

# Local Government and Community Greenhouse Gas Inventory

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Town of Owasco, New York  
July 16, 2015

Town of Owasco  
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### **ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability**

### **Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board**

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## I. Introduction

### Background

The Town of Owasco has adopted the Climate Smart Communities Pledge as a commitment to greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction and climate change mitigation. The Climate Smart Communities Program represents a partnership between New York State and local governments to reduce energy use and GHG emissions. Major steps involved in the program include:

1. Adopting the Climate Smart pledge
2. Compiling a GHG inventory
3. Developing a plan to reduce emissions (Climate Action Plan), and
4. Carrying out sustainable development projects.

ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability recommends a similar path to follow with 5 milestones (see Figure 1).

The first step in climate action planning is to compile a GHG inventory. A GHG emissions inventory is an audit of activities that contribute to the release of emissions. For this GHG inventory, energy use and waste generation information was gathered and methods of calculation explained in the Local Government Operations Protocol (LGOP) and the US Community Operations Protocol developed by ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability were utilized to generate emissions figures. Data for municipal and community-wide energy use and waste production were entered into ICLEI's ClearPath software. The outputs were aggregated into metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent, and emissions were delineated by sector, source, and scope. Data from the inventory will guide policy decisions and energy improvements, inform sustainability projects, and build public support for broader sustainability initiatives in the Town of Owasco.



Figure 1: ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability's 5 Milestone Process

## Climate Change and Greenhouse Gases

New York State outlined projected climate impacts and vulnerabilities during the 2011 ClimAid assessment.<sup>1</sup> The ClimAid report projects changes to ecosystems, with the increased presence of invasive species and shifts in tree composition, while water quality and quantity may also be impacted due to changes in precipitation. Furthermore, there may be beneficial economic impacts, such as a longer recreation season in the summer, and a longer growing season for the agricultural sector due to rising temperatures. Scientific evidence suggests that the impacts of global climate change will be different in various regions, and will include temperature shifts, sea level rise, and human health risks.

Climate change is increasingly recognized as a global concern. Scientists have documented changes to the Earth's climate including the rise in global average temperatures, as well as sea levels, during the last century. An international panel of leading climate scientists, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), was formed in 1988 by the World Meteorological Organization and the United Nations Environment Programme to provide objective and up-to-date information regarding the changing climate. In its 2007 Fourth Assessment Report, the IPCC states that there is **a greater than 95 percent chance that rising global average temperatures, observed since 1750, are primarily a result of greenhouse gas (GHG)-emitting human activities.**<sup>2</sup>

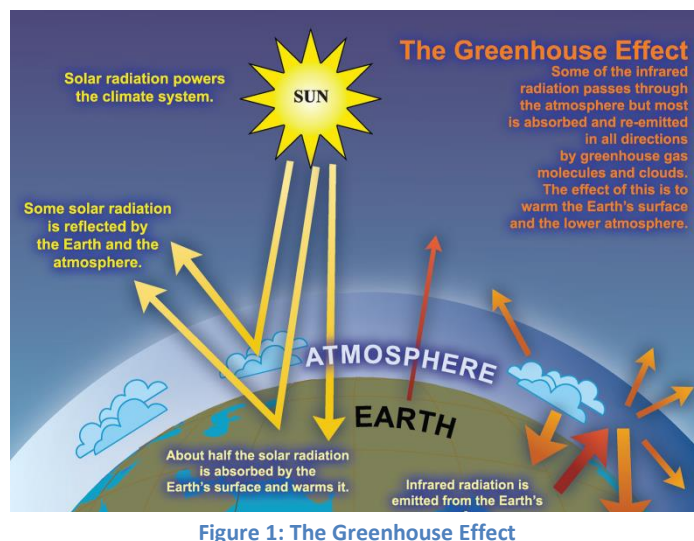


Figure 1: The Greenhouse Effect

The rising trend of human-generated GHG emissions is a global threat. The increased presence of these gases affects the warming of the planet by contributing to the natural greenhouse effect, which warms the atmosphere and makes the earth habitable for humans and other species (see Figure 2).<sup>3</sup> Mitigation of GHGs is occurring in all sectors as a means of reducing the impacts of this warming trend. However, scientific models predict that some effects of climate change are inevitable no matter how much mitigative action is taken now. Therefore, climate mitigation actions must be paired with adaptation measures in order to continue efforts to curb emissions contributions to global warming, while adapting communities so that they are able to withstand climate change impacts and maintain social, economic, and environmental resilience in the face of uncertainty. Climate adaptation can take shape through infrastructure assessments and emergency planning, as well as through educational efforts to raise public awareness about potential climate change impacts. In New York State, regional climate change impact and vulnerability assessments will likely increase moving forward, but many local governments

<sup>1</sup> NYS. 2011. ClimAid. <http://www.nyserda.ny.gov/Publications/Research-and-Development/Environmental/EMEP-Publications/Response-to-Climate-Change-in-New-York.aspx>

<sup>2</sup> NYS. 2011. ClimAid. <http://www.nyserda.ny.gov/Publications/Research-and-Development/Environmental/EMEP-Publications/Response-to-Climate-Change-in-New-York.aspx>

<sup>3</sup> IPCC. 2007. Fourth Assessment Report. [http://www.ipcc.ch/publications\\_and\\_data/ar4/wg2/en/ch18s18-6.html](http://www.ipcc.ch/publications_and_data/ar4/wg2/en/ch18s18-6.html)

across the nation are already taking action to lessen climate impacts through GHG reduction measures and climate adaptation planning.

As scientific evidence of climate change grows, the need for climate action and adaptation will also increase. The goal of building community resilience in order to protect the health and livelihood of residents, as well as natural systems, must serve as a motivating factor in the assessment of greenhouse gas contributions and effective sustainability planning.

### **The Purpose of a Greenhouse Gas Inventory**

Many local governments have decided to gain a detailed understanding of how their emissions and their community's emissions are related to climate change and have committed to reducing GHG emissions at the local level. Local governments exercise direct control over their own operations and can lead by example by reducing energy usage in municipal facilities, using alternative fuels for their fleets, and investing in renewable energy sources. Local governments can also influence community-wide activities that contribute to climate change by improving building codes and standards, providing cleaner transportation options, and educating members of the community about their choices as consumers. Each local government is unique with its own set of opportunities, challenges, and solutions, and therefore climate action needs to be tailored to each community at the local level.

Because local governments typically contribute less than ten percent of the total greenhouse gas emissions generated in a given community, ICLEI recommends developing both local government operations and community-wide greenhouse gas emissions inventories and reduction strategies. Before concerted management and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions can occur within our local governments and communities, local governments must undertake a careful measurement and analysis of all GHG sources. A GHG inventory should facilitate keen insight into the types and sources of GHG emissions within a local jurisdiction, and a GHG emissions forecast will project these emissions levels into the future, allowing for better planning and success in managing those emissions.

