been made).

The estimate of total carbon flux from U.S. forests is somewhat higher in this report than in a similar report released by the EPA.¹⁸⁵ The EPA, also citing Birdsey and Heath, estimated total flux at 125 million metric tons, excluding the soil carbon flux estimated by Birdsey and Heath.

The amount of carbon sequestered in wood products and landfills has also been estimated by Birdsey and Heath, although the estimates are sensitive to assumptions about recycling, age of trees at harvest, and other factors that affect the amount of wood and the retention periods in various pools.

Other Land Use Changes Affecting the Carbon Budget

It is difficult to be specific about how much carbon might be gained or lost through transformations of grasslands and pasturelands to croplands. Typical estimates of the amount of soil carbon lost when pastureland or grassland is converted to cropland are approximately 30 percent of the amount in place at the time of conversion. These losses can be expected to take place over a period of 20 years, or longer, following conversion. Although the amount of carbon in a square meter of forest might be on the order of 9 to 26 kilograms, depending on the condition of the forest and the age and type of trees growing, typical estimates of carbon storage in cultivated lands range from 1 to 8 kilograms per square meter, and estimates for uncultivated (but cultivatable) lands range from 2 to 10 kilograms per square meter.¹⁸⁶ Thus, there is less carbon to be gained or lost, and the range of possible outcomes per unit of land is consequently smaller. Soils initially very low in carbon tend to gain slight amounts of carbon after cultivation, but richer soils tend to lose at least 20 percent of their carbon after cultivation begins.

A study commissioned by the EPA estimated average soil carbon content for an area of 272 million acres of farmland in the United States at 4.8 to 7.9 kilograms per square meter.¹⁸⁷ The study estimated that 1.0 billion to 1.6 billion metric tons of soil carbon had been lost from the farmland since it had been placed in cultivation, equivalent to 16 percent of the estimated original carbon content of the soil. The study also noted, however, that land with a soil carbon content of less than 4 kilograms per square meter was generally not being cultivated at the time of the study.

It would not be surprising if the least fertile farmland were the most likely to be removed from cultivation. Therefore, assuming that no trees are planted or naturally regenerate, the carbon gains from idling cropland are likely to be small. However, converting farmland to forest produces relatively large carbon gains, both through the addition of biomass (i.e., carbon stored in trees) and through the accretion of carbon into the soil, as dead limbs, trees, and roots gradually decay above and below ground.

Data Sources

The primary researchers who have combined State and national forestry statistics with biomass growth equations to determine total national carbon fluxes are USDA Forest Service researchers Richard Birdsey and Linda Heath. Their findings have been presented in the following technical reports, and are one of the two sources of data for carbon flux estimates presented in this report: R.A. Birdsey and L.S. Heath, "Carbon Changes in U.S. Forests," in L.A. Joyce (ed.), *Productivity of America's Forests and Climate Change*, General Technical Report RM-GTR-271 (Fort Collins, CO: USDA Forest Service, 1995); and R.A. Birdsey, *Carbon Storage and Accumulation in United States Forest Ecosystems and "Changes in Forest Carbon Storage from Increasing Forest Area and Timber Growth,"* in R.N. Sampson and D. Hair (eds.), *Forests and Global Change*, Vol. 1, "Opportunities for Increasing Forest Cover, American Forests" (Washington, DC). Birdsey and Heath's estimates of total acreages of distinct types of forest land are obtained from the U.S. Department of Agriculture: K.L. Waddell, D. Oswald, D. Daniel, Powell, and S. Douglas, *Forest Statistics of the United States, 1987*, USDA

¹⁸⁴D.S. Powell, J.L. Faulkner, D.R. Darr, Z. Zhu, and D.W. MacCleery, *Forest Resources of the United States, 1992*, USDA Forest Service General Technical Report RM-234 (Washington, DC, September 1993).

¹⁸⁵U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Policy, Planning and Evaluation, *Inventory of U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks: 1990-1994*, EPA-230-R-96-006 (Washington, DC, 1995).

¹⁸⁶See the scattergram in L.K. Mann, "Changes in Soil Carbon Storage After Cultivation," *Soil Science*, Vol. 142, No. 5 (November 1986), p. 284.

¹⁸⁷ManTech Environmental Technology, Inc., *Impact of Conservation Tillage on Soil and Atmospheric Carbon in the Contiguous United States*, PB92-113448, prepared for the Corvallis Environmental Research Laboratory, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (September 1991), p. 7.

Forest Service Resource Bulletin PNW-RB-168 (Portland, OR, 1989).

Heath and Birdsey are also the source of EIA's estimate of carbon flux to wood products and landfills: L.S. Heath, R.A. Birdsey, C. Row, and A.J. Plantinga, "Carbon Pools and Fluxes in U.S. Forest Products," in *The Role of Forest Ecosystems and Forest Resource Management in the Global Carbon Cycle*, NATO ASI Series (Berlin, Germany: Springer-Verlag, 1995).

For information on carbon storage after converting land to cultivated land, see L.K. Mann, "Changes in Soil Carbon Storage After Cultivation," *Soil Science*, Vol. 142, No. 5 (November 1986), p. 279; and W.H. Schlesinger, "Changes in Soil Carbon Storage and Associated Properties with Disturbance and Recovery," in J. Trabalka and D. Riechle (eds.), *The Changing Carbon Cycle: A Global Analysis* (New York: Springer-Verlag, 1986), p. 12.

Changes in Land Use

Estimation Methods

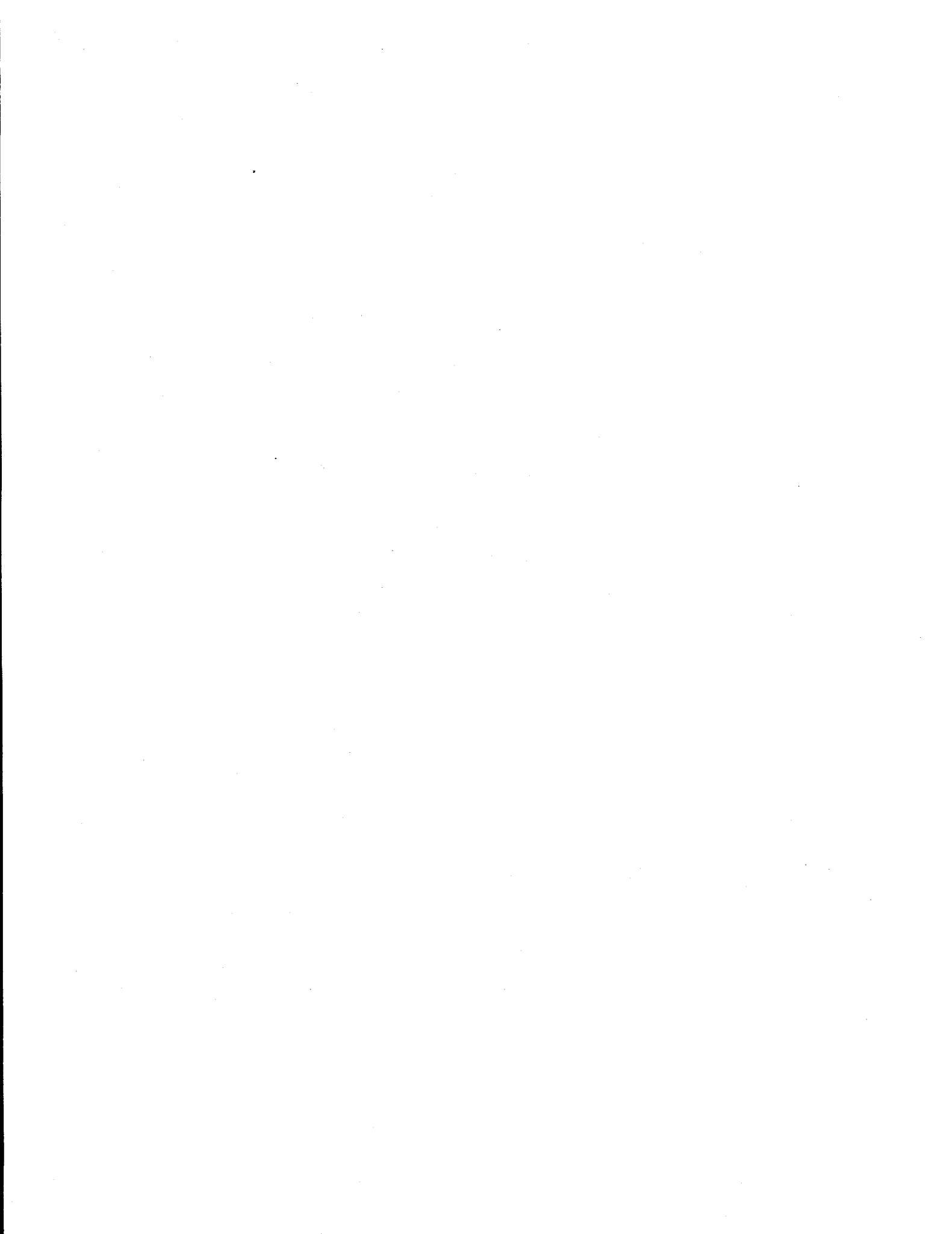
Estimates of the total U.S. land area occupied by different types of land use form part of the basis for estimating greenhouse gas emissions and sequestration from changes in land use. The primary source of information used for EIA's land use figures is the Economic Re-

search Service (ERS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The ERS has regularly inventoried the major uses of land in the United States at intervals coinciding with the censuses of agriculture since 1945. The latest inventory was conducted in 1992.

There is an unquantified amount of error associated with national-level land use statistics. Data are typically obtained from surveys differing greatly in scope, methods, definitions, and other characteristics. Individual sources account for only a limited part of the total land area. The available data contain conflicts and overlap that must be reconciled or removed. The ERS addresses these problems to the extent feasible, but there is undoubtedly some error associated with combining and normalizing land use data encompassing approximately 2.3 billion acres.

Data Sources

The ERS compiles land use data in its periodic report, *Major Uses of Land in the United States*. The estimates in the ERS report are from a series of land-use inventories, based on available land-use data from a wide variety of sources, conducted by the ERS and predecessor agencies. See, for example, A.B. Daugherty, *Major Uses of Land in the United States, 1992*, USDA Economic Research Service Agricultural Economic Report Number 723 (Washington, DC, 1995).



Appendix B

Carbon Coefficients Used in This Report

Overview

In the October 1994 edition of *Emissions of Greenhouse Gases in the United States*, the Energy Information Administration (EIA) developed new emissions coefficients for the estimation of carbon released from the combustion of fossil fuels in the United States. Emissions coefficients for more than 20 petroleum products were derived from their density, heat content, and carbon share. These variables were estimated from the underlying chemical composition of the fuels and, where available, ultimate analyses of product samples.¹⁸⁸ For a more detailed discussion of how emissions coefficients for fossil fuels were derived please refer to Appendix A of the 1994 report.¹⁸⁹

The composition of marketed petroleum products varies over time with changes in exploration, recovery, and refining technology; economic changes (e.g., changes in the price of oil); and regulatory changes (e.g., requirements for reformulated gasoline in the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990). Thus, a time series of emissions coefficients for fossil fuels has been developed, and the coefficients for motor gasoline, jet fuel, crude oil, and liquified petroleum gases are updated annually to reflect changes in their composition and density (Table B1).

A review of the annual coefficients reveals several trends. First, the density of crude oil entering U.S. refineries has generally increased over the past decade, so that each barrel of oil now contains a greater mass of oil and, consequently, a greater weight of carbon. Because the presumed heat content of a barrel of crude oil has not changed, the emissions coefficient continues to climb slowly.

A second, more dramatic change has been the near elimination of naphtha-based jet fuel consumption. Between 1989 and 1996, the share of naphtha-based jet fuel consumed declined from 13 percent to 0.3 percent.

Because kerosene-based jet fuel has a significantly lower emissions coefficient than naphtha-based fuel, the weighted average emissions coefficient for jet fuel has now diminished to 19.33 million metric tons per quadrillion British thermal units (Btu), equal to the coefficient for kerosene-based jet fuel.

Also, in 1995, the emissions coefficient for motor gasoline reversed a decade-long trend of small increases due to increasing density. This reversal is attributable to the widespread introduction of reformulated fuel into the U.S. motor gasoline market. The Clean Air Act Amendments mandated the use of reformulated gasoline in heavily polluted areas beginning in 1995. The impact of the legislation has been substantial, with reformulated gasoline representing approximately 25 percent of motor gasoline production in 1995 and as much as 30 percent by the summer of 1996. Some studies predict that the share of reformulated gasoline may grow to as much as 100 percent of the gasoline market by 2000.¹⁹⁰

Motor Gasoline

Almost 20 percent of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions are attributable to motor gasoline consumption. As with all petroleum products, the emissions coefficient for motor gasoline is a function of its density and carbon content. This relationship is particularly clear in the case of motor gasoline, because the share of impurities found in the fuel must be kept low to maintain the operating condition of modern automobile engines and limit the environmental impact of vehicle use.

Motor gasoline density varies between summer and winter grades and from low octane to high octane. This variation takes into account the different performance requirements of gasoline at different temperatures. The density of gasoline increased slowly and steadily for the decade prior to 1995, across all octane grades and

¹⁸⁸An ultimate analysis provides a detailed breakdown of the chemical composition of a mixture.

¹⁸⁹Energy Information Administration, *Emissions of Greenhouse Gases in the United States 1987-1992*, DOE/EIA-0573 (Washington, DC, November 1994), pp. 73-92.

¹⁹⁰R. Salthouse, *Making Clean Gasoline* (Logistics Management Institute, September 1992); and A.K. Rhodes, "U.S. Refiners Scramble to Meet Reformulated Gasoline Mandate," *Oil and Gas Journal* (January 27, 1992).

Table B1. Carbon Emissions Coefficients at Full Combustion, 1986-1996

(Million Metric Tons of Carbon per Quadrillion Btu)

Fuel	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Petroleum											
Motor Gasoline	19.38	19.38	19.39	19.41	19.41	19.41	19.42	19.43	19.45	19.38	19.38
LPG	17.02	17.04	17.03	17.06	16.99	16.98	16.99	16.97	17.01	17.00	16.99
Jet Fuel	19.42	19.42	19.42	19.41	19.40	19.40	19.39	19.37	19.35	19.34	19.33
Distillate Fuel	19.95	19.95	19.95	19.95	19.95	19.95	19.95	19.95	19.95	19.95	19.95
Residual Fuel	21.49	21.49	21.49	21.49	21.49	21.49	21.49	21.49	21.49	21.49	21.49
Asphalt and Road Oil	20.62	20.62	20.62	20.62	20.62	20.62	20.62	20.62	20.62	20.62	20.62
Lubricants	20.24	20.24	20.24	20.24	20.24	20.24	20.24	20.24	20.24	20.24	20.24
Petrochemical Feed	19.37	19.37	19.37	19.37	19.37	19.37	19.37	19.37	19.37	19.37	19.37
Aviation Gas	18.87	18.87	18.87	18.87	18.87	18.87	18.87	18.87	18.87	18.87	18.87
Kerosene	19.72	19.72	19.72	19.72	19.72	19.72	19.72	19.72	19.72	19.72	19.72
Petroleum Coke	27.85	27.85	27.85	27.85	27.85	27.85	27.85	27.85	27.85	27.85	27.85
Special Naphtha	19.86	19.86	19.86	19.86	19.86	19.86	19.86	19.86	19.86	19.86	19.86
Waxes and Miscellaneous	19.81	19.81	19.81	19.81	19.81	19.81	19.81	19.81	19.81	19.81	19.81
Industrial Sector "Other" ^a	31.30	32.32	36.58	36.89	37.79	35.05	40.24	34.46	37.33	34.91	40.84
Coal											
Residential/Commercial	25.88	25.90	25.87	25.94	25.92	26.00	26.13	25.97	25.95	26.00	26.00
Industrial Coking	25.41	25.38	25.40	25.40	25.51	25.51	25.51	25.51	25.52	25.53	25.53
Other Industrial	25.55	25.53	25.53	25.56	25.58	25.59	25.62	25.61	25.63	25.63	25.63
Electric Utility	25.63	25.64	25.67	25.67	25.68	25.69	25.69	25.71	25.72	25.74	25.74
Flare Gas	14.92	14.92	14.92	14.92	14.92	14.92	14.92	14.92	14.92	14.92	14.92
Natural Gas	14.47	14.47	14.47	14.47	14.47	14.47	14.47	14.47	14.47	14.47	14.47
Crude Oil	20.10	20.11	20.14	20.13	20.16	20.18	20.22	20.23	20.21	20.23	20.25

^aComposite coefficient based on final calculations, accounting for fraction not combusted and deductions for nonfuel use, using unpublished disaggregated energy data.

Source: Energy Information Administration, *Emissions of Greenhouse Gases in the United States 1987-1994*, DOE/EIA-0573(87-94) (Washington, DC, October 1995), pp. 78-92, and estimates presented in this appendix.

in all seasons,¹⁹¹ a trend that resulted in part from the phaseout of leaded gasoline. In order to maintain the "anti-knock" quality and octane ratings of motor gasoline in the absence of lead, the portion of aromatic hydrocarbons used in gasoline was increased. Aromatic hydrocarbons take the form C_nH_{2n-6} , with a lower ratio of hydrogen to carbon than other hydrocarbons typically found in gasoline. Because carbon is much heavier than hydrogen, the lower ratio results in increased fuel density and higher shares of carbon. As a result, the emissions coefficient for motor gasoline rose slowly from 19.39 million metric tons carbon per quadrillion Btu in 1988 to 19.45 million metric tons carbon per quadrillion Btu in 1994 (Table B2).

