**The Major Contributors of Greenhouse Gases: Identifications and A Measure of Their Total Impact.**

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ABSTRACT

Concerns over climate change have generated more interest in the increase in multiple greenhouse gases and the sources of said gases. The goal of this study was to review multiple journal studies in evaluating and identifying the top five contributors to the greenhouse effect and climate change. Studies were sorted by relevance and distinction related to the type of greenhouse gas, the amount the contributor produced, and the global impact that is estimated in the short term and long term. From the studies reviewed, the current five major contributors of greenhouse gases includes agricultural practices such as land clearing and inaccurate application of fertilizer, electrical suppliers through the use of fossil fuels, cities with high population densities, the mishandling of waste, and the combustion of fossil fuels for industrial production. Agricultural practices have been estimated to contribute 25%, 65%, and 90% of anthropogenic emissions of CO2, CH4, and N2O. Electrical suppliers are estimated to account for 25% of emissions from the plant. The cities with high population densities were shown through the study to contribute just under half of total emissions. It should be noted that this estimate does combine multiple sources within the city. For the mishandling of waste, energy inefficiencies showed wide variations ranging from 0.004–3 kg CO2 eq. kWh^-1 leading to an increase in emissions. Finally industrial contributions to gas emissions equaled to 21 % of total emissions. Total estimates equate 25% of emissions from electrical activities, 21% from industrial activities, 33% (currently) from agriculture, 11% from poor waste management practices, and 10% from large cities. Through the knowledge of these sources and their contributions to greenhouse gas emissions, it is believed that changes can be made to improve efficiencies of these different sectors.

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