There are several major benefits for local governments that undertake emissions inventories:

1. **Fiscal benefits:** Developing climate and energy strategies can help your local government slash energy costs and save taxpayer dollars. Conducting a GHG emissions inventory will show you exactly where energy is being wasted and identify opportunities to become more efficient.
2. **Climate leadership:** By taking action now to address climate change, your local government and elected officials can be recognized for their leadership on climate and energy issues.
3. **Community benefits:** Measures to reduce GHG emissions and energy consumption typically have many co-benefits. They can improve air quality and public health, stimulate the local economy, create green jobs, and make communities more livable and walkable.

## Town of Owasco Greenhouse Gas Inventory 2015

- Regulatory preparedness:** Although the federal government has yet to produce legislation addressing GHG emissions, a variety of actions at the state and regional levels specifically impact local governments and planning agencies. Taking action now will help your jurisdiction prepare for any future legislative requirements and position your local government for successful compliance.

The Town of Owasco is becoming increasingly interested with sustainable initiatives, and in 2014 signed on with a team from the Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board to conduct a greenhouse gas inventory. Through this initiative, the Town hopes to monitor and audit their emissions in order to discover new ways to decrease their carbon footprint as well as incorporate sustainable alternatives into their Town planning.

### Town Profile

The Town of Owasco is located in western Cayuga County. The Town covers an area of approximately 23.5 square miles, and the majority of the area is used for agricultural and residential purposes. According to the 2010 US Census, the Town has a population of about 3,793 residents, with 1,538 occupied housing units. Of the 1,538 occupied housing units, 1,489 units are owner-occupied with an average household size of 2.42 persons, while 77 units are renter-occupied with an average household size of 2.22 persons.

The Town provides its residents with many services through the following departments: Bookkeeper, Assessor, Court, Clerk, Code Enforcement, Planning Board, Zoning Board, Highway, Water, Recycling, Sewer, Historian, and Dog Control.

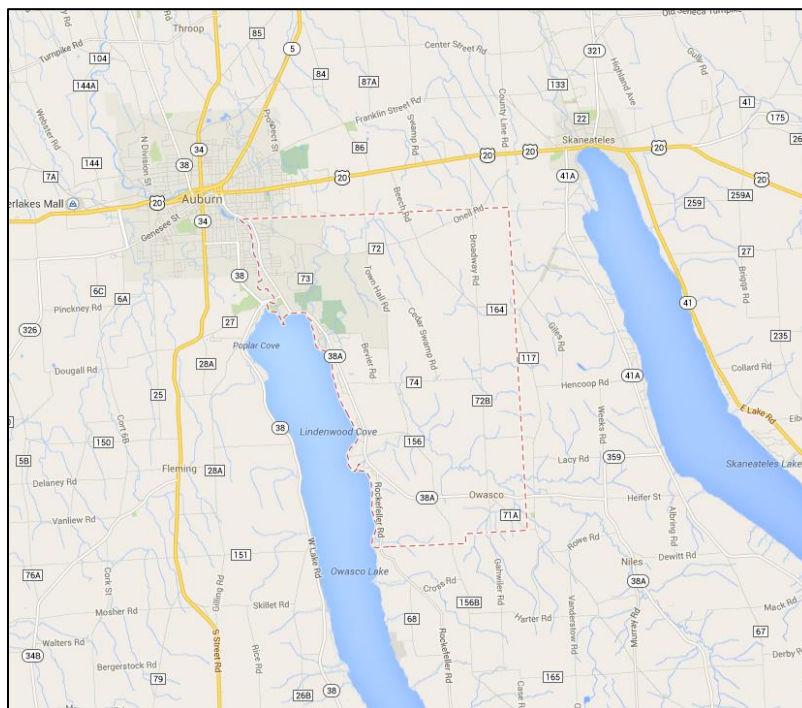


Figure 3: Town of Owasco Map



## II. Methods

### Data Collection and Analysis

Fuel and energy use data associated with GHG emissions were collected for community and municipal operations within the Town of Owasco for the baseline year 2010 following ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability’s Local Government Operations Protocol (LGOP) and the US Community Operations Protocol. Emissions were also forecasted for the year 2025 for both government and community operations based on current and projected energy use trends and waste production trends. ICLEI’s ClearPath software was used to analyze energy use and convert information into emissions data, measured in metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MTCO<sub>2e</sub>). The software streamlines the process of converting different sources, units, and varieties of emissions into comparable energy use and emissions figures.

### Reporting

The three most prevalent greenhouse gases, and therefore the focus of this analysis, are carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) and nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O). The units used to discuss these gases in aggregate is carbon dioxide equivalent (CO<sub>2e</sub>), which is a conversion based on each gas’ Global Warming Potential (GWP), or the impact of 1 unit of each gas in the atmosphere compared to 1 unit of CO<sub>2</sub> (see Table 1). Emissions measured in CO<sub>2e</sub> can be categorized in various ways, including by scope, sector, and source.

<b>Greenhouse Gas (GHG)</b>	<b>Global Warming Potential (GWP)</b>
Carbon Dioxide (CO <sub>2</sub> )	1
Methane (CH <sub>4</sub> )	21
Nitrous Oxide (N <sub>2</sub> O)	310

**Table 1: Global Warming Potential of Greenhouse Gases**

The scope distinction, which labels the emissions sources within a local government as either scope 1, 2, or 3, distinguishes between what is directly emitted (scope 1) and indirectly emitted (scopes 2 and 3) (see Table 2). Local governments inherently have more control over the emissions in scopes 1 and 2 due to the behavioral and often function-specific nature of scope 3 emissions sources, and therefore scope 3 emissions are optional to report in GHG inventories. However, governments and communities are increasingly accounting for all three scopes in their inventory analyses in an effort to conduct more comprehensive carbon footprint assessments.

It is important to use the scope distinction, rather than just an aggregate emissions total, when evaluating the local government GHG footprint because other government inventories (such as Cayuga County or New York State) will likely account for the same emissions. If scope distinctions are not made, then there is the potential for double-counting certain sources in these aggregated reporting formats (such as electricity consumed by the Town (scope 2) and the same electricity generated by plants in the State (scope 1)).



Scope	Emissions Activity	Examples
1	All direct GHG emissions	Onsite governmental emissions, vehicle fleet emissions, onsite commercial, residential, and industrial emissions
2	All indirect GHG gases related to the consumption of purchased energy	Emissions related to purchased steam, heating, cooling, and electricity
3	All other indirect emissions not included in Scope 2	Emissions from wastewater and solid waste processes, employee commute, household waste, and commercial waste

Table 2: Emission Scope Distinctions

Emissions data can also be reported by sector. Sectors are included or excluded in the boundaries of GHG inventories based on availability of data, relevance to emissions totals, and scale to which they can be changed. For example, if a municipality’s wastewater is treated at a wastewater treatment facility that is located outside of the municipality’s boundaries and is therefore not able to be changed by the municipality alone, facility emissions do not need to be included in the inventory).

Finally, emissions data can be reported by source. Electricity, natural gas, wood, and fuel oil would be sources of emissions within the “Residential Energy Use” or “Commercial Energy Use” sectors, while gasoline, diesel, and ethanol would be sources of emissions within the “Transportation” sector.

