

COMMUNITIES  
FOR A BETTER  
ENVIRONMENT  
established 1978

## CBE: 40 + yrs. organizing and empowering in California communities of color.



- Wilmington
- Southeast LA
- Richmond
- E. Oakland

Leadership Training,  
Organizing, Legal &  
Scientific support.

Working to phase out Fossil  
Fuels & toxic emissions  
through a Just Transition &  
Equitable Economy, while  
building health communities

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Today – focusing mainly on our Wilmington community



**WILMINGTON** -  
Southern tip of LA

**Largest Refinery concentration  
on W. Coast**

+ Extreme levels of oil drilling, diesel  
truck pollution, & emissions from  
Ports of LA & Long Beach







**Phillips Refinery is also very close to an elementary school and Harbor College.**

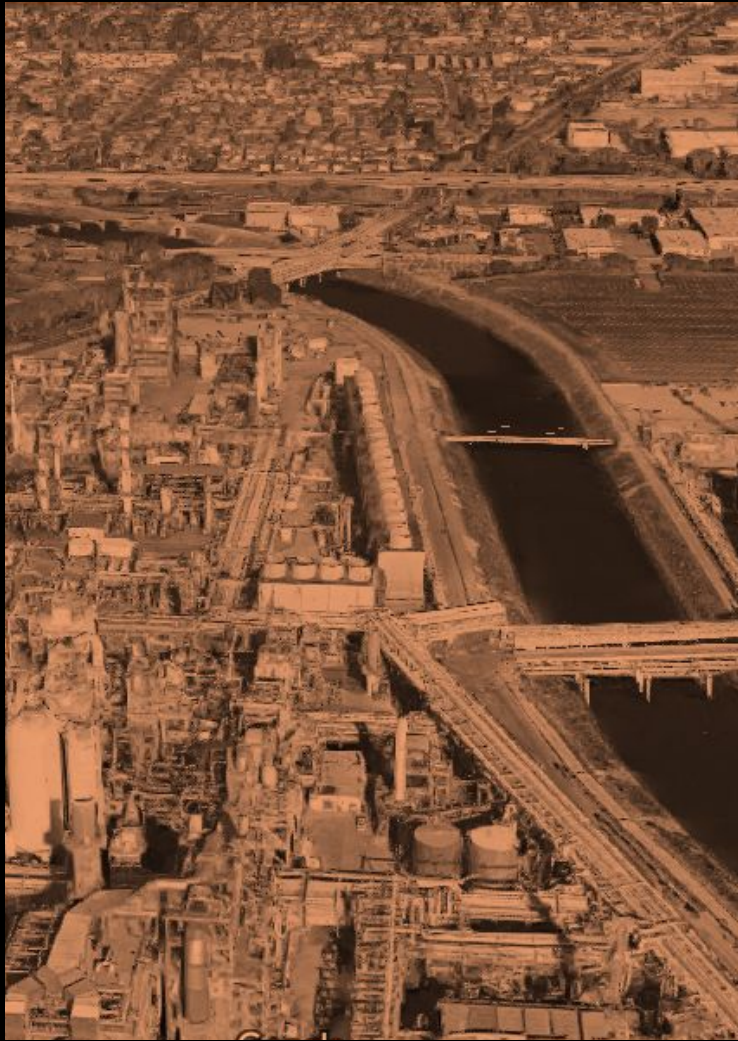
What does it look like *on a good day?*

**Emissions are invisible, but large & continuous**





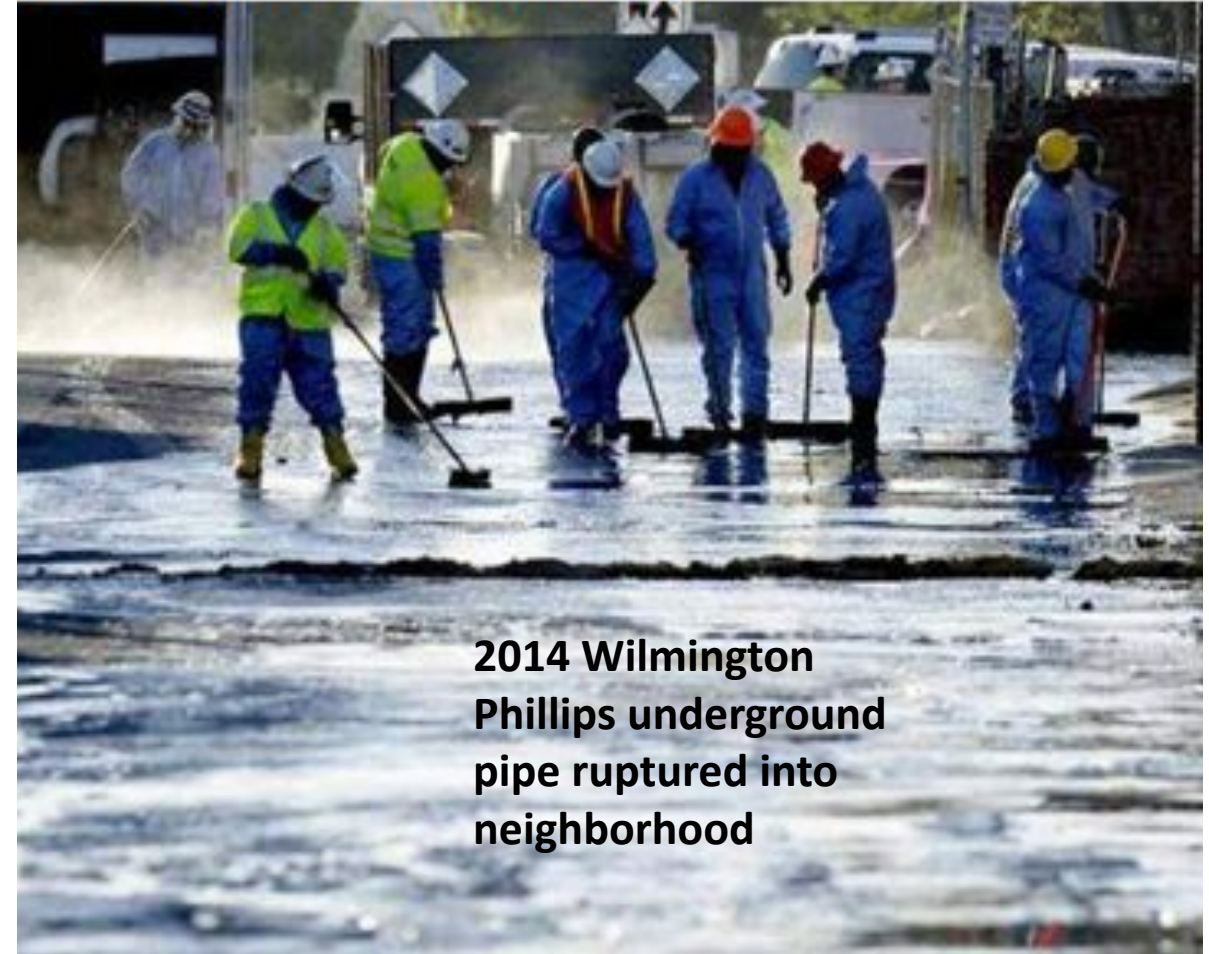
Hidden burning gases inside create heat to run the refinery



