

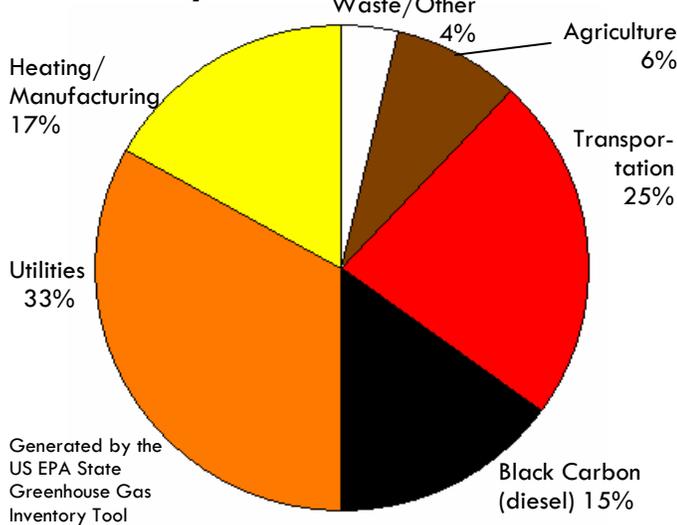


Global Warming Pollution in North Carolina



Cape Hatteras Lighthouse
Photo courtesy of NC Coastal Federation

Pollution By Sector



Generated by the US EPA State Greenhouse Gas Inventory Tool

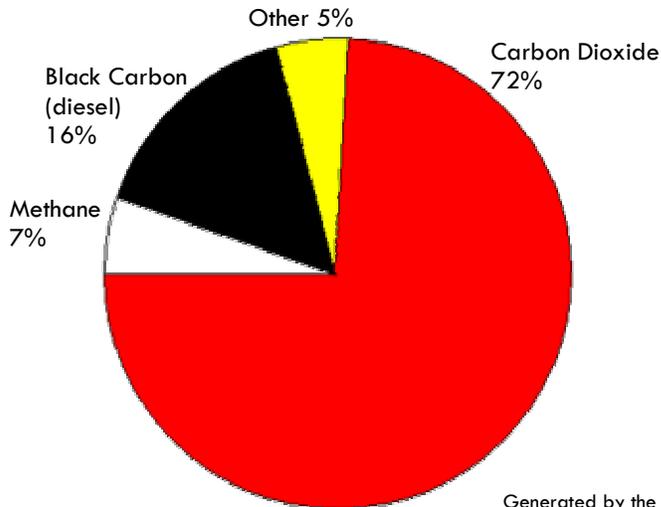
Even a modest increase in average global temperature can trigger enormous consequences:

- **Rise in sea level.** The rate of increase will surpass the historical norm and cause erosion, flooding, and loss of ocean/river buffers.
- **Loss of forest biodiversity.** Niche species like the Fraser firs may find it difficult to adapt to a rise in average temperature. The beautiful forests of North Carolina in the Great Smoky Mountains could decline by 5-15 % as a result of climate change.
- **Decrease in the standard of living.** North Carolinians can expect an increase in tropical diseases, smog-related respiratory disorders, and heat-related illnesses and deaths, plus a scarcity of potable water in coastal regions.
- **Economic Setback.** The tourism, real estate, & insurance industries will suffer property loss caused by frequent storms of greater intensity.

Pollution from North Carolina and the surrounding southern states contributes significantly to global warming. For example, if the global warming emissions of eight southern states were considered one country, they would rank 5th ahead of India and Germany. Just Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, and Tennessee alone would rank 7th in the world.

Coal is the predominant source of energy in the South — 63% in North Carolina. A large portion of our global warming pollution comes from the utility sector as unregulated carbon dioxide. Likewise, a vast amount of carbon dioxide is emitted by North Carolina’s large, unregulated transportation system that continues to grow.

Types of Global Warming Pollution



Generated by the US EPA State Greenhouse Gas Inventory Tool



Solutions

In order for North Carolina to do its part to keep the Earth's temperatures from reaching dangerous levels in coming years, North Carolina needs to dramatically reduce global warming pollution. Here are two emission reduction options in percentages:

Pollution Type	Spread across sectors	Reduce CO ₂ Only
Carbon Dioxide	65%	95%+
Methane	70%	0%
Black Carbon (diesel)	90%	0%

Dirty power plants produce 40% of U.S. global warming pollution: 2.5 billion tons of heat-trapping carbon dioxide (CO₂) every year. North Carolina's 14 coal-fired power plants contribute 72 million tons of CO₂, ranking the state 38th in the world, ahead of Venezuela, Belgium and the Czech Republic.

Currently, only New England and the West Coast have implemented modest, state-level initiatives to address global warming pollution. Imagine if North Carolina, perceived by many as conservative and resistant to environmental issues, were to lead the way in stricter regulation for global warming pollution to protect our economy, our environment, and our way of life!

Here are some ways that state and federal governments, corporations, and individuals can decrease global warming pollution while still meeting energy demands:

- **Phase out or clean up dirty, coal-burning power plants.**
- **Phase in renewable wind, solar, and biomass power.**
- **Increase energy efficiency in homes, offices, and industries.**
- **Create State Climate Action Plans that reduce and cap global warming pollution and establish a carbon marketplace.**
- **Introduce Low Emission Vehicle (LEV) standards.**
- **Clean up black carbon from diesel engines.**
- **Reduce methane emissions from landfills and hog farms.**
- **Change personal habits.** Simple things like turning off lights, taking shorter showers, and running your computer in sleep mode add up to big pollution, energy and money savings.
- **Visit our website www.cleanenergy.org** to learn more and to calculate your personal contribution to global warming.



For more information contact Southern Alliance for Clean Energy
 1.866.522.SACE (7223) or www.cleanenergy.org
 In NC: 828.254.6776