### III. Government Results

#### Government Operations Emissions Inventory

In 2010, the Town of Owasco’s government emissions totaled 378 MTCO<sub>2</sub>e. The largest source of government emissions in the Town of Owasco in 2010 was electricity, accounting for 171 MTCO<sub>2</sub>e, or 45% of all government emissions. Natural gas and diesel were also large emitting sources, both producing 84 MTCO<sub>2</sub>e (22%).

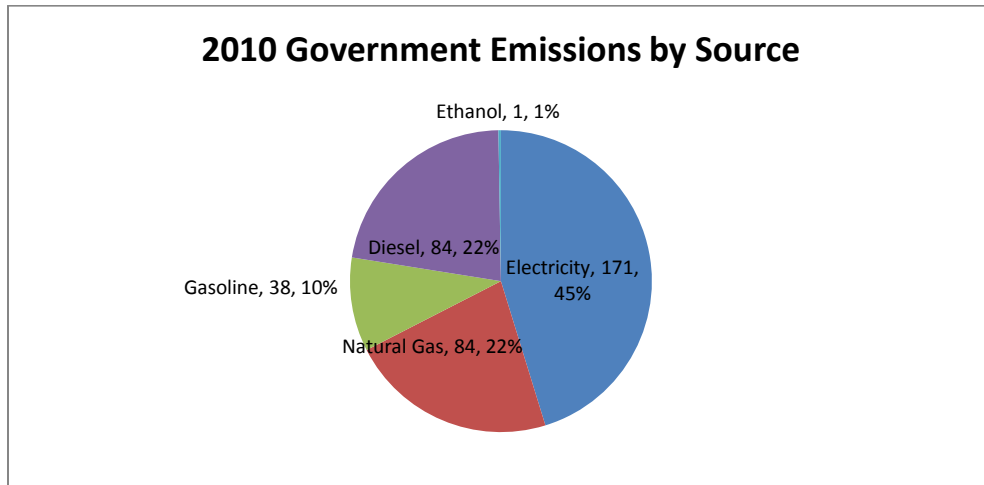


Figure 4: 2010 Government Operations Emissions by Source

Government emission sectors inventoried include: buildings and facilities, streetlights and traffic signals, water and sewer facilities, and vehicle fleet. Water and sewer facilities contributed to the largest percentage of emissions in the 2010 base year, accounting for 153 MTCO<sub>2</sub>e, or 40% of the government’s total emissions. The vehicle fleet sector was the next highest emitting sector, producing 123 MTCO<sub>2</sub>e, or 33% of total municipal emissions, followed by the buildings and facilities signals sector, which produced 60 MTCO<sub>2</sub>e, or 16% of total emissions, and the streetlights and traffic signals sector, which produced 42 MTCO<sub>2</sub>e, or 11% of government emissions.

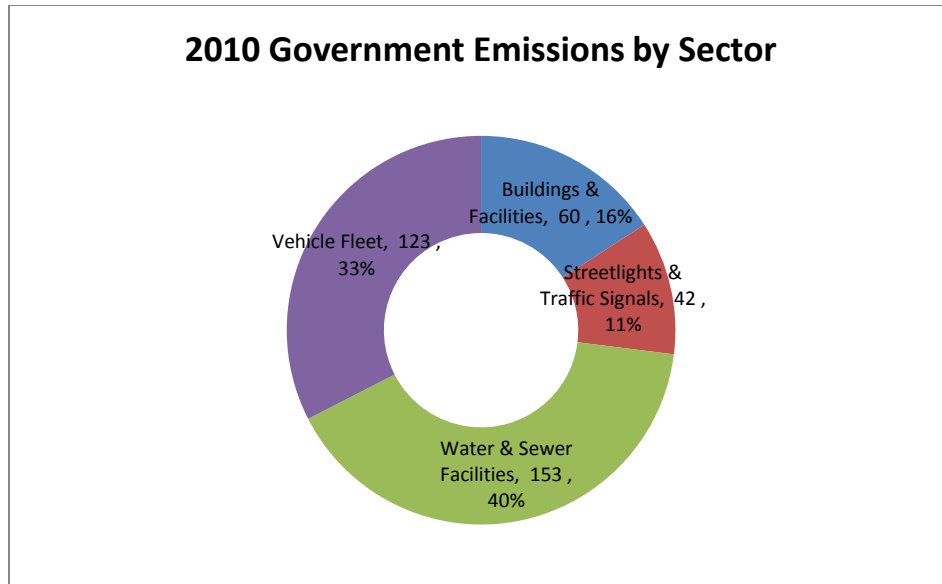


Figure 5: 2010 Government Operations Emissions by Sector

Energy use by sector in the government mimics emissions by sector in the government, with the water and sewer facilities using the greatest amount of energy in 2010, using 2,455 million Btu (MMBtu) of energy, or 42% of the government’s total energy use. The vehicle fleet sector consumed the next highest amount of energy, using 1,704 MMBtu, or 29% of total municipal energy use, followed by the buildings and facilities sector, which consumed 1,060 MMBtu, or 18% of total energy used, and streetlights and traffic signals, which used 624 MMBtu, or 11% of total energy used by the government.

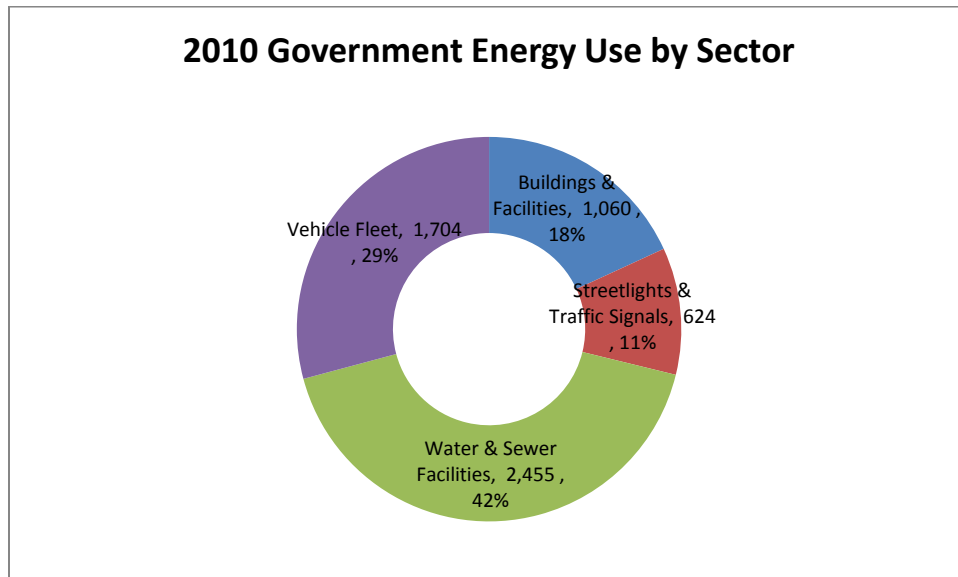


Figure 6: 2010 Government Operations Energy Use by Sector

Government emissions can also be broken down into scope. Scope 1 represents onsite emissions created and totaled 207 MTCO<sub>2</sub>e, or 55% of government emissions in 2010. Scope 2 represents off-site emissions created by energy used by the municipality and totaled 171 MTCO<sub>2</sub>e, or 45% of total government emissions in 2010. Scope 3 emissions were not inventoried for this report.

