



Environmental Data and Governance Initiative

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Addendum:

Changes to DOE Energy Information Administration (EIA) Kids Educational Pages

In the Energy Information Administration (EIA) office of the Department of Energy, the Energy Kids educational page on greenhouse gases was updated to remove a paragraph about US and total global emissions.

Description

There were several changes to the EIA's Energy Kids educational page on greenhouse gases, including a full paragraph removal, text changes, and numerical value adjustments to reflect updated information.

This report is submitted as an addendum to [Report 10](#), which details more changes to the EIA Kids educational pages.

The most notable changes to this page are summarized here:

1. Removal of paragraph about US greenhouse gas emissions compared to total global emissions, and percentage of energy obtained through burning fossil fuels.
2. Changing phrase "much of the growth" to "much of the projected growth" with regards to carbon dioxide emissions.

Page 1: EIA Energy Kids - Greenhouse Gases

- URL: http://www.eia.gov/kids/energy.cfm?page=environment_about_ghg-basics
- Side-by-side View: 1/17/2017 to 2/9/2017

Screenshot 1.1

(1.1a) Removal of paragraph about US greenhouse gas emissions compared to total global emissions and the percentage of energy in the US obtained by burning fossil fuels.

“The United States, with 4% of the world’s population, produced about 17% of global carbon dioxide emissions from burning fossil fuels in 2011, the most recent year for which global data are available. The United States has the world’s largest economy and meets 83% of its energy needs by burning fossil fuels.”

(1.1b) Phrase “much of the growth” changed to “much of the projected growth” in carbon dioxide emissions.

(1.1c) Adjustments to future emission statistics because of a switch from the 2013 to the 2016 *International Energy Outlook Reference*.

Version comparison of www.eia.gov/kids/energy.cfm?page=environment_about_ghg-basics - history - enable javascript - view as ghs

Jan 17 2017 8:13 AM View rendered side-by-side Feb 9 2017 10:38 AM

Greenhouse gases warm the planet
Scientists know with virtual certainty that increasing greenhouse gas concentrations tend to warm the planet.

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Outlook for Future Emissions
Carbon dioxide emissions are expected to increase
In the U.S. Energy Information Administration's [International Energy Outlook-2013 Reference case](#), which does not assume new policies to limit greenhouse gas emissions, world energy-related carbon dioxide emissions increase from **31.2** billion metric tons in 2010 to **36.4** billion metric tons in 2020 and **45.8** billion metric tons in 2040. **Much** of the growth in emissions is attributed to developing countries that are not members of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) that continue to rely heavily on fossil fuels to meet fast-paced growth in energy demand. **Non-OECD carbon dioxide emissions total 31.8** billion metric tons in 2040, or **69%** of the world total. In comparison, OECD emissions total **33.9** billion metric tons in 2040, or **31%** of the world total.

The United States, with 4% of the world's population, produced about 17% of global carbon dioxide emissions from burning fossil fuels in 2011, the most recent year for which global data are available. The United States has the world's largest economy and meets 83% of its energy needs by burning fossil fuels.

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Figure 140 World energy-related carbon dioxide emissions 1990-2040
Billion metric tons

Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration, *International Energy Outlook 2013 Reference Case* (July 2013)

Explanations for OECD and Non-OECD (PDF)
[Data for this figure \(XLS\)](#)

This imbalance between greenhouse gas emissions and the ability for natural processes to absorb those emissions has resulted in a continued increase in atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases. Concentrations of CO₂ in the atmosphere have increased by about 40% since the mid-1800s.

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Outlook for Future Emissions
Carbon dioxide emissions are expected to increase
In the U.S. Energy Information Administration's [International Energy Outlook-2016 Reference Case](#), world energy-related carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions are projected to increase from **32.3** billion metric tons in 2012 to **35.8** billion metric tons in 2020 and to **43.2** billion metric tons in 2040.

Much of the projected growth in CO₂ emissions is attributed to developing nations outside the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), many of which continue to rely heavily on fossil fuels to meet the fast-paced growth of energy demand. In the IOE2016 Reference case, non-OECD emissions in 2040 total 29.4 billion metric tons, or about 61% higher than the 2012 level. In comparison, OECD emissions total 33.8 billion metric tons in 2040, or about 8% higher than the 2012 level.

OECD

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Explanations for OECD and Non-OECD
[More data](#)

Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration, *International Energy Outlook 2016 Reference Case* (Nov 2016)

Internet Archive Page Status:

Previous version of page captured on January 24, 2017:

http://web.archive.org/web/20170124130700/http://www.eia.gov/kids/energy.cfm?page=environment_about_ghg-basics