



**CLIMATE &  
CLEAN AIR  
COALITION**  
TO REDUCE SHORT-LIVED  
CLIMATE POLLUTANTS



**CLIMATE &  
CLEAN AIR  
AWARDS**

## **Marcelo Mena Carrasco, Minister for Environment, Chile, receives Honorary Climate and Clean Air Award**

**Bonn, November 12, 2017:** The 2017 Climate and Clean Air Honorary Award for Individual Achievement has gone to Marcelo Mena-Carrasco, Chile's Minister for Environment, for his work to reduce short-lived climate pollutants and air pollution.

Under Mr. Mena-Carrasco's leadership, Chile created "Plans of Prevention and Decontamination of Atmospheric Pollution". Implementing these plans has led to significant reductions in air pollution and has made Chile a global leader in actions to improve air quality.

A hallmark of Mr. Mena-Carrasco's leadership style is his ability to adapt to challenging circumstances. Before studying for his PhD in the United States, Mr. Mena-Carrasco pioneered air quality forecasting and measurement in Chile, and as was a clean air activist, cycling enthusiast, and a renewable energy promoter. He pushed the government to do more to address these issues.

As Minister of Environment, Mr Mena-Carrasco embraces the public-private partnerships that regional decontamination planning requires. His tenacity and resourcefulness helped facilitate Chile's drive to establish 14 decontamination plans by the end of 2017 and another six, to reach 20, by the end of 2018.

The plans have helped achieve a reduction of fine particulate pollution (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) in 14 cities. Santiago has seen a 72% decrease since 1989. Air quality episodes have been reduced by roughly 70 % in the cities of Santiago and Talca, and 30 to 40% in Chillán and Coyhaique since 2013.

In Santiago, there have been 97% fewer episodes of fine particulate pollution (PM<sub>10</sub>) when data is compared from 1997 to 2017, and 94% reduction in extreme air quality events with fine particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) between 2013 and 2017.

Chile's air quality strategy has reduced premature mortality by 1300 cases per year since 2013. Observed hospital emergency room visits due to bad air have been reduced in 51% nationally in places without pollution controls. Santiago's new pollution control program, Santiago Respira, will continue to reduce pollution and expand premature mortality reductions by 2200 cases per year, by banning wood burning stoves, implementing bans of dirty cars from driving during the wintertime, and stringent emission standards for new cars, trucks, buses, and off road machinery.

Minister Mena-Carrasco has also been instrumental in the design of new pollution taxes, including one for new vehicles based on nitrogen oxide (NOx) emissions, and for dirtier power plants. He's also a champion of carbon pricing and has collaborated internationally to expand the use of carbon markets for climate mitigation.

### **The 2017 Climate and Clean Air Award Winners**

Minister Mena-Carrasco joins the following winners of the 2017 Climate and Clean Air Awards

- The Award for Outstanding Policy went to the State of California for putting the most comprehensive and strongest set of targets for reducing short-lived climate pollutant emissions into state law, and for developing a detailed plan to meet these targets.
- The National Petroleum Authority of Ghana was also recognized with an award for Outstanding Policy for putting in place strong measures to reduce vehicle emissions. Ghana is the first West African country to move to low sulfur diesel and with a new sulfur content standard of 50 parts per million (ppm), down from 3000 ppm.
- The Award for Individual Achievement went to Mr Sameer Mathiel, for his work to reduce black carbon emissions from brick kilns in India. By helping install cleaner, more efficient brick kiln technologies, Mr Maithel has demonstrated that significant emission reductions of black carbon can be achieved by retrofitting and converting existing kilns, benefitting workers, owners, and the environment.
- An Honorary Award for Individual Achievement was given to Marcelo Mena Carrasco, Minister of Environment Chile, for his
- The Award for Innovative Technology was given to Öresundskraft Kraft and Varme AB for using sea water and absorption cooling technology to cool downtown Helsingborg, Sweden. The District Cooling expansion shows that there are alternatives to hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) and offers a sustainable, competitive, and need-driven cooling service to customers on a city-wide scale.
- An Honorary Award for Innovative Technology was given to Durban (eThekweni) Municipality for its Durban Landfill Conservancies project, a successful landfill that reduces emissions of methane, provides safe waste disposal, produces electricity for the local grid and employs workers from the surrounding communities.
- The Award for Transformative Action was given to the International Council on Clean Transportation for its initiative to conduct checks of real-world emissions of diesel cars in the United States. This work uncovered a global scheme by Volkswagen to deliberately avoid motor vehicle standards. The scandal continues to reverberate in the auto industry and has raised global awareness of the impact of diesel vehicles on air quality

