

# Air Pollution

## Visible Pollutants

Air pollution that can be seen with the naked eye

**Particulate Matter** – Volcanic ash, pollen, dust, vehicle exhaust

**Industrial Smog** – Contains sulfur oxide and solid particles when fossil fuels are burned

**Photochemical Smog** – Occurs when strong sunlight interacts with hydrocarbons and nitrogen oxides from cars and power plants

## Invisible Pollutants

Air pollution that cannot be seen with the naked eye

**Ozone (O<sub>3</sub>)** – From vehicle exhaust

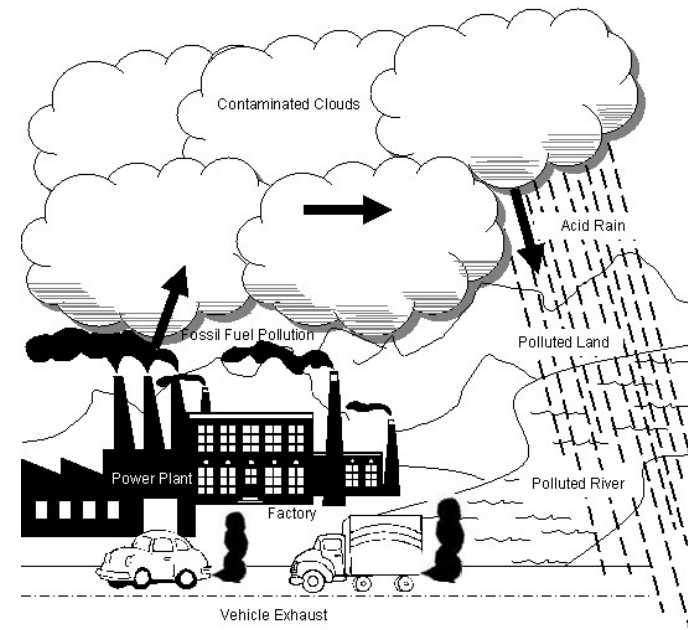
**Carbon Monoxide (CO)** – Vehicles exhaust, wood burning stoves, factory emissions

**Sulphur Dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>)** – Coal-burning power plants, oil refineries



## Photochemical Smog

Image source: <http://www.epa.gov/airnow/health/smog.pdf>



**Air Pollution Cycle**

# Air Pollution Prevention

**Decrease Energy Use** – Turn off lights when not in room, recycle

**Drive Less** – Ride your bike, walk, carpool, take the bus

**Engineering Techniques** – Catalytic converters in cars reduce vehicle emissions; scrubbers in power plants and factories remove pollutants from emissions before they are released into the environment; design alternative energy sources such as wind, solar and hydropower