

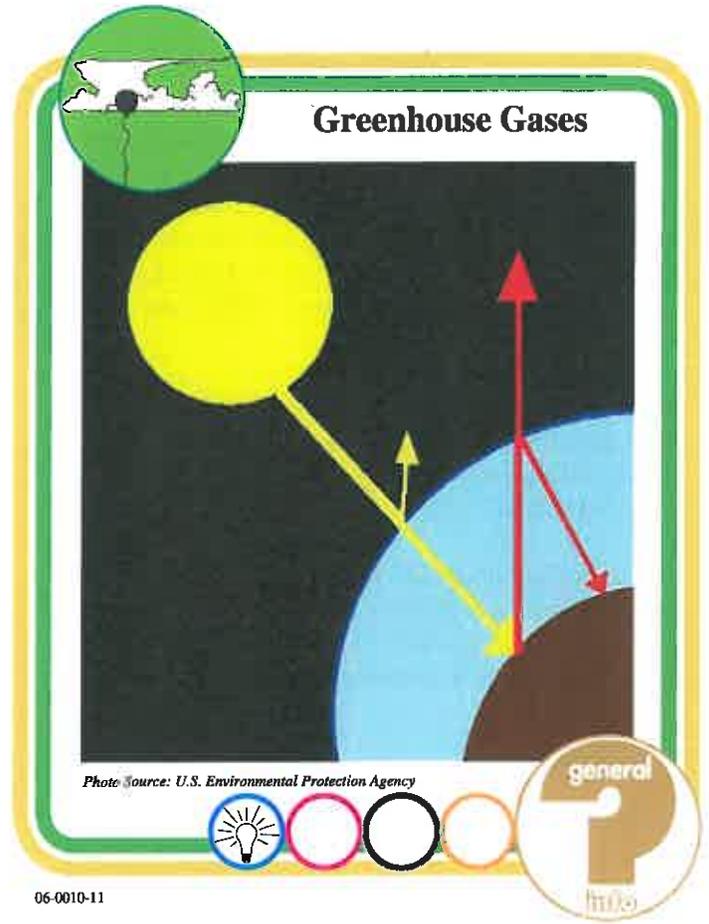
**Greenhouse Gases**

*Photo Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*

06-0010-11

general  
info

The diagram illustrates the greenhouse effect. A yellow sun in the upper left corner emits yellow arrows representing solar radiation. One arrow points directly to the Earth's surface, while another points to the atmosphere. From the Earth's surface, a red arrow points upwards, representing outgoing infrared radiation. A yellow arrow points from the atmosphere back down to the Earth's surface, representing the greenhouse effect. The Earth is shown as a blue and brown sphere. A small globe icon is in the top left corner. At the bottom, there is a row of four colored circles (blue, pink, black, orange) and a large brown question mark icon with the words 'general' and 'info' written on it.



