

# Air Emissions in My Community web tool: Sectors and activities information

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## Introduction

Sources of emissions to air in the Air Emissions in My Community web tool are classified into one of six sectors:

1. Commercial businesses
2. EPA-licensed industry
3. Household activities
4. Natural sources
5. Non-road equipment and transport
6. Road transport

These sectors are consistent with the NSW Air Emissions Inventory as detailed in the [Air Emissions Inventory technical reports](#) although the names have been changed into more common language.

Within each sector, emission sources are broken down further into activities. These activities are largely consistent with the NSW Air Emissions Inventory, in which activities are based on the [Australia New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification](#) system. As with the sectors, some activity names have been changed into more common language.

## Sector descriptions

### Commercial businesses

The commercial businesses sector comprises those businesses that are not required under the [Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997](#) to hold an Environment Protection License. Emissions from businesses in this sector are spatially allocated to the physical premises where the business activities and emissions generating activities occur. The emissions from this sector are termed 'premises based emissions'.

Examples of businesses in this sector include service stations, printers, quarries, food product manufacturing and automotive smash repairing. Over 5,000 commercial business premises are included in the 2008 NSW Air Emissions Inventory.

### EPA-licensed industry

The EPA-licensed industry sector comprises premises based industries that are required under the [Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997](#) to hold an Environment Protection License. The Environment Protection License specifies environmental conditions under which the industry must operate. Emissions from industries in this sector are spatially allocated to the physical premises where the industrial activities and emissions generating activities occur. The emissions from this sector are termed 'premises based emissions'.

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Examples of EPA-licensed industries include coal mines, electricity generation, petroleum manufacturing, waste treatment, iron and steel manufacturing, sewage treatment plants, concrete and cement manufacturing and chemical manufacturing. Over 1,100 EPA-licensed industries are included in the 2008 NSW Air Emissions Inventory. A full list of EPA-licensed premises can be found at the [Protection of the Environment Operations Public Register](#).

### Household activities

Household activities are primarily domestic or residential based activities that generate emissions. Examples include residential wood heating, lawn mowing and gardening, aerosol and solvent use and painting. This sector also includes some commercial business activities that are not premises based, or unable to be spatially allocated to specific premises. An example of this is commercial lawn mowing and gardening.

The emissions from household activities are generally spatially allocated using either population and/or dwelling data. For example, domestic lawn mowing is spatially allocated according to the number of free standing dwellings in each 1 x 1 kilometre grid cell within the NSW Greater Metropolitan Region. Aerosol and solvent use is spatially allocated according to population in each grid cell.

### Natural sources

The natural sources sector comprises naturally occurring emission sources. Examples include windblown dust, bushfires, marine aerosol (sea-salt), organic emissions from vegetation, and soil denitrification. These emissions are area based, meaning they are generated across significant land areas. For example, emissions from vegetation are allocated according to vegetation maps (areas and vegetation types), bushfire emissions by the area of bush burnt, and wind-blown dust across exposed soil areas.

### Non-road equipment and transport

The non-road equipment and transport sector comprises mobile equipment and vehicles not operating on public roads. Examples include construction equipment, ships, commercial and recreational boats, locomotives and aircraft. Emissions are allocated according to where the activities take place, such as shipping lanes and ports, aircraft flight paths, rail tracks, and industrial premises utilising industrial non-road mobile equipment.

### Road transport

The road transport sector comprises emissions from road-registered vehicles operating on public roads. Examples include cars, motorcycles, trucks and buses, both petrol and diesel fuelled. These emissions are allocated across the road network according to vehicle kilometres travelled data.

## Activity list

A total of 63 emission generating activities are defined within the Air Emissions in My Community web tool. Some of these activities occur in more than one of the sectors. The list of activities cross referenced to the sectors, which they belong, are listed in Table 1. Note that any particular activity may not emit all substances included in the web tool.

