



## Agriculture: A central issue

As the third economic power in Brazil, the State of Minas Gerais is often described as a “concentration of Brazil”, owing to the very strong territorial and social disparities within its territory. In 2014, it undertook the development of a Local Climate and Energy Plan ([PEMC](#)), then considered as pioneer in Brazil. This plan establishes that in 2014, the emissions of Minas Gerais were 124MtCO<sub>2</sub>eq, i.e. a 24% increase compared to 2005 (99.5MtCO<sub>2</sub>eq). They are distributed as follows: agriculture (40%), energy (37%), industrial processes (16%), waste (7%).

### • AGRICULTURAL POLLUTION AND DEFORESTATION •

Minas Gerais is the second State of Brazil in terms of livestock (23.8 million cattle in 2015) and agricultural production (rice, sugar cane and grain) with a production increasing steadily by 2% per year since 2005. **This growth has led to a 22% increase of emissions in the agricultural sector between 2005 (16.2MtCO<sub>2</sub>eq) and 2014 (19.8MtCO<sub>2</sub>eq)**, half of which is due to land use changes and deforestation. In 2010, Minas Gerais implemented a series of [law](#) to, for example, drastically limit the practice of agricultural waste burning in plantations. This resulted in a 75% decrease of emissions related to agricultural waste between 2009 and 2015, falling from 0.66 to 0.16MtCO<sub>2</sub>eq. In parallel, Minas Gerais set up a large programme in 2016 for the recovery of degraded pastures and limiting the effects of deforestation, which is the cause of 17% of emissions in the sector. 715 producers were trained in techniques enabling a better management of their activity, the recovery of degraded areas, and increased production and incomes of rural producers ([FAEMG 2018](#)).

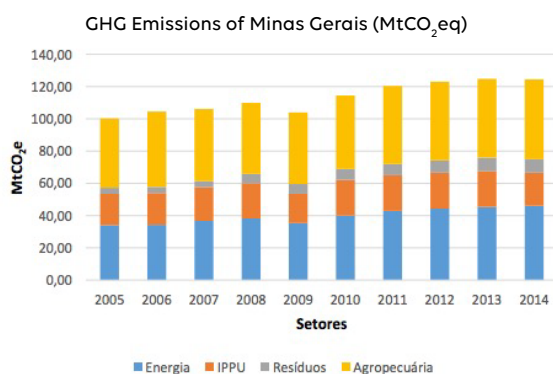
### • IMPROVING ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN THE INDUSTRY •

In 2014, nearly one third of emissions due to energy combustion came from industrial production.

The 3% decrease of the GDP in 2009 compared to 2008 resulted in an 8% decrease of total emissions in Minas Gerais. This decrease is directly explained by the retraction of the metal industry, which saw a 39% decrease of its production in 2009, and an 8% decrease of its CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Since the economic recovery of the sector in 2011, however, emissions have increased by 12%. In order to attempt to reduce the carbon and energy intensity of the industry, Minas Gerais has set up a financial support [programme](#) for the modernisation of industrial processes and the reduction of their energy consumption, aiming at reducing emissions by 79,537tCO<sub>2</sub>eq by 2030, such as: the use of natural gas to run the turbines, the renewal of heavy goods vehicle fleets for larger vehicles that use bio-fuels, or the integration of variable-speed compressors into industrial fans so as to optimise the latter’s energy consumption. In 2015, the benefits of these various measures were estimated at 500tCO<sub>2</sub>eq.

### • MEASURING AND COMBATING SOCIAL AND CLIMATE VULNERABILITY •

Frequently affected by extreme climate events such as droughts and floods, Minas Gerais was the first State of Brazil to perform a diagnosis of vulnerability to climate change in [2010](#), updated in [2015](#). In 2015, the Development Bank of Minas Gerais (BDMG) and the French Development Agency financed the creation of an index of Vulnerability of Minas Gerais ([IMVC](#)) to measure the vulnerability of the State’s territories to impacts related to climate changes, as well as a call for projects aimed at municipalities for mitigation and adaptation projects.



MAIN SOURCES:  
[PLANO DE ENERGIA MUDANÇAS CLIMÁTICAS \(2015\)](#)  
[ESTIMATIVAS DE EMISSÕES E REMOÇÕES DE GASES DE EFEITO ESTUFA DO ESTADO DE MINAS GERAIS - ANO BASE 2014](#)