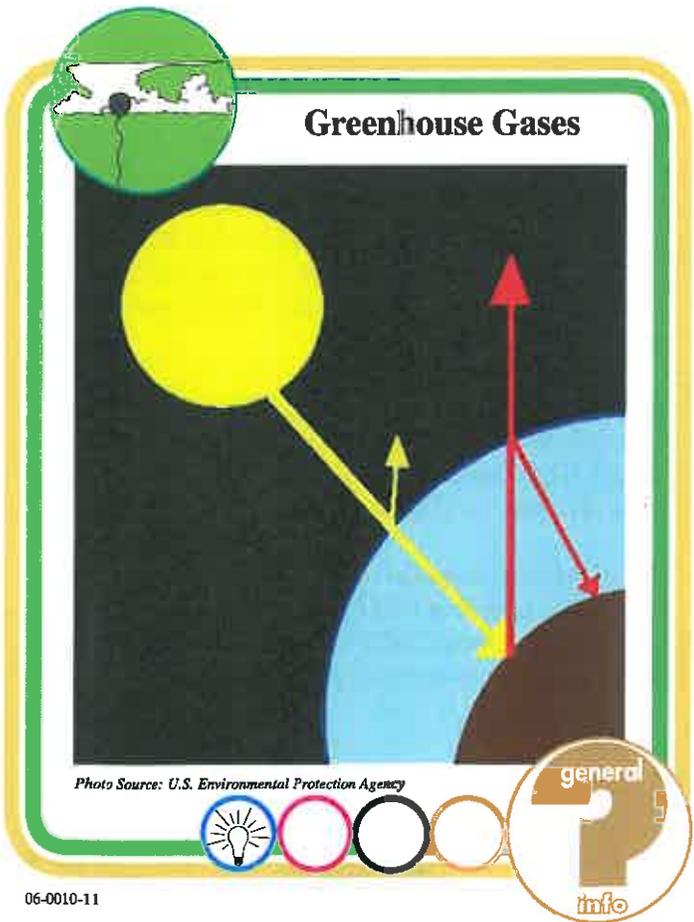
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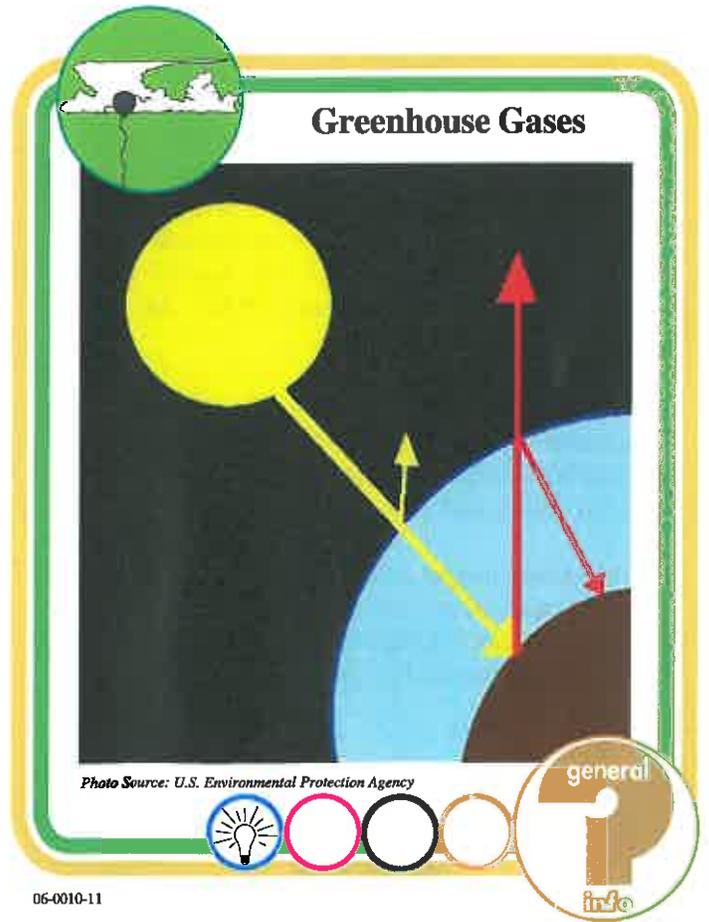
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## Greenhouse Gases

In December 2009, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced its decision that greenhouse gases (GHGs) threaten the public health and welfare of the American people. It also announced it would begin to regulate six of these GHGs: carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), methane (CH<sub>4</sub>); nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O); hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs); perfluorocarbons (PFCs); and sulfur hexafluoride (SF<sub>6</sub>).

Earlier, in May 2009, the Colorado Department of Transportation issued Policy Directive 1901 which addresses GHGs produced from Colorado's state highways, interstates and construction activities.

The immediate impact of the EPA decision on the environmental analysis of CDOT transportation projects is not known. Contact CDOT's Environmental Programs Branch for updates on this topic.



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