

## Chapter 168: Statewide Greenhouse Gas Emissions Regulation

Summary: This rule requires a reduction from 1990 levels of gross emissions of greenhouse gases from all sources in the State and all sectors of the State economy of 45 percent by the year 2030 and 80 percent by the year 2050 in accordance with 38 M.R.S. § 576-A.

### 1. Definitions. For the purposes of this Chapter, the following definitions apply:

- A. Anthropogenic.** “Anthropogenic” means resulting from human activity.
- B. CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent emissions (CO<sub>2</sub>e).** “CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent emissions” or “carbon dioxide equivalent emissions” means the amount of GHGs emitted in terms of carbon dioxide equivalents. Each type of GHG traps heat in the atmosphere differently, with some being far more potent than others. Emissions from GHGs other than carbon dioxide are converted to carbon dioxide equivalent emissions following methods outlined in Chapter 167, Tracking and Reporting Gross and Net Annual Greenhouse Gas Emissions.
- C. Greenhouse gas (GHG).** “Greenhouse gas” or “GHG” means any gas that is emitted into the air and that the Department of Environmental Protection determines by rule may reasonably be anticipated to cause or contribute to climate change. Greenhouse gas includes, but is not limited to, carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, hydrofluorocarbons, nitrogen trifluoride, perfluorocarbons, and sulfur hexafluoride.
- D. Metric ton.** “Metric ton” means a metric unit of mass equivalent to 1,000 kilograms. A metric ton is not the same as a short ton.
- E. Gross greenhouse gas emissions.** “Gross greenhouse gas emissions” means the sum of all anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions released to the atmosphere by all sources within the State each year, regardless of how much carbon is sequestered in the environment.

### 2. Statewide Greenhouse Gas Emission Limits

- A.** For the purposes of this Chapter, the statewide level of greenhouse gas emissions in 1990 is 32.02 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MMTCO<sub>2</sub>e).
- B.** For the purposes of this Chapter, the table below establishes statewide greenhouse gas emission reductions that must be met by the year specified, based on reductions from 1990 statewide gross greenhouse gas emissions of 45 percent for 2030 and 80 percent for 2050, measured in MMTCO<sub>2</sub>e.

Year	Statewide greenhouse gas emission reductions (MMTCO <sub>2</sub> e)
2030	14.41
2050	25.62

- C. Any decrease in statewide GHG emissions the Department may require in order to meet the reductions stated in subsection B above will satisfy the criteria in 38 M.R.S. § 576-A(4)(A)-(C).

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 38 M.R.S. § 576-A

EFFECTIVE DATE: