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## EPA Mitigation of Air Pollutants and Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Since the Clean Air Act was passed in 1970, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has been tasked with reducing air pollution in America. In the years that passed, many improvements to air quality have been made, including reducing toxic air pollution from industrial sources by 70%, stopping production of most ozone-depleting chemicals, a more than 50% reduction of six common pollutants (ozone, particulate matter, carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, and lead), and the manufacturing of vehicles that are 90% cleaner than their predecessors. The agency is also addressing climate change by requiring an increase in renewable fuel usage, which will reduce the amount of carbon dioxide emissions from mobile sources. The EPA is also going to enact efforts to reduce methane and volatile organic compounds. The EPA also mitigates pollution by partnering with private companies, and more local governments, to create more energy efficient products and behaviors.

The EPA's most recent effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions is their Clean Power Plan, which will reduce the carbon emissions for both new and existing power plants. The regulations will be different state by state, with each state's goal set at a maximum rate for emitted pounds of carbon dioxide per generated megawatt-hour (MWh). The goals are to be reached by 2030. The related regulations and guidelines are currently in development, and the proposal will aim to include: reduction in carbon pollution from existing power plants, for which there are currently no national limits; maintaining an affordable and reliable energy system; and creating health benefits through cutting tons of harmful particle pollution, sulfur dioxide, and

nitrogen oxides, as well as reducing smog and soot. The health benefits will avoid premature deaths and asthma attacks, and reduce spending.