Environmental pollution is a global issue. We support our clients to address legacy environmental pollution and clean-up responsibilities, and to manage current and future emissions and impacts on air, land and water.

### The issue

Pollution is a global issue. Many developed countries have a legacy of contaminated land resulting from historical industrial activity, waste management and from previous development of land. Social and economic priorities meant that some developing countries were reluctant to prioritize pollution control but that has changed rapidly. Awareness and understanding of the impact of pollution on human health, particularly in the air continues to develop and drive policy and regulation around the globe. According to the World Health Organization, air pollution is the single biggest environmental health threat, and causes more than seven million premature deaths a year.

The UN Sustainable Development Goals have a strong focus on reducing environmental pollution. UN SDG Target 3.9 aims to “substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination” by 2030. We support our clients as they work through these significant issues and their impact on their businesses.

### What we do

The nature of pollution work is complex and cross-cutting. We assemble the right team from across our Environmental and Natural Resources practice to address the multifaceted issues. We help clients who face increasing governmental, regulatory and public pressure to reduce adverse impacts of their operations on the environment. Our work ranges from permitting advice, compliance counselling and litigation, to complex investigations and enforcement.

We regularly advise on legacy liabilities for contaminated land, particularly for clients in the industrial, chemicals, energy and mining sectors. This work includes addressing the allocation of liabilities under law and contract and environmental clean-up works.

We also advise on regulatory and civil litigation, including large class actions, relating to legacy liabilities and pollution incidents, spills and leaks as well as regulatory enforcement actions. We regularly negotiate and allocate pollution and clean-up responsibilities in the context of international corporate M&A, finance and property transactions, and international corporate M&A, finance and property transactions, and complex regulatory arrangements. Air regulation is extraordinarily complex, and Hogan Lovells is well-equipped to address the multifaceted issues. We help clients who face increasing governmental, regulatory and public pressure to reduce adverse impacts of their operations on the environment. Our work ranges from permitting advice, compliance counselling and litigation, to complex investigations and enforcement.

As pollutants move through the atmosphere and/or water sources, transcending national borders, we assist clients in addressing regulations and oversight across jurisdictional boundaries, including international cross-border matters.

We also work on some of the most substantive and far-reaching matters concerning air emissions from stationary and mobile sources, including vehicles. Our work includes advice on the permitting of new or modified air pollution sources and compliance with applicable emissions regulations and standards.

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### Useful links

- Global Government Regulatory
- Site Remediation
- Environment and Natural Resources
- Business Integrity and Sustainability
- Clean Air
- Chemical and Product Regulation