

# Energy Efficiency

Improved energy efficiency is the true “low hanging fruit” in fighting climate change. In California, transportation is by far the largest emitter of greenhouse gases (Figure 3). Simply, if we increase our vehicle energy efficiency by two, we will halve our emissions. Improving gas mileage in your car from 20 mpg to 40 mpg, which is technologically reasonable right now, would decrease emissions significantly.

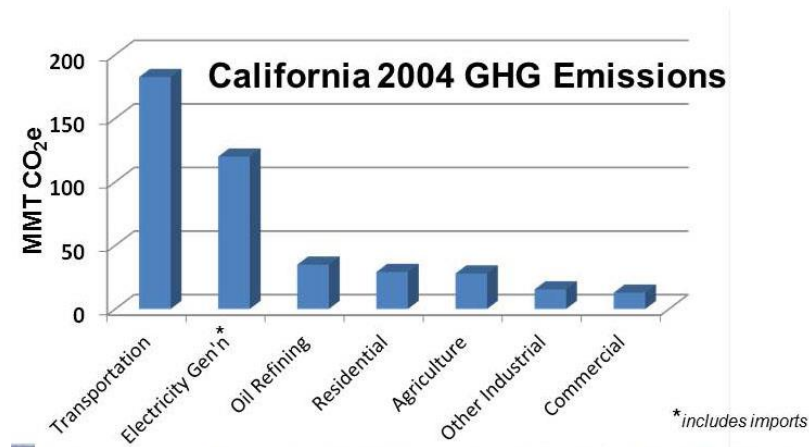


Figure 1 Greenhouse gas emissions for California in 2004. Data from Climate and Economic Development Project of Southern California at <http://cedp.scag.ca.gov/ewebeditpro/items/O84F23814.pdf>.

Improved energy efficiency should extend beyond transportation to buildings, which would reduce requirements for electricity. Improvements in infrastructure such as planning communities to be more compact and centered on public transportation will take time, but should start now.

Improved technology for transmission of electricity, such as the Unified National Smart Grid will make delivery of energy itself, more energy efficient.

To advance we need strong and enforceable energy efficiency standards, which are applied equitably across all energy users.