



# Greenhouse Gas Emissions Climb in 2013

*Extremely cold winter, increase in airport operations drive changes*

Greenhouse gas emissions from citywide activities in Minneapolis climbed 8.7% in 2013, driven primarily by the extremely cold winter, which resulted in an increase in natural gas consumption. An increase in operations and passengers at the Minneapolis-Saint Paul International Airport, combined with a slight decrease in the efficiency of operations meant an increase in emissions. A small increase in vehicle miles traveled on roads in the City was another driver of change.

## Winter temperatures dominate

According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the 2013-2014 winter season was one of the coldest on record for parts of the Midwest. In Minnesota, December temperatures ran 7.5 degrees below average for the month, and December 2013 was the 18<sup>th</sup> coldest on record in the Twin Cities.

Minneapolis experienced 30 percent more heating degree days in 2013 than in 2012, and 12 percent more than the 2003-2012 ten-year average.

As a consequence, natural gas consumption in Minneapolis rose 33 percent in 2013, driving the single largest change in citywide emissions.

## Airport operations increase, vehicle travel up slightly

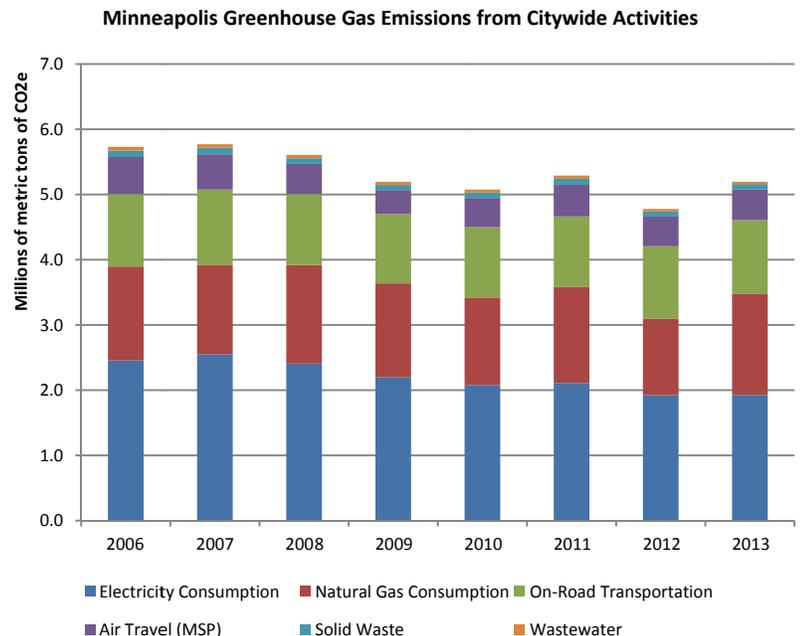
Minneapolis counts a portion of the MSP airport emissions in its inventory. In 2013, total aircraft operations increased 1.4 percent, and total passengers served increased 2.2 percent. The amount of emissions per operation was also 3 percent higher in 2013 than in 2012. In total, emissions from the airport counted in Minneapolis' inventory were up 4 percent over 2012.

Total vehicle miles traveled on Minneapolis roads rose by 1.4 percent in 2013, while fuel economy improved slightly. Emissions from on-road sources increased 1 percent over 2012.

## Progress continues towards 2015 goal

Minneapolis' goals include a 15 percent reduction in citywide emissions by 2015, along with a 30 percent reduction by 2025, and an 80 percent or more reduction by 2050, all from a 2006 baseline. In total, 2013 emissions are down 9.4 percent from 2006 levels. In 2012, emissions were down over 16 percent from 2006 levels. Major drivers of the change are a cleaner electricity sector, with more natural gas and wind power, improvements in energy efficiency, and improvements in wastewater efficiency and solid waste reduction.

Minneapolis will continue its work towards its goals by continuing to implement the City's [Climate Action Plan](#) and pursuing a new, national-leading [Clean Energy Partnership](#) with CenterPoint Energy and Xcel Energy.



More information about the City's greenhouse gas inventory can be found at:  
<http://bit.ly/1KcAdZL>

[www.minneapolismn.gov/sustainability/climate](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/sustainability/climate)