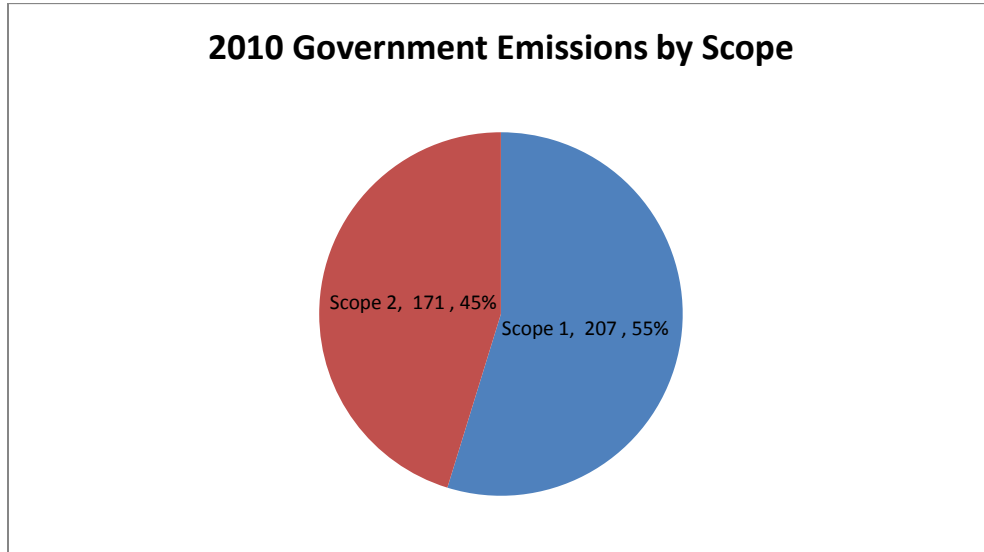


Figure 7: 2010 Government Operations Energy Use by Scope

### Government Operations Emissions Forecast

The projected government greenhouse gas emissions for 2025 are 388 metric tons, which is 10 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e more than the baseline year total. The projected forecast for 2025 government emissions is based on a single-rate population growth factor. Emissions are expected to increase very slightly in all sectors.

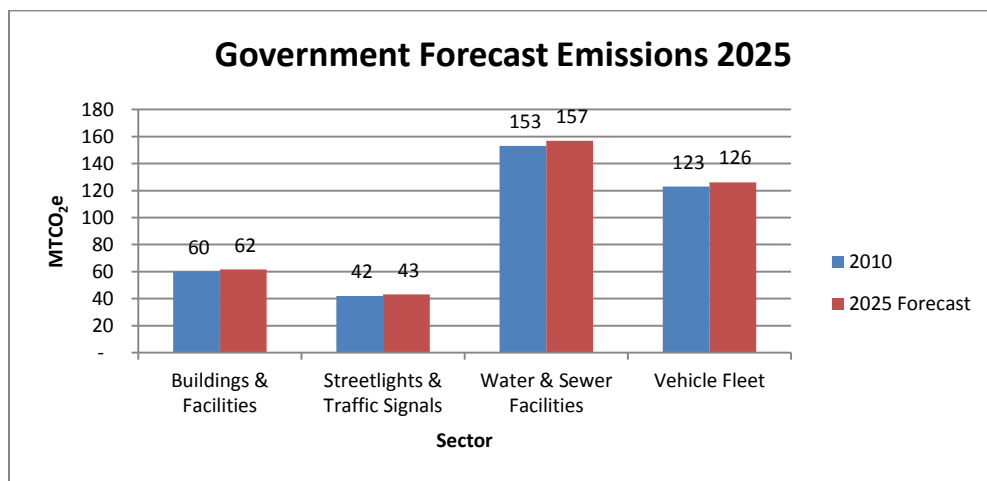


Figure 8: Government Operations Emissions Forecast

## IV. Community Results

### Community Emissions Inventory

In 2010, the Town of Owasco’s community emissions totaled 24,614 MTCO<sub>2</sub>e. The largest source of community emissions in the Town of Owasco in 2010 was natural gas, accounting for 10,182 MTCO<sub>2</sub>e, or 41% of all community emissions. Gasoline and electricity were also large emitting sources, producing 5,089 MTCO<sub>2</sub>e (21%) and 3,816 MTCO<sub>2</sub>e (16%), respectively.

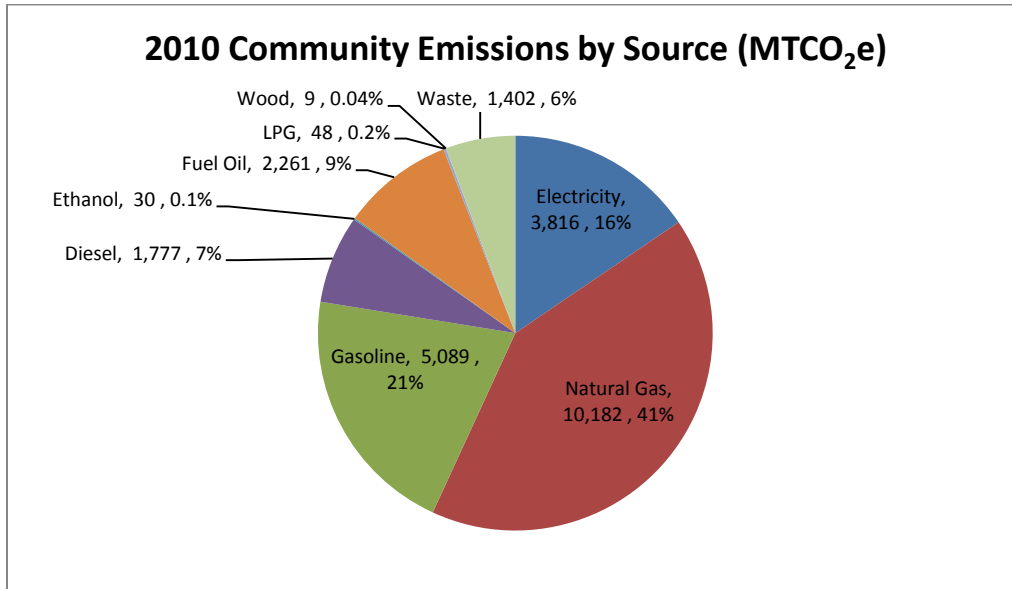


Figure 9: 2010 Community Emissions by Source

Community emission sectors inventoried include: residential energy use, commercial/industrial energy use,<sup>4</sup> transportation, and solid waste. The residential energy use sector contributed to the largest percentage of emissions in the 2010 base year, accounting for 11,703 MTCO<sub>2</sub>e, or 47% of the community’s total emissions. Transportation was the next highest emitting sector, producing 6,896 MTCO<sub>2</sub>e, or 28% of total community emissions, followed by the commercial/industrial energy use sector, which produced 4,613 MTCO<sub>2</sub>e, or 19% of total emissions. The smallest emitting sector was the waste sector, which produced 1,402 MTCO<sub>2</sub>e, or 6% of total community emissions.

