

# ENVIRONMENT WATCH

## Clearing The Air On Energy

(NAPSA)—The results of a recent study have been a breath of fresh air for many environmentally—and health—conscious Americans. The study found that America's air quality has dramatically improved during the past 30 years, while at the same time, the country has consumed increasing amounts of energy.

The study was conducted for Foundation for Clean Air Progress (FCAP), which uses federal government data to track improvements in air quality.

"Americans can breathe a sigh of relief," says William D. Fay, president of FCAP. "We can have a healthy economy powered by energy and healthier air."

Yet despite these facts, Fay says most people don't believe the air in the United States has improved. A poll conducted for FCAP indicated that a majority of Americans (66 percent) believe air quality has worsened and only 28 percent believe it is improving.

"Most people assume pollution goes hand-in-hand with economic growth," Fay added. "If there is a message today, it's that the link between energy and pollution has been broken. The fact that air pollution has plummeted as energy use, jobs, and the economy have grown tells us that the nation doesn't have to choose between healthier air and energy consumption."

FCAP's study found that since 1970:

- Carbon monoxide levels have dropped 28 percent.
- Sulfur dioxide levels have dropped 39 percent.

### The Quality of Air in the U.S. since 1970:

- Carbon monoxide levels have dropped 28 percent.
- Sulfur dioxide levels have dropped 39 percent.
- Volatile organic compound levels have dropped 42 percent.
- Particulate matter levels have dropped 75 percent.
- Airborne lead levels have declined 98 percent.
- Overall energy consumption has increased 41 percent.

Source: Foundation for Clean Air Progress



### **Experts say increased energy consumption does not have to mean increased pollution.**

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"Our nation's commitment to cleaner air has yielded technologies, government regulations and voluntary efforts by business and industry that have helped the United States have a healthy economy and healthier air."

The study and charts showing energy consumption at national and state levels are available at [www.cleanairprogress.org](http://www.cleanairprogress.org).