

Black carbon, a component of diesel exhaust, is one of the largest contributing pollutants to global warming. Black carbon warms the atmosphere by absorbing sunlight and radiating heat into the air (like a blacktop road). Black carbon can also directly accelerate melting, by darkening snow and ice. As a global warming pollutant, black carbon is about 2,000 times more potent than the equivalent amount of CO₂ over a 20-year period. The United States has the highest per-capita emissions of black carbon in the world. More than half of U.S. black carbon emissions come from diesel engines – 41% from on-road diesels and 16% from off-road diesels.