The Global Warming Potential (GWP) was developed to allow comparisons of the global warming impacts of different gases. Specifically, it is a measure of how much energy the emissions of 1 ton of a gas will absorb over a given period of time, relative to the emissions of 1 ton of carbon dioxide (CO2).

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Greenhouse Gas | SAR | AR3 | AR4 | AR5 |
| CO2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| CH4 | 21 | 23 | 25 | 28 |
| N2O | 310 | 296 | 298 | 265 |