

Sacramento County Public Health Advisory Board

Feb 2, 2022

SACRAMENTO METROPOLITAN



# **Air Quality, Climate Change, and Public Health: *the Sacramento region's path towards a zero-carbon future***

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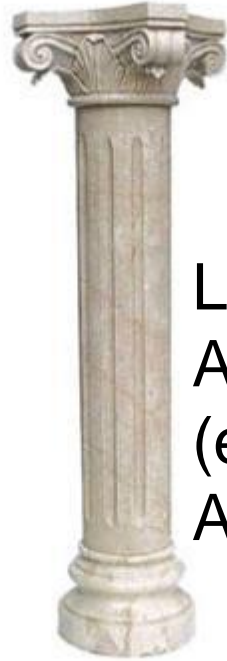
**Alberto Ayala, PhD, MSE**

Exec. Director and Air Pollution Control Officer, Sacramento Metro AQMD  
Adjunct Professor, Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, West Virginia U.  
(Former) Deputy Executive Officer, California ARB

# Regulatory Pillars of Air Quality Management in US



Federal  
(US EPA)



Local/Regional  
Air Agencies  
(e.g., Sac Metro  
AQMD)



State  
agencies  
(e.g., ARB)

# Sac Metro AQMD Priorities

- **#1 Protecting public health from adverse effects of air and climate pollution**
- **Attainment of National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)**
- **Implementing state/national clean air and climate agendas**
- **Stationary source permitting, compliance, and enforcement**
- **Land use and CEQA**
- **Zero-emission and cleaner transportation policies**
- **Education and research**
- **Regional leadership and collaboration**
- **Community engagement**
- **Local, state, national, and international engagement**



# Air quality planning area

## Sacramento Federal Nonattainment Area (SFNA)



### Sacramento Federal Nonattainment Area (SFNA)

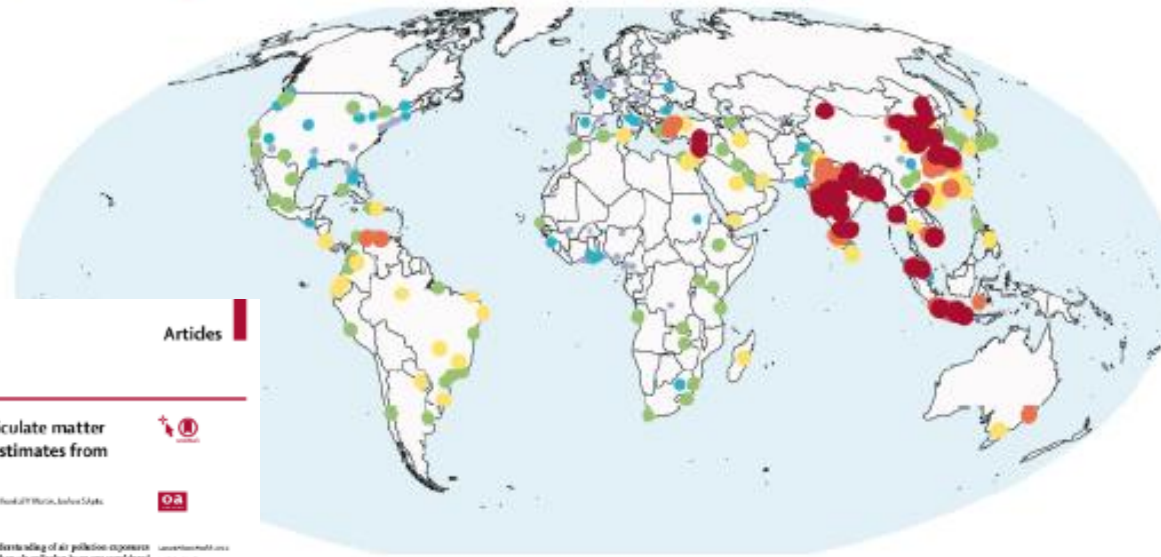
- All of Sacramento and Yolo Counties
- Portions of Placer, El Dorado, Solano, and Sutter Counties

# Annual global premature mortality burden from PM pollution ~4 - 8 million

D Absolute differences in PM<sub>2.5</sub>-attributable mortality per 100 000 population

Difference attributable mortality per 100 000

= -75 to -50   ● -49 to -25   ● -24 to 0   ● 1 to 25   ● 26 to 50   ● 51 to 75



Range -73 to 29

## Global urban temporal trends in fine particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) and attributable health burdens: estimates from global datasets

Vishnu K. Jaisankar, Michael J. Brauer, Arun Mahajan, William S. Shetter, Anurag Desai, David P. Strick, Andrew S. Gold, Susan Solomon

**Summary**

Background With much of the world's population residing in urban areas, an understanding of air pollution exposure in the city level can inform mitigation approaches. Previous studies of global urban air pollution have not considered trends in air pollutant concentrations and corresponding attributable mortality burdens. We aimed to estimate trends in fine particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) concentrations and associated mortality for cities globally.

**Methods** We use high-resolution annual average PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentrations, epidemiologically derived concentration-response functions, and country-level baseline disease rates to estimate population-weighted PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentrations and attributable cause-specific mortality in 13 360 urban centers between the years 2000 and 2015.

**Findings** Although regional averages of urban PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentrations decreased between the years 2000 and 2015, we found considerable heterogeneity in trends of PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentrations between urban areas. Approximately 80% (2.5 billion inhabitants) of urban inhabitants lived in urban areas that exceeded WHO's 2005 guideline annual average PM<sub>2.5</sub> (10 µg/m<sup>3</sup>), resulting in an excess of 1.8 million (95% CI 1.5–2.1 million) additional deaths in 2015. Regional averages of PM<sub>2.5</sub>-attributable deaths increased in all regions except for Europe and the Americas, driven by changes in population, morbidity, age structure, and disease rates. In some cities, PM<sub>2.5</sub>-attributable mortality increased despite decreases in PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentrations, resulting from shifting age distributions and rates of noncommunicable diseases.