<sup>4</sup> Commercial and industrial NYSEG energy use was combined to protect customer identity when provided by Jim Yienger of Climate Action Associates LLC.

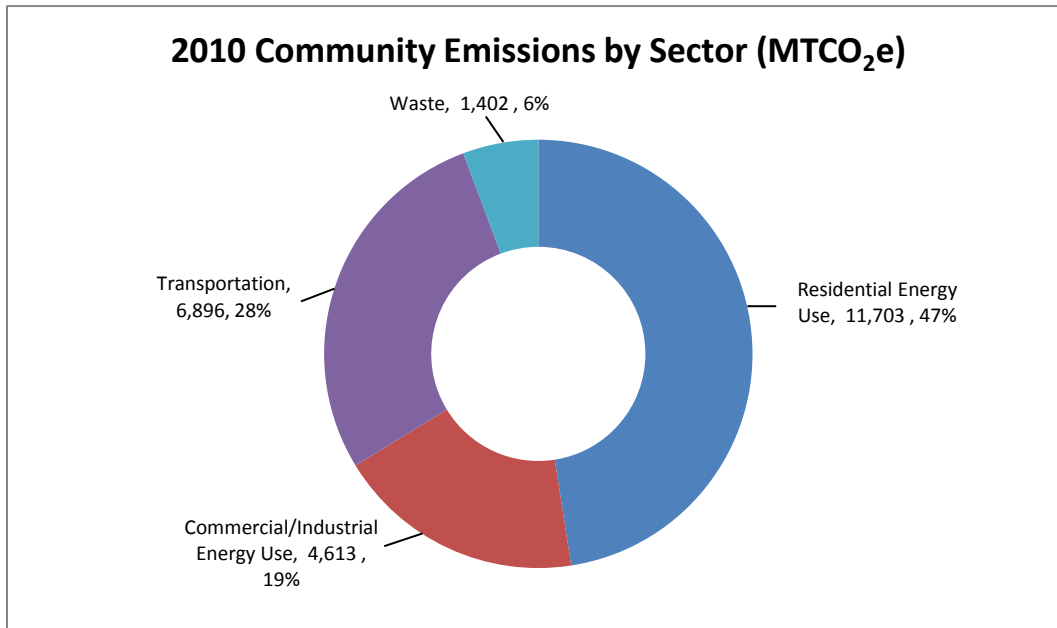


Figure 10: 2010 Community Emissions by Sector

Energy use by sector in the community mimics emissions by sector in the community, with the residential energy use sector using the greatest amount of energy in 2010, using 203,265 million Btu (MMBtu) of energy, or 53% of the community’s total energy use. Transportation consumed the next highest amount of energy, using 103,253 MMBtu, or 27% of total community energy use, followed by the commercial/industrial energy use sector, which consumed 77,677 MMBtu, or 20% of total energy used. The solid waste sector did not use any energy.

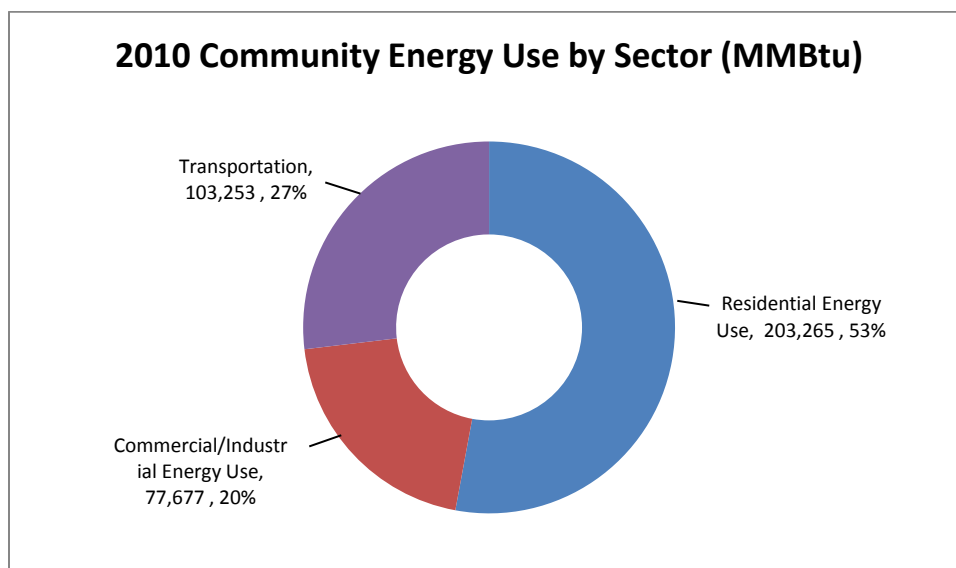


Figure 11: 2010 Community Energy Use by Sector

### 2025 Community Forecast

Community emissions in the Town of Owasco are forecasted to total 27,127 MTCO<sub>2</sub>e in 2025, a 10.2% increase from the 2010 baseline year, with decreases in emissions in the residential energy use sector and increases in the commercial/industrial energy use, transportation and waste sectors compared to the 2010 baseline year. This forecast takes into local and statewide energy use and waste production trends.

