

# TEXAS

## 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 access to the Gulf energy resources offers one of the fastest routes to [nearly 2 million jobs and more than \\$300 billion in GDP](#) for Texas.

Texas leads the nation in both petroleum and natural gas production and consumption, and the [production of wind energy](#). The state is responsible for [40% of U.S. crude oil production and a quarter of U.S. natural gas production](#). More than [86% of the state's energy needs are met by oil and natural gas](#). Texas uses more natural gas for electricity generation than any other state, and more than [a third of Texas homes rely on natural gas as a primary heating fuel](#). Wind is growing rapidly as source of electricity for Texas, accounting for almost [16% of power generation](#) in 2018, according to the latest available U.S. government data.

The state's substantial interstate natural gas pipeline system is well connected to national markets, and international markets via LNG exports.

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

- 74% reduction in sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>)
- 66% reduction in carbon monoxide (CO)
- 63% reduction in coarse particulate matter (PM10)
- 54% reduction in fine particulate matter (PM2.5)
  - 53% reduction in nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>)
    - 7% reduction in ammonia (NH<sub>3</sub>)
    - 5% reduction in volatile organic compounds (VOCs)

Texas' [energy-related carbon dioxide \(CO<sub>2</sub>\) emissions fell more than 1.6%](#) from 2002-2017, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

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

- A [398% increase](#) in gross domestic product (1990-2019)
- A [5% increase](#) in vehicle miles traveled per capita (1990-2017)
- A [70% 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 of any country – a decline of 2.9%](#). This is due in large part due to U.S. natural gas use in place of higher-emitting fuels, and stringent environmental regulations.

With the recent emission reductions, and even as the energy industry works to overcome an economic downturn, Texas policymakers, regulators and leaders must come together in support of long-term policies that allow for environmentally responsible access to energy resources that will keep the state thriving. This will ensure that hard-working families, seniors, households and small businesses can for years to come continue to enjoy the economic and environmental benefits of reliable and affordable American energy, produced under the world's gold standard for environmental regulation.