

SUSTAINABILITY

AIR POLLUTION IN MEXICO CITY

¿HOW TO IMPROVE AIR QUALITY?

Air pollution in Mexico city is really severe, and it's very important to find a solution and do something about it, because if we stay quite, in the future it's going to be too late and people will start to die in the streets, and our children are no longer be able to live in this city.

Mexico city is one of the most polluted cities in the world and it's urgent to control it. The most important air pollutants are ozone and it's precursors (HC and NO_x).

¿What can we do to control it? Some people think that they have nothing to do with it. But the true is that everything and everybody have an influence on the ambience.

For example, there's always somebody that says: Who cares? Anyway there's a lot of trash on the street, one more it's not going to make the difference. But that one trash is going to make the difference, because if everybody thinks like that, when we turn and see, there's a trash mountain, because one by one makes a country.

So, the first thing I think government has to do, is to give some education to their people, to make them be concient about what we are passing through, that if we continue like that, not only Mexico city is going to be like that but also the whole world, that we are finishing with the place where we all live in.

One of the problems in Mexico city is that there are a lot of cars and buses, even when only 20% of the people have a car. ¿So how can we solve that when only that few percent has a car? I think that they shouldn't let cars really old, that are in very bad conditions (circular) , and make those people travel in public transportation, also buses that aren't in good conditions. They should make more ways in the subway so those people can travel.

Also, they should make a limit from cars by family, because many times, there are families where everyone has a car, and those families, if they don't want to travel in public transportation, should make (ronda), for example, if their kids go to the same school as the neighbor one day they take them to school and the other day the other kid's parents take them to school.

Another factor that pollutes a lot the city is people that smoke. There should be more campaigns about how bad is to smoke, because, people that smoke, not only harm their selves, but also the people that are near them, as well as the environment.

Almost all the population who live in Mexico city smoke, and the problem is that they start smoking younger and younger every time. Kids must have the conscience that smoking is really bad and be aware about the consequences, because maybe if they make a campaign about not harming the ambience, they wont care as much as if they knew the problems that they will have in the future, so it would be a double propose: people not starting to smoke, people quitting, so there wouldn't be so many cases of illnesses because of the smoke and finally, but no less, the atmosphere would be cleaner.

There are a lot of factories in the city that shouldn't be there, the industry has to do a lot with the pollution, by emitting particles in the air.

More than 7000 businesses inspected by profepa in the first half of 1993, more than 6000 displayed irregularities in their production processes, so if we can not trust on the government, who are we going to trust? Must we be united and form some kind of company like green peace but Mexican? It's a shame that we can not even trust in our government, that they are so selfish and just think about their selves and prefer to have money instead of peoples' health, and just people's health, but theirs too. But it is also the fault of the owners from those industries, it seems like anyone cares anymore.

Our Geography doesn't help that much neither, because we are surrounded by mountains, so the air can't pass by and all the pollution stays stuck and concentrated.

Mexico had a 5-year National Environmental Program (1996 – 2000) underway which is expected to invest \$13.3 million to reduce air pollution in and around Mexico City, but it seems that it didn't work that much.