Iceland 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 and George.Mwaniki@unep.org.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Goals</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Current Policies &amp; Programmes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| GENERAL OVERVIEW | **Overall situation with respect to air quality in the country, including key air quality challenges:**  
- Air quality in Iceland is in general clean and less polluted than the air in more densely populated countries in Europe and North America.  
- This is partly as a result of low population density in the country.  
- Clean power sources of geothermal energy and hydropower also contribute to good air quality.  
- Air pollution outside of the Reykjavik area is generally not considered a problem in Iceland, except in isolated instances where there is polluting industry such as odour pollution from fishmeal plants  
- WHO estimates that outdoor air pollution causes <100 premature deaths annually<sup>1</sup> | National Ambient air quality standards: exist  
National Air Quality Policy: ????  
Air Quality legislation / programmes: ????  
Other: ???? |

---

| REDUCE EMISSIONS FROM INDUSTRIES | Industries that have the potential to impact air quality:  
- Air pollution from industrial installations emanates from the following: fish processing; aluminium smelting, ferrosilicon production, tourism among others  
GDP of country: USD 14.59 B in 2013\(^2\)  
Industries’ share of GDP: 22.9\(^3\)  
Electricity sources:  
- 4.7\% of the installed electricity generating capacity (2.579 million KW in 2010) is generated from fossil fuel, 73\% from hydroelectric plants and the rest 22.3\% is generated from other renewable sources\(^4\)  
Others  
| Emission regulations for industries: ???  
Small installation’s emissions regulated: (Yes/No) ???  
Renewable energy investment promoted:  
- The Icelandic National Renewable Energy Action Plan (NREAP) was published in year 2012 in accordance with Directive 2009/28/EC which outlines the strategy for 2020 especially in terms of increasing the share of renewable energy in transport.  
Energy efficiency incentives: (ex: Subsidies, labelling, rebates etc) ???  
Incentives for clean production and installation of pollution prevention technologies: ???  
Actions to ensure compliance with regulations: (monitoring, enforcement, fines etc) ???  
- Other actions at national, sub-national and / or local level to reduce industrial emissions: (can include incentives to move industries to less populated areas here) ???  
-  |

| REDUCE EMISSIONS FROM TRANSPORT | Key transport-related air quality challenges:  
(ex: vehicle growth, old fleet, dirty fuel, poor public transport etc)  
- The main cause of pollution is increasingly heavy traffic.  
- Use of studded tyres is a major source of Particulate pollution.  
Vehicle emission limit: (Euro rating)  
Fuel Sulphur content: (in ppm)  
Fuel Lead content: All vehicles use lead free gasoline  
Restriction on used car importation: ???  
Actions to expand, improve and promote public transport and mass transit:  
- In the transport plan adopted to the Icelandic Parliament in 2002, sustainable transport is one of the four main goals introduced, and therein the actions to be taken to achieve those  

---

\(^3\) ‘Countries of the World - 32 Years of CIA World Fact Books’.  
\(^4\) ‘Countries of the World - 32 Years of CIA World Fact Books’.  

---
goals are described

**Actions to promote non-motorized transport:** (ex: include sidewalks and bike lanes in new road projects, car-free areas etc) ???

| REDUCE EMISSIONS FROM OPEN BURNING: OUTDOOR | Outdoor, open burning: (ex: is it commonly done? burning what kinds of wastes? etc) ??? | Legal framework: (ex: is burning banned?) ???
Actions to prevent open burning of municipal waste and / or agricultural waste: ??? |
|--------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| REDUCE EMISSIONS FROM OPEN BURNING: INDOOR | Dominant fuels used for cooking and space heating: ??? Impact: ??? | Indoor air pollution regulated: (Yes / No) ???
Promotion of non-grid / grid electrification: ???
Promotion of cleaner cooking fuels and clean cook stoves: ???
Other actions to reduce indoor biomass burning, or to reduce its emissions: ??? |