

Glossary: Global-warming potential (GWP)

Statistics Explained

Global-warming potential , abbreviated as **GWP** , is a term used to describe the relative potency, molecule for molecule, of a [greenhouse gas](#) , taking account of how long it remains active in the atmosphere.

The global-warming potentials (GWPs) currently used are those calculated over 100 years. [Carbon dioxide](#) is taken as the gas of reference and given a 100-year GWP of 1.

Related concepts

- [Carbon dioxide emissions](#)
- [Carbon dioxide equivalent](#)
- [Climate change](#)
- [Greenhouse gas \(GHG\)](#)

Statistical data

- [Climate change - driving forces](#)

Source

- [European Environment Agency - Glossary](#) , based on: European Commission. Climate change: Glossary of common terms and acronyms.