

## Clean Air Act

*The Clean Air Act saves lives and prevents asthma attacks, emergency room visits and hospitalizations.*

***The Clean Air Act is one of the nation's most successful public health laws.***



- Clean air saves lives. In 2011, in a [peer-reviewed study](#), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency found that steps taken under the Act would prevent 230,000 premature deaths in the year 2020 alone.
- Clean air protections are a smart investment. The study also showed that the benefits of Clean Air Act protections greatly outweigh the costs, thanks to longer lives, avoided medical expenses, and better health and productivity for American workers.

***Many communities are still breathing unhealthy air.***

- Since 1970, the nation [has cut the most widespread air pollutants](#) by 77 percent. Still, the American Lung Association's "[State of the Air 2021](#)" found that more than four in ten people Americans—over 135 million people—live in counties where they are exposed to levels of ozone and particle pollution that can harm their health.
- Many communities, especially those near highways, power plants, ports and other sources of pollution, are still waiting for clean air, and people of color are disproportionately affected. "State of the Air" found that people of color are 3 times as likely as white people to live in an area with at least one failing grade.
- Climate change is already harming Americans' health. The Clean Air Act gives EPA the authority and the responsibility to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions that cause climate change.
- To ensure that all Americans breathe healthy air, the Clean Air Act must be fully implemented and enforced.

***The Clean Air Act and its protections must not be weakened.***



- The Clean Air Act must not be weakened. Any legislation that blocks, delays or weakens EPA's authority to address air pollution, including climate change, would endanger public health.
- EPA must follow the science and the law to adopt and enforce health-protective measures that reduce pollution, save lives, and improve health. This includes stronger limits on ozone and particle pollution; tougher emissions standards for cars and trucks; measures to reduce methane pollution from the oil and gas industry; and measures to dramatically reduce carbon pollution from power plants.

***For more information***

Liz Mueller, National Director, Advocacy, Healthy Air Campaign - [Liz.Mueller@Lung.org](mailto:Liz.Mueller@Lung.org)

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