

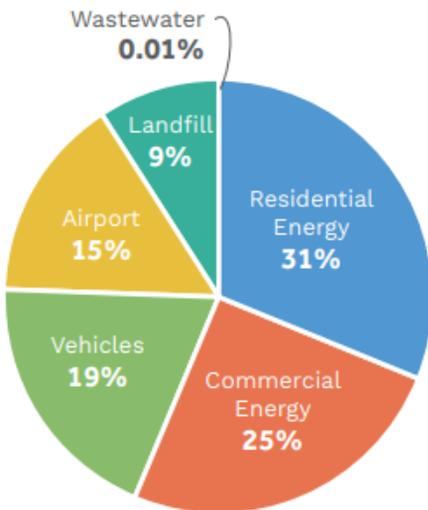
Tracking Aspen's Climate Impact:

Trends in communitywide greenhouse gas emissions

Aspen conducts a comprehensive inventory of its communitywide greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions on an annual basis. This emissions inventory provides valuable insights into the largest sources of emissions, to help us understand where to focus our efforts on reducing emissions. The inventory follows standard, accepted protocols to estimate emissions from all major sources, including from local transportation, buildings, and solid waste disposal.

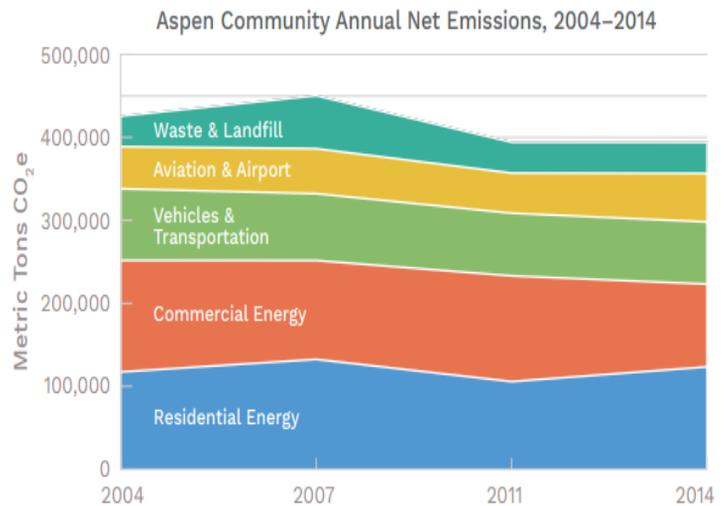
Where We Are

Here is a snapshot of where the Aspen community's 2014 GHG emissions came from:



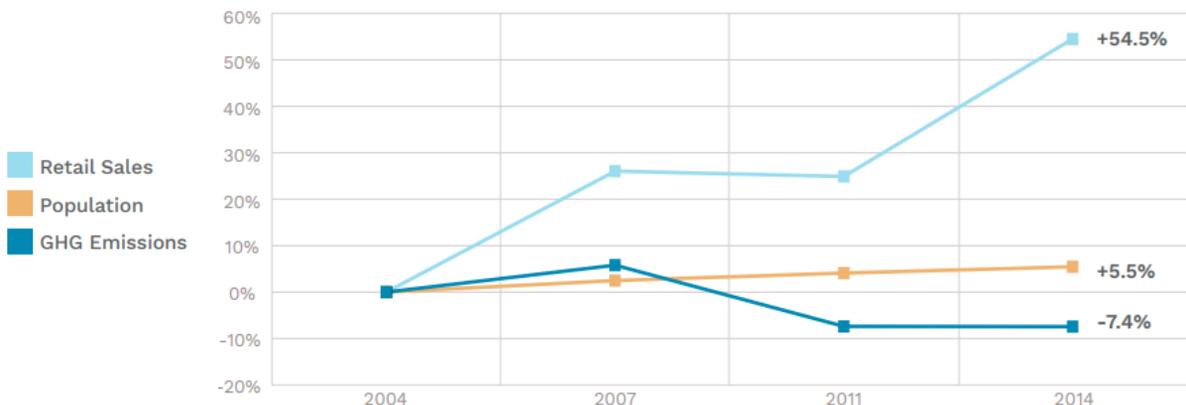
Where We've Been

Since 2004, total community wide emissions have declined 7.4%, but to meet Aspen's climate targets, this rate must accelerate dramatically.



