

LOUISIANA

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 Louisiana.

Louisiana is one of the nation's [largest crude oil and natural gas producing states](#). More than [88% of the state's energy needs are met by oil and natural gas](#). Currently, [one out of three Louisiana households relies on natural gas for home heating](#). Even though Louisiana's [total and per capita energy consumption is among the top three states in the nation](#), emissions of key air pollutants and greenhouse gases have declined significantly across the state.

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

- 71% reduction in sulfur dioxide (SO₂)
- 66% reduction in nitrogen oxides (NO_x)
- 53% reduction in ammonia (NH₃)
- 49% reduction in carbon monoxide (CO)
- 37% reduction in coarse particulate matter (PM₁₀)
- 17% reduction in volatile organic compounds (VOCs)
 - 17% reduction in fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5})

Louisiana's [energy-related carbon dioxide \(CO₂\) emissions fell more than 6%](#) from 2000-2017, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

These are remarkable reductions in light of Louisiana's strong economic and population growth – two factors which are usually accompanied by rising emissions because of increased activity. The state saw:

- A [177% increase](#) in gross domestic product (1990-2019)
- A [17% increase](#) in vehicle miles traveled per capita (1990-2017)
- A [10% increase](#) in population (1990-2019)

While global energy-related CO₂ emissions flattened in 2019, the [U.S. recorded the largest CO₂ emissions reductions – a decline of 2.9%](#). This is due in large part due to U.S. natural gas use in place of higher-emitting fuels.

With the recent emission reductions, Louisiana 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.