### **About the Climate and Clean Air Award**

The Climate and Clean Air Awards recognize exceptional contributions and actions to implement projects, programmes, policies and practices that reduce short-lived climate pollutants (SLCPs) – black carbon, methane, hydrofluorocarbons and tropospheric ozone.

Reducing these dangerous air and climate pollutants is key to improving air quality, slowing the rate of climate change and provides multiple benefits for health, ecosystems and the sustainable development goals.

The award is global in scope and the nominees cover a wide range of activities and actions from individual efforts to transform a polluting sector to state and national policies that are transforming attitudes, sparking innovation, and providing business opportunities. As a collective, this group of nominees show what real climate action looks like.

Awards will be presented in four categories:

- Individual Achievement: recognizes the efforts by an individual to reduce short-lived climate pollutants.

- Outstanding Policy: recognizes air quality improvement and SLCP reduction policies (and their implementation) that are bold and transformative.
- Innovative Technology: recognizes technological interventions to reduce air pollution and protect the climate that are ground-breaking, accessible and scalable.
- Transformative Action: recognizes an action or activity that has fundamentally changed attitudes, practices, and/or policies related to air pollution and climate change.

An Honorary Award may also be awarded to nominees that are deemed to have considerably contributed to SLCP reduction efforts, awareness, and/or leadership.

### **Jury Panel**

The Jury for the Climate and Clean Air Award are:

- **Ms. Annika Markovic**, Permanent Representative of Sweden to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO),
- **Mr. Manuel Pulgar-Vidal**, former Minister of State for Environment, Peru, and President of COP 20. He is the current head of WWF's global climate work.
- **Dr. Youba Sokona**, Vice-Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC),
- **Mr. Kaveh Zahedi**, Deputy Executive Secretary for Sustainable Development at the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP).

### **About short-lived climate pollutants**

The Climate and Clean Air Coalition works to reduce four short-lived climate pollutants: black carbon (or soot), methane, tropospheric (or ground level) ozone, and hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs). These pollutants are powerful climate forcers many times more potent at warming the atmosphere than carbon dioxide. Some, like black carbon and ozone, also have serious immediate impacts to human health and food security.

The four SLCPs contribute about 40% of the manmade heat energy being added to the planet every year. Reducing emissions of methane, black carbon, and HFCs can help reduce predicted global warming by as much as 0.6 degrees Celsius (°C) by 2050, helping to achieve the global goal to limit warming to 1.5 °C.

Air pollution is responsible for approximately 6.5 million premature deaths every year and the plant growth. Fully implementing the Coalition's SLCP reduction measures can prevent 2.5 million premature deaths and avoid up to 52 million tonnes of crop losses every year.

The Coalition works on a range of measures across key polluting sectors – diesel, brick production, municipal solid waste, oil and gas production, agriculture, household energy, and HFCs. It also works to improve national planning and capacity through its SNAP initiative, improves the understanding and actions of the health sector, works to finance SLCP mitigation and increases understanding of the impacts of and solutions to SLCP emissions by carrying out regional assessments.

Information on each pollutant can be found [here](#).

### **The 2017 shortlist**

The inaugural Climate and Clean Air Awards attracted a large number of stellar candidates. From these 14 were shortlisted by the Climate and Clean Air Coalition's Steering Committee for consideration by a panel of four judges. You can see the full list [here](#).

ENDS

**Link to Climate and Clean Air Awards Announcement:**

<http://www.ccacoalition.org/en/news/inaugural-climate-and-clean-air-awards-shortlist>

**Link to Awards Shortlist:** <http://www.ccacoalition.org/en/content/2017-climate-clean-air-awards-shortlist>

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