

# **My Climate Change Story**

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# The Lung Health Effects of Climate Change

**There are more than 530 alternative fuel stations in Minnesota**

***All 5 types of alternative fuels sold in Minnesota are available in Rochester***



# The Lung Health Effects of Climate Change



## HIGH HEAT

As carbon pollution has built up in the earth's atmosphere we are experiencing an increase in the frequency and severity of heat waves, which can be deadly for people with heart or lung disease.

## OZONE POLLUTION

Warmer air combines with gasses from smokestacks and tailpipes to create more ozone pollution, the effects of which are like a "sunburn on the lungs".



**Health effects can include wheezing, coughing, asthma attacks, respiratory infections, heart attacks, and even premature death.**

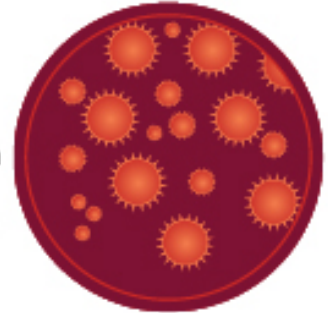


## FOREST FIRES

The heat and droughts associated with climate change are creating conditions more favorable to forest fires, which can generate immense volumes of toxic smoke.

## POLLEN

Warming temperatures are extending the pollen season while higher concentrations of carbon dioxide are triggering greater allergenic pollen production in plants.



SOURCE: Bernstein AS, Rice MB. Lungs in a Warming World: Climate Change and Respiratory Health. Chest, May 2013;143(5):1455-1459

## Olmsted County's At-Risk Population

- 8,606 adults with asthma
- 3,270 children with asthma
- 4,743 adults with COPD

