

Arriving At **The Tipping Point**

It is time for EPA to grant California the waiver to require clean cars!

There is now a scientific consensus that global warming is occurring, and that human activity is playing a large role.

As the globe traps heat, it impacts the climate, leading to droughts, extreme weather, and rising sea levels, endangering our safety, economy, and national security. The biggest single step we can take to preventing these threats and curbing global warming is to reduce the emissions of carbon dioxide from our cars and light trucks. Sadly, the United States, the largest emitter of global warming pollution, hasn't taken meaningful steps to clean up our autos in more than thirty years. However, clean car programs in numerous states and Canada may soon force automakers to produce cleaner cars.



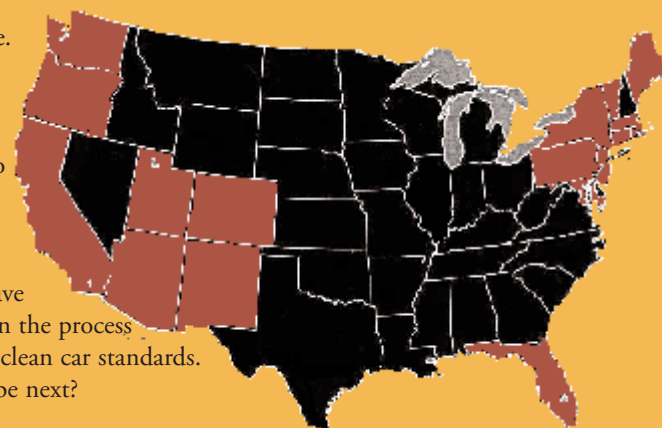
The Top Five Global Warming Polluters:

- 1. The United States**
- 2. China**
- 3. Russia**
- 4. Japan**
- 5. America's Cars and Light Trucks**



Cars and SUVs - Driving Global Warming

America's cars and light trucks emit 20% of the nation's greenhouse gas emissions, the heat-trapping gases that cause global warming. For decades, the federal government has done nothing to reduce the global warming pollution of our automobiles, and so now states are taking action. Sixteen states are poised to adopt California's clean car standards, which will push automakers to cut emissions of heat-trapping gases by 30% by 2016 from all cars and light trucks. Additionally, Canada recently struck a deal with automakers that will create similar reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. Once these states and Canada pass and fully implement these protections, more than one-third of all new vehicles in the North American auto market will have to meet these tougher emission rules. This means that automakers will have to build clean cars for part of the country and normal, dirtier cars for the rest of the nation, which will be difficult and expensive. As more states adopt these standards, car companies will reach the tipping point where it is too expensive to build two sets of cars, and will find it easier and cheaper to build one clean set for the entire country.



Sixteen states have adopted or are in the process of adopting the clean car standards. Will your state be next?

California: Leading the Way on Curbing Global Warming

Under the Clean Air Act, California has the authority to set more stringent automobile emissions standards than those mandated by the federal government subject to an EPA-granted waiver. The new California rules stem from a 2002 law sponsored by Assemblywoman Fran Pavley and aim for a 30 percent reduction in greenhouse emissions by 2016 from all passenger automobiles, including cars, SUVs, pick-ups, and minivans. Automakers have shown that by using current technology, they can build vehicles that sharply reduce greenhouse gas emissions. For example, hybrid cars and SUVs use innovative technology to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by as much as 50-75%, far above the mandated rise in reductions.

Under the same provision of the Clean Air Act, other states may choose to adopt California's stronger standards. States in the Pacific Northwest, the Northeast, and the Southwest have joined California in setting stronger vehicle emissions standards that improve air quality, and additional states are considering adopting the standards. But none of these states will be able to reduce smog or carbon emissions if EPA continues to stall on granting the waiver.



Clean Cars Reduce Smog, Prevent Asthma

In addition to global warming pollution, automobiles produce a host of other pollutants, include smog-forming pollution, carcinogens, and air toxics. These pollutants are linked to respiratory illnesses such as asthma and other health concerns. Currently available technology can reduce toxic emissions from every car, pick-up, and SUV to meet the California clean car standards. States that have adopted the program have seen a marked improvement in air quality. Studies have shown that many states would see a 20-30% reduction in smog-forming pollutants as a result of adopting the California program. This will lead to clearer skies, healthier citizens, and a cleaner environment.

EPA Continues to Stall on California Clean Car Standards

The U.S. Supreme Court found in *Massachusetts vs. EPA* that EPA can and must consider regulating carbon dioxide as a pollutant under the Clean Air Act. This court decision increased pressure on EPA to grant California the necessary waiver for the state to move forward. EPA has granted California numerous comparable waivers in the past: it is now time to quit stalling and allow California and the other sixteen states to protect their citizens and the environment by implementing these standards. In another important case, *Green Mountain Chrysler vs. Vermont*, federal district judge William Sessions ruled that achieving the California clean car standards was technologically and economically feasible for U.S. automakers.

American automakers continue to lose market share to foreign auto companies in part because of their failure to innovate and build clean vehicles. California Clean Car standards level the playing field for domestic automakers by allowing them to produce more innovative autos and tap into the growing customer demand for cleaner cars, trucks, and SUVs. Instead of preventing California's attempts to clean up cars, EPA should instead grant the waiver that will spur innovation and create the next generation of clean American automobiles.

TAKE ACTION

Join the fight to cut emissions of greenhouse gases from America's vehicles. Together, we can give our children a clean and healthy environment while reducing the threat of global warming.

Sign up for Sierra Club's email action alert, The Hotline, at sierraclub.org