

# An Introduction to Air Pollution

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**Abstract:** *Air pollution is a serious threat to the health of the global community that requires careful participation of researchers at all levels. Air pollution has turned out to be a serious problem for living creatures. Assessing the impact of research is an important step in highlighting national and international contributions and cooperation in a particular field. Researcher tries to focus on the basics of air pollution. Therefore, the purpose of this study has been to analyze what is air pollution, its components, the various available types of air pollution world-wide.*

**Keywords:** Air pollution, assessing, national contribution, serious problem

## 1. Introduction

Air pollution is the presence of an atmosphere of any substance in a collection large enough to produce an undesirable effect on humans, animals, gardens, or materials, or to drastically alter the ecological balance of any environment. Air pollution can be solids, liquids, or gases, and can have local, regional and global impacts.

In urban scales, air pollution is often referred to as photochemical smog. "Smog" is a derivation of the words "smoke" and "fog," and was originally used to describe the air pollution caused by coal burning in London. Urban smog is Photochemical because most of the chemicals found in urban air are formed by a combination of chemicals that are driven by sunlight.

Among the many air pollutants that occur in cities that produce photographic reactions, the most common is ozone, O<sub>3</sub>. In contrast to the ozone found in the upper atmosphere (stratospheric ozone), which protects the planet from ultraviolet radiation, the earth's or tropospheric ozone irritates the lungs and is harmful to human health. It is also responsible for crop damage and is suspected of contributing to deforestation in Europe and parts of the United States. Ozone Ground level and other air pollutants are created in urban areas by the reaction of nitrogen oxides (especially NO and NO<sub>2</sub>) in the presence of hydrocarbons. Nitrogen oxides from the conjugation process. At higher temperatures produced during the compilation, some N<sub>2</sub> and O<sub>2</sub> in the air are converted to nitrogen oxides and, usually, at higher temperatures, the greater the amount of nitrogen solids they produce. Hydrocarbons are emitted from natural sources and as a result of activities that use organ solan, cover, or fuel. These hydrocarbons and nitrogen oxides play a role in the production of not only ozone, but also aldehydes, hydrogen peroxide, peroxyacetyl nitrate (C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>2</sub> NO<sub>5</sub>), nitric acid, and lower fertility cell types, heaps of fine particles suspended in space. Although most of these photochemical smog sites have environmental impacts, good material research (PM) poses significant health risks in many urban areas.

Solid and liquid phase materials in the atmosphere are variously referred to as matter of substances, particles, particles, and aerosols. These terms are often used interchangeably, but they all refer to particles with diameters

of 1 nanometer ( $3.9 \times 10^{-8}$  inches) and 39 ( $4.4 \times 10^{-5}$ ) micrometers that remain suspended in space. Major threats to health are associated with very small particles because they have the best chance of being deeply absorbed within the respiratory system.

Somehow, up to 1 micrometer ( $39.4 \times 10^{-6}$  inches) in size can stay in the air much longer than gas. Particles larger than 1 micrometer ( $39.4 \times 10^{-6}$  inches) will, of course, be faster in space due to gravity. The smallest particles will bleed and harden quickly, forming larger particles. But about 1 micrometer ( $39.4 \times 10^{-6}$  inches) particles do not grow as fast as small particles and can remain suspended in space for a week or so. It is not unusual, for example, that Saharan dust or particles from Asia are found in the United States. As a result, confusing issues are a problem for the entire air pollution continent.

Also, unlike ozone pollution and other phases of the chemical classification of certain chemicals, complex objects are a set of chemical types that are predominantly described on the basis of particles. The chemical properties of the molecules vary in particle size. Windblown dust contributes larger to particles larger than a 10 micrometer ( $39.4 \times 10^{-5}$  inches), while sulfates, nitrates, and soluble substances are the main components of small particles that can penetrate deeply into the respiratory system and provide health effects. Organic particles can be extracted directly as soot from the composting processes or can be formed when large hydrocarbon molecules react with atmospheric additives and form chemicals into the particles. Sulfate particles are formed by a series of reactions that convert sulfur dioxide, SO<sub>2</sub>, which is released into the atmosphere by the addition of sulfur containing oil, to sulfuric acid. Nitrate particles are formed by the reaction that converts nitrogen oxides, which are released into the air by the conjugation processes, into nitric acid. In case of particles containing sulfuric acid, nitric acid, and / or organic compounds.

