



Resolutions for the Year of Air

On January 1st 2013, poor air quality still remains a major problem in Europe. Each year, it is estimated to cause nearly half a million premature deaths in the EU, with high concentrations of ozone and particulate matter (PM) being most harmful to human health. This adds up to allergies, and respiratory and cardiovascular diseases, which result in extra medication and hospitalisations as well as millions of lost working days. Air pollution also affects Europe's nature and biodiversity with the deposition of acidifying and eutrophying substances still exceeding the critical loads of sensitive ecosystems in many places in Europe.

Happy 2013 Year of Air!

To take a good start in 2013, which is the European Year of Air, we urge to take the following resolutions which can make a huge difference for people's health and environment.

Resolution 1.

Strengthen European-wide ambient air quality standards, some of which are currently weaker than the levels recommended by the World Health Organisation (WHO). Number of particles must be included.

Resolution 2.

Push for ambitious new National Emission Ceilings and their supervision which will reduce harmful emissions of pollutants such as black carbon, nitrogen oxide and ammonia.

Resolutions 3 to 10 are meant to solve the problem at the very source. They are the most cost-effective way of making our air cleaner and will help local authorities to comply with the ambient air standards mentioned in resolution 1.

Resolution 3.

Cut emissions from agriculture, in particular ammonia and methane emissions, which contribute to global warming and bad air quality.

Resolution 4.

Cut emissions from smaller industrial combustion installations (1 - 50 megawatts) which are the biggest emitters of PM, a pollutant with the highest estimated impact on human health.

Die Kampagne Rußfrei fürs Klima und das Projekt Clean Air wird getragen von:



Bund für
Umwelt und
Naturschutz
Deutschland



Resolution 5.

Reducing PM and by that black carbon (BC) emissions from non-road mobile machinery (NRMM) will help people's health but also the global climate warming. Introducing standards for NRMM must be at least in line with the latest Euro-standards for road vehicles.

Resolution 6.

Cut emissions for PM, BC and nitrogen oxides from the shipping sector.

Resolution 7.

Future emission regulation must concentrate on the emissions under real conditions and has to cover the most relevant driving conditions, including low ambient temperatures.

There is a lot you have to achieve in 2013 to clean up the air. We urge you to adopt the resolutions and by that help saving lives, money, and protecting the environment.



Clean Air is a project by nine European environmental organisations that fight for clean air in European cities. Despite the existing legislative framework and the citizens' right to clean air, continuing violations of air pollution limits remain a problem in many cities. Air pollution threatens health, environment and climate. It's time to take action!

www.cleanair-europe.org

twitter: @VCD_eV



Soot Free for the Climate is a campaign that raises awareness of the severe climate impact of Diesel soot (Black Carbon) and pushes politicians and administrations for efficient measures to reduce these emissions. It was launched five years ago and now includes an alliance of 13 environmental and consumer organisations in ten European countries.

www.russfrei-fuers-klima.de/international

twitter: @Russ_und_Klima