

Lead in Petrol

Leaded petrol is responsible for 90% or more of human lead exposure. Lead poisoning causes retarded mental and physical development, reduced attention spans, increased blood pressure, hypertension, higher risk of cardiovascular disease and premature deaths. The World Health Organisation estimates that 15-18 million children in developing countries suffer from permanent brain damage due to lead poisoning.

The Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles (PCFV)

In 2002, a campaign to eliminate lead in petrol was launched. Partners from governments, international organizations, industry and nongovernmental organizations, currently 120 partners, came together to form the PCFV. This global public-private initiative promotes and supports better air quality in developing and transitional countries through the introduction of cleaner fuels and vehicles.

Global Elimination of Leaded Petrol

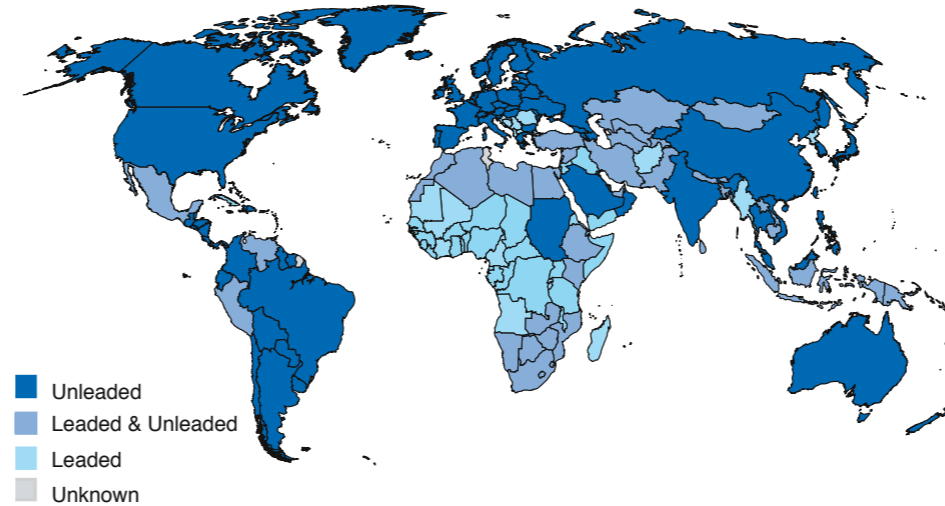
The PCFV launched a global campaign to eliminate leaded petrol in Sub-Saharan Africa by end of 2005. Once this was achieved focus shifted to the rest of the world.

The global campaign has been successful and 99.9% of the petrol produced for vehicles worldwide is now unleaded.

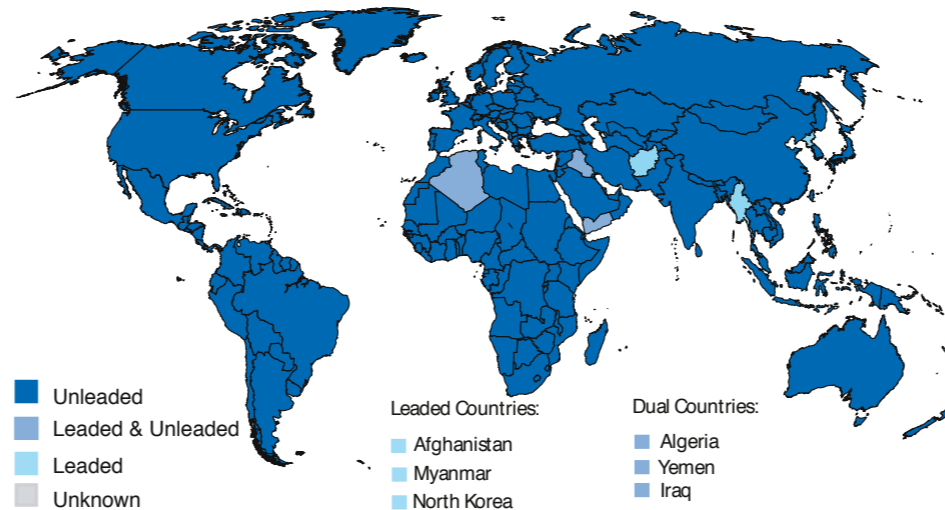
In 2011 only 6 countries still use small amounts compared to the 82 countries that were leaded in 2002 when the PCFV was formed. These are Myanmar, Iraq, Afghanistan, Algeria, Yemen, North Korea.

Global Status of Elimination of Leaded Petrol

2002



2011



PCFV Activities

The PCFV UNEP-based Clearing House implemented activities to support the elimination of leaded petrol, these included:

- Regional, sub-regional and national meetings
- Research studies e.g. blood lead level testing, ambient lead monitoring, soil and food testing
- Awareness raising, media campaigns
- PCFV publications, website, technical expert support
- Monitoring mechanisms, to determine progress and compliance.



Benefits of Global Elimination of Leaded Petrol

Health

A recent scientific study shows that one of the benefits of the global elimination of leaded petrol is over 1.2 million premature deaths avoided per year, of which 125,000 are children.

