

## FACT SHEET

# EMISSIONS IN NSW



Muswellbrook Clean Air Project (credit: Johny Spencer/OEH)

The NSW Government has released a *NSW Climate Change Policy Framework*, which includes an aspirational objective to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050.

This fact sheet outlines recent trends in greenhouse gas emissions in New South Wales.

## RECENT GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IN NEW SOUTH WALES

In 2014, the most recent year for which emissions data is available, NSW greenhouse gas emissions were 130.1 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent. This was a decline from 159.6 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent in 1990, a saving of about 20%.

New South Wales is responsible for almost a quarter of Australia's emissions. In 2014, New South Wales per capita emissions were 17.4 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent. This is lower than the national average of 21.7 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent.

Figure 1 shows NSW greenhouse gas emissions by sector from 1990 to 2014. The biggest source of greenhouse gas emissions in New South Wales is the stationary energy sector, which is responsible for almost 40% of emissions. Stationary energy emissions have declined since 2009 due to reduced electricity consumption and increased energy efficiency.

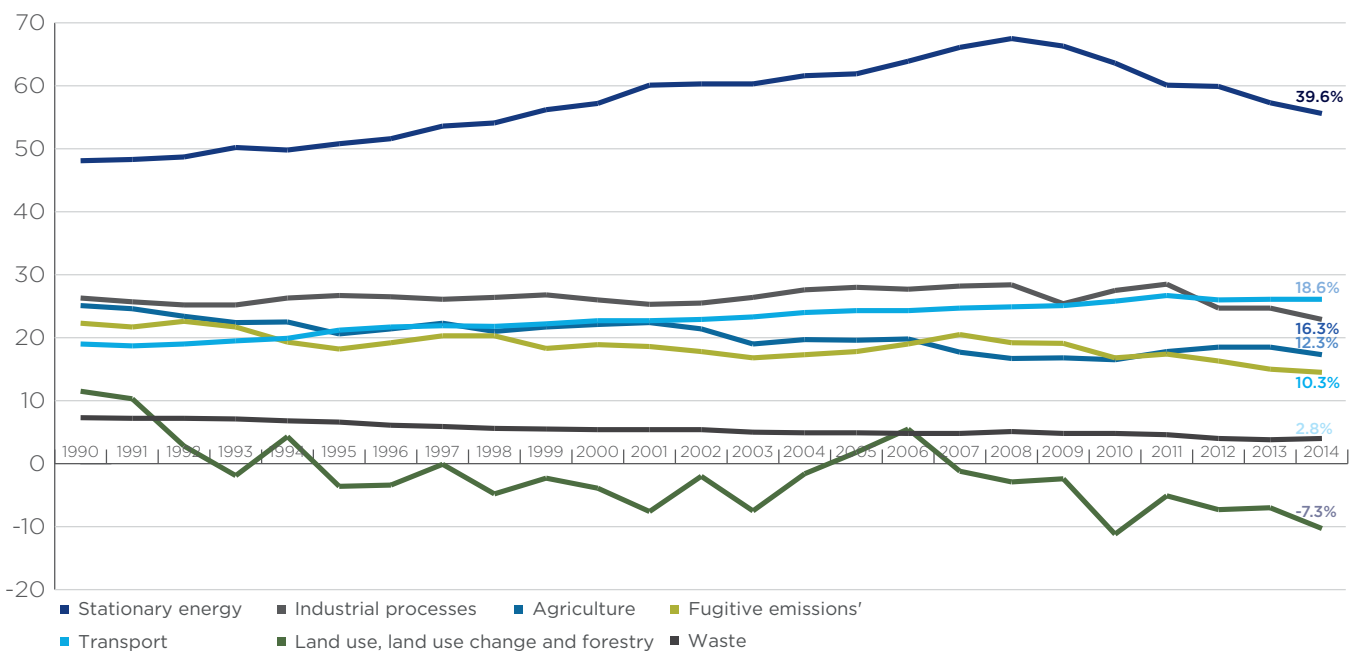
The second biggest source of emissions is from transport. Transport emissions have grown since 1990 due to an overall increase in travel. Emissions in all other sectors have declined since 1990.

The *Draft Climate Change Fund Strategic Plan* and *A Draft Plan to Save NSW Energy and Money* include a range of potential actions to reduce emissions in New South Wales and support the achievement of interim and long-term Commonwealth Government objectives. This includes the identification of cost-effective pathways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in New South Wales to achieve the NSW Government’s aspirational objective to reach net-zero emissions by 2050.

