

## Air Quality Policies

This document is based on research that UNEP conducted in 2015, in response to Resolution 7 of the UNEA 1. It describes country-level policies that impact air quality. Triple question marks (???) indicate that information for the section couldn't be found.

Please review the information, and provide feedback. A Word version of the template can be provided upon request. Corrections and comments can be emailed to [Vered.Ehsani@unep.org](mailto:Vered.Ehsani@unep.org) and [George.Mwaniki@unep.org](mailto:George.Mwaniki@unep.org).

<b>URUGUAY, ORIENTAL REPUBLIC OF</b>		
<b>GOALS</b>	<b>CURRENT STATUS</b>	<b>CURRENT / PLANNED POLICIES &amp; PROGRAMMES</b>
GENERAL OVERVIEW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Overall situation with respect to air quality in the country, including key air quality challenges:</b> Ranked as having best air quality in the world (Yale, 2014), and first in quantity of trees planted since 2000 (although these trees are Eucalyptus, which has other issues); Montevideo has fairly good air quality</li> <li>● <b>Air quality monitoring system:</b> Yes, in Montevideo</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>National Ambient air quality standards:</b> No standards</li> <li>● <b>National Air Quality Policy:</b> No</li> <li>● <b>Air Quality legislation / programmes:</b> Not specifically. The Constitution states protection of environment, including quality of the air, is in the general interest. It is forbidden to release or emit into the atmosphere substances beyond maximum limits established by the relevant Ministry. An environmental impact study is required for projects that are related to mineral and fossil fuel extraction.</li> <li>● <b>Other:</b></li> </ul>
REDUCE EMISSIONS FROM INDUSTRIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Industries that have the potential to impact air quality:</b> petroleum products, textiles, chemicals, forestry, gold, granite, cement, pulp mills, tanning</li> <li>● <b>GDP of country:</b> \$57 billion</li> <li>● <b>Industries' share of GDP:</b> 21%</li> <li>● <b>Electricity sources:</b> hydro (60%), thermal (34%), wind, biomass</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Emission regulations for industries:</b> Not national rules, but industries are controlled each one through Ministerial Resolutions</li> <li>● <b>Small installation's emissions regulated:</b> (Yes/No): only if exists complains</li> <li>● <b>Renewable energy investment promoted:</b> Renewable energy target (50% primary energy and 90% electricity by 2015) and law/strategy, with VAT, fuel tax and income tax exemptions provided; concessions for wind farms have been awarded</li> <li>● <b>Energy efficiency incentives:</b> Energy Efficiency Law has led to the creation of the Uruguayan Saving and Energy Efficiency Trust to provide funding for technical assistance in energy efficiency</li> <li>● <b>Incentives for clean production and installation of pollution prevention technologies:</b> Yes</li> <li>● <b>Actions to ensure compliance with regulations:</b> (monitoring, enforcement, fines etc) Emissions monitoring for industries, improve technologies, inspections, periodic reports from industries</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Other actions at national, sub-national and / or local level to reduce industry emissions:</b></li> </ul>
REDUCE EMISSIONS FROM TRANSPORT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Key transport-related air quality challenges:</b> Montevideo has increasing traffic fleet</li> <li>● Import duties on electric buses are 23%, compared to 6% for diesel buses. In addition, diesel buses are exempt from the domestic tax known as IMESI, while diesel taxis pay 11.5% and imported electric taxis pay 5.75%</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Vehicle emission limit:</b> Euro 3 only for vehicles with certification from Ministry of Transport. Now we are pushing for approved Euro 4 for all new vehicles in the country</li> <li>● <b>Fuel Sulphur content:</b> 50 ppm and 10ppm are available in diesel and 30ppm in gasoline</li> <li>● <b>Restriction on used car importation:</b> Banned</li> <li>● <b>Actions to expand, improve and promote public transport and mass transit:</b> Urban Mobility Plan of Montevideo to design and implement a bus mass transit system along the main streets of Montevideo (Avenida Agraciada/Garzón, Av. Gral. Flores, Av. 8 de Octubre, Av. Italia y Av. Rivera), including exclusive lanes. Uruguay plans to gradually replace oil-based fuels with electric energy in its public transport system, and is currently assessing the costs and benefits of the transition and it is also designing the first pilots that will be run in the city of Montevideo in 2016. New subsidy to promote a more comfortable and efficient public transport. Incorporation of an intelligent traffic lights system. Design a new institutional shared transportation.</li> <li>● <b>Actions to promote non-motorized transport:</b> planning to expand bike lanes in existing roads, public bikes and building new parkings for bikes.</li> <li>● <b>Other transport-related actions:</b> Vehicle labelling, pilot scheme for DPF filter installation in urban buses of Montevideo. Incorporation of electronic mechanisms to regulate power and speed of buses in order to reduce the fuel consumption and emissions. Strong introduction of cultural changes in mobility</li> </ul>
REDUCE EMISSIONS FROM OPEN BURNING OF AGRICULTURAL / MUNICIPAL WASTE (OUTDOOR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Outdoor, open burning:</b> (ex: is it commonly done? burning what kinds of wastes? etc) It is a common practice to burn wastes from agricultural. Frequently municipal wastes are open burned</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Legal framework:</b> (ex: is burning banned?) Not</li> <li>● <b>Actions to prevent open burning of municipal waste and / or agricultural waste:</b> We act when complains are presented in MVOTMA</li> </ul>
REDUCE EMISSIONS FROM OPEN BURNING OF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Dominant fuels used for cooking and space heating:</b> 90% of the energy for cooking and heating is from biomass</li> <li>● <b>Impact:</b> Negligible deaths from indoor air</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Indoor air pollution regulated:</b> No</li> <li>● <b>Promotion of non-grid / grid electrification:</b> 99% electrification rate</li> </ul>

