

Air Pollution

Definition

Air pollution occurs when harmful substances including particulates and biological molecules are introduced into Earth's atmosphere. It may cause diseases, allergies or death in humans; it may also cause harm to other living organisms such as animals and food crops, and may damage the natural or built environment.



Air pollution - causes

- Natural
 - Forest fire
 - Erupting volcano
 - Gases erupting from radioactive decay of rocks...
- Man Made
 - Factories
 - Smoking
 - Cement mixers
 - Vehicles
 - Dust on the roads
 - Radio activity
 - Burning of waste, leaves, e-waste
 - Untreated sewage in drains /lakes – releasing gases
 - Unhealthy person coughing polluting

Top ten gases

- Sulphur dioxide
- Carbon dioxide
- Carbon monoxide
- Nitrogen oxide
- Volatile organic compounds (VOCs)
- Particulates
- Ozone
- Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs)
- Unburned hydrocarbons
- Lead and heavy metals

Governance' role

- Policies to prevent/reduce the causes
- More importantly implementation and enforcement
- Actions
 - Measure pollution and communicate to citizens
 - Awareness sessions through TV, news papers
 - Factories outside residential areas
 - Cement mixing plants outside the city

Governance' role

- Preserve and grow greenery
- Waste management to avoid burning
- Cleaning the roads – to avoid dust
- Ensure no sewage in drains and lakes – avoid gases
- Vehicles – old to be off road
- Second car to have high cost
- Insist on emission certificate
- Burning of waste ban
- Waste is managed by authorized vendors
- Encourage public transport
- Car pooling

Clean Roads



Waste management



Teamwork is the Mantra

- Governance - Pollution control board
 - Strong Enforcement of policies
 - Visible action for violators
- Citizens
 - Policies to be adhered to by citizens
 - Voice when others polluting
 - Avoid polluting – lead by example
 - Cycling can be an option in areas where roads are wide
 - Use public transport.

Thank You