#0b1d24 # 3b9dc3 #bac0c6 #f3f4fc #5b7c85 # 2f424d

Pic of traffic

There are various causes of pollution, however, the most major factors are the most common activities we do. One source of pollution are automobiles and factories. Our common modes of transportation like jeepneys, cars, trucks, and motorcycles all need to burn fossil fuels (coal, oil, gas). Power plants also burn fossil fuels to create heat which is in turn used to generate steam to drive turbines that generate electricity. However, burning fossil fuels produces a colorless and odorless gas called carbon monoxide, which is harmful in high concentrations. Aside from carbon monoxide, other common pollutants are produced like nitrogen oxide, sulfur dioxide, and hydrocarbons. This rampant and continuous burning of fossil fuels is concerning since pollutants are a health risk to people because it burns people’s eyes, make breathing difficult, and increase the risk of lung cancer. Not to mention, it also harms and kills many plants and animals.

Pic of smog

These chemicals also react with sunlight to produce smog, a thick fog or haze of air pollution. The burning of fossil fuels has also increased the amount of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere resulting to global temperatures rising, which is called global warming. Global warming is particularly worrying because it is causing ice sheets and glaciers to melt. The melting ice is causing sea levels to rise at a rate of 2 millimeters (0.09 inches) per year, which mean rising seas will eventually flood low-lying coastal regions like various island in Philippines. Scientists have also predicted that global warming will cause an increase in severe storms. It will also cause more droughts in some regions and more flooding in others.

Pic of ocean acidification

Additionally, global warming contributes to the phenomenon of ocean acidification, the process of ocean waters absorbing more carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. Fewer organisms can survive in warmer, less salty waters. The ocean food web is threatened as plants and animals such as coral fail to adapt to more acidic oceans.

Pic of burning trash

Another cause of pollution is burning trash and crops. Although, incinerating trash gets rid of it, it can also release dangerous heavy metals and chemicals into the air. Burning can also create residue that contaminates the soil and groundwater and can enter the human food chain through crops and livestock. Though the ashes may increase the soil fertility, it may remain fertile for only a short span of time.

Pic of singe use plastic trash

A major factor in Philippines’ garbage problem is the “sachet economy”. Shampoo, bath soap, toothpaste, cooking oil, soy sauce, vinegar and many other low-cost consumer products come in small, single-use plastic packages that are affordable for the country’s bulk of poor and middle-income families. In 2017, a consortium of environmental groups, including Greenpeace, conducted a weeklong waste audit at Freedom Island. It showed that single-serve plastic packaging made up the bulk of waste collected in the area and that products manufactured by Switzerland-based Nestlé and Netherlands-based Unilever were the most represented.

Pic of improper waste disposal

Additionally, inefficient garbage collection systems contribute to land pollution. Sometimes, landfills are not completely sealed off from the land around them. Pollutants from the landfill leak into the earth in which they are buried. Plants that grow in the earth may be contaminated, and the herbivores that eat the plants also become contaminated. So do the predators that consume the herbivores. This process, where a chemical builds up in each level of the food web, is called bioaccumulation. Pollutants leaked from landfills also leak into local groundwater supplies. There, the aquatic food web (from microscopic algae to fish to predators such as sharks or eagles) can suffer from bioaccumulation of toxic chemicals.

Pic of polluted water

Sewage that has not been properly treated is a common source of water pollution. Many cities around the world have poor sewage systems and sewage treatment plants. Some polluted water looks muddy, smells bad, and has garbage floating in it. Some polluted water looks clean, but is filled with harmful chemicals you can’t see or smell. Chemical pollutants in trash can also pollute the water, making it toxic for fish and people who use the river as a source of drinking water. The fish that are caught in a polluted river often have high levels of chemical toxins in their flesh. People absorb these toxins as they eat the fish. Additionally, aquatic animals such as fish and turtles mistake trash, such as plastic bags, for food.

Pic of runoff

Another cause of polluted water is when chemicals and oils from factories are sometimes dumped or seep into waterways. These chemicals are called runoff. Chemicals in runoff can create a toxic environment for aquatic life. Runoff can also help create a fertile environment for cyanobacteria, also called blue-green algae. Cyanobacteria reproduce rapidly, creating a harmful algal bloom (HAB). Harmful algal blooms prevent organisms such as plants and fish from living in the ocean. They are associated with “dead zones” in the world’s lakes and rivers, places where little life exists below surface water.

