



City of Phoenix GHG: 2012 GHG Inventory of Municipal Operations and Update to Climate Action Plan

THE PROBLEM A 2005 report projected that emissions from the city of Phoenix would increase by 14% if the city did not take appropriate action. As a result, the Phoenix City Council adopted a mandate in December 2008 to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from city operations to 5% below the 2005 level by 2015.

THE CLIENT The city of Phoenix

THE SERVICE Greenhouse gas inventory and assessment

THE SOLUTION Study findings indicated that by 2012 the city of Phoenix had already reduced municipal emissions by 7.2%, well ahead of its 2015 goal. As part of the study, the Sustainability Solutions Services proposed five measures to further lower emissions:

- Ensure technology, program and policy effectiveness by conducting annual updates of the emissions inventory
- Establish public trust and accountability by creating an online greenhouse gas emissions dashboard
- Encourage broader impact by collaborating with fellow regional municipalities on a regional greenhouse gas emissions inventory
- Identify potential climate change threats by conducting a risk and vulnerability assessment
- Incentivize further emissions reduction by establishing new climate reduction targets that would establish the city of Phoenix as a global leader

THE OUTLOOK Based on this assessment and with the five recommendations provided by the ASU Sustainability Solutions Services, Phoenix will be on track to further reduce emissions by an estimated 27,639 metric tons of CO₂ by 2015. The city of Phoenix has since adjusted their goal to 15% below the 2005 level by 2015. The city is also looking to make a larger impact on regional emissions reductions by advocating for a regional inventory, not simply a municipal inventory.

“We must make an even greater impact...not just for ourselves. Our future – the future of our children and grandchildren – depends on the conscious actions that we take today. This report details work to reduce emissions associated with city operations. Now we have to expand our vision and involve all of the community and region. Together, we can implement measures that reduce our greenhouse gas impact and create the sustainable Phoenix we all desire.”

Mayor Greg Stanton, City of Phoenix