

Poland's report

on progress in the implementation of the provisions of the Protocol concerning the Control of Emissions of Nitrogen Oxides or their Transboundary Fluxes (1988 Sofia Protocol) to the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution presenting examples/good practices of strategies, policies and measures employed to implement the obligations: *Dissemination of information on the approach to the reduction of air pollutants in Poland based on the example of educational campaign of the Ministry of the Environment promoting clean heat from solid fuels used in household heating installations.*

<p><b>Country:</b></p> <p><b>POLAND</b></p>	<p><b>Pollutant(s):</b> <i>Please indicate the pollutant(s), emissions of which are being controlled</i></p> <p>Nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>) and sulphur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), particulate matter (PM10, PM2.5), persistent organic pollutants (dioxins/furans - PCDDs/PCDFs, benzo(a)pyrene - BaP), heavy metals (mercury - Hg, cadmium - Cd, lead - Pb) – emissions from combustion processes in individual heating appliances/devices</p>
<p><b>Protocol(s):</b> <i>Please indicate the name of the protocol(s) to the Convention, obligations under which are being fulfilled</i></p> <p>1988 Protocol concerning the Control of Emissions of Nitrogen Oxides or their Transboundary Fluxes (and voluntarily the 1999 Gothenburg Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone, 1998 Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants, and 1998 Protocol on Heavy Metals)</p>	<p><b>Sector:</b> <i>Please indicate the sector (e.g. agriculture, industry, urban planning, environment, etc.), or sectors (if several) for which the strategy, policy or measure has been mainly designed</i></p> <p>Residential combustion sector</p>
<p><b>Type of strategy, policy or measure and the level of implementation:</b> <i>Please identify the type of strategy, policy or measure – economic e.g. incentive or disincentive (taxes, funds, subsidies, prices or caps/ceilings, payments, rebates, etc); voluntary (agreements, programmes, contracts), regulatory (legislation), or other measures (educational, informational, other)</i> <i>Please state at which level (municipal, regional, sub-national, national) the policy, strategy or measure is targeted or implemented</i></p> <p>Educational and informational measures National level</p>	<p><b>Method used for the current analysis:</b> <i>Please identify the method used for collecting information and the analysis made</i></p> <p>Desk research</p>

**What is the main objective of the strategy, policy or measure? When has it been implemented/ or will be implemented?**

*Please describe briefly what the measure attempts to achieve or what has been the result of its implementation. Please also describe since when it is being employed or for when its implementation is foreseen. Please explain whether implementation is/was immediate or gradual. [150 words max]*

The main goal of the educational and informational campaign, entitled “Clean heat from solid fuels in my house” is to:

- Enhance the level of public awareness on risks connected with air pollution,
- Promulgate broadly good practices to reduce emissions from household heating devices,
- Promote nationwide measures to reduce emissions from the residential sector and mechanisms facilitating their implementation.

The campaign was launched in 2017 and it is constantly broadened. A variety of dissemination forms/methods are used to promote useful knowledge and information addressed to different target groups.

The outcome of a variety of measures and activities (on legal, organizational, financial and educational levels) undertaken in Poland to reduce anthropogenic emissions, including those originating from households, would be an improvement of air quality and human health.

It is assumed that the overall goal should be achieved by 2027. Improvement of air quality requires broad public engagement and institutional involvement.

**Background and driving forces:**

*Please explain briefly why this strategy, policy or measure was implemented; mention the driving forces for its introduction e.g. policy development, legislation (EU, national), action plans, voluntary, incentive, or other [150 words max]*

Air quality in many regions of Poland is to a great extent affected not only by industrial and transport emissions, but also by emissions from the residential combustion sector (low-efficiency heating boilers, stoves, fireplaces). Reduction of air pollutants is a serious challenge due to national conditions, such as social circumstances (low level of public environmental awareness), technical problems (selection of proper installations, availability of low quality solid fuels) and economic barriers (low household budgets).

To solve the air quality problems in Poland the National Air Protection Programme [3] and recommendations of the Economic Committee of the Council of Ministers [4] were approved in 2015 and 2017, respectively. Most of the measures indicated in those documents are under implementation. To make these programmes aimed at reduction of emissions from heating processes in households effective in terms of environmental goals it is essential to undertake measures in order to raise public awareness.

