



2025 State Legislative Agenda for Clean Air in Houston



- Defend Federal Protections for Public Health
- Stand Up to Concrete Batch Plants
- Create a Sustainable Transportation System
- Advocate for True Climate Solutions
- Prevent Pollution from Chemical Disasters
- Better Air Monitoring for Action

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Everyone has a right to breathe clean air.

Defend Federal Protections for Public Health

We believe that the New EPA rules are protective of public health, not intrusive or overreach. The state cannot continue to railroad improvements for polluters' benefit.

- Defend federal protections for clean air. We cannot roll back new EPA standards or rules that prioritize people over pollution. The onus is on TCEQ to implement these new rules, and not undermine them for polluters' benefit. As such, we also support TCEQ's emergency item request for additional staffing to implement the new standards.

Stand Up to Concrete Batch Plants

Concrete facilities continue to be a pollution source and nuisance to neighborhoods, without accountability.

- Soot pollution blows far beyond 440 yards. Residents need at least a doubled "buffer zone" that is measured from the fenceline.
- Reform the inspection process. Facilities should have a TCEQ inspection "on the books" before their permit is renewed. Violation notices from local regulators should also be included in the TCEQ compliance score.
- Grant a permitting role to local officials as they should have legal standing to oppose a bad permit.

Better Air Monitoring for Action

Action on pollution is impossible without knowing the composition of pollutants. Regulatory and fenceline air monitoring are the most effective ways to know, but our air monitoring network is spotty, with big gaps.

- Air monitoring for concrete-related facilities. Concrete-related facilities, from kilns to batchers, should have air monitoring at their fenceline to measure their true impact on PM_{2.5} pollution.
- Air monitoring for coal-impacted counties. There is a coal plant in Fort Bend County and no air quality data. TCEQ regulatory monitors should be required in Fort Bend to know the impact of the plant on air quality.

Advocate for True Climate Solutions

Time is of the essence for action to reduce heat-trapping emissions before we reach 1.5°C

- Resist false decarbonization solutions. Claims that carbon capture is the sole path to carbon reduction. maintain the status quo for industry. We oppose efforts to codify CCS.
- Prepare for carbon dangers. To start, funding for PPE and training.
- End fake plastic recycling. High-heat plastic processing is a chemical process that pollutes the air. Loopholes like this in TAC should be closed, and chemical "recycling" facilities should be treated like other polluting sources.

Prevent Pollution from Chemical Disasters

Emissions always increase around weather events because there is no incentive not to. This is in addition to pollution caused by chemical leaks and fires.

- Create an "Amber Alert" for chemical releases. Houston experienced multiple chemical disasters last year without clear and consistent communication.
- Eliminate emergency declarations. TCEQ gives plants permission to pollute if they self-declare it a necessity. We must end this and other "affirmative" defenses.
- Chemical risk transparency. Emergency responders and residents must know what a plant is using and producing in order to respond safely.

Create a Sustainable Transportation System

Multiple highway expansions are coming to Houston, even with PM_{2.5} nonattainment. Current transportation funding limits us from making a true shift to less-polluting options.

- Fix the State Highway Fund. Amending the state constitution to allow flexible use of state tax revenue and federal funds is the only way that TxDOT will make major shifts to mass transit in lieu of highways.
- Fund the Rail Relocation and Improvement Fund. Freight and passenger rail are less polluting and still move people and goods across Texas faster than cars