



[News](#) > [Science](#) > Humans Are Fueling Global Warming By Just Breathing, Study Claims

# Humans Are Fueling Global Warming By Just Breathing, Study Claims

For the study, the researchers investigated emissions of methane and nitrous oxide in human breath from 104 adult volunteers in the UK.

[Science](#) | Edited by [Bhavya Sukheja](#) | Updated: December 15, 2023 9:47 pm IST

## QUICK LINKS

[Latest News](#) [World News](#) [PNR Status](#)  
[Education News](#) [Business News](#)  
[Sports News](#) [MP Chhattisgarh News](#)  
[NDTV Profit](#) [Animal Box Office Collection](#)  
[Parliament Breach Case](#) [Arvind Kejriwal](#)  
[Ram Temple Ceremony](#) [COVID-19](#)  
[New Criminal Laws](#) [IND vs SA Live](#)



## TRENDING



"I Quit": Wrestlers Weep After Controversial Candidate Wins Key Poll



Review: *Dunki* Is Buoyed By Flawless Performances From SRK, Taapsee



"India, US Handling Khalistani Terrorist Issue With Maturity": Key Diplomat



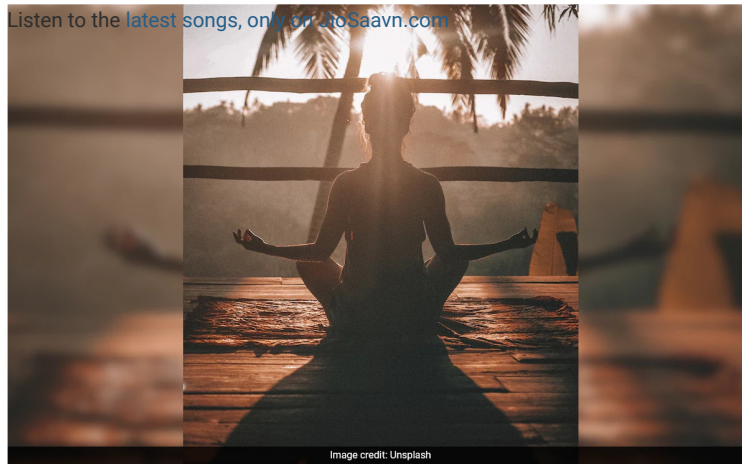
4 Soldiers Killed In Action After Army Truck Ambushed By Terrorists In J&K



Gunman Killed Father Before Shooting Dead 15 At Prague University



"She Will Go Or...": Congress Leader On Ayodhya Invite For Sonia Gandhi



Researchers didn't find any link between gases in the breath and diets. (Representative pic)



Scientists in the United Kingdom have published new research that claims that humans are exhaling global warming-causing gases when they breathe. The study has been published in the journal PLOS One. Experts explained that methane and nitrous oxide in the air we exhale make up to 0.1% of the UK's greenhouse gas emissions. So once you factor in the farts and burps being produced by humans, it becomes clear that humans are fueling global warming by just exhaling from lungs, scientists said.

The [new study](#) was led by Dr Nicholas Cowan from the UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology in Edinburgh. In the paper, she said that the evidence of planet-killing breathing is pretty clear and it shouldn't be ignored. "We would urge caution in the assumption that emissions from humans are negligible," she said.

The team of researchers explained that when humans inhale, air enters the lungs and oxygen from that air moves to the blood, while carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), a waste gas, moves from the blood to the lungs and is breathed out. Every person breathes out CO<sub>2</sub> when they exhale, but in the new study, researchers focused on methane and nitrous oxide. They explained that these two are both powerful greenhouse gases, but because they are breathed out in much smaller quantities, their contribution to global warming may have been overlooked.

"We report only emissions in breath in this study, and flatus emissions are likely to increase these values significantly, though no literature characterises these emissions for people in the UK," the team wrote in the study. "Assuming that livestock and other wild animals also exhale emissions of N<sub>2</sub>O, there may still be a small but significant unaccounted-for source of N<sub>2</sub>O emissions in the UK, which could account for more than 1% of national-scale emissions," they added.

**Also Read | [Scientist Develop First Mind-Reading Helmet That Can Write What You Think](#)**

For the study, the researchers investigated emissions of methane and nitrous oxide in human breath from 104 adult volunteers in the UK. After analysing they found that nitrous oxide was emitted by every participant, but methane was found in the breath of only 31 per cent of participants. The team said that those who do not exhale methane in their breath are still likely to "release gas ion flatus", meaning by farting or burping.

Therefore, concentrations of the two gases in the overall samples let the researchers estimate the proportion of the UK's emissions from human breath - 0.05 per cent for methane and 0.1 per cent for nitrous oxide.

Listen to the [latest songs, only on JioSaavn.com](#)

Researchers didn't manage to find any link between gases in the breath and diets.

"Concentration enhancement of both CH4 and N2O in the breath of vegetarians and meat consumers are similar in magnitude. Based on these results, we can state that, when estimating emissions from a population within the UK, future diet changes are not as important when estimating emissions across the UK as a whole," the study read.



LATEST NEWS



Opportunity To Redraft Colonial Criminal Laws "Wasted": P Chidambaram



UK's future diet changes are not as important when estimating emissions across the UK as a whole



Why Be Important When Gandhi Not Fit To Be Member Of Parliament



Top US, China Military Officials Speak After 1 Year-Long Halt To Talks



What Happened In Lockerbie Bombing? UK's Worst Terror Attack 35 Years Ago

About Us

Track Latest News Live on NDTV.com and get news updates from India and around the world.



Feedback

Investors

Redressals

Service Terms

Global warming

breathing causing global warming

