

Quick Facts

- The transportation sector accounts for approximately 27 percent of U.S. greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, making it a critical component to achieve U.S. national net-zero emissions goals.
- Clean car standards are the federal emissions guidelines for car manufacturers that determine the acceptable levels GHG emissions, air pollutants, and fuel economy for new passenger vehicles and trucks. These standards are some of the most effective policies for reducing pollution and emissions, and creating jobs.
- The new, stronger national standards are projected to result in significant health, financial, and environmental impacts, including improved air quality, fewer respiratory illnesses, and fewer lost days or work and school.
- More than 20,000 Americans die prematurely each year from health complications related to motor vehicle pollution. Stronger clean car emissions standards throughout the transportation and electricity sectors are projected to result in \$1.2 trillion in public health benefits by 2050.

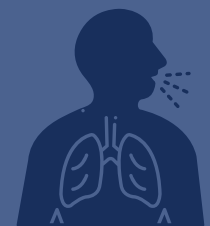
National Security Implications

Military Readiness and Recruiting

- Clean car standards are directly linked to several health outcomes, and the adoption of strong clean car standards will cut air pollution. This is predicted to result in fewer medical conditions, like asthma, that disqualify potential military recruits and impact existing force training and readiness.
- Stronger clean car standards and zero-emissions vehicles (ZEVs) are also projected to have the largest potential public health benefits in several major military communities, including the counties where U.S. Central Command and U.S. Special Operations Command (Hillsborough County), U.S. Southern Command (Miami-Dade County), and Naval Base San Diego (San Diego County) are located.

Geopolitical Factors & Economic Competitiveness

- Oil and gas are a global market, so the U.S. remains subject to price fluxuations. The widespread adoption of clean vehicles and stronger clean car standards will reduce U.S. dependence on foreign oil and gas.
- Both the National Security Strategy and the National Defense Strategy frame China, the overwhelmingly dominant force in clean energy, and critical mineral supply and processing, as a strategic competitor. High clean energy standards and the clean energy transition are necessary to stimulate the U.S. critical mineral industry into a more competitive position, and will subsequently cultivate independent and reliable supply chains for the U.S. industrial base.



Federal Vehicle Standards

There are three key players in setting U.S. emissions and fuel standards:

- The Department of Transportation National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), which regulates fuel economy standards through the Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) program;
- The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which regulates GHG emissions for light-duty passenger cars and trucks, commercial trucks and buses, aircraft, and federal fleets;
- California Environmental Protection Agency - California Air Resources Board (CARB).
 - California is the only state allowed to set its own emissions standards, per an EPA waiver to the Clean Air Act, due to the fact that the state has set emissions regulations since before the Clean Air Act was adopted.
 - As such, California is a de-facto guiding influence on the automobile industry that sets the pace for the rest of the country. 15 states have adopted California's Low-Emission Vehicle (LEV), GHG emissions, and zero-emissions vehicles (ZEV) regulations.
 - California's strict regulations have driven innovation in ZEVs and other technological developments, such as the catalytic converter.

Recent Federal Highlights

- The Biden Administration has made it a priority to strengthen America's role in zero-emissions vehicle (ZEV) production and adoption. Executive Orders 14008, 14057, and 14037, as well as the Defense Production Act have all been invoked to harness federal funding to facilitate the clean energy transition and meet national net-zero emissions goals.
- The 2021 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)/Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) provides significant investment in domestic transportation infrastructure and includes \$7.5 billion in EV charging infrastructure, which supports the Administration's goal of deploying 500,000 EV chargers by 2030.
- In 2021, the EPA announced a Clean Trucks Plan that leverages a three-phase approach to setting stronger standards for light and heavy-duty vehicles. As part of this effort, in late 2022, the EPA announced the first update to clean air standards for heavy duty trucks in more than 20 years, which are 80% stronger than existing standards.
- The 2022 Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) provides several tax credits and incentives for new and used EVs, plug-in hybrids, and hydrogen fuel cell vehicles for all Americans. It also allocates \$3 billion for electrifying the U.S. Postal Service fleet and \$1 billion for state and local entities to replace heavy-duty vehicles with EVs.