

# ALABAMA

## EMISSIONS ANALYSIS

- While the nation's increased energy production has received a great deal of media focus in recent years, little notice has been paid to the significant emission reductions and overall environmental improvement across the state and nation.
- These emission improvements are occurring at a time when our country has catapulted forward to become the world's leading producer of oil and natural gas.
- It is proof that rigorous environmental standards and energy production can and do coexist.
- Exploration and development in the Gulf of Mexico are subject to some of the world's strictest safety and environmental requirements.
- As we look to drive our economic recovery from COVID-19, expanded exploration and production access in the Gulf offers one of the fastest routes to [tens of thousands of jobs and billions in GDP](#) for Alabama.

More than [62%](#) of Alabama's energy needs are met by oil and natural gas. The state ranks [sixth in the U.S. for power generation with natural gas supplying 40%](#) of the state's electricity. Even though Alabama is [one of the nation's largest energy consumers per capita](#), emissions of key air pollutants and greenhouse gases have declined significantly across the state.

From 1990-2019 Alabama's [emissions of key pollutants decreased](#) across the board:

- 67% reduction in nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>)
- 93 percent reduction in sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>)
- 63% reduction in carbon monoxide (CO)
- 45% reduction in volatile organic compounds (VOCs)
- 44% reduction in fine particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>)
- 47% reduction in coarse particulate matter (PM<sub>10</sub>)
- 12% reduction in ammonia (NH<sub>3</sub>)

Additionally, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, from 2000-2017 Alabama's [energy-related carbon dioxide \(CO<sub>2</sub>\) emissions fell by more than 23%](#).

These emissions reductions are remarkable in light of Alabama's growth, including:

- A [223% increase](#) in the state's gross domestic product (1990-2019)
- A [39% increase](#) in vehicle miles traveled per capita (1990-2017)
- A [21% increase](#) in population (1990-2019)

While global energy-related CO<sub>2</sub> emissions flattened in 2019, the [U.S. recorded the largest CO<sub>2</sub> emissions reductions – a decline of 2.9%](#). These reductions are forecast in large part due to U.S. usage of natural gas and its replacement of higher-emitting fuels.

With the recent emission reductions, Alabama policymakers, regulators and leaders must come together in support of access to Eastern Gulf of Mexico energy resources that will keep the state thriving, and ensure that hard-working families, seniors, households and small businesses can continue to enjoy the economic and environmental benefits of reliable and affordable American energy, produced under the world's gold-standard for environmental regulation.