



New Study Finds Nearly \$3 Billion in Health Benefits from Putting a Price on Carbon Pollution in Massachusetts

Massachusetts legislation to put a price on carbon pollution would result in nearly \$3 billion in cumulative health benefits, with reductions in hospitalizations and deaths from respiratory and cardiovascular disease and other improvements in health outcomes.

These are the primary findings of a new study – “*Air Quality and Health Co-Benefits of a Carbon Fee-and-Rebate Bill in Massachusetts*” – from Harvard’s Center for Health and the Global Environment, at the T. H. Chan School of Public Health.

There are decades of research that document the health benefits of reducing pollution, but this is the first study to document state-level health benefits resulting from state-level carbon pollution pricing.

If the bills were enacted and implemented in 2017, the cumulative benefits through 2040 would include:

- \$2.9 billion (2017 USD) of cumulative health benefits
- 340 lives saved
- 26 respiratory hospitalizations avoided
- 28 cardiovascular hospitalizations avoided
- 20 heart attacks avoided
- Additional benefits, including reductions in asthma attacks; fewer lost days of school and work; fewer premature and low weight births; fewer cases of autism spectrum disorder and Alzheimer’s disease; and improvements in crop productivity, farming, forestry, and reductions in acid rain.

“We have made a lot of progress in improving air quality in the last decades, but there is still more to do,” said Jonathan Buonocore, Sc.D. Lead Author of the study and Program Leader, Climate, Energy and Health, at the Harvard Center. “What this study shows is that fees on carbon emissions can be an effective way to improve air quality while reducing the threat of climate change. These benefits are one reason climate change mitigation has been called ‘the greatest public health opportunity of the 21st century.’”