**Interpretation** Our study showed that, between the years 2000 and 2015, most of the world's urban population lived in areas with elevated levels of PM<sub>2.5</sub>, leading to substantial contributions to noncommunicable disease burdens. Our results highlight that avoiding the larger public health burden from urban PM<sub>2.5</sub> will require strategies that reduce exposure through emission reductions, as well as strategies that reduce vulnerability to PM<sub>2.5</sub>, by improving overall public health.

Funding NASA, Wellcome Trust

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Articles



- 2.5 billion urban inhabitants breathe air above WHO annual PM<sub>2.5</sub> value of 10 µg/m<sup>3</sup>
- 1.8 million excess urbanite deaths

## Burning fossil fuels kills an estimated 350000 Americans a year including 7600 in Massachusetts study finds

By David Abel, Globe Staff, Updated February 9, 2021, 2:01 a.m. G.



In May 2019, smog blanketed the Mexico City skyline. Schools and universities were closed for days because of the pollution, brought on by brush fires and a lack of rain. MARCO UGARTE/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Source: Vohra et al., *Env. Res.* April 2021. Harvard group

# Combustion-generated NO<sub>2</sub> pollution and incidence of pediatric asthma

Articles

## Long-term trends in urban NO<sub>2</sub> concentrations and associated paediatric asthma incidence: estimates from global datasets

Simon C. Anenberg<sup>1</sup>, Arash Mohrigh<sup>2</sup>, Daniel L. Goldberg, Geige-Ji Kee, Michiel Douma, Katrin Burkart, Perry Hyatt, Andrea Lenzi, Sarah Wozniak, Lori Lamsal

### Summary

**Background** Combustion-related nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) air pollution is associated with paediatric asthma incidence. We aimed to estimate global surface NO<sub>2</sub> concentrations consistent with the Global Burden of Disease study for 1990–2019 at a 1 km resolution, and the concentrations and attributable paediatric asthma incidence trends in 13389 cities from 2000 to 2019.

**Methods** We scaled an existing annual average NO<sub>2</sub> concentration dataset for 2010–12 from a land use regression model (based on 5220 NO<sub>2</sub> monitors in 58 countries and land use variables) to other years using NO<sub>2</sub> column densities from satellite and reanalysis datasets. We applied these concentrations in an epidemiologically derived concentration-response function with population and baseline asthma rates to estimate NO<sub>2</sub>-attributable paediatric asthma incidence.

**Findings** We estimated that 1–85 million [95% uncertainty interval (UI) 0–95–2–80 million] new paediatric asthma cases were attributable to NO<sub>2</sub> globally in 2019, two thirds of which occurred in urban areas (1–22 million cases; 95% UI 0–60–1–8 million). The proportion of paediatric asthma incidence that is attributable to NO<sub>2</sub> in urban areas declined from 19–8% (1–22 million attributable cases of 6–14 million total cases) in 2000 to 16–8% (1–24 million attributable cases of 7–73 million total cases) in 2019. Urban attributable fractions dropped in high-income countries (–41%), Latin America and the Caribbean (–16%), central Europe, eastern Europe, and central Asia (–37%), and southeast Asia, east Asia, and Oceania (–6%), and rose in south Asia (+23%), sub-Saharan Africa (+11%), and north Africa and the Middle East (+7%). The contribution of NO<sub>2</sub> concentrations, paediatric population size, and asthma incidence rates to the change in NO<sub>2</sub>-attributable paediatric asthma incidence differed regionally.

**Interpretation** Despite improvements in some regions, combustion-related NO<sub>2</sub> pollution continues to be an important contributor to paediatric asthma incidence globally, particularly in cities. Mitigating air pollution should be a crucial element of public health strategies for children.

**Funding** Health Effects Institute, NASA.

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# Ultrafine particles and neurological effects

International Journal of  
Environmental Research  
and Public Health



Review

## Particulate Air Pollution and Risk of Neuropsychiatric Outcomes. What We Breathe, Swallow, and Put on Our Skin Matters

Lilian Calderón-Garcidueñas<sup>1,2</sup>, Elijah W. Stommel<sup>3</sup>, Ravi Philip Rajkumar<sup>4</sup>, Partha S. Mukherjee<sup>5</sup> and Alberto Ayala<sup>6,7,\*</sup>

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- \* Correspondence: A.Ayala@airquality.org



**Citation:** Calderón-Garcidueñas, L.; Stommel, E.W.; Rajkumar, R.P.; Mukherjee, P.S.; Ayala, A. Particulate Air Pollution and Risk of Neuropsychiatric Outcomes. What We Breathe, Swallow, and Put on Our Skin Matters. *Int. J. Environ. Res. Public Health* **2021**, *18*, 11568. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph182111568>

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Published: 3 November 2021

**Abstract:** We appraise newly accumulated evidence of the impact of particle pollution on the brain, the portals of entry, the neural damage mechanisms, and ultimately the neurological and psychiatric outcomes statistically associated with exposures. PM pollution comes from natural and anthropogenic sources such as fossil fuel combustion, engineered nanoparticles (NP ≤ 100 nm), wildfires, and wood burning. We are all constantly exposed during normal daily activities to some level of particle pollution of various sizes—PM<sub>2.5</sub> (≤2.5 μm), ultrafine PM (UFP ≤ 100 nm), or NPs. Inhalation, ingestion, and dermal absorption are key portals of entry. Selected literature provides context for the US Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) ambient air quality standards, the conclusions of an Independent Particulate Matter Review Panel, the importance of internal combustion emissions, and evidence suggesting UFPs/NPs cross biological barriers and reach the brain. NPs produce oxidative stress and neuroinflammation, neurovascular unit, mitochondrial, endoplasmic reticulum and DNA damage, protein aggregation and misfolding, and other effects. Exposure to ambient PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentrations at or below current US standards can increase the risk for TIAs, ischemic and hemorrhagic stroke, cognitive deficits, dementia, and Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases. Residing in a highly polluted megacity is associated with Alzheimer neuropathology hallmarks in 99.5% of residents between 11 months and <40 y. PD risk and aggravation are linked to air pollution and

