Our Nation's Air

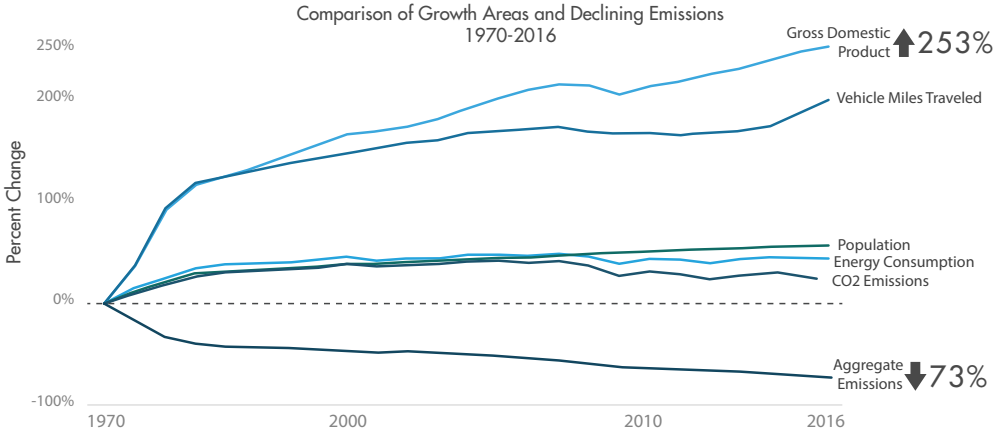
Air Quality Improves as America Grows

Status and Trends Through 2016

https://gispub.epa.gov/air/trendsreport/2017

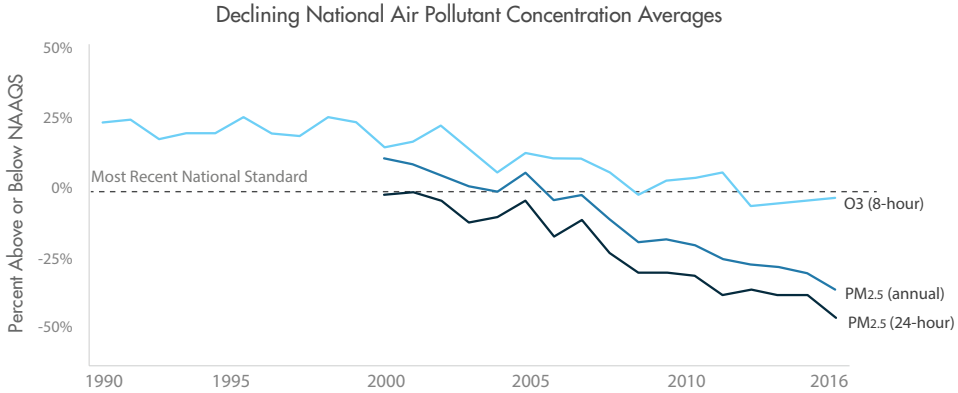
Economic Growth with Clean Air

Between 1970 and 2016, the combined emissions of the six common pollutants (PM2.5 and PM10, SO2, NOx, VOCs, CO and Pb) dropped by 73 percent. This progress occurred while the U.S. economy continued to grow, Americans drove more miles and population and energy use increased.



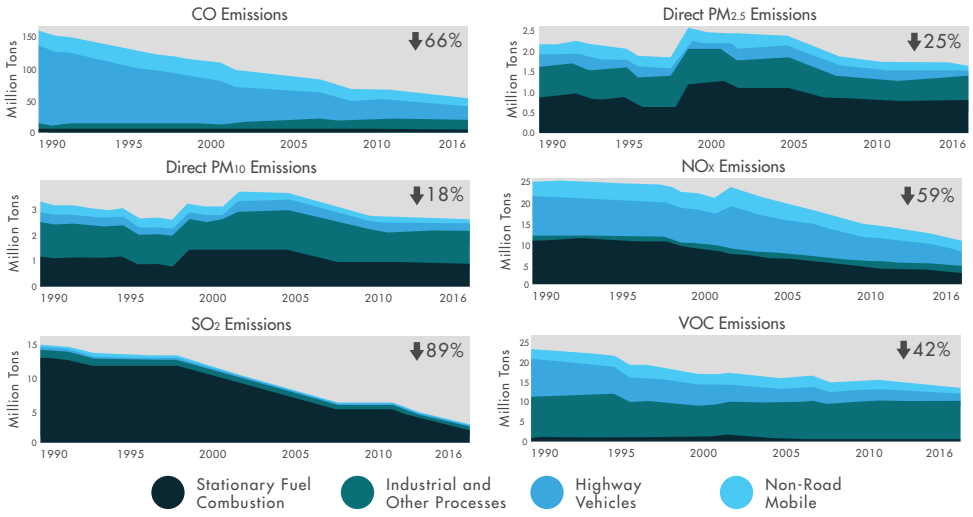
Criteria Pollutant Trends Show Clean Air Progress

Ground-level ozone and fine particles ($PM_{2.5}$) continue to pose serious air quality problems in many areas of the U.S. People with heart or lung disease, older adults, and children may be particularly sensitive. Levels of both pollutants have decreased over the years, improving quality of life for many Americans.



Air Pollutant Emissions Decreasing

Emissions of key air pollutants continue to decline from 1990 levels. These reductions are driven by federal and state implementation of stationary and mobile source regulations.



Unhealthy Air Quality Days Trending Down

The Air Quality Index (AQI) is a color-coded index EPA uses to communicate daily air pollution for ozone, particle pollution, NO_2, CO, and SO_2. A value in the unhealthy range, above national air quality standard for any pollutant, is of concern first for sensitive groups, then for everyone as the AQI value increases. Fewer unhealthy air quality days means better health, longevity, and quality of life for all of us.