



MPOs and GHG Analysis

AMPO Air Quality Work Group Meeting
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Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations

Background

“Which MPOs are doing climate change?”

“What are they doing?”

“How are they doing it?”

- AMPO GHG survey results
- Type of analysis
- Technical challenges
- Tools used
- Resource needs



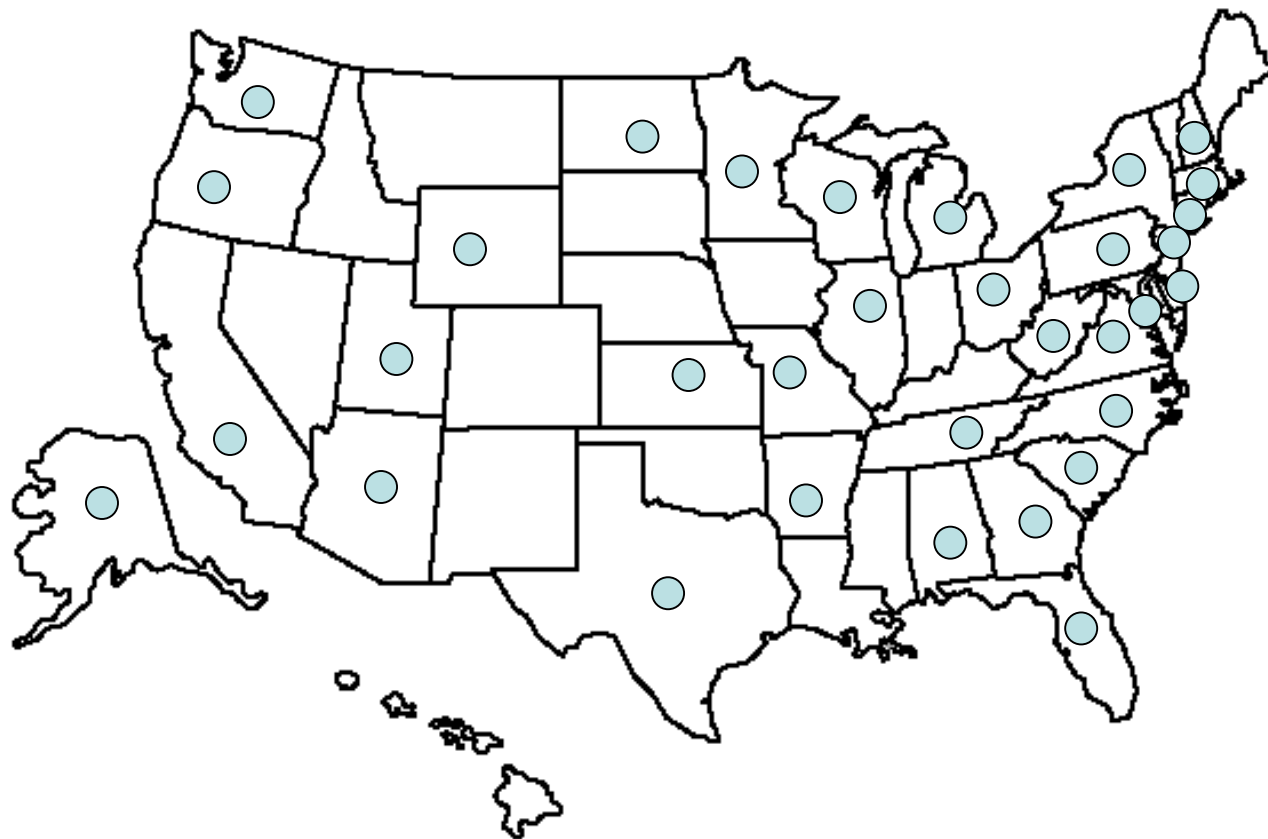
AMPO GHG Analysis Survey



- Conducted March - April 2014
- Sent to all MPOs
- Straightforward survey

AMPO GHG Analysis Survey

83 responses from MPOs in 35 states (at least)



