

AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION OF KENTUCKY

Public Policy Statement

Environmental Health

Policy Principle

The American Lung Association of Kentucky strongly affirms the right of all people to breathe clean, healthful air. Air pollution has known, documented adverse health effects. Environmental policies must protect the public against both acute and chronic health effects. This means, at a minimum, that all areas of the state must be brought into compliance with federal ambient air quality standards. The American Lung Association is especially concerned about the effect of air pollution on the health of vulnerable populations, including people with lung diseases such as asthma, the elderly and children. All available strategies, including public education and outreach, research, legislation, regulation and litigation, should be employed as necessary to protect the public health.

National Air Quality Standards

The Primary National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) must be set solely on the basis of the protection of public health. The American Lung Association supports the NAAQS development and revision process as delineated in the Clean Air Act of 1970 and amended through the 1990 Amendments, and opposes the use of cost/benefit analysis or technological feasibility in the standard-setting process. The American Lung Association recognizes and supports the Clean Air Act delegation of the nation's standard-setting responsibility to the U.S Environmental Protection Agency.

Clean Air Act

The Clean Air Act must set enforceable deadlines for attaining national air quality standards. The American Lung Association supports measures to ensure the reduction or elimination of air pollution emissions from power plants, motor vehicles and fuels, and other stationary, mobile and area sources. In addition, advanced low or zero emission technology should be utilized.

Energy Policy

The American Lung Association believes that the goals of a sound energy policy and protection of respiratory health converge toward policies that maximize energy efficiency and the use of clean energy sources. Energy efficiency measures should not be implemented in a manner that results in unhealthy indoor air quality. The American Lung Association favors policies that encourage the transition of fossil-fueled power plants from coal or oil burning to using clean technologies. The American Lung Association recommends that all fossil-fueled energy production facilities use state-of-the-art pollution control technologies to protect public health. Furthermore, the American Lung Association recommends requiring all existing energy production facilities to meet the same pollution control standards as new facilities.

Environmental Justice

The American Lung Association supports the equitable treatment of all people with respect to the formulation, execution, enforcement and impact of all health and environmental laws and policies and the location of facilities. All people are entitled to clean air and are to be free of the health effects of indoor and outdoor air

pollution.

Hazardous Air Pollution

The American Lung Association supports the use of the least hazardous materials, chemicals and processes to reduce the potential exposure to hazardous air pollutants whenever possible. The American Lung Association supports policies that emphasize preventing hazardous chemical accidents and fully protecting workers and communities when such accidents occur. The American Lung Association supports continued and expanded reporting to the public of hazardous air pollutants released by public or private sources. The American Lung Association supports the control of hazardous air pollutants by the maintenance of a scientifically reviewed listing of pollutants and strengthening of controls for hazardous air pollutants through use of maximum achievable control technologies. The American Lung Association also supports increased research on the acute and chronic health effects of hazardous air pollutants and for establishing better models for predicting the impact of releases.

Indoor Air Quality

Everyone is entitled to a safe and healthy indoor environment. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency should be designated as the federal agency with primary jurisdiction for research on health effects of indoor air pollution and for establishing and enforcing control programs. The American Lung Association supports a regulatory approach that will protect the public health in indoor environments. The American Lung Association supports the adoption of protective indoor air quality guidelines for schools and child care facilities.

Land Use and Transportation

The American Lung Association believes that in order to improve the health and welfare of the American people and to begin to solve the interrelated problems of energy and air pollution, transportation and land use policies must not continue to foster the dependence on the motor vehicle. The American Lung Association supports policies that encourage appropriate mixed-use development, mass transit and alternative transportation options. The American Lung Association recommends land use development that is organized and coordinated to protect the environment.

Mobile Sources

The American Lung Association strongly supports measures to reduce pollution caused by motor vehicles. These measures include: cleaner fuels, including reformulated gasoline and alternative fuels; strict enforcement and compliance, including vehicle inspection and maintenance programs; and advanced low or zero emission technology. Stringent emission standards are needed for onroad and nonroad gasoline and diesel heavy-duty engines. The American Lung Association supports controls on emissions of toxic air pollutants from mobile sources.

Pesticides in Schools and Child Care Facilities

The American Lung Association supports the adoption of policies that require schools and child care facilities to practice least toxic pest control methods, such as integrated pest management, and strategies to minimize or eliminate the exposure to pesticides.

Radon

The American Lung Association supports measures to reduce exposure to indoor radon to protect public health. The American Lung Association strongly supports public education programs regarding the health risks of elevated indoor radon levels and the need for radon testing and mitigation. The American Lung Association supports the adoption of national, regional and local building codes that require new construction to meet guidelines for radon resistance. The American Lung Association supports requirements in real estate transactions that require disclosure of radon testing results to purchasers.

Right-To-Know

The American Lung Association supports the public's right-to-know about air quality, pollution emissions and environmental hazards in their community, school, child care facility, housing and workplace. The American Lung Association supports right-to-know laws, public education and awareness efforts and other measures to accomplish this objective.

Victims' Rights

The American Lung Association supports preserving all available avenues for citizens, governments and others to bring actions to seek compensation for and protection from injury and/or disease attributable to environmental exposure. The civil justice system's ability to address misconduct and protect public health must not be preempted. The American Lung Association supports alternative systems, using sound scientific and medical criteria to determine injury, that allow full and fair compensation for victims, so long as those systems are completely voluntary and do not diminish legal rights.

Waste Disposal

The American Lung Association supports reducing the environmental impact of refuse by: first, reducing the use of materials in production, packaging and purchasing; second, reusing materials whenever possible; and third, recycling or composting as much of the remainder as possible. The American Lung Association urges the use of safe non-combustion alternatives to dispose of all remaining waste. If combustion is used, the American Lung Association recommends source separation, maximum achievable control technology on all facilities, and specific monitoring of air quality within the general plume fall zone. The American Lung Association opposes residential leaf burning and other unregulated burning, particularly in metropolitan non-attainment areas.