



Executive Summary

The Clean Air Initiative Strategy For Latin American And Caribbean Cities 2007-2012

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For:

The Clean Air Initiative
for Latin American and Caribbean Cities

Executive Summary

Air pollution in cities throughout Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) affects the health and well being of hundreds of millions of people as well as the environment. Poor air quality results in thousands of premature deaths, billions of dollars in medical costs, and lost productivity each year. In addition, in the LAC region, the predicted impacts of climate change are severe. In addition to a rise in sea level, water supply shortages, and decreased crop yields, temperature elevation will likely result in an increase in mortality rates and an increase in the occurrence of infectious diseases as well as respiratory diseases linked to air pollution. Climate change could also influence meteorological factors that impact the frequency and duration of poor air quality events.

Current and projected levels of air pollution and emissions rates of greenhouse gases in Latin American and Caribbean cities confirm that there is a critical need for integrated, forward-looking, comprehensive measures to improve air quality and minimize risks associated with climate change at the local, national, regional, and international levels. As the impacts of air pollution and climate change on public health and the environment are better understood, the need to adopt strategies that recognize the importance of effectively integrating air quality and climate change considerations into social and economic development planning becomes more apparent.

CAI-LAC is a multi-stakeholder partnership that seeks to bring together and expand distinct collaborative efforts focused on improving air quality in urban areas and addressing climate change into coherent and integrated approaches. Improved cooperation at the LAC regional level can help identify and disseminate good practices, avoid repetition of mistakes, promote efficiency among efforts, and save time and resources. The CAI-LAC partnership aims to build self-sustaining clean air programs and projects by promoting common goals and measures, supporting policy development and implementation, enhancing information sharing, strengthening capacity through training workshops, building support of the local and international communities and other stakeholders, and facilitating the optimum use and leveraging of resources.

The CAI-LAC partnership supports multi-benefit approaches in light of the common sources of air pollutants and greenhouse gas emissions and the opportunities associated with addressing them in tandem. The Clean Air Initiative Strategy for Latin American and Caribbean Cities (Strategy) aids the process by fostering a common

About CAI-LAC

The CAI-LAC is a multi-stakeholder partnership of government agencies, non-governmental organizations, academic institutions, development agencies, and the private sector, dedicated to addressing environmental and health concerns related to air pollution in Latin American and Caribbean cities and the Region's contribution to and impacts from global climate change. CAI-LAC serves to:

- Support common goals for improving air quality and reducing greenhouse gas emissions in LAC countries.
- Through the Clean Air Initiative Strategy for Latin American and Caribbean Cities, provide a framework for identifying, implementing, monitoring and evaluating policy options and measures.
- Facilitate information sharing, dissemination of good practices, and alliance building.
- Build institutional and technical capacity.
- Increase access to and leveraging of resources.
- Enhance opportunities for innovative solutions.

understanding and providing a framework for planning and implementing air quality management and greenhouse gas emissions reduction activities. A fundamental objective of the Strategy is to achieve a fair balance among economic growth, social development, and environmental and health protection.

The Strategy identifies an approach, key elements, priority areas, and financing opportunities, which together provide a framework for advancing improvements in local air quality in Latin America and the Caribbean and reducing risks from global climate change. The Strategy is intended to evolve as new information emerges, projects are implemented and other issues arise. The Strategy also identifies mechanisms to aid the implementation of CAI-LAC efforts. Combined with other services and resources provided by the Clean Air Institute (Institute), which manages the partnership, these implementing mechanisms will help build financial, technical, and political support and capacity for CAI-LAC projects, as well as promote information sharing and facilitate coordination and communication across efforts.

Key Elements

The Strategy recognizes the following key elements for effecting positive change through the CAI-LAC partnership:

- ***Fostering a Common Understanding Among All Stakeholders:*** There are important linkages between the management of both air pollution and greenhouse gases and the broader issues of urban transport, land use, industrial production, and energy generation, all of which have impacts on human health, the environment, and the economy. Developing a common understanding about these connections is key to guiding decisions related to urban air quality management and promoting sustainable development. Informed by the challenges and experiences of LAC cities, the region, and other parts of the world, this common understanding will help support the development of policies and measures that take into account the interrelatedness of air pollution, climate change, and quality of life.
- ***Supporting the Development and Implementation of Action Plans and Projects:*** CAI-LAC will promote and support the development and implementation of action plans to define goals for reducing emissions of conventional pollutants and greenhouse gases as well as local, national, and regional projects. These action plans and projects will include specific abatement strategies, timetables, and resource commitments. They will be designed with a common methodology that includes a framework for monitoring and evaluation. They could ultimately serve as the basis for the development of regional strategies and future policy decisions.
- ***Assessing Strategies and Opportunities for Integration:*** CAI-LAC will encourage that all action plans and projects be based on a complete assessment of policy and technological options as well as the economic, environmental, and public health costs, benefits, and co-benefits of reducing both air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. Each assessment will target efforts to strengthen key management tools, such as emissions inventories for conventional pollutants and greenhouse gases, air quality data, a sound monitoring and evaluation framework, and an internationally recognized set of integrated assessment methodologies. By helping to identify and prioritize emissions reduction opportunities, these assessments and tools will serve as the basis for the formulation and introduction of more efficient and effective policies.

