

Canada's International Engagement on Transboundary Air Pollution and Short-Lived Climate Pollutants

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Canada

Air Quality Program International Engagement

UNECE Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution (Air Convention)

- Negotiations to update the Gothenburg Protocol are well underway, with discussions on key issues advancing within and outside the formal process
- New deadline of December 2028 expected to be formally agreed in December



Global Methane Pledge (GMP)

- Canada on track to meet its share of the Pledge of at least 30% reduction from 2020 levels by 2030 (projected decrease of 39%)
- Canada is a GMP co-convenor along with the EU

Global Methane Initiative (GMI)

- Canada currently interim Chair since early 2025
- Air Quality Program Office **manages \$2 million in Climate Financing for methane mitigation projects in developing countries, as part of Canada's broader \$5.3 billion Climate Finance envelope**
- Exploring options for secretariat and other mechanisms for taking the work forward



Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC)

- Canada is founding member, current board member, and a top donor
- Canada supports the Clean Air Flagship efforts and participates in various sector-based hubs
 - Canada sits on Task Team
- Air Quality Management Exchange (AQMx) up and running

Arctic Council

Expert Group on Black Carbon and Methane (EGBCM)

- Canada on track to meeting its share of the 2025 reduction target of 25-33% (projected decrease of 38%)



Arctic Contaminants Action Program (ACAP) :

- Oversees pilot mitigation projects and best practices reports to support reductions of contaminants including BC, methane, and ozone precursors
 - Community-Based Black Carbon Monitoring Project (Cambridge Bay) - 3 more PM2.5 sensors and 1 black carbon sensor to be installed in 2026. Funded until March 2027 under the Government of Canada's Global Arctic Leadership Initiative (GALI).
 - Mercury Risk Evaluation, Risk Reduction Project in Canadian Mackenzie River Basin - Phase 3 of the project funded until March 2029 with GALI funding and focused on engagement with local Indigenous community

AQP International Engagement continued...

Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants

- Review Committee assessing candidate POPs to add to Convention

Minamata Convention on Mercury (Hg)

- Canada contributed data and modeling expertise for the first effectiveness evaluation due in 2027, led the global analysis for air, and is co-chairing the group delivering the scientific report



Additional Actions for POPs and Hg

- Contributing to the Coordination Group for the Global Chemicals Monitoring Plan, (monitoring for data for the effectiveness evaluation of the Conventions)
- Pilot studies and projects (including under ACAP in Canada's north)

Science Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution Prevention

- Participating in negotiations to establish a new Science Policy Panel for the sound management of chemicals, waste and prevent pollution
- Canada supports including air pollution in the scope of the panel's work

United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA)

- Supporting implementation of UNEA Resolutions on air quality that launched the Global Air Quality Cooperation Network on Air Pollution and the Air Quality Management Exchange (AQMx) Canada sits on Task Team

World Meteorological Organization

Vegetation Smoke Fire Pollution - Warning Advisory and Assessment System

- MSC sits in the global steering committee, hosts and co-leads the North American Regional Center

Global Air Quality Forecasting and Information System (GAFIS)

- MSC contributes to North American AQ Multi Model Forecast Evaluation
Several air quality experts from ECCC are core members of various expert groups

World Health Organization (WHO) - Collaborating Centre on Environmental Health

- Continues to support activities related to the WHO Global Air Pollution and Health Technical Advisory Group, WHO/UNECE Task Force on Health Aspects of Air Pollution under LRTAP
- Recent focus on updating WHO Air Pollution and Health Roadmap and providing expertise for WHO documents, including those estimating air pollution related health burden and associated economic costs
- In March 2025, WHO agreed to a shared goal to reduce mortality attributable to anthropogenic sources of air pollution by 50% by 2040