The trend toward higher emissions coefficients ended in 1995, when reformulated gasoline was consumed in large volumes (about 25 percent of overall gasoline consumption) for the first time. The density of reformulated gasoline is about 1 percent less than the density of standard gasoline, and the much lower carbon contents of the principal additives to reformulated

gasoline (Table B3) reduce the overall share of carbon in reformulated fuel. Thus, taking into account the 25 percent of fuel consumed with a lower emissions profile, the emissions coefficient for motor gasoline dropped from 19.45 million metric tons per quadrillion Btu in 1994 to 19.38 million metric tons per quadrillion Btu in 1995.

The 1996 emissions coefficient for motor gasoline remained stable at 19.38 million metric tons per quadrillion Btu. This apparently static condition masked some underlying changes in the composition of reformulated fuel and thus the calculation of a general motor gasoline emissions factor. The methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE) content of winter reformulated gasoline grew from 4.3 percent to 7.3 percent between the winter of 1994-1995 and the winter of 1995-1996. As a result, the emissions coefficient for winter reformulated gasoline declined between 1995 and 1996. That decline was offset by an increase in the emissions coefficient for summer gasoline, which can be traced to the exclusion of tertiary amyl methyl ether (TAME) and

¹⁹¹National Institute of Petroleum and Energy Research, *Motor Gasoline, Summer and Motor Gasoline, Winter* (1984-1994).

Table B2. Changes in Motor Gasoline Density, 1989-1996
(Degrees API)

Fuel Grade	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Winter Grade								
Low Octane	62.0	62.0	61.8	61.4	61.0	60.1	59.4	P60.2
Mid Octane	59.9	60.8	60.4	60.2	59.9	59.4	58.8	P59.4
High Octane	58.8	59.0	59.3	59.0	58.7	58.5	58.2	P57.9
Summer Grade								
Low Octane	58.2	58.2	58.0	57.4	56.1	55.7	56.1	56.9
Mid Octane	57.1	57.4	57.1	56.4	55.5	54.8	55.6	56.2
High Octane	55.3	55.5	55.7	55.6	54.4	53.8	55.1	55.3
Average Emissions Coefficient (Million Metric Tons Carbon per Quadrillion Btu)								
	19.41	19.41	19.41	19.42	19.43	19.45	^a 19.38	^a P19.38

^aEmissions coefficient weighted for reformulated gasoline, which has a lower density than standard gasoline.

P = preliminary data.

Sources: National Institute of Petroleum and Energy Research, *Motor Gasoline, Summer*, and *Motor Gasoline, Winter* (1984-1996). M. DeLuchi, *Emissions of Greenhouse Gases from the Use of Transportation Fuels and Electricity*, Vol. 2, Appendices A-S, ANL/ESD/TM-22 (Chicago, IL: Argonne National Laboratory, November 1993), p. c-6. Properties of reformulated fuels from California Air Resources Board.

Table B3. Characteristics of Major Reformulated Fuel Additives

Additive	Density (Degrees API)	Carbon Share (Percent)	Emissions Factor (Million Metric Tons per Quadrillion Btu)
MTBE	59.1	68.2	16.92
ETBE	59.1	70.5	17.07
TAME	52.8	70.5	17.00

Sources: California Air Resources Board, and estimates developed for this report.

ethyl tertiary butyl ether (ETBE) from reformulated gasoline and the resultant increase in the portion of standard gasoline.

In 1995, the three principal additives to reformulated gasoline were MTBE, ETBE, and TAME. These additives differ from the hydrocarbons typically found in motor gasoline by the presence of oxygen atoms in their molecules. The oxygen atoms reduce the emissions of carbon monoxide and unburnt hydrocarbons. In contrast to standard motor gasoline, which has an estimated carbon share of 86.6 percent, these additives have carbon shares between 68.2 and 70.5 percent.¹⁹² MTBE is the most important additive, representing about 10 percent of reformulated gasoline in 1995. It has a density of 59.1 degrees API and a carbon content

of 68.2 percent. By 1996, the average gallon of reformulated gasoline contained no TAME and only very small amounts of ETBE.

To derive an overall emissions coefficient for gasoline consumed during 1996, individual coefficients for motor gasoline consumed in the winter and summer months, respectively, were developed. The coefficients were based on the densities of product samples collected by the National Institute on Petroleum and Energy Research, in conjunction with a carbon share of 86.6 percent as estimated by Mark DeLuchi.¹⁹³

Emissions coefficients for reformulated fuels consumed during the summer and winter were calculated by the following procedure. First, the carbon share of each

¹⁹²M. DeLuchi, *Emissions of Greenhouse Gases from the Use of Transportation Fuels and Electricity*, Volume 2, Appendices A-S, ANL/ESD/TM-22 (Chicago, IL: Argonne National Laboratory, November 1993), p. C-6. Properties of reformulated fuels from California Air Resources Board.

¹⁹³National Institute of Petroleum and Energy Research, *Motor Gasoline, Summer* (1995 and 1996), and *Motor Gasoline, Winter* (1994-1995 and 1995-1996); and M. DeLuchi, *Emissions of Greenhouse Gases from the Use of Transportation Fuels and Electricity*, Volume 2, Appendices A-S, ANL/ESD/TM-22 (Chicago, IL: Argonne National Laboratory, November 1993), p. C-6.

additive used in reformulated gasoline was calculated from its chemical formula and combined with the additive's density and energy content, as provided by the California Air Resources Board, to produce individual coefficients for each fuel additive. Next, the reformulated fuel was separated into its standard fuel components and its additive portions based on fuel samples examined by NIPER.¹⁹⁴ The additive portions were defined as the net increase in MTBE, ETBE, or TAME, as compared with the additives in standard fuel (small amounts of these compounds are also present in standard gasoline). The emissions coefficients for standard gasoline and for each of the additives were then weighted by their proportion in reformulated fuel to arrive at a coefficient for reformulated fuel in each season.

After independent coefficients were developed for both standard and reformulated fuel, each season's coefficients were combined by weighting according to the ratio of standard vs. reformulated consumption (approximately 3 to 1). The combined summer and winter coefficients were then weighted on the basis of seasonal consumption, with just over half occurring in summer, to derive an overall emissions coefficient for motor gasoline. The overall emissions coefficient may be revised in the future, because data on the average composition of fuel used during October, November, and December 1996 are not yet available. The winter coefficient for 1996 is based on data for January through March 1996.

Jet Fuel

The EIA classifies jet fuel into two categories: "naphtha-based" and "kerosene-based." Kerosene-based jet fuel includes civil-grade Jet A, consumed in commercial jet airliners, which is an important contributor to U.S. greenhouse gas emissions and accounts for more than 4 percent of U.S. carbon dioxide emissions. Naphtha-based jet fuels were used primarily by the military until 1993, when the U.S. Department of Defense began a conversion from naphtha-based JP-4 jet fuel to kerosene-based JP-8 jet fuel. As a result, the share of naphtha-based jet fuel has declined from 12 percent of U.S. jet fuel consumption in 1991, to 7.2 percent in 1993,

to 0.3 percent in 1996.¹⁹⁵ The annual emissions coefficients for jet fuel are consumption-weighted averages of the coefficients for kerosene-based and naphtha-based jet fuels (Table B4). Because the emissions coefficient for naphtha-based jet fuel is about 3 percent higher than the coefficient for kerosene-based jet fuel, the near elimination of naphtha-based fuels has led to a steadily declining emissions coefficient. In 1996, naphtha-based jet fuel consumption dropped to the point at which it no longer has a significant impact on the weighted average computation. Hence, the 1996 weighted-average emissions coefficient is equal to the coefficient for kerosene-based jet fuel (to the second decimal place).

The emissions coefficient for kerosene-based jet fuel was developed from data on 39 samples of Jet A collected and analyzed by Boeing.¹⁹⁶ The average density of these samples is 44.5 degrees API gravity, and the average carbon share is 85.8 percent. The resulting emissions coefficient is 19.33 million metric tons per quadrillion Btu. The emissions coefficient for naphtha-based jet fuel is 19.95 million metric tons carbon per quadrillion Btu. It is based on fewer data and has a larger margin of error than that for kerosene-based fuel.

Crude Oil

Although crude oil is highly heterogeneous, the share of carbon in a fixed amount of crude oil (e.g., a gallon or barrel) varies somewhat systematically with such commonly available identifying characteristics as density and sulfur content. Because the economic value of a barrel of crude oil is largely a product of its density and sulfur content, these values are regularly recorded. Further, the EIA maintains detailed data on the average density and sulfur content of crude oil entering U.S. refineries.¹⁹⁷ Thus, the annual emissions coefficient for crude oil is pegged to these two variables.

In the November 1994 edition of *Emissions of Greenhouse Gases in the United States*, Appendix A describes the methods used to derive a relationship between crude oil density, sulfur content, and the percentage of carbon in crude oil.¹⁹⁸ Data on sulfur content and density obtained from ultimate analyses of 182 crude oil

¹⁹⁴National Institute of Petroleum and Energy Research, *Motor Gasoline, Summer* (1995 and 1996), and *Motor Gasoline, Winter* (1994-1995 and 1995-1996).

¹⁹⁵Energy Information Administration, *Petroleum Supply Monthly*, DOE/EIA-0109 (Washington, DC, various years).

¹⁹⁶O.J. Hadaller and A.M. Momeny, "Conventional Jet Fuels," *The Characteristics of Future Fuels*, Part 1 (Seattle, WA: Boeing Corporation, September 1990), pp. 46-50.

¹⁹⁷Energy Information Administration, *Petroleum Supply Annual*, DOE/EIA-0340 (Washington, DC, various years).

¹⁹⁸Energy Information Administration, *Emissions of Greenhouse Gases in the United States 1987-1992*, DOE/EIA-0573 (Washington, DC, November 1994), pp. 73-92.

samples were regressed against their carbon content to produce the following equation, which is used to estimate the carbon content of crude oil:

$$\text{Percent Carbon} = 76.99 + (10.19 \times \text{Specific Gravity}) + (-0.76 \times \text{Sulfur Content})$$

Annualized emissions coefficients are developed by inserting the average density and sulfur content for crude oil entering U.S. refineries for each year to calculate the share of carbon in an average barrel of oil during the year. After the share of carbon is derived, it is used in conjunction with fuel density to estimate the total mass of carbon in a barrel of crude oil. An emissions coefficient per unit of energy is then calculated from EIA's standard energy content for crude oil (5.8 million Btu per barrel).

The 1996 emissions coefficient for crude oil is 20.25 million metric tons carbon per quadrillion Btu. This is a slight increase over the 1995 value (Table B5), despite

the fact that the carbon content of the crude oil remained constant, because the heat content per barrel was assumed to be constant, and the higher density of crude oil in 1996 indicates more carbon per barrel. In all likelihood, however, the actual heat content per barrel increased sufficiently to offset the increase in density.

Liquefied Petroleum Gases

The EIA identifies four categories of paraffinic hydrocarbons¹⁹⁹ as liquefied petroleum gases (LPG): ethane, propane, isobutane, and *n*-butane. Because each of these hydrocarbons is a pure paraffinic compound, their carbon shares are easily derived by taking into account the atomic weight of carbon (12) and the atomic weight of hydrogen (1). Thus, for example, the carbon share of ethane, C₂H₆, which has an atomic weight of 30, is 80 percent. The densities of these compounds are also well

Table B4. Consumption-Weighted Emissions Coefficients for Jet Fuel, 1989-1996
(Million Metric Tons Carbon)

Data Element	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Share of Naphtha-Based Jet Fuel (Percent) . . .	13.1	11.4	12.0	9.4	7.2	2.9	1.0	0.3
Share of Kerosene-Based Jet Fuel (Percent) . .	86.9	88.6	88.0	90.6	92.9	97.1	99.0	99.7
Weighted Emissions Coefficient	19.41	19.40	19.40	19.39	19.37	19.35	19.34	19.33

Sources: Energy Information Administration, *Annual Energy Review*, DOE/EIA-0384 (Washington, DC, various years). O.J. Hadaller and A.M. Momeny, *The Characteristics of Future Fuels*, Part 1, "Conventional Jet Fuels" (Seattle, WA: Boeing Corp., September 1990), pp. 46-50. C.R. Martel and L.C. Angello, "Hydrogen Content as a Measure of the Combustion Performance of Hydrocarbon Fuels," in *Current Research in Petroleum Fuels*, Vol. I (New York, NY: MSS Information Corporation, 1977), p. 116.

Table B5. U.S. Crude Oil Characteristics, 1989-1996

Characteristic	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Density (API Gravity)	32.14	31.86	31.64	31.32	31.30	31.39	31.30	31.13
Density (Specific Gravity)	0.8646	0.8662	0.8674	0.8691	0.8692	0.8686	0.8692	0.8701
Sulfur Content (Percent)	1.06	1.10	1.13	1.16	1.15	1.14	1.13	1.15
Carbon Share (Percent)	84.99	84.98	84.97	84.96	84.97	84.97	84.99	84.99
Emissions Coefficient (Million Metric Tons Carbon per Quadrillion Btu)	20.13	20.16	20.18	20.22	20.23	20.21	20.23	20.25

Note: Emissions coefficients assume 100 percent combustion.

Sources: Energy Information Administration, *Petroleum Supply Annual*, DOE/EIA-0340 (Washington, DC, various years). Energy Information Administration, *Emissions of Greenhouse Gases in the United States 1987-1992*, DOE/EIA-0573 (Washington, DC, November 1994), p. 91.

¹⁹⁹The chemical formula for paraffinic hydrocarbons is C_nH_{2n+2}.

Carbon Coefficients

known, and their emissions coefficients can be calculated easily.

The EIA collects data on consumption of each of the four compounds in LPG and reports them collectively as LPG in the *Petroleum Supply Annual*.²⁰⁰ By weighting each compound's individual emissions coefficient by its share of energy consumed, an overall emissions coefficient for LPG can be derived. The different LPG products are used for different purposes: propane is extensively used in the residential and commercial sectors as a heating fuel, whereas ethane and butane are used primarily in the industrial sector as petrochemical feedstocks.

Upon investigation, it became apparent that almost all ethane (the lightest, lowest carbon component of LPG) is used as a petrochemical feedstock (a nonfuel use), and that fuel uses predominate for propane. Therefore, this year's report contains new, separate emissions coefficients for fuel use and nonfuel use of LPG. Each coefficient is calculated by summing the total carbon and total energy content of each category of LPG, then dividing total carbon by total energy content (in effect, calculating a Btu-weighted average of carbon emissions). Both the fuel use and nonfuel use emissions coefficients vary slightly over time, but the fuel use coefficient is consistently about 2 percent higher than the nonfuel use coefficient (Table B6).

Table B6. Emissions Coefficients for Liquid Petroleum Gas, 1987-1996
(Percent)

Fuel	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Carbon Content of LPG Consumption for Fuel Use (Million Metric Tons)										
Ethane	1.18	0.75	0.86	0.47	0.30	0.45	0.28	0.39	0.40	0.44
Propane	14.56	15.66	15.08	13.67	13.53	14.48	14.78	14.79	14.82	15.41
Butane	3.06	2.61	2.35	1.33	0.87	1.29	1.08	1.27	0.83	0.90
Total	18.80	19.03	18.30	15.46	14.70	16.22	16.14	16.45	16.06	16.74
LPG Consumption for Fuel Use (Quadrillion Btu)										
Ethane	0.07	0.05	0.05	0.03	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.03
Propane	0.85	0.91	0.88	0.79	0.79	0.84	0.86	0.86	0.86	0.90
Butane	0.17	0.15	0.13	0.08	0.05	0.07	0.06	0.07	0.05	0.05
Total	1.09	1.10	1.06	0.90	0.85	0.94	0.94	0.96	0.93	0.97
Weighted Average Fuel Use Emissions Coefficient (Million Metric Tons Carbon per Quadrillion Btu)	17.22	17.23	17.22	17.21	17.21	17.21	17.22	17.22	17.20	17.20
Carbon Content of LPG Consumption for Nonfuel Use (Million Metric Tons)										
Ethane	7.71	8.78	7.63	8.86	10.11	10.07	10.57	10.54	11.00	12.10
Propane	7.70	6.62	8.77	9.08	10.11	10.45	9.45	11.21	11.56	12.02
Butane	2.57	3.36	3.62	2.27	2.98	2.90	2.68	4.35	4.22	4.52
Total	17.98	18.77	20.02	20.22	23.20	23.42	22.70	26.10	26.78	28.64
LPG Consumption for Nonfuel Use (Quadrillion Btu)										
Ethane	0.47	0.54	0.47	0.55	0.62	0.62	0.65	0.65	0.68	0.74
Propane	0.45	0.38	0.51	0.53	0.59	0.61	0.55	0.65	0.67	0.70
Butane	0.15	0.19	0.20	0.13	0.17	0.16	0.15	0.25	0.24	0.26
Total	1.07	1.12	1.18	1.20	1.38	1.39	1.35	1.55	1.59	1.70
Weighted Average Nonfuel Use Emissions Coefficient (Million Metric Tons Carbon per Quadrillion Btu)	16.85	16.83	16.91	16.83	16.84	16.84	16.80	16.88	16.87	16.86

Note: Emissions coefficients assume 100 percent combustion.

Sources: Energy Information Administration, *Petroleum Supply Annual*, DOE/EIA-0340 (Washington, DC, various years); and American Petroleum Institute, *Sales of Natural Gas Liquids and Liquefied Refinery Gases* (Washington, DC, various years).

²⁰⁰Energy Information Administration, *Petroleum Supply Annual*, DOE/EIA-0340 (Washington, DC, various years), Table 17.

Appendix C

Uncertainty in Emissions Estimates

Overview

Emissions estimates in this report are generated largely by multiplying some activity factor, such as coal or natural gas consumption, by an emissions coefficient. The reliability of both the activity data and the emissions coefficients used in this report varies widely. This appendix discusses the uncertainties associated with the estimates and extrapolations presented in the report.

