



ARCTIC CONTAMINANTS
ACTION PROGRAM



ARCTIC COUNCIL

ARCTIC CONTAMINANTS ACTION PROGRAM (ACAP)

ACAP Working Group Mandate

ACAP's mission is to contribute to the efforts to reduce environmental risks and prevent pollution of the Arctic environment. ACAP acts as a strengthening and supporting mechanism of the Arctic Council, encouraging national and international actions to reduce emissions and releases of pollutants and to reduce environmental, human health and socio-economic risks. ACAP, in cooperation with national authorities, develops pilot projects that build capacity and demonstrate emission reduction activities for contaminants, black carbon and short-lived climate pollutants. Exchange of information and knowledge on best practices, technologies, regulations, and other measures among Arctic States are key instruments in this work. ACAP contributes to the implementation by the Arctic States of international conventions and related protocols relevant to the Arctic.

ACAP Work Plan Snapshot 2019-2021

ACAP recognizes that cooperative actions contribute significantly to the overall international effort to reduce environmental damage on a global level. ACAP will continue to develop concrete project proposals within this mandate, considering the needs of Arctic indigenous communities by incorporating traditional knowledge and local knowledge when appropriate. The projects identified in ACAP's work plan fall under four Expert Groups – POPs and Mercury, Waste, Short Lived Climate Pollutants and the Indigenous Peoples Contaminant Action Program. ACAP has noted the increasing focus on solid waste management, particularly as it relates to the need to reduce plastic marine litter and the release of microplastics into the Arctic environment. This is a cross-cutting issue that will require cooperation among the relevant Arctic Council WGs including ACAP. ACAP may advance approved projects for funding to the Arctic Council Project Support Instrument (PSI) and other funding sources as appropriate.

Oulu, Finland

*Photo by Arctic Council Secretariat /
Linnea Nordström*

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Selected projects from the ACAP Work Plan:

Mitigation of Black Carbon and Methane Emissions from Associated Petroleum Gas (APG) Flaring in the Arctic Zone of the Russian Federation

WHY?

80% of black carbon and methane emissions in the Russian Arctic is related to the oil and gas industry.

Project actions:

- Evaluation of the potential impact of APG flaring in the Arctic Zone.
- Demonstration of Best Available Technologies and Best Available Practices to reduce SLCPs.
- Use of new methodologies.
- Completion of a feasibility study, financed by the Arctic Council Project Support Instrument (PSI), in fall 2018, which will form the basis for investments in Stage II.

Expected outcomes:

- Mitigation of black carbon and methane emissions.
- Upscaling of gas reinjection technology.

Phase-out of Ozone Depleting Substances and Fluorinated Greenhouse Gases at Fish and Seafood Processing Enterprises of the Murmansk Oblast

WHY?

The project seeks to phase out hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) and hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) at one of the fish and seafood processing enterprises of the Murmansk Oblast. The project will support implementation of the Montreal Protocol and the UNFCCC Paris Agreement.

Project Actions:

- Complete feasibility studies and inventories of HFCs-HCFCs Ozone-Depleting Substances (ODS) and management of end-of-life HFC/ODS refrigeration and freezing systems.
- Develop project documentation and implement transfer and commissioning of ozone and climate-safe technologies including capacity-building measures.

Expected outcomes:

- Transferring ozone and climate-safe technologies to onshore fish and sea food processing enterprises.
- Transferring knowledge to enterprises engaged in repair and after-sales service of onboard refrigeration and air-conditioning equipment.
- Initiating conversion of equipment to environmentally safe refrigerants.
- Financing approved by the PSI Committee for Phase I, while Phase II financing is pending approval.

Phase-out and Environmentally Sound Management of Fire-fighting Foams Containing Perfluorooctanesulfonic Acid (PFOS) and Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA) in the Arctic Region

WHY?

Fire-fighting foams (AFFF) are used in airports, refineries and other high-risk facilities and they represent a potential direct release of highly persistent, toxic and bioaccumulative chemicals into the environment.

Project Activities:

- Alternatives have been developed and the project will demonstrate a transition into fluorine-free foams in a facility in the Arctic.
- Potential cooperation with EPPR Working Group.
- The project will seek PSI funding.

Expected outcomes:

- Use of alternatives to toxic fire-fighting foam in an Arctic facility.
- Scale up and replicate the demonstration project to other facilities.



Arctic Council Project Support Instrument (PSI) is a funding mechanism for projects initiated by the Arctic Council working groups. The Nordic Environment Finance Corporation (NEFCO) is fund manager and Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russia, the Sami Parliament, Sweden and the USA are contributors to the fund.

