



Unconventional Oil and Natural Gas Development: State Perspective

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The basics

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- The oil and gas industry is the largest greenhouse gas emitter in New Mexico.
- Alongside methane emissions, the industry is a significant source of volatile organic compound (VOCs) emissions.
 - Exposure to ozone is linked to a wide range of health effects, including aggravated asthma, increased emergency room visits and hospital admissions, and premature death.
- Numerous hazardous air pollutants such as benzene, ethylbenzene, and n-hexane are also emitted.

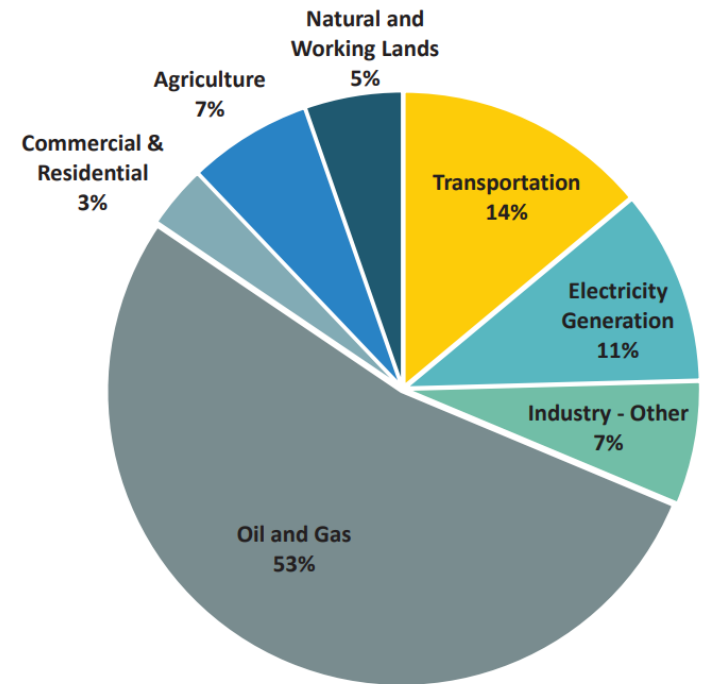


Figure 1. Total New Mexico Greenhouse Gas Emissions by Economic Sector in 2018



A disturbing trend

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Permian Basin

- 9,100 storage tanks observed
- 505 leaking methane and VOCs
- 1,400 flares observed
- 58 unlit and emitting methane and VOCs

San Juan Basin

- 1,080 storage tanks observed
- 61 leaking methane and VOCs
- 63 flares observed
- 2 unlit and emitting methane and VOCs

- Last year, flyovers conducted by U.S. EPA, in conjunction with the New Mexico Environment Department, found a 250% increase in leak rates from equipment in the Permian Basin since flyovers conducted in 2019.
- These emissions mostly result from equipment failures and unaddressed leaks.



States largely left on their own

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- Current federal air quality regulations do not secure adequate emissions reductions that are protective of the public and environment.
- Recent federal rollbacks allow for increasing amounts of air pollution.
- Under the current federal regulatory scheme, states continue to exceed federal ambient air quality standards even when those regulations apply to all new sources.
- It is up to states to address these regulatory gaps and draft regulations to ensure that reductions of air pollution are quantifiable, enforceable, enduring, and ensure public health and the environment are protected.



What we are doing about it

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- The New Mexico Environment Department's ozone precursor rules will be in place by the end of 2021.
 - This effort is in tandem with the state's Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department, whose rules will reduce methane waste in the industry.

- We are continuing an Ozone Attainment Initiative in areas of the state with declining air quality, including in oil- and gas-producing regions.