The uncertainties in emissions estimates come from collecting data from a limited number of sources. The data are weighted or extrapolated to obtain national estimates for similar sources in each category or industry. This estimation approach is a method to scale up the average emissions from a source, determined by a limited sample, to represent the population of emissions from each category or fuel. This method uses the concepts of emissions coefficient and activity factor for each category. For each category or fuel type:

$$\text{Emissions Coefficient} \times \text{Activity Factor} = \text{National Emissions for a Category}$$

Since each factor contains both bias and sampling errors, the *estimate* of the national emissions for a category is:

$$\frac{(EC + \text{Bias} + \text{Sampling Error}) \times (AF + \text{Bias} + \text{Sampling Error})}{\dots}$$

where *EC* is the emissions coefficient and *AF* is the activity factor. Bias is a systematic, nonrandom error which, in this case, is usually imbedded in the *AF* term and results from systematic imperfections in the data collection process. The random sampling error is generally attributed to small sample size, measurement and reporting errors, and timing problems.

In general, estimates of carbon dioxide emissions are more reliable than estimates for other gases. Although this report does not explicitly calculate uncertainty ranges, it is likely that the estimate of carbon dioxide emissions is accurate to within 10 percent, suggesting an emissions range from 4.9 billion to 6.0 billion metric tons. To the extent that the activity factor is somewhat understated within the point estimate, the actual (unobservable) value is likely to be somewhat higher,

because this report cannot capture all emissions sources.

Estimates of methane emissions are much more uncertain. The level of precision is probably on the order of 30 to 50 percent. Estimates of methane emissions are also likely to understate actual emissions, as a result of the exclusion of sources that are unknown or difficult to quantify.

Nitrous oxide emissions estimates are by far the most unreliable. Estimates of emissions from nitrogenous fertilizers are accurate only to an order of magnitude, making them either the largest source of nitrous oxide emissions or, alternatively, an insignificant source. Coefficients for nitrous oxide emissions from fossil fuel combustion are not available for all sources and, where available, may be unreliable. Additionally, several known sources of nitrous oxide are not measured and therefore are excluded from estimated totals.

Carbon Dioxide

Sources of Uncertainty

Most carbon dioxide emissions estimated in this report result from the combustion of fossil fuels. The uncertainties in estimates of emissions from fossil fuel combustion can be divided into four types:

- Uncertainties in the volumes of fuel consumed. In general, volumetric fuel data are believed to be fairly reliable, plus or minus about 3 to 5 percent; estimates of total consumption by fuel are more reliable than estimates by sector or by particular product.
- Uncertainties in the characteristics of fuel consumed. Fuel data are collected on a volume or weight basis, but the density and energy content of fuels must often be estimated. The energy content of natural gas is reliable to 0.5 percent, but the reliability of energy content estimates for coal and petroleum products is lower.
- Uncertainties in the emissions coefficients. Emissions coefficients can be computed with a high

degree of precision for a particular fuel sample on the basis of a laboratory analysis. If the characteristics of a fuel are difficult to measure accurately, however, the emissions coefficient for the sample fuel may not match the actual characteristics of fuels consumed. The pipeline-quality natural gas coefficient is probably accurate to within 1 percent, but the reliability of the coal and petroleum product coefficients is lower, because they are more heterogeneous.

- Uncertainties of coverage, due to excluded or unknown sources of emissions.

Fuel Consumption

In general, energy statistics produced by the Energy Information Administration (EIA) are most accurate for energy industries that are highly concentrated and/or heavily regulated and least accurate for activities that are decentralized, with large numbers of producers or consumers, and for fuels that have many heterogeneous states.

It is impossible to be certain about the absolute magnitude and distribution of errors in the energy data, but it is likely that most are "bias errors" rather than random "sampling errors." The EIA collects the same data from nearly the same respondents every year (although survey frames are systematically updated), using nearly the same methods. Product flows that escape the coverage of the statistical system are likely to stay outside the statistical system from one year to the next. Similarly, if respondents make undetected definitional or computational errors (for example, misclassifying a petroleum product), they are likely to repeat their mistakes for prolonged periods.

There is indirect evidence in favor of the relative unimportance of random error in energy statistics, in the form of the relative lack of variability of the statistics compared with other economic time series. That most EIA surveys are censuses, with what is intended to be 100-percent coverage of eligible respondents, rather than small sample surveys, reduces the scope for random errors.

If, as is suspected, random error is relatively unimportant, then most of the error is bias error, made in essentially the same way every year. Therefore, while the level of U.S. emissions of carbon dioxide could be

systematically lower or higher than reported here, the reported trends over time are more likely to be reliable than the uncertainties in the energy data would suggest. Since energy production and consumption are covered by multiple surveys, it is possible to use this information to gain insight into the possible uncertainties in the energy data.

Coal. Coal production and consumption data are based on weight—short tons of coal. Coal consumption by regulated electric utilities, including both tonnage and energy content, is universally reported to the EIA and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). In 1996, utility coal consumption accounted for about 89 percent of U.S. coal consumption.²⁰¹ There are likely to be only minor errors (around 1 percent) in reported utility coal consumption. Industrial, residential, and commercial coal consumption estimates are subject to potentially larger errors, especially in the counting of residential and commercial sector consumption.

The statistical discrepancy for coal production (the difference between reported consumption and reported production less exports, plus imports, plus stock changes) averaged less than 8 million metric tons, or less than 1 percent of consumption, in the period 1991-1996.²⁰²

Natural Gas. Most natural gas is sold or transported by State-regulated local distribution companies. Excluding imports, the statistical discrepancy for natural gas has an average value of between 2 and 3 percent of consumption, with reported consumption usually smaller than reported production. This may imply some systematic source of underreporting of consumption.

Inaccuracies in natural gas volumetric data come from inherent limitations in the accuracy of natural gas metering, as well as from the usual problems of misreporting and timing differences. For example, natural gas consumption by electric utilities, as reported by the utilities, averaged about a 10-percent difference from natural gas consumption as reported by natural gas sellers in 1995.²⁰³

Petroleum. U.S. petroleum consumption is estimated on the basis of "petroleum products supplied," which means the volume of petroleum products shipped from primary storage facilities. Since there are only about 200 oil refineries in the United States, coverage of crude oil inputs and refinery outputs is generally complete.

²⁰¹Energy Information Administration, *Quarterly Coal Report*, DOE/EIA-0121(96/4Q) (Washington, DC, May 1997), Table 37, p. 57.

²⁰²Energy Information Administration, *Quarterly Coal Report*, DOE/EIA-0121(96/4Q) (Washington, DC, May 1997), Table B1, p. 118.

²⁰³Energy Information Administration, *Natural Gas Annual 1995*, DOE/EIA-0131(95) (Washington, DC, November 1996), p. 229.

The EIA requires a detailed breakdown and accounting of petroleum products produced by refineries, including refinery fuel. There are several reporting anomalies in EIA petroleum data:

- Each year more crude oil is supplied to refineries than can be accounted for by oil production, imports, and stock changes. This "unaccounted for crude oil" averaged 215,000 barrels per day, or approximately 1.5 percent of refinery supply in 1996.²⁰⁴
- Every year, 80,000 to 150,000 barrels per day or more "unfinished oils" reach refineries than can be accounted for by sales and imports of unfinished oils.²⁰⁵ This is about 1.1 percent of refinery runs and 0.9 percent of oil consumption. In 1995, there were on the average 151,000 barrels per day of unaccounted for unfinished oils.

By definition, the source of "unaccounted for" crude oil is unknown. It is likely due to imprecisions in recorded crude oil production, import, and stock change data. In EIA's *State Energy Data Report*, which presents consumption estimates, unaccounted for crude oil is included in consumption.

The unfinished oil discrepancy is probably the result of asymmetric treatment of inter-refiner sales of unfinished oils. To the buyer, who knows the intended use of the product, it is motor gasoline or distillate fuel. To the seller, it is an unfinished oil. In the *State Energy Data Report*, the unfinished oil discrepancy is accounted for through an adjustment to "other oils." The implication is that total oil consumption figures are more reliable than the exact distribution of consumption across specific petroleum products. Overall, it is likely that petroleum consumption estimates are accurate to within 5 percent.

Nonfuel Use. Data for nonfuel use of petroleum products are more uncertain than those for total use of petroleum products. There are two main methods of estimating nonfuel use:

- Specialized petroleum products, such as petrochemical feedstocks, waxes and polishes, asphalt, and lubricants, are assumed to be dedicated to nonfuel use.
- Nonfuel use of conventional fuels is estimated on the basis of survey results from EIA's Manufacturing Energy Consumption Survey (MECS), with additional detail from trade association data and

from known specific nonfuel uses (such as fertilizer feedstocks for natural gas).²⁰⁶ MECS is a sample survey conducted only at 3-year intervals, with the sample optimized to detect the use of fuels for heat and power. Using MECS to measure nonfuel use requires interpolating between sample years and correcting for sampling problems associated with reported nonfuel use.

The main uncertainty in estimating carbon sequestered from nonfuel use is not the amount of product used, but the fate of its carbon. The sequestration percentages used in this report are estimates, originally based on the typical fate of a particular class of products. The actual distribution of nonfuel uses of products is not always known with precision and could vary considerably from the "typical" usage; however, because sequestration through nonfuel use corresponds to only about 5 percent of total emissions, even large variations in the amount sequestered would have a small effect on estimated total emissions.

Conversion Factors

EIA oil and gas data are collected in volumetric units—barrels of oil and billion cubic feet of gas. Carbon emissions factors for fossil fuels usually take the form of tons of carbon per unit of energy content. Emissions factors are computed by dividing the carbon content (by weight) of a particular fuel by its energy content. Thus, in order to match an emissions factor to a fuel accurately, it is necessary to know its energy content with precision; and in the case of fuel quantity based on volumetric data, it is also necessary to know the density of the fuel.

Each step that transforms the data from native units into more useful units inevitably reduces the precision of the resulting data, because the conversion factors are themselves statistical estimates or extrapolations, which may not precisely match the actual composition of the fuel.

Coal. Coal data are collected by State, coal rank, and weight (short tons). Electric utilities are asked to report both the rank and the energy content of the coal they burn. Since, in principle, utilities need to know the energy content of the fuels they purchase with precision, the energy content data should be fairly accurate. On the other hand, there is considerably more uncertainty in the rank or energy content of coal distributed outside the utility sector, which in 1996

²⁰⁴Energy Information Administration, *Petroleum Supply Annual 1996*, DOE/EIA-0340(96)/1 (Washington, DC, June 1997), p. 6.

²⁰⁵Energy Information Administration, *Petroleum Supply Annual 1995*, DOE/EIA-0340(95)/1 (Washington, DC, May 1996), p. 35.

²⁰⁶Energy Information Administration, *Manufacturing Consumption of Energy 1991*, DOE/EIA-0512(91) (Washington, DC, December 1994).

accounted for about 11 percent of U.S. coal consumption.

The quality of coal can vary considerably within States and within a particular rank. Lignite, for example, is defined as containing 6,300 to 8,300 British thermal units (Btu) per pound, a range of about 15 percent. Subbituminous coal, by definition, has a range of 8,300 to 11,500 Btu per pound.²⁰⁷ Thus, there may be errors of up to 15 percent in the industrial and residential/commercial coal conversion factors. On the other hand, residential/commercial and industrial coal consumption accounts for only about 5 percent of total U.S. energy-related carbon emissions, and even large errors would have only a small impact on the ultimate estimates.

Natural Gas. The composition of natural gas also varies considerably. In a recent survey of several thousand gas samples taken from local distribution companies around the United States, the Btu content ranged from 970 to 1,208 Btu per thousand cubic feet.²⁰⁸ However, 80 percent of the samples fell within a much narrower range of 1,006 to 1,048 Btu per thousand cubic feet. Further, the average and median values of the samples fell within 0.3 percent of the national-level figure reported in EIA's *Natural Gas Annual*. This comparison suggests that EIA data on the energy content of natural gas are accurate to within 0.5 percent. This is not surprising, because local distribution companies monitor the energy content of natural gas to ensure adherence to contractual specifications, and they report the average energy content to the EIA.

Petroleum. The energy content of petroleum products varies more by volume than by weight. The density and the energy content of petroleum products are rarely measured by producers or consumers, and frequently they are not known with precision. Electric utilities measure the energy content of the residual oil they burn and report it to the EIA. Liquid petroleum gases (propane, butane, and ethane) are pure compounds, and their energy content can be computed directly.

Liquid transportation fuels (jet kerosene, gasoline, and diesel fuel) are complex mixtures of many compounds, whose physical properties can vary considerably.

Neither their density nor their energy content is measured by consumers or directly defined by product specifications. The EIA estimates the energy content of these fuels on the basis of standard or "typical" values for each product. The standard energy contents for motor gasoline and kerosene-based jet fuel are drawn from a 1968 report produced by the Texas Eastern Transmission Corporation.²⁰⁹ The energy content of distillate fuel oil is drawn from a Bureau of Mines Standard adopted in January 1950.²¹⁰ Jet fuel and diesel samples obtained for this report showed an average energy content that differs from EIA estimates by about 2 percent. Samples of motor gasoline analyzed by the National Institute of Petroleum and Energy Research displayed an average energy content that differs from EIA estimates by less than 0.5 percent. Reformulated gasoline, with the additives MTBE, ETBE, and TAME typically representing about 10 percent of its volume, can be expected to have an energy content about 1 percent lower than the energy content of standard gasoline. However, when collecting and disseminating motor gasoline data in units of energy, the EIA does not use a distinct conversion factor for reformulated gasoline.

Carbon Emissions Coefficients

Carbon emissions coefficients are calculated by dividing the carbon content of a particular fuel (for example, 0.85 metric tons of carbon per metric ton of fuel) by the energy content of that fuel (say, 43 million Btu per metric ton) to produce an emissions coefficient (in this example, 19.8 million metric tons of carbon per quadrillion Btu). Both the energy content and the carbon content of the fuel are subject to a degree of uncertainty. The carbon content of fuels has only an indirect and general bearing on their economic value and, consequently, is not necessarily collected by fuel producers or consumers. While coefficients for coal and natural gas rely on analyses of a large set of fuel samples, coefficients for several petroleum products are based on "typical" or "representative" values, which may or may not perfectly reflect the underlying composition of the fuel. Variation in carbon content is limited to plus or minus 5 percent by the standard ratios of carbon to hydrogen in the hydrocarbon compounds that compose petroleum.²¹¹

²⁰⁷Energy Information Administration, *Coal Industry Annual 1993*, DOE/EIA-0584(93) (Washington, DC, December 1994), pp. 262 and 266.

²⁰⁸W.E. Liss et al., *Variability of Natural Gas Composition in Select Major Metropolitan Areas of the United States* (Chicago, IL: Gas Research Institute, March 1992), p. 14.

²⁰⁹Energy Information Administration, *State Energy Data Report 1993*, DOE/EIA-0214(93) (Washington, DC, July 1995).

²¹⁰Energy Information Administration, *Annual Energy Review 1993*, DOE/EIA-0384(93) (Washington, DC, July 1994), pp. 348-353.

²¹¹Energy Information Administration, *Emissions of Greenhouse Gases in the United States 1987-1992*, DOE/EIA-0573 (Washington, DC, November 1994), pp. 78-80.

Coal. There are large variations in the carbon and energy content of coals in different parts of the United States. Lignite may have as little as 12.6 million Btu per ton and contain 36 percent carbon, while anthracite may have as much as 98 percent carbon and an energy content as high as 27 million Btu per ton.²¹²

The carbon and heating values of coal are, in general, controlled by two factors:

- The ratio of flammable materials (carbon, hydrogen, and sulfur) in coal to nonflammable impurities (moisture, ash, etc.)
- The ratio of carbon to hydrogen and sulfur within the flammable portion of the coal.

Most of the gross variation in both energy and carbon content (for example, between lignite and anthracite) is due to variations in nonflammable impurities. Consequently, if the Btu content of coal is estimated accurately, most of the variation in the carbon content is removed.

There is, however, residual uncertainty about the ratio of carbon to hydrogen and sulfur in particular coals. The carbon content of any particular coal sample can be determined by chemical analysis, but characterizing the average carbon content of national coal production creates some uncertainty. For this report, the EIA relied on chemical analyses of several thousand coal samples, sorted by State of origin and coal rank, to compute national weighted average emissions coefficients (in million metric tons of carbon per quadrillion Btu) for each coal rank.

Natural Gas. Natural gas also varies in composition, but the range of variation is much smaller than that for coal. The emissions coefficient used in this report was based on an analysis of some 6,743 recent samples of U.S. natural gas. While there is some residual uncertainty about the exact carbon content of average U.S. natural gas, it is on the order of 1 percent or less.

Petroleum Products. Crude oil is refined into a wide range of petroleum products, each presenting a different set of uncertainties. In general, the carbon content of petroleum products increases with increasing density. Uncertainties in emissions coefficients arise primarily from estimating the wrong density for a fuel or from mismatching the carbon and energy content of a particular fuel. The emissions factors for liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) and motor gasoline are probably accurate to within 1 to 2 percent. Coefficients for jet fuel and diesel fuel are probably accurate to within 2 to

4 percent, with much of the uncertainty centered in the standard heat contents used. The estimate for residual fuel is more uncertain but is probably accurate within 3 to 5 percent, as there are remaining uncertainties about the exact density and carbon content of the fuel.

The uncertainty for some minor petroleum products remains large, in some cases because it has proven difficult to identify exactly how reporters define particular product categories. Products with large remaining uncertainties include petrochemical feedstocks (density and portion of aromatics), lubricants, and waxes and polishes. The uncertainty of the emissions coefficients for these products is probably on the order of 10 percent. Because these products share a large nonfuel use component, their impact on the total carbon emissions figure is muted. Still gas is a highly variable byproduct of the refining process, which is then described as a petroleum product. Thus, the estimated emissions coefficient for still gas may vary by as much as 40 percent.

