

Federal Climate Policy: Wins, Opportunities, and How Health Orgs Are Weighing In



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The Medical Society Consortium on
CLIMATE & HEALTH



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Resource: Lung.org/sota

The screenshot shows the top navigation bar of the American Lung Association's 2023 State of the Air report. On the left is the logo with the text "American Lung Association. State of the Air". In the center is the year "2023". On the right are navigation links: "Report Cards", "Key Findings", "Health Impact", "Recommendations", and "For The Media". There is also a "Back to Lung.org" link, a "TRANSLATE" button, and a location pin icon.

State of the Air

For 24 years, the American Lung Association has analyzed data from official air quality monitors to compile the State of the Air report. The more you learn about the air you breathe, the more you can protect your health and take steps to make the air cleaner and healthier.

Below the text are five social media icons: Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Email, and Print.

The background of the page features a stylized graphic of a human lung with a pink, green, and yellow section, set against a blue background.

Resource: “Zeroing In on Healthy Air” Report

[Lung.org/EV](https://www.lung.org/electric-vehicles)

- **Full Zero-Emission Vehicle Sales in the United States**
 - Modeled 100% Passenger Vehicle Sales by 2035
 - Modeled 100% Medium- and Heavy-Duty Vehicle Sales by 2040
- **National Power Grid**
 - Modeled 100% Non-Combustion Electricity Generation by 2035

Value of Health Coalitions

- More credibility
- More expertise
- Helps bring more health groups on board
- Aligns with people's values

Health Coalition Partners



Health Coalition Tactics

- Meetings with White House Office of Management and Budget on forthcoming proposals and final rules
- Meetings with EPA Administrator Regan and other officials
- Public comments
- Public hearing participation
- Letters
- Media advocacy
- Ads
- Congressional education



A grid of logos for various health and environmental organizations, including Allergy & Asthma Network, APHA, HealthCare Without Harm, National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners, Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America, Children's Environmental Health Network, Climate Psychiatry Alliance, ACP (American College of Physicians), The Medical Society Consortium, and Public Health Institute.

June 16, 2023

The Honorable Michael S. Regan
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20460

Re: Greenhouse Gas Emissions Standards for Heavy-Duty Engines and Vehicles – Phase 3;
EPA-HQ-OAR-2022-1985



“Don’t Delay, Clean Air Today”

- Unified campaign to roll up rules together
- Coordinates with broader “Solutions for Pollution” effort
- Goal: tie key clean air rules together and push administration to get them across the finish line



Children's Environmental Health Network
@CEHN

...

11 year old Samara Johnson from Detroit, MI suffers from headaches and asthma attacks because of the dirty air she breathes. She’s asking @POTUS and the @EPA to let kids be kids and find #SolutionsForPollution NOW. Don’t Delay, Clean Air Today!



Mothers & Others For Clean Air
@mcleanaair

...

PM2.5 decreases grade 3-8 student reading and math test scores at levels down to at least 8 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ annually.

doi.org/10.1001/jamane...

@EPAMichaelRegan @POTUS Don't delay; clean air today. We need a strong PM2.5 standard of 8 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ to protect vulnerable children.

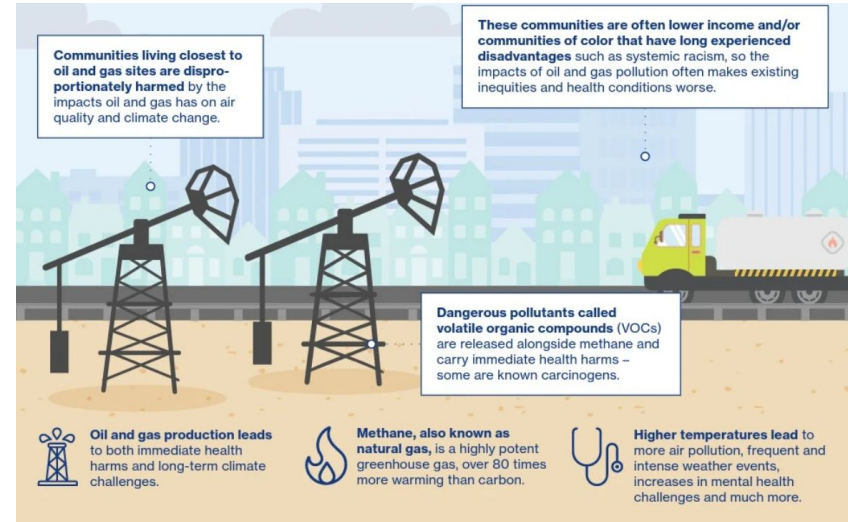
@AmerAcadPeds @CEHN



American Lung Association

EPA Final Rule: Methane Standards for the Oil and Gas Industry

- Limits on methane for new and existing oil and gas industry sources
- Dramatically limits practice of flaring
- Reduces VOCs that endanger health and contribute to ozone
- Finalized after years of advocacy from health and other orgs
- Highlights: Media response, comments, PSR leadership