This creates invisible pollution constantly



**And on bad days it gets visible:  
Refinery explosions, flares, even crude oil spills onto streets.**

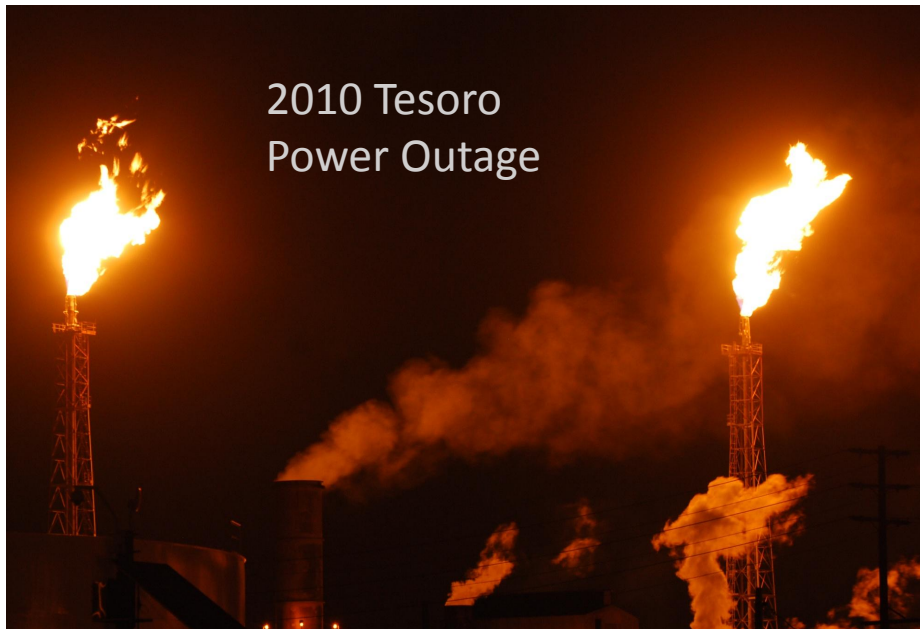




