

## Clearing the Air – Good News for Public Health and Iowa’s Economy

While you play your part in clearing the air in Iowa, large industries have improved air quality dramatically—decreasing pollution emissions from six common air pollutants by 41 percent since 1990. Even better news, two air pollutants that contribute to ground-level ozone and airborne particles—the pollutants that pose the greatest threat to human health—have decreased significantly.

Sulfur dioxide emissions are down 60 percent and nitrogen oxides are down 43 percent. At the same time, Iowa’s gross domestic product soared (up by 210 percent), energy consumption increased by 59 percent, vehicle miles traveled climbed by 43 percent and population gained by 12 percent. Attaining good air quality protects public health, allows existing facilities to expand and attracts new industry to Iowa.

