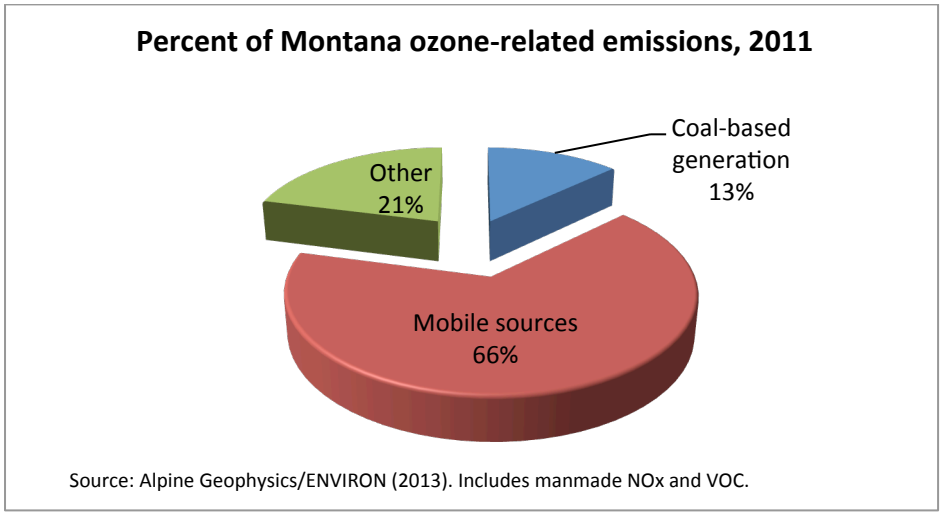
Clean Coal Technologies Are Improving Air Quality in Montana

A new Emissions and Air Quality Trends Report for 1999-2011, published by independent consultants Alpine Geophysics and ENVIRON International, documents the substantial decreases in air pollutants from coal-fueled electric generation and other sources in Montana and across the United States. These emission reductions are yielding significant air quality improvements in both urban smog (ozone) and fine particulate matter ($PM_{2.5}$).

Highlights of Alpine/ENVIRON's report for Montana:

- Montana's coal-fueled power plants have reduced emissions of nitrogen oxides by 54 percent since 1999, compared with an average 39 percent reduction for all other sources.
- Coal-based electric generation accounted for 13 percent of Montana's total ozone-related emissions in 2011.



- The Alpine Geophysics/ENVIRON report also documents the significant reductions since 1999 in emissions contributing to fine particulates – sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and direct PM emissions. Montana's coal-based electric utilities have reduced these PM-related emissions by 41 percent since 1999.
- These reductions in $PM_{2.5}$- and smog-forming emissions by coal-based generators will help Montana to meet both the eight-hour ozone standard and new $PM_{2.5}$ standard that EPA is now implementing.
- Investments in clean coal technologies by Montana's coal-based electric utilities are producing cleaner air for the benefit of all Montana citizens.

The June 2013 Alpine/ENVIRON emissions and air quality trends reports for 48 states and 5 regions are available at www.americaspower.org.