



Albion College
Albion, Michigan
GHG Inventory

SCHOOL

Albion College, private 4-year college with approximately 1950 students. Located in Albion, Michigan.

ABSTRACT

The goal of this project was to compile information from different areas of the campus in accordance to the standards set by the Clean Air-Cool Planet Greenhouse Gas Inventory. In June 2008, data was tracked down through yearly budgets, demographic records, travel records, electricity and heating bills and a campus-wide online transportation survey. This data was entered through a series of data tables, eventually resulting in a series of charts showing aspects of our campus' greenhouse gas consumption. Currently, continuation of the inventory is being postponed until next fall (2009), when three freshmen interns will be responsible with tracking down the information and making this information accessible for other projects that will be developing on campus. The costs for the original project included a fellowship stipend. However, since the preliminary data included historical data and a source list is now compiled, the 2009 update should not take as many hours. The measurements from this inventory will provide a baseline for future greenhouse gas reduction efforts.

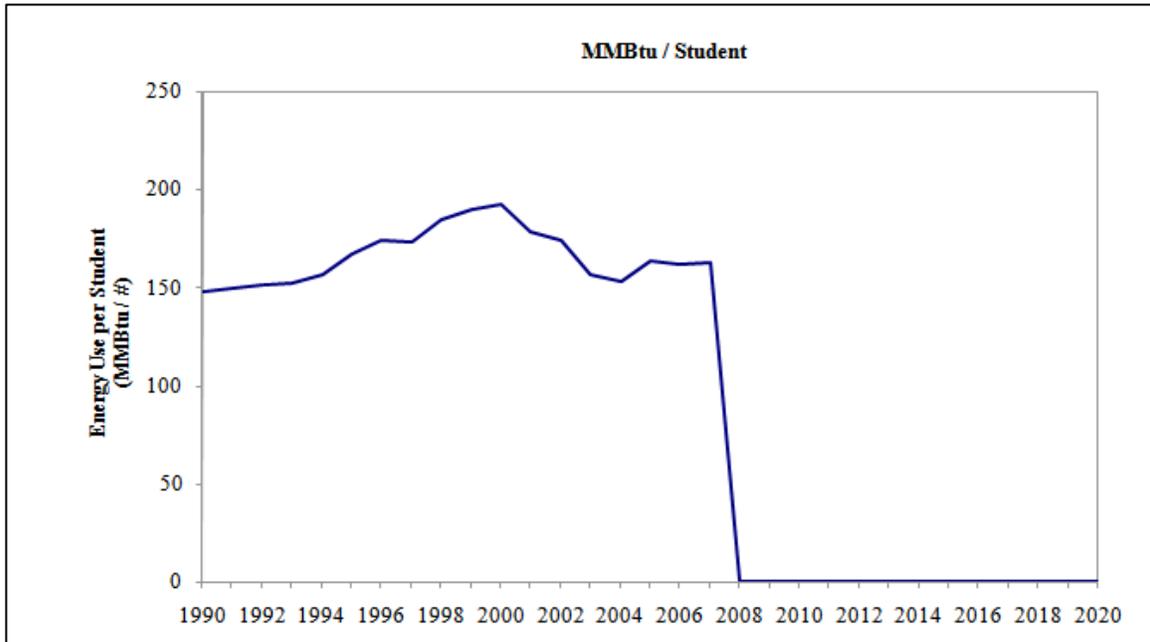
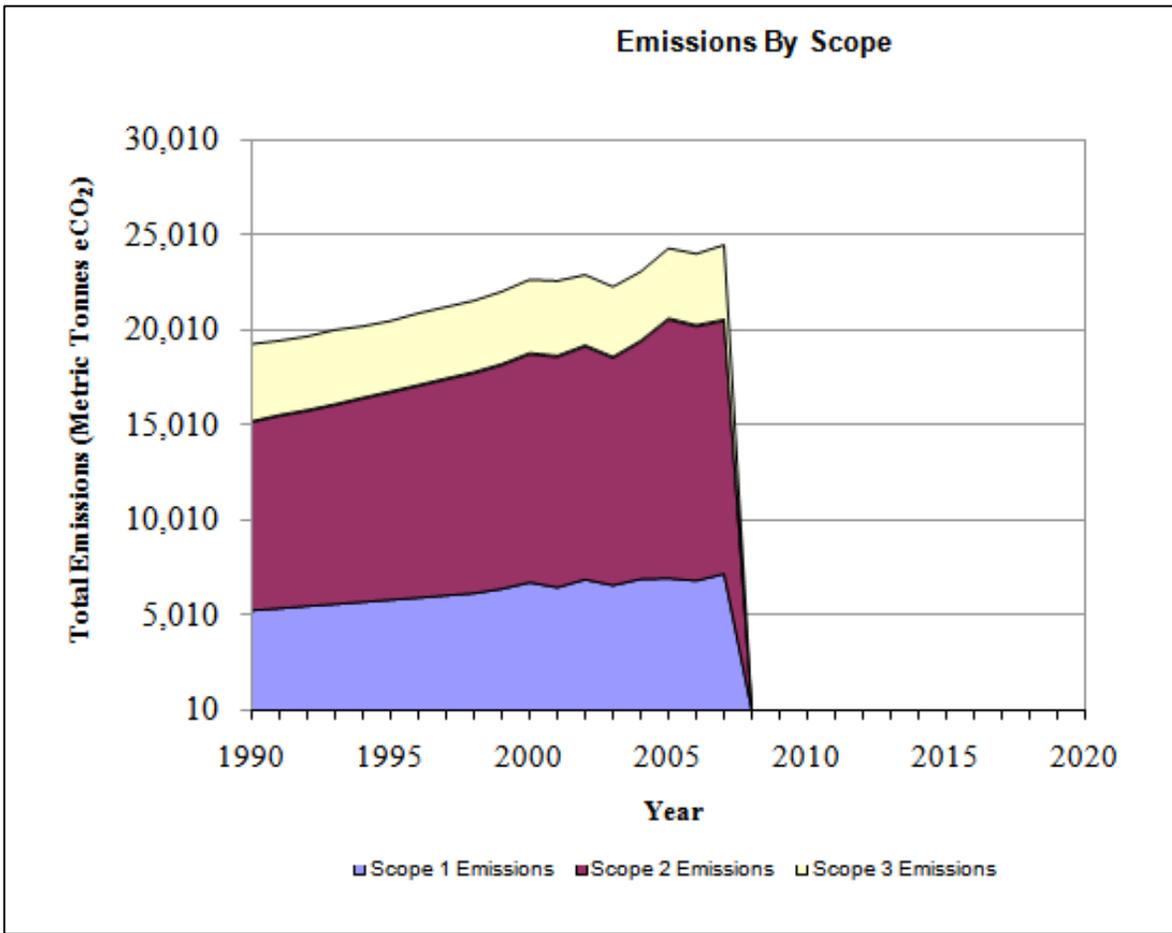
GOALS AND OUTCOMES

