

# Pollution Management

## A New Focus for the New Year

Previous fliers have spotlighted environmental issues and provided tips for lessening your personal footprint. Hopefully, these have provided informative reads with real-life applications. For 2021, Environmental Moments will focus on new, exciting developments in sustainability. These will seek to enliven the conversation with exciting, lesser-known and innovative solutions.

## Innovations in Pollution Management

Pollution is the introduction of harmful materials, also known as pollutants, into an environment, contributing to depreciating quality of air, water and land. (National Geographic) “[The] situation in some areas is so dire that the United Nations’ Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change is on the brink of mandating governments to physically extract greenhouse gases from the air.” (Architizer) But how is this extraction possible? The following methods hope to provide the answer or prevent pollution worsening to that degree.

### Cloud-Seeding

Cloud-seeding is inducing precipitation to clear pollution from the air. This is accomplished when, “silver iodide, or dry ice, is introduced into the air by rocket or plane to stimulate cloud condensation, which then causes rain or snow.” (Architizer) Cloud-seeding has been in development for years, and was notably used in the 2008 Beijing Olympics to decrease smog for the event. However, whether it can be used profitably on a wider scale is yet to be seen.

### Air-Cleansing Art

Mexico City is known for both murals and smog and those aspects are coming together in new projects to limit pollutants. (UN Environment) Artists are collaborating with The Absolut Street Trees to create murals using Airlite paint. The paint works similarly to photosynthesis: “When the paint is exposed to sunlight, the surrounding air is oxygenated through a chemical reaction.” (UN Environment) The paint lasts ten years, serving to beautify Mexico City while neutralizing the amount of pollution provided by 60,000 vehicles per year.

### Free Public Transit

Another interesting solution proposed by various countries in the wake of potential mandates or fines is fully funding public transportation. Luxembourg is the first country to make all public transit free on February 29, 2020. Germany had also entertained the idea in 2018, with a majority of the population in favor, and five cities have committed to making their systems cheaper and more sustainable. (Clean Energy) While it is a more radical approach, this is a viable option for reducing pollution from cars that more countries may opt to pursue.

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