

Julie Banken

I am writing to in support of the Department of Ecology (Ecology) adopting Advanced Clean Clean Cars II (ACCI), the Heavy-Duty Omnibus Low NOx rule, and the fleet reporting requirement this year in Washington.

If there is one thing that I have learned as an environmental studies teacher, it is that there is no such thing as "away." If you recycle something, it does not go "away;" it goes to a sorting center, then possibly onto a ship, then perhaps to be made into something new and used again. If you throw something into the trash, it does not go "away;" it goes to the landfill. If you flush something down the toilet, it does not go "away;" it goes to a waste water treatment plant, then if it's small enough, possibly into a river and then to the ocean.

There is no such thing as "away" when it comes to burning fossil fuel, either. The gasoline we pump into our cars does not magically disappear; when it is burned in our engines it is changed into water and carbon dioxide which become part of the air we breathe.

Anyone who has ever spent time in a car with the recirculation button on too long will know from experience that breathing in too much carbon dioxide is not healthy. At 1000 ppm CO₂, people experience cognitive effects and become less alert and groggy. In 1956, the CO₂ concentration in the atmosphere was 315 ppm. This year, the CO₂ concentration of our atmosphere has surpassed 420 ppm and it continues to climb. Living close to a freeway only makes the CO₂ concentration in the air higher.

We have the opportunity in our state to make changes that will stop adding CO₂ to the air that all of us breathe. Please don't put this off. Support the Clean Vehicles program now. Thank you.