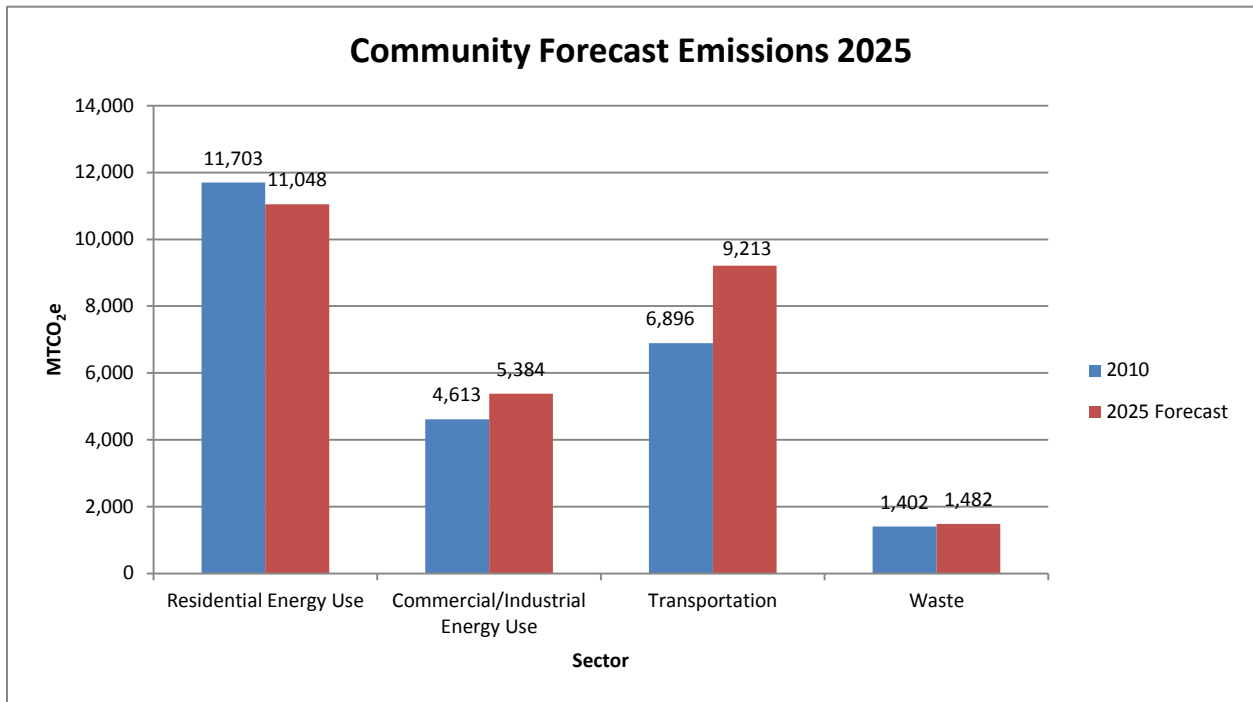


Figure 12: Community Emissions Forecast



## V. Agriculture

The estimated emissions from agricultural activity in Owasco totaled 259,647 MTCO<sub>2</sub>e, with 9,155 MTCO<sub>2</sub>e attributed to enteric fermentation (methane released during daily livestock digestion processes) and 250,492 MTCO<sub>2</sub>e attributed to manure management (methane and nitrous oxide released from animal waste). Emissions estimates were based on the following agricultural information for the Town of Owasco: 2,900 dairy cows, 286 beef cows, 2,000 pigs, and 5 horses, with the majority of operations using daily spread manure management.<sup>5</sup>

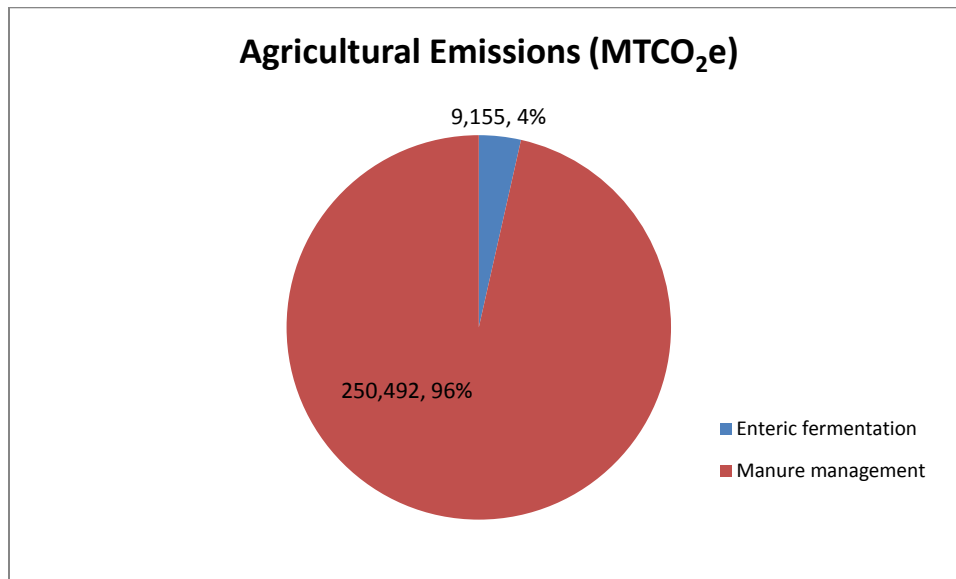


Figure 13: Town of Owasco Agricultural Emissions

Agricultural emissions were kept separate from overall community emissions because of the uncertainty of agricultural emissions data. ICLEI does not currently have a process for estimating emissions from any other agricultural processes, and therefore the agricultural emissions were estimated based on best estimates and existing estimation methods in ICLEI's U.S. Community Protocol, Appendix G.

<sup>5</sup> Agricultural information provided by Tim Schneider, Owasco Lake Watershed Inspector

## VI. Discussion

For this study a scope distinction was important because it isolated emissions information into categories that can be addressed with different means and tools. Direct emissions can be linked back to specific fuel types, whereas indirect emissions from the consumption of electricity are more difficult to quantify. Indirect scope 2 and, to a greater degree, scope 3 emissions have lower potentials to be affected by local policy initiatives. The majority of government emissions for Owasco was scope 1 emissions, and thus should garner the most attention when mitigation plans are considered.

The greenhouse gas inventory and forecast is the first milestone in climate action planning, to be followed by developing a reduction goal and then creation of a climate action plan. The reduction goal and climate action plan should take scope differences into account. Sector and source analyses are also important because they will indicate more specifically where emissions are derived from, and because the scope distinction does not apply to community generated emissions which represent the majority of emissions within a municipality.

The data indicated that the greatest percentage of government emissions came from water and sewer facilities. The results of this study also indicate that the largest percentage of community emissions came from the residential energy use sector for 2010, and this sector is forecasted to remain the largest emitting sector through 2025. Residential energy emissions should be targeted in the Town's future Climate Action Plan so that energy use from this sector can be reduced, therefore lowering both energy costs and GHG emissions.

The boundaries of this study did not include several considerable sources of emissions, including, but not limited to: employee commute, and waste generated by government operations. These sources were left out due to lack of clarity in data and low potential for influence. This does not diminish the potential for these sectors to be included in future emissions inventories.

This study is the first of its kind for the Town of Owasco. Several other CNY municipalities have undergone inventories, proving that climate mitigation requires local participation. Local participation will no doubt reflect the character and capacity of the particular municipality and should be in accordance with a comprehensive plan. Moving forward, institutionalizing data collection is also important in order to broaden the boundaries of the inventory, streamline further studies, and provide more comprehensive sets. Local participation can continue to be aided with efforts from regional support, including the CNY RPDB, Cayuga County, NYS DEC, and the EPA.

## **VII. Conclusion**

As a Climate Smart Community, the Town of Owasco has partnered with state and local agencies to combat climate change and pledge to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The first milestone for meeting climate mitigation goals, according to ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability, is to conduct a baseline emissions inventory and forecast. This study was the first attempt to comprehensively quantify these emissions for the Town. It will provide a benchmark for planning purposes with the goal of setting an emissions reduction target and developing a Climate Action Plan.

Emissions for the Town of Owasco in the 2010 baseline year totaled 24,992 MTCO<sub>2</sub>e for all activity covered in this inventory, 378 MTCO<sub>2</sub>e (1.5%) of which was from government activity and 24,614 MTCO<sub>2</sub>e (98.5%) of which was from community-wide activity. The majority of government emissions came from scope 1 sources that are easiest to influence through planning initiatives. Although a considerable proportion came from the community, which is outside direct governmental control, the local government can take steps to reduce their energy use and GHG emissions to serve as an example to the community. The local government can also provide information and assistance to community members to encourage them to take related actions.

# Town of Owasco Greenhouse Gas Inventory 2015

## Appendix A: Community Protocol Compliance

ICLEI protocol-compliant inventories must include a table illustrating included and excluded emissions sources and activities, along with final emissions figures. The table below depicts the included and excluded emissions sources and activities and final emissions figures for this inventory and uses ICLEI's notation keys found in the U.S. Community Protocol, Appendix B.