**Description of the strategy, policy or measure:**

*Please explain briefly how the strategy, policy or measure works and why it has been chosen compared to other policies/measures. Please also explain how its implementation is being monitored. [200 words max]*

Implemented educational and informative campaign „Clean heat from solid fuels in my house” is directed, in particular, at:

- Raising public awareness with regard to health risks connected with air pollution,
- Providing information on the relation between different methods used for household heating and the quality of air at local scale,
- Promoting the use of good quality fuels and effective heating installations (with economic benefits),
- Broad dissemination of information on good practices for the operation and maintenance of heating installations (proper combustion techniques, changing of undesired practices, ensuring good technical state of household heating devices and the chimney),
- Promoting other emission reduction measures (e.g. renewable energy use, ban on waste combustion in households, insulation of buildings),
- Promoting available financial support mechanisms (co-funding for boilers and thermal insulation of buildings).

Various methods of information dissemination and promotion of prepared materials (guidebook, information brochure, leaflet) were used to reach the highest possible number of people that might be interested in proposed solutions and implementation of air protection measures, which include channels such as: specially dedicated websites, informative campaigns in mass media, thematic events, training courses and distribution of materials to the interested groups of people.

**Costs, Funding and Revenue allocation:**

*Please state how much the implementation of the measure costs including its monitoring and how it is funded (national budget, industry, taxes, etc.) If the measure is creating revenue, please also explain how this revenue is being allocated and collected. [200 words max]*

The total cost of elaboration of the guidebook, information brochure and leaflet on “Clean heat from solid fuels in my house” [1, 2] amounted to approximately 10 550 EUR.

The leaflet was printed in 55 000 copies, the information brochure – in 1 500 copies and the guidebook – in 250 copies. Their printing costs were around 9 100 EUR. Additional printing is planned soon.

Sources of funding for the whole measure include:

- national budgetary resources of the Minister of the Environment,
- financial resources of the National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management (NFOSiGW) originating from registration fees for integrated permits,

The campaign does not generate any revenue.

The Inter-ministerial Steering Committee on National Air Protection Programme is responsible for supervising the implementation of KPOP and coordinates the activities of various ministries and other institutions to enable quick and effective implementation of different measures aimed at air quality improvement at national, regional and local levels [5].

Plenipotentiary of Prime Minister for the „Clean Air” programme plays the role of the Chair of the Committee.

**Effect and impacts on air pollution abatement:**

*Please explain briefly the effect of the policy, strategy or measure and how it has impacted the abatement of air pollution. If impacts are known, please quantify, if possible. Please highlight also other effects of the implementation of the measure e.g. with regard to compliance, the acceptance of the measure or its transposition (e.g. from a voluntary to a regulatory or another type of measure). [150 words max]*

Raising public awareness through educational and informative campaigns should change public behaviour to make it more friendly both to the citizens and to the environment. Proposed air emissions' reduction measures, including changing of heating installations to low-emission or no emission appliances/devices, thermal insulation of buildings, the use of good practices for combustion of high quality solid fuels should bring desired environmental effects and money saving for the citizens concerned.

Under the campaign the citizens are informed about:

- sources, types and levels of financial support that is offered locally for certain undertakings/investments,
- entities covered by financial support,
- available help in formal arrangement connected with the co-funding.

Educational materials are presently being disseminated. It is difficult to evaluate the quantitative impact of the educational and informative campaign on air pollution reduction at the moment, however it could be possible after a longer period of its implementation.

**References/Further information:** *Please provide most relevant sources for information such as references for web links, books, other resources.*

1. Website of the Ministry of the Environment dedicated to air protection (in Polish)  
<https://www.mos.gov.pl/srodowisko/ochrona-powietrza/czyste-cieplo-w-moim-domu-z-paliv-stalych/>:
  - A. Guidebook “*Clean heat from solid fuels in my house*”, Ministry of the Environment, Warsaw 2017  
<https://www.mos.gov.pl/srodowisko/ochrona-powietrza/czyste-cieplo-w-moim-domu-z-paliv-stalych/>
  - B. Information Brochure “*Clean heat from solid fuels in my house*”, Ministry of the Environment, Warsaw 2017  
[https://www.mos.gov.pl/fileadmin/user\\_upload/mos/srodowisko/ochrona\\_powietrza/informator.pdf](https://www.mos.gov.pl/fileadmin/user_upload/mos/srodowisko/ochrona_powietrza/informator.pdf)
  - C. Leaflet “*Clean heat from solid fuels in my house*”, Ministry of the Environment, Warsaw 2017  
[https://www.mos.gov.pl/fileadmin/user\\_upload/mos/srodowisko/ochrona\\_powietrza/ulotka.pdf](https://www.mos.gov.pl/fileadmin/user_upload/mos/srodowisko/ochrona_powietrza/ulotka.pdf)
2. R. Kubica, K. Kubica, W. Bogacz, M. Stec “*Guidebook Clean heat from solid fuels in my house!*”, Silesian University of Science and Technology, Gliwice 2016.  
[https://www.mos.gov.pl/fileadmin/user\\_upload/mos/Aktualnosci/2017/Poradnik\\_Czyste\\_cieplo](https://www.mos.gov.pl/fileadmin/user_upload/mos/Aktualnosci/2017/Poradnik_Czyste_cieplo)

