

# Industrial Impact

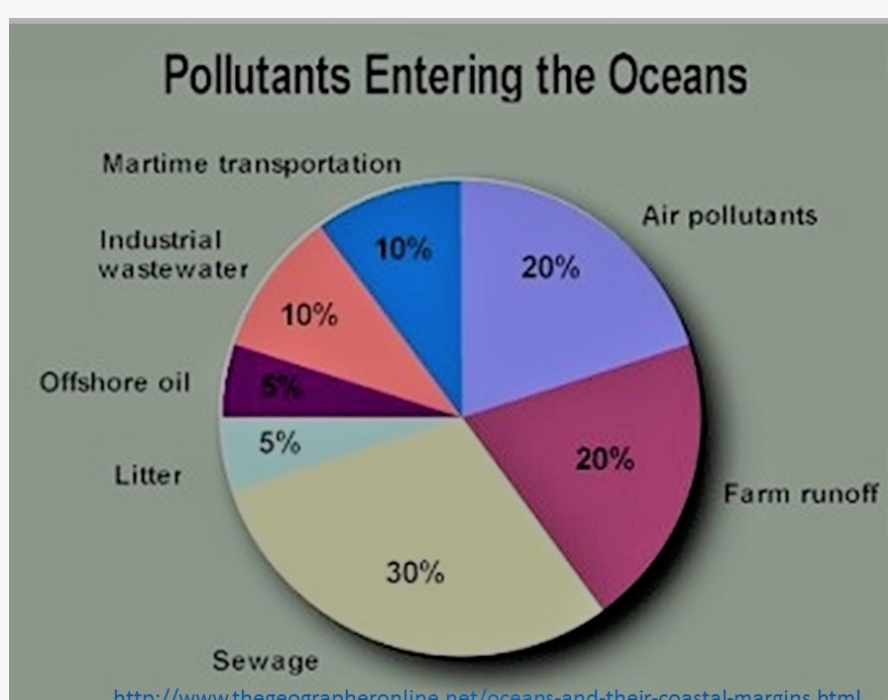
The impacts industries have had on the environment by  
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## Global Warming

Industries burn fossil fuels to create goods which releases carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. CO2 contributes to 20% of the world's greenhouse effect, and the level of it in the atmosphere has increased to over 400 ppm when before the French Revolution it fluctuated between 180-280 ppm (NASA, 2016). The coal industry is a big contributor as it contributes to 35% of the total U.S. energy related CO2 emissions (EIA, 2017). This all leads to global warming, which causes rising sea levels, longer plant growing seasons, and an increase in forest fires (NASA).

## Water Pollution

A recent study by the EPA showed that a little under half of assessed water isn't clean enough to fish or swim. Plus this is the same water used by farmers to irrigate their crops, in turn affecting the quality of food that is then produced, as said by Conserve Energy Future. Only 30% of carbon dissolves in the ocean, and this carbon acidifies it which can negatively impact the wildlife. Increasing temperatures also lengthen plant growing seasons which stresses the plants and dries them out, leading to a possible increase in forest fires (NASA).



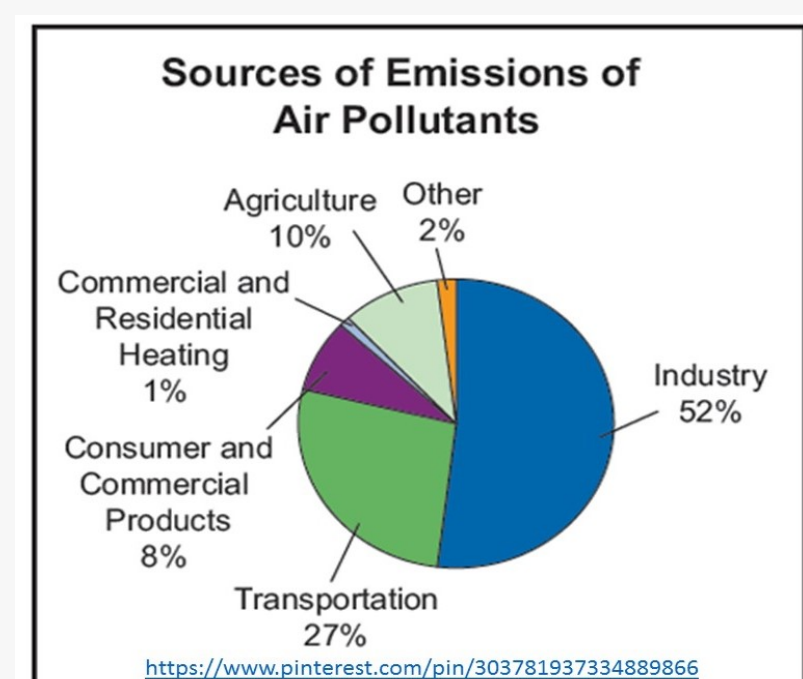
## Solutions

Currently, some solutions are the Paris Agreement and carbon taxes. In the Paris Agreement, each country sets its own goals to reduce their carbon dioxide emissions and are asked to help developing countries with the effects of climate change. Carbon taxes tax industries on their carbon emissions in the hope to limit the amount of CO2 being released into the atmosphere.

Some proposed solutions are to reduce industries' carbon dioxide emissions through strict limits and to have stricter codes and regulations for the oil rigs to prevent another oil spill. It would also be highly beneficial to find cleaner ways to dispose of waste water, while regulating the current dumping issue.

## Air Pollution

When industries create goods, for example through mining operations or smelters, they tend to release fine particulates and gaseous pollutants into the atmosphere. When these pollutants are released into the atmosphere, the air quality decreases and there is a greater chance for acid rain and climate change. This also leads to an increase in respiratory diseases (NPS). These effects can be greater in more rapidly developing countries, such as India (NPS).



## BP Oil Spill

The BP Oil spill was an industrial disaster that impacted the beauty and wildlife of the Gulf of Mexico. Within 87 days of the explosion and sinking of the oil rig, 3.19 million barrels of oil had leaked into the ocean. This caused a 22 mile-long oil plume to be formed along with a layer of marine snow on the seafloor. The oil spill killed 11 people, damaged deep sea corals, and had many animals covered and filled with oil. The effects of the BP Oil Spill can still be seen today through deformed fish (Smithsonian Institution).

*“Unless someone like  
you cares a whole  
awful lot, nothing is  
going to get better.  
It's not.”  
~The Lorax*

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