



Ministry for the
Environment
Manatū Mō Te Taiao

New Zealand greenhouse gas emissions trends, 1990–2015

Title	New Zealand greenhouse gas emissions trends, 1990–2015
Publisher	New Zealand's Environment Reporting Series: The Ministry for the Environment and Statistics New Zealand
Description	<p>Includes sub-sub-sector data. Emissions are in kt and have not been standardised by conversion to CO₂ equivalents. Greenhouse gases (GHGs) absorb heat from Earth's surface, warming the atmosphere and changing our climate. New Zealand's share of GHG emissions is very small, but our gross emissions per person are high. Emissions mainly come from combustion of fossil fuels that emit carbon dioxide (CO₂), and agriculture which emits methane (CH₄) and nitrous oxide (N₂O). Carbon dioxide remains in the atmosphere much longer than other major GHGs. Because of this, today's global CO₂ emissions will continue to influence atmospheric CO₂ concentrations for a very long time. Methane and N₂O trap heat better than CO₂ but leave the atmosphere faster. Reducing emissions of CH₄ and N₂O will decrease concentrations in the atmosphere more quickly. Greenhouse gases (GHGs) absorb heat from Earth's surface, warming the atmosphere and changing our climate. New Zealand's share of GHG emissions is very small, but our gross emissions per person are high. Emissions mainly come from combustion of fossil fuels that emit carbon dioxide (CO₂), and agriculture which emits methane (CH₄) and nitrous oxide (N₂O). Carbon dioxide remains in the atmosphere much longer than other major GHGs. Because of this, today's global CO₂ emissions will continue to influence atmospheric CO₂ concentrations for a very long time. Methane and N₂O trap heat better than CO₂ but leave the atmosphere faster. Reducing emissions of CH₄ and N₂O will decrease concentrations in the atmosphere more quickly. Trend direction was assessed using the Theil-Sen estimator and the Two One-Sided Test (TOST) for equivalence at the 95% confidence level. More information on this dataset and how it relates to our environmental reporting indicators and topics can be found in the attached data quality pdf.</p>
Source	Ministry for the Environment
Rights	Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 New Zealand
Rights	Attribution 4.0 International
Rights	http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/
Coverage	1990–2015; national
Identifier	

AC17/036

Type

Dataset

Language

eng-nz

Subject

Climate change, greenhouse gas emissions, CO2, CH4, N2O, Carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, temperature, Environmental reporting series: Our atmosphere and climate 2017