# National Ambient Air Quality Standards

Pollutant [links to historical tables of NAAQS reviews]		Primary/ Secondary	Averaging Time	Level	Form
<a href="#">Carbon Monoxide (CO)</a>		primary	8 hours	9 ppm	Not to be exceeded more than once per year
			1 hour	35 ppm	
<a href="#">Lead (Pb)</a>		primary and secondary	Rolling 3 month average	0.15 µg/m <sup>3</sup> <sup>(1)</sup>	Not to be exceeded
<a href="#">Nitrogen Dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>)</a>		primary	1 hour	100 ppb	98th percentile of 1-hour daily maximum concentrations, averaged over 3 years
		primary and secondary	1 year	53 ppb <sup>(2)</sup>	Annual Mean
<a href="#">Ozone (O<sub>3</sub>)</a>		primary and secondary	8 hours	0.070 ppm <sup>(3)</sup>	Annual fourth-highest daily maximum 8-hour concentration, averaged over 3 years
<a href="#">Particle Pollution (PM)</a>	PM <sub>2.5</sub>	primary	1 year	12.0 µg/m <sup>3</sup>	annual mean, averaged over 3 years
		secondary	1 year	15.0 µg/m <sup>3</sup>	annual mean, averaged over 3 years
		primary and secondary	24 hours	35 µg/m <sup>3</sup>	98th percentile, averaged over 3 years
	PM <sub>10</sub>	primary and secondary	24 hours	150 µg/m <sup>3</sup>	Not to be exceeded more than once per year on average over 3 years
<a href="#">Sulfur Dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>)</a>		primary	1 hour	75 ppb <sup>(4)</sup>	99th percentile of 1-hour daily maximum concentrations, averaged over 3 years
		secondary	3 hours	0.5 ppm	Not to be exceeded more than once per year



### New WHO Global Air Quality Guidelines aim to save millions of lives from air pollution

Air pollution is one of the biggest environmental threats to human health, alongside climate change.

# New global benchmark....most stringent “suggested values”

## World Health Organization Guideline Values

<b>Particle Pollution (PM)</b>	<b>PM2.5</b>	annual	5	µg/m <sup>3</sup>		
		daily	15	µg/m <sup>3</sup>		
	<b>PM10</b>	annual	15	µg/m <sup>3</sup>		
		daily	45	µg/m <sup>3</sup>		
<b>Ozone</b>		8-hr daily	100	µg/m <sup>3</sup>	50	ppb
		8-hr peak season	60	µg/m <sup>3</sup>	30	ppb
<b>NO<sub>2</sub></b>		annual	10	µg/m <sup>3</sup>	5.3	ppb
		daily	25	µg/m <sup>3</sup>	13.3	ppb