Adjustments to Energy

U.S. Territories. Energy data for U.S. territories present certain problems. Published petroleum data for Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands are considerably less detailed than those for the mainland United States. In particular, there is no estimate of nonfuel use for these territories, and much of the petroleum consumption that could potentially be considered nonfuel use is lumped together into "other petroleum." Hence, the reliability of the emissions estimates is lower than that of petroleum emissions estimates generally.

Flare Gas. Estimates of emissions from flare gas are subject to uncertainty from two sources: estimates of the volume of gas flared, and the application of an appropriate emissions coefficient. Estimates of gas flared are based on State-reported volumes of gas "vented or flared" and a State-by-State estimate of the portion flared. The 1996 estimate of all vented and flared gas was 269 billion cubic feet. States may define "vented" or "flared" gas differently. This suggests that estimates may be upwardly biased by the inclusion of nonhydrocarbon gases, such as hydrogen sulfide or carbon dioxide, in the statistics, but the degree of bias is unknown.

The emissions coefficient applied to flare gas represents the average coefficient for natural gas samples with heat contents between 1,100 and 1,127 Btu per standard cubic foot. The EIA estimates the heat content of "wet"

²¹²Energy Information Administration, *Monthly Energy Review*, DOE/EIA-0035(96/05) (Washington, DC, May 1996), pp. 147 and 148.

gas at 1,106 Btu per standard cubic feet.²¹³ Anecdotal evidence suggests that most flared gas is flared at gas processing facilities, where the wet gas energy content would be representative. However, if flared gas is mostly "rich" associated gas with a heat content between 1,300 and 1,400 Btu per standard cubic feet, the current coefficient seriously biases the estimates downward. Alternatively, it is possible that flare gas from treatment plants is "off spec" gas with a large content of hydrogen sulfide or inert gas and, hence, an emissions coefficient lower than the one actually used.

Other Sources of Carbon Emissions

The principal source of uncertainty in cement manufacture is the lime content of cement, which is estimated to within about 3 percent. There may also be limitations on the inherent accuracy of the Interior Department data used to calculate the estimate.

A second source of uncertainty, common to all the industrial estimates, is the use of stoichiometric computations to estimate emissions. This method calculates an emissions factor on the basis of a chemical reaction known to have taken place. It assumes, in effect, that the product (cement, lime, soda ash) is 100 percent pure, and that no raw materials are wasted in its production. In practice, impurities in the output would tend to reduce emissions below the stoichiometric estimate, whereas "wastage" of raw materials would tend to raise emissions above the estimate.

Excluded Sources

Appendix D lists several sources of emissions that are excluded because of uncertainty. Sources excluded because of insufficient data include, for example, emissions from natural gas plants. Also, this year, because of another reversal in the sign of the estimate (the 1996 value is negative), EIA has excluded unmetered gas. Whatever the sign, the impact on total emissions is likely very small. Taking what is known about all excluded sources, additional emissions would probably be less than 10 million metric tons, or less than 1 percent of estimated emissions. Nonetheless, their exclusion does slightly bias the estimate downward. There are almost certainly other sources of carbon emissions unknown to the authors of this report. There is no way to estimate the impact of such unknown additional sources.

Methane

Estimates of methane emissions are, in general, substantially more uncertain than those for carbon dioxide. Methane emissions are rarely systematically measured. Where systematic measurements have been made, data are restricted to a small portion of the emission sites and a few years. In order to use these data to estimate emissions for the full population of emitters and to develop time-series emissions estimates, scaling mechanisms and sampling techniques must be applied, which will introduce additional error.

Where no systematic measurements have been made, estimation methods rely on a limited set of data applied to a large and diverse group of emitters. However, as additional data comes available each year, uncertainty in emissions estimates declines or, at a minimum, is more clearly delineated. In this year's report, additional information on emissions from coal mining was incorporated into the estimates, reducing uncertainty for this source.

Coal Mining

Emissions from coal mines are currently the fourth-largest source of methane emissions in the United States—behind landfills, oil- and gas-related emissions, and domestic livestock—and they account for approximately 13 percent of national methane emissions. Methane emissions from coal mining have five sources: ventilation systems in underground mines, degasification systems in underground mines, surface mines, post-mining activities, and abandoned or closed mines. Only the first four are included in emissions estimates, because data on emissions from abandoned mines are lacking. The uncertainty associated with estimates of emissions from each of the sources included varies considerably and according to the year of the estimate. The exclusion of emissions from abandoned mines results in a downward bias in the estimates, but the size of the bias is unknown. The overall uncertainty of the EIA estimates for emissions from coal mines is probably about 35 percent.²¹⁴

Emissions from ventilation systems in the Nation's gassiest mines are measured on a quarterly basis by the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA). A database, developed by the Bureau of Mines from MSHA reports for all mines emitting more than 100,000

²¹³Energy Information Administration, *Annual Energy Review 1996*, DOE/EIA-0384(96) (Washington, DC, July 1997), p. 350.

²¹⁴S.D. Piccot, S.S. Masemore, E. Ringler, and D.A. Kirchgessner, "Developing Improved Methane Emission Estimates for Coal Mining Operations," Presented at the 1995 Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Mitigation Research Symposium (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, June 27-29, 1995).

cubic feet of gas per day, is now maintained by EPA's Atmospheric Pollution Prevention Division. Data on emissions from this source are available for 1985, 1988, 1990, 1993, 1994, and 1996. Although the measurements themselves should be reasonably accurate, each measurement represents a point in time. Variations in methane emissions across time (e.g., resulting from changes in operating practices) suggest an uncertainty in the range of 10 to 40 percent.

Estimates of emissions from the ventilation systems of nongassy mines are scaled to emissions estimates for 1988 developed by the EPA.²¹⁵ The EPA estimates emissions from nongassy mines at 2 percent of total emissions from the ventilation systems of underground coal mines. Thus, an error as high as 100 percent for this source would add less than 1 percent to the total estimate.

Emissions from degasification systems may be the single largest source of uncertainty in estimates of emissions from coal mines. The estimation method used in this report scales emissions to estimates of emissions for 1988 developed by the EPA. Measurements of emissions were limited to a few mines, and the remainder of the estimate was based on known emissions from ventilation systems and estimated recovery efficiencies of degasification systems. The recovery efficiencies have an uncertainty in the neighborhood of 20 percent.

Reliable measurements of emissions from surface mines are available for only five sites. Thus, estimates for this report were based on an emissions range supplied by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).²¹⁶ The range of emissions suggested by the IPCC implies an uncertainty range of plus or minus 75 percent. However, estimates of emissions extrapolated from the five measured sites suggest an uncertainty level of less than 10 percent.²¹⁷ Assuming the larger uncertainty level would add only about 10 percent to the overall uncertainty of estimates of emissions from coal mines, because the volume of emissions from surface mines is relatively insignificant.

Emissions from post-mining activities are also estimated on the basis of an emissions range supplied by the IPCC, which implies an uncertainty in the area of plus

or minus 60 percent. However, the magnitude of emissions from this source is similar to that of emissions from surface mines, thus also contributing about 10 percent to the overall uncertainty of coal mine emissions estimates.

Oil and Gas Operations

The uncertainty associated with emissions estimates from oil and gas operations is twofold: uncertainty associated with estimates for production, transmission, and distribution; and uncertainty in estimates of emissions from gas venting.

Estimates of emissions from production, transmission, and distribution of natural gas are calculated by extrapolating measured emissions data for a small number of emissions sources to the full U.S. natural gas system. Data obtained from a sample of emissions sources are used to develop individual emissions factors for each of the components in the natural gas system, such as engines, compressors, pipelines, well-heads, and regulators. Emissions factors are then multiplied by an activity factor that represents either the number of units in the source category or the level of usage for such units.

In previous editions of *Emissions of Greenhouse Gases in the United States*, the EIA adopted emissions factors used in a 1990 report on anthropogenic methane emissions prepared by the EPA.²¹⁸ These factors were based on very small or nonrepresentative samples. Emissions factors from oil and gas wells were based on four model facilities. Emissions factors for distribution pipeline were based on the distribution networks of two California utilities that consisted of mostly new, low-leakage plastic pipeline. Because much of the Nation's distribution pipeline continues to be cast iron with a greater propensity to leak, these emissions factors biased estimates substantially downward.

For this year's report, EIA adopted emissions factors from a more recent study funded jointly by EPA and the Gas Research Institute (GRI).²¹⁹ The EPA/GRI study capitalized on an extended field sampling program and a statistical framework to meet predetermined accuracy goals. The more recent study benefitted

²¹⁵U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, *Anthropogenic Methane Emissions in the United States: Estimates for 1990* (Washington, DC, April 1993).

²¹⁶Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, *Greenhouse Gas Inventory Reference Manual*, IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories, Vol. 3 (Paris, France, 1995), pp. 1.98-1.99.

²¹⁷S.D. Piccot, S.S. Masemore, E. Ringler, and D.A. Kirchgessner, "Developing Improved Methane Emission Estimates for Coal Mining Operations," Presented at the 1995 Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Mitigation Research Symposium (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, June 27-29, 1995).

²¹⁸U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Air and Radiation, *Anthropogenic Methane Emissions in the United States: Estimates for 1990* (Washington, DC, April 1993), p. 2-22.

²¹⁹M.R. Harrison and R.M. Cowgill, *Tier 2 Summary of Methane Emissions from the Natural Gas Industry*, Draft Final Report, Prepared for the Gas Research Institute and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (January 1996).

from newly available data on emissions from pneumatic devices and compressors, the number of metering and regulating stations, and emissions from customer meters. The EPA/GRI study also included distribution systems with cast iron pipe in its measurement samples.²²⁰ Together, these sources produced about 1.5 million metric tons more methane in 1992 than had been estimated previously.

While the use of the improved emissions factors from the EPA/GRI report does reduce the overall uncertainty of EIA's emissions estimate from more than 100 percent on the high end of the range, significant uncertainty remains. The EPA/GRI study relies on assumptions about important variables, which contribute an unknown measure of uncertainty to the estimates. The study did not use random sampling or stratified random sampling methods. Instead, sites for measurement were selected at random from known lists of facilities, such as GRI or American Gas Association (AGA) member companies. Selected companies were not, however, required to participate. Participating companies were asked to choose representative sites for sampling rather than one-of-a-kind facilities,²²¹ however, full geographic representation in the sample was not achieved. With this sampling technique, the uncertainty of the point estimate of 1992 emissions developed for the EPA/GRI report was plus or minus 35 percent.

The EIA developed time-series emissions estimates for the natural gas industry based on the estimate for 1992 produced by EPA/GRI. As capital stock is replaced or added to the natural gas system, emissions factors may change somewhat. Thus, the use of time-series estimates probably adds some error. Nevertheless, overall uncertainty should remain below plus or minus 50 percent.

Estimates of emissions from venting are also uncertain. The EIA maintains statistics on gas vented or flared as reported on a State-by-State basis, but no distinction is made between venting and flaring in those statistics. Gas flared releases carbon dioxide rather than methane. This report estimates the national share vented on the basis of the estimated share vented for each State.

Additional uncertainty is associated with estimates of methane vented at "stripper wells." Associated natural gas production at oil wells producing less than 10

barrels per day may be at pressures and volumes too low to be of commercial value. The gas may be vented, or it may evaporate from storage tanks. Such emissions are not captured in any data series, and their magnitude is impossible to estimate. Stripper wells contribute 14 percent of U.S. oil production.

Combustion-Related Emissions

Most methane emissions from stationary combustion are the result of wood burning in residential woodstoves. Because estimates of wood consumption and of the condition and efficiency of residential woodstoves are highly uncertain, estimates of emissions from this source may vary by more than an order of magnitude.

Methane emissions from mobile combustion may be larger than the estimate in this report, but it is unlikely that they are significantly smaller. Emissions factors for mobile transportation assume a well-maintained fleet. A fleet of inadequately maintained vehicles may have as much as 10 times the level of emissions of a fleet of well-maintained or new vehicles. Although much of the U.S. fleet is well-maintained, a portion is old and/or poorly maintained.

Landfills

Estimates of methane emissions from landfills were broken into two sources: emissions from waste contained in 105 mostly large landfills with gas recovery systems and emissions from waste contained in all other landfills. Uncertainties associated with estimates of emissions for these two sources differ substantially.

Emissions for many of the 105 mostly large landfills were estimated for 1992 on the basis of volumes of gas recovered and the efficiency of gas recovery.²²² Gas recovery efficiency was estimated with an associated uncertainty of plus or minus 25 percent. For years other than 1992, emissions from this source were estimated by using a model of landfill waste emissions that is benchmarked to the 1992 data. The model parameters include a low yield and high yield scenario that imply an uncertainty of 35 percent.

Emissions from all other landfills were also estimated from an emissions model, with parameters that could vary by 30 percent from the mean. A crucial input into the model is the amount of waste in place, which was

²²⁰M.R. Harrison and R.M. Cowgill, *Tier 2 Summary of Methane Emissions from the Natural Gas Industry*, Draft Final Report, Prepared for the Gas Research Institute and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (January 1996), pp. 63-64.

²²¹M.R. Harrison and R.M. Cowgill, *Tier 2 Summary of Methane Emissions from the Natural Gas Industry*, Draft Final Report, Prepared for the Gas Research Institute and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (January 1996), p. 23.

²²²S.A. Thorneioe, M.R.J. Doorn, L.A. Stefanski, M.A. Barlaz, R.L. Peer, and D.L. Epperson, "Estimate of Methane Emissions from U.S. Landfills," Prepared for U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Research and Development (April 1994).

calculated from estimates of waste landfilled annually between 1960 and 1996 and a regression equation to backcast waste flows from 1940 to 1960. The range of published estimates for years in which multiple sources were available suggests an uncertainty in the neighborhood of plus or minus 33 percent, and the error associated with the regression equation probably adds another 2 to 10 percent uncertainty.²²³

The ratio of waste in place in the 105 landfills relative to that in all other landfills was assumed to remain constant over time. This may be misleading, because the total number of landfills has been declining, with greater shares of waste believed to be directed toward larger landfills. Because those landfills with measured emissions for 1992 are likely to have higher-than-average emissions per ton of waste, estimates may be biased upward in earlier years.

Domestic and Commercial Wastewater Treatment

Methane emissions from domestic and commercial wastewater treatment were estimated by IPCC's simplified approach,²²⁴ which is based on the following assumptions: (1) each person contributes 0.5 kilogram per day of BOD₅ to municipal wastewater; (2) 15 percent of wastewater is treated anaerobically; and (3) anaerobic treatment yields 0.22 kilogram of methane per kilogram of BOD₅ treated. These assumptions were derived for developed countries in general, and there is considerable uncertainty about their specific applicability to the United States.

Per capita organic loadings of municipal wastewater in developed nations ranges from 0.024 to 0.091 kilogram BOD₅ per day. Organic loadings depend on such factors as the amount of kitchen wastes discharged into sewers and the degree to which industrial wastewaters are discharged into municipal wastewater treatment systems. Wastewater treatment methods that are potential sources of methane include anaerobic digesters, facultative and anaerobic lagoons, and septic tanks. However, reliable information on the quantity of wastewater treated by each of these methods is not available. The IPCC emissions factor of 0.22 kilogram of methane per kilogram of BOD₅ is based on an estimate for lagoons in Thailand.²²⁵ The applicability of this factor to treatment methods in the United States is uncertain.

A further source of uncertainty is the ultimate fate of methane generated from wastewater in the United States. As in the case of landfill methane, wastewater methane generated in sewage treatment plants is often combusted to control odors or emissions of volatile organic compounds. Conceptually, the amount of methane combusted should be deducted from estimated emissions, but the EIA is not aware of any information on the amount or extent of combustion of off-gases from sewage treatment plants.

Enteric Fermentation in Domesticated Animals

Estimates of methane emissions from enteric fermentation in domesticated animals are less uncertain than those for other sources of methane emissions. Emissions estimates are a function of an emissions factor for each animal group, based on their diet and energy usage multiplied by their population. Animal population data have recently been revised by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the magnitude of revisions shows that population estimates are likely to be accurate within 5 percent. The energy requirements and diets of cattle—by far the largest source of emissions from enteric fermentation—have been carefully studied. There is some uncertainty associated with estimates of the energy requirements of other animals, but even if this uncertainty were as high as 50 percent, the impact on the overall estimate would be no more than 3 percent.

There is also some uncertainty associated with the average size of cattle, which could affect the animals' energy requirements. Cattle sizes have been changing rapidly over the past decade in response to market forces. This report uses slaughter weights as a proxy for average animal size, a method that may be imperfect. The slaughter sizes vary over time by approximately 33 percent.

Solid Waste of Domesticated Animals

The maximum amount of methane that a given amount of an animal's waste can produce under optimal anaerobic conditions can be measured fairly accurately in the laboratory. The share of that production realized under various waste management regimens is much more uncertain. The emissions vary with ambient air temperatures and, depending on the waste management system, may change by anywhere from 1 to 60 percent

²²³Franklin Associates, Ltd., *Characterization of Municipal Solid Waste in the United States: 1994 Update* (prepared for U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response); and "1994 Nationwide Survey: The State of Garbage in America," *Biocycle* (various years).

²²⁴Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, *Greenhouse Gas Inventory Reference Manual*, IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories, Vol. 3 (Paris, France, 1995), pp. 6.21-6.23.

²²⁵U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, *International Anthropogenic Methane Emissions: Estimates for 1990*, EPA 230-R-93-010 (Washington, DC, January 1994), p. 10-15.

as the temperature changes. For this report, all animal waste was assumed to be managed at air temperatures between 59 and 77°F. Overestimating the average temperature at which waste is managed would bias emissions estimates upward.

