

ACAP

Arctic Contaminants Action Program

ARCTIC COUNCIL WORKING GROUP

ACAP's mission is to contribute to reduce environmental risks and prevent pollution of the Arctic environment. Pilot projects are implemented to illustrate opportunities for reducing emissions and stimulate nation states to follow up and strengthen their policies.

AREAS OF WORK:

- Hazardous substances such as persistent organic pollutants (POPs), pesticides and mercury
- Short-lived climate pollutants (SLPs) such as black carbon, methane and hydrofluorocarbons
- Environmentally sound management of hazardous, industrial and municipal waste to prevent releases of contaminants and litter into the environment
- Collaborative partnerships with Arctic Indigenous peoples in reducing exposure and impact of contaminants in remote communities



ARCTIC CONTAMINANTS
ACTION PROGRAM

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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QUICK FACTS

ESTABLISHMENT

2006

LOCATION

Tromsø, Norway

INCOMING CHAIR

Patrick Huber
United States
(2021-2023)

OUTGOING CHAIR

Inger Johanne Wiese
Norway
(2019-2021)

CONTEXT

The six Arctic Council Working Groups execute the projects and programs mandated by the Foreign Ministers of the Arctic States.

ACAP was founded as part of an Arctic Council effort to practically address the Arctic pollution sources identified through the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP).



EXPERT GROUPS

POPS AND MERCURY

Through pilot projects, promote elimination or reduction of POPs and mercury pollution from sources impacting the Arctic as well as strengthened capacity for compliance with international conventions.

WASTE

Develop demonstration projects that improve environmentally sound management of hazardous waste, reduce releases of contaminants from industrial and municipal waste and support proper municipal waste management and prevent marine litter.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' CONTAMINANT ACTION PROGRAM

Enhance involvement of Arctic Indigenous peoples in reducing exposure and impact of contaminants in their communities by developing, coordinating and facilitating Arctic Council demonstration projects based on local participation and ownership.

SHORT-LIVED CLIMATE POLLUTANTS (SLCP)

Reduce SLCPs emitted, Develop projects that fall under three broad categories:

- pilot projects to reduce SLCPs in Arctic States;
- summary reports on mitigation actions, including best practices and recommendations; and
- knowledge dissemination.

FEATURED 2021 PUBLICATIONS

POLICY REPORT ON REDUCTION OF BLACK CARBON AND METHANE EMISSIONS FROM THE OIL AND GAS SECTOR IN THE ARCTIC

The report summarizes key messages from a webinar on the way forward to reduce emissions from the oil and gas sector, apply best practices and best available technology, and the role of international cooperation.

THE USE OF NEW METHODOLOGY TO REDUCE APG FLARING AT REMOTE FIELDS

The study shows that application of Best Available Technology and Best Environmental Practices in the oil and gas sector may decrease the volume of SLCP emissions from gas flaring from the current 25 to 7 million tons of carbon dioxide-equivalents by 2025 in the Russian Arctic region.

RAPID ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT DEMONSTRATION PROJECT IN RUSSIA

The objective of the project was to train experts in applying UN FAO developed cost-effective Rapid Environmental Assessment technique to detect the remaining threat from former obsolete pesticides storages to human health or the environment.

KOLA WASTE PROJECT

The project identified 43 waste dumpsites in the Sámi area on the Kola peninsula. Reduction efforts were introduced at three sites and 96 tons of waste were collected from these locations for further disposal. The project engaged local Sámi population in Sámi communities of the Kola peninsula and raised awareness of pollution risks.

CLEO: SUMMARY FOR POLICYMAKERS

The Circumpolar LEO Initiative has expanded the Local Environmental Observer (LEO) Network from North America to Nordic countries. A key accomplishment has been raising awareness on environmental change among a diverse web of knowledge systems to better understand local impacts and wider trends