

## Air Pollution

### Hawaii: The Next 50 Years

We can't afford to live the next 50 years the way we lived the last. Hawaii's pollution is growing because of human activities. Now let's look closer at pollution.

There are six different types of pollution. Air, water, thermal, land, light and noise pollution. Air pollution can occur when gases, dust particles, or fumes get released into the air in a way that makes it harmful to humans, animals, and plants. The air becomes contaminated or unclean.

Air pollution is such an important issue because it affects your health, the environment, and the economy. There are dangerous chemicals in the contaminated air that can cause cancer, long-term injury to the lungs, as well as brain and nerve damage if you inhale it. Poisonous air pollutants can create acid rain, which can be harmful to organisms that depend on water.

We can prevent air pollution by using hybrid cars and electric cars. Hybrids run on both gasoline and electricity. Electric vehicles operate on batteries. They pollute the air less because they don't emit carbon dioxide.

One piece of technology that might help is the Peruvian Super Tree. This device uses a water filtration system to remove carbon dioxide and bacteria from the air. The Super Tree, based in Lima, can purify up to 200,000 cubic meters of air per day. Mind you, this is only the work of six trees and at an initial cost of around \$100,000 it strikes us as being somewhat cost inefficient compared to just, well, planting some more trees.

U.S coal plants spew more than 70 million tons a year of a radio-active waste called fly ash. Another way to prevent air pollution is to turn the ash into bricks. The bricks soak up the fly ash from the air. This way, there will be less dangerous gases in the air.

Air pollution is a growing problem that must be addressed. We can help by being mindful of how much electricity we use and using new, more fuel-efficient cars. In 50 years, when I am a grandmother, I want my grandchildren to live in a Hawaii without pollution. I want them to live in a healthy Hawaii that I helped to create.