



Reducing US Climate Emissions Could Prevent Pollution-Related Premature Deaths by 2030

Christian Jacquard

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National economic benefits are valued at about \$250 billion per year. The study finds that the available budget is on the low end of the spectrum compared to previous estimates-which ranged from 590 to 2390 billion tons of carbon dioxide for the same time period-lending further urgency to the need to address climate change.

Increasing emission of carbon footprint has been escalating global temperature.

Chip Knappenberger from the Center for the Study of Science at the Cato Institute, a libertarian think tank, countered that the vast bulk of the health benefits from reducing greenhouse gas emissions as mentioned in the study would not come from reducing greenhouse gas emissions - but rather from air-quality improvements, most of which do not stem from climate-change mitigation.

However, curbing other greenhouse gases and pollutants would also lead to untold benefits.

Countries agreed a year ago to limit global warming to 2C this century and "pursue efforts" to hold it to 1.5C to avoid unsafe climate change.

When longer-term global health impacts are taken into account, the benefits of reducing US emissions could be five to 10 times larger than the estimated cost of implementing necessary policies or technologies, said Drew Shindell, professor of climate sciences at **Duke University** in North Carolina, US.

By 2030, clean energy policies could prevent about 175,000 premature deaths (with about 22,000 fewer each year after 2030) while clean transportation could prevent about 120,000 premature deaths (and about 14,000 annually thereafter), the study said. First, they calculated that greenhouse gas emissions would have to be reduced 2.7 percent per year, resulting in emissions that were 40 percent below today's levels by 2030. Clean energy policies estimated to save the U.S. economy up to US\$800 billion, and clean transportation policies up to US\$400 billion.

"Achieving the benefits, however, would require both larger and broader emissions reductions than those in current legislation or regulations", they added.

Interestingly, the researchers found that in the near term, the renewable energy scenario would cause a slight warming during the sunnier summer months. "Those aerosols are white and they reflect sunlight", he says, causing less radiation to reach the earth.

Premature deaths are common due to the smog in the atmosphere. The value of the lives saved would vastly outstrip the implementation costs.

To conduct the new analysis, the researchers constructed emissions-reduction scenarios for transportation and the energy sector, the two largest producers of US climate pollutants.