

Climate Change, Air Pollution, and Health – Maximizing Benefits in Cities

Cities and Regions Pavilion, Room E02, COP 23 Bonn Zone, Monday 13 November 16:30 to 18:00

Organized by the World Health Organization (WHO), the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC)

and ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability

Event Overview and Logistics form with a list of expected speakers

- **Air pollution from ambient (outdoor) and household sources** causes about 6.5 million deaths a year – making it one of the largest mortality risk factors overall, as well as being *the* largest environmental risk factor. Ambient air pollution is mainly an urban problem; with most cities exceeding the WHO recommended safe levels.
- **Solutions are readily available within sectors such as transport, energy, waste, housing and industry.** These actions have rapid and positive health impacts, with the potential to save millions of lives annually. Furthermore, identified interventions may yield additional health benefits such as promoting healthy physical activity, reducing traffic injuries, and decreasing noise exposure. Combined the economic benefits of such actions, in terms of avoided health costs and improved productivity are enormous.
- **Reducing air pollution also curbs emission of “short-lived climate pollutants”, particularly methane and black carbon,** as well as of long-lived CO₂ emissions for multiple benefits - slowing near term climate change by as much as .5 C by 2050; reducing the pace of glacier and snow melt; and increasing agricultural production, in addition to benefits for human health.

Event overview

The event is organized by the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC), World Health Organization and ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability. The purpose of the event is to present solutions that will improve air quality and limit near-term climate change in cities, to address the health effects of climate and air pollution. Concrete ongoing action will be presented, including the Urban Health Initiative with partners (including ICLEI, UN-Habitat and WHO) and the *BreatheLife* campaign, along with the tools and methods that have been developed to measure the health and economic effects of air pollution as well as the cost of inaction to mitigate these effects. There will be a call for action to get more cities on board, including as a part of the BreatheLife city network.

Agenda

The session will be moderated by *Dr Joy St John, Assistant Director-General of Climate and Other Determinants of Health, World Health Organization (WHO)*

AGENDA

Welcoming remarks: *Dr. Joy St John, Assistant Director-General of Climate and Other Determinants of Health, World Health Organization*

Presentations

- **Health impacts of Air pollution & Climate pollutants** – *Dr. Diarmid Campbell-Lendrum, Team Leader, Climate Change team, WHO*
- **Breathing Life into the world's cities:** *Marcelo Mena Carrasco, Minister of the Environment, Chile*
- **Soot free cities – dream or reality? Methods and tools developed under the Urban Health Initiative:** *Maryke van Staden, Low Carbon Cities Program Manager and Director of the Bonn Center for Local Climate Action and reporting, ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability*
- **Protecting people from air pollution - health workers' role and tools:** *Genon Jensen, Executive Director of the Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL)*
- **Local Governments taking climate, health and air pollution action:** *Pablo Maturana, Director of International Relations, Aburra Valley Regional Government, Colombia (TBC)*

Moderated Panel Discussion (25 minutes)

- **What single key action can each one of your sectors or agencies take to improve urban air quality?**
- **Audience Q&A**

Concluding remarks – Way forward – *Elena Villalobos, WHO Climate Change Team*

Aperitif – Food and Drink