Technology

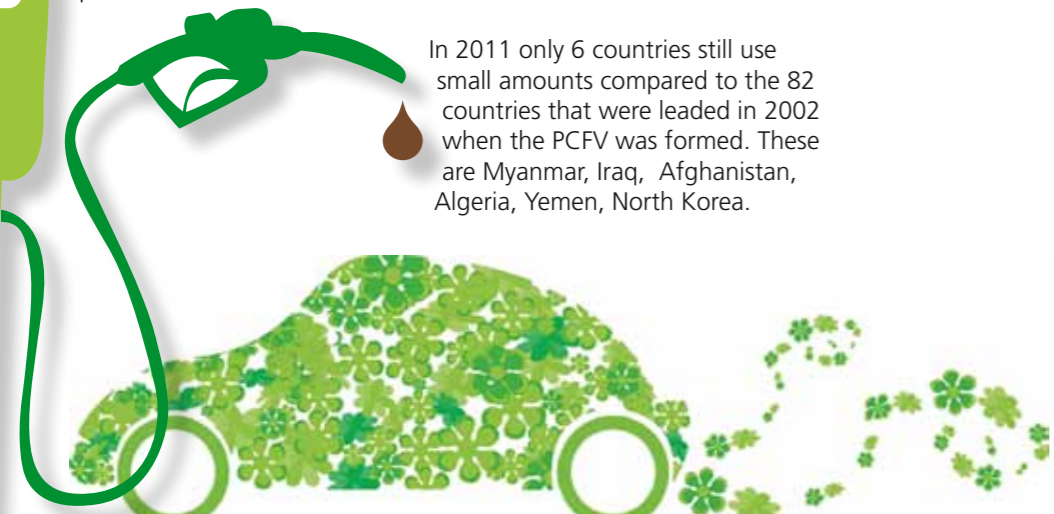
The use of lead in petrol prevents the introduction of vehicles with emission controls (e.g. catalytic converters) that have been shown to reduce harmful emissions by 50 - 90% - catalytic converters are now standard in all new vehicles worldwide.

Economic

Emerging research places the economic annual benefits of lead elimination in petrol at over USD 900 billion in Asia, while in Africa benefits are close to USD 100 billion. The global benefits are over \$2 trillion per year, equivalent to 4% GDP.

Social

These include lower crime rates with up to 58 million less male incarcerations; higher IQ's as using unleaded petrol means avoiding the global loss of 320 million IQ points per year in children.



Next Steps

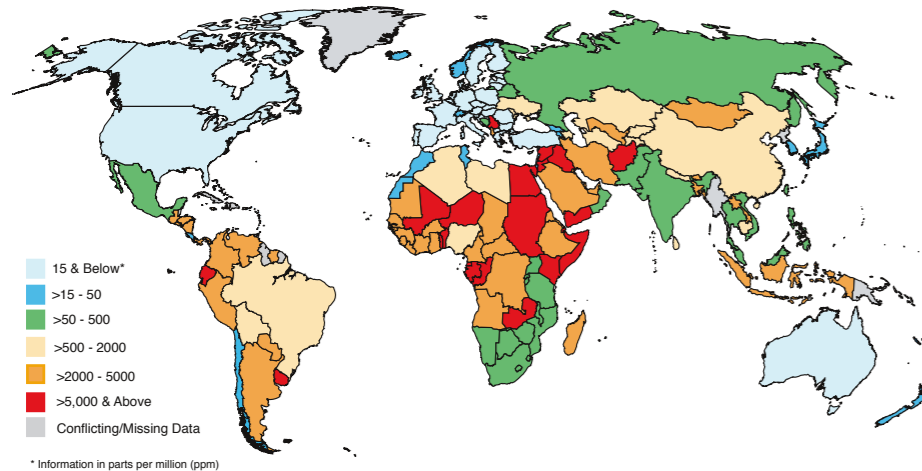
Cleaner, More Efficient, Vehicles

The PCFV is also supporting countries to develop and adopt cleaner and more fuel efficient vehicles policies that will contribute towards national and global air quality improvements and mitigation of CO₂ emissions. Possible policies include emission standards, fuel economy standards, legislation to regulate importation of used vehicles, vehicle CO₂ or fuel economy labelling and fiscal incentives that favour fuel efficient vehicles.

Sulphur Reduction in Fuels

The PCFV is implementing a global campaign to move to low sulphur fuels worldwide. Reducing sulphur levels in fuels to 50 or even 10 parts per million (ppm) in developing countries will be another major step towards reducing vehicle emissions. High sulphur fuel, particularly diesel fuel, is a major source of particulate matter, or soot. These particulates are associated with most upper respiratory illnesses and increased mortality. Diesel fuel sold in some developing countries can have sulphur levels as high as 10,000 parts per million (ppm), whereas most developed countries have below 50 ppm. In addition, modern vehicles and buses have built-in pollution reduction technologies that require low sulphur fuels to function effectively.

Diesel Fuel Sulphur Levels: Global Status
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Global Elimination of Leaded Petrol

Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles

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