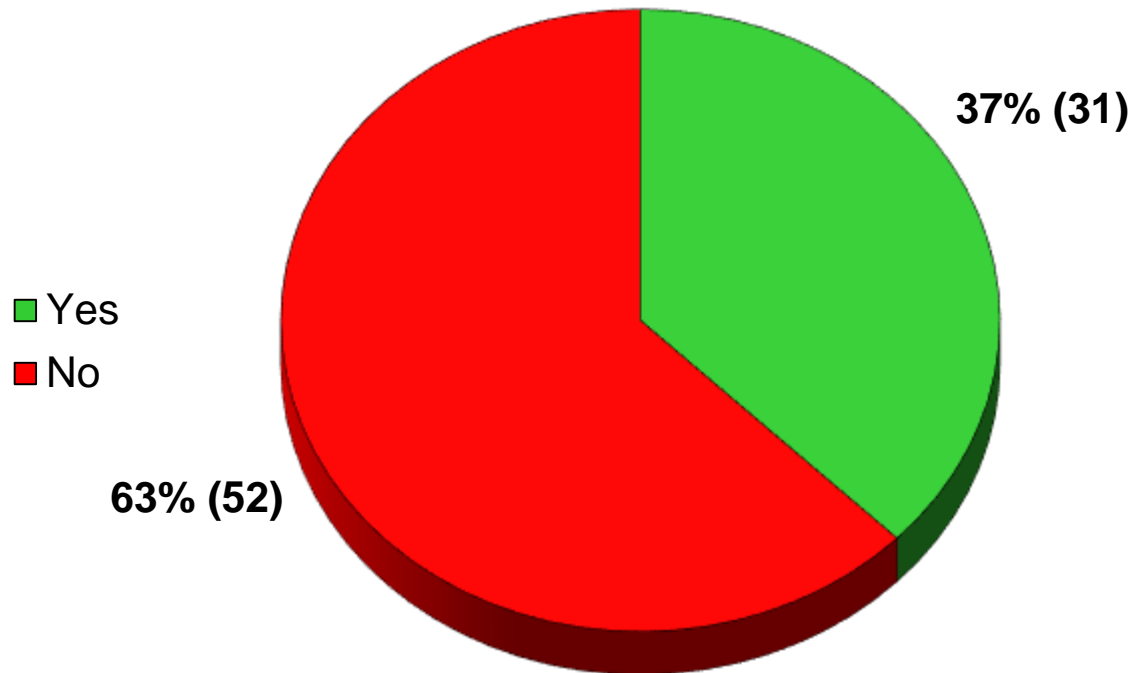
AMPO GHG Analysis Survey



Survey Questions and Responses



Has your organization undertaken a GHG or energy analyses of transportation sources?



If yes, what type of analysis?

- Emission inventory (base year and projection)
 - Some included mitigation analysis, some did not
- GHG scenario testing
 - Based on land use scenarios
 - Based on technology and or behavioral changes
- Environmental assessment of LRP
- Project level analysis for major TIP projects



Biggest technical challenges?

- Acquiring data
- Processing results
- Scaling data to the same geography
- Assumptions about future vehicle and fuel technologies
- Speculative assumptions about behavioral shifts under conceptual scenarios
- “Our challenges have not been technical in nature.”
 - Reaching consensus/diverse interests/political ideology

