

RESUMEN

En la región del Valle neuquino se encuentran numerosos impactos ambientales que son generados por las actividades del ser humano, y que están íntimamente asociados con la generación de gases de efecto invernadero (GEI). Estos gases se concentran en la atmósfera produciendo fenómenos climáticos que originan impactos ambientales, los cuáles inciden sobre el funcionamiento de la biósfera y los factores que son parte de ella.

Esta investigación tuvo por objetivo evaluar los impactos ambientales derivados del aumento de los GEI en la atmósfera, por medio de dos métodos diferentes; primero mediante la determinación de la Huella de Carbono de pobladores urbanos y rurales, y segundo a través del relevamiento de las percepciones de los vecinos entrevistados.

Los valores de Huella de Carbono promedio determinados para ambos sectores demuestran que existe una considerable emisión de GEI en las zonas analizadas, lo cual intensificaría los impactos ambientales derivados de esta manifestación. Además, se comprobó que no hay una diferencia significativa en los resultados alcanzados entre uno y otro sector, por lo cual se pudo deducir que la medida del impacto de ambos sectores por separado es aproximadamente similar. A su vez, se encontró un amplio consenso comunitario respecto de que las emisiones de GEI generadas por el hombre, son un problema ambiental que afecta a la sociedad.

En sentido de conclusión, la zona del Alto Valle debe trabajar en la conciencia ambiental de los pobladores independientemente de su sector de residencia, para lograr reducir las emisiones de GEI relacionadas con sus actividades cotidianas y poder ser así un ejemplo para los demás municipios y regiones en el cuidado y protección del ambiente.

Palabras claves: Impactos ambientales, Huella de Carbono, percepciones, Cambio Climático, gases con efecto invernadero.

ABSTRACT

In the Neuquen Valley region there are numerous environmental impacts that are generated by human activities, and are closely associated with the generation of greenhouse gases (GHG). These gases are concentrated in the atmosphere producing climatic phenomena that give rise to environmental impacts, which affect the functioning of the biosphere and the factors that are part of it.

The objective of this research was to evaluate the environmental impacts of the increase of GHGs in the atmosphere by two different methods: **First** through the determination of the Carbon Footprint of urban and rural settlers, **and** second through the survey of the perceptions of the neighbors interviewed.

The average Carbon Footprint values determined for both sectors demonstrate that there is a considerable emission of GHG in the zones analyzed, which would intensify the environmental impacts derived from this manifestation. In addition, it was found that there was no significant difference in the results achieved between the two sectors, so it was possible to deduce that the measure of the impact of both sectors separately is approximately similar. In turn, a broad consensus was found in the community that human-generated GHG emissions are an environmental problem affecting society.

In conclusion, the Upper Valley area must work on the environmental conscience of the inhabitants, regardless of their sector of residence, in order to reduce GHG emissions related to their daily activities and thus be an example for other municipalities and regions in the care and protection of the environment.

Key words: Environmental impacts, Carbon Footprint, perceptions, Climate Change, greenhouse gases.

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