

## GREENHOUSE GAS STUDY 2009

### Fact Sheet

As part of its ongoing commitment to sustainability and environmental leadership, the Postal Service voluntarily conducted an inventory of its greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The study establishes the baseline for future, annual evaluations to help determine if the Postal Service is meeting its stated GHG reduction goals.

- The Postal Service measured emissions from its facility and vehicle operations, and from contracted transportation, including air, highway, rail and ship.
- Emissions from the Postal Service's direct operations totaled 5.3 million metric tons of carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide, or 1 twentieth of 1 percent of the total GHG emissions in America.
- According to the Environmental Protection Agency, this is roughly the equivalent of 1 million gasoline cars driving an average of 12,000 miles.
- Contracted transportation represents 52 percent of the Postal Service carbon emissions. Emissions from facilities represent 36 percent. Given that the Postal Service has 44,000 alternative-fuel capable vehicles delivering mail across the country, only 12 percent of the carbon footprint is attributed to vehicles.
- The California Climate Action Registry (CCAR), a leader in GHG emissions reporting, published the study, which was independently certified by Det Norske Veritas (DNV) using internationally-recognized, world-class standards.
- The Postal Service has a goal to reduce energy use 30 percent by 2015, petroleum use 20 percent by 2015 and GHG emissions 20 percent by 2020.
- The Postal Service's GHG study is one of many important sustainability initiatives and environmental achievements announced in 2009, including:
  - Saving \$3 million, and nearly 100 million kilowatts, in an agency-wide energy reduction initiative
  - Avoiding \$1.05 million in costs via green information technology initiatives
  - Helping customers divert 24,000 tons of paper from landfills with a recycling initiative in 6,000 Post Office Box Lobbies around the country
  - Increasing alternative fuel use 61 percent since 2005 by testing electric, hydrogen fuel cell, propane and natural gas delivery vehicles
  - Retiring 10,000 non-energy efficient vehicles from its fleet
- The Postal Service is the only mailing and shipping company in the United States that is Cradle to Cradle-certified™, providing to customers a half billion recyclable Express Mail, Priority Mail, and ReadyPost™ shipping supplies each year.