

Clean Transportation: A Faithful Response



45 million people in the US live, work or attend school within 300 feet of a major road, airport or railroad and 45% of residents live in counties with unhealthy levels of smog or soot.

President Biden's executive order for 50% of new cars sales to be zero-emission, puts us on the path to 100% electrification of new vehicle sales by 2035, promoting health and advancing justice.

Scientists have linked exposure to diesel exhaust to more than four dozen toxic air pollutants that cause birth defects, lung damage and cancer.

Cars and light-duty trucks account for more than 20% of all U.S. greenhouse gas emissions and 45% of all oil consumption, making the transportation sector the number one source of climate and air pollution in the country. To protect human health and God's creation, we need ambitious car and truck pollution standards that put us on the path to zero emission all passenger vehicles by 2035.

On day one of his presidency, Joe Biden and his Administration promised bold action on climate. Now, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has the opportunity to make good on that promise by establishing the strongest possible clean car standards for model years 2026 and beyond and putting in place robust clean truck standards. These standards can protect clean air in our communities, save drivers more money at the pump, protect the overall health of God's creation and help alleviate the ongoing climate crisis.

- To have a zero-emission on-road fleet by 2050, we need ambitious car and truck standards that put us on the path to zero emission passenger vehicles by 2035.

- Through our faith, we hold fast to common moral values that prioritize protecting vulnerable populations and disenfranchised communities, defending our children's health, caring for God's creation and fulfilling our obligations to future generations.

- The EPA's pollution standards for new cars, buses and freight trucks will save more than 40,000 lives and prevent more than 25 million asthma attacks.

Clean Cars: Responsible Stewardship and Justice

To tackle climate change and reduce pollution, we need the boldest and strongest possible clean car standards. Strong car standards will follow through with EPA's stated commitment to environmental justice and help address key transportation related impacts. Low-wealth neighborhoods and communities of color experience disproportionate harm from dirty vehicle pollution, leading to increased rates of asthma and other respiratory illness. A climate and transportation pollution response grounded in justice demands that we move towards clean transportation and ensure that communities of color have access to clean transportation and benefit from our nation's clean transportation policies.

Clean Trucks: The Cost of Diesel Pollution

Trucks are a leading source of lung-damaging air pollutants—including smog-forming NOx pollution and particle pollution. The [EPA estimates that in 2020](#), the nationwide medium- and heavy-duty fleet consumed 55.3 billion gallons of fuel and emitted 561 million metric tons of greenhouse gases, 1.5 million metric tons of nitrogen oxides (NOx) and 38,000 metric tons of particulate matter (PM).

While trucks and buses only account for 4% of vehicles on the road, they are responsible for 25% of total transportation sector greenhouse gas emissions. Because diesel pollution is a disproportionate burden on communities of color, clean transportation, including zero emission trucks, isn't just a matter of caring for God's creation. It is a matter of justice.

Almost 60% of NOx and PM exhaust emissions from the trucks and buses were in urban areas. According to an [analysis of EPA data](#), by 2023, every year diesel emissions from vehicles are projected to cause up to:

- 8,822 premature deaths
- 3,728 heart attacks
- 173,067 cases of respiratory symptoms
- 2,063 asthma-induced visits to the ER
- \$98 billion public health costs to the economy
- 516,704 lost work days