



Bike for Clean Air and a Healthier Future

A Statement of Commitment and Collaboration for Clean Air and a Healthier Future in the Philippines

The Philippine Clean Air Act of 1999 stands as a landmark legislation dedicated to the protection and enhancement of the country's air quality. This pivotal act sets out to reduce air pollution, safeguard public health, and ensure a healthier environment for current and future generations. It serves as a model for environmental policy in the Southeast Asian region and contributes to global efforts in combating air pollution and mitigating climate change. As we commemorate the Act's 25th anniversary, we must renew our commitment and solidify our efforts to fulfill its promises.

Each year, approximately [7 million lives globally are tragically cut short due to the adverse impacts of air pollution](#).¹ This silent menace adversely affects neurological development in children, leading to premature deaths, as well as a higher prevalence of diseases such as stroke, heart disease, lung cancer, and respiratory infections, including pneumonia and allergic diseases such as asthma, allergic rhinitis, eczema and urticaria.

We recognize that particulate matter with diameters ranging 10 micrometers (PM10) and less than 2.5 micrometers (PM2.5), including substances like sulfate and black carbon, penetrate deep into the lungs and cardiovascular system, compounding the health risks for our population. Within the Philippine context, our concern is exacerbated by disconcerting statistics. A recent [study](#) has revealed that our country bears the brunt of this crisis, with air pollution responsible for 66,230 deaths in the country in 2019, of which 64,920 deaths were estimated to be adults and 1,310 children.²

As health professionals and staunch advocates for both environmental and public health, we bear a profound responsibility to safeguard our communities against the perils posed by air pollution. Our role is multifaceted and compelling. We, as health professionals, can leverage our expertise and influence to advocate for stricter air quality standards, educate the public on the health risks of air pollution, and collaborate with policymakers to implement effective solutions.

And we stand ready to support the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), as the overall of the lead agency implementer of the Clean Air Act, along with the Department of Health (DOH), and other pertinent government bodies and non-government organizations, in their initiatives aimed at combating air pollution.

To protect public health, we commit to working together to:

- **Update our national air quality guideline values, aligning with the World Health Organization's (WHO) latest recommendations (2021), understanding that it will require a phased approach to achieve these stricter, health-protective levels.** We are committed to support and collaborate with the DENR and DOH in providing evidence-based recommendations that will guide our approach in this process.

¹ World Health Organization (WHO), "Air pollution", <https://www.who.int/health-topics/air-pollution>

² Center for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA), "Estimating the Health & Economic Cost of Air Pollution in the Philippines", 2023, https://energyandcleanair.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Philippines-Health-Economic-Cost-Report_v2023.pdf

- **Invest in and significantly enhance our air quality monitoring systems, fostering transparency and providing accessible real-time information to the public.** By doing this, we can ensure stricter implementation of air quality monitoring policies and standards. As health professionals, we will actively engage with communities to translate this data into actionable steps to protect their health.
- **Advocate for active transportation solutions, such as cycling and walking, to promote public health and reduce air pollution.** Active transport not only improves air quality but also offers significant health benefits, including reduced rates of chronic diseases and enhanced overall well-being. We will work to create safer, more accessible infrastructure for active transportation in our communities.
- **Champion this issue in the international arena, recognizing that air pollution and climate change are global challenges that require a united, equitable approach.** We commit to advocating for stronger international policies and cooperation, emphasizing the need for equity and support for vulnerable communities disproportionately affected by these issues.

On this **25th day of June 2024**, we join hands in a resolute pledge to combat air pollution and its dire consequences on our nation's health. It is time to elevate our commitment beyond words and catalyze transformative action. Together, we can breathe life into a future where clean air is not a luxury but a fundamental right for all Filipinos.

Signed this 25th day of June 2024 at the Department of Health, Manila City, and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources - Environmental Management Bureau, Quezon City, Philippines.

SIGNED BY (as of 09 July 2024):





List of Signatories (as of 09 July 2024):

1. Department of Health
2. Department of Environment and Natural Resources
3. Health Care Without Harm Southeast Asia
4. 350 Pilipinas
5. Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities
6. Philippine College of Chest Physicians (PCCP)
7. Philippine College of Physicians (PCP)
8. Philippine Society of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology (PSAAI)
9. Lung Center of the Philippines (LCP)
10. Philippine Medical Association (PMA)
11. Philippine Ambulatory Pediatric Association, Inc. (PAPA)
12. Philippine College of Emergency Medicine (PCEM)
13. Asia Pacific Center for Evidence Based Healthcare (APCEBH)
14. ANG NARS
15. Philippine Neurological Association
16. Philippine Society for Reproductive Medicine (PSRM)
17. Philippine Physical Therapy Association, Inc. (PPTA)
18. Philippine Pharmacists Association, Inc. (PPhA)
19. Philippine Society for Cervical Pathology and Colposcopy (PSCPC)
20. Pediatric Nephrology Society of the Philippines (PNSP)
21. Society of Gynecologic Oncologists of the Philippines (SGOP)
22. Philippine Academy of Pediatric Pulmonologists (PAPP)
23. Philippine Society for Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition (PSPGHAN)
24. Philippine Rheumatology Association
25. Society of Pediatric Critical Care Medicine Philippines
26. Pediatric Infectious Disease Society of the Philippines (PIDSP)
27. Philippine Association of Medical Journal Editors (PAMJE)
28. Philippine Society of General Internal Medicine (PSGIM)
29. Philippine Society of Pediatric Hematology (PSPH)
30. Philippine Society of Experimental and Clinical Pharmacology (PSECP)
31. Philippine Pediatric Society (PPS)
32. Philippine Addiction Specialists Society (PASS)
33. Philippine Association of Nutrition (PAN)
34. Philippine Society of Hospice and Palliative Medicine (PSHPM)
35. Philippine Society for Urogynecology and Reconstructive Pelvic Surgery
36. Philippine Society of Clinical and Occupational Toxicology
37. Philippine Dermatological Society (PDS)
38. Philippine Psychiatric Association (PPA)
39. Philippine Society of Newborn Medicine (PSNbM)
40. Healthcare Professionals for Christ
41. Community Pediatrics Society of the Philippines (CPSP)

42. Philippine League against Epilepsy (PLAE)
43. Philippine League of Government and Private Midwives, Inc.
44. Philippine Society of Climacteric Medicine (PSCM)
45. Action on Smoking and Health Philippines
46. Philippine Academy of Occupational Therapists
47. Philippine Society of Hypertension
48. Philippine Society for Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics
49. Philippine Academy of Family Physicians (PAFP)
50. Philippine College of Occupational Medicine
51. Philippine Society of Medical Oncology
52. Philippine Society for Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (PSMID)
53. Pain Society of the Philippines (PSP)
54. Philippine College of Geriatric Medicine
55. Philippine Society Of Nephrology (PSN)
56. Child Neurology Society Philippines
57. Philippine Society of Public Health Physicians (PSPHP)
58. Philippine General Hospital Physicians' Association
59. Program for Health Systems Development, Center for Integrative and Development Studies