

**Smog from cars kills more than twice as many people as car accidents in Europe each year**, according to a new World Health Organization report. The report's authors measured health effects from exposure to fine particles that cause respiratory and heart disease in Austria, France, and Switzerland. Smog from cars in these countries kills 21,000 people and causes 300,000 cases of bronchitis in children and 395,000 asthma attacks in adults per year. The total cost is 1.7% of the three countries' combined GNP. *Health Costs Due to Road Traffic-Related Air Pollution* is available on the Web at [www.who.dk/London99/transport04.htm](http://www.who.dk/London99/transport04.htm).

**Requiring developing countries to adhere to emission caps could undermine the Kyoto Protocol's greenhouse gas reduction agreements**, according to a paper from the World Resources Institute (WRI). In *What Might a Developing Country Climate Commitment Look Like?* WRI analysts demonstrate the negative environmental consequences of setting emission growth caps, which would allow developing countries to increase emissions by a fixed amount based on current emission levels. Requiring these countries instead to reduce the carbon intensity of their economic growth will accommodate a fluctuating economy and encourage energy efficiency, the report argues. For a copy, contact WRI at (202) 729-7728 or access [www.wri.org](http://www.wri.org).

**The struggle to achieve an environmentally sustainable economy will be won or lost in the world's urban areas**, according to a Worldwatch Institute paper published in June. *Reinventing Cities for People and the Planet* claims that 78% of worldwide carbon emissions from fossil fuel burning and 76% of industrial wood use occur in urban areas, and 60% of the water tapped for human use goes to cities in one form or another. By 2006, half of the world's population—an estimated 3.2 billion people—will be living in cities, and the urban areas

in developing nations are expected to grow most rapidly, the paper says. To order a copy, call (800) 555-2028.

**The risk of leukemia and kidney, breast, and bone cancers was elevated for people living within 6.2 miles of Ohio's Fernald uranium processing site** between 1951 and 1988, according to a new Centers for Disease Control and Prevention study. The *Phase II Fernald Risk Assessment Report* is the first to associate these cancers with exposure to radiation emitted from the U.S. Department of Energy site, although the Phase I portion of the study estimated that the number of lung cancer deaths among the population may increase by 1–12%. The study is available on the Web at <http://cdc.gov/nceh/programs/radiation/Fernald/default.htm>.



**If U.S. highway planners continue to expand roadway capacity at the current rate, an additional 40 million metric tons of carbon emissions will be released between 1996 and 2010**, according to an updated paper examining the variables affecting vehicular travel, including population growth and improved income. It concludes that increased road capacity results in a strong behavioral response: Drivers will travel farther and more often if traffic density decreases. For a copy of *Relationship Between Highway Capacity and Induced Vehicle Travel*, click on [www.epa.gov/tp/trb-rn.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/tp/trb-rn.pdf).

**No dioxin or furan releases from iron and steel producers have been measured in the United States and Canada**, and very lim-

ited data on PCDD/PCDF releases are available worldwide, even though the industries are considered a major source in some countries, according to a May report from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). In *Dioxin and Furan Inventories: National and Regional Emissions of PCDD/PCDF*, UNEP concludes that the current data are not sufficient to estimate global emissions. A copy of the inventory, which was developed as a step toward crafting an international accord, is available by calling UNEP Chemicals at (+41 22) 917-8183, or via e-mail from [unep.chemicals@unep.ch](mailto:unep.chemicals@unep.ch).

**Coal-fired utilities release 46 tons of mercury per year**, according to a report from the Clean Energy Group (CEG) and the National Resources Defense Council. The electric power companies represented by CEG voluntarily announced their 1998 emissions of mercury and other toxics in support of EPA's proposal to lower mercury's Toxics Release Inventory reporting requirements, which could drop to as low as 10 pounds from the current 25,000 pound threshold. The report advocates a national regulatory framework incorporating emission performance standards. *Air Toxics Emissions From Electric Power Plants* is available at [www.mjbradley.com](http://www.mjbradley.com).

**Marine mammals' ability to hunt for food, detect predators, and find mates is being corrupted by underwater noise**, according to a report from the Natural Resources Defense Council. Most marine mammals depend on sound for their livelihood, but the noise level in ocean waters has been escalating as a result of increased shipping and offshore oil exploration and development, acoustic deterrence and harassment devices used by commercial fisheries, and the development of low-frequency sonar systems by the U.S. Navy and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. The effects range from tissue damage in the animals' lungs and ears to behavioral changes. For a copy of *Sounding the Depths: Supertankers, Sonar, and the Rise of Undersea Noise*, go to [www.nrdc.org](http://www.nrdc.org).