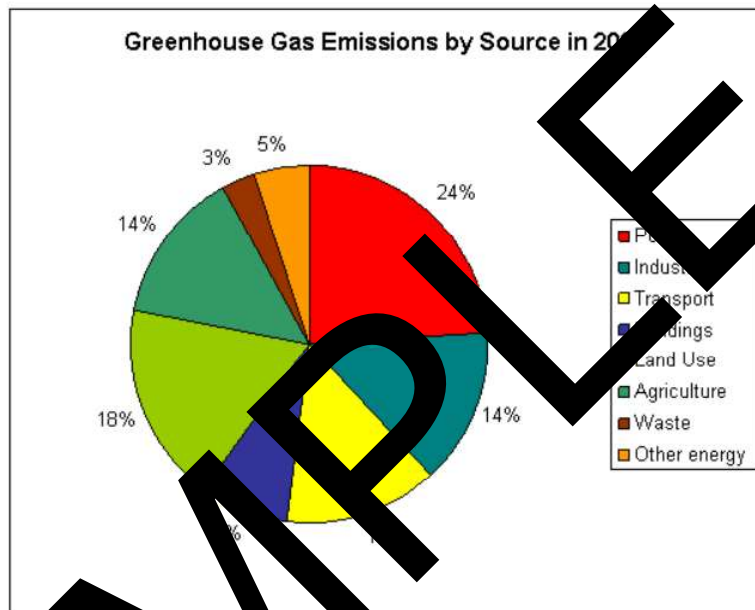


Greenhouse Gas Emissions

When addressing the problem of climate change, it is important to understand where environmentally harmful emissions come from. The chart below shows the main sources of global greenhouse gas emissions, of which CO₂ is the biggest constituent part.



Source: The Stern Review Executive Summary, p. iv.

Despite having only 5% of the world's population, the US is responsible for around 25% of global CO₂ emissions. The UK, meanwhile, is responsible for approximately 13%. Around one half of the UK's emissions are generated by the industrial and commercial sectors. The Carbon Trust classifies these emissions into the following different types.

- **Direct emissions** that result from an organisation's operations, e.g. on-site combustion of fuels, and emissions related to business travel and company vehicles.
- **Indirect emissions** throughout an organisation's supply chain, e.g. procurement of raw materials, gas and electricity supplies, and even employee commuting.

Businesses and the public sector, therefore, have a major part to play in reducing their carbon emissions. To do this, organisations need to have a sense of their own carbon footprint.

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