Goals

The goal was to collect as much data as available in historical and current records dating back to 1990 in order to comply with the Clean Air- Cool Planet (CA-CP) greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory. This inventory will be used in calculating greenhouse gas reduction efforts and annual greenhouse gas consumption on our campus in the upcoming years as we strive for carbon neutrality in accordance to the American Colleges and Universities Presidents' Climate Commitment (ACUPCC).

Accomplishments and Outcomes

The overall goal of creating the baseline GHG inventory for the college was accomplished. It was not possible to collect all data dating back to 1990, which is what the CA-CP inventory aspires to achieve. However, there was success in tracking down most data back to 2003 (natural gas and electricity billing, fertilizer use) and some all the way back to 1990 (budgets/research dollars, student/faculty populations, parking permits). Some categories were not quantified, nor saved more than 2-3 years (air travel and gas/diesel use), so individual records were reviewed and measured them in that way. Other categories were not measurable at all since there were no direct measurements kept on file (student/staff/faculty commuting). Therefore, surveys were used to estimate rates. There were a few historical energy uses that were not able to be measured nor estimated accurately and therefore, they were not included in the inventory (e.g. co-generation system used in the mid 90s). A full report of the inventory can be viewed at <http://acupcc.aashe.org/ghg-report.php?id=288>. Below are a view highlighted areas of the inventory. The table also includes a section that project ideas can be projected to show increases or decreases in GHG consumption. This feature has already been used by an environmental economics class to write up economic analyses about project ideas.



One of the biggest challenges was tracking down the files and their sources. A lot of creativity and diligence had to be used in locating the data sources. Issues that contributed to the difficulties were a lack of understanding by staff members and interest in helping to locating the files. In response to these challenges, communication was maintained with different departments who were associated with the data files. When presenting the project, the reasoning behind the project was presented. Those strategies resulted in obtaining data more easily.

Commentary

It really helped to have the American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment (ACUPCC) as a framework to accomplish this project. With the deadlines and specifications of the ACUPCC, it provided a campus-wide commitment to the success and accuracy of the information.

ENGAGEMENT AND SUPPORT

Leaders and Supporters

This fellowship project, coordinated by Erica Tauzer, was part of a student research project funded by Albion's Foundation for Undergraduate Research, Scholarship and Creative Activity (FURSCA). Erica's mentor was Dr. Tim Lincoln, the Director of the Institute for the Study of the Environment. It was also supported by the Executive Vice President of the College Dr. Troy VanAken. Other key individuals that helped locate the data include Ms. Lori Duff of Student Affairs, Mr. Mark Frever of Grounds, Mr. Ken Kolmodin of Facilities, Ms. Kim Butters of Accounting and Mr. Tom Pitt of Accounting. Dr. Jahn Hakes of the Economics Department taught an environmental economics class that used this inventory to calculate GHG outputs of potential sustainability projects on campus. Future student interns will work with the Institute for the Study of the Environment to do follow up reports.

Funding and Resources

The cost of project included the four week, 40 hours a week, FURSCA weekly stipend of \$330 and the time spent by others while retrieving the data (approximately 10 extra hours). To obtain this stipend, a project proposal was submitted that included this project along with a project that established a bike rental system to reduce on campus transportation. The bike project materials were supported through a National Wildlife Federation's Campus Ecology Fellowship grant.

Community Outreach and Education

This project is available online for public viewing. Ideally, it will help to decrease Albion College's carbon footprint and possibly inspire other campuses to do the same. The inventory was also shown at a local "green" fair that was open to local residents.

Campus Climate Action: Your School's Carbon Footprint

This project directly addresses global climate change. It can be (and already has been) used to create campus policies that reduce GHGs. Once these policies are implemented, the inventory will play a part in reducing Albion College's GHG emission.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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MORE ABOUT YOUR SCHOOL

Campus Sustainability History

Albion College is currently making bold leaps to guarantee a green future for our campus and community. In addition to having an academic commitment with the Institute for the Study of the Environment and several classes dedicated to environmental themes, there are several environmentally oriented groups through which students can engage themselves on campus. These include the E-House, Eco Club, Sustainability Council, CREATE and the Brit Bike Co-op.