



## Reducing Pollution and Addressing Climate Change is a Health Imperative

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has recently finalized actions to reduce emissions, improve air quality, save lives and mitigate climate change. We oppose efforts to block these lifesaving rules from taking effect as well as prevent future action to reduce pollution like particulate matter, mercury, nitrogen oxides and greenhouse gases.

**The undersigned health organizations oppose efforts to block EPA rules and instead urge Congress to safeguard the Clean Air Act.**

**In particular, please oppose efforts to block or weaken the following recent clean air rules:**

**Updated national particle pollution standards.** EPA strengthened the annual fine particle pollution standard, which is expected to save 4,500 lives, prevent 800,000 cases of asthma symptoms and avoid 290,000 lost workdays in 2032 with estimated public health benefits of \$46 billion. These air pollution standards are science driven, health-based and have a decades-long track record of success in cleaning up pollution. [Learn more about how these standards work.](#)

**Limits on methane and other oil and gas industry pollution.** EPA finalized rules to address methane leaks from oil and gas production. Methane is a potent greenhouse gas, making it a key driver of the climate change health emergency. The EPA rules will also reduce 16 million tons of dangerous volatile organic compounds (VOCs) as well as 590,000 tons of air toxics between 2024 and 2038 on top of 58 million tons of methane emissions avoided.

**Stronger multi-pollutant standards for new cars.** EPA finalized standards that will reduce air and climate pollution from future new cars and light trucks. The rule will reduce 7.2 billion metric tons of carbon pollution, 8,700 tons of particle pollution, 36,000 tons of nitrogen oxides (NOx) and 150,000 tons of VOCs. The rule will also make new gasoline-powered cars less polluting by requiring readily available and cost-effective technology to reduce particulate matter emissions.

**Stronger greenhouse gas standards for new trucks and buses.** EPA finalized new rules to make future new heavy-duty vehicles less polluting, beginning in model year 2027. The standards for heavy-duty vehicles will reduce one billion metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions by 2055. The final rule will yield \$300 million in annualized public health benefits – providing much-needed relief to the 72 million people who live near major truck routes.

**Stronger limits on mercury and toxic air pollution.** EPA strengthened standards for mercury and other toxic emissions from coal- and oil- fired power plants. Mercury is a powerful neurotoxin that is especially dangerous for fetuses, babies and children. It's also emitted alongside a long list of dangerous air pollutants, including carcinogenic metals. The new rule will reduce mercury by 70% and toxic metals by 67%.

**New limits on carbon pollution from power plants.** EPA finalized new rules to limit carbon emissions from existing coal plants and future gas plants. These rules will achieve substantial reductions in carbon – 1.3 billion metric tons through 2047. In addition to the climate benefits, the rule will avoid 360,000 cases of asthma symptoms, 48,000 avoided school absences and 57,000 lost workdays.

These rules from EPA – as well as key investments and programs included in the Inflation Reduction Act, routine energy efficiency updates from the Department of Energy and the buildout of electric vehicle charging infrastructure at the Department of Transportation – all play a critical role in improving health.

**The health community applauds this progress and call on Congress to help ensure these protections are funded, implemented and enforced. Please oppose efforts to block lifesaving measures to reduce pollution.**

Allergy & Asthma Network · Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments · American Academy of Pediatrics · American Lung Association · American Medical Women's Association · American Public Health Association · Arizona Health Professionals for Climate Action · Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America · Children's Environmental Health Network · Clinicians for Climate Action NJ (CCANJ) · Doctors and Scientists Against Wood Smoke Pollution · Florida Clinicians for Climate Action · Georgia Clinicians for Climate Action · Health Care Without Harm · Healthy Climate Wisconsin · Medical Students for a Sustainable Future (MS4SF) · Montana Health Professionals for a Healthy Climate · National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners · National League for Nursing · National Medical Association · NH Healthcare Workers for Climate Action · Oncology Advocates United for Climate and Health - International · Physicians for Social Responsibility · Public Health Institute · Utah Physicians for a Healthy Environment · Vermont Climate and Health Alliance