

## 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>ARGENTINA</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> in Buenos Aires, significant sources of air pollution are vehicles and adjacent thermal power plants, although winds blow much of the pollution away during summer and autumn; Cordoba is surrounded by mountains that trap air emissions and therefore has a more significant air quality issue; Laws are sufficient, but enforcement of current laws is the issue</li> <li>● Air quality in some cities like Bahia Blanca and Mendoza isn't only influenced by industry and transport, but also by natural sources, particularly dust from desert and semi-desert zones during summer and droughts</li> <li>● There are also active volcanoes in the Andes that produce natural pollutants that winds bring into Argentina</li> <li>● <b>Air quality monitoring system:</b> Yes: 3 in Buenos Aires city, 1 in Puerto de Dock sud, 3 in Zarate-Campana, 1 in Bahia Blanca city, and 1 in Bariloche city</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>National Ambient air quality standards:</b> standards don't meet WHO Interim Targets or guidelines, and there is no PM2.5 standard; Buenos Aires has a stricter Ambient Air Quality Standard that includes PM2.5 and meets WHO Interim Targets for all but SO2 and NO2</li> <li>● <b>National Air Quality Policy:</b> ???</li> <li>● <b>Air Quality legislation / programmes:</b> Federal Air Resource Preservation Act – seldom applied as some provinces haven't adhered to it, and there are no regulatory provisions issued from the Federal government; most provinces and some municipalities have enacted their own rules; Air Pollution Law 1973 requires industries to have emission permits; the Hazardous Waste Law 1991 includes gaseous hazardous waste</li> <li>● <b>Other:</b> Environmental legislation and regulation at federal, provincial and municipal levels sometimes overlap and create uncertainty in determining which regulation is applicable in a particular case; regulations often follow international standards (mainly the Netherlands or US EPA standards) on limits of emissions and air quality control</li> <li>● Argentina follows the Decision 8 of the Meeting of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean, which passed the Regional Action Plan on Atmospheric Contamination; based on this, Argentina passed Resolution 1327/2014 which created the National Action Plan for Air Pollution</li> </ul>

<p>REDUCE EMISSIONS FROM INDUSTRIES</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Industries that have the potential to impact air quality:</b> 3 power plants on edge of Buenos Aires burn natural gas most of the year, and gas-oil for 2 weeks in winter (high level of pollution when that happens); chemicals; petrochemicals; steel and aluminium; cement; mining; oil refineries and petrochemical facilities are major sources of air pollution in Bahia Blanca, Rosario, La Plata and Mendoza</li> <li>● Nearly half of industries are based in the Greater Buenos Aires area; many do not control air emissions</li> <li>● <b>GDP of country:</b> \$540 billion</li> <li>● <b>Industries' share of GDP:</b> 15% (manufacturing), mining (5%), construction (6%)</li> <li>● <b>Electricity sources:</b> natural gas (51%), hydro (28%), oil-fired (12%), nuclear (7%)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Emission regulations for industries:</b> Province of Buenos Aires has emission standards for industries, but enforcement is sometimes limited, although improving; some other provinces also have specific standards in place; regulatory regime (including permits) can be federal, provincial and municipal, thus requiring multiple permits</li> <li>● The 3 energy plants around the city of Buenos Aires are controlled by the National Authority for Electricity Regulation, use natural gas or gas-oil; the authority has not found high levels of contamination from these sources</li> <li>● <b>Small installation's emissions regulated:</b> emissions from small sources are regulated by local municipal governments</li> <li>● <b>Renewable energy investment promoted:</b> National renewable energy target of 8% electricity generation by 2016; renewable energy law; exemptions from VAT, fuel tax, income tax, duty; Feed-in tariff; wind farms and solar power being promoted</li> <li>● <b>Energy efficiency incentives:</b> (ex: Subsidies, labelling, rebates etc) National Program for the Rational and Efficient Use of Energy – to reduce electricity use by 6% by 2016</li> <li>● <b>Incentives for clean production and installation of pollution prevention technologies: ???</b></li> <li>● <b>Actions to ensure compliance with regulations:</b> (monitoring, enforcement, fines etc) authorities can order modifications to facilities, and close it down; there are also monetary fines</li> <li>● <b>Other actions at national, sub-national and / or local level to reduce industry emissions: ???</b></li> </ul>
<p>REDUCE EMISSIONS FROM TRANSPORT</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Key transport-related air quality challenges:</b> many vehicles don't have catalytic converters; there's an extensive private bus system, but old and poorly maintained buses produce almost 50% of transport emissions; heavy congestion in Buenos Aires</li> <li>● Buenos Aires was 2014 winner of Sustainable Transport Award for improvements in urban mobility (increase in bus-only lanes for BRT system)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Vehicle emission limit:</b> Euro 4 (Euro 5 sometime in 2016)</li> <li>● While all new vehicles have to have catalytic converters, older vehicles without catalytic converters are still circulating in the country, and there are no incentives to replace them</li> <li>● There are draft laws on fuel efficiency labeling that have not yet been approved</li> <li>● <b>Fuel Sulphur content:</b> 1,500ppm; 500ppm and 10ppm also available (30ppm targeted for 2016)</li> <li>● <b>Restriction on used car importation:</b> Import ban with a few exceptions</li> <li>● <b>Actions to expand, improve and promote public transport and mass transit:</b> In 2013, Buenos Aires replaced several lanes on 9 de Julio Avenue with bus-only lanes for a BRT system;</li> <li>● <b>Actions to promote non-motorized transport:</b> (ex: include sidewalks and bike lanes in new road projects, car-free areas etc) Buenos Aires transformed dozens of blocks in the city center into an environment that encourages and prioritizes walking and cycling over driving</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Other transport-related actions:</b> motor vehicle fuel efficiency labelling</li> </ul>
<p>REDUCE EMISSIONS FROM OPEN BURNING OF AGRICULTURAL / MUNICIPAL WASTE (OUTDOOR)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Outdoor, open burning:</b> some municipal waste is burned, often at the dump itself; ~90% of crops are planted using no-tillage methods (without burning)</li> <li>● Transboundary pollution is experienced from agricultural fires set in neighbouring countries (Brazil, Bolivia, Paraguay)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Legal framework:</b> open burning is banned by a national law, but authorized in exceptional cases. Some provinces prohibit agricultural burning</li> <li>●</li> <li>● <b>Actions to prevent open burning of municipal waste and / or agricultural waste: ???</b></li> </ul>
<p>REDUCE EMISSIONS FROM OPEN BURNING OF BIOMASS (INDOOR)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Dominant fuels used for cooking and space heating:</b> &lt;5% use solid fuels</li> <li>● <b>Impact:</b> Negligible deaths from indoor air pollution (13,100 deaths/year from outdoor air pollution)</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% access; programme for renewable energy in rural areas</li> <li>● <b>Promotion of cleaner cooking fuels and clean cook stoves:</b> No, as the use of solid fuels happens mainly in rural areas far from urban centres, thus making it difficult to use natural gas or electricity</li> <li>● <b>Other actions to reduce indoor biomass burning, or to reduce its emissions: ???</b></li> </ul>

**Secondary Sources used in the research:** <http://airlex.web.ua.pt/pm10>,  
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