2001 Tesoro



2009 Tesoro  
Coker Fire



2010 Tesoro  
Power Outage



2016 Tesoro  
Sulfur Tank  
explosion

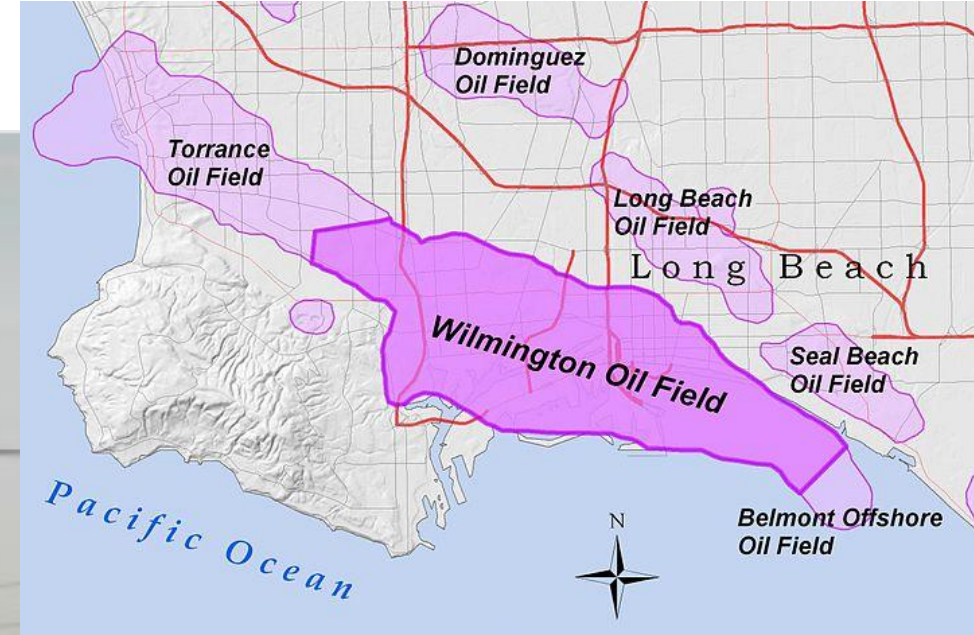
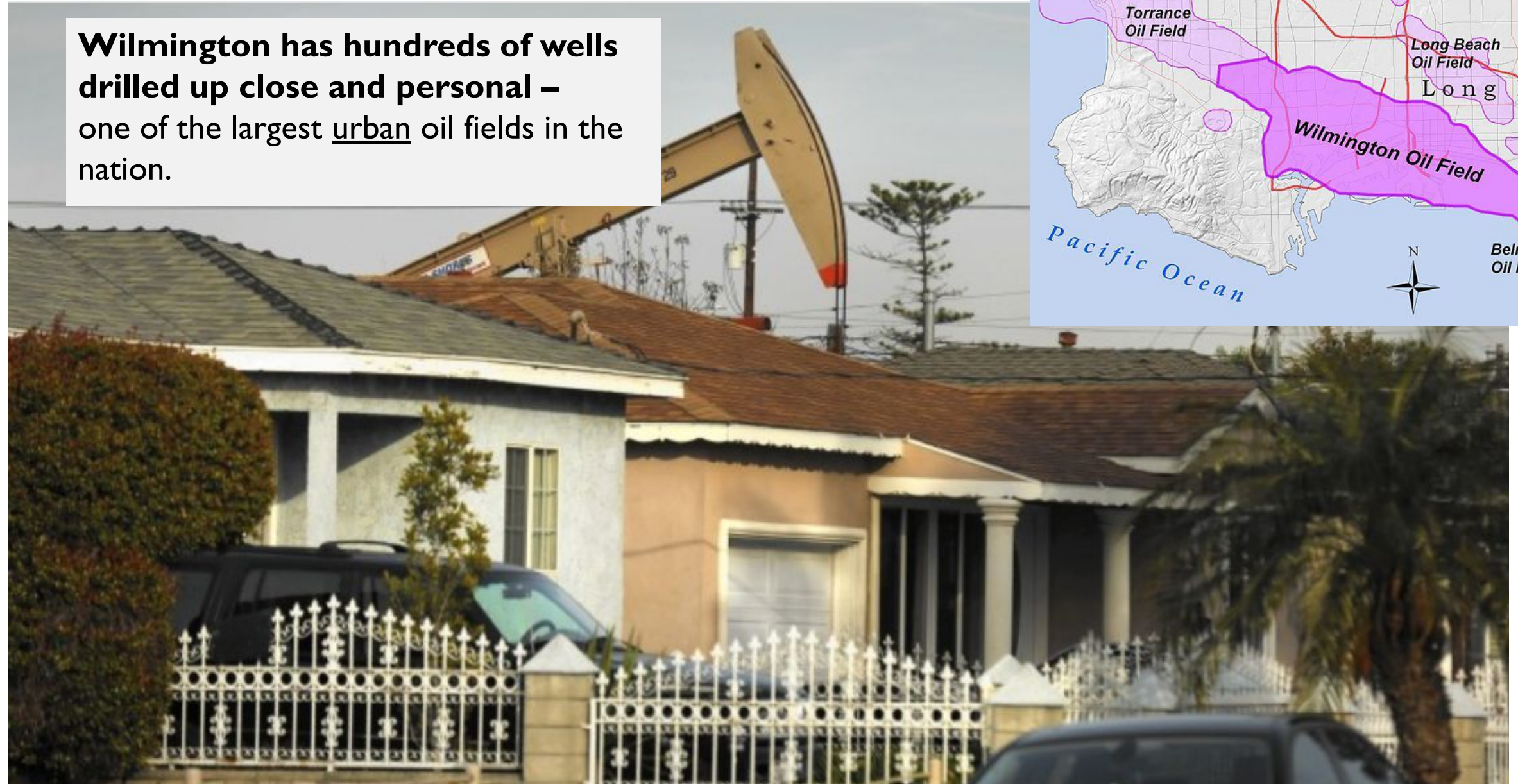




