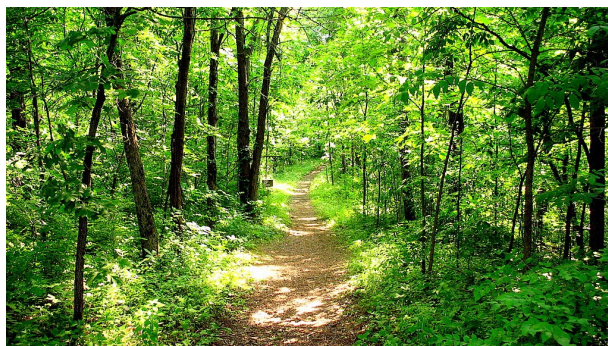# SUSTAINABILITY

It has been a couple months since our last newsletter. This month we start with some good news—the Morgan Library Sustainability Committee has been granted the go ahead to continue for at least another year! We will continue to share information via these newsletters and on the LibGuide. If you have any information you would like to share, or ideas on what the committee should work on, please let us know.

Bill Bryson, library invited author, subtly covers the environment in his books.

I have noticed an underlying discussion of the environment and the world around us in many of Bill Bryson's books, and it seems others have as well. His book "A Walk in the Woods" is the most obvious example, but he touches on the environment and stewardship in others. This article from the environmental magazine Grist has more examples.

Do you have a favorite author or book that talks about the environment or sustainability in a subtle way?

Bryson will be visiting CSU on March 6th.

Did You Know?

The Sustainability Lunch & Learns will continue!

The next LnL will be in early April and we will be visited by the City of Fort Collins to learn about their WorkWise Challenge: http://lose-a-watt.com/workwise-challenge/. The city will discuss things you can do at home and provide you with tools to get started.

If you have ideas for other LnLs, let us know!

Photo by Farrukh on Flickr.
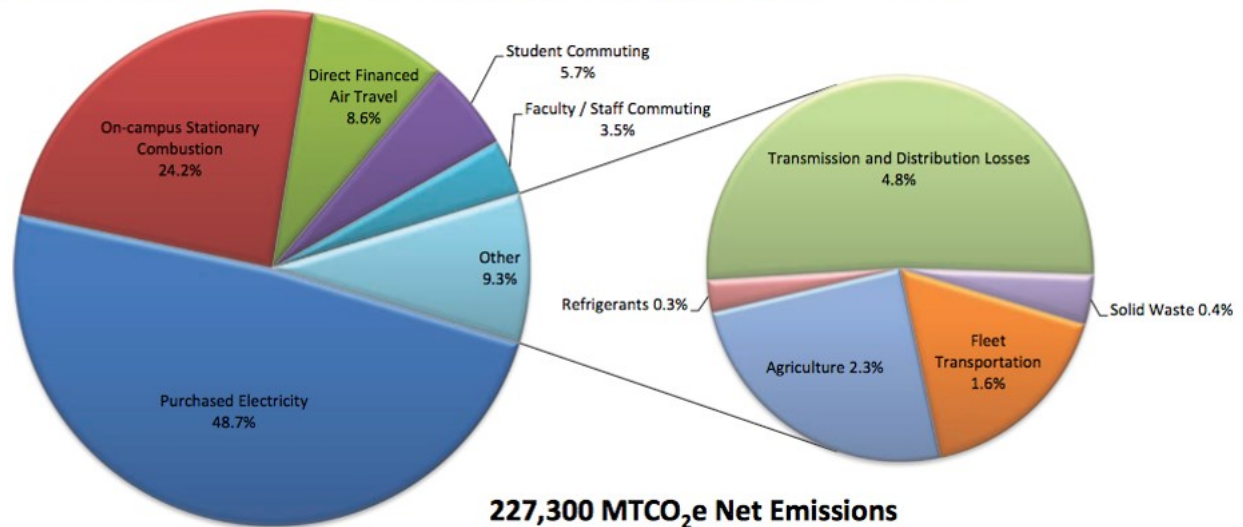
Flying

By Neyda Gilman

Summer is not too far away, and with it comes vacations and conferences. Many of us will utilize the wonder of air travel to reach our destinations and most of us probably won't be thinking too much about the environmental impact of that decision. I had heard before that flying was not environmentally friendly, but I never actually stopped to think about it before now.