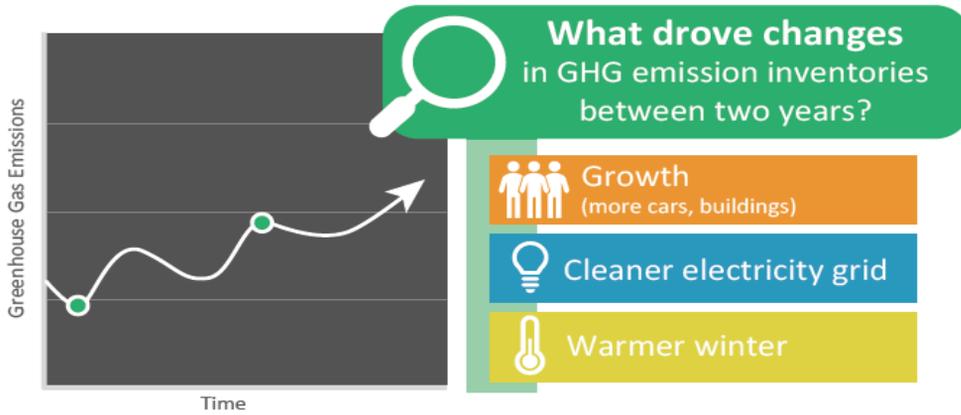
Accounting for Population and Economic Growth

Despite increases in population and economic growth from 2004-2014, Aspen's community emissions declined in the past decade, indicating that climate actions can complement a thriving and dynamic Aspen.

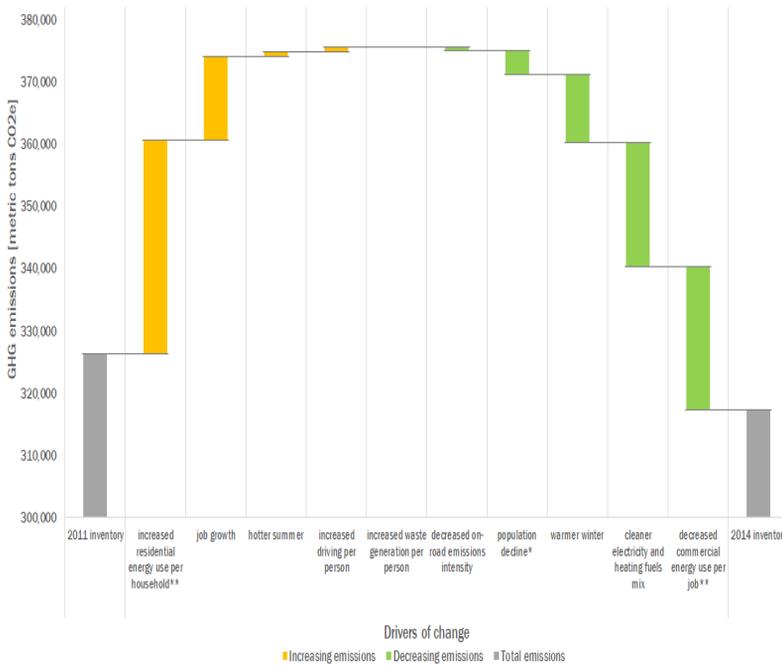


What's Driving the Trends?

Many local governments calculate communitywide greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) inventories on a recurring basis to track progress and guide action toward meeting emission reduction goals. One challenge in using past inventory trends to inform future action is an inability to fully understand the underlying factors that drove observed trends. For example, if a city sees a decline in emissions, to what extent did external factors such as population growth and weather play a role, as opposed to local programs or policies such as home energy retrofit subsidies or building codes?



The City of Aspen conducted an analysis of its past community greenhouse gas emission trends to better understand considerations and priorities for future climate action. The graphic below summarizes the resulting drivers of change in the city's emissions from 2011 to 2014. While Aspen experienced increased residential energy usage per household and job growth, overall emissions reductions were achieved through decreased commercial energy usage per job, a cleaner electrical grid, and a warmer winter.



Largest contributors to emissions INCREASES:

- Increased residential energy use per household
- Economic growth

Largest contributors to emissions DECREASES:

- Decreased commercial energy usage per job
- Cleaner electricity grid
- Warmer winter

This work was funded by the U.S. Department of Energy, Cities Leading through Energy Analysis and Planning (C-LEAP) program.

For more information on the contribution analysis methodology or Aspen's climate action work, contact Chris Menges at Chris.Menges@cityofaspen.com.