*5 versus 12*  
*15 versus 35*  
*45 versus 150*  
  
*50 versus 70*  
  
*5.3 versus 53*



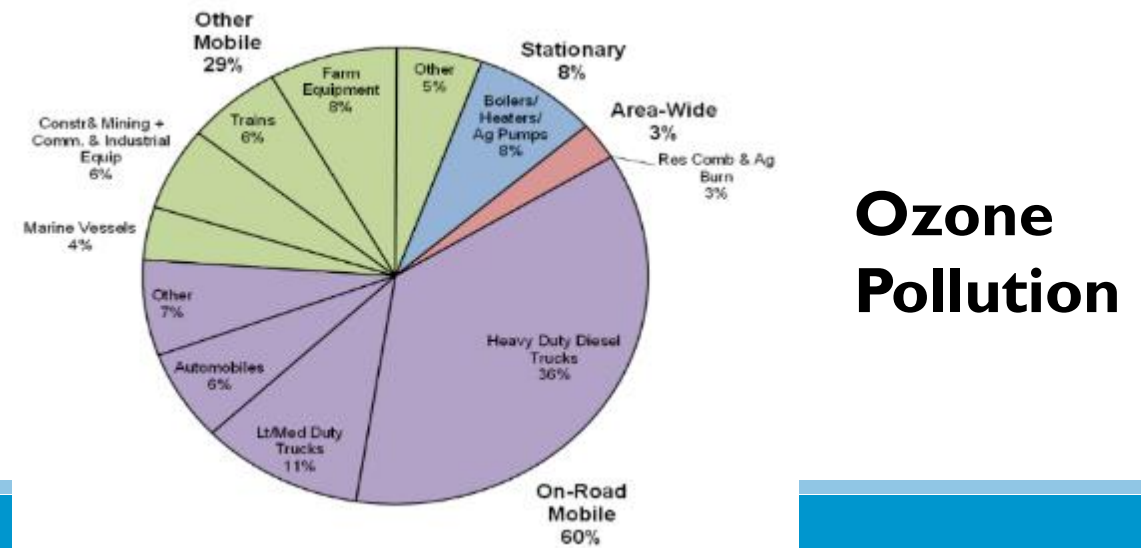
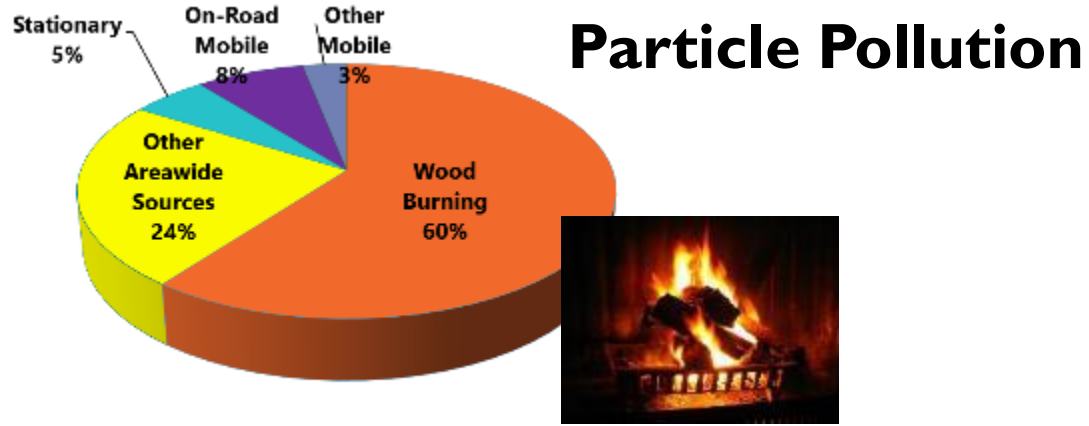
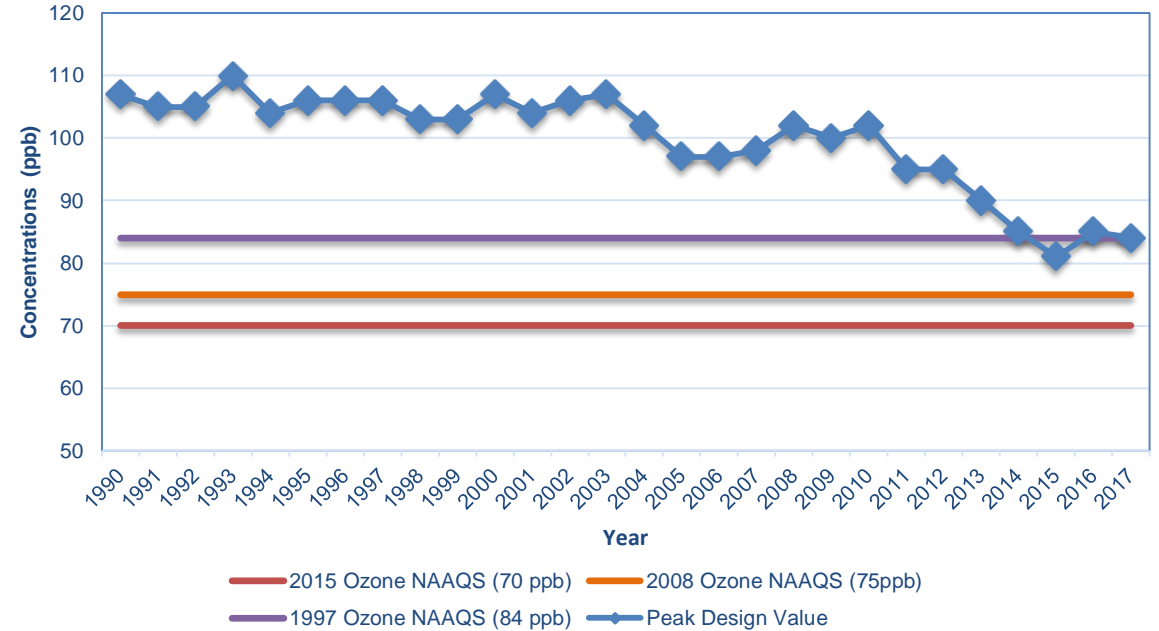
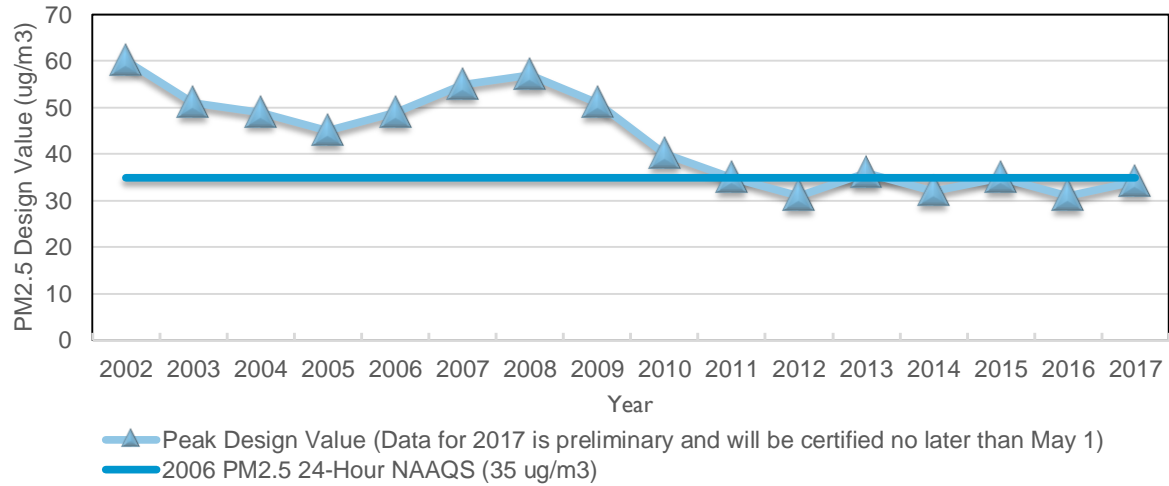
# We still suffer from too much regional air pollution

ALA State of the Air Report:

