

FACT SHEET



ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP & SUSTAINABILITY

HELPING TO REDUCE GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS

Global Climate Change is one of the most complex environmental, economic and political issues confronting world leaders today. Though debates concerning the causes of climate change continue, two concepts have gained broad acceptance: (1) climate change or global warming is occurring around the globe and, if we don't act, it may pose risks to the environment, the economy and future human populations; and (2) human activities produce greenhouse gases.

We recognize the benefits of reducing greenhouse gases (GHG) emissions worldwide, and we are taking steps to lessen our carbon footprint by focusing on energy efficiency and other emission reduction measures for our operations and our customers. We also recognize the need to implement adaptation strategies in order to address climate change impacts such as sea level rise and more frequent intense storms that could be damaging to our infrastructure.

OUR STRATEGIES FOR REDUCING GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

We are committed to making sure we follow established best practices to reduce greenhouse gases and proactively develop new approaches that protect the environment. Examples of our efforts include:

- Working directly with national policymakers to find solutions to climate change; balancing the need to protect the environment with the desire to minimize the economic impacts on families and businesses
- Continuing to research and use new technologies that are supported by regulatory agencies within our service footprint
- Providing cost-effective, customer-focused energy management technologies such as energy conservation design and retrofit services to commercial and government customers
- Building a more resilient and robust electric power distribution and transmission system, that will accommodate the rapidly changing power industry



- Increasing access to wind and other renewable and less carbon-intensive generation energy resources
- Focusing on lowering carbon dioxide levels through reforestation, vegetation management and green infrastructure

THE BASICS OF GREENHOUSE GASES

All four primary GHGs – carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), nitrous oxide (N₂O) and fluorinated gases – are emitted by both natural and manmade sources, with the exception of fluorinated gases which come only from human-related activities.

The electric industry accounts for more carbon dioxide emissions than any other sector, including the transportation and industrial sectors. U.S. power plants are responsible for nearly 35 percent of U.S. carbon dioxide emissions (U.S. EPA, 2010) and 26 percent of global carbon dioxide emissions (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, 2007).

OUR STRATEGIES FOR ADAPTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Severe weather is the number one cause of power outages in the United States and costs the economy billions of dollars per year. The number of outages caused by severe weather is expected to rise as climate change increases the frequency and intensity of hurricanes, blizzards, floods and other extreme weather events.

As a result of our customers' increased reliance on the electric service and the impact of changing weather patterns due to climate change, we are focused on improving reliability and resiliency, creating a smarter grid and being better prepared for emergencies.

Some examples of our climate change adaption strategies include:

- Improving grid equipment and operations to manage changing load conditions and increase reliability and resilience
- Increasing resilience of energy infrastructure to storms, floods, and sea level rise, including "hardening" of existing facilities and structures (e.g., transmission and distribution lines)
- Proposing to underground major feeder lines that are most outage-prone during storms
- Building on our existing communication and education programs to improve dissemination of information regarding risks, vulnerabilities and opportunities to build climate-resilient energy systems



- Teaming with federal, state and local governments and other key stakeholders to help deploy the most appropriate adaptation approaches regionally and nationally
- Improving our own Emergency Preparedness for major storm events

References:

Office of the President, (2013). Economic benefits of increasing electric grid resilience to weather outages. Retrieved from website: http://energy.gov/sites/prod/files/2013/08/f2/Grid_Resiliency_Report_FINAL.pdf