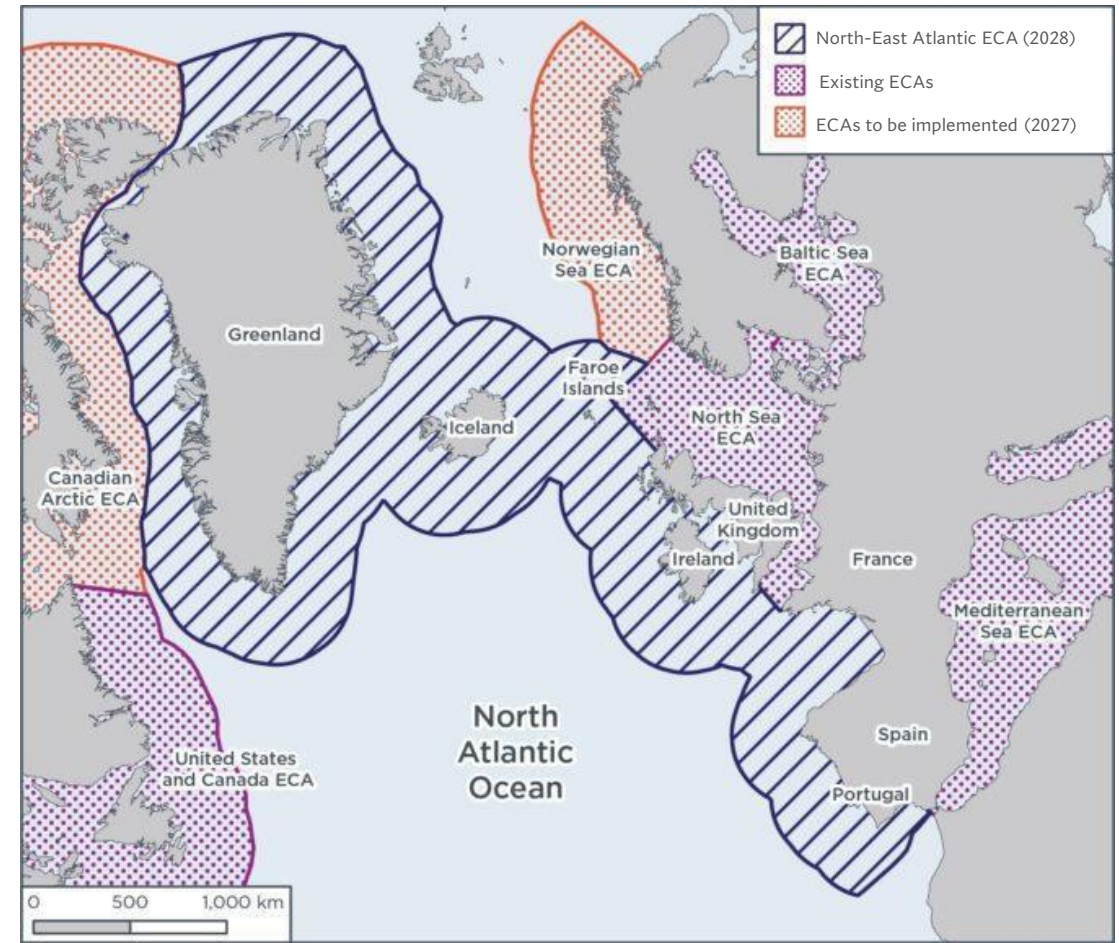
International Maritime Organization (IMO)

- Advocate for improved air quality (Transport Canada lead, ECCC supports)
 - Arctic Emissions Control Area, improved NO_x measures, GHG Strategy



Canadian Arctic Emission Control Area (ECA)

- The Canadian Arctic ECA officially entered into force under the International Maritime Organization (IMO) regulations on March 1, 2026
 - Canada plans to begin enforcing key provisions beginning in 2027 and has started the official process of domestic implementation
- On May 1, 2026, the North-East Atlantic Ocean ECA was formally adopted by the IMO and is expected to be fully implemented in September 2028
 - This ECA means continuous coverage for a substantial portion of the Arctic - a significant advancement in reducing marine emissions in the Arctic as a whole



International Council on Clean Transportation

Summary

- Canada's international engagement continues to be a priority, aimed at addressing transboundary air pollution and contributing scientific expertise in international fora
- Implementation of the Canadian Arctic Emission Control Area is expected to help address air pollution in the Arctic



Reach out!

[Air Quality Program Secretariat](#)

ANNEX

Canada's Short-Lived Climate Pollutant Goals and Commitments

Black Carbon (BC)

- Collective aspirational goal under Arctic Council to reduce black carbon emissions by 25-33% below 2013 levels by 2025 and to achieve significant methane reductions
- Consider an update to the goal for post-2025, no later than 2029

Methane

- Global Methane Pledge: reduce global anthropogenic methane emissions by 30% from 2020 levels by 2030

Ground-level ozone

- Emissions reduction commitments for ozone precursors under the Canada-US Air Quality Agreement (Ozone Annex) and the Gothenburg Protocol

HFCs

- Commitments to phase down hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) are included in the Kigali amendment to the Montreal Protocol

CANADIAN ARCTIC EMISSION CONTROL AREA (ECA)

- **ECAs** are a sea area in which stricter controls are established to reduce airborne emissions from ships (NO_x, SO_x, PM, with secondary BC reductions*)
- North America already has an ECA, but it stops at 60 degrees N, excluding the Arctic
 - The Arctic was excluded from the NA ECA due to a lack of data and less shipping activity in the region at the time
- Shipping has since been increasing resulting in higher impacts from ship emissions



*Should vessels comply with clean fuels