

# THINK BLUE TO GO GREEN

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## Air Pollution

Think Blue To Go Green is not just about water and land, it is also about air. A lot of people think about smog when it comes to air pollution, or the smoky haze you can see. Smog comes from car emissions and industrial fumes. You can see smog more easily in big cities, with more people and factories generating air pollution. But air pollution can be there even if you don't see it, and it can turn into other forms of pollution. Acid rain is when water in our atmosphere mixes with pollutants in the air. One example is mercury in our oceans. The accumulation of mercury is largely from air pollution. The mercury is absorbed by fish, and affects our supply of seafood. Too much mercury can be harmful, especially to pregnant women and young children.

Another connection between water and air pollution is the air we breathe. Oxygen is produced by plants through photosynthesis. Those plants are not just on land, tiny ocean plants called phytoplankton help produce more than half the oxygen we need. In some large cities around the world, the air is so dirty, it's hurting the phytoplankton. That means fewer plants making oxygen for us to breathe. What can you do to Think Blue To Go Green for our air? Plant and protect trees around your house. Help your parents drive less by grouping errands and carpooling. That's a great way to Think Blue To Go Green with a friend!

### Activities

- What are some of the serious effects that acid rain has on the environment?
- What are some of the symptoms and long term effects of mercury poisoning?
- What fish in the ocean have shown to have the highest mercury content?
- Try the acid rain experiment at:  
<http://www.weirdsciencekids.com/AcidRainExperiment.html>

"Air Pollution" is just one of the programs presented by the Oklahoma Aquarium Education Department. Log onto [www.okaquarium.org](http://www.okaquarium.org) to learn more about scheduling a field trip for your class to Oklahoma's only ocean!



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