Our Responsibility
Air emissions from mining occur primarily as fugitive dust from the mining and transport of ore and waste rock, ore crushing, tailings, heap leach pads and reclamation activities. We have a responsibility to control and manage our emissions to protect the health of our employees and contractors, safeguard the local community and surrounding habitat, and maintain air quality, including visibility.

Our Commitment
Our Safety and Sustainability Policy embeds our commitment to protecting air quality wherever we operate. Delivering on this commitment requires all of our sites to adhere to a comprehensive set of corporate-wide management standards for emissions controls and meet or exceed the regulatory requirements in the jurisdictions where we operate.

Our Approach
Our primary particulate matter emissions consist of dust from blasting, mining, hauling, dumping, crushing and stockpiling of rock. Alongside our management standards for control of air emissions, our employees are trained to visually measure opacity and to recognize when particulate controls, which include bag houses, water sprays and watering/treating roadways are needed. Our corporate-wide standards apply the North American standard for these dust emissions of 20% opacity.

Depending upon the type of operation and the nature of on-site facilities, such as refining, heating or boiler operations, some of our sites produce a range of point source emissions. While each Kinross operation is different, our management standard for air emissions control is applied universally. Each operating site inventories, monitors and reports on possible pollutants, including carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxide (NOx), and sulphur dioxide, particulate, as well as a broad range of metals, including cobalt, manganese, mercury, nickel and selenium.

We put particular emphasis on managing risks associated with potential mercury emissions from thermal processes associated with refining, carbon regeneration and retorting. Trace amounts of mercury minerals can occur naturally in some types of gold deposits. Mercury is present at our US-based sites and at La Coipa, in Chile and we have best practice mercury controls in place.

Across our sites, hydrocarbon combustion in trucks, heavy equipment, mobile generators and other power generation sources also contribute to air emissions of nitrogen oxide and sulphur oxide at our sites.

While there are low volumes of ozone depleting substances (ODS) at our operations, our sites are also required to maintain an inventory of ODS.

As with environmental performance across Kinross, accountability pertaining to air emissions management and performance resides at the site level, and oversight and governance is aligned with our Corporate Responsibility Management System.

To learn more about our management of air emissions, see our most recent Sustainability Report.