

# What is Air Pollution

Air pollution refers to the presence of dangerous or poisonous things in the air that we breathe.

These substances can have harmful effects on wildlife and on human health.

Polluted air contains many different pollutants including:

greenhouse  
gases

carbon  
dioxide

carbon  
monoxide

methane

soot

and many  
more.

People with lung and breathing conditions, such as asthma are much more at risk from air pollution.

# What Causes Air Pollution

Most air pollution is caused by the burning of fossil fuels. There are 5 main types of pollution. They are:

## **Transport**

the burning of engine fuels, especially diesel.

## **Agricultural**

methane gas given off by cattle and the burning of animal waste.

## **Household**

the burning of fossil fuels to heat homes and cook food.

## **Industrial**

the burning of fuels to power the factories and machines.

## **Waste**

plastic products release dangerous chemicals, even if they are not burned.

# What Can Be Done?

Governments, industries and individuals can all do more to reduce air pollution.

Individually, we can all make small changes that together will have a big impact. For example, using a car less, turning down the heating and buying less plastic will all help to reduce air pollution.



"Friend of Earth1" by (Friends of Earth Scotland) is licensed under [CC BY 2.0](#)

# Your Task

Look at the picture below and list the different ways that contribute to air pollution.



**Challenge:** Explain how?