

STOP THE EXPANSION OF WAREHOUSES

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Background

The expansion of warehouses presents a serious air quality and environmental justice challenge. Riverside County ranks second for the worst ozone pollution in the United States. Thousands of diesel trucks come in and out of warehouses contributing to the worsening air quality. As the demand for more warehouse space grows, the industry expands closer to residential neighborhoods and schools, usually low-income and marginalized. The constant exposure to diesel trucks affects an individual's health over time. Illnesses include but are not limited to heart problems, cancer, asthma, decreased lung function and capacity, reproductive health problems, and/or early death.

Methodology

To better understand the problem, I will survey and interview residents of the Inland Empire regarding their health and exposure to warehouses. I will focus on cities where mega warehouses are more prevalent such as Perris, CA, Moreno Valley, CA, Nuevo, CA, San Bernardino, and Lake Elsinore.

Research Question

How does air pollution from warehouses impact communities and individuals who reside in close proximity? Why is it difficult to regulate the expansion of these warehouses in low-income communities?

Results

Of all the participants surveyed, most agreed that the expansion of warehouses disproportionately affects low-income communities and the air they breathe.

73% of participants said that the emissions from diesel trucks have negatively affected their respiratory health or that of a family member.

100% of participants agreed that their community is a sacrifice zone. As a result, the availability of cheaper land and low-wage labor drives the expansion of warehouses in low-income communities.

Solutions

Limit the support of large warehouses such as Amazon
Advocate for more renewable energy and greens jobs
Get involved in community groups to push for policies that
address the needs of the community



