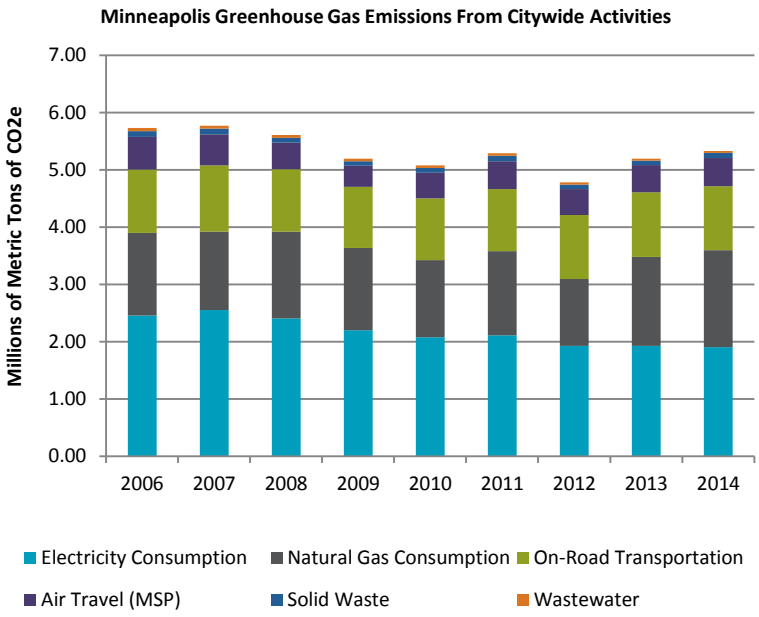
Minneapolis
City of Lakes

Greenhouse Gas Emissions Rise in 2014

Cold winter drives changes

Greenhouse gas emissions from citywide activities in Minneapolis rose by 2.6% in 2014 compared to the previous year, driven primarily by the cold winter, which resulted in an increase in natural gas consumption. Gains in emissions from natural gas and solid waste were offset by decreases in emissions from air travel, on-road transportation, and electricity use.



Colder than average winter

According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the 2014 winter season was much colder than average across the Midwest. In Minnesota, 2014 temperatures between January and March ran 6 degrees below average for the month, and February was the 10th coldest on record in the state. In 2014, the Twin Cities experienced 17.5% more heating degree days than the 2006-2013 average.

As a result, natural gas consumption in Minneapolis grew 8.9% in 2014, which was the single largest change in citywide emissions.

Airport operations emissions increase, vehicle travel hovers close to 2013 levels

Minneapolis counts a percentage of MSP airport emissions in its inventory. In 2014, total passengers served increased 4%, while total aircraft operations decreased 5%. Emissions from aircrafts cruising (flying over 3,000 feet) grew by 8% as taxi time dropped and increased in efficiency. In total, Minneapolis' portion of emissions from the airport rose 3.4% from 2013.

Emissions from on-road transportation decreased by 0.6% from 2013 because of a slight reduction in vehicle miles traveled.

Emissions from electricity use shrink over time

In total, electricity consumption decreased by 1.4%. While carbon intensity per electric mega-watt hour grew by 1.2% in 2014, reduced consumption resulted in an overall decrease in emissions of 1.2% from 2013. The combined electric use of the commercial and industrial sector was a major contributor to the emissions reductions as use was 1.7% lower than in 2013.

Despite a growing number of buildings in the city, emissions from electricity use are declining overall. Since 2006, Minneapolis' building stock has grown by 2,953 buildings and 27 million square feet, while electricity consumption has decreased 3.8%. Emissions from electricity use are down 22.5% from 2006. Increased energy efficiency and cleaner electricity, from more wind and natural gas, are driving the change.

Clean Energy Partnership drives progress toward City goals

Minneapolis' goals include a 15% reduction in citywide emissions by 2015, a 30% reduction by 2025, and an 80% or more reduction by 2050, all from a 2006 baseline. Overall, 2014 emissions are down 7.5% from 2006 levels.

Minneapolis will make progress towards its goals by continuing to implement the City's Climate Action Plan and pursuing the 2015-2016 Clean Energy Partnership Work Plan with CenterPoint Energy and Xcel Energy.