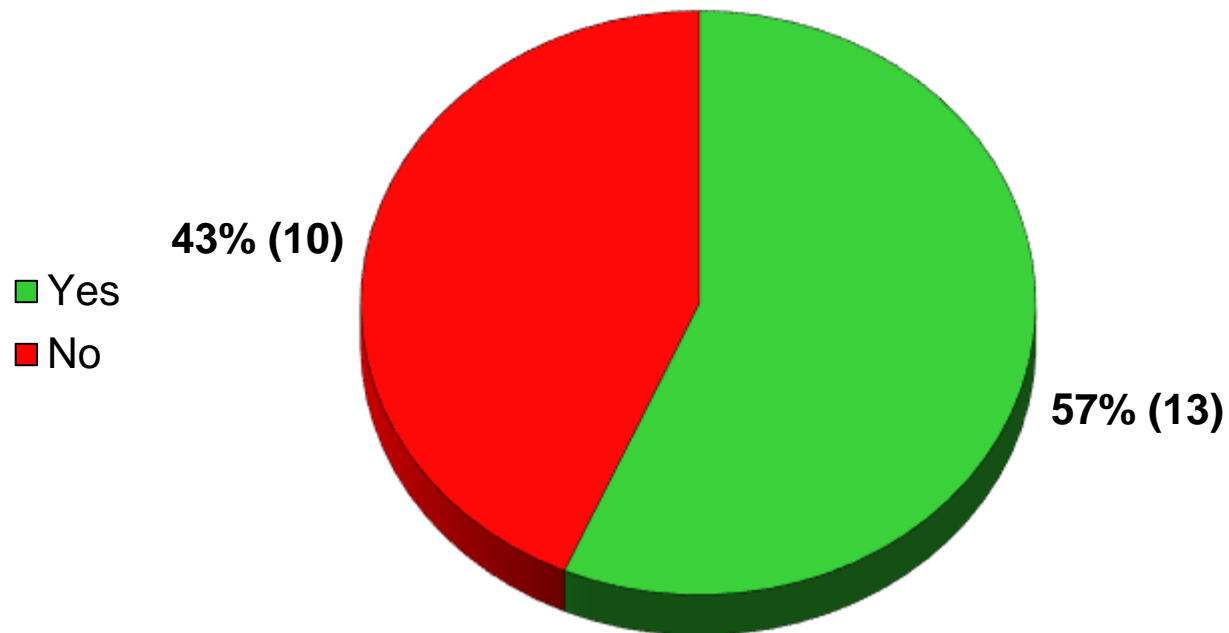


Analytical tools used

- MOVES/EMFAC/MOBILE6
- REMI land use model
- SQL/Excel
- GIS
- MOSERS (TX)
- GreenSTEP (OR)
- ICLEI software
- Travel demand model (including land use and economic forecasts)
- “GHG inventory tools offer simplicity...often sacrifice flexibility, transparency, ability to update...”



Is climate change a factor in scoring/ranking projects?



How is climate change used to score/rank projects?

- Change in baseline GHG emissions for each project
- Cost of carbon monetized in BC ratios for projects
- Included in detailed evaluation criteria for distributing federal funds
- For specific programs (i.e. climate initiative) only
- Considered subjectively but not part of scoring
- Qualitatively

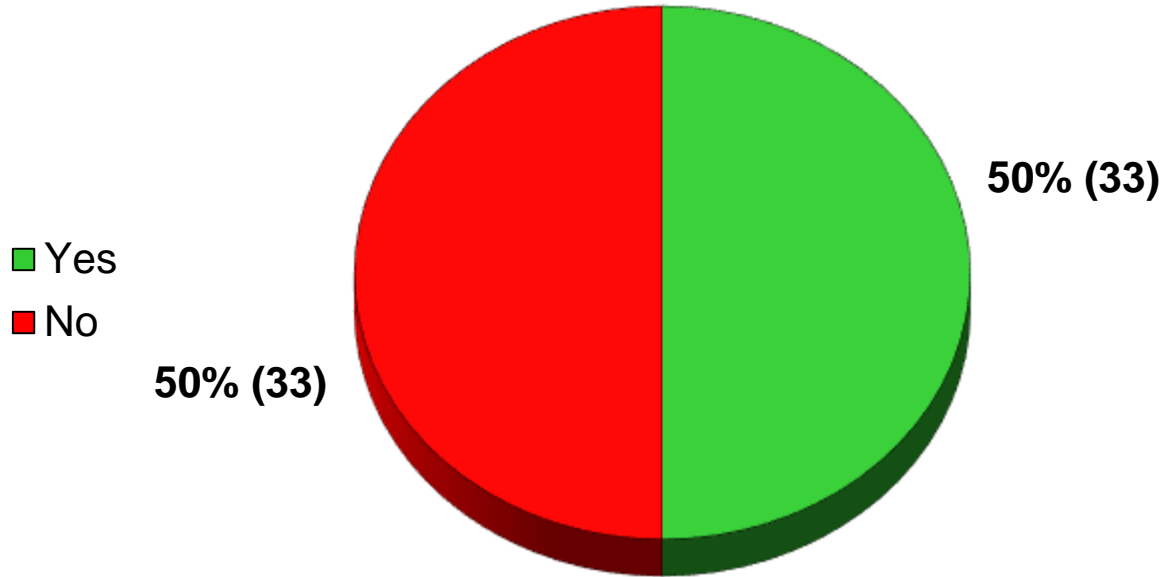


Reasons why a GHG analysis has not been initiated

- Lack of resources / Other priorities
- Political opposition
- Not required
- Lack of technical capacity
- City or state agency has already done it
- Indirectly addressing it through emphasis on complete streets, non-motorized modes, and TOD
- We are waiting for state to complete guidance
- We are in attainment
- Focus is on adaptation
- “We do not believe the hype about man-made global warming.”



Does your TIP or LRP discuss climate change?



- State law requires it
- Yes, in-depth
- Yes, but very briefly
- Plan sets goal of X% reduction and describes action areas
- Yes, but in terms of resiliency

What resources would be most helpful? (Ranked)

1. GHG analysis methodologies
2. Funding to conduct analysis
3. Communicating climate change issues to the public and decision-makers
4. Cost-effectiveness of mitigation strategies
5. GHG emission factor information
6. GHG mitigation options

Other suggestions:

- Best practices / case studies
- Training
- Federal requirement



AMPO GHG Analysis Survey



- A great deal of MPO climate change activity
- Some MPOs are making climate change a key part of the planning process
- Desire for best practices / case studies / peer exchanges





Thank you!

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