**What other industries contribute to air pollution and how do they affect air quality?**

The main source of air pollution is traffic but it is not the sole cause of all the air pollution. Other industries such as agriculture, energy, mining and manufacturing industries are also sources of air pollution. These industries release harmful gases such as sulfur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide and carbon monoxide into the air.

Agriculture

This includes both rearing of animals and growing of crops. Most agriculture today is large scale and commercialized leading to increased air pollution. Agriculture alone contributes about 14-25% of global greenhouse gases[1]. For instance, livestock farming accounts for 40% of global ammonia emissions[2], mineral fertilizers 16% and burning of plant biomass 18%. Apart from ammonia, agriculture also leads to emission of other harmful gases such as carbon dioxide, nitrogen dioxide and smoke particles, which are health hazards. These are emitted from the use of nitrogen fertilizers, burning of vegetation cover and large-scale animal farming.

Energy Industry

The energy sector is one of the main sources of sulfur dioxide found in the air. Most sources of energy such as coal, petroleum and other fuels contain impurities such as sulfur and carbon compounds. The combustion of these substances leads to formation of the harmful gases such as sulfur dioxide and carbon dioxide. Coal-fired power plants are actually said to be the biggest source of sulfur dioxide[3]. Power plants are also a source of nitrogen dioxide, which is one of the main air pollutants. Additionally, most power plants use heavy machinery whose engine emits carbon dioxide

Mining

The magnitude and significance of air pollution from mining depends on method of mining scale and concentration of mining activities.[4] It is without doubt that mining leads to air pollution through emission of particulate matter and other gaseous pollutants. For example, in the mining of coal, which is one of the fossil fuels mined in UK, there are a lot of chemicals released in the air. During combustion, sulfur dioxide, carbon dioxide and nitrogen dioxide are released into the air. The wet cooling plants in coal-powered plants also emit drift and fog that contains particulate matter (PM).

[1]<https://uk.answers.yahoo.com/question/index?qid=20110306093338AAjGYVW>

[2]<http://www.fao.org/docrep/004/y3557e/y3557e11.htm>

[3]<http://www.explainthatstuff.com/air-pollution-introduction.html>

[4]<http://nopr.niscair.res.in/bitstream/123456789/26535/1/JSIR%2060(10)%20786-797.pdf>