**Table 1** List of emission-generating activities and sectors

Activity	Commercial businesses	EPA-licensed industry	Household activities	Natural sources	Non-road equipment and transport	Road transport
Aerosol and solvent use			√			
Agriculture	√	√				
Air transport					√	
Automotive repair and maintenance	√					
Basic chemical and chemical product manufacturing	√	√				
Basic ferrous metal manufacturing		√				
Basic material wholesaling	√					
Basic non-ferrous metal manufacturing		√				
Battery manufacturing		√				
Beverage manufacturing	√	√				
Cement, lime, plaster and concrete product manufacturing		√				
Ceramic product manufacturing		√				
Coal mining		√				
Commercial lawn mowing and garden equipment			√			
Commercial water transport					√	
Construction services	√					
Diesel vehicle exhaust						√
Electricity generation		√				
Fabricated metal product manufacturing	√	√				
Fertiliser and pesticide manufacturing		√				
Field burning of agricultural residues				√		
Food product manufacturing	√	√				
Fuel retailing	√					
Furniture and other manufacturing	√					
Gas supply	√		√			
Glass and glass product manufacturing		√				
Hospitals	√					
Laundries and dry-cleaners	√					
Machinery and equipment manufacturing	√					
Marine aerosol				√		
Non-metallic mineral mining and quarrying	√	√				
Non-metallic mineral product Manufacturing	√	√				
Non-road vehicles and equipment					√	
Painting, powder coating, electroplating			√			
Personal and other services	√					
Petrol vehicle evaporative						√

Activity	Commercial businesses	EPA-licensed industry	Household activities	Natural sources	Non-road equipment and transport	Road transport
Petrol vehicle exhaust						√
Petroleum and coal product manufacturing		√				
Polymer product and rubber product manufacturing	√	√				
Prescribed burning and bushfires				√		
Primary metal and metal product manufacturing	√	√				
Printing	√	√	√			
Professional, scientific and technical services	√					
Pulp, paper and converted paper product manufacturing	√	√				
Rail transport	√	√			√	
Recreational boats					√	
Residential barbecues			√			
Residential gas combustion			√			
Residential lawn mowing and garden Equipment			√			
Residential oil heating			√			
Residential wood heating			√			
Road and bridge construction	√	√	√			
Road, brake and tyre wear						√
Shipping					√	
Soil nitrification and denitrification				√		
Transport equipment manufacturing	√	√				
Transport support services	√	√				
Tree canopy and grassland				√		
Warehousing and storage services		√				
Waste collection, treatment and disposal Services	√	√				
Water supply, sewerage and drainage Services	√	√				
Windblown dust				√		
Wood product manufacturing	√	√				

## About the EPA

The EPA is an independent statutory authority and the principal environmental regulator in NSW. It leads the state's response to managing a diverse range of activities that can impact on the health of the NSW environment and its people, using a mix of tools including education, partnerships, licensing and approvals, audit, enforcement and economic mechanisms.

The EPA performs the following functions:

- regulates air, water and noise pollution, waste, forestry, coal seam gas mining, contaminated sites, radiation, dangerous goods, hazardous material and pesticides
- develops, implements and evaluates policies and strategies to mitigate environmental impacts and minimise the community's exposure to risks from air pollution, noise, pesticides, waste and hazardous materials
- monitors emerging environmental issues and develops appropriate responses to prevent or minimise adverse impacts through early intervention
- administers the Waste and Environment Levy and load-based licensing which drives environmental improvement
- works with industry to implement pollution reduction programs utilising best practice technologies to enhance environmental performance, reduce emissions and improve process efficiency
- investigates breaches of legislation and undertakes strategic compliance and enforcement
- reforms the regulatory framework for environmental protection to strengthen its effectiveness, minimise red tape and optimise compliance costs
- responds to incidents and investigates reports of environmental harm received from the public and industry
- promotes responsible behaviours and educates the community and industry about the benefits of waste minimisation, increasing recycling and reducing littering.

## Report pollution and environmental incidents

Contact Environment Line on 131 555 (NSW only) or email [info@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:info@environment.nsw.gov.au)

See also [www.epa.nsw.gov.au](http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au)

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Phone: 131 555 (NSW only – environment information and publications requests).

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