Emissions Report Summary Table (2010 baseline year)							IE- Included Elsewhere	SI- Local government signi
Include estimates of emissions associated with the 5 basic emissions generating activities							NE- Not estimated	CA- community-wide activ
							NA- not applicable	
							NO- not occurring	
Emissions Type	Source or Activity	Activity Data	Emissions Factor & Source	Accounting Method	Included (SI, CA)	Excluded (IE, NA, NO, NE)	Emissions (MTCO <sub>2</sub> e)	
<b>Built Environment</b>								
	Use of fuel in residential stationary combustion (nat. gas- MMBtu)	source and activity	141,000	53.02 kg CO <sub>2</sub> /MMBtu; 1 g CH <sub>4</sub> /MMBtu; 0.1 g N <sub>2</sub> O/MMBtu; EPA Mandatory Reporting Rule (MRR)	Collected data from National Grid and put into CACP	CA	7,498	
	Use of fuel in residential stationary combustion (fuel oil, wood, LPG- MMBtu)	source and activity	11,902	Averaged distillate fuel oil #1, 2.4 EF= 74.5 kg CO <sub>2</sub> /MMBtu; LPG= 62.98 kg CO <sub>2</sub> /MMBtu; EPA Mandatory Reporting Rule (MRR)	Used ICLEI's US Community Protocol Appendix C (Built Environment), BE 1.2	CA	856	
	Use of fuel in commercial stationary combustion (nat. gas- MMBtu)	source and activity	50,469	53.02 kg CO <sub>2</sub> /MMBtu; 1 g CH <sub>4</sub> /MMBtu; 0.1 g N <sub>2</sub> O/MMBtu; EPA Mandatory Reporting Rule (MRR)	Collected data from National Grid and put into CACP	CA	2,684	
	Use of commercial stationary combustion (fuel- MMBtu)	source and activity	20,192	Coal/coke mixed commercial sectors= 93.4 kg CO <sub>2</sub> /MMBtu; Averaged distillate fuel oil #1, 2.4 EF= 74.5 kg CO <sub>2</sub> /MMBtu; LPG= 62.98 kg CO <sub>2</sub> /MMBtu; EPA Mandatory Reporting Rule (MRR)	Used ICLEI's US Community Protocol Appendix C (Built Environment), BE 1.3	CA	1,462	
	Industrial Stationary combustion sources (nat. gas- MMBtu)	source and activity	N/A	53.02 kg CO <sub>2</sub> /MMBtu; 1 g CH <sub>4</sub> /MMBtu; 0.1 g N <sub>2</sub> O/MMBtu; EPA Mandatory Reporting Rule (MRR)		NA		
	Industrial Stationary combustion sources (fuel- MMBtu)	source and activity	N/A			NA		
<b>Electricity</b>								
	Power generation (natural gas use- therms)	source	N/A			NA		
	use of electricity by the community (MWh)	activity	16,812	eGrid 2009 subregion factors (EPA)	Collected data from National Grid and put into CACP	CA	3,816	
<b>District Heating/Cooling</b>								
	District Heating/Cooling facilities in community	source	N/A			NA		
	Use of district heating/cooling by community	activity	N/A			NA		
	Industrial process emissions in the community	source	N/A	EPA GHGRP data reported here: ghgdata.epa.gov		NA		
	Refrigerant leakage in the community	source	N/A			NE		
<b>Transportation and other Mobile Sources</b>								
<b>On-road passenger vehicles</b>								
	on-road passenger vehicles operating within the community (VMT)	source	14,867,620	CACP (Version 3.0) & EPA MRR emission factors for gasoline and diesel (varies by vehicle class for N <sub>2</sub> O & CH <sub>4</sub> ); LGOP gasoline EF=8.78 kgCO <sub>2</sub> /gal; diesel EF=10.21 kgCO <sub>2</sub> /gal	Used formula: AADT x Road Length x 365 days per year = AVMT. For roads without AADT counts, used "Minimum Maintenance Standards Regulation 239.02," which meant taking length of roadway without AADT counts, multiplying by a factor of 6 for rural roads, and then dividing the sum by total roadway length to receive an average AADT count.	CA	6,896	
	on-road passenger vehicle travel associated with community land uses (VMT)	activity	N/A			NE		
<b>On-road freight vehicles</b>								
	on-road freight and service vehicles operating within the community boundary	source	N/A			NE		
	on-road freight and service vehicle travel associated with community land uses	activity	N/A			NE		
	On-road transit vehicles operating within the community boundary	source	N/A			NE		
<b>Transit Rail</b>								
	transit rail vehicles operating within the community boundary	source	N/A			NE		
	use of transit rail travel by community	activity	N/A			NE		
	Inter-city passenger rail vehicles operating within the community boundary	source	N/A			NE		
	Freight rail vehicles operating within the community boundary	source	N/A			NE		
<b>Marine</b>								
	Marine vessels operating within community boundary	source	N/A			NA		
	use of ferries by community	activity	N/A			NA		
	Off-road surface vehicles and other mobile equipment operating within community boundary	source	N/A			NE		
	Use of air travel by the community	activity	N/A			NE		

# Town of Owasco Greenhouse Gas Inventory 2015

Solid Waste							
<b>Solid Waste</b>							
Operation of solid waste disposal facilities in community	source	N/A	Process emissions reported to the EPA GHGRP annually; stationary combustion emissions accounted for in the energy use sector		NA		
generation and disposal of solid waste by the community	source and activity	3,018.10		Used ICLEI's US Community Protocol Appendix E (Solid Waste)	CA		1402
<b>Water and Wastewater</b>							
<b>Potable Water- Energy Use</b>							
Operation of water delivery facilities in the community	source	N/A	CACP 3.0 eGrid 2009 electricity emission factors; and natural gas emission factors= 53.02 kg CO2/MMBtu; 1 g CH4/MMBtu; 0.1 g N2O/MMBtu		IE		
Use of energy associated with use of potable water by the community	activity	N/A			IE		
Use of energy associated with generation of wastewater by the community	activity	N/A	CACP 3.0 eGrid 2009 electricity emission factors; and natural gas emission factors=53.02 kg CO2/MMBtu; 1 g CH4/MMBtu; 0.1 g N2O/MMBtu		NE		
<b>Centralized Wastewater Systems- Process Emissions</b>							
Process emissions from operation of wastewater treatment facilities located in community	source	N/A	Method WW.8= EF without nitrification or denitrification= 3.2 g N2O/person equivalent/year; Method WW.12= EF for stream/river discharge= 0.005 kg N2O-N/kg sewage-N discharged		NE		
process emissions associated with generation of wastewater by community	activity				CA		0
Use of septic systems in community	source and activity	N/A			NA		
<b>Agriculture</b>							
Domesticated animal production	source	N/A			NE		
Manure decomposition and treatment	source	N/A			NE		
<b>Upstream Impacts of Community-wide Activities</b>							
Upstream impacts of fuels used in stationary applications by community	activity	N/A			NE		
upstream and transmissions and distribution impacts of purchased electricity used by the community	activity	N/A			NE		
upstream impacts of fuels used for transportation in trips associated with the community	activity	N/A			NE		
upstream impacts of fuels used by water and wastewater facilities for water used and wastewater generated within the community boundary	activity	N/A			NE		
Upstream impacts of select materials (concrete, food, paper, carpets, etc.) used by the whole community (additional community-wide flows of goods & services will create significant double counting issues)	activity	N/A			NE		
<b>Independent Consumption-Based Accounting</b>							
Household consumption (e.g., gas & electricity, transportation, and the purchase of all other food, goods and services by all households in the community)	activity	N/A			NE		
Government consumption (e.g., gas & electricity, transportation, and the purchase of all other food, goods and services by all governments in the community)	activity	N/A			NE		
Lifecycle emissions of community businesses (e.g., gas & electricity, transportation, and the purchase of all other food, goods and services by all businesses in the community)	activity	N/A			NE		

