

County of San Mateo 2005 Community-Scale GHG Inventory Summary

Background

The County of San Mateo RecycleWorks and City and County Association of Governments (C/CAG) have been working to support all the cities in San Mateo County through the process of completing both their government operations and community-scale greenhouse gas emission inventories. This community-scale inventory has been completed on behalf of the County of San Mateo, through a Climate Protection Grant funded by the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD).

Objective

The objective of this greenhouse gas emissions inventory is to identify the sources and quantify the volumes of greenhouse gas emissions resulting from activities taking place throughout the unincorporated community of San Mateo County in 2005. This inventory serves two purposes:

- It creates an emissions baseline against which the County can set emissions reductions targets and measure future progress.
- It demonstrates the largest sources of emissions from community activities and therefore allows the County to most effectively target emission-reduction policies

Methodology

The community emissions inventory follows the standard outlined in the draft International Local Government GHG Emissions Analysis Protocol (IEAP). ICLEI¹-Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI) has been developing this guidance since the inception of its Cities for Climate Protection Campaign in 1993, and has recently formalized version 1 of the IEAP as a means to set a common framework for all local government worldwide. Using this framework, ICLEI has worked with the California Air Resources Board (ARB), the BAAQMD, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, and other state and regional agencies to develop a common method for inventorying community emissions in the Bay Area. The majority of local governments in the Bay Area have used this method.

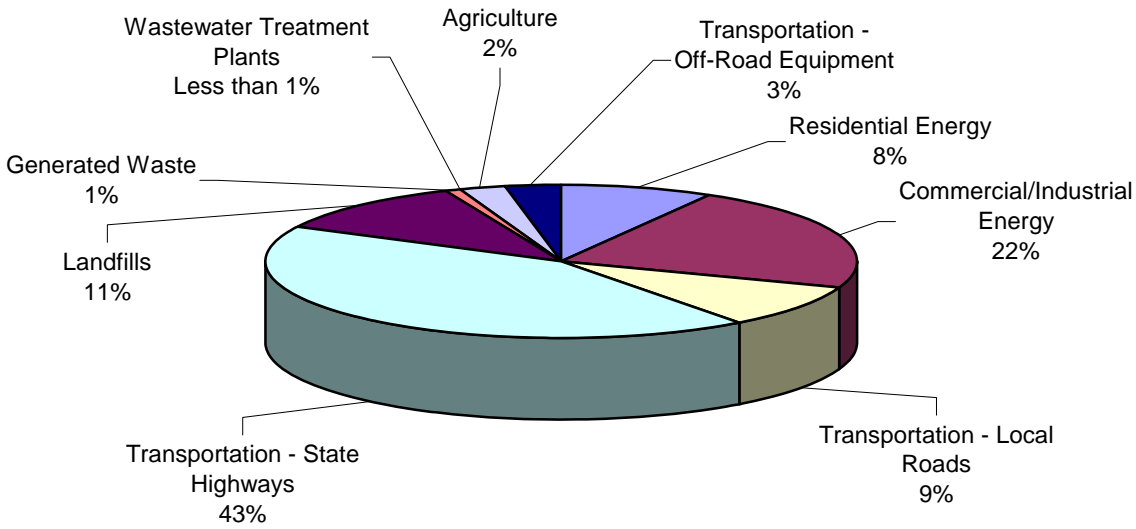
ARB is currently working to establish a community-scale greenhouse gas methodology specifically for California local governments. This methodology will serve as a corollary to the recently adopted Local Government Operations Protocol (LGOP). The LGOP, which ARB adopted in 2008, serves as the national standard for quantifying and reporting greenhouse emissions from local government operations.

Findings

The completed County of San Mateo 2005 Community-Scale inventory found that the unincorporated community generated 1,093,899 metric tons of CO₂-equivalent in 2005. The largest source of emissions is the transportation on state highways, which accounts for 43% of total emissions. Commercial and industrial energy use and gases from existing landfills deposits are the next largest sources of emissions at 22% and 11% respectively. Transportation on local roads and residential energy use account for 9% and 8% respectively. Emissions from agriculture, off-road sources (lawnmowers, equipment, etc.), wastewater treatment plants and emissions from waste generated in the unincorporated area of the county in 2005, each represent less than 3% of the total emissions.

¹ ICLEI stands for International Council for Local Government Initiatives. However, ICLEI wishes to be recognized as ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability.

2005 Communitywide Emissions by Sector



Sector	Greenhouse Gas Emissions (metric tons CO ₂ e)	Percentage of Greenhouse Gas Emissions
Residential	89,686	8%
Commercial / Industrial	245,307	22%
Transportation-Local Roads	98,234	9%
Transportation-State Highways	468,892	43%
Transportation - Off-Road Equipment*	34,694	3%
Landfills	122,973	11%
Generated Waste	8,144	1%
Wastewater	616	Less than 1%
Agriculture	25,353	2%
TOTAL	1,093,899	

Recommendations

Based on the findings from this Inventory, the following are suggested steps for San Mateo County:

- Set communitywide emissions-reduction targets.
- Continue to monitor its progress and re-inventory its emissions every five years.
- Near-term climate goals should be guided by the long-term goal of reducing emissions by 80 percent by 2050.
- Follow AB 32’s suggestion to achieve at least 15 percent lower emissions by 2020.
- Consider sector-specific targets.
- Meet near-term targets by implementing simple actions for highest emitting sectors.