The scale of air pollution problems on the continent and around the world is not limited to the matter of things. The release of greenhouse gases is causing global climate change. The presence of a stratosphere of ozone depleting mixtures has created equivalent ozone holes. Atmospheric emissions caused by volcanic eruptions and fires have global impact. Atmospheric particles also influence weather and

rainfall. Challenges to reducing air pollution require a thorough understanding of atmospheric chemicals, used at local, regional, continental and global scales.

### 1.1 What is air pollution?

The atmosphere allows our living planet to breathe - a mixture of gases that fill the atmosphere, giving plants and animals a purposeful atmosphere. The atmosphere is probably composed of two gases (78 percent nitrogen and 21 oxygen), and a few other gases (such as carbon dioxide and Argon) are present in very small amounts. We can breathe normal air throughout the day without any side effects.

Air pollution is a gas (or a liquid or solid dispersed of ordinary air) released in large enough quantities to harm human or other animal life, kill plants or stop growth, damage or disturb a portion of the environment (such as causing buildings to collapse), or cause some kind of difficulty (observation reduced, perhaps, or an unpleasant odor).

As with water pollution and pollution, the amount (or accumulation) of airborne chemicals makes the difference between "harmless" and "pollutants." Carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), for example, is present in the air around it in a normal concentration of less than 0.05 percent and its respiration is generally harmless (you breathe all day); but high concentrations of carbon dioxide (say, 5- 10 percent) are toxic and can kill you in a matter of minutes. Since the Earth's atmosphere is very turbulent - most of us live in windy countries - air pollution often spreads very quickly. In less bright times, factory workers think that if they build too high a smoker, the air will simply blow up their smoke, disperse it and disperse it so it won't be a problem. The only problem is, Earth is a much smaller area than we think and pollution doesn't always disappear like that.

### 1.2 Kinds of Air Pollution

Any gas could qualify as pollution if it reached a high enough concentration to do harm. Theoretically, that means there are dozens of different pollution gases. In practice, about ten different substances cause most concern: [<https://www.explainthatstuff.com/air-pollution-introduction.html>]

