



Helpful Facts

Key Messages

- Cars and trucks are a major source of air pollution in many urban areas in Texas.
- The highest levels of ozone, a key component of air pollution, occur during the summer when hot temperatures react with emissions from cars, trucks and industry.

Health Impact of Ozone

- Short-term exposure to ozone can temporarily reduce normal lung function.
- High levels of ozone can cause coughing, throat irritation and inflame the lung's linings — it's like having a sunburn on your lungs.
- High ozone levels may aggravate existing respiratory diseases such as asthma, especially for children, the elderly and those individuals active outdoors during high ozone levels.
- Over 190,000 children with pediatric asthma in Texas live in and around large metropolitan areas with elevated ozone levels.
- More than 3 million children in Texas live in counties with elevated ozone levels.

Economic Impact of Ozone

- There can be significant financial costs resulting from increase school and work absences, hospital visits and medication prescription.
- Billions of dollars in federal highway funding may be lost.
- Health and mobility challenges will limit our efforts to bring new business to Texas and ensure our continued prosperity.

How You Can Help Reduce Air Pollution

- **Maintain your vehicle.** Keep your vehicle properly maintained and tires properly inflated to reduce emissions.
- **Buy a cleaner vehicle.** Consider a low-emissions model when you buy a new or used vehicle. The IRS provides a one-time tax deduction for any hybrid put into service prior to December 31, 2006.
- **Drive less.** Share a ride to work or school, or work at home one day a week. Combine your errands into one trip and walk or ride a bicycle instead of driving.
- **Drive the speed limit.** Driving the speed limit burns less fuel and reduces tailpipe emissions. Avoid aggressive driving, jackrabbit starts and quick stops.
- **Idle less.** Avoid unnecessary idling at drive-through lanes. Park and go inside when possible.

How Businesses Can Help Reduce Air Pollution

- Provide telecommute options to employees.
- Promote alternative commute options for employees such as vanpooling or carpooling and provide incentives for employees to do so.
- When you buy new company vehicles, select those with low emissions.
- Encourage your employees to follow the five tips to drive clean across Texas.