Emissions are tied to the amount of waste an animal produces. The amount of waste produced is a function of size and diet. Thus, changes in animal sizes, which are difficult to monitor, create additional uncertainty. As discussed above, slaughter weights have been used as an imperfect measure of changes in animal size. This proxy measure varies by 30 percent over time. Uncertainty in estimates of animal populations is on the order of 5 percent or less.

Wetland Rice Cultivation

There are large uncertainties associated with the estimate of methane emissions from wetland rice cultivation. Emissions estimates are based on several studies of rice paddies in the United States, which provide daily emissions rate ranges. Studies have shown large seasonal and time-of-day variations in methane flux. Many variables affect methane production in rice fields, including soil temperature, redox potential, and acidity; substrate and nutrient availability; addition of chemical and/or organic fertilizers; rate of methane oxidation; and rice plant variety. The wide range of emissions provided by different researchers suggests an uncertainty of several hundred percent.²²⁶

Crop Residue Burning

Estimates of emissions from the burning of crop residues are calculated according to the default method recommended by the IPCC,²²⁷ which assumes a carbon content of about 45 percent of dry matter and that 10 percent of crop residues are burned. The carbon content probably is uncertain to plus or minus 10 percent, and the share of crop residues burned in the United States is likely to be much smaller than the 10 percent default parameter used. Thus, the estimates are likely to overstate actual emissions.

Chemical Production

Estimates of methane emissions from chemical production are highly uncertain because of the wide variety of production processes and inputs. Organic chemical production requires the cracking and reforming of hydrocarbon bonds. How the bonds crack and reform depends on several variables, including the composition of the feedstock, the temperature of the reaction, the catalyst used, and the reaction vessel. As a result, the quantities of products and byproducts, including methane, vary. Methane may be released through leaks in seals and valves. Therefore, methane emissions are dependent on the operation and maintenance practices of the producer.

Iron and Steel Production

There is substantial uncertainty associated with estimates of methane emissions from iron and steel production, with the plausible range of estimates ranging from 80 percent below the point estimate presented in this report to 100 percent above the point estimate. Several factors mitigate methane emissions from iron and steel production. The pollution controls used on coke ovens to prevent emissions of volatile organic compounds usually eliminate methane as well. Exhaust gases from blast furnaces that are typically captured and used for fuel contain methane. Because the emissions factors used in this report are global emissions factors provided by the IPCC,²²⁸ they may not accurately portray the level of emission controls found in U.S. plants. Further, the efficacy of pollution control systems is likely to vary with operation and maintenance techniques.

Excluded Sources

Appendix D lists several sources excluded because of excessive uncertainty or insufficient data. Known sources excluded from methane emissions estimates are industrial wastewater, abandoned coal mines, industrial landfills, and open dumps. There are other sources of methane that have yet to be identified and thus are

²²⁶R.J. Cicerone, J.D. Shetter, and C.C. Delwiche, "Seasonal Variation of Methane Flux from a California Rice Paddy," *Journal of Geophysical Research*, Vol. 88 (1983), pp. 7203-7209; C.W. Landau and P.K. Bolich, "Methane Emissions from Louisiana First and Ratoon Crop," *Soil Science*, Vol. 156 (1993), pp. 42-48; R.L. Sass, F.M. Fisher, S. Lewis, M. Jund, and F. Turner, "Methane Emissions from Rice Fields: Effect of Soil Properties," *Global Biogeochemical Cycles*, Vol. 8 (1994), p. 135; R.L. Sass, F.M. Fisher, and Y.B. Wang, "Methane Emissions from Rice Fields: The Effect of Floodwater Management," *Global Biogeochemical Cycles*, Vol. 6 (1992), pp. 249-262.

²²⁷Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, *Greenhouse Gas Inventory Reference Manual*, IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories, Vol. 3 (Paris, France, 1995), pp. 4.69-4.72.

²²⁸Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, *Greenhouse Gas Inventory Reference Manual*, IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories, Vol. 3 (Paris, France, 1994), p. 2.6.

absent from emissions estimates. Excluded sources would invariably add to total emissions, but the magnitude of the additions is impossible to estimate.

Nitrous Oxide

Fertilizer

A number of variables are necessary for accurate calculation of nitrous oxide emissions from the application of fertilizer, including crop type, soil type, nutrient content of the fertilizer, agricultural management practices, and even climate. In fact, researchers maintain different opinions about the effects, if any, of these variables. While it may be possible to quantify some of the variables, it is highly unlikely that within the next few years sufficient studies will be conducted to determine a precise emissions factor. Therefore, the uncertainty range for the estimate presented in this report is an order of magnitude. Additionally, the estimate does not account for organic fertilizer from human or farm animal excreta. Although the data are limited, emissions from this type of fertilizer are generally greater than those from mineral fertilizer.²²⁹ In 1995, nitrous oxide from fertilizer emissions represented approximately 32 percent of U.S. emissions of nitrous oxides and more than 90 percent of nitrous oxide emissions from agricultural sources.

Crop Residue Burning

The accuracy of emissions estimates for crop residue burning is limited, because the practice of burning crop residues in the United States has not been quantified. As described in Chapter 4, a default figure of 10 percent was used in the calculation. That figure is believed to be a maximum representation of the practice and could possibly be as much as an order of magnitude high.

Stationary Source Combustion

As the result of improved studies, emissions factors recommended by the IPCC are now limited to one value for each fuel type, regardless of application. Although the emissions factor for coal is 1.4 kilograms of nitrous oxide per terajoule of energy input, emissions may range from 0 to 10 kilograms. For oil, the recommended emissions factor is 0.6 kilogram, with a possible range of 0 to 2.8 kilograms. The range is

smallest for natural gas (0 to 1.1 kilograms), with 0.1 kilogram as the suggested factor.²³⁰

The emissions factors were derived from studies of "conventional" combustion facilities (those equipped with burners and grate combustion, with flame temperatures well beyond 1,000°C). Other types of facilities are used in the United States, adding to the uncertainty of estimates presented in this report.

Adipic Acid Production

For adipic acid production, emissions estimates are based on three data inputs: production activity, an emissions factor, and emissions abatement activity. The primary sources of uncertainty are the amount of production at plants with emissions abatement and the effectiveness of the abatement techniques in eliminating nitrous oxide. Additionally, the emissions factor for adipic acid production was determined by stoichiometry. Moreover, because plant-specific production figures must be estimated by disaggregating total adipic acid production on the basis of existing plant capacities, any national estimate will be an imprecise figure if the conversion of nitric acid to adipic acid is less than 100 percent efficient.

Nitric Acid Production

The emissions factor for nitric acid production is also uncertain. The DuPont data indicate a range of emissions from 2 to 9 grams of nitrous oxide per kilogram of acid production. Since the midpoint of this range was used in the calculation, estimates may err by as much as 65 percent. As explained in Chapter 4, applying this emissions factor range to total production also adds uncertainty, because the emissions reported at the DuPont plant may not be representative of emissions at all nitric acid production plants.

Criteria Pollutants

The emissions estimates presented in Chapter 6 are taken from data in *National Air Pollutant Emission Trends, 1900-1995*, a report published by the EPA Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards. Although true values of criteria pollutant emissions are not known, the EPA states that, "beginning with the 1900 to 1992 report, EPA set the primary goal of preparing emission trends that would also represent the best available

²²⁹A.R. Mosier, "Nitrous Oxide Emissions from Agricultural Soils," in A.R. van Amstel (ed.), *International IPCC Workshop Proceedings: Methane and Nitrous Oxide, Methods in National Emissions Inventories and Options for Control* (Bilthoven, Netherlands: RIVM, 1993), p. 278.

²³⁰Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, *Greenhouse Gas Inventory Reference Manual*, IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories, Vol. 3 (Paris, France, 1995), p. 1.50.

estimates of emissions."²³¹ The EPA also explains that one of the difficulties they experience in providing emissions estimates is balancing consistency of estimation methods with completeness and accuracy of data. Therefore, as new methods and data become available, emissions estimates may be revised.

Land Use Issues

Estimates of carbon flux from U.S. forests are subject to several potential sources of error. Uncertainty is introduced into the estimation method when results of small-scale studies in specific ecosystems are applied to different ecosystems or to large areas. This is particularly true for the estimate of soil carbon flux. Therefore, EIA provides low, median, and high estimates for this component, ranging from 0 to 127 million metric tons. The estimates of forest carbon flux are also subject to bias when data from past studies that do not represent all forest conditions are applied, when modeling errors are made, and when errors are made in converting estimates from one reporting unit to another. Forest Service researchers Richard Birdsey and Linda Heath (the primary source of data used by EIA in its estimates of aggregate carbon flux) did not attempt to estimate the magnitude of these errors but believe that they are probably small.

In addition, there are two methodological problems common to adding carbon sources and sinks derived from land use data to more conventional greenhouse gas emissions:

- **Distinguishing Between Anthropogenic and Biogenic Activities.** Humans plant trees, but trees also reproduce themselves. Generally, given enough time, biomass grows to the capacity limits of the ecosystem. It is therefore difficult to determine which activities are biogenic and which are anthropogenic when both activities occur in tandem. If humans plant forests and protect them as they grow, that is in principle an anthropogenic activity. Humans also abandon farmland, however, and trees can grow back by themselves, without human intervention.

There are parts of the United States (some areas in national parks or parts of the interior of Alaska, for example) that remain close to an undisturbed state and continue to add biomass without human intervention. It is less clear that this carbon sequestration should "count" as anthropogenic. The broadest definition of anthropogenic would take the view that because humans control all land use in the United States, all land use decisions, whether of omission or commission, are anthropogenic acts. This argument might lead to the conclusion that by not cutting down and burning all its forests, the United States has saved 50 billion metric tons of carbon emissions in each year in which the forests were not cut down. Alternatively, too narrow a definition of anthropogenic could exclude unambiguous reforestation activities. There is no single universally acceptable definition of anthropogenic for the purpose of making an emissions inventory, and any decision that is made will inevitably be arbitrary to some degree.

- **Assigning Anthropogenic Emissions and Sinks to a Particular Calendar Year.** After a tree is planted, it can grow and sequester carbon for many years. The period during which a tree grows to its full height varies from a few decades for the faster growing species to more than a century for slower growing species. Thus, trees planted in 1990 will absorb some amount of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere every year for decades to come. Similarly, surviving trees planted in 1950 are still absorbing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere today. Unfortunately, the future carbon-absorbing properties of current tree planting depend on the preservation of the forest through time. Thus, attributing all the potential carbon sequestration of the next 100 years to a tree planted today is to bet on a century of continued intent and luck, and it creates an opportunity for misstating the long-run sequestration potential of timberland that is repeatedly harvested. Alternatively, accurately estimating carbon sequestration today or in the future requires an understanding and accounting of changes in land use made in the past.

²³¹U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, *National Air Pollutant Emission Trends, 1900-1993*, EPA-454/R-94-027 (Research Triangle Park, NC, October 1994), p. 1-3.

Appendix D

Emissions Sources Excluded

Certain sources of greenhouse gas emissions are not included in the estimates presented in this report. The omissions have been made on the basis of lack of essential data, highly speculative estimation methods, or classification as "natural" sources.

combustion of wood fuels and municipal solid waste are taken from the EIA report, *Electric Power Annual 1995*.²³² The emissions coefficient for alcohol fuels, 17.99 million metric tons of carbon per quadrillion Btu, was derived specifically for use in this report.

Biofuel Combustion

The carbon found in biofuels is the result of atmospheric uptake. During the combustion of biofuels, there is an immediate release of the carbon in the form of carbon dioxide. As part of the natural carbon cycle, however, these carbon emissions are reabsorbed over time. Since they produce no net change in the overall carbon budget, such emissions are not included in this report. If the initial flux had been counted, annual carbon dioxide emissions estimates would have been approximately 75 million metric tons higher than reported in Chapter 2 (Table D1).

Emissions are estimated by multiplying Energy Information Administration (EIA) energy consumption data for biofuels by the applicable emissions factors. The EIA data for municipal solid waste include methane recovery from landfills, but since the methane is not used as a biofuel, it has been subtracted for these calculations. Carbon dioxide emissions factors for

Overseas U.S. Military Oil Consumption

Domestic military energy consumption is incorporated into U.S. energy statistics; however, energy consumption for overseas operations is a more complex issue. The data can either be reported in the national energy statistics of the host country or included in U.S. export statistics if domestic oil is transported to ships and other facilities. In some circumstances, the oil consumption may go unreported.

Estimating, even roughly, the quantity of oil consumed for overseas military operations is an uncertain procedure. The Defense Fuel Supply Center reports that petroleum sales for fiscal year 1996 totaled 120 million barrels.²³³ Of that, approximately 77 percent was acquired domestically and is assumed to be included in U.S. statistics. A reasonable estimate of military oil consumption not reported elsewhere would, therefore,

Table D1. Estimated U.S. Carbon Dioxide Emissions from Biofuels, 1989-1996

(Million Metric Tons of Carbon)

Fuel	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Municipal Solid Waste	8.36	9.24	9.79	8.14	9.31	8.90	9.36	9.47
Alcohol Fuel	1.07	1.63	1.29	1.57	1.75	1.92	2.06	1.47
Wood and Wood Waste . .	69.75	57.48	57.62	60.32	58.58	59.53	61.83	64.15
Total	79.18	68.34	68.70	70.03	69.64	70.36	73.26	75.09

NA = not available.

Note: Data in this table are revised from the data contained in the previous EIA report, *Emissions of Greenhouse Gases in the United States 1995*, DOE/EIA-0573(95) (Washington, DC, October 1996).

Sources: Underlying energy data from Energy Information Administration, *Annual Energy Review*, DOE/EIA-0384 (Washington, DC, various years), Table 10.2. Emissions coefficients for municipal solid waste combustion and wood and wood waste from Energy Information Administration, *Electric Power Annual 1995*, DOE/EIA-0348(95) (Washington, DC, 1996), Table C3.

²³²Energy Information Administration, *Electric Power Annual 1995*, DOE/EIA-0348(95) (Washington, DC, December 1996).

²³³Defense Fuel Supply Center, *Fact Book 1996*, web site www.dfsc.dla.mil/main/factbk96/factbk96.htm (February 1997).

be 23 percent of total military consumption of jet fuel, middle distillates, and residual oil.²³⁴ By this method, emissions for 1996 are estimated at 3.6 million metric tons of carbon (Table D2).

Forest Fires

Forest fires are known to create greenhouse gas fluxes within the atmosphere over extensive time periods. Specifically, forest fires produce carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide. Considering that carbon uptake occurs with subsequent regrowth (assumed to balance out the initial carbon flux), and because emissions from natural forest fires cannot be distinguished from those from human-induced fires, estimates from this source are not included in this report.

Carbon Dioxide Coproduction with Natural Gas

The carbon dioxide content of natural gas varies by reservoir. Marketed natural gas, however, must consist largely of methane. When natural gas direct from the reservoir does not meet marketable standards, it is treated in a gas processing plant. During treatment, impurities and heavy hydrocarbons are removed from the gas. Excess carbon dioxide, which is one of the separated compounds, is either used industrially (estimates provided in Chapter 2) or vented to the atmosphere.

The EIA reports that 389 billion cubic feet of nonhydrocarbon gases were removed from total natural gas production in 1995. This figure does not take into account the 11 (out of 33) gas-producing States that do not report annual amounts of nonhydrocarbon gases removed.²³⁵ In its reporting, Texas quantifies commercial carbon dioxide recovery from gas plants. From

those data, the EIA is able to make rough estimates of carbon dioxide recovery in other States (Table D3).

In Texas, the amount of nonhydrocarbon gas removed is approximately 2 percent of gross natural gas production. This same ratio is applied to gross production for the nonreporting States. Similarly, the ratio of commercial carbon dioxide production to nonhydrocarbon gas removal in Texas (roughly 90 percent) is applied to other States to determine the total amount of carbon dioxide removed from gas plants in the United States. In order to avoid double counting with industrial carbon dioxide production, the commercial recovery in Texas is deducted from the total. Any commercial recovery in other States is double counted; however, without additional data, this is currently unavoidable.

In 1995, carbon dioxide coproduction at natural gas plants was estimated at 5 million metric tons of carbon. Because of its speculative nature, this estimate is not included in the report. First, there is no basis to support the assumption that the ratios applicable to Texas are generalizable to other States. Second, there is no basis for determining the precise amount of carbon dioxide recovered for commercial use in States other than Texas.

Unaccounted for Gas

In previous years, the EIA has included in its estimated emissions a category called "unmetered natural gas." In those years, U.S. natural gas producers consistently reported selling about 3 percent more natural gas than U.S. consumers reported buying. In EIA natural gas statistics, this "missing" gas is described as "the balancing item" or "unaccounted for gas." The balancing item can be viewed as the sum of leakage, measurement errors, data collection problems, and undetected

Table D2. Estimated Carbon Emissions from U.S. Military Operations Abroad, 1989-1996
(Million Metric Tons of Carbon)

Item	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Energy Consumption (Quadrillion Btu) . . .	0.26	0.25	0.30	0.12	0.20	0.18	0.14	0.19
Carbon Emissions	5.01	4.88	5.89	2.27	3.83	3.53	2.81	3.62

Sources: Energy consumption from Defense Fuel Supply Center, *Fact Book* (various years). Data converted from fiscal years in source publication into calendar years by weighted average. Carbon emissions from EIA estimates presented in this chapter.

²³⁴Gasoline is presumably acquired for motor vehicles and, typically, is accounted for in both domestic and foreign energy statistics.

²³⁵Energy Information Administration, *Natural Gas Annual 1995*, DOE/EIA-0131(95) (Washington, DC, September 1996), p. 4. The 11 nonreporting States account for approximately 40 percent of domestic gas production.

