



Colorado Lags in Emission Reductions

CC4CA Fact Sheet, February 2018

The latest government data show that in Colorado we have reduced carbon dioxide emissions from fossil fuel use by less than half as much as the nation has. In Colorado, these emissions were 5 percent lower in 2015 than in 2005, while nationwide they were 11 percent lower. These emissions are the largest contribution to climate change; in Colorado, they are about 74 percent of all statewide heat-trapping emissions.

With respect to this largest share of statewide emissions, Colorado is not yet on track to meet the state's official goal of reducing overall emissions by more than 26 percent by 2025, compared to 2005.

Colorado and U.S. total carbon dioxide emissions Comparisons to 2005 levels

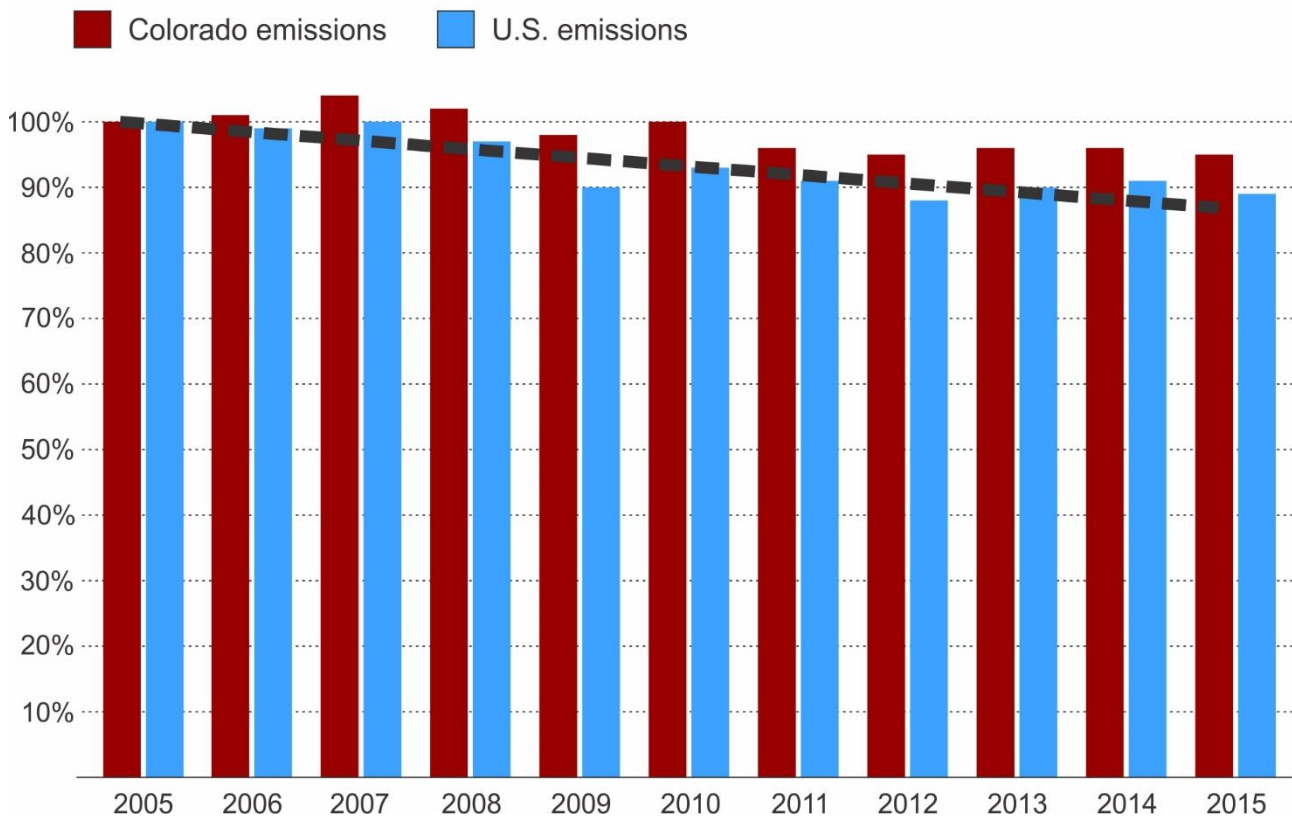


Figure 1. Total carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions from fossil fuel use in Colorado and the United States, showing percentages compared to 2005 levels. The dashed line is a straight-line approach for a proportionate reduction in these Colorado reductions to contribute to meeting the state government's goal of reducing all statewide greenhouse gas emissions by more than 26 percent by 2025, compared to 2005 levels. Through 2015, Colorado's CO₂ emissions (about 74 percent of all statewide emissions) have been reduced 5 percent, compared to 2005, versus 10 percent for national emissions. For these emissions, Colorado is not yet on a path for a proportionate reduction for the 2025 goal. Data from [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\)](#).