- #6 worst ozone pollution in U.S.
- #10 worst short-term particle pollution
- #24 worst year-round particle pollution

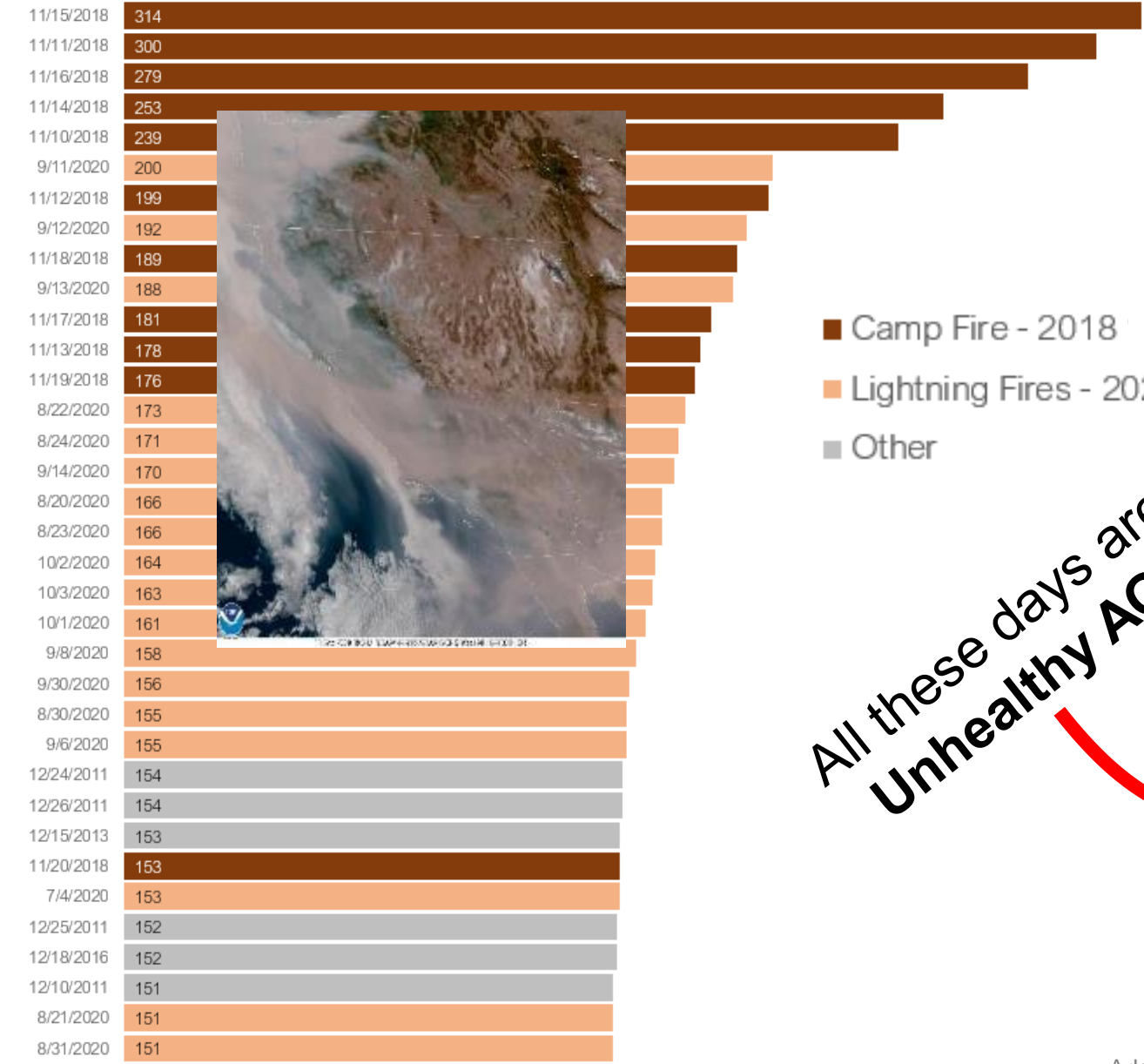


# Clean air progress in the capital region



# Sacramento's Smokiest Days

Highest air quality index (AQI) PM<sub>2.5</sub> daily readings days in Sacramento County for the previous 10 years\*



