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[ Metro News Briefs ]

**Los Angeles is Second-Highest CO2 Emitting County in U.S.**

(May 1, 2008) Los Angeles County is rated the second highest polluter of carbon dioxide emissions, according to a Purdue University study that evaluated counties nationwide. Only Harris County in Houston, Texas beat out the City of Angels in terms of sheer pollution.

The study focused on information from 2002 and found that L.A. County spews 18.5 million tons of carbon dioxide into the environment, because of the millions of car commuters in the area.

"It's interesting that the top county, Harris, Texas, is on the list because of industrial emissions, but the second highest CO2 emitting county, Los Angeles, Calif., is on the list because of automobile emissions," said Kevin Gurney, assistant professor of earth and atmospheric science at Purdue, who conducted the study.

"So it's not just cars, and it's not just factories that are emitting the carbon dioxide, but a combination of different things," Gurney said.

Unfortunately, Los Angeles only missed the top spot by less than 100,000 tons of carbon pollution. Cook County, a suburb of Chicago, placed third with more than 13 million tons of CO2 emission.

The study – named the Vulcan project, after the Roman god of fire – focuses only on carbon production from the burning of fossil fuels, such as coal and gasoline.

Of the 20 counties that made the list for CO2 emissions, Boston and New York are near the bottom. Las Vegas was the lowest with less than 6 million tons of carbon emission.

--Excerpted from [www.medicalnewstoday.com](http://www.medicalnewstoday.com).