## Appendix B: Estimation Method for Vehicle Miles Traveled

The New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) Traffic Data Viewer and information collected by the Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council (SMTC) provided data on the Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) going through the Town of Owasco. Internal GIS data was utilized to generate road lengths within the Town boundary, and these lengths were multiplied with the traffic counts to derive estimates for daily vehicle miles travelled (DVMT). DVMT was then multiplied by 365 days per year to derive annual vehicle miles traveled (AVMT). These estimates were entered into ClearPath to calculate emissions using the VMT & MPG calculator.<sup>6</sup>

The NYSDOT relies on actual and estimated traffic counts for their model, which may result in slight over or under estimations in the average daily traffic data. Additionally, the counts do not distinguish between origin and destination; therefore, these counts represent all vehicle trips that begin, end, and travel through the Town of Owasco, therefore resulting in slight overestimations of Town VMT. Also, the NYSDOT tracks traffic counts for main arteries only; therefore, additional calculations for AADT were needed to estimate AVMT for local/collector roads, as well as some main arteries that do not have AADTs available. The total length of roads in Owasco with traffic counts is 8.528 miles in 2010, while 53.766 miles of roads do not have AADT counts available.

According to the *Minimum Maintenance Standards Regulation 239/02*, a set of guidelines produced by the Association of Municipalities of Ontario to help local communities estimate traffic volume, while conducting an AADT count, it is possible to estimate the traffic volume for dead-ends and cul-de-sacs to avoid resource intensive counts. This is done by multiplying the number of houses on the roadway by a factor of 6 for rural areas and 10 for urban areas.

This method was applied to the Town of Owasco for the roads without AADT counts. It was determined that there were 1,538 occupied households in the Town of Owasco in 2010, according to the 2010 US Census. It was assumed that all 1,538 homes are on roadways that do not have a count, since most houses are on local/collector roads and almost all local/collector roads in Owasco did not have an AADT count. By multiplying 1,538 homes by 6, a combined AADT count of 9,228 was calculated for all 53.766 miles of roads without AADT counts available. In order to calculate VMTs, an average AADT value was needed, and derived by dividing 9,228 by the 53.766 miles of uncounted roadway. This gave an average AADT value of 172, which was applied to all roadways that did not have a count.

There is some error involved in using this method. For instance, the method is meant to be applied to dead end streets and cul-de-sacs, but this study applied it to all roads in Owasco without AADT counts available. In addition, there may have been some double counting if homes in Owasco are located on roads that have AADT counts available. However, counting the number of houses on each road that did not have an AADT count would have been time consuming, and this VMT calculation is supposed to serve as a general reference for the Town,

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<sup>6</sup> Default MPGs and emissions factors from ICLEI's LGOP were used. To account for the 10% ethanol in most modern gasoline blends, VMT was entered for gasoline as 90% of the total VMT and for ethanol as 10% of the total VMT, and the same MPG was used for ethanol calculations as gasoline calculations.

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not as an exact figure. Although this method involves some error, it is the best estimation of traffic volume given the availability of data.

BEGINDESC	ENDDDESC	TDV_ROUTE	AADT	LENGTH (MILES)	LENGTH IN TOWN OF OWASCO (MILES)	RATIO OF LENGTH IN TOWN OF OWASCO	DVMT
RT 437	AUBURN CITY LINE	NY38A	5847	1.541	1.541	1.000	9,009.629
CAYUGA CO LINE - 2ND TIME	CR 61C ROCKEFELLER RD	NY38A	1803	2.831	2.831	1.000	5,105.148
AUBURN CITY LINE	RT 20 END RT 38A	NY38A, OWASCO ST	9656	0.710	0.006	0.008	56.437
CR 61C ROCKEFELLER RD	RT 437	NY38A	4268	3.832	3.832	1.000	16,354.203
OWASCO ST	SOUTH SEWARD	HAVENS AVE	1780	0.199	0.199	1.000	353.637
RT 38 CAYUGA CO	RT 38A END RT 437	NY437	5252	0.326	0.119	0.366	626.150

**Total DVMT:** 31,505.20  
 Days per year: 365  
**Total Annual VMT (AVMT): 11,499,399.54**

Table 3: 2010 Town of Owasco Traffic Data for Road Segments with Available AADT

<b># occupied housing units:</b>	1,538
<b>Total AADT for roads not accounted for above:</b>	9,228
<b>Days per year:</b>	365
<b>Average AADT for roads not accounted for above:</b>	172
<b>Total Annual VMT for manually calculated roads:</b>	<b>3,368,220</b>

Table 4: 2010 Town of Owasco Traffic Data for Road Segments without Available AADT

AVMT for road segments with available AADT and for road segments without available AADT were then added to generate total AVMT for the Town of Owasco, 14,867,619.536 miles in 2010.



### Appendix C: Estimation Method for Community Waste Sector

Waste generated in the Town of Owasco is collected via individually contracted haulers (over half of the town) that send the waste to either the Auburn or Seneca Meadows Landfill, or at the town’s waste and recycling center, which sends the waste to the Seneca Meadows Landfill for disposal. Because necessary information is readily available for the Auburn Landfill, waste information for the Town of Owasco was compiled using the Landfill’s 2010 annual/quarterly report. Because waste data is not broken down by municipality, additional calculations were needed to determine approximate tons of waste generated by the Town of Owasco.

First, total tons of waste processed at the landfill facility was determined by viewing page 10 of the 2010 annual/quarterly report for the facility. Tons of waste disposed per person per year was then calculated by dividing Cayuga County’s total population by the total tons of waste processed at the facility. Finally, tons of waste disposed by the Town of Owasco was determined by multiplying the Town’s population by the tons of waste disposed per person, calculated in the previous step. See table 5 for more information.

<b>Inventory Year</b>	<b>County Population</b>	<b>Town of Owasco population</b>	<b>Total tons waste processed at landfill</b>	<b>Tons of waste disposed per person</b>	<b>Tons of waste disposed from Town of Owasco</b>
2010	80,026	3,793	63,677	0.80	3,018.10

**Table 5: Town of Owasco Community Waste Calculation**

This information was then put into ICLEI’s ClearPath software using the “Waste Generation” calculator, noting that the Auburn Landfill has methane collection and using the US Community Protocol’s estimates for waste share by type.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> Default waste characterization found on page 32 of Appendix E, Solid Waste Emission Activities and Sources, of the US Community Protocol.