BIOMASS (INDOOR)	pollution (1,400 deaths/year from outdoor air pollution) We don't have official information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Promotion of cleaner cooking fuels and clean cook stoves:</b> We are in contact with CCAC and PNUMA to develop this item</li> <li>● <b>Other actions to reduce indoor biomass burning, or to reduce its emissions:</b> Not yet</li> </ul>
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**Secondary Sources used in the research:** <http://www.cleanairinstitute.org/calidaddelaireamericalatina/cai-report-english.pdf>, [http://www.unep.org/Transport/new/PCFV/pdf/Maps\\_Matrices/LAC/matrix/LAC\\_FuelsVeh\\_June2015.pdf](http://www.unep.org/Transport/new/PCFV/pdf/Maps_Matrices/LAC/matrix/LAC_FuelsVeh_June2015.pdf), <http://latinlawyer.com/>, [http://www.irena.org/DocumentDownloads/Publications/IRENA\\_RE\\_Latin\\_America\\_Policies\\_2015.pdf](http://www.irena.org/DocumentDownloads/Publications/IRENA_RE_Latin_America_Policies_2015.pdf), <http://airlex.web.ua.pt/pm10>, [http://www.who.int/quantifying\\_ehimpacts/national/countryprofile/en/#1](http://www.who.int/quantifying_ehimpacts/national/countryprofile/en/#1), <http://www.nrdc.org/international/files/latin-america-diesel-pollution-IB.pdf>, <http://www.reegle.info/countries/uruguay-energy-profile/UY>, <http://lainfo.es/en/2014/01/30/study-reveals-that-uruguay-has-the-best-air-quality-in-the-world/>, <http://guruguay.com/pura-vida-the-air-in-uruguay-is-the-purest-in-the-world-and-thats-official/>, <http://aqicn.org/faq/2015-05-10/a-comparison-of-latin-american-air-quality-scales/es/>, <http://www.nyulawglobal.org/globalex/Uruguay1.html#ENVIRONMENTALLAW>, <http://www.iadb.org/en/news/news-releases/2012-12-19/public-transportation-development-in-montevideo,10273.html>, <http://www.globalmasstransit.net/archive.php?id=17408>