

The Hidden Health Costs of Burning Fossil Fuels

(so far...)



Particulate Matter
\$820 Billion



Smog
\$ 8 Billion



Allergenic Pollens
\$ 11.4 Million



Vector-Borne Illness
up to \$2.7 Billion



Storms
\$3.3 Billion



Wildfire Smoke
\$16 Billion

The burning of fossil fuels – especially coal, petrol, and diesel – is a primary source of airborne particulate matter (PM) and ground-level ozone. Warming global temperatures and rapidly changing weather patterns are resulting in increased frequency and severity of storms and wildfires, and vector-borne illnesses are increasing as migration patterns are impacted.

Health costs include premature deaths, medical treatments, prescription medications, lost worker productivity and downstream health costs.

Information as of 2021, adapted from *The Costs of Inaction: The Economic Burden of Fossil Fuels and Climate Change on Health in the United States*, produced by The Medical Society Consortium on Climate and Health, the National Resources Defense Council (NRDC), and Wisconsin Health Professionals for Climate Action. View the complete report at <https://www.nrdc.org/sites/default/files/costs-inaction-burden-health-report.pdf>