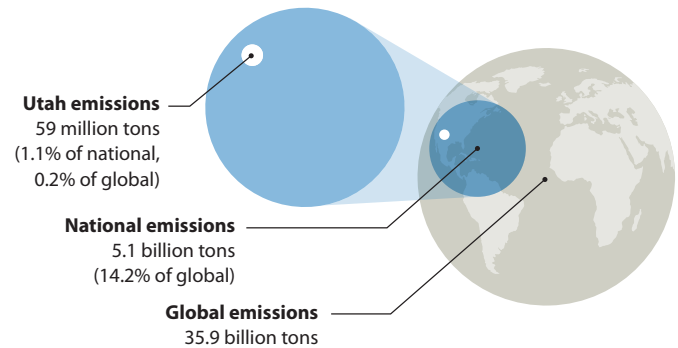


Frequently Asked Questions About CO₂ Emissions

Q: What are Utah's CO₂ emissions and how do they compare to the nation and the world?

A: In 2016, Utah emitted about 59 million tons of carbon dioxide, a primary greenhouse gas. National emissions for the same year total 5.1 billion tons. Utah's emissions represent 1.1% of the national CO₂ footprint. Global emissions total 35.9 billion tons. Utah represents about 0.2% of the global CO₂ footprint.



Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration

Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration

Q: How does coal affect Utah's emissions' profile?

A: Utah's per capita CO₂ emissions are relatively high because of coal-fired electricity produced here and exported to other states. Measured by CO₂ emissions of different fuel types, Utah is nearly twice as reliant on coal as other states. Coal accounts for nearly half of Utah's carbon dioxide emissions, roughly double the national average. Utah's CO₂ emissions will decrease significantly in coming years as the state's coal-fired power plants are retired or converted to burn natural gas, which emits about half as much CO₂ as coal.

Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration

Future Coal-Fired Power Plant Changes

- Intermountain Power Plant (IPP) near Delta will switch to natural gas by 2025 and to hydrogen by 2045
- Bonanza Power Plant near Vernal is set to shut down by 2030
- Rocky Mountain Power has "notional" (tentative) plans to close two power plants in Emery County, Huntington (2036) and Hunter (2042)
- Rocky Mountain Power plans to close 16 of 24 coal units serving Utah customers by 2030, and 20 by 2038

Sources: Intermountain Power Agency, Sep. 12, 2019; Salt Lake Tribune, Oct. 7, 2015; Rocky Mountain Power 2019 Integrated Resource Plan; Deseret News, Jan 2, 2019

Q: What are Utah's per person CO₂ emissions?

A: While Utah's overall CO₂ emissions are small on a national and global scale, our per capita emissions are higher than most states. Utah emits 19.3 metric tons per person annually, ranking 31st among states. The U.S. average is 16.0 metric tons.

Utah's per capita CO₂ emissions are higher than Idaho, Nevada, Colorado, Arizona, and California. New Mexico is the only Rocky Mountain state with higher per capita emissions.

Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration

Q: How does air transportation at Utah's airports contribute to Utah's emissions?

A: In 2016, jet fuel consumption at Salt Lake City International Airport and six regional airports throughout the state (Canyonlands, Cedar City, Ogden, Provo, St. George, and Vernal) accounted for 2.7 million metric tons of CO₂ emissions. That's about 5% of Utah's total CO₂ emissions.

Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration

Q: Have other states adopted greenhouse gas reduction targets?

A: Twenty-four states have formulated their own greenhouse gas reduction targets by executive order or statute.

Source: Center for Climate and Energy Solutions

Q: What has state government done to reduce greenhouse gas emissions?

A: The state of Utah has helped develop clean energy resources, promoted alternative fuel vehicles, and supported energy-efficient buildings and appliances. Former Gov. Huntsman convened a Blue Ribbon Commission on Climate Change in 2007. In 2019, the Utah Legislature requested this air quality and changing climate roadmap.

Sources: UCAIR, Utah Legislature