



## Fact Sheet: Medium and Heavy Duty Vehicles

Across the United States, the transportation sector is a leading source of harmful air pollution that threatens public health and worsens climate change. Low-income communities located in freight and transportation hubs that see thousands of heavy-duty trucks traverse their neighborhoods suffer a disproportionate share of our nation's climate, air pollution and health burdens.

Fortunately, widespread zero-emission technology is available today that will help produce emission reductions that will help save lives and health costs, with the potential for tens of billions in annual public health benefits.

### Protecting the health of our families through electric trucks

The transportation sector must move comprehensively to 100% zero-emission trucks, which will unlock health benefits for all Americans, especially those in underserved communities most impacted and vulnerable to pollution burdens.



### The Transportation Sector

- Causes over half of the total ozone- and particle-forming oxides of nitrogen (NOx) emissions in the United States.
- Is the largest source of carbon dioxide pollution in the United States.
- Contributes significantly to particle pollution and local diesel exhaust impacts that threaten lung health.

The American Lung Association's 2021 "State of the Air" report found significant disparities for people of color residing in counties with failing grades for ozone and/or particle pollution.

### Transportation pollution is inequitable

*People of color were:*

- 61% more likely than white people to live in a county with a failing grade for at least one pollutant.
- Over three times as likely than white people to live in the most polluted counties.



## Electric vehicles can fix this

The widespread transition to zero-emission transportation technologies could produce emission reductions by 2050 that could:

- add up to \$72 billion in avoided health harms annually
- save approximately 6,300 lives every year
- avoid more than 93,000 asthma attacks and 416,000 lost work days annually.

In addition to these health benefits, the climate benefits, as expressed as the Social Cost of Carbon, could surpass \$113 billion annually by 2050.



## The importance of policy advocacy in achieving zero-emissions

Actions taken today by local, state and federal agencies to transition away from dirty heavy-duty vehicle technologies will establish a crucial course to clean transportation and healthier air in communities across the country. The American Lung Association recommends the following actions:

- At all levels, governments must align toward zero-emission transportation through policy change, investment, public education and partnership with private entities and the public working together to reduce air pollution and climate change.
- Establish health-protective clean air standards based on current science and ensure an adequate level of protection for vulnerable communities as required by the Clean Air Act.
- Designate zero-emission infrastructure a national priority program for economic recovery from the pandemic.
- Increase grant funding support for zero-emission truck and bus purchases and manufacturing, and maintain existing consumer and business tax credits for zero-emissions vehicle (ZEV) purchases.
- State authority under the Clean Air Act to enact ZEV standards must be protected and implemented.
- Increase incentives to ensure widespread deployment of zero-emission transportation infrastructure and technologies.
- Consumers must have full access to electric vehicle options that meet their needs and the benefits of zero-emission vehicles must be available to all communities.