Pic of algal blooms

Another major source of water pollution is fertilizer used in agriculture. Fertilizer is material added to soil to make plants grow larger and faster. Fertilizers usually contain large amounts of the elements: nitrogen and phosphorus, which help plants grow. Rainwater washes fertilizer into streams and lakes. There, the nitrogen and phosphorus cause cyanobacteria to form harmful algal blooms.

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Actions

-govt actions to fight pollution

-private orgs to fight pollution

-individual actions that can fight pollution

Around the world, people and governments are making efforts to combat pollution. Recycling, for instance, is becoming more common. In recycling, trash is processed so its useful materials can be used again. Glass, aluminum cans, and many types of plastic can be melted and reused. Paper can be broken down and turned into new paper.

Recycling reduces the amount of garbage that ends up in landfills, incinerators, and waterways.

Governments can combat pollution by passing laws that limit the amount and types of chemicals factories and agribusinesses are allowed to use. The smoke from coal-burning power plants can be filtered. People and businesses that illegally dump pollutants into the land, water, and air can be fined for millions of dollars. Some government programs, such as the Superfund program in the United States, can force polluters to clean up the sites they polluted.

International agreements can also reduce pollution. The Kyoto Protocol, a United Nations agreement to limit the emission of greenhouse gases, has been signed by 191 countries.

Reducing pollution requires environmental, political, and economic leadership. Developed nations must work to reduce and recycle their materials, while developing nations must work to strengthen their economies without destroying the environment. Developed and developing countries must work together toward the common goal of protecting the environment for future use.

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Gallery

-different kinds of pollution in the ph

-activities that help stop pollution

-govt/priv orgs plans

**<h1>Government Actions Against Pollution</h1>**

**<h2>Republic Act No. 9003 (**Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000)</h2>

<p>An act providing for an ecological solid waste management program, creating the necessary institutional mechanisms and incentives, declaring certain acts prohibited and providing penalties, appropriating funds therefor, and for other purposes</p>

Republic Act No. 8749 (Philippine Clean Air Act of 1999)

An act providing for a comprehensive air pollution control policy and for other purposes.

Republic Act No. 9275 (Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004)

An Act providing for a comprehensive water quality management and for other purposes. This Act provides for the abatement and control of pollution from land-based sources, and lays down water quality standards and regulations. The Act shall apply to water quality management in all water bodies: fresh, brackish and marine waters.

Republic Act No. 9483 (Oil Pollution Compensation Act of 2007)

An act providing for the implementation of the provisions of the 1992 international convention on civil liability for oil pollution damage and the 1992 international convention on the establishment of an international fund for compensation for oil pollution damage, providing penalties for violations thereof, and for other purposes

**<h2>Organizations Actions Against Pollution</h2>**

<p><b>Greenpeace Philippines</b>’s main goal is to protect natural landscapes, species, and more from environmental threats such as perilous waste imports, coal projects, and illegal logging. Aside from promoting ecological farming, this volunteer-based group also holds campaigns against land, air, and water pollution.</p>

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<p><b>Healthcare for Clean Air Alliance</b>, aims to highlight the health impacts of air pollution by pushing for the strict implementation of laws against air pollutants and helping improve the country’s air-quality monitoring standards.</p>

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<p><b>Philippine College of Physicians’ Advocacy Committee on Climate Change</b> has recently started working with the government to improve education in the health sector and among the public of the problem. They want to identify the local sources of air pollution and increase the awareness of its existence, intensify campaigns for alternative clean sources of energy, encourage the active involvement of health people and agencies, strengthen organizations working on pollution issues and, finally, urging the government to strengthen and implement existing laws regulating air pollution.</p>

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<p><b> Earth Island Institute</b> is an international org that jumpstarts programs focused on hyperlocal and grassroots environmentalism. Their local arm implementsthe International Monitoring Program (IMP) which ensures that the country's top tuna companies conform to industry standards and practices. The organization also hold campaigns against dolphin captivity and killings.</p>

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**Individual Actions that can Help Reduce Pollution**