



**Green
Mountain
Energy®**

Electricity Production

The generation of electricity is the leading cause of industrial air pollution in the United States. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the electric industry is responsible for: **22 percent of nitrogen oxide (NO_x) emissions; 63 percent of sulfur dioxide (SO₂) emissions; 39 percent of carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions; and 33 percent of mercury emissions.**

There are several environmental concerns associated with the emission of these pollutants:

NO_x—Excessive levels of NO_x deposited into bodies of water harm sensitive ecosystems. NO_x is also responsible for the formation of ground level ozone or smog, causing respiratory harm to humans, crop damage and reduced visibility.

NO_x and SO₂—Combined, these two emissions produce fine, airborne particulates that cause lung and heart disease in humans. Additionally, their deposition causes acidification of the ground and water, impacting forest and water habitats.

CO₂—A primary greenhouse gas which causes global warming and climate change, resulting in extreme weather and detrimental impacts to natural ecosystems.

Mercury—Emitted particulate mercury is deposited into the ground and water. It is then absorbed by plants and animals which may eventually be consumed by humans, causing severe illness or even death.

Since 1999, Green Mountain Energy electricity customers have collectively helped avoid over 4.9 million tons of CO₂ and have been responsible for helping to deliver more than 6 billion kilowatt-hours of renewable energy into the market.

- **That is equivalent to preventing as much CO₂ as:**
 - **not driving over 10.8 billion miles annually; or**
 - **taking 870,000 cars off the road for an entire year; or**
 - **planting nearly 385 million trees.**

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