

Saving the Sky:

Impacts and Prevention of Air Pollution



What Is Air Pollution?

Air pollution is the release of miniscule particles into the air. These particles tend to be too small to see with the naked eye, ranging in size from fractions of a micron large to larger than your blood cells. Almost everyone contributes to air pollution, from companies to small businesses, to individuals.

What Causes Air Pollution?

Motorized forms of transportation release carbon dioxide, a major form of air pollution. Such vehicles also produce and send off miniscule scraps of rubber from where their wheels roll against the ground.

Why Does it Matter, Statistically?

- The United States consistently ranks in the top 100 countries for air pollution worldwide
 - Washington D.C. also ranked in the top 100 list of most polluted capitals, tied with Tokyo
- 7 million deaths worldwide, every year
 - 200,000 U.S. deaths
 - 40,000 U.S. children
 - 15,000 Canadian deaths
- \$8 billion spent daily
- Much of the U.S. is 1-2 times more polluted than the World Health Organization suggests
 - Much of the west coast is up to 5-7 times more polluted

Why Does it Matter, Morally?

- World's largest environmental threat
 - Climate change
 - Human, animal, and environmental health
- Widely underestimated and ignored
 - Greenhouse Gas emissions are being limited, while particulate emissions are increasing

Creating Change

How Can Individuals Help?

- Transportation
- Food and other items
- Awareness
- Voting