

Cut sprawl to breathe better

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<http://www.fresnobee.com/2014/04/07/3865202/cut-sprawl-to-breathe-better.html?sp=/99/274/277/>

As a lung health physician practicing in Fresno for the past 10 years, I diagnose and treat lung conditions on a daily basis. I applaud The Fresno Bee's editorial to raise the critical issue of climate change impacts on people and our environment.

Climate change is a leading threat to our health and our air. In California, transportation sources are the leading cause of climate pollution, especially true of our cars and trucks. Transportation is also the leading cause of air pollution that threatens young children, adults and seniors -- many living with fragile lung conditions here in Fresno.

A key way to fight all of these harmful traffic pollutants in Fresno is for our local elected officials to support healthier transportation options like walking, biking and safe transit alternatives to driving. The Fresno Council of Governments is currently taking public input on a countywide plan to cut vehicle emissions through improved land use and transportation decisions.

When this plan is adopted in June, we need it to represent a departure from business-as-usual sprawl development that requires more driving and increases harmful climate and air pollutants that threaten our children's health, our air and the environment we all reside in.

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