

Energy and GHG reduction goals  
GPCOG and CA-CP proposal  
DRAFT

**We propose a reduction goal of 10% below 1990 levels by 2017, which is equivalent to 17% below 2007 levels by 2017 (17 x '17).**

The recently conducted GPCOG regional energy and greenhouse gas inventory sets a baseline for the year 2007. According to the chart below, the State of Maine emitted approximately 7% more greenhouse gases (GHGs) in 2007 than in 1990 in the energy, industrial and waste sectors combined. We are hypothesizing that this is roughly the equivalent for the region. This means that, in order to achieve a reduction of 10% below 1990 levels, we must set a goal of 17% below 2007 levels.

**Maine GHG emission, 1990 – 2008 (million metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e)\***

	1990	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Energy	19.77	24.13	23.91	23.55	20.61	20.64	19.47
Industrial Processes	0.36	0.84	0.88	0.96	0.94	0.94	0.97
Waste	0.65	0.83	0.78	0.83	0.68	0.68	0.63
Gross emissions	20.78	25.8	25.57	25.34	22.23	22.26	21.07

*\*this does not include land use because land use is not included in the GPCOG regional inventory*

- The State of Maine has set a goal of reducing GHG emissions 10% below 1990 by 2020. 17% below 2007 by 2017 is in line with these goals, but slightly more ambitious. This will demonstrate the Region's leadership.
- The proposal sets a realistic time frame. It allows time for implementation after the completion of the plan (scheduled for the end of 2012), but the target year is not so distant as to delay necessary action.
- In 2007, the region emitted 4.2 million metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent and used 59 trillion BTUs of energy. A 17% reduction would mean:
  - Reducing energy by 10.3 trillion BTUs
  - Reducing CO<sub>2</sub>e by 714,000 tons (the equivalent of taking 124,000 passenger vehicles off the road for one year, or the total annual electricity use of 79,000 homes).
- This is an ambitious goal, but...
  - It is in line with the science - scientists believe that we need to remain at or below 350 ppm of CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations in the atmosphere. We are currently at 391 (<http://co2now.org/>).
  - It ultimately saves the region money, which can be reinvested in the local economy. Energy cost the region \$1.2 billion in 2007. If the region had used 17% less energy in 2007, it could have saved \$204 million.