

Environmental Chemistry

Chemistry

The main pollution chemistry, and the reactions involved.

Pollutant, source and effect.

Pollutant	From	Effect
SO₂	Sulfur in fuels	Acid rain
NO_x	High-temperature combustion	Acid rain, smog
CO	Incomplete combustion	Toxic; binds haemoglobin
CO₂	Complete combustion	Greenhouse effect
CFCs	Refrigerants, aerosols	Ozone depletion
Particulates	Diesel, combustion	Respiratory harm

CFCs deplete ozone catalytically: one chlorine radical can destroy many thousands of ozone molecules before it is removed.