## PATHWAYS TO NET-ZERO EMISSIONS

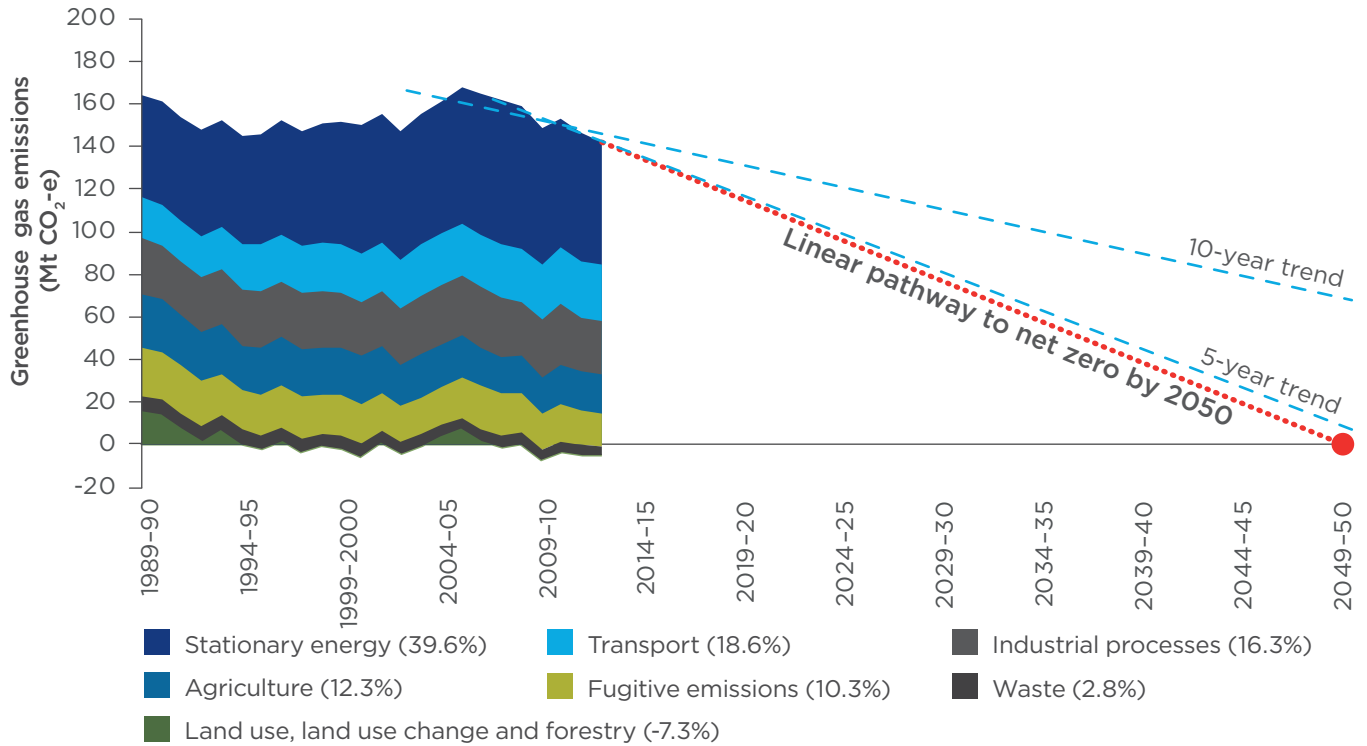
Our emissions have been declining over the past decade. Between 2005 and 2014, greenhouse gas emissions in New South Wales declined on average 1% per year. The decline was faster between 2009 and 2014, at an average of 2.5%. Although NSW’s recent emissions trends put us on the pathway to coming close to net-zero emissions by 2050 (see Figure 2), action will be needed to keep this momentum.

Figure 1: Trends in greenhouse gas emissions in New South Wales by sector to 2013-14



Source: Australian Greenhouse Emissions Information System

Figure 2: Pathways to net-zero emissions



Source: NSW Government analysis of trends in data from Australian Greenhouse Emissions Information System

**Published by:**

Office of Environment and Heritage  
59 Goulburn Street, Sydney South NSW 2000

**Phone:** 131 555 (environment information and publications requests) [or use 1300 361 967 (national parks, general environmental enquiries, and publications requests)]

**TTY:** +61 2 9211 4723

**Email:** [info@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:info@environment.nsw.gov.au);

**Website:** [www.environment.nsw.gov.au](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au)

**Report pollution and environmental incidents:**

Environment Line: 131 555 (NSW only)

ISBN 978 1 76039 523 0; OEH 2016/0612; November 2016

Printed on environmentally sustainable paper