KTLA 5 NEWS SHOWED: <https://ktla.com/news/local-news/carson-refinery-catches-fire/>



**Wilmington has hundreds of wells drilled up close and personal – one of the largest urban oil fields in the nation.**



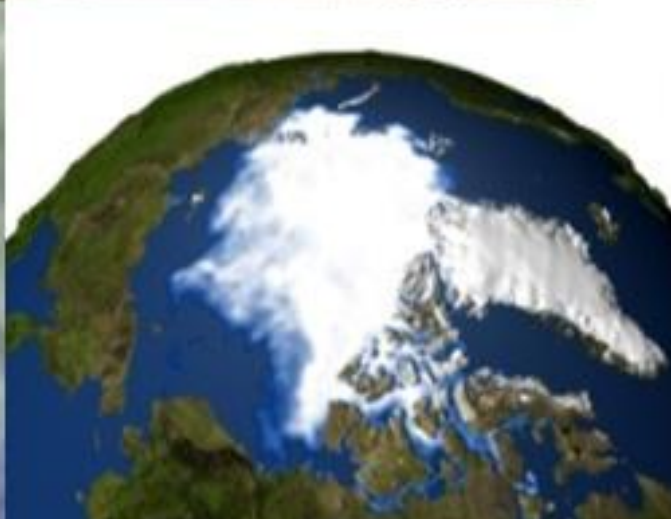
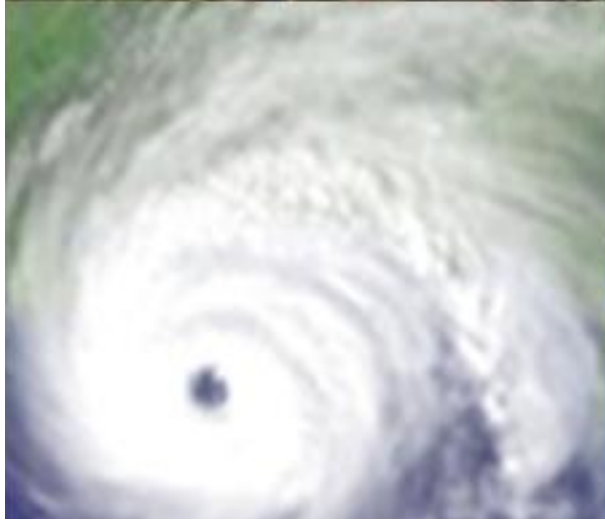




Drill sites in Los Angeles are known to leak **HYDROGEN SULFIDE** gas (toxic to humans even at low concentrations), plus other pollutants.



