



**Mothers  
& Others**  
FOR CLEAN AIR



# Cost and Benefits of Reducing Air Pollution

The Natural Resources Defense Council estimates that the U.S. experiences health costs of well over **\$800 billion** per year from air pollution.

In 2021, the U.S. spent **\$145 billion** repairing the physical damage from 20 climate disasters that each caused over \$1 billion in damage. This doesn't include the health care costs of those disasters, just repairs to buildings, roads, and bridges and costs of crop losses.

If we reduce emissions to keep climate change under 1.5°C, then by **2030 in Georgia**, we can prevent 230,000 lost work days, save **\$245 million** in healthcare costs, prevent \$43 million in economic losses due to work absences and increase agricultural yields by \$22 million..

**If we reduce air pollution, we can improve health AND reduce costs.**



## Cost of air pollution from fossil fuels (2018)

- **\$2.9** trillion globally
- **\$1900** per person per year in the U.S.
- **\$20 billion** per year in Georgia

## Globally, air pollution causes:

- **4.5 million** premature deaths
- **1.8 billion** missed work days
- **4 million** new childhood asthma diagnosis
- **2 million** preterm births
- disabilities from diabetes/strokes/chronic respiratory diseases. (CREA)

- In 1999, ozone from vehicle exhaust caused **\$3-6 billion in crop losses** each year.
- For every coal plant shut down between 2005 and 2016, corn yield increased 1.1% totaling **2 billion more bushels of corn** within 125 miles of each coal plant.
- In 2014, economic damages from premature mortality due to fine particle (PM2.5) air pollution **cost the US \$790 billion.**

- As an outcome of The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative or RGGI (2009), fine particle air pollution reductions resulted in **\$6 billion** in health benefits for 9 states by reducing deaths, hospitalizations, ER visits, asthma, preterm births and autism.
- Reducing air pollution from an Air Quality Index (AQI) of 65 to 50 would save **\$4 billion per year** from influenza hospitalizations (if there were no vaccine).



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