- **Sulfur dioxide:** Coal, petroleum, and other fuels are often impure and contain sulfur as well as organic (carbon-based) compounds. When sulfur (spelled "sulphur" in some countries) burns with oxygen from the air, sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) is produced. Coal-fired power plants are the world's biggest source of sulfur-dioxide air pollution, which contributes to smog, acid rain, and health problems that include lung disease. Large amounts of sulfur dioxide are also produced by ships, which use dirtier diesel fuel than cars and trucks.
- **Carbon monoxide:** This highly dangerous gas forms when fuels have too little oxygen to burn completely. It spews out in car exhausts and it can also build up to dangerous levels inside your home if you have a poorly maintained gas boiler, stove, or fuel-burning appliance. (Always fit a carbon monoxide detector if you burn fuels indoors.)
- **Carbon dioxide:** This gas is central to everyday life and isn't normally considered a pollutant: we all produce it when we breathe out and plants such as crops and trees need to "breathe" it in to grow. However, carbon dioxide is also a greenhouse gas released by engines and power plants. Since the beginning of the Industrial Revolution, it's been building up in Earth's atmosphere and contributing to the problem of global warming and climate change.
- **Nitrogen oxides:** Nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) and nitrogen oxide (NO) are pollutants produced as an indirect result of combustion, when nitrogen and oxygen from the air react together. Nitrogen oxide pollution comes from vehicle engines and power plants, and plays an important role in the formation of acid rain, ozone and smog. Nitrogen oxides are also "indirect greenhouse gases" (they contribute to global warming by producing ozone, which is a greenhouse gas).
- **Volatile organic compounds (VOCs):** These carbon-based (organic) chemicals evaporate easily at ordinary temperatures and pressures, so they readily become gases. That's precisely why they're used as solvents in many different household chemicals such as paints, waxes, and varnishes. Unfortunately, they're also a form of air pollution: they're believed to have long-term (chronic) effects on people's health and they play a role in the formation of ozone and smog. VOCs are also released by tobacco smoke and wildfires.
- **Particulates:** There are many different kinds of particulates, from black soot in diesel exhaust to dust and organic matter from the desert. Airborne liquid droplets from farm pollution also count as particulates. Particulates of different sizes are often referred to by the letters PM followed by a number, so PM<sub>10</sub> means soot particles of less than 10 microns (10 millionths of a meter or 10µm in diameter, roughly 10 times thinner than a thick human hair). The smaller ("finer") the particulates, the deeper they travel into our lungs and the more dangerous they are. PM<sub>2.5</sub> particulates are much more dangerous (they're less than 2.5 millionths of a meter or about 40 times thinner than a typical hair). In cities, most particulates come from traffic fumes.
- **Ozone:** Also called trioxxygen, this is a type of oxygen gas whose molecules are made from three oxygen atoms joined together (so it has the chemical formula O<sub>3</sub>), instead of just the two atoms in conventional oxygen (O<sub>2</sub>). In the stratosphere (upper atmosphere), a band of ozone ("the ozone layer") protects us by screening out harmful ultraviolet radiation (high-energy blue light) beaming down from the Sun. At ground level, it's a toxic pollutant that can damage health. It forms when sunlight strikes a cocktail of other pollution and is a key ingredient of smog (see box below).
- **Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs):** Once thought to be harmless, these gases were widely used in refrigerators and aerosol cans until it was discovered that they damaged Earth's ozone layer. We discuss this in more detail down below.
- **Unburned hydrocarbons:** Petroleum and other fuels are made of organic compounds based on chains of carbon and hydrogen atoms. When they burn properly, they're completely converted into harmless carbon dioxide and water; when they burn incompletely, they can release

carbon monoxide or float into the air in their unburned form, contributing to smog.

- Lead and heavy metals: Lead and other toxic "heavy metals" can be spread into the air either as toxic compounds or as aerosols (when solids or liquids are dispersed through gases and carried through the air by them) in such things as exhaust fumes and the fly ash (contaminated waste dust) from incinerator smokestacks.

### How air pollution works on different scales

Air pollution can happen on every scale, from the local to the global. Sometimes the effects are immediate and happen very near to the thing that caused them; but they can also happen days, months, or even years later—and in other cities, countries, or continents.

### Local air pollution

Acetone (a solvent in nail varnish remover) is a VOC (compact organic compound), so it evaporates and spreads quickly, quickly rising the nose of anyone sitting nearby. Turn on a can of polished paint in your home and start painting the door or window and your house quickly fills with a chemical odor - VOCs too! Lean out the longest beans and you'll set fire to the bread, filling your kitchen with mustard clouds (details) and possibly turning off the smoke alarm or carbon footprint. These are three daily examples of how air pollution can operate at a local scale: causes and effects are close together in space and time. Local air pollution is similar to this simplest type.

### Regional air pollution

Long-term smoking designed to spread contamination does not always affect that outcome. If a wind is blowing at the same time, pollution can be systematically deposited in another city, region, or national hurricane. Sometimes air pollution is transported back to Earth as rain or dirty snow, which dissolves in water or seawater causing what is known as atmospheric emissions. In other words, air pollution becomes water pollution. According to the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA): "The air is a major source of chemicals that affect the life of the Great Lakes. Continuous air pollution can affect air pollution but pollution. of Acid is a well-known example of land placement. It is often said that pollution has no limits - and that is especially true of air pollution, which can easily flow from one country or continent to which it is produced and cause harm to another. Air pollution that goes like this, from country to country, is called pollution; acid rain is also an example of this and so does radio emissions (contaminated dust that falls to the earth after a nuclear explosion).