- **Conducting Benchmarking:** Benchmarking serves two main purposes. First, it enables the results of efforts implemented by CAI-LAC members to be quantified so that the effectiveness of those efforts can be evaluated and compared. Second, it identifies and highlights successful practices that can serve as models for programs in other cities or regions. Benchmarking will define consistent methodologies for establishing baseline information as well as indicators for measuring air quality improvements and GHG emissions reductions and the associated economic, public health, and environmental benefits.
- **Fostering Collaboration through Networking:** In cooperation with CAI-LAC partners, the Institute will organize and facilitate a variety of networking opportunities to foster linkages between members and potential collaborators. The Institute will serve as an important liaison by helping to partner member cities and countries with participating institutions and by disseminating information about pilot project opportunities and needs.
- **Promoting Information Sharing and Training Activities:** Through publications, regional conferences, workshops, and other fora, CAI-LAC will provide opportunities to share experiences and best practices, in particular, those identified through the benchmarking, and to develop additional capacity for the design and implementation of successful strategies and projects. In particular, the biennial Regional Forum provides an excellent opportunity for information sharing and technical capacity development. The Regional Forum brings together industry representatives, regulators, and technical experts, among others, and includes plenary sessions, professional development courses, tours, and other events.

Priority Areas

Cities in Latin America and the Caribbean are facing serious challenges related to rapid urbanization and the associated needs for improvements in transportation systems, energy production and use, and energy efficiency. Opportunities exist to develop and implement measures that address these critical needs while at the same time addressing local and global environmental and health concerns. The Strategy strives to achieve benefits by supporting sustainable policies and programs that promote clean and efficient transportation and energy generation and use. The priorities identified by the CAI-LAC partnership are as follows:

- **Advancing Sustainable Transport by Transforming the Movement of People and Goods in Cities:** The advancement of sustainable transportation in Latin America and the Caribbean requires that cities prioritize the development and/or improvement of urban motorized, non-motorized, and freight transport systems, and the integration of transportation and land use planning. Decisions regarding these priorities must be based on a scientifically sound, objective, and transparent assessment of the existing transportation system and viable options for making the system more environmentally, socially and economically sustainable.
- **Accelerating the Development and Use of Clean Vehicle Technologies and Fuels:** The strengthening and reinforcement of frameworks that consist of regulatory, compliance and incentive programs, as well as the harmonization of these frameworks at the LAC regional level, is fundamental to combating air pollution from mobile sources. In particular, the shift to low sulfur vehicle fuels in combination with advances in vehicle technologies and emission standards will significantly reduce air pollutants, improve fuel efficiency, and

limit the growth of greenhouse gas emissions, among other benefits. In addition, the use of alternative fueled vehicles and technologies, such as compressed natural gas, fuel cells, and electric vehicles, should be promoted based on an integrated assessment of their environmental, social, and economic viability.

- ***Catalyzing the Sustainability of Energy Sources, Uses, and Practices:*** To address its critical energy situation, LAC countries need to mobilize and integrate efforts focused on energy generation and energy consumption across sectors. Optimizing these efforts to produce positive environmental results is critical to their long-term sustainability.

Financing Opportunities

To ensure the implementation and financial sustainability of the CAI-LAC partnership, the framework aims to coordinate local, national and international efforts and resources by:

- Recognizing air quality, climate change and related issues as high priorities in local and national agendas;
- Promoting the development of regulatory and institutional capacity as well as an appropriate policy framework to enhance compliance and enforcement;
- Developing pilot projects and business models aiming to foster private involvement;
- Supporting the efforts of cities and countries to maximize funding opportunities and generation of resources by using both regulatory and economic instruments and fostering public-private partnerships; and
- Fostering coordination among international donors to promote complementarities and efficiencies, avoid duplication, and ensure better use of resources.

The Clean Air Initiative Strategy for Latin American and Caribbean Cities provides a framework that will help foster a common understanding about addressing air pollution and climate change, promote partnerships among stakeholders, and identify opportunities for stakeholders to actively advance policy dialogues, technical capacity development, and on-the-ground projects.