

# URBAN AIR INITIATIVE

 Forward to a Friend

## Leading Off

Even though the EPA dismissed its panel of experts on the health dangers of particulate matter, scientists are not letting that stop them from pushing for change in order to protect public health.

Twenty scientists, who are leading experts in their field [sent a letter to the EPA](#) saying that today's standards for particulate matter, including ultra fine particulates (UFP) are too lenient and need to be strengthened.

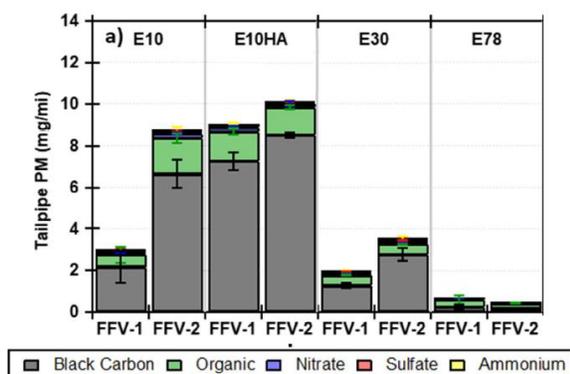


For years the Urban Air Initiative has raised concerns about the UFP's coming out of our tailpipes, which directly enter the bloodstream and cause health issues. These UFP's are created because of toxic aromatics added to gasoline to boost octane. Replacing aromatics with ethanol reduces UFP's, improving public health.

One of the leading scientists pushing for change at the EPA is Dr. Christopher Frey with North Carolina State University. Dr. Frey worked with [Urban Air on a study](#) last year that found non flex fuel vehicles running mid-level ethanol blends had lower emission rates and reduced particulates. This study was used using real world fuels under real world driving conditions.

We commend these scientists for continuing the important work of reducing exposure to particulate matter in order to protect public health, even when the EPA isn't making it a priority.

## Let's Talk Technical



Peer reviewed studies continue to show that ethanol reduces tailpipe emissions and aromatics added to gasoline are the major contributor to toxins in the air.

The [final paper](#) regarding a study Urban Air Initiative commissioned with the University of California Riverside was published this month.

This study found that ethanol blends such as E30 and E78 reduce secondary organic aerosols (SOA) from gasoline direct injection vehicles. SOA's are what linger in the air after emissions leave the tailpipe as a result of photo oxidation.

The study also found that gasoline with higher aromatics, which are chemicals like benzene, toluene and xylene adversely affect SOA formation. This study helps prove that when ethanol replaces toxic aromatics, it improves gasoline and reduces emissions.

## Spreading Ethanol's Clean Air Message

The [Yale Program on Climate Change](#) posted this image on social media recently. A majority of Americans know that fossil fuels harm human health, but aren't sure how.

Toxins in our gasoline cause a host of health issues, from heart disease and stroke to asthma.

A solution to reduce the risk is available, and that is using more ethanol. This is why the Urban Air Initiative continues to educate on ethanol's ability to reduce the most toxic compounds in gasoline, which improves public health.

