

# Air emissions

SDG 11

GRI 305-6, 305-7

In support of Bell's network and related activities across Canada, Bell owns and operates equipment, some of which can emit air pollutants. For example, we manage over 15,000 air-conditioning and refrigeration systems, nearly 1,000 fire-extinguishing systems and over 5,500 generators. We limit the emission of contaminants by responsibly managing and diligently overseeing the programs associated with these critical pieces of equipment.

## Halocarbon releases

As part of our operations, Bell employs equipment that uses halocarbons, which are chemical compounds used as refrigerants in air-conditioning and refrigeration systems, and as fire suppressants in fire extinguishing systems. Common types of halocarbons include hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) and hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs). These chemicals contribute to global warming and ozone depletion when released into the atmosphere.

Due to the risk halocarbons pose to the environment, Canadian regulations control halocarbon release reporting and disposal. Federal and provincial programs also aim to progressively eliminate HCFCs and HFCs. Bell's long-standing commitment to responsibly managing halocarbons in accordance with these programs and regulations has resulted in many advances over the past 10 years, including:

- Implementing a reporting process in the event of a halocarbon leak
- Developing and continuously executing HCFC and HFC usage phase-out plans
- Replacing air-conditioning and refrigeration systems in a responsible manner, and when possible, with systems that use halocarbon alternatives
- Helping develop an air conditioning system that uses compressed CO<sub>2</sub> as a refrigerant

Even with preventive and routine maintenance of systems, the release of halocarbons is expected due to mechanical defects and breakdowns. In 2022, the number of halocarbon leaks at Bell decreased by -13% compared to 2021. Total leaks from air-conditioning and fire-extinguishing systems represented 5,931 kg of halocarbons, which is a +23% increase from the volume leaked in 2021. However, this represents just 0.9% of the 649 tons of halocarbons we use across the country. To further reduce leaks and control any future impacts, we perform root-cause analyses of incidents and equipment life cycle analysis.

	TREND	2022	2021	VARIATION
Total weight in use (tons)	↓	649	680	-4.5%
Number of leaks	↓	308	353	-13%
Amount leaked (kg)	↑	5,931	4,825	+23%
Proportion of total weight leaked	↓	0.9%	0.7%	-70%

## Noise emissions

Bell uses powerful equipment to support its operations. Even the newest and most advanced machines sometimes produce noise. We limit our noise emissions by assessing and correcting elevated acoustic levels when equipment near a sensitive element<sup>1</sup> or in a sensitive area<sup>2</sup> is installed, modified or replaced, and when a noise complaint is reported to us.

If Bell technicians cannot resolve a case of elevated noise themselves, the services of professional acousticians are secured to validate whether noise emissions are in compliance with Bell's standards and applicable regulations. Bell takes corrective action when noise levels exceed these standards or when complainants maintain their grievance despite compliance to emission levels.

<sup>1</sup> Sensitive elements include places such as hospitals, educational institutions, hotels and recreational areas.

<sup>2</sup> Sensitive areas include residential areas, provincial parks or reserves and livestock farms.

## Hydrocarbon and other emissions

GRI 305-6

Bell uses generators across Canada to support our remote operations and ensure continued service in the event of power failures. Our generators are powered by either diesel, gasoline, propane or natural gas. Consequently, running these generators produces air emissions, including carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>), sulfur oxides (SO<sub>x</sub>), volatile organic compounds (VOC), particulate matter (PM) and total particulate matter (TPM). Bell uses Tier 4 generators whenever possible that conform to the cleanest air emission standards.

Although we don't track all of our air emissions, we do track CO, NO<sub>x</sub>, SO<sub>x</sub>, VOC, PM and TPM emissions at our largest sites. We also measure air emissions at these facilities whenever a change in operations occurs that could affect emission levels. Since 2012, year-over-year results from these facilities indicate that our emissions are all below the [National Pollutant Release Inventory's](#) thresholds.

## Future outlook

Bell strives to continue maintaining rigorous halocarbon, noise, hydrocarbon and other contaminant emission management programs in order to:

- Limit halocarbon emissions and phase these chemicals out of our operations, in line with federal phase-out plans and timelines
- Explore the use of systems that will meet business needs while using halocarbon alternatives
- Limit noise emissions and consequently, protect the well-being of all acoustic receptors
- Limit hydrocarbon and other contaminant emissions
- Explore renewable energy solutions that can replace our conventional generators

*To the extent this information sheet contains forward-looking statements including, without limitation, outlooks, plans, objectives, goals, targets, strategic priorities, commitments, undertakings and other statements that do not refer to historical facts, these statements are not guarantees of future performance or events, and we caution you against relying on any of these forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements are subject to inherent risks and uncertainties and are based on assumptions that give rise to the possibility that actual results or events could differ materially from our expectations expressed in, or implied by, such forward-looking statements. Refer to BCE Inc.'s most recent annual management's discussion and analysis (MD&A), as updated in BCE Inc.'s subsequent quarterly MD&As, for further information on such risks, uncertainties and assumptions. BCE Inc.'s MD&As are available on its website at [bce.ca](http://bce.ca), on SEDAR at [sedar.com](http://sedar.com) and on EDGAR at [sec.gov](http://sec.gov).*