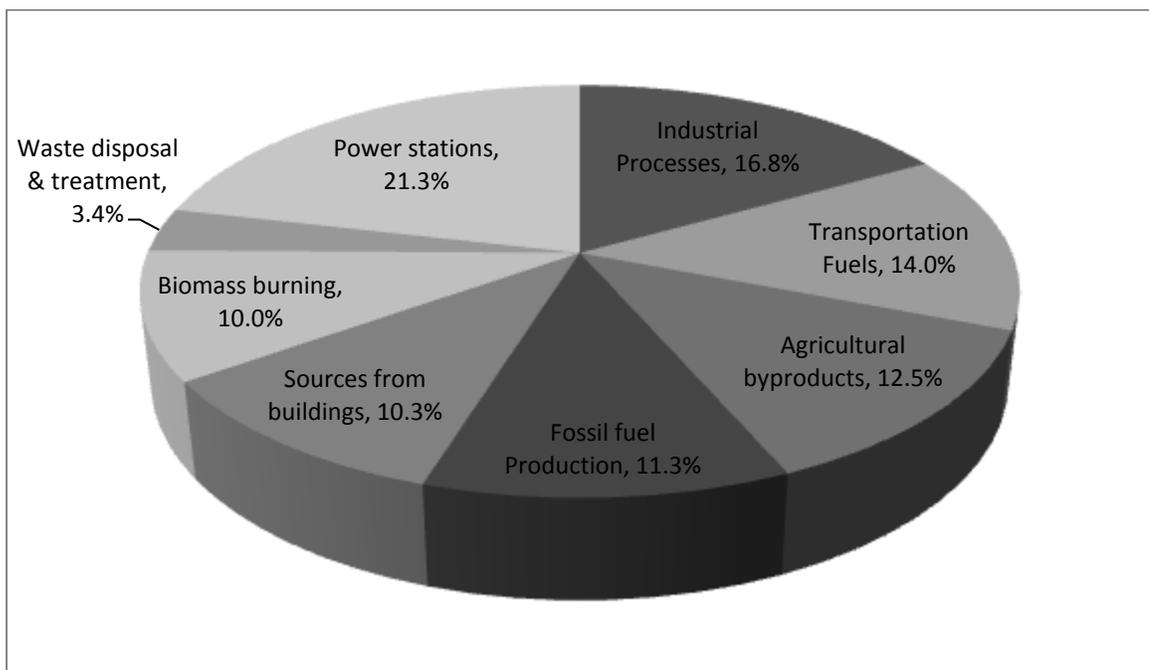


Reducing Air Pollution in our Community

What is Air Pollution?

Air pollution is the introduction of toxins, chemicals, particulate matter, harmful smoke, or other biological substances into the air we breathe. They can cause harm or disease to humans, animals or other living organisms. They also do damage to the natural environment. Greenhouse gases are among the biggest of these pollutants in our atmosphere. They are released into the air through burning coal to generate electricity, emissions from cars, industrial chemicals and natural causes like decomposition. Levels for these pollutants have greatly increased beyond normal natural fluctuations since the pre-industrial age. We all need to do our part to clean up the air we breathe.



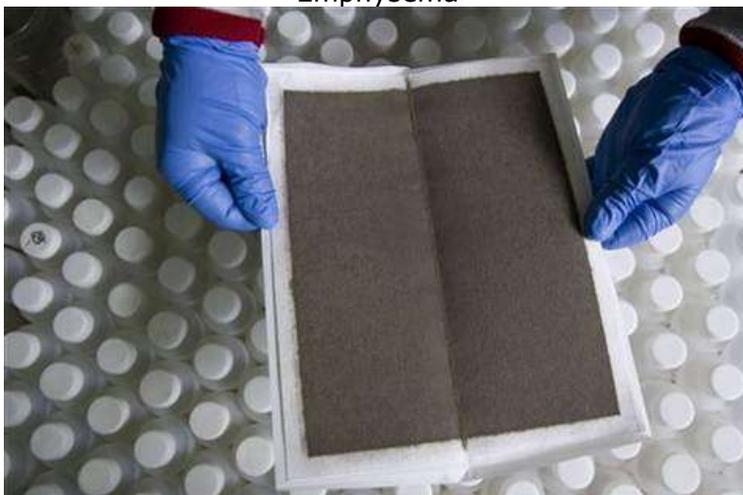
Sources of Air Pollution

Why Should We Care?

