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FMAA releases first in-depth greenhouse gas inventory

The Friedman Memorial Airport Authority (FMAA) has released its first in-depth greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory. As part of its intention to align with the community GHG emissions inventory and the City of Hailey's commitment to carbon reduction, FMAA voluntarily commissioned the preparation of this inventory associated with activity at the airport.

Released May 3, 2022, the 48-page inventory uses the year 2020 as a baseline because it is the most current year for which the airport has complete data. Although during the pandemic, enplanements in 2020 were significantly reduced, overall airport operations (takeoffs and landings) remained consistent.

Prepared by Denver-based Mead & Hunt, the inventory is organized by the party that has ownership or control over the sources of emissions. In the case of the airport, those categories include airport-owned/controlled, airlines, aircraft operators, tenant-owned/controlled, and public-owned/controlled.

Key takeaways:

- Based on the inventory's findings, **approximately 22,100 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions were emitted in 2020** as a result of the operation of and air travel associated with the Friedman Memorial Airport.

- Of the 22,100 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions emitted in 2020, **Friedman Memorial Airport's owned and controlled emissions represent about 768 metric tons of CO2, reflecting about 3.5% of total airport-wide emissions**. The largest portion of these greenhouse gas emissions was associated with purchased electricity for stationary or facility usage.

- The next largest airport-owned sources were associated with **natural gas from facility stationary sources at 29.7%.**

- **Airport ground support equipment/fleet vehicles accounted for 14.4% of airport-controlled emissions.** The two smallest sources of airport-controlled emissions are passenger travel on on-airport roads in rental cars (0.4%) and passenger-owned vehicles (1.3%)

- **Airline/tenant/aircraft operator-owned and controlled emissions represent 20,813 metric tons of CO2 in 2020 or 94.2% of total airport-related emissions**. **Of this category of ownership and control, aircraft represent the single largest source of CO2 emissions.** About 93.17% of the airport-related emissions are from aircraft alone (99% of tenant emissions), of which the airport has no control.

- The final category represents public-owned emissions associated with the airport. This category comprises ground vehicle movements associated with air travel at SUN, including all ground travel on off-airport roadways. **Public-owned emissions accounted for 519 metric tons of CO2 in 2020, or 2.3% of total airport-wide emissions.**

Aircraft are probably the most often cited air pollutant source, but as is noted by the FAA, they produce the same types of emissions as cars. **According to the recent 2018 Blaine County GHG Emissions Inventory, approximately 40% of emissions (133,982 metric tons) are attributable to transportation sources that do not include the airport (about 6% of total community emissions). This report provides a regional context we have never had as it relates to overall emissions attributable specifically to airport activity.**

The airport is committed to supporting local and regional efforts to understand improve our climate resilience and consider this inventory as a baseline to evaluate and implement appropriate initiatives to reduce SUN's carbon footprint and increase the overall sustainability of the airport and the community. The airport is a stakeholder of the Regional Sustainability and Climate Advisory Committee, and will work with local and regional partners to facilitate alignment on these goals and collaborate on key strategies to improve resilience.

Collectively, as a community, we all have a role to play in achieving and sustaining climate resilience, but regardless of the size of that role, this data provides some very clear indicators of where to begin.

2022 FMAA Greenhouse Gas Inventory: https://iflysun.com/greenhouse-gas-emissions/

2018 Blaine County Greenhouse Gas Inventory Report: https://www.co.blaine.id.us/DocumentCenter/View/16463/GHG-Inventory-Report-Blaine-County-2018-11Aug2021_final

About Friedman Memorial Airport

Located in the heart of the beautiful Wood River Valley, Friedman Memorial Airport (SUN) generates the second-highest economic impact for commercial service airports in Idaho, second only behind Boise Airport. SUN offers scheduled airline service to Salt Lake City, Seattle, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Denver, and Chicago. SUN creates jobs and connects tourists from around the world with local businesses, generating close to $300 million in economic impact each year for the region*.

***Source:** 2020 Idaho Division of Aeronautics Economic Impact of Idaho Airports report

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