Table D3. Estimated U.S. Carbon Dioxide Emissions from Natural Gas Plants, 1989-1996
(Billion Cubic Feet, Unless Otherwise Noted)

Item	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Total Gross Withdrawals	20,998.8	21,490.5	21,740.2	22,132.2	22,725.6	23,580.7	23,743.6	24,281.0
States Reporting NHCGR ^a . . .	5,155.8	5,417.2	5,941.8	6,670.4	7,019.8	7,667.7	4,641.1	NA
Texas	6,881.0	6,907.1	6,898.9	6,708.0	6,816.9	6,911.7	6,872.7	NA
All Other States	8,962.0	9,166.2	8,899.6	8,753.9	8,888.9	9,001.3	12,229.9	NA
Estimated NHCGR	541.7	472.7	453.8	455.4	591.7	604.4	633.6	NA
States Reporting NHCGR . . .	203.3	133.7	102.4	100.4	229.7	227.9	188.7	NA
Texas	159.1	155.6	173.4	180.0	184.3	196.5	200.2	NA
All Other States ^b	179.2	183.3	178.0	175.1	177.8	180.0	244.6	NA
Estimated CO₂ Removed^c	487.5	425.4	408.4	409.9	532.6	544.0	570.2	NA
Estimated CO₂ Recovered	135.5	148.9	133.5	176.7	186.3	191.3	201.1	NA
States Reporting NHCGR . . .	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Texas	135.5	148.9	133.5	176.7	186.3	191.3	201.1	NA
All Other States	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Estimated CO₂ Emissions								
Billion Cubic Feet	352.0	276.6	274.9	233.2	346.2	352.7	369.1	NA
Million Metric Tons CO ₂	18.5	14.6	14.5	12.3	18.2	18.6	19.4	NA
Million Metric Tons Carbon . .	5.1	4.0	3.9	3.4	5.0	5.1	5.3	NA

NA = not available.

^aNonhydrocarbon gases removed.

^bAssumes that 2 percent of All Other States' gas withdrawals are nonhydrocarbon gases.

^cAssumes that 90 percent of the total nonhydrocarbon gas removed is carbon dioxide.

NA = not available.

Note: Totals may not equal sum of components due to independent rounding.

Sources: Railroad Commission of Texas, *Annual Summaries of Texas Natural Gas* (various years), and Energy Information Administration, *Natural Gas Annual*, DOE/EIA-0131 (various years).

over- and underreporting, as well as undetected non-reporting. Only a fraction of this amount can credibly be attributed to leakage from transmissions systems. Evidence from the electric utility sector—where transmissions companies report gas sales and electric utilities report gas purchases—suggests that there may be undercounting of natural gas consumption.

Estimates of carbon dioxide emissions from this source were included in previous reports, on the grounds that there was an element of systematic underreporting of consumption in the balancing item. In the past 2 years, however, the sign of the balancing item has changed, and reported consumption now exceeds reported production. This development reduces the credibility of the undercounting theory, and consequently this report no longer carries "unmetered natural gas" consumption as a source of emissions. It is possible, however, that there is an element of undercounting of natural gas consumption, which may be on the order of 1 percent (3 million metric tons) of natural gas emissions.

Fermentation

During the fermentation process, complex organic compounds are split through a variety of chemical reactions. The most common is the anaerobic conversion of sugar into carbon dioxide and alcohol. Fermentation does not create a net flux of emissions, however, because the carbon dioxide produced is reused in the process.

Enhanced Oil Recovery

As a replacement for natural gas, carbon dioxide is being injected into reservoirs for the purpose of retrieving additional oil. Over time, the carbon dioxide seeps into the producing well, creating a mixture of oil, natural gas, and carbon dioxide. If the energy content is sufficiently high, the gaseous portion of this mix will probably be sent to a gas plant. If the energy content is low, the gas is likely to be vented or flared. At this

time, there is no basis for the EIA to estimate the quantity of added carbon dioxide that is vented or flared. The annual amount of carbon dioxide used for enhanced oil recovery is probably on the order of 12 million metric tons,²³⁶ and emissions would be some fraction of that figure.

Lead Smelting

Smelting of lead includes a stage in which limestone undergoes calcination. As described in Chapter 2, carbon dioxide is released as a byproduct of the calcination reaction. Emissions estimates cannot be calculated for this report because there are no known statistics regarding the amount of limestone used in lead smelting. The EIA is currently researching alternative data sources in an effort to include estimates of these emissions in future reports.

Abandoned Coal Mines

Measurements taken from 20 abandoned coal mines in 1994 showed a total of some 25,000 metric tons of methane emissions for that year.²³⁷ Extrapolating from this small sample to a national-level emissions estimate requires assumptions about the total number of abandoned mines, their emissions profiles during operation, their current condition (flooded or not), and other variables. Past extrapolation efforts have led to national-level estimates of emissions from abandoned coal mines of about 280,000 metric tons annually. However, EPA's Atmospheric Pollution Prevention Division now believes that the total may be as high as 384,000 metric tons.

Methane Emissions from Wetlands

Wetlands are a known source of methane. Environments low in oxygen, combined with abundant organic matter, are conducive to the creation of methane, and wetlands meet both criteria. Wetlands cover approximately 274 million acres of land in the United States

and are a potentially important source of atmospheric methane.

The stock of natural wetlands in the United States has diminished considerably over the past two centuries, which should, in principle, have reduced methane emissions from wetlands (the EIA is unaware of research proving or disproving this principle). A recent study of wetland losses concluded that the United States had lost approximately 30 percent of its wetlands between colonial times and the mid-1980s. Almost all of this loss has occurred in the lower 48 States, which have lost 53 percent of their original wetlands.²³⁸ Ten States—Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Maryland, Missouri, and Ohio—have lost 70 percent or more of their original wetland acreage. By the mid-1980s, a total of approximately 119 million acres had been lost from the original U.S. total.

An update of the wetlands study indicates that 654,000 acres were converted from wetlands to other uses between 1982 and 1987, and that an additional 431,000 acres were converted between 1987 and 1991.²³⁹ Extrapolating from these data, it is estimated that wetlands in the United States are currently destroyed at a rate of approximately 86,000 acres per year. Wetlands, also known as swamps and marshes, have historically been drained or filled in for agriculture, land development, and mosquito control, although it is currently illegal to drain or fill a wetland without a permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. It is difficult to find information on the conversion of other land categories to wetlands. It is assumed that the number and extent of wetland creations is small enough to leave the above loss estimates essentially unchanged.

Estimates of global methane fluxes from wetlands suggest that methane emissions from temperate-zone wetlands are minimal—typically between 5 and 10 million metric tons of methane per year for worldwide temperate-zone wetlands (which include U.S. wetlands)—when compared with estimated global wetlands emissions of 110 million metric tons.²⁴⁰ The U.S. share of all temperate-zone wetlands is about 57

²³⁶The U.S. Department of Commerce reports total sales of industrial carbon dioxide at approximately 17 million metric tons annually, while Freedonia Group, Inc., reports that approximately 5 million metric tons are used for purposes other than enhanced oil recovery.

²³⁷S.D. Piccot, S.S. Masemore, E. Ringler, and D.A. Kirchgessner, "Developing Improved Methane Emission Estimates for Coal Mining Operations," Presented at the 1995 Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Mitigation Research Symposium (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, June 27-29, 1995).

²³⁸T. Dahl, U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, *Wetlands Losses in the United States: 1780's to 1980's* (Washington, DC, 1990).

²³⁹U.S. Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service, *1991 Update of National Resources Inventory Wetlands Data for Non-Federal Rural Lands* (Washington, DC, not dated), p. 4.

²⁴⁰See E. Matthews and I. Fung, "Methane Emissions from Natural Wetlands: Global Distribution, Area, and Environmental Characteristics," *Global Biogeochemical Cycles*, Vol. 1, No. 1 (March 1987); and K. Bartlett and R.C. Harriss, "Review and Assessment of Methane Emissions from Wetlands," *Chemosphere*, Vol. 26, Nos. 1-4 (1993), p. 280.

percent, and temperate-zone wetlands lost during the 1980s accounted for about 0.5 percent of U.S. wetlands at the beginning of the period. Consequently, the reduction in natural methane emissions from wetlands lost might be on the order of $0.57 \times 0.005 \times 5$ to 10 million metric tons of methane, or from 10,000 to 20,000 metric tons of methane annually over the decade.

Land Use Changes Affecting Methane and Nitrous Oxide

The scientific literature suggests that both grasslands and forest lands are weak natural sinks for methane and weak natural sources for nitrous oxide. Natural soils apparently serve as methane sinks: well-aerated soils contain a class of bacteria called "methanotrophs" that use methane as food and oxidize it into carbon dioxide. Experiments indicate that cultivation reduces methane uptake by soils and increases nitrous oxide emissions.

One report indicates that methane uptake in temperate evergreen and deciduous forests in the United States ranges from 0.19 to 3.17 milligrams (measured in carbon units) per square meter per day, equivalent to the uptake of 36.8 to 624.4 metric tons of methane per million acres per year. The range is larger for agricultural lands: 0.2 to 6.3 milligrams per square meter per day. Estimates for methane uptake resulting from the abandonment of farmland range from 0.6 to 6.1 milligrams per square meter per day. While all of these ranges are wide, the total amount of methane in question is less than 1 percent of methane emissions from anthropogenic sources.

Of all the greenhouse gases discussed in Chapter 7, the least amount of data is available for nitrous oxide. It is known that conversion of forests and grasslands to cropland accelerates nitrogen cycling and increases nitrous oxide emissions from the soil. It is not known with certainty by how much.²⁴¹ Some estimates have been made of the difference between fertilized and unfertilized soils. According to one study, unfertilized soils produce emissions of 0.25 to 0.35 milligrams (measured in nitrogen units) per square meter per day, while emissions from fertilized soils range from 0.6 to 1.65 milligrams per square meter per day.²⁴² Thus, abandoning fertilization should reduce nitrous oxide

emissions by 0.35 to 1.3 milligrams per square meter per day—the equivalent of 86 to 321 metric tons of nitrous oxide per million acres per year.

Applying this figure to the 35 million acres of cropland idled between 1982 and 1992 implies a reduction in nitrous oxide emissions ranging from 3,010 to 11,235 metric tons annually. In principle, however, about three-quarters of the reduction in emissions from this source should be captured by reduced application of nitrogen fertilizers; thus, reporting emissions reductions using this method would result in significant double counting of units already included in the agriculture statistics in Chapter 4.

If such estimates are to be applied to emissions inventories, a problem of crediting the uptakes applies. Removing an acre of farmland from production in a particular year creates a *permanent* annual methane sink that will absorb small additional amounts of methane each year thereafter, or at least until the use of the land changes. The method that should be used to credit such permanent reductions to a particular year is not obvious.

As noted in the Executive Summary, emissions of nitrous oxide were only 2.2 percent of U.S. GWP-weighted emissions of greenhouse gases in 1994. Of those emissions, it is difficult to say what percentage resulted from land uses, primarily because of the wide range of estimates concerning the magnitude of nitrous oxide emissions from nitrogen fertilizer use (which in any case should be included in agriculture statistics instead of land use statistics—see Chapter 4) and the lack of research data on nitrous oxide emissions from forest and grassland soils.

One report, based on experimental data, indicates that methane uptake in temperate evergreen and deciduous forests in the United States ranges from 0.19 to 3.17 milligrams (measured in carbon units) per square meter per day, equivalent to the uptake of 36.8 to 624.4 metric tons of methane per million acres per year.²⁴³ Thus (assuming no methane uptake at all from previous use), adding 6 million acres of forest land from 1987 to 1992 should increase methane absorption by 221 to 3,746 metric tons per year. Using the same numbers, *all* forest land in the United States may remove from 27,122 to 460,183 metric tons of methane per year. Comparing this figure with U.S. anthropogenic methane emissions

²⁴¹See A. Mosier, "Nitrous Oxide Emissions from Agricultural Soils," paper presented at RIVM International Workshop on Methane and Nitrous Oxide: Methods in National Emission Inventories and Options for Control (Amersfoort, The Netherlands, February 3-5, 1993).

²⁴²A. Mosier and D. Schimel, "Influence of Agricultural Nitrogen on Atmospheric Methane and Nitrous Oxide," *Chemistry & Industry*, Vol. 2 (December 1991), p. 875.

²⁴³P. A. Steudler et al., "Influence of Nitrogen Fertilization on Methane Uptake in Temperate Forest Soils," *Nature*, Vol. 341 (September 28, 1989), pp. 314-315.

Emissions Sources Excluded

of about 31 million metric tons per year, as estimated in this report, indicates that the magnitude of methane uptake by natural soils is not great.

Another report in the scientific literature indicates that some sample plots of pastureland in the United States have methane uptake rates of 4.1 milligrams (measured in carbon units) per square meter per day (for fertilized pasture) and 6.3 milligrams per square meter per day (for unfertilized pasture), with uptake from fertilized

wheat and maize fields ranging from 0.2 to 0.9 milligrams per square meter.²⁴⁴ Accordingly, an additional 0.6 to 6.1 milligrams of methane per square meter per day would be absorbed by abandoned farmland, equivalent to 118.1 to 1,201.1 grams per acre per year. Applying these figures to the 35 million acres of cropland idled between 1982 and 1992 implies an increase in methane uptake of 4,133 to 42,038 metric tons per year from this source.

²⁴⁴A. Mosier and D. Schimel, "Influence of Agricultural Nitrogen on Atmospheric Methane and Nitrous Oxide," *Chemistry & Industry*, Vol. 2 (December 1991), p. 875.

Appendix E

Common Conversion Factors

Permutations of SI Units

- 1 gC = 1 gram carbon (C)
- 1 GgC = gigagram carbon (C) = 1,000 metric tons carbon (C)
- 1 TgC = 1 teragram carbon (C) = 1 million metric tons carbon (C)
- 1 PgC = 1 petagram carbon (C) = 1 billion metric tons carbon (C)
- 1 ppmv = 1 part per million by volume in the atmosphere
- 1 ppbv = 1 part per billion by volume in the atmosphere
- 1 pptv = 1 part per trillion by volume in the atmosphere

Density

- 1 thousand cubic feet of methane = 42.28 pounds
- 1 thousand cubic feet carbon dioxide = 115.97 pounds
- 1 metric ton natural gas liquids = 11.6 barrels
- 1 metric ton unfinished oils = 7.46 barrels
- 1 metric ton alcohol = 7.94 barrels
- 1 metric ton liquefied petroleum gas = 11.6 barrels
- 1 metric ton aviation gasoline = 8.9 barrels
- 1 metric ton naphtha jet fuel = 8.27 barrels
- 1 metric ton kerosene jet fuel = 7.93 barrels
- 1 metric ton motor gasoline = 8.53 barrels
- 1 metric ton kerosene = 7.73 barrels
- 1 metric ton naphtha = 8.22 barrels
- 1 metric ton distillate = 7.46 barrels
- 1 metric ton residual oil = 6.66 barrels
- 1 metric ton lubricants = 7.06 barrels
- 1 metric ton bitumen = 6.06 barrels
- 1 metric ton waxes = 7.87 barrels
- 1 metric ton petroleum coke = 5.51 barrels
- 1 metric ton petrochemical feedstocks = 7.46 barrels
- 1 metric ton special naphtha = 8.53 barrels
- 1 metric ton miscellaneous products = 8.00 barrels

Alternative Measures of Greenhouse Gases

- 1 pound methane, measured in carbon units ($\text{CH}_4\text{-C}$) = 1.333 pounds methane, measured at full molecular weight (CH_4)
- 1 pound carbon dioxide, measured in carbon units ($\text{CO}_2\text{-C}$) = 3.6667 pounds carbon dioxide, measured at full molecular weight (CO_2)
- 1 pound carbon monoxide, measured in carbon units (CO-C) = 2.333 pounds carbon monoxide, measured at full molecular weight (CO)
- 1 pound nitrous oxide, measured in nitrogen units ($\text{N}_2\text{O-N}$) = 1.571 pounds nitrous oxide, measured at full molecular weight (N_2O)

Weight

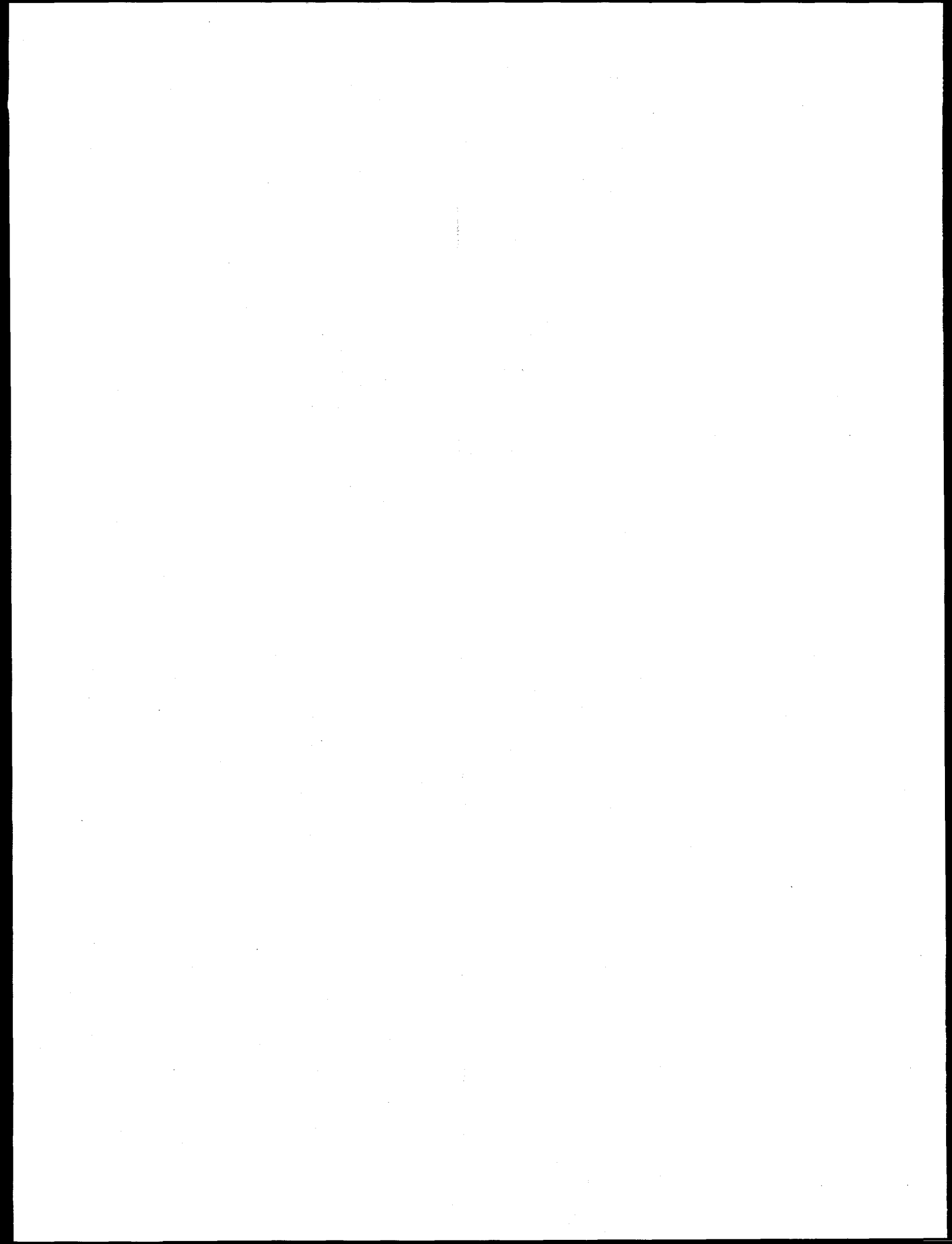
- 1 kilogram = 2.205 pounds
- 1 short ton = 0.9072 metric tons
- 1 metric ton = 1.1023 short tons = 2,204.6 pounds
- 1 cubic meter = 35.3147 cubic feet
- 1 cubic centimeter = 3.531×10^{-5} cubic feet