# Wildfire Smoke Impacts in the Sac Valley

- Camp Fire - 2018
- Lightning Fires - 2020
- Other

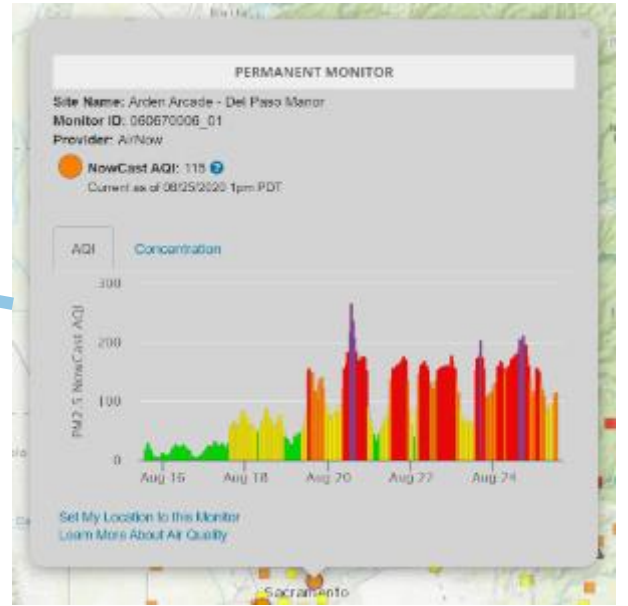
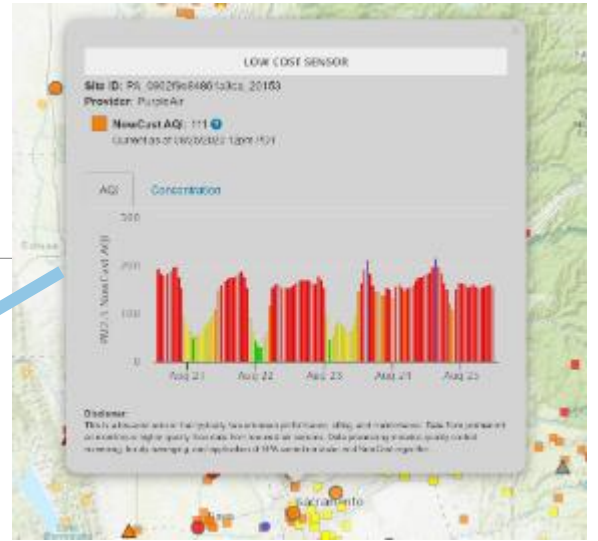
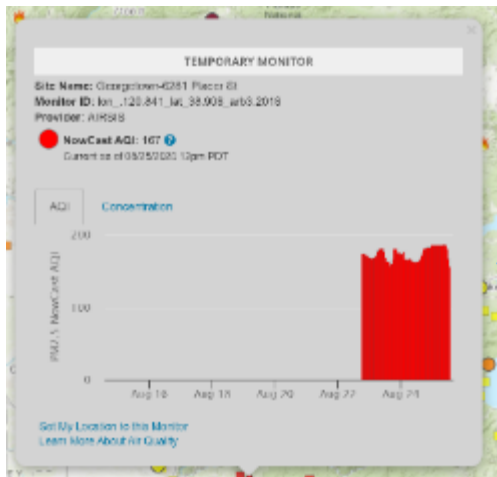
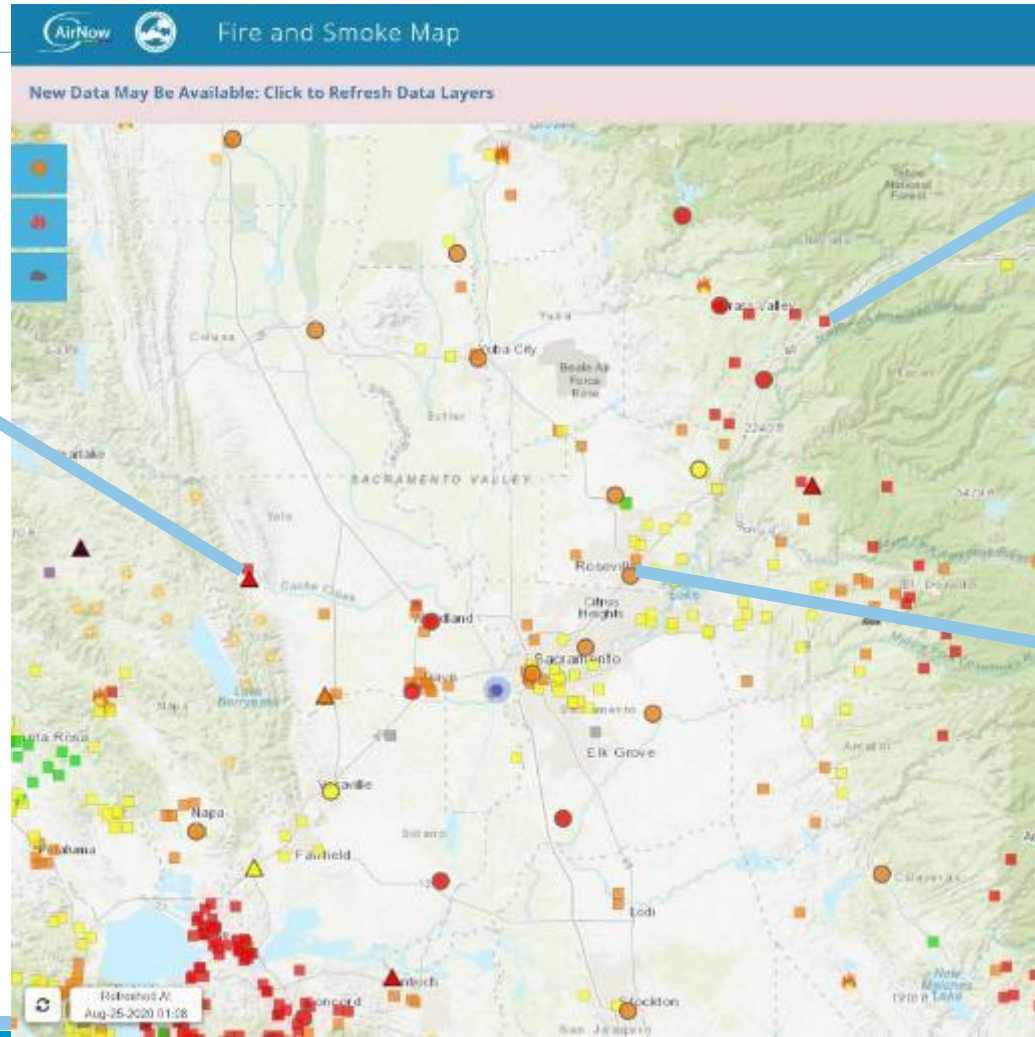
**All these days are Unhealthy AQI!**

Air Quality Index (AQI) Values	Levels of Health Concern	Colors
<i>When the AQI is in this range:</i>	<i>...air quality conditions are:</i>	<i>...as symbolized by this color:</i>
0 to 50	Good	Green
51 to 100	Moderate	Yellow
101 to 150	Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	Orange
151 to 200	Unhealthy	Red
201 to 300	Very Unhealthy	Purple
301 to 500	Hazardous	Maroon

