

MAIN SOURCES OF AIR POLLUTION

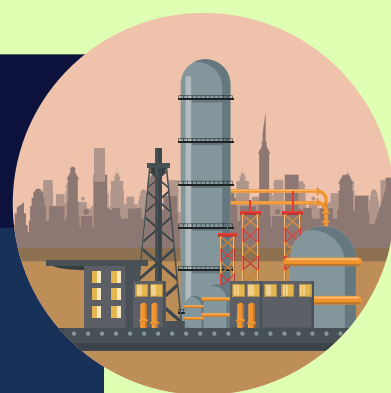


Transport

One of the main sources of air pollution is vehicles with petrol and diesel engines, such as cars, buses and trucks, as well as airplanes, trains and ships. These release pollutants like particulate matter (PM), nitrogen oxides (NO_x), sulfur dioxide (SO_2) and carbon monoxide (CO). In Europe, about 40% of NO_x and PM_{2.5} emissions are linked to road transport.

Industry

Power plants, manufacturing, waste management, construction and other business activities release air pollutants, such as NO_x and SO_2 from fossil fuel use, as well as volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and hydrocarbons from industrial processes.



Agriculture

Farming and agricultural activities (like the use and production of fertilisers, the use of farm machinery, livestock raising and agricultural burning), release nitrogen compounds, methane and other pollutants.



Household

Residential activities, such as energy use for cooling or heating, wood and fuel burning (cooking, fireplaces etc.), fuel stoves, and chemical use for cleaning, painting and other purposes, release a wide range of pollutants, contaminating not only ambient but also indoor air.



Natural sources

Volcanic eruptions, sand and dust storms in deserts, wildfires and sea salt spray are some of the natural sources of air pollutants, including PM, CO and NO_x .