Area

- 1 acre = 0.40468724 hectare (ha) = 4,047 m^2
- 1 hectare (ha) = 10,000 m^2 = 2.47 acres
- 1 kilometer = 0.6214 miles

Energy

- 1 joule = 947.9×10^{-21} quadrillion Btu
- 1 exajoule = 10^{18} joules = 0.9479 quadrillion Btu
- 1 quadrillion Btu = 1.0551 exajoule



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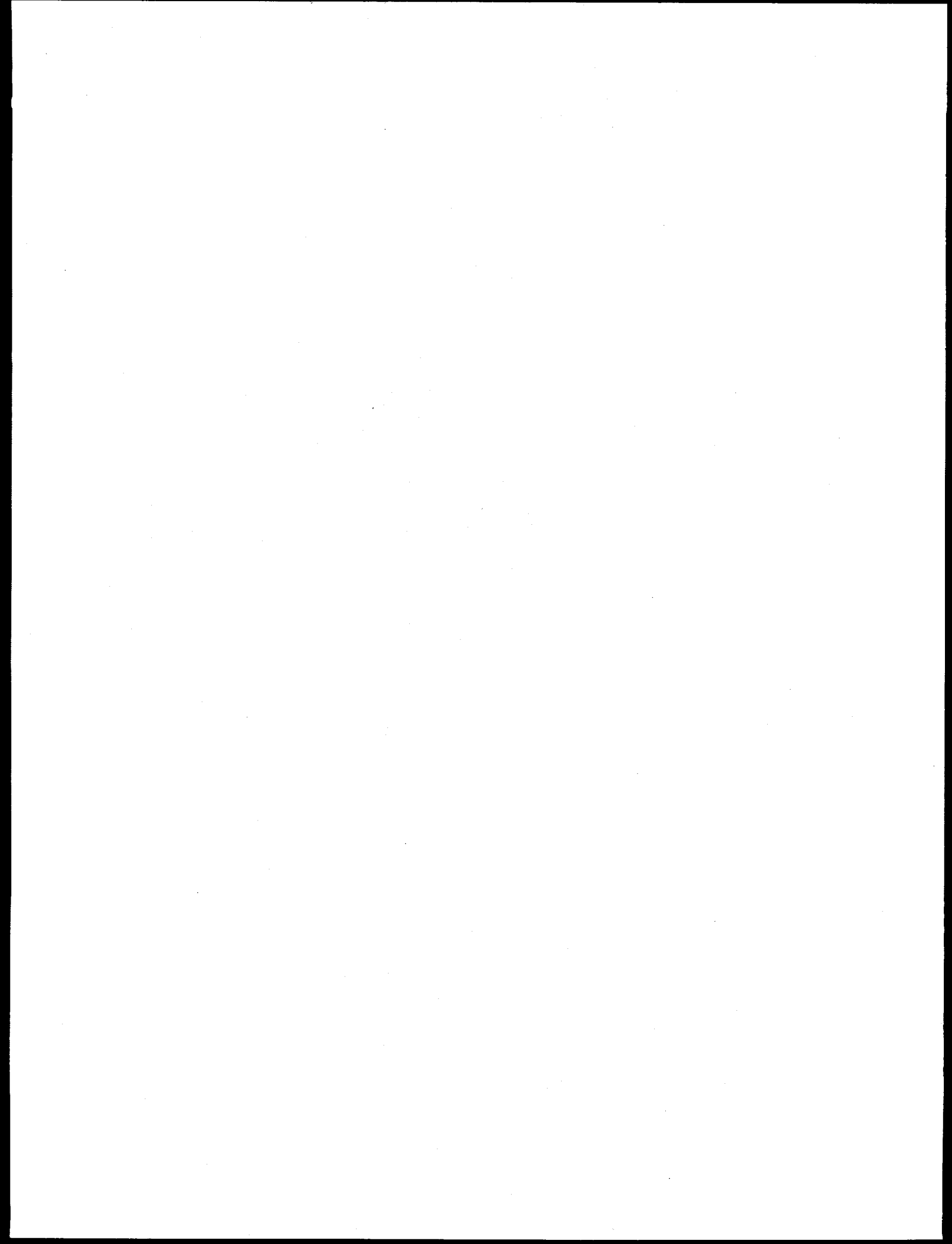
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Glossary

Acid stabilization: A circumstance where the pH of the waste mixture in an animal manure management system is maintained near 7.0, optimal conditions for methane production.

Aerobic bacteria: Microorganisms living, active, or occurring only in the presence of oxygen.

Aerobic decomposition: The breakdown of a molecule into simpler molecules or atoms by microorganisms under favorable conditions of oxygenation.

Aerosols: Airborne particles.

Afforestation: Planting of new forests on lands that have not been recently forested.

Agglomeration: The clustering of disparate elements.

Airshed: An area or region defined by settlement patterns or geology that results in discrete atmospheric conditions.

Albedo: The fraction of incident light or electromagnetic radiation that is reflected by a surface or body. See planetary albedo.

Anaerobes: Organisms that live and are active only in the absence of oxygen.

Anaerobic bacteria: Microorganisms living, active, or occurring only in the absence of oxygen.

Anaerobic decomposition: The breakdown of molecules into simpler molecules or atoms by microorganisms that can survive in the partial or complete absence of oxygen.

Anaerobic lagoon: A liquid-based manure management system, characterized by waste residing in water to a depth of at least six feet for a period ranging between 30 and 200 days.

Anode: A positive electrode, as in a battery, radio tube, etc.

Anthracite: A hard, black, lustrous coal containing a high percentage of fixed carbon and a low percentage of volatile matter. Often referred to as hard coal.

Anthropogenic: Human made. Usually used in the context of emissions that are produced as the result of human activities.

API Gravity: A scale expressing the density of petroleum products as established by the American Petroleum Institute.

Asphalt: A dark-brown to black cement-like material obtained by petroleum processing, containing bitumens as the predominant constituents. Includes crude asphalt as well as the following finished products: cements, the asphalt content of emulsions (exclusive of water), and petroleum distillates blended with asphalt to make cutback asphalts.

Associated gas: Natural gas found mixed with crude oil in underground reservoirs, released as a byproduct of oil production.

Aviation gasoline: All special grades of gasoline for use in aviation reciprocating engines. Excludes blending components, which are blended or compounded into finished aviation gasoline.

Balancing item: A measurement of the difference between the reported amount of natural gas produced and the reported amount consumed.

Biofuels: Organic materials, such as wood, waste, and alcohol fuels, burned for energy purposes.

Biogas: The gas produced from the anaerobic decomposition of organic material in a landfill.

Biogenic: Produced by the actions of living organisms.

Biomass: Materials that are biological in origin, including organic material (both living and dead) from above and below ground, for example, trees, crops, grasses, tree litter, roots, and animals and animal waste.

Biosphere: The portion of the Earth and its atmosphere that can support life. The part of the global carbon cycle that includes living organisms and biogenic organic matter.

Bituminous coal: A dense, black, soft coal, often with well-defined bands of bright and dull material. The most common coal, with moisture content usually less than 20 percent. Used for generating electricity, making coke, and space heating.

BOD₅: The biochemical oxygen demand of wastewater during decomposition occurring over a 5-day period. A measure of the organic content of wastewater.

Bromofluorocarbons (halons): Inert, nontoxic chemicals that have at least one bromine atom in their chemical makeup. They evaporate without leaving a residue and are used in fire extinguishing systems, especially for large computer installations.

Bunker fuel: Fuel supplied to ships and aircraft in international transportation, irrespective of the flag of the carrier, consisting primarily of residual fuel oil for ships and distillate and jet fuel oils for aircraft.

Calcination: A process in which a material is heated to a high temperature without fusing, so that hydrates, carbonates, or other compounds are decomposed and the volatile material is expelled.

Calcium sulfate: A white crystalline salt, insoluble in water. Used in Keene's cement, in pigments, as a paper filler, and as a drying agent.

Calcium sulfite: A white powder, soluble in dilute sulfuric acid. Used in the sulfite process for the manufacture of wood pulp.

Capital stock: Property, plant and equipment used in the production, processing and distribution of energy resources.

Carbon black: An amorphous form of carbon, produced commercially by thermal or oxidative decomposition of hydrocarbons and used principally in rubber goods, pigments, and printer's ink.

Carbon budget: The balance of the exchanges (incomes and losses) of carbon between carbon reservoirs (e.g., atmosphere and biosphere) in the carbon cycle.

Carbon cycle: All carbon reservoirs and exchanges of carbon from reservoir to reservoir by various chemical, physical, geological, and biological processes. Usually thought of as a series of the four main reservoirs of carbon interconnected by pathways of exchange. The four reservoirs, regions of the Earth in which carbon behaves in a systematic manner, are the atmosphere, terrestrial biosphere (usually includes freshwater systems), oceans, and sediments (includes fossil fuels). Each of these global reservoirs may be subdivided into smaller pools, ranging in size from individual communities or ecosystems to the total of all living organisms (biota).

Carbon dioxide: A colorless, odorless, non-poisonous gas that is a normal part of the ambient air. Carbon dioxide is a product of fossil-fuel combustion. Although CO₂ does not directly impair human health, it is a greenhouse gas that traps the earth's heat and contributes to the potential for global warming.

Carbon dioxide equivalent: The concentration of carbon dioxide that would cause the same amount of radiative forcing as a given mixture of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases. Carbon dioxide equivalents are generally computed by multiplying the amount (in kilograms) of the gas of interest (for example, methane) by its estimated global warming potential. Some analysts (and this report) use "carbon equivalent units" for convenience, defined as carbon dioxide equivalents multiplied by the carbon content of carbon dioxide (i.e., 12/44).

Carbon flux: See carbon budget.

Carbon sink: A reservoir that absorbs or takes up released carbon from another part of the carbon cycle. Vegetation and soils are common carbon sinks.

Catalytic converter: A device containing a catalyst for converting automobile exhaust into mostly harmless products.

Cesspool: An underground reservoir for liquid waste, typically household sewage.

Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs): A family of inert, non-toxic, easily liquefied chemicals used in refrigeration, air conditioning, packaging, and insulation, or as solvents or aerosol propellants.

Climate: The average course or condition of the weather over a period of years as exhibited by temperature, humidity, wind velocity, and precipitation.

Clinker: Powdered cement, produced by heating a properly proportioned mixture of finely ground raw materials (calcium carbonate, silica, alumina, and iron oxide) in a kiln to a temperature of about 2,700°F.

Cloud condensation nuclei: Aerosol particles that provide a platform for the condensation of water vapor, resulting in clouds with higher droplet concentrations and increased albedo.

Coal coke: A hard, porous product made by baking bituminous coal in ovens at temperatures as high as 2,000°F. Used both as a fuel and as a reducing agent in blast furnaces. The term "coal coke" is used instead of "coke" to distinguish it from petroleum coke.

Coalbed methane: Methane produced from coalbeds in the same way that natural gas is produced from other strata. See "methane."

Combustion: Chemical oxidation accompanied by the generation of light and heat.

Combustion chamber: An enclosed vessel in which chemical oxidation of fuel occurs.

Cracking: The refining process of breaking down the larger, heavier, and more complex hydrocarbon molecules into simpler and lighter molecules.

Criteria pollutant: A pollutant determined to be hazardous to human health and regulated under EPA's National Ambient Air Quality Standards. The 1970 amendments to the Clean Air Act require EPA to describe the health and welfare impacts of a pollutant as the "criteria" for inclusion in the regulatory regime.

Crop residue: Organic residue remaining after the harvesting and processing of a crop.

Cultivar: A horticulturally or agriculturally derived variety of a plant.

Deforestation: The removal of forest stands.

Degasification system: The methods employed for removing methane from a coal seam that could not otherwise be removed by standard ventilation fans and thus would pose a substantial hazard to coal miners. These systems may be used prior to mining or during mining activities.

Degradable organic carbon: The portion of organic carbon, present in such solid waste as paper, food waste, and yard waste, that is susceptible to biochemical decomposition.

Desulfurization: The removal of sulfur, as from molten metals, petroleum oil, or flue gases.

Diffusive transport: The process by which particles of liquids or gases move from an area of higher concentration to an area of lower concentration.

Distillate fuel: A general classification for the petroleum fractions produced in conventional distillation operations. Included are products known as No. 1, No. 2, and No. 4 fuel oils and No. 1, No. 2, and No. 4 diesel fuels. Used primarily for space heating, on- and off-highway diesel engine fuel (including railroad engine fuel and fuel for agricultural machinery), and electric power generation.

Efflux: An outward flow.

Electrical generating capacity: The full-load continuous power rating of electrical generating facilities, generators, prime movers, or other electric equipment (individually or collectively).

EMCON Methane Generation Model: A model for estimating the production of methane from municipal solid waste landfills.

Emissions: Anthropogenic (human-caused) releases of greenhouse gases to the atmosphere (e.g., the release of carbon dioxide during fuel combustion).

Emissions coefficient/factor: A unique value for scaling emissions to activity data in terms of a standard rate of emissions per unit of activity (e.g., pounds of carbon dioxide emitted per barrel of fossil fuel consumed).

Enteric fermentation: A digestive process by which carbohydrates are broken down by microorganisms into simple molecules for absorption into the bloodstream of an animal.

Eructation: An act or instance of belching.

Ethyl tertiary butyl ether (ETBE): A colorless, flammable, oxygenated hydrocarbon blend stock.

Ethylene: An olefinic hydrocarbon recovered from refinery or petrochemical processes.

Ethylene dichloride: A colorless, oily liquid used as a solvent and fumigant for organic synthesis, and for ore flotation.

Facultative bacteria: Bacteria that grow equally well under aerobic and anaerobic conditions.

Flange: A rib or a rim for strength, for guiding, or for attachment to another object (e.g., on a pipe).

Flared natural gas: Natural gas burned in flares on the well site or at gas processing plants.

Flatus: Gas generated in the intestines or the stomach of an animal.

Flue gas desulfurization: Equipment used to remove sulfur oxides from the combustion gases of a boiler plant before discharge to the atmosphere. Also referred to as scrubbers. Chemicals such as lime are used as scrubbing media.

Fluidized-bed combustion: A method of burning particulate fuel, such as coal, in which the amount of air required for combustion far exceeds that found in conventional burners. The fuel particles are continually fed into a bed of mineral ash in the proportions of 1 part fuel to 200 parts ash, while a flow of air passes up through the bed, causing it to act like a turbulent fluid.

Flux material: A substance used to promote fusion, e.g., of metals or minerals.

Fodder: Coarse food for domestic livestock.

Forestomach: See *rumen*.

Fossil fuel: Any naturally occurring organic fuel formed in the Earth's crust, such as petroleum, coal, or natural gas.

Fuel cycle: The entire set of sequential processes or stages involved in the utilization of fuel, including extraction, transformation, transportation, and combustion. Emissions generally occur at each stage of the fuel cycle.

Fugitive emissions: Unintended leaks of gas from the processing, transmission, and/or transportation of fossil fuels.

Gasification: A method for exploiting poor-quality coal and thin coal seams by burning the coal in place to produce combustible gas that can be collected and burned to generate power or processed into chemicals and fuels.

Gate station: Location where the pressure of natural gas being transferred from the transmission system to the distribution system is lowered for transport through small diameter, low pressure pipelines.

Geothermal: Pertaining to heat within the Earth.

Global warming potential (GWP): The instantaneous radiative forcing that results from the addition of 1 kilogram of a gas to the atmosphere, relative to that of 1 kilogram of carbon dioxide.

Greenhouse effect: A popular term used to describe the roles of water vapor, carbon dioxide, and other gases in keeping the Earth's surface warmer than it would otherwise be. These radiatively active gases are relatively transparent to incoming shortwave radiation, but are relatively opaque to outgoing longwave radiation. The latter radiation, which would otherwise escape to space, is trapped by greenhouse gases within the lower levels of the atmosphere. The subsequent re-radiation of some of the energy back to the Earth maintains higher surface temperatures than would occur if the gases were absent. There is concern that increasing concentrations of greenhouse gases, including carbon dioxide, methane, and chlorofluorocarbons, may enhance the greenhouse effect and cause global warming.