**WE KNOW THE PROBLEM:**  
CLIMATE DISASTER & SMOG & TOXICS FROM FOSSIL FUELS



And we know the solutions: 1) REGULATION & 2) PHASEOUT of Fossil Fuels



## We worked hard on the Regulation piece

- winning Refinery Controls, for example:

*The 2020 Wilmington / Carson / W. Long Beach AB617 Community Emission Reduction Plan requires at least 50% NO<sub>x</sub>, VOCs, & SO<sub>x</sub> cuts from Refineries by 2030 or sooner if feasible, through regulations:*

✓ **BOILERS & HEATERS (NO<sub>x</sub>)** – Adopted 2021 will cut ~8 tons/day (far over 50%)

- **STORAGE TANKS (VOCs)** – Expected later 2023
- **FLARES (SO<sub>x</sub>)** – Workshops started.
- **VALVES & FLANGES (VOCs)** – Not yet begun

**NO<sub>x</sub>**

**VOCs & BENZENE**



## To win regulations CBE members testified and our staff supported with research about:

- ▶ Smelly and harmful odors
- ▶ Major flaring so bright, one of our members thought there was a fire at her house, and had to get up in the night to check, and shut windows from the smell.
- ▶ Breathing problems
- ▶ Widespread cancer and asthma
- ▶ Emission underestimation and best pollution prevention options
- ▶ We all know that most refinery emissions are invisible and odorless but well documented.

Though we work to win Best Available Controls it's important to note - ***CONTROLS ARE NOT ENOUGH!***



*SOX, more*



*VOCs*

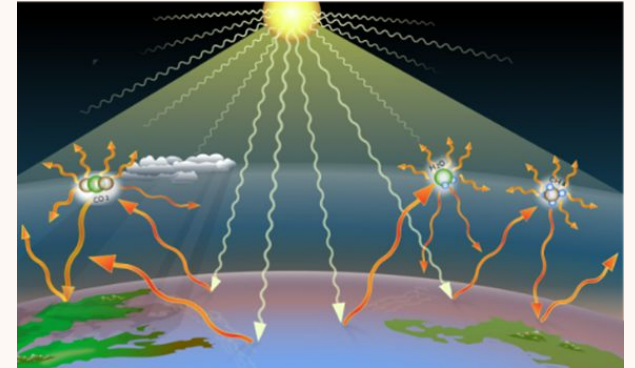


# Beyond controls--we need **Fossil Fuel Phaseout**, and won

## Three Big Plans adopted end of 2022:

### **Fossil Fuel Phaseout Number 1:**

**State Greenhouse Gas SCOPING PLAN** *includes a measure to begin planning phasedown of Oil Refining (& Drilling)!*



**This is unprecedented although an obvious need. But it has only just begun.** Transportation electrification is the future to replace gasoline & diesel, and the state specifically requires no new gasoline vehicles sold by 2035. We don't want refineries around polluting our communities while they ramp up exports of gas & diesel out of the country.

**The phaseout will be gradual** - to help our communities and workers with a Just Transition, but it is a necessity to avoid catastrophic climate change.



## Fossil Fuel Phaseout Number 2: 2022

**South Coast Smog Plan** found the region (in extreme non-attainment) can't meet Clean Air Act (CAA) smog standards by 2037 without a *broad* change to Zero Emission Energy for *all* sources. That means Fossil Fuel Phaseout!



*“The only way to achieve the required NOx reductions is through extensive use of zero emission technologies across all stationary and mobile sources.” - SCAQMD 2022 Smog Plan*





**Fossil Fuel Phaseout Number 3: City of LA 2022 Ordinance**  
stops new drilling & phases out existing wells in 20 years. Oil extraction is not reasonable to permit near neighbors.

*For CBE this started after neighbors near the Wilmington Warren expansion called CBE ~2007 and told us it was like a living hell.*

- “Get a weird taste in my mouth, . . . the house is full of dust, must close the windows in the house 24/7”
- “Every morning lots of black film all over the cars”
- “Headaches, nausea, and difficulty breathing”
- “Evening noise . . smells, constant coughing—less sleep”
- “I know my blood pressure is just on edge, I just have to leave. This can’t go on much longer.”





- CBE and neighbors near California oil refineries and oil drilling have long worked to reduce the health harms and emissions.
- But these are the dinosaurs of energy – they are designed to produce hydrocarbon fuels that can never be Zero Emission.
- **We need to gradually phase out refining and drilling by 2045 in California, to meet state Climate Goals, regional Clean Air Act Smog and toxic Standards, and Environmental Justice fairness.**
- **We need a Just Transition** to retrain oil workers and transition communities to clean economies.







**QUESTIONS?**

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