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3. National Air Protection Programme until 2020 (with a perspective until 2030) - KPOP, Ministry of the Environment, Warsaw 2015.  
[https://www.mos.gov.pl/fileadmin/user\\_upload/mos/srodowisko/lesnictwo/KPOP\\_do\\_roku\\_2020.pdf](https://www.mos.gov.pl/fileadmin/user_upload/mos/srodowisko/lesnictwo/KPOP_do_roku_2020.pdf)
4. Recommendations of the Economic Committee of the Council of Ministers („Clean Air” programme) of 25 April 2017 <https://www.premier.gov.pl/wydarzenia/decyzje-rzadu/rekomendacje-komitetu-ekonomicznego-rady-ministrow-w-sprawie-dzialan.html>
5. Information on progress in the implementation of tasks included in the Recommendations of the Economic Committee of the Council of Ministers („Clean Air” programme) as of 7 December 2017  
[https://www.mos.gov.pl/fileadmin/user\\_upload/mos/Aktualnosci/2018/styczen\\_2018/Informacja\\_nt.\\_stanu\\_zaawansowania\\_prac\\_nad\\_rekomendacjami\\_-\\_Program\\_Czyste\\_Powietrze.pdf](https://www.mos.gov.pl/fileadmin/user_upload/mos/Aktualnosci/2018/styczen_2018/Informacja_nt._stanu_zaawansowania_prac_nad_rekomendacjami_-_Program_Czyste_Powietrze.pdf)

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**Additional comments:** *Please include any additional information you may wish to provide here.*

The Ministry of the Environment is successively undertaking activities to reduce emissions of air pollutants in Poland., including conducting of an educational campaign promoting clean heat from solid fuels used in household heating installations. The campaign is addressed both to the overall public and to various target groups, such as decision-makers, local government administration and people of different economic and social status. Therefore appropriate educational and informative materials were prepared in 2016 in the form of a guidebook, information brochure and a leaflet of a differentiated level of detail [1,2].

The campaign fits into the countrywide package on Clean Air. The goal of the campaign „Clean heat from solid fuels in my house” is to raise awareness of the effects of decision-making on household heating, to broaden the knowledge on good practices in this respect and provide information on various incentives. The campaign should contribute to the changing of undesirable public behaviour patterns and to public engagement in air quality improvement by making use of available financial support. The use of good practices in heating leads not only to emission reduction of air pollutants, including PM<sub>2,5</sub>, PM<sub>10</sub>, BaP, NO<sub>x</sub>, but also to money savings (in the longer period of time).

Various methods of information dissemination and promotion of prepared materials were used to reach the highest possible number of people that might be interested in proposed solutions and implementation of air protection measures, which include the following channels:

- Commonly available website of the Ministry of the Environment [1],

- Thematic events, such as “Air Quality” panel during the International Environmental Protection Trade Fair: POL-EKO SYSTEM 2017 (Poznan, 18 October 2017), Stop-Smog Conference (Torun, 18 November 2017),
- Training courses for social aid workers, teachers and meetings with journalists,
- Informative campaigns in countrywide, regional and local mass media (press articles, radio and TV programmes),
- Distribution of materials to the Social Aid Centres where social workers are involved in further dissemination of informative materials among the poorest groups of people, including those threatened by energetic poverty.

Around 2500 meetings are planned in *gminas* (communities) for the citizens to inform them about possible activities contributing to air quality improvement. The meetings are to be conducted by experts from Voievodeship (regional) Funds for Environmental Protection and Water Management (WFOSiGW), Voievodeship Inspectorates for Environmental Protection (WIOS) and the Environmental Protection Bank (BOS Bank).