

County of San Mateo 2005 Government Ops GHG Inventory Summary

Background

The 2005 San Mateo County Government Operations Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory is a critical first step toward a County operations climate protection initiative. The inventory is a product of Joint Venture: Silicon Valley Network's contract with ICLEI¹ – Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI) to conduct government operations inventories for 27 participating local governments. San Mateo County has completed the inventory to establish a baseline measurement of emissions from its government operations as part of ICLEI's recommended Five Milestones for Climate Mitigation, a systems approach to reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Cool Counties Commitment

On October 16, 2007, San Mateo County adopted Resolution No 069053, which supported the U.S. Cool Counties Climate Stabilization Declaration. As part of this declaration, San Mateo County committed to three major goals: to create an inventory of operational county government greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and implement policies to target the reduction of these emissions, to reduce county geographical GHG emissions to 80 percent below current levels by 2050 with recommended goals to stop increasing emissions by 2010, and to urge Congress and the Administration to take action toward reducing GHG emissions.

The purpose of the greenhouse gas emission inventory is to identify the sources of greenhouse gas emissions resulting from San Mateo County's government operations. The inventory is a necessary first step toward determining which actions the County could take to reduce its impact on climate change. The benefit of the inventory is twofold:

- It creates a quantitative baseline against which the County can measure future progress.
- It allows San Mateo County to understand and identify the various sources of greenhouse gas emissions within its operations.

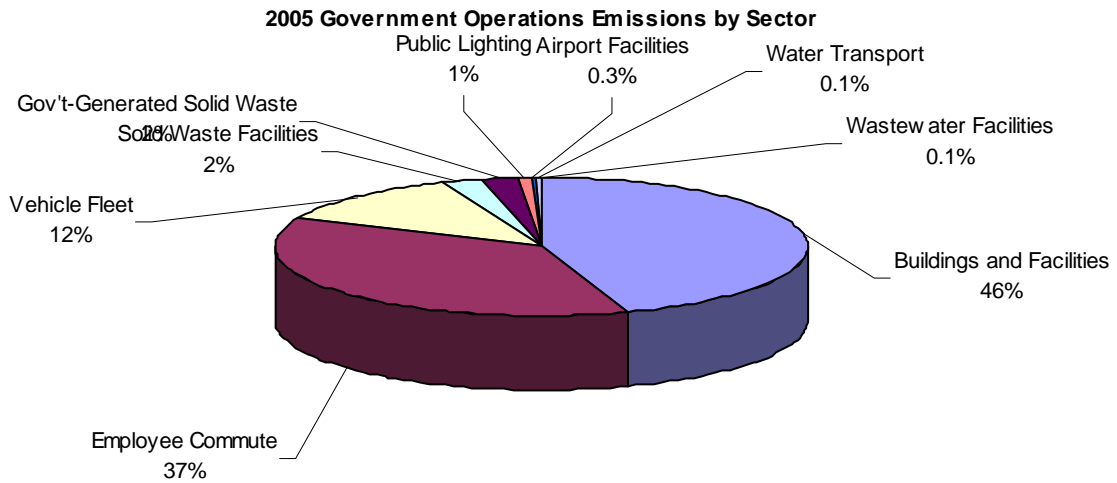
Methodology

The inventory uses a national standard developed by the California Air Resources Board in conjunction with ICLEI, the California Climate Action Registry, and The Climate Registry. The standard is called the Local Government Operations Protocol (LGOP) and provides standard quantification methods for reporting greenhouse gas emissions from internal government operations.

Findings

The 2005 San Mateo County Government Operations Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory shows San Mateo County's operations emissions totaling 41,517 metric tons of CO₂ emissions. The largest source of emissions is the Buildings and Facilities sector with 46 percent of the total. 37 percent of emissions result from employees commuting to and from County buildings. The County vehicle fleet contributes 12 percent of measured emissions while the remaining sectors amount to about 5 percent.

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



Sector	Greenhouse Gas Emissions (metric tons CO ₂ e)	Percentage of Greenhouse Gas Emissions
Buildings and Facilities	18,558	46%
Employee Commute	15,341	37%
Vehicle Fleet	5,066	12%
Solid Waste Facilities	1,011	2%
Government-Generated Solid Waste	1,002	2%
Public Lighting	340	1%
Airport Facilities	125	0.3%
Water Transport	47	0.1%
Wastewater Facilities	26	0.1%
TOTAL	41,516	~100%

Recommendations

Based on the findings from the San Mateo County 2005 Government Operations Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory, the following are suggested steps for San Mateo County:

- Set emissions targets for municipal operations. Two to three-year period reduction goals are recommended by ICLEI.
- 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 department-specific targets.
- Meet near-term targets by implementing simple actions for highest emitting sectors.