



State of the Air 2022

More than 4 in 10 Americans breathe unhealthy air. In Maryland, it's worse. 54% of Marylanders live in counties impacted by air pollution. Tailpipe emissions and record heat drive up ozone pollution, while prolonged drought conditions and other impacts from climate change, such as historic wildfires, contribute to particle pollution.

The American Lung Association's [State of the Air](#) 2022 report finds Maryland is home to significant air pollution challenges.

Maryland has
522,982 
adults and children
with asthma.

54% live in a 
community
with **unhealthy levels of ozone
or particle pollution.**

3.3 Million 
live in a community
with **unhealthy levels of
ozone or particle pollution.**

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. Many Marylanders, especially those in lower-income communities and communities of color, often face disproportionate impacts due to multiple, local sources of pollution.

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, trucks and clean energy would yield billions in avoided health costs and climate change impacts in Maryland.

MARYLAND

Health Impacts Avoided (2020-2050)

- Premature Deaths: 2,530
- Asthma Attacks: 63,600
- Lost Work Days: 315,000

· **Public Health Benefit: \$27.8 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, Maryland 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

Americans want stronger standards to protect the environment, reduce air pollution and transition toward zero-emission vehicles.*



88% support the Environmental Protection Agency enforcing stronger air-quality standards.



85% say protecting the environment and growing the economy go hand-in-hand.



72% support significant investments in zero-emission vehicles as part of our efforts to rebuild the economy.



70% agree the federal government should implement policies supporting a transition to zero-emission vehicles.



Baltimore, Maryland

“A nationwide transition to electric vehicles is urgently needed to improve lung health and advance health equity. Policies to eliminate emissions from cars, trucks, buses and delivery vans are a win-win. Zero-emission vehicles curb climate change and provide immediate benefits to health at the same time.”

Harold Wimmer, National President and CEO
American Lung Association
Electric Vehicle Poll, June 2021