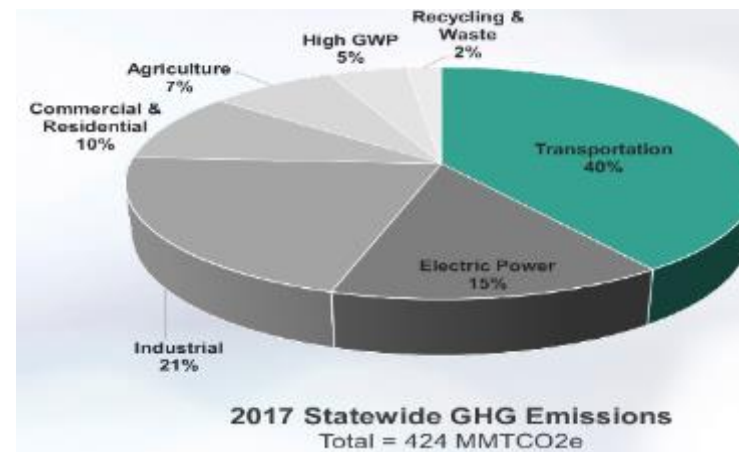
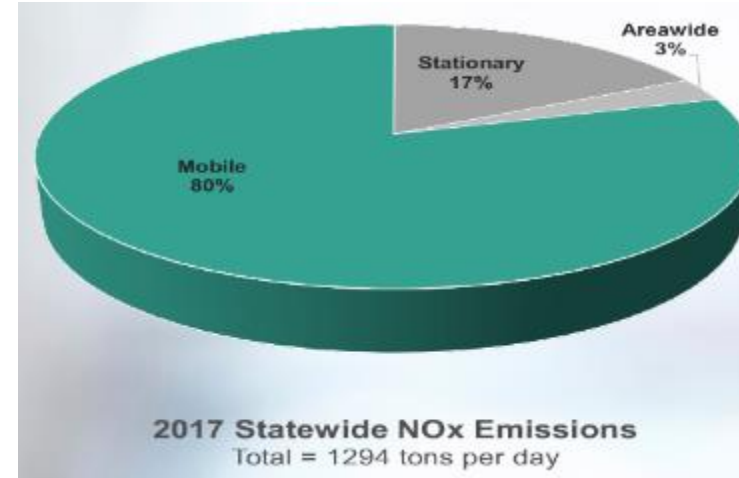
[https://www3.epa.gov/airnow/aqi\\_brochure\\_02\\_14.pdf](https://www3.epa.gov/airnow/aqi_brochure_02_14.pdf)

Adapted from original article here: <https://www.mercedsunstar.com/news/california/article245180510.html>

# Resources (www.fire.airnow.gov)



# Transportation sector is largest source of air and climate pollution



# What do we do about air pollution?

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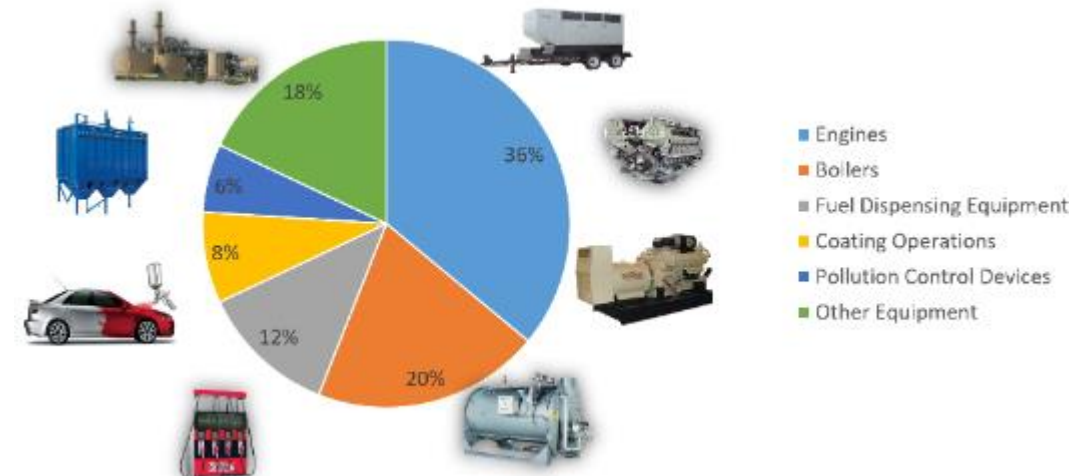
- **Electrify everything and transition to 100% renewable energy**
- **Improve mobility, not just transportation**
- **Strategically leveraging public investments**
- **First step – “cut the chord from fossil combustion,” complete electrification of transportation**
- **Guiding the “disruptions” towards net environmental and other benefit**

# Core programs for protecting public health

## Clean Air Act 1970



**PERMITTING**  
+  
**COMPLIANCE**  
+  
**ENFORCEMENT**

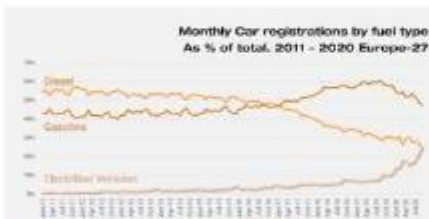


# Electrons and molecules, the no compromise, cheat-free alternative to internal combustion



100% renewable energy in CA by 2045 and carbon neutrality

**Newsom orders ban of new gas-powered cars by 2035**



JATO

October 29, 2020

In September 2020, for the first time in European history, registrations for electrified vehicles overtook diesel





