



Air Quality and Climate ***Monterey, California – May 4, 2023***

Today's topic for the fourth day of Air Quality Awareness Week is Air Quality and Climate. Scientists warn that climate change impacts the air we breathe, making it harder to clean up ozone pollution and increasing the risk of particle pollution. Monterey Bay Air Resources District (MBARD) implements programs that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, a major cause of climate change, to improve air quality in the Monterey Bay Area.

What is Ground-level Ozone Pollution?

Climate change creates conditions, including heat and stagnant air, which increase the risk of unhealthy [ozone levels](#). Ground-level ozone, often called smog, forms in the atmosphere when gases emitted from smokestacks and tailpipes mix in the air. Hotter weather and stagnant air create conditions that make ozone more likely to form.

What is Particle Pollution?

Hotter temperatures and lack of rainfall increase the risk of drought and wildfires, both of which create [particle pollution](#). Wildfires have become a major source of extremely high particle levels in places hundreds of miles from the fire itself. Dust storms may increase as soil dries out and the water table drops.

What Can You Do to Reduce the Impact of Climate Change?

You can lessen the impacts of climate change by making choices that help advance solutions and reduce [greenhouse gas emissions](#). Many of these actions apply to both individuals and small- and medium-sized businesses. Decisions that we all make today can shape the world for decades and even centuries to come. Not only are these actions good for the environment, but they are also good for personal and community health, equity, environmental justice, quality of life, and our shared futures.

Explore each of these topics:

- [Energy](#)
- [Waste](#)
- [Transportation](#)
- [Water](#)
- [Environmental Justice \(EJ\)](#)
- [Do More!](#)

California Leading the Way to Address Climate Change

In response to [AB 32](#), California is implementing measures to achieve emission reductions of greenhouse gases (GHG) that cause climate change. Climate change programs in California are effectively reducing GHG emissions that come

from all sectors of the economy. These programs include regulations, market programs, and incentives that will transform the areas of transportation, industry, fuels, and others, to take California into a sustainable, low-carbon and cleaner future, while maintaining a robust economy.

The state is also ensuring programs funded by [California Climate Investments](#) (CCI) are benefiting all Californians, particularly those in disadvantaged communities, by reducing health burdens of air pollution. CCI projects include affordable housing, renewable energy, public transportation, zero-emission vehicles, environmental restoration, more sustainable agriculture, recycling and much more. At least 50 percent of these investments benefit disadvantaged and low-income communities. CCI is funded through the auctioning of allowances from the state's economy-wide [Cap-and-Trade Program](#).

[Learn more about the California Air Resources Board Climate Action Plan](#)

[Learn about MBARD programs](#)

If you have any questions or require further information, please contact David Frisbey, Planning and Air Monitoring Manager by phone at (831) 647-9411 or at dfrisbey@mbard.org.

Photo attached.

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Richard A. Stedman
Air Pollution Control Officer