Breathing in a continual stream of contaminated air can cause a multitude of health problems, especially for those residing in metropolitan areas where pollution is much more concentrated.

Some of the diseases and other health issues related to polluted air are:

- Cancer
- Heart disease
- Lung disease
- Asthma
- Pneumonia and its complications
- Bronchitis
- Emphysema
- Respiratory allergies



(Dirty air filter, compare to white edge)

Simple Tips to Help Reduce Air Pollution

At Home

- Conserve energy - turn off electronics and lights when not in use.
- Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle. By extending the life of products and recycling items such as paper, plastic, glass bottles, cardboard, and aluminum cans you not only conserve energy and reduce production emissions you also save money on your electric bill.
- Wash clothes with cold water instead of hot.

Buy Smart

- Buy energy efficient appliances and light bulbs. These products are environmentally friendly and are marked ENERGY STAR making them easy to identify. For more information, visit <http://www.energystar.gov> or call 1-888-STAR-YES.
- Choose products that have minimal packaging and are reusable. The typical American throws away 60 pounds of plastic packing each year.

- Shop with a canvas bag instead of using paper and plastic bags.
- Buy rechargeable batteries for devices used frequently.

Drive Wise

- Car exhaust contributes 60% of all carbon monoxide emission in the US.
- Keep tires properly inflated and aligned. Properly inflated tires can increase gas mileage by 3%.
- In the summertime, fill your gas tank during cooler evening hours to cut down on evaporation. Avoid spilling gas and don't "top off" the tank. Replace gas tank cap tightly.
- Avoid idling your vehicle. Waiting in drive-thru lines like at the bank or McDonalds just increases unnecessary car emissions. Park your car and go in.
- Use public transportation, walk, or ride a bike.
- Get regular engine maintenance.
- Combine your errands into one trip. Save gasoline and reduce air pollution.
- Join a carpool to get to work. U.S. commuters would save 600,000 gallons of gas every day if they carpoled with just one person.
- When choosing a new vehicle look for a low-polluting models. Visit <http://www.epa.gov/greenvehicles>.



Utah's Efforts to Reduce Pollution

- Wood-Burn program- monitors air pollution during winter months and regulates when wood burning stoves and fireplaces can be used in effort to reduce emissions. None compliance can result in a fine up to \$299.
- 2011 Clear the Air Challenge - Coming soon! <http://cleartheairchallenge.org>

Did you know?

- On average, each person consumes 3,000 gallons of polluted air every day.
- An 1% increase of particulate matter increases the chance of developing lung cancer by 14%.
- Gas mowers represent 5% of air pollution in the United States.
- One hour of running a lawn mower produces the same amount of volatile organic compounds as driving 350 miles.



- One gas mower spews 87 lbs. of the greenhouse gas CO₂ and 54 lbs. of other pollutants into the air every year.
- Each gallon of fuel releases 20 pounds of carbon dioxide into the air.
- Turning off the lights in one classroom for one hour keeps over two pounds of pollutants out of the environment.

How much can you save?

- Unplug your cell phone charger when not in use. By unplugging you could save \$70 a year on your electric bill and reduce greenhouse gases by 190 lbs. per year. If the entire WSU community unplugged it could be a savings of 4,940,000 lbs of greenhouse gases a year.
- Nearly 75% of electricity used to power household electronics is consumed by products that are turned off. Unplugging or turning off electronics at a surge protector can save you more than \$80 per year.
- Using a reusable water bottle could potentially save hundreds of dollar each year, and keeps disposable bottles out of our landfills.

For more information:

EPA Air Pollutants: www.epa.gov/air/airpollutants.html

Pollution Scorecard: <http://scorecard.goodguide.com/index.tcl>

Utah Department of Air Quality: <http://www.airquality.utah.gov/>

Green Student U: <http://www.greenstudentu.com/>

Air Quality Facts: <http://www.tmacog.org/airqualityfacts.htm>

Air Pollution Facts: http://greenliving.lovetoknow.com/Air_Pollution_Facts

Utah's Wood Burn Program: <http://www.cleanair.utah.gov/woodburning/woodburning.htm>

Recycling Revolution: <http://www.recycling-revolution.com/recycling-facts.html>