Greenhouse gases: Those gases, such as water vapor, carbon dioxide, tropospheric ozone, nitrous oxide, and methane, that are transparent to solar radiation but opaque to longwave radiation, thus preventing long-wave radiation energy from leaving the atmosphere. The net effect is a trapping of absorbed radiation and a tendency to warm the planet's surface.

Gross gas withdrawal: The full-volume of compounds extracted at the wellhead, including nonhydrocarbon gases and natural gas plant liquids.

Gypsum: The most common sulfate mineral. Used in wallboard.

Halogenated substances: A volatile compound containing halogens, such as chlorine, fluorine or bromine.

Halons: See bromofluorocarbons.

Heating degree-day: The number of degrees per day that the average daily temperature is below 65 degrees Fahrenheit.

Herbivore: A plant-eating animal.

Hydrocarbon: An organic chemical compound of hydrogen and carbon in either gaseous, liquid, or solid phase. The molecular structure of hydrocarbon compounds varies from the simple (e.g., methane, a constituent of natural gas) to the very heavy and very complex.

Hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs): Chemicals composed of one or more carbon atoms and varying numbers of hydrogen, chlorine, and fluorine atoms.

Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs): Chemicals composed of one or two carbon atoms and varying numbers of hydrogen and fluorine atoms.

Hydroxyl radical (OH): An important chemical scavenger of many trace gases in the atmosphere that are greenhouse gases. Atmospheric concentrations of OH affect the atmospheric lifetimes of greenhouse gases, their abundance, and, ultimately, the effect they have on climate.

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC): A panel established jointly in 1988 by the World Meteorological Organization and the United Nations Environment Program to assess the scientific information relating to climate change and to formulate realistic response strategies.

Jet fuel: Kerosene- and naphtha-type fuels for jet engines. Kerosene-type jet fuel is a kerosene-quality product used primarily for commercial turbojet and turboprop aircraft engines. Naphtha-type jet fuel is a fuel in the heavy naphtha range used primarily for military turbojet and turboprop aircraft engines.

Kerosene: A petroleum distillate that has a maximum distillation temperature of 401°F at the 10-percent recovery point, a final boiling point of 572°F, and a minimum flash point of 100°F. Used in space heaters, cookstoves, and water heaters, and suitable for use as an illuminant when burned in wick lamps.

Ketone-alcohol (cyclohexanol): An oily, colorless, hygroscopic liquid with a camphor-like odor. Used in soapmaking, dry cleaning, plasticizers, insecticides, and germicides.

Leachate: A liquid produced as water percolates through wastes, collecting contaminants.

Lignite: A brownish-black coal of low rank with high inherent moisture and volatile matter content, used almost exclusively for electric power generation. Also referred to as brown coal.

Liquefied petroleum gases (LPG): Ethane, ethylene, propane, propylene, normal butane, butylene, and isobutane produced at refineries or natural gas processing

plants, including plants that fractionate new natural gas plant liquids.

Lubricant: A substance used to reduce friction between bearing surfaces or as a process material, either incorporated into other materials used as aids in manufacturing processes or as carriers of other materials. Petroleum lubricants may be produced either from distillates or residues. Other substances may be added to impart or improve useful properties. Does not include byproducts of lubricating oil from solvent extraction or tars derived from de-asphalting. Lubricants include all grades of lubricating oils from spindle oil to cylinder oil and those used in greases. Lubricant categories are paraffinic and naphthenic.

Methane: A hydrocarbon gas (CH_4) that is the principal constituent of natural gas.

Methanogens: Bacteria that synthesize methane, requiring completely anaerobic conditions for growth.

Methanol: A light alcohol that can be used for gasoline blending. See oxygenate.

Methanotrophs: Bacteria that use methane as food and oxidize it into carbon dioxide.

Methyl chloroform (trichloroethane): An industrial chemical (CH_3CCl_3) used as a solvent, aerosol propellant, and pesticide and for metal degreasing.

Methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE): A colorless, flammable, liquid oxygenated hydrocarbon containing 18.15 percent oxygen.

Methylene chloride: A colorless liquid, nonexplosive and practically nonflammable. Used as a refrigerant in centrifugal compressors, a solvent for organic materials, and a component in nonflammable paint removers.

Mole: The quantity of a compound or element that has a weight in grams numerically equal to its molecular weight. Also referred to as gram molecule or gram molecular weight.

Montreal Protocol: The Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (1987). An international agreement, signed by most of the industrialized nations, to substantially reduce the use of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs). Signed in January 1989, the original document called for a 50-percent reduction in CFC use by 1992 relative to 1986 levels. The subsequent London Agreement called for a complete elimination of CFC use by 2000. The Copenhagen Agreement, which called for a complete phaseout by January 1, 1996, was implemented by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Motor gasoline: A complex mixture of relatively volatile hydrocarbons, with or without small quantities of additives, obtained by blending appropriate refinery streams to form a fuel suitable for use in spark-ignition engines. Motor gasoline includes both leaded and unleaded grades of finished gasoline, blending components, and gasohol.

Multiple cropping: A system of growing several crops on the same field in one year.

Municipal solid waste: Residential solid waste and some nonhazardous commercial, institutional, and industrial wastes.

Naphtha: A generic term applied to a petroleum fraction with an approximate boiling range between 122 and 400°F.

Natural gas: A mixture of hydrocarbons and small quantities of various nonhydrocarbons in the gaseous phase or in solution with crude oil in natural underground reservoirs.

Natural gas liquids (NGLs): Those hydrocarbons in natural gas that are separated as liquids from the gas. Includes natural gas plant liquids and lease condensate.

Natural gas, pipeline quality: A mixture of hydrocarbon compounds existing in the gaseous phase with sufficient energy content, generally above 900 Btu, and a small enough share of impurities for transport through commercial gas pipelines and sale to end-users.

Nitrogen oxides (NO_x): Compounds of nitrogen and oxygen produced by the burning of fossil fuels.

Nitrous oxide: A colorless gas, naturally occurring in the atmosphere, with the formula N_2O .

Nonmethane volatile organic compounds (NMVOCs): Organic compounds, other than methane, that participate in atmospheric photochemical reactions.

Octane: A flammable liquid hydrocarbon found in petroleum. Used as a standard to measure the anti-knock properties of motor fuel.

Oil reservoir: An underground pool of liquid consisting of hydrocarbons, sulfur, oxygen, and nitrogen trapped within a geological formation and protected from evaporation by the overlying mineral strata.

Organic content: The share of a substance that is of animal or plant origin.

Organic waste: Waste material of animal or plant origin.

Oxidize: To chemically transform a substance by combining it with oxygen.

Oxygenate: A substance which, when added to gasoline, increases the amount of oxygen in that gasoline blend. Includes fuel ethanol, methanol, and methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE).

Ozone: A molecule made up of three atoms of oxygen. Occurs naturally in the stratosphere and provides a protective layer shielding the Earth from harmful ultraviolet radiation. In the troposphere, it is a chemical oxidant, a greenhouse gas, and a major component of photochemical smog.

Ozone precursors: Chemical compounds, such as carbon monoxide, methane, nonmethane hydrocarbons, and nitrogen oxides, which in the presence of solar radiation react with other chemical compounds to form ozone.

Paraffinic hydrocarbons: Straight-chain hydrocarbon compounds with the general formula C_nH_{2n+2} .

Perfluorocarbons (PFCs): Chemicals composed of one or two carbon atoms and four to six fluorine atoms, containing no chlorine. PFCs have no commercial uses and are emitted as a byproduct of aluminum smelting.

Perfluoromethane: A compound (CF_4) emitted as a byproduct of aluminum smelting.

Petrochemical feedstock: Feedstock derived from petroleum, used principally for the manufacture of chemicals, synthetic rubber, and a variety of plastics. The categories reported are naphthas (endpoint less than 401°F) and other oils (endpoint equal to or greater than 401°F).

Petroleum: Hydrocarbon mixtures, including crude oil, lease condensate, natural gas, products of natural gas processing plants, refined products, semifinished products, and blending materials.

Petroleum coke: A residue that is the final product of the condensation process in cracking.

Photosynthesis: The manufacture by plants of carbohydrates and oxygen from carbon dioxide and water in the presence of chlorophyll, with sunlight as the energy source. Carbon is sequestered and oxygen and water vapor are released in the process.

Pig iron: Crude, high-carbon iron produced by reduction of iron ore in a blast furnace.

Pipeline, distribution: A pipeline that conveys gas from a transmission pipeline to its ultimate consumer.

Pipeline, gathering: A pipeline that conveys gas from a production well/field to a gas processing plant or transmission pipeline for eventual delivery to end-use consumers.

Pipeline, transmission: A pipeline that conveys gas from a region where it is produced to a region where it is to be distributed.

Planetary albedo: The fraction of incident solar radiation that is reflected by the Earth-atmosphere system and returned to space, mostly by backscatter from clouds in the atmosphere.

Pneumatic device: A device moved or worked by air pressure.

Polystyrene: A polymer of styrene that is a rigid, transparent thermoplastic with good physical and electrical insulating properties, used in molded products, foams, and sheet materials.

Polyvinyl chloride (PVC): A polymer of vinyl chloride. Tasteless, odorless, insoluble in most organic solvents. A member of the family vinyl resin, used in soft flexible films for food packaging and in molded rigid products, such as pipes, fibers, upholstery, and bristles.

Post-mining emissions: Emissions of methane from coal occurring after the coal has been mined, during transport or pulverization.

Radiative forcing: The extent to which emitting a greenhouse gas into the atmosphere raises global average temperature.

Radiatively active gases: Gases that absorb incoming solar radiation or outgoing infrared radiation, affecting the vertical temperature profile of the atmosphere.

Ratoon crop: A crop cultivated from the shoots of a perennial plant.

Redox potential: A measurement of the state of oxidation of a system.

Reflectivity: The ratio of the energy carried by a wave after reflection from a surface to its energy before reflection.

Reforestation: Replanting of forests on lands that have recently been harvested.

Reformulated gasoline: Gasoline formulated for use in motor vehicles, the composition and properties of which meet the requirements of the reformulated gasoline regulations promulgated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under Section 211K of the Clean Air Act.

Renewable energy: Energy obtained from sources that are essentially inexhaustible (unlike, for example, the fossil fuels, of which there is a finite supply). Renewable sources of energy include wood, waste, geothermal, wind, photovoltaic, and solar thermal energy.

Residual fuel oil: The heavier oils that remain after the distillate fuel oils and lighter hydrocarbons are distilled away in refinery operations and that conform to ASTM Specifications D396 and D975. Included are No. 5, a residual fuel oil of medium viscosity; Navy Special, for use in steam-powered vessels in government service and in shore power plants; and No. 6, which includes Bunker C fuel oil and is used for commercial and industrial heating, electricity generation, and to power ships. Imports of residual fuel oil include imported crude oil burned as fuel.

Rumen: The large first compartment of the stomach of certain animals in which cellulose is broken down by the action of bacteria.

Sample: A set of measurements or outcomes selected from a given population.

Sequestration: The fixation of atmospheric carbon dioxide in a carbon sink through biological or physical processes, such as photosynthesis.

Septic tank: A tank in which the solid matter of continuously flowing sewage is disintegrated by bacteria.

Sinter: A chemical sedimentary rock deposited by precipitation from mineral waters, especially siliceous sinter and calcareous sinter.

Sodium silicate: A grey-white powder soluble in alkali and water, insoluble in alcohol and acid. Used to fire-proof textiles, in petroleum refining and corrugated paperboard manufacture, and as an egg preservative. Also referred to as liquid glass, silicate of soda, sodium metasilicate, soluble glass, and water glass.

Sodium tripolyphosphate: A white powder used for water softening and as a food additive and texturizer.

Stabilization lagoon: A shallow artificial pond used for the treatment of wastewater. Treatment includes removal of solid material through sedimentation, the decomposition of organic material by bacteria, and the removal of nutrients by algae.

Still gas: Any form or mixture of gases produced in refineries by distillation, cracking, reforming, and other processes. Principal constituents are methane, ethane, ethylene, normal butane, butylene, propane, propylene, etc. Used as a refinery fuel and as a petrochemical feedstock.

Stratosphere: The region of the upper atmosphere extending from the tropopause (8 to 15 kilometers altitude) to about 50 kilometers. Its thermal structure, which is determined by its radiation balance, is generally very stable with low humidity.

Stripper well: A well that produces 60 million cubic feet of gas per day or less for a period of three consecutive months while producing at its maximum flow rate.

Styrene: A colorless, toxic liquid with a strong aromatic aroma. Insoluble in water, soluble in alcohol and ether; polymerizes rapidly; can become explosive. Used to make polymers and copolymers, polystyrene plastics, and rubber.

Subbituminous coal: A dull, black coal of rank intermediate between lignite and bituminous coal.

Sulfur dioxide: A toxic, irritating, colorless gas soluble in water, alcohol, and ether. Used as a chemical intermediate, in paper pulping and ore refining, and as a solvent.

Sulfur hexafluoride: A colorless gas soluble in alcohol and ether, slightly soluble in water. Used as a dielectric in electronics.

Sulfur oxides (SO_x): Compounds containing sulfur and oxygen, such as sulfur dioxide (SO₂) and sulfur trioxide (SO₃).

Tertiary amyl methyl ether (TAME): An oxygenate blend formed by the catalytic etherification of isoamylene with methanol.

Troposphere: The inner layer of the atmosphere below about 15 kilometers, within which there is normally a steady decrease of temperature with increasing altitude. Nearly all clouds form and weather conditions manifest themselves within this region. Its thermal structure is caused primarily by the heating of the Earth's surface by solar radiation, followed by heat transfer through turbulent mixing and convection.

Uncertainty: A measure used to quantify the plausible maximum and minimum values for emissions from any source, given the biases inherent in the methods used to calculate a point estimate and known sources of error.

Vapor displacement: The release of vapors that had previously occupied space above liquid fuels stored in tanks. These releases occur when tanks are emptied and filled.

Ventilation system: A method for reducing methane concentrations in coal mines to non-explosive levels by blowing air across the mine face and using large exhaust fans to remove methane while mining operations proceed.

Volatile organic compounds (VOCs): Organic compounds that participate in atmospheric photochemical reactions.

Volatile solids: A solid material that is readily decomposable at relatively low temperatures.

Waste flow: Quantity of a waste stream generated by an activity.

Wastewater: Water that has been used and contains dissolved or suspended waste materials.

Wastewater, domestic and commercial: Wastewater (sewage) produced by domestic and commercial establishments.

Wastewater, industrial: Wastewater produced by industrial processes.

Water vapor: Water in a vaporous form, especially when below boiling temperature and diffused (e.g., in the atmosphere).

Waxes: Solid or semisolid materials derived from petroleum distillates or residues. Light-colored, more or less translucent crystalline masses, slightly greasy to the touch, consisting of a mixture of solid hydrocarbons in

which the paraffin series predominates. Included are all marketable waxes, whether crude scale or fully refined. Used primarily as industrial coating for surface protection.

Weanling system: A cattle management system that places calves on feed starting at 165 days of age and continues until the animals have reached slaughter weight.

Wellhead: The top of, or a structure built over, a well.

Wetlands: Areas regularly saturated by surface or groundwater and subsequently characterized by a prevalence of vegetation adapted for life in saturated-soil conditions.

Wood energy: Wood and wood products used as fuel, including roundwood (cordwood), limbwood, wood chips, bark, sawdust, forest residues, and charcoal.

Yearling system: A cattle management system that includes a stocker period from 165 days of age to 425 days of age followed by a 140-day feedlot period.

Introducing the Energy Information Administration's Environment Web Page . . .

Anyone interested in the links between energy use and the environment will want to visit the EIA's new **Environmental Publications and Data** web page at <http://www.eia.doe.gov/environment.html>. This site provides links to EIA publications and data reports as well as other sites of potential interest, in the following general categories:

- * *Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Emissions*, including US and International emissions estimates and projections
- * *The Utility Sector*, including environmental statistics and Clean Air Act issues
- * *The Transportation Sector*, including Alternative-Fuel Vehicles
- * *Environmental/Energy Legislation*, including links to the text of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and EIA's Clean Air Act Browser
- * *Other Environmental Links*, linking to DOE's Energy and the Environment page and beyond

. . . and Greenhouse Gases Web Page

EIA's **Greenhouse Gases** page at <http://www.eia.doe.gov/oiaf/1605/frntend.html>, leads to two sites:

- ◆ **Annual U.S. Emissions Report**, as mandated by Section 1605(a) of the Energy Policy Act of 1992:
 - ▶ Recent *Annual Emissions Reports*, in HTML format for easy browsing and in PDF format for ease of printing
 - ▶ An *application* with a graphical user interface designed to facilitate independent analysis of the data, to allow for examination of the report's emissions estimates in greater detail.
- ◆ **Voluntary Reporting of Greenhouse Gases Program**, as established by Section 1605(b) of the Energy Policy Act of 1992:
 - ▶ *Background* on the Program's establishment and goals; information and newsletters about the Program's status, schedules and progress
 - ▶ *General Guidelines* and Supporting Documents that established and delineate the Program
 - ▶ *Annual Reports* summarizing data received, in HTML and PDF formats
 - ▶ *Public Use Database* of all non-confidential reports received by the Program to date.
 - ▶ *Reporting Software* for electronic filing
 - ▶ PDF versions of the paper *Reporting Forms and Instructions*, for reference when filing electronically, or for filing on paper

For more information about the Voluntary Reporting Program or the Emissions Reports, contact:

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If you have technical problems with these web sites,
please contact the EIA Webmaster at:
wmaster@eia.doe.gov