



Transportation:
Part of the problem...
Part of the solution.

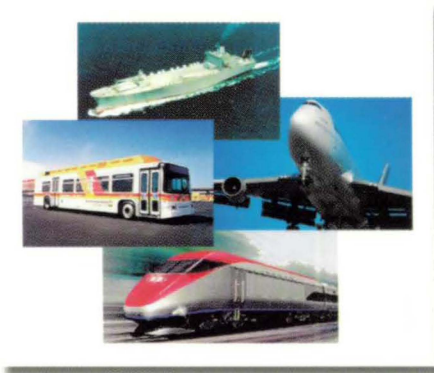


U.S. Department of Transportation

Research

The Center's research and analysis informs stakeholders and federal, state, and local officials. Developments in several areas show promise as potential means to address climate change while providing a high level of transportation service. The Center reviews these developments and conducts its own research in order to develop transportation strategies in areas such as:

- **Vehicles and Fuels:** What are the most promising vehicle technologies and fuels? What are the best ways to promote their development and use?
- **Transportation Demand & Operations:** How might better decisions at all levels regarding land use and transportation systems help reduce emissions and preserve existing infrastructure?
- **Market-Based Approaches:** How might the transportation sector participate in market-based means for managing greenhouse gas emissions?
- **Current Research:** Studies are focused on emissions trading, international projects, early action, tax credits, alternative fuels, and urban ferries.
- **Future Study:** DOT is also working with other agencies to launch an interagency study of how climate changes may affect transportation systems and planning.



Policy Analysis

The transportation community bears responsibility to identify practical, cost-effective approaches to manage emissions without sacrificing mobility or economic development.

- DOT has a variety of ongoing programs that help to limit or reduce emissions.
- The Center complements these efforts and identifies potential changes in DOT policies and programs that would be consistent with DOT missions and national transportation goals while enabling the sector to contribute responsibly to greenhouse gas reduction.
- The Center's policy analysis builds on complementary results of such initiatives as the Partnership for a New Generation of Vehicles, the Zero Emission Fuel Cell Bus, the Advanced Vehicle Technologies Program, the 21st Century Truck Initiative, and the Marine Fuel Cell program.
- The Center develops performance measures to assess evolving science and policies and promote the most cost-effective strategies.
- The Center ensures that transportation perspectives are incorporated into domestic and international policy deliberations.



Outreach

Addressing climate change effects is a complex undertaking that requires the cooperative efforts of many agencies at all levels, the private sector, and individuals themselves.

- The Center reaches out to federal, state and local agencies, industry, environmental organizations, academia, and elected officials to gain their perspectives, foster awareness, and build alliances to address the challenges of transportation and climate change.
- The Center provides information, technical assistance, and policy guidance regarding climate change issues to our stakeholders.
- The Center builds strategic partnerships, taking advantage of synergies with other agencies' environmental and climate change goals.



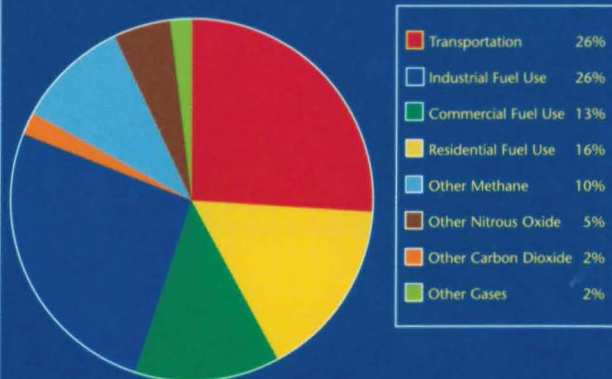
The Problem

Transportation fuel use is a significant source of greenhouse gases. Furthermore, changes in climate could affect transportation systems.

- Transportation accounts for about a quarter of U.S. emissions, and is one of the fastest-growing sectors.
- Most members of the scientific community now believe that buildup of these gases will cause changes in the Earth's climate, including regional changes in temperature and precipitation, rising sea levels, and increasing severity of storms.
- We must provide transportation services while reducing the buildup of these emissions and preparing for the potential impacts of climate change.

To address these problems, the Department of Transportation created the Center for Climate Change and Environmental Forecasting. Consisting of 10 DOT agencies working together, the Center evaluates relevant technologies, practices, and policies to limit or reduce transportation-related greenhouse gas emissions and prepare for the potential effects of climate change.

U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions in 1998



Mission

The Center is the focal point in the DOT of expertise on transportation and climate change. Through strategic research, policy analysis, partnerships and outreach, the Center creates comprehensive and multi-modal approaches to reduce transportation-related greenhouse gases and to mitigate the effects of global climate change on the transportation network.

Additional Information

Further information about transportation and climate change is available on the World Wide Web at the following address:

<http://www.dot.gov/climate>