

US carbon pollution up two percent in 2013

January 13 2014, by Matthew Daly



This Jan. 23, 2013, file photo, shows a poor air quality sign is posted over a highway, in Salt Lake City. A new government report released Jan. 13, 2014, says energy-related carbon dioxide pollution increased slightly in 2013 after declining for several years in a row. (AP Photo/Rick Bowmer, File)

A new government report says energy-related carbon dioxide pollution increased slightly last year after declining for several years in a row. The 2 percent increase was largely due to a small increase in coal consumption in the electric power sector.

Coal, long the dominant source for U.S. electricity, has regained some market share in recent months as [natural gas prices](#) have increased following historic lows in 2012.

A report by the Energy Information Administration says American cars and factories spewed 5.38 billion tons of [carbon dioxide](#) in 2013, up from 5.27 billion in 2012. Carbon dioxide is the chief man-made global warming gas.

Even with the uptick, the EIA says overall U.S. carbon emissions remained 10 percent below 2005 levels.

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