According to the 2011 United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Bridging the Emissions Gap Synthesis Report, 2.1% of the 2005 global emissions of CO2 were from civil aviation emissions. That number is projected to grow, with estimates of almost tripling by 2050. There are also the indirect environmental impacts of flying, which are too far over my head to go into here. During my research I came across quite a few different sources of information. I have listed just a few below if you are interested:

- Aviation and global climate change in the 21st century by Lee et. al. (An in depth science laden study)

- International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) 2010 Environmental Report

- New York Times—Your Biggest Carbon Sin May Be Air Travel

- Huffington Post—Aviation Global Warming Pollution Will Rise Without New Action: Study Details

- Every Time You Fly, You Trash The Planet — And There's No Easy Fix blog post by Christie Aschwanden

Did you know that for FY14 8.6% of CSU's greenhouse gas emissions came from financed air travel?

CSU Greenhouse Gas Emissions Sources - FY14

On-campus Stationary Combustion 24.2%
Direct Financed Air Travel 8.6%
Student Commuting 5.7%
Faculty / Staff Commuting 3.5%
Other 9.3%
Purchased Electricity 48.7%
Transmission and Distribution Losses 4.8%
Refrigerants 0.3%
Agriculture 2.3%
Fleet Transportation 1.6%
Solid Waste 0.4%

227,300 MTCO₂e Net Emissions

In the case of CSU, the majority of this 8.6% comes from sending faculty to conferences and there is a petition going around to try to decrease the amount of air travel done by universities and institutes of higher education. If you are interested, you can see the petition and learn more at: https://academicflyingblog.wordpress.com/.

Continued:

That being said, most of us here in the library don't have the university fly us too many places. Many of us do fly on our own dime though and even if we can't make immediate changes, it is good to be informed. For example, a (one-way) flight from Denver to Dulles (DC) uses 0.37 metric tons (tonnes) of CO2 which has total impact of 1 tonne CO2 equivalent. (Don't ask me about those calculations, I got them from a chemist.) In fact, in terms of other things that are done to reduce individual environmental impact, reducing flying is high on the list. Here are some examples:

Recycling Paper

$$\frac{0.35 \text{ tonnes paper}}{\text{year} \cdot \text{person}} \times \frac{2{,}400{,}000 \text{ Calories}}{\text{tonne paper}} \times \frac{\text{tonne CO2}}{4{,}900{,}000 \text{ Calories}} = 0.171 \text{ tonne CO2/person} \cdot \text{year}$$

Driving Slower

$$\frac{15{,}000 \text{ miles}}{\text{year} \cdot \text{person}} \times \frac{\text{gallon}}{25 \text{ miles}} \times \frac{24{,}000 \text{ Calories}}{\text{gallon}} \times \frac{\text{tonne CO2}}{4{,}900{,}000 \text{ Calories}} = 2.900 \text{ tonne CO2/person} \cdot \text{year}$$

Eating less red meat

$$\frac{75 \text{ pounds red meat}}{\text{year} \cdot \text{person}} \times \frac{40{,}500 \text{ Calories}}{\text{pound red meat}} \times \frac{\text{tonne CO2}}{4{,}900{,}000 \text{ Calories}} = 0.620 \text{ tonne CO2/person} \cdot \text{year}$$

Compare those with our Denver to Dulles trip of 1 tonne. Driving the 1700 miles would equate to 0.19 tonnes—less if you have a more efficient car, and even less if someone was in the car with you. That is a savings of **.81 tonnes** for just that one trip.

This is something to keep in mind the next time we are planning a trip, whether it is for work or not. Driving (carpooling!?!), and taking the train are better environmental options. These do take time though, which is something we don't usually have the luxury of. One thing that the petition is pushing for is using web conferencing to replace face to face meetings and conferences that require air travel, which is something else to consider when making our decisions. It isn't always going to be possible not to fly, but it is possible to be aware of what it does to the environment and make adjustments where possible.

Thanks to Tony Rappe, CSU chemistry professor, for the CSU greenhouse emissions image, the calculations above, and notification of the petition.

Contact Us

Contact us for more information about what we are doing, to suggest ideas, or suggest a guest writer.

- Neyda Gilman
- Don Albrecht
- Stacey Baumgarn
- David Ramsay
- Tom Moothart

Morgan Library Sustainability Committee