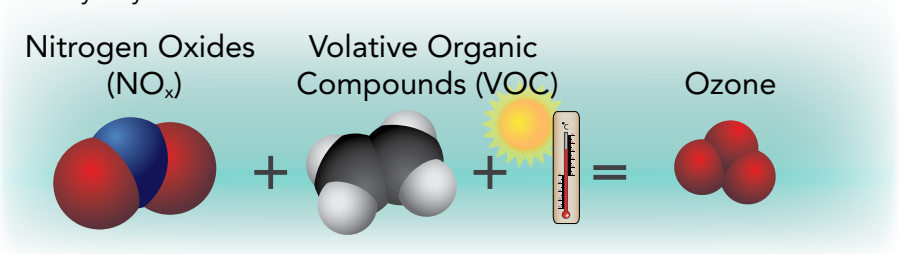
The good, the bad... and the ozone

What is Ozone?

Ozone forms in two very different places:

- **High in the atmosphere** – where it creates the ozone layer, which protects life on Earth by blocking most of the Sun's harmful ultraviolet rays. This is often called "good" ozone.
- **Near the ground** – where it becomes "bad" ozone, also known as ground-level ozone or smog. Ground-level ozone forms when nitrogen oxides (NO_x) and volatile organic compounds (VOC) react in sunlight, especially on hot, sunny days.



Ground-level Ozone and...

Your Health

Ozone can be harmful to everyone, especially children, seniors, outdoor enthusiasts and workers, and people with lung and heart conditions. Specifically it can:

- Cause eye, throat and nose irritation and coughing
- Worsen existing lung and heart diseases
- Reduce life expectancy

The Environment

Ozone can affect our environment and our economy by:

- Damaging ecosystems and vegetation
- Stunting tree growth
- Reducing crop yields
- Damaging buildings and materials
- Affecting global climate change

What is Metro Vancouver doing about ground-level ozone?

Metro Vancouver works with the Fraser Valley Regional District and other partner agencies to reduce ground-level ozone in the region. The Regional Ground-Level Ozone Strategy provides policy directions to help manage ozone formation and exposure.

Metro Vancouver also takes action through the Clean Air Plan, which outlines long-term strategies to improve air quality, reduce emissions, and protect public health.

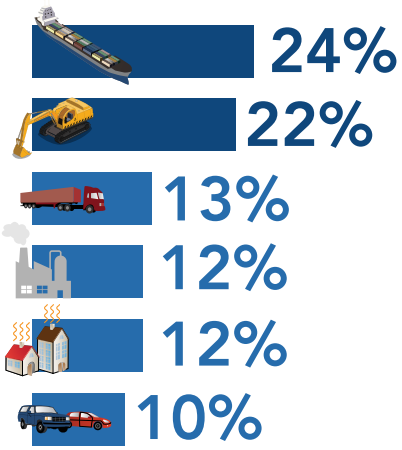
Learn More

For more information visit metrovancouver.org/air

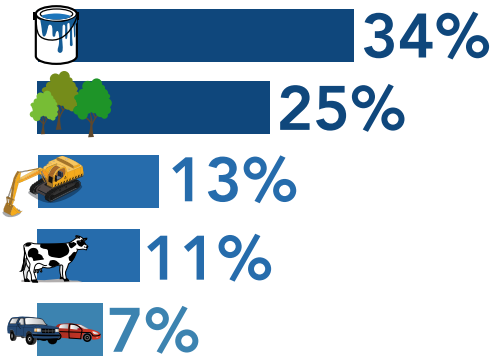
Where do emissions come from?

In our region, the largest sources of emissions include:

Nitrogen Oxides (NO_X)



Volative Organic Compounds (VOC)



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SERVICES AND SOLUTIONS FOR A LIVABLE REGION

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