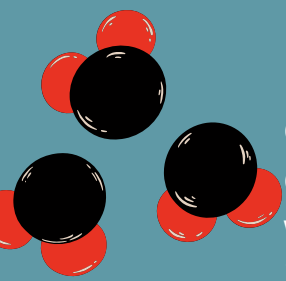


Why should we not abide

NITROGEN DIOXIDE

Soham Arekar
seaside sustainability

What is it?



NO₂ a harmful gas due to its adverse impact on both human health and the environment. It is a highly reactive gas that can irritate the respiratory system, leading to symptoms like coughing and sore throats. Prolonged exposure to NO₂ can worsen respiratory conditions, reduce lung function, and increase susceptibility to respiratory infections, especially in vulnerable populations.

Why is it a problem



Resulting from combustion processes in vehicles and industries, NO₂ irritates the respiratory system, leading to conditions such as asthma and bronchitis. Prolonged exposure can result in reduced lung function and increased vulnerability to respiratory infections. NO₂ contributes to the formation of ground-level ozone and smog, causing environmental degradation and harming ecosystems.

What is it costing us?



Respiratory issues can lead to increased healthcare costs, can lead to a strain on healthcare systems and a reduction in workforce productivity. The environmental consequences, including damage to crops, soil acidification, and ecosystem disruption, may affect industries such as agriculture and forestry.

What is being done?



Regulations have been implemented to limit NO₂ releases from industries and vehicles. The automotive sector is focusing on emission controls, promoting electric vehicles and catalytic converters. Urban planning initiatives encourage public transportation and green spaces to reduce individual vehicle emissions. Public awareness campaigns and ongoing research efforts further support these measures, collectively aiming to diminish the impact of NO₂ on both human health and the environment.

Sources

[WHO Air Quality](#)
[EPA Nitrogen Dioxide](#)
[NIEHS Air Pollution](#)
[Clean Air Initiative](#)