

# Summary of Task Force Meeting in Washington, DC, 18-19 September 2012.

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## Arctic Council Task Force on Short-Lived Climate Forcers

Arctic Council Secretariat

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## Task Force on Short-Lived Climate Forcers

### Summary of Task Force Meeting in Washington, DC, 18-19 September 2012

**Third meeting since Nuuk:** Since receiving the extended mandate from the Nuuk Declaration in 2011, the Task Force on Short-Lived Climate Forcers (SLCFs) held its third meeting in Washington, DC during 18-19 September 2012. The meeting was hosted by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The two previous Task Force meetings were held at the Swedish Ministry of the Environment in Stockholm, 25-26 April 2012, and at the International Institute of Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) outside of Vienna, 8-9 February 2012.

**Attendees:** Present at the meeting in Washington were national representatives from Canada, Denmark, Finland, Norway, Sweden and the United States; a co-chair of the AMAP Expert Group on Methane; invited experts (e.g., from IIASA and the World Bank); and invited NGOs who are actively engaged on SLCFs (e.g., Bellona, Clean Air Task Force, and International Cryosphere Climate Initiative). Julie Gourley, the U.S. SAO, was also present for the introduction of the meeting.

**Objectives:** The objectives of this meeting were to make progress on the Task Force's two planned documents: 1) the technical support document, and 2) the summary for policymakers. The outlines for these two documents were discussed and developed at the previous meeting in Stockholm.

The **technical support document** will contain the context regarding state of the science on the role of SLCFs—primarily black carbon and methane—in Arctic climate change; current emissions of black carbon (updated as necessary compared to the Task Force's 2011 report) and methane; future projections of these emissions out to 2030; mitigation analyses of these emissions for each major emission source and for each Arctic Council; discussion and analyses of the potential health benefits of reducing black carbon and methane; a catalogue of relevant national and international regulations, policies, and initiatives; and a synthesis of mitigation options that appear favorable according to a number of criteria.

The **summary for policymakers** will address the Task Force's 2011 messages and recommendations on black carbon in light of new information; and will present a menu of options for SAOs to consider regarding actions that could be taken to address methane emissions.

**Presentations:** In light of these objectives, the following topics were covered by a number of presentations from different Task Force participants.

- AMAP Expert Group activities on methane
- Methane emissions, future projections, and mitigation analyses for Arctic Council nations in comparison to rest of the world
- Black carbon and methane emissions and mitigation options from gas flaring, including the World Bank's Global Gas Flaring Reduction Partnership
- Best practices for Arctic oil and gas production operations
- Landfill methane mitigation efforts in Canada

- Global Methane Initiative efforts
- Climate and Clean Air Coalition efforts
- Open burning practices in Russia, including projects and analysis by U.S. Department of Agriculture
- New developments under LRTAP
- New developments under IMO
- Summary of state of knowledge on capabilities to describe the potential health and Arctic climate benefits of mitigation measures

**Key outcomes regarding black carbon:** Task Force participants agreed that the 2011 report is still largely valid, and that generally the recommendations remain useful for SAOs to consider. The Task Force will therefore focus attention on what's new since the 2011 report. New developments under IMO and LRTAP, for example, will require that the recommended actions be modified.

The Task Force plans to provide information on what actions have, or have not, occurred in light of previous recommendations. Retrofitting older diesel engines remains a significant black carbon mitigation opportunity. Some improvements have been made with regard to estimating and sharing black carbon emissions data, but some national data is still not available.

The emission sectors that will continue to receive considerable attention include open burning, marine shipping, and gas flaring, given that emissions from these sectors have the potential to increase.

**Key outcomes regarding methane:** The Task Force will be able to summarize current anthropogenic methane emissions for each Arctic Council nation, including a breakdown of emissions by sector within each nation. Additionally, future emission projections out to 2030 will be presented, along with a comparison to global totals and trends. Mitigation opportunities, with associated costs, will be summarized for each sector and nation.

There are ongoing efforts to address methane emissions, such as GMI and CCAC, and the Task Force will take these into account in its recommendations.

Gas flaring is a particular practice that can have both methane and black carbon implications, and any synergies or possible tradeoffs should be considered.

**Key outcome regarding tropospheric ozone:** The Task Force agreed that tropospheric ozone will primarily come into play with methane emission reductions, i.e., with methane reductions there are associated decreases in tropospheric ozone. There are greater uncertainties regarding the role of non-methane precursors of ozone, and therefore the Task Force will continue to collaborate with AMAP to provide the proper scientific context, and provide information where other air quality regulations may already be addressing these ozone precursors.

**AMAP collaboration:** The Task Force further discussed working with AMAP to gather the appropriate scientific context that will essentially serve as the starting point for any messages or recommendations of the Task Force.