

Air pollution remains an important public health issue throughout the world. In the US and other developed countries, regulations have been in place for over 30 years, resulting in steady improvements in some measures of air quality. A handful of pollutants, including ozone and fine particles (PM_{2.5}) remain at levels that are associated with health effects. Air pollution is a more severe problem in developing countries, especially in cities. Indoor air pollution is also an important issue, and is especially significant in many developed countries where biomass or fossil fuels are used for cooking in unvented living spaces. It has been said that "the solution to pollution is dilution." However, in some cases, solving a local air pollution problem via increased dilution can result in a regional problem - acid rain is a good example. This class will review major air pollutants, their sources, and health effects.

Question:

Can you suggest some behavior changes that could lead to reduced air pollution emissions for society?