

To,
Dr Prashant Gargava
Member Secretary
Central Pollution Control Board

Shri Dr Prashant Gargava ji,

Subject: Follow up on the revision of Air Quality Standards in India

Greetings from Greenpeace India!

It has been over 9 months since Greenpeace India's [open letter](#) to the Central Pollution Control Board seeking an urgent revision of India's Air Quality Standards. Despite the demand having been backed by over 10,000 concerned citizens, there has neither been a response nor an update of any kind on the same. We write to you again, to remind you that the revision of our National Ambient Air Quality Standards(NAAQS) according to the updated World Health Organization (WHO) standards (2022) is critical in the fight against air pollution and is long overdue.

India's annual standard concentration continues to be 40 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ for Pm2.5 & NO₂, in contrast to the suggested 5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ for particulate matter and 10 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ for NO₂ respectively. The citizens of India, particularly the vulnerable sections such as women, children, mothers, senior citizens, daily-wage labourers, especially outdoor workers, sexual minorities and more have come forth, calling on the government to implement better air quality standards that can help improve our quality of life. According to an [estimate](#) in 2020, PM2.5 claimed an approximate 54,000 lives in Delhi alone. By turning a blind eye to this harsh reality, the CPCB is shirking away from its duty of effective monitoring and combating of air pollution. According to the WHO guidelines, the burden of disease could be reduced by following their [interim targets](#).

We request the CPCB to act on the letter with the subject line "Over 10,000 citizens demand revision of India's air quality standards" dated April, 2022 and to implement new, updated, and more stringent National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) based on WHO air quality guidelines. We, the citizens, also request that the CPCB consult and incorporate feedback from the public at large.

The following are Greenpeace India's recommendations to the Central Pollution Control Board to help control and mitigate the effects of air pollution in the country;

- Introduce new, updated and stricter National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) based on latest scientific evidence that proves long term exposure to low levels of air pollution can also be hazardous to human health.
- Revise the standards for all major pollutants including PM2.5 and PM10 based on latest World Health Organisation air quality guidelines. Follow the [interim air quality](#) standards target to ensure stepwise improvement in air quality standards.
- The process of this revision should be based on scientific evidence and periodically reviewed every 5 or 10 years.
- Engage the larger public, experts and civil society for consultation and feedback.
- Include [all Non-Attainment Cities](#) under the purview of National Clean Air Programme.

Yours Sincerely,
Citizens of Delhi