

UNECE Air Convention and the Sustainable Development Goals



UNECE Air Convention

Air pollution has significant impacts on our health, environment and economy. Every day, air pollution causes respiratory and cardiovascular disease, damages vulnerable ecosystems and biodiversity and leads to decreased agricultural yields. The Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (Air Convention) and its eight protocols set emission targets and identify specific measures that Parties must take to reduce air pollution.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development enshrines an ambitious and transformational global vision to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure prosperity for all. It includes 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), integrating the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development.



How does the Air Convention help to achieve the SDGs?

By providing an intergovernmental science and policy platform for reducing air pollution and its impacts, including climate change, the Air Convention contributes to the attainment of 11 of the SDGs.

How the Air Convention contributes to attaining the SDGs

(selected examples)



Better nitrogen management increases agricultural yields.



Prevents deaths and illnesses from air pollution.



Avoids acidification of water bodies from acid rain.



Assists countries in identifying technologies, including in the energy sector, that will help reduce air pollution.



Stimulates investment in clean technologies and assists countries in identifying technologies that reduce air pollution.



Improves air quality at the city level, avoiding deaths and illnesses as well as the degradation of historical buildings and monuments.



Assists countries in sustainably managing and improving air quality in all economic sectors.



Specifically targets climate forcers, including ground-level ozone precursors and black carbon (soot).



Reduces water pollution from land-based activities.



Protects ecosystems and biodiversity for air pollution impacts.



Provides a regional platform for sharing knowledge and expertise to support the achievement of a number of the SDGs.

Further information

For questions and further information contact the Convention secretariat or visit the Convention's website: air_meetings@unece.org

www.unece.org/env/lrtap/welcome.html