

TOP CONCERNS FROM CRACKER PLANTS



AIR QUALITY

Cracker plants emit poisonous toxins into the air that we breathe in and absorb into our skin



WATER QUALITY

Wastewater and chemical spills can release toxic pollutants into our drinking water



NOISE & LIGHT

Unnatural noise, light, and vibration from cracker plants can be disturbing and harmful



STRESS

Health effects and disturbances from cracker plants can cause uncertainty and stress



SOIL

Hazardous pollutants associated with cracker plants can settle to the ground and contaminate soil



EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Spills, explosions, and other crises around cracker plants can threaten surrounding communities

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

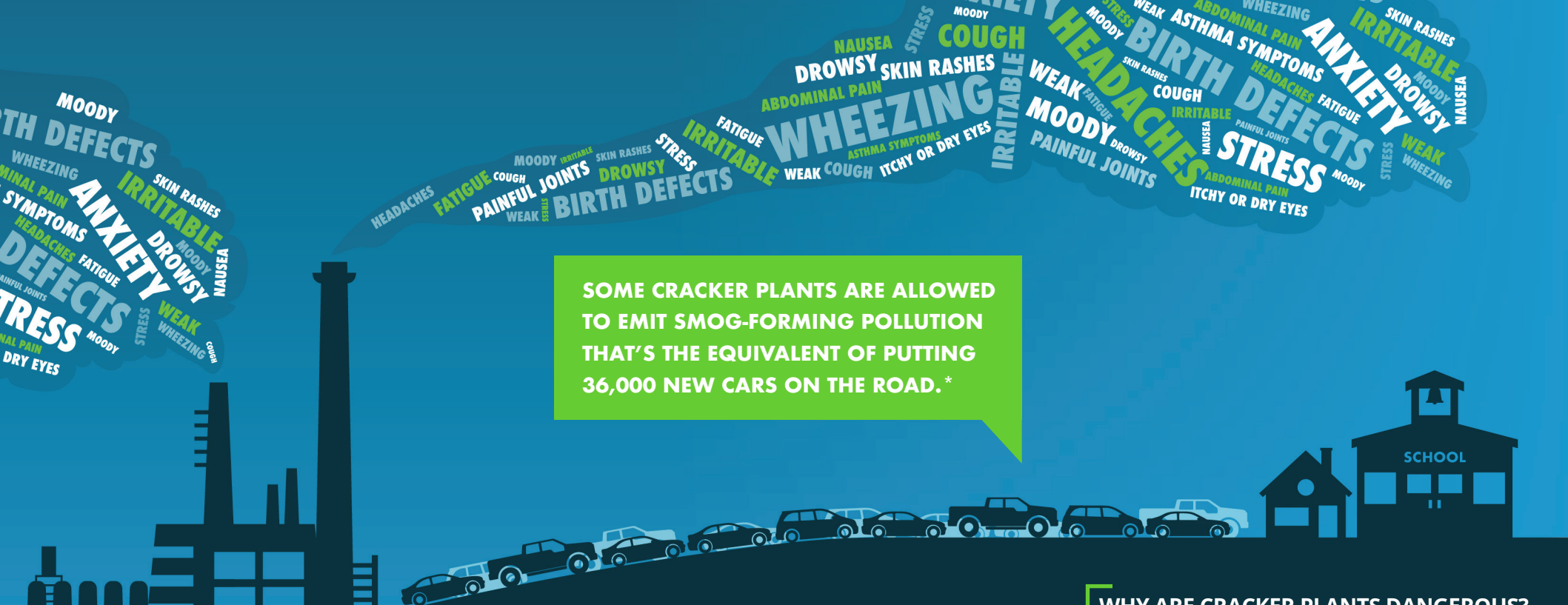
- ✓ Have an EHP public health nurse visit you or come in for a health assessment
- ✓ Request free air or water monitoring from EHP
- ✓ Join the Health Effects Registry
- ✓ Place a HEPA-certified air filter in your home
- ✓ Remove avoidable indoor air pollutants
- ✓ Pay attention to the weather and avoid outdoor activity when air quality is poor
- ✓ Contact your health care provider about symptoms
- ✓ Contact your local government representative to demand safeguards that protect public health

SHOULD I BE CONCERNED ABOUT THAT PLASTICS PLANT?

For more information, visit environmentalhealthproject.org

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Why Living Near an Ethane Cracker Complex Puts Your Health at Risk



SOME CRACKER PLANTS ARE ALLOWED TO EMIT SMOG-FORMING POLLUTION THAT'S THE EQUIVALENT OF PUTTING 36,000 NEW CARS ON THE ROAD. *

WHAT IS AN ETHANE CRACKER PLANT?

A cracker plant is a large industrial complex that heats ethane (a component of shale gas) and “cracks” it into ethylene.

WHAT IS ETHYLENE USED FOR?

Ethylene is a colorless, flammable gas. It's used to create polyethylene, the most common plastic. It's also used to make glycols, which are found in antifreeze, cleaning products, clothing, plastic bottles, Styrofoam cups, and tires.

HAZARDOUS POLLUTANTS RELEASED FROM CRACKER PLANTS



Volatile organic compounds (VOCs) like benzene, sulfur dioxide, carbon monoxide, and formaldehyde



Methane and CO₂ that cause climate change



Small particulate matter from the plant and truck traffic exhaust



Hazardous air pollutants that create smog

WHY ARE CRACKER PLANTS DANGEROUS?

Cracker plants are especially dangerous because of their large size. For example, once online, the Beaver County (PA) cracker plant is permitted to release more than **30 tons** of hazardous air pollutants, **323 tons** of fine particles, **522 tons** of volatile organic compounds (VOCs), and the equivalent of more than **2 million tons** of CO₂ each year.**

Pollution from a cracker plant can cause **serious health problems to people living within 5 miles or more**. Exposure to these hazardous pollutants has been associated with **increased rates of asthma, lung and respiratory infections, and neurological and cardiovascular problems**. In large enough doses over time, they can cause cancer.

A cracker plant requires the building of more shale gas wells and pipelines throughout the region to supply it, increasing the chances that **residents will be exposed to emissions** from multiple sources.

*Fabisiak, *Inside Climate News*, 2019

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