

CONDUCT A GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS INVENTORY AT YOUR UNIVERSITY

A greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions inventory is an accounting of the amounts and sources of emissions of GHGs attributable to the operations of an institution. The completion of such an inventory provides an essential foundation for focused, effective outreach on the issue of climate change at a college or university, and the basis for institutional action to address it.

Clean Air-Cool Planet (www.cleanair-coolplanet.org) offers a spreadsheet tool, a Campus Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory Calculator, for use in completing these activities. The Calculator takes you through three steps, providing procedural protocols and a framework for investigation. The spreadsheets, based on workbooks by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) for national inventories, have been adapted for institutional use.

The major emission source categories are on-campus energy production, purchased electricity, transportation, waste, agriculture, and refrigerants. Looking at the emissions levels in each of these categories provides a good idea of the best opportunities for emissions reduction. Step 3 of the toolkit, "Create a Plan," provides an in-depth exploration of options for emissions reductions in each of these categories and subcategories.

On its website, Clean Air – Cool Planet has a number of case studies that focus on campus GHG inventories. They include:

- Smith College's report "Greenhouse Gas Emissions at Smith College: A Comprehensive Inventory from 1990-2004 and Suggestions for Future Emissions Reductions"
- University of New Hampshire Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory
- Middlebury College's Summary of Energy Consumption and Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Tufts University's GHG Emissions Inventory for 1990 and 1998
- Harvard's Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory
- A Methodology for Assessing MIT's Energy Use and Greenhouse gas Emissions

Useful websites

Clean Air – Cool Planet: www.cleanair-coolplanet.org

World Resources Institute GHG Protocol Initiative:
www.wri.org/climate/project_description2.cfm?pid=16

Second Nature: www.secondnature.org

Climate Trust: www.climatetrust.org

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