### Acid Rain

When rain enters the polluted air, it can absorb some of the pollutants and turn into acidic producing what is known as acid rain. Put simply, air pollution converts rain into weak acid. Pure water is neither acidic nor alkaline but completely neutral (let's say it has an acidity or pH of 7.0). Normal rainwater is slightly cooler than the same acidity as a banana (about pH 5.5), but when rain falls on air sulfur pollution it can turn into more acidic (with a pH of 4.5 or less, the same acidity as orange or lemon juice) When acid rain is collected in lakes or rivers, it gradually converts all the water into acidic. That is a real problem because fish thrive only in

neutral or acidic water (usually with a pH of 6.5-7.0). When the acidity drops below about pH 6.0, fish quickly start to die - and if the pH drops to about 4.0 or below, all fish will be killed.

### Air pollution in the world

It's hard to imagine doing anything so big and serious that it could harm our entire planet, which is huge - but, as it may seem, we all do things like this every day, contributing to problems such as global warming and damage to the ozone layer.

### Global warming

Every time you ride a car, turn on the lights, turn on your TV, take a shower, Microwave and eat, or use energy from burning fuel like oil, coal, or natural gas. Certainly contributing to the problem of global warming and climate change: unless it is produced in a more environmentally friendly way, the energy you use is likely to release carbon dioxide gas into the atmosphere. Although not an obvious pollutant, carbon dioxide gradually builds up in the atmosphere, along with other chemicals known as greenhouse gases. Together, these gases act as a blanket around our planet that slowly causes global temperatures to rise, causing the climate (our long-term climate pattern) to change, and producing various effects on the natural world, including rising sea levels. Read more in our great article about global warming and climate change.

### Ozone holes

Excessive global warming is a wonderful result of man-made air pollution, but that does not mean it is a non-melting issue. Humans have already been able to solve one of the world's biggest pollution problems: damage to part of the atmosphere called the ozone layer. At ground level, ozone is a pollution of air - but the ozone present in the vein (high up in the atmosphere), is different: a natural chemical that protects us like the sun, which blocks one of the sun's harmful ultraviolet rays. In the 20th century, people started using a number of chemicals called chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), because they work very well with refrigeration chemicals and related gases in aerosols (propellants are gases that help to extinguish freshly burns, hair spray, or whatever one that may contain). Because of this, the ozone layer - albeit damaged - is expected to be restored by the end of the 21st century.

What can be done to reduce Air Pollution?

- 1) Save energy: Making electricity in conventional power plants generates pollution, so anything you can do to save energy will help to reduce pollution (and global warming as well). Switch to low-energy lamps, use a laptop computer instead of a desktop, dry your clothes outdoors, and heat insulate your home. If you're not sure how you're wasting energy, use an electricity monitor to help identify your most inefficient appliances.
- 2) Save water when you can: Producing cool, clean water needs huge amounts of energy so cutting water waste is another good way to save energy and pollution.
- 3) Cut the car: Sometimes we have to use cars, but often we can get a bus or a train or (for shorter distances) walk or cycle. Road vehicles are now the biggest source of air pollution in most urban areas, so traveling some other

way through a town or city helps to keep the air clean. When you have to use your car, drive efficiently to save fuel and money, and cut pollution. It's particularly important to avoid car use when smog is bad in your city.

- 4) Cut out garden bonfires: Garden bonfire can contain up to 350 times as much of the cancer-causing chemical benzoapyrene as cigarette smoke. Having a bonfire is one of the most selfish things you can do in your local neighborhood. Compost your garden refuse, bury it, or take it to a municipal waste dump.
- 5) Never burn household waste: If you burn plastic, you release horrible toxic chemicals into the local environment, some of which will be sucked up your own nose! Recycle your trash instead.

## **2. Conclusion**

Environmental pollution is one of the biggest problems created by human activities that we must overcome to see the future and ensure our offspring a healthy life. There are many environmental concerns that communities around the world have to deal with. We must always remember that pollution problems affect us all so each of us should do what we can to help restore the ecological balance of this beautiful place we call home. Learn about major pollutants in your area to protect the air and water in your area. Encourage people to stop pollution, tell them everything you know about the problem, and show local pollution together. Young men should be educated about the dangers of different types of pollution. People need to know all about the consequences of pollution to prevent the worst. Let's protect the water we drink, the air we breathe and the soil we use to grow our food.