EPA Final Rule: Updated Soot Standards



- Annual standard now at 9 micrograms per cubic meter (was 12)
- While this is not as strong as the level of 8 that we called for, it's still significantly stronger
- 24-hour standard stays at 35 micrograms per cubic meter. We pushed hard for 25
- Includes updates to the Air Quality Index and some new requirements that states take environmental justice into account when citing new monitors
- EPA estimates that in 2032, the first year all communities are projected to attain the new standard, the nation will see 4,500 fewer premature deaths, 290,000 fewer lost work days, 800,000 fewer cases of asthma symptoms and 2,000 emergency department visits

EPA Proposal: Heavy-Duty Vehicles

- Put in place more stringent limits on CO₂ for new heavy-duty vehicles starting in Model Year 2027
- The limits would get tighter every year through Model Year 2032
- The proposal requires vehicle manufacturers to meet specified emissions limits, which vary by type of vehicle
- Vehicles covered include cabs on tractor-trailer trucks, delivery trucks, garbage and recycling trucks, public utility trucks, transit buses, and school buses
- Currently undergoing final White House review

EPA Proposal: Light- and Medium-Duty Vehicles

- Proposed new multi-pollutant measures to make future light-duty vehicles (like passenger cars, SUVs and light pickups) and medium-duty vehicles (like large pickups, package delivery vans and post office trucks) less polluting
- Builds on the current 2023-2026 standards and would put in place more stringent limits on emissions of both greenhouse gases and of other air pollutants (nitrogen oxides, non-methane organic gases and fine particles) from new light-duty and medium-duty vehicles starting in Model Year 2027
- The limits would gradually get tighter through Model Year 2032
- The proposal requires vehicle manufacturers to meet specified emissions limits, which vary by type of vehicle. The proposal sets strict new limits on particle pollution from gasoline vehicles
- Currently undergoing final White House review

EPA Proposal: Updated Mercury and Air Toxics Standards

- Current limits in place on mercury and air toxics from power plants
- EPA has proposed updated limits; we're calling on them to:
 - Tighten mercury limits for lignite coal plants
 - Tighten standards for coal-fired power plant emissions of other hazardous metals
 - Require continuous monitoring
- Public comment period closed

Four health and medical groups support EPA's proposed mercury and air toxics rule

Date: Jan 31 2022

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: [Media Relations](#), 202-777-3913

In response to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's proposed rule to reaffirm the appropriate and necessary finding for the Mercury and Air Toxics Standards, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Lung Association, American Public Health Association and Physicians for Social Responsibility issued the following statement:

"We applaud EPA's proposed rule to reaffirm the 'appropriate and necessary finding' for the lifesaving Mercury and Air Toxics Standards. Without a doubt, protecting the health of babies, children, pregnant people and other at-risk groups from toxic pollution is appropriate and necessary

"These commonsense standards have a proven track record of success. They have slashed emissions of toxic air pollutants, including mercury and arsenic. Millions are breathing cleaner air because of these protections under the Clean Air Act. The previous administration's attempt to undermine them was unconscionable and unlawful, and we thank EPA for today's proposal to correct it.

EPA Proposal: Carbon Pollution Standards for Power Plants

- Context: West Virginia vs. EPA
- Proposed limits on carbon pollution from new gas, existing coal and existing gas power plants
- 2 major steps in the process affect the fate of an individual power plant:
 1. EPA sets an emissions standard for each type of electric generating unit (EGU, aka power plant)
 2. Each state proposes its own State Implementation Plan to comply with the Clean Air Act (subject to EPA approval)
- Education on technology for health orgs
- More than 100 health orgs on final comments
- Public comment period closed



Get Involved.



**Join the American Lung
Association in Urging
President Biden and EPA:**

Don't Delay, Clean Air Today!



[Lung.org/TakeAction](https://lung.org/TakeAction)

