



THE GARDEN CLUB of AMERICA

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The Garden Club of America supports independent, academic, peer-reviewed scientific research as the basis for formulation of responsible public policy and legislation, as well as appropriate funding to ensure quality results.

CLEAN AIR

Clean air is essential for healthy plants, animals and people. The Garden Club of America supported the Clean Air Act of 1970 and has continued to support clean-air initiatives. Air pollution remains a problem nationwide, and some power plants, refineries and manufacturing facilities continue to violate federal emission standards. In order to improve air quality and to reduce the risks of climate change, The Garden Club of America supports federal, state, and local legislation and policy that addresses the following:

POLLUTION REDUCTION

- Reducing of three key pollutants – sulfur dioxide (SO₂), nitrogen oxide (NO_x), and mercury (Hg) – that impair air quality and adversely affect the habitat of all living things: plants, animals, and humans.
- Lowering the amount of carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), and other greenhouse gases released to the atmosphere, as the changing climate may pose the greatest risk to biodiversity in the coming century.
- Reducing of these pollutants through an integrated strategy of regulated emission caps, improved energy efficiency, and greater use of renewable energy sources.
- Limiting greenhouse gas emissions from new and existing power plants and from other stationary sources, and improving fuel efficiency from mobile sources throughout the transportation sector.
- Enforcing the New Source Review, a key provision of the 1977 Amendment to the Clean Air Act, that requires old power plants to modernize their pollution controls whenever they make major repairs or renovations.
- Replacing hydrofluorocarbons (chemicals used in air conditioners and other applications) with alternatives that are safer for the ozone layer.
- Implementation of new engine standards for diesel-powered cars, trucks, and heavy equipment.
- Support of MACT (Maximum Achievable Control Technology) standard for emissions.

SAFETY

- Safeguarding human health from toxics, including hazardous air pollutants, whether they occur as chemical hazards (e.g., carcinogens, reproductive hazards, or agents that affect the lungs or blood) or physical hazards (e.g., those toxics that are flammable, combustible, explosive, or reactive).
- Regulation of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs), especially known carcinogens benzene and formaldehyde and likely carcinogens perchloroethylene, tetrachloroethylene, and styrene.
- Reliance on peer-reviewed science, which currently advocates a reduction of both particulate matter (known as soot) and smog in order to protect human health.

The purpose of The Garden Club of America is to stimulate the knowledge and love of gardening, to share the advantages of association by means of educational meetings, conferences, correspondence and publications, and to restore, improve and protect the quality of the environment through educational programs and action in the fields of conservation and civic improvement.