

GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS INVENTORY/COMMUNITY ENERGY STRATEGIC PLAN



2018 ANNUAL REPORT

THE ECOLOGY ACTION CENTER HAS COMPLETED THE FOLLOWING ITEMS DURING THE LAST QUARTER IN FULFILLMENT OF THE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS INVENTORY PROGRAM AGREEMENT OF APRIL 25, 2016.

The Ecology Action Center has compiled a draft 2015 Greenhouse Gas Inventory for the Town of Normal and the City of Bloomington. This inventory includes the emissions of Local Government Operations (LGO) as well as the whole community's energy usage for the calendar year 2015. The inventory also compares 2015 results to the results of the 2008 baseline year. The Ecology Action Center is in the process of launching the Community Energy Strategic Plan (CESP) process for the Town of Normal and the City of Bloomington. This plan will set goals and prioritize strategies for the community to reduce air pollutants, greenhouse gas (GHG) emission levels and energy usage.

ORGANIZATION

Using the Department of Energy's Guide to Community Energy Strategic Planning (CESP) and highlighting examples from other communities, the Ecology Action Center has begun the process to develop a Bloomington-Normal CESP. Using data collected in the 2015 GHG inventory, the CESP will provide strategic options for mitigating greenhouse gas emissions and National Ambient Air Quality emissions, specifically ozone. Stakeholder groups through a collaborative process will help develop emissions reduction strategies and a finalized plan will eventually be presented to the Town of Normal and the City of Bloomington.

SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

- o Obtained employee commute data, vehicle fleet fuel usage and building/facility energy usage data from the City of Bloomington
- o Obtained air travel-related data from Central Illinois Regional Airport (CIRA)
- o Obtained natural gas data from Nicor
- o Corresponded with Connect Transit, Bloomington Normal Water Reclamation District (BNWRD), City of Bloomington, Town of Normal, and Nicor to obtain clarification on data
- o Inventoried data and continued to investigate gaps and uncertainties
- o Compiled information into a report format
- o Created graphs and tables for report
- o Proofed and copyedited draft 2015 GHG inventory update

- Began developing support materials for stakeholder groups within the Bloomington-Normal Community Energy Strategic Plan process
- Compiled examples of other communities participating in CESP
- Reviewed current Town of Normal and the City of Bloomington comprehensive plans and other relevant plans and documents
- Compiled white paper reports on air quality, energy, and climate change
- Researched potential funding sources for eventual CESP implementation

BRIEF SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Between 2008 and 2015, Town of Normal and City of Bloomington LGO emissions increased by 10% and 12% respectively. Community-scale emissions fell by 4%. The leading source of greenhouse gas emissions in Bloomington-Normal in 2015 was stationary energy usage, which includes electricity and natural gas used for cooling, heating, and other needs in homes, businesses, industry, and local government. On-road vehicular transportation, the next leading source of greenhouse gas emissions, includes all gasoline and diesel usage in local transportation.

The trend of decreased stationary emissions and increased transportation emissions is consistent with national trends—transportation is now the single largest source of GHG emissions nationwide. Stationary emissions are decreasing due to increased use of natural gas for electricity generation because of depressed natural gas prices.

NEXT STEPS

- Convene CESP steering committee and stakeholder committees to begin collaborative discussions, brainstorming, and problem solving.
- Finalization of the 2015 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory Update Report. While a draft report has been compiled, the EAC will wait to finalize it until after the stakeholder process as more content may yet be added. The draft GHG report will be one resource for the stakeholder process and it is expected that feedback received may benefit the final official GHG report.