



# The Clean Air Act

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What is the Clean Air Act?

The Clean Air Act, a law first passed by the federal government in 1970, regulates emissions from stationary sources like power plants and the manufacturing industry, as well as from cars and trucks.

### Why was the Clean Air Act created?

Prior to the Clean Air Act, air quality could be poor in areas where there was a lot of industry. The Clean Air Act was established to safeguard public health by regulating hazardous air pollutants from this activity and authorized the

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to set air quality standards for pollutants emitted from these sources. Each state also was directed to develop an implementation plan tailored to the appropriate industrial sources of that state.

### Which pollutants were covered?

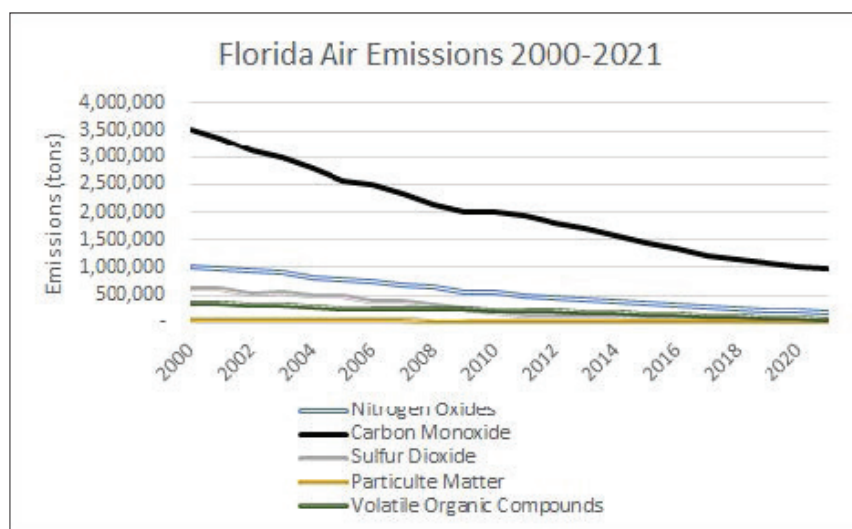
The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has established a National Ambient Air Quality Standard for six pollutants: carbon monoxide, lead, nitrogen dioxide, ozone, particulate matter and sulfur dioxide. More information about the drop in air pollutants in Florida is available at [FloridaDEP.gov/air](https://www.floridadep.gov/air).



Tampa in 1960s before the Clean Air Act (DEP Archive photo)



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[FloridaDEP.gov/CleanAirFL](https://www.floridadep.gov/CleanAirFL)