



Pima County & City of Tucson

MEDIA RELEASE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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City/County Draft Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory Available

The City of Tucson and Pima County have preliminary results of the first updated inventory of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions for the region since 1998. The inventory gives the community a current picture of where GHG emissions are being created as well as an historical account of the growth in emissions since 1990.

The inventory was done on a regional scale to capture the emissions from our expanding and mobile southern Arizona community. The City and County commissioned the Pima Association of Governments (PAG) to conduct this emissions inventory across four specific areas: all of eastern Pima County, the city of Tucson, and both City and County government operations (buildings, fleets, etc.).

The inventory indicates that between 1990 and 2006 emissions in eastern Pima County increased 46 % and emissions within Tucson city limits increased 34 %. These increases are consistent with population growth during that time: 47 % in Pima County and 32 % in Tucson. The region's emissions can be attributed to a mix of residential, commercial and industrial energy consumption, waste generation and personal transportation choices - all directly linked to the use of fossil-fuel energy sources that are greenhouse gas-intensive.

These inventory results mean that aggressive new efforts are needed to reduce GHG intensity through a strong mix of technology advances, voluntary initiatives and development of public and private partnerships across all economic sectors. Technology and policy options already exist to achieve significant GHG reductions and these solutions can bring additional economic and social co-benefits to the community.

The Pima County Board of Supervisors and Tucson's Mayor and Council have both approved mechanisms for reducing GHG emissions associated with government operations, as well as policies to reduce emissions throughout the community. The draft inventory provides a step forward in the implementation of these plans and policies. The inventory will inform Pima County's Sustainable Action Plan for County Operations, adopted by the Pima County Board of Supervisors in August 2008. The greenhouse gas emissions data will also be used by the recently-established City of Tucson Climate Change Committee, which is charged with developing a Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Plan for the City over the next 18 months.

Through 2009 and 2010, the City and County will be updating their General Plan and Comprehensive Plan, respectively. Land use policies that promote less GHG-intensive development will be a key consideration during the update process.

The draft report can be found at:

www.pagnet.org/documents/Transportation/GrnHsGsInvntry-Draft1GHGEI10608.pdf

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