



State of the Air 2024

Nearly 4 in 10 people are impacted by unhealthy air in the United States. In Arizona, it's worse. 84 percent of Arizonans live in a community with unhealthy air. Tailpipes, power plants and extreme heat contribute to ozone pollution challenges, while prolonged drought conditions and other impacts from climate change, such as historic Western wildfires, contribute to particle pollution.

Phoenix ranks among the most polluted cities in the United States for ozone and particulate pollution. It is one of just a handful of U.S. cities to land on all three of the [State of the Air](#) report's Top 25 most polluted cities lists:

5th 

in most unhealthy ozone days.

9th 

in unhealthy annual levels of particle pollution.

16th 

in unhealthy particle pollution days.

84% of Arizonans live in the five counties that received at least one failing grade for ozone days, particle days and/or annual particles.

Poor air quality contributes to a wide range of negative health impacts, including childhood asthma attacks, impaired lung function and development, lung cancer, heart attacks and strokes and premature deaths. Low-income communities and communities of color are disproportionately impacted by bad air quality.

Zeroing in on Healthy Air

Moving away from combustion to zero-emission technologies is critical to clean air, health equity and a healthy climate. The American Lung Association's [Zeroing in on Healthy Air](#) report finds that a widespread shift to zero-emission transportation and clean energy would yield major health benefits between 2020 and 2050.

The widespread transition to zero-emission cars, buses and trucks could avoid 1,360 premature deaths and generate over \$15 billion in public health benefits.

ARIZONA

Health Impacts Avoided (2020-2050)

- Premature Deaths: 1,360
- Asthma Attacks: 38,500
- Lost Work Days: 182,000

· Health Cost Savings: \$15.1 Billion

Taking Action = Clean, Healthy Air for All

State policies must ensure a rapid shift to zero-emission transportation and non-combustion energy so that all communities can breathe cleaner, healthier air. To achieve this, Arizona should move quickly to:

- **Accelerate the deployment of zero-emission vehicle infrastructure and non-combustion renewable energy resources.**
- **Adopt the Advanced Clean Truck (ACT) standard** to ensure health and equity benefits of increasing sales of zero-emission trucks over the coming decade.
- **Adopt the Advanced Clean Cars II (ACCII) to deliver the health benefits of 100 percent zero-emission passenger vehicle sales by 2035.**

American Lung Association Poll

Arizona voters overwhelmingly view air pollution and climate change as serious problems and support policies to boost clean energy and encourage the transition to pollution-free vehicles.*



83% of Arizona voters view air pollution as a serious problem, and 80% view climate change as such.



77% of voters believe a transition to zero-emission vehicles will have a positive impact on air quality in Arizona.



74% of voters support more solar and 61% support more wind power.



67% support investments to transition all school buses from diesel-powered vehicles to zero-emission buses by 2040.



Majorities of voters support policies that transition to pollution-free vehicles including decreasing emissions from cars & trucks over time (62% support), electrifying the medium and heavy-duty sector by 2040 (62% support), and transitioning public fleet vehicles to zero-emission by 2035 (59% support).



“Arizonans see a real need and opportunity for our elected leaders to bring the benefits of zero-emission technologies home. Arizona voters continue to show strong support a transition away from fossil fuels and toward zero-emission technologies for a healthier Arizona today.”

JoAnna Strother
Senior Advocacy Director
American Lung Association in Arizona