# Clean Air Investments and Equity



# The next Chapter in Future Mobility and Environmental Justice in Sacramento

## Del Paso Heights Mobility Hub



- 10 Fuel Cell and Battery EVs
- Shuttle Bus
- Chargers
- Our Community Car Share
- Shuttle Bus Transport and Microtransit
- Community Beautification



### Mobility Hub Partners:



# Achieving Carbon Zero in Sacramento and West Sacramento by 2045



Prepared by Local Government Commission  
Draft Report | June 2020

# Mayors' Climate Change Commission

*Working toward carbon neutrality in 2045*

## Built Environment

## Mobility

## Community Health and Resiliency



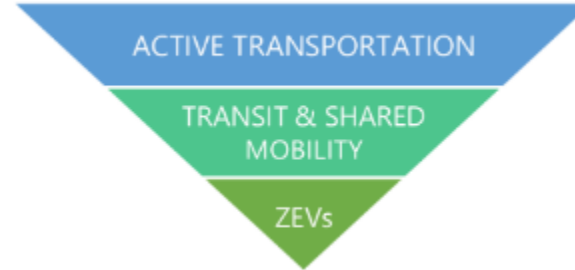
Electrification  
of New Construction



Sustainable Land Use



Electrification of Existing Buildings



Urban Greening and Forestry



Sustainable Food Systems

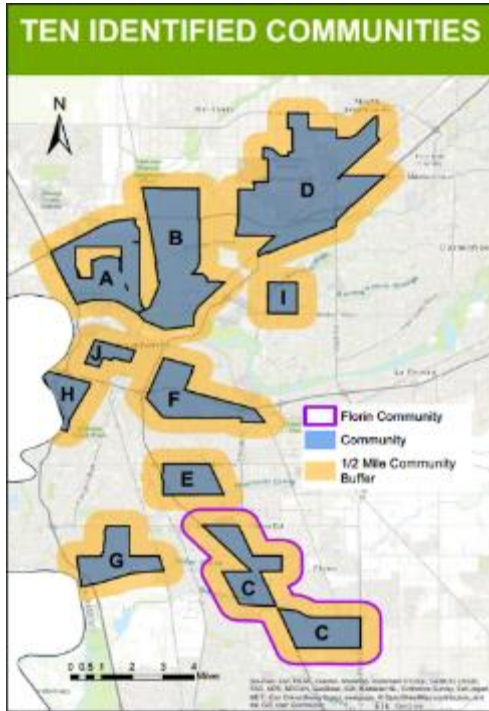


Community Climate Resilience





# AB 617 (2017) Community Air Protection for Environmental Justice Neighborhoods w/n Sac Metro AQMD



Community-scale  
Air Monitoring

Community  
Emission Reduction  
Programs (CERP)

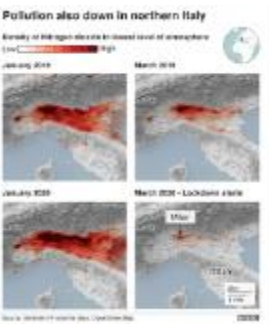
State Grans for  
Community-based  
Organizations

Enhanced Emission  
Reporting for Local  
Businesses

Clearinghouse for  
Cleanest Technology  
(BACT & BARCT)

Incentive Funding  
(State Cap and  
Trade Subsidies)

Increased Penalty  
Provisions



# Untangling air quality benefits of shelter-in-place

*Informing a regional conversation about teleworking in the COVID era*

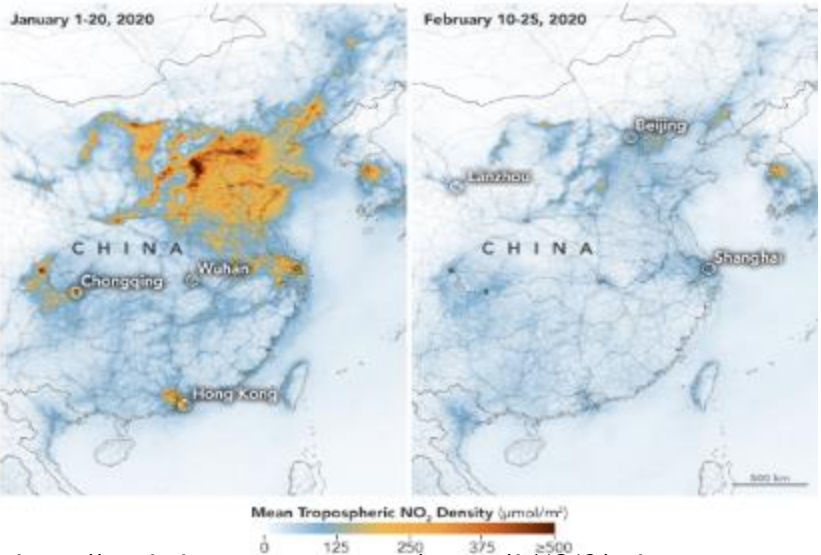


Reduction in traffic related emissions (NO<sub>2</sub>, PM<sub>2.5</sub>, Ozone precursors, CO<sub>2</sub>e) across the globe being investigated

## Sacramento County, April 2020

	2012, 2015, 2019 average	2020	Conc. Difference	% Improvement
PM <sub>2.5</sub> (ug/m3*)	7.5	4.7	-2.8	37%
NO <sub>2</sub> (ppbC**)	20.1	14.0	-6.1	30%
Ozone (ppbC**)	49.3	44.0	-5.3	11%

\*micrograms per cubic meter  
\*\*parts per billion concentration



<https://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/images/146362/airborne-nitrogen-dioxide-plummets-over-china?>

- Compared to meteorologically similar years, monthly average concentrations for all three pollutants were lower in April 2020.
- Reductions were observed in all three pollutants

# Thank you

Not secure | www.airquality.org

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Region	50	29
Burn	Legal to Burn	N/A

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