Similarly, carbon dioxide emissions from electricity generated within Colorado have been reduced only half as much as the national reduction. In Colorado in 2015, those emissions were 10 percent lower than in 2005, while nationwide they were 20 percent lower.

Colorado and U.S. carbon dioxide emissions from electric sector Comparisons to 2005 levels

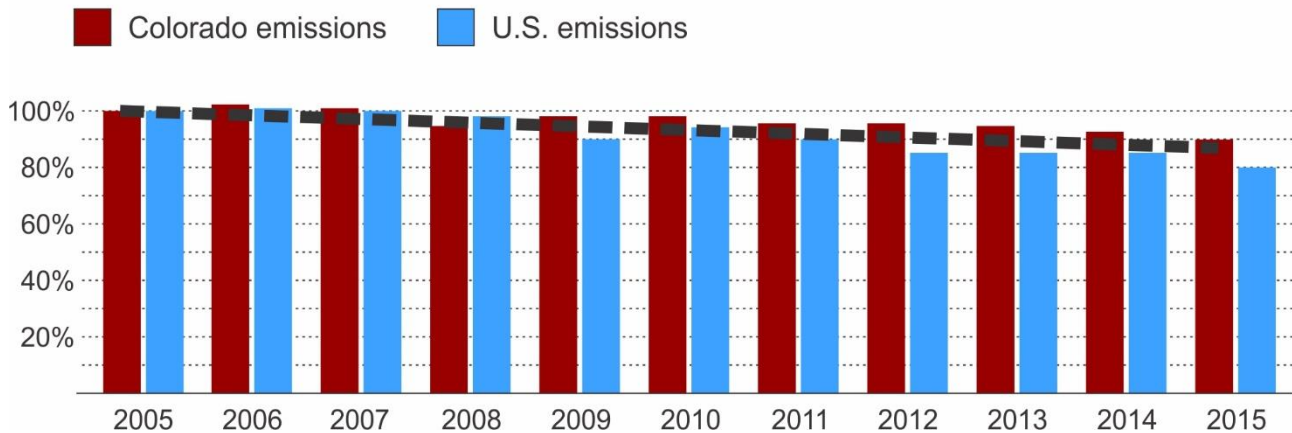


Figure 2. CO₂ emissions from electricity generated in Colorado and the United States, in percentages compared to 2005 levels. In Colorado, these emissions in 2005 were 43 percent of all CO₂ emissions from fossil fuel use (and this figure is scaled accordingly). The dashed line represents a straight-line approach for a proportionate reduction in these Colorado emissions to contribute to meeting the state’s 2025 goal for reducing overall emissions. Through 2015, Colorado’s CO₂ emissions from electricity generation were 10 percent lower than in 2005, versus 20 percent lower for such emissions nationwide. For these emissions, Colorado is approximately on a path for a proportionate reduction for the 2025 goal. Data from [EPA](#).

As shown below, for carbon dioxide emission from the industrial sector, Colorado’s emissions have increased by 10 percent while national emissions have declined by 5 percent. For the residential sector, Colorado’s emissions have been reduced by 1 percent, compared to a 12 percent reduction in national emissions. Colorado leads the nation only for transportation emissions, and just by 1 percent.

Colorado and U.S. carbon dioxide emissions by sector Comparisons to 2005 levels

		2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Total	CO	1%	4%	2%	-2%	0%	-4%	-5%	-4%	-4%	-5%
	US	-1%	0%	-3%	-10%	-7%	-9%	-12%	-10%	-9%	-11%
Electricity	CO	2%	6%	1%	-5%	-2%	-4%	-4%	-5%	-7%	-10%
	US	-2%	1%	-2%	-10%	-6%	-10%	-15%	-15%	-15%	-20%
Transportation	CO	3%	5%	0%	-3%	-2%	-5%	-6%	-7%	-4%	-7%
	US	1%	2%	-4%	-8%	-7%	-8%	-10%	-9%	-8%	-6%
Industrial	CO	-2%	0%	4%	3%	9%	-1%	0%	1%	6%	10%
	US	0%	-1%	-5%	-15%	-9%	-8%	-6%	-4%	-4%	-5%
Residential	CO	-6%	3%	6%	1%	3%	3%	-7%	8%	6%	-1%
	US	-11%	-6%	-2%	-7%	-8%	-11%	-21%	-9%	-5%	-12%
Commercial	CO	-7%	-7%	12%	15%	4%	-3%	-18%	-10%	-9%	-2%
	US	-9%	-4%	-1%	-2%	-3%	-2%	-11%	-2%	3%	6%

Table 1. CO₂ emissions from fossil fuel use by sector, in percentages compared to 2005 levels. Data from [EPA](#).

The EPA data cited here covers five more recent years than the 2010 data that is in Colorado’s latest [greenhouse gas emission inventory](#).