

Integrating climate change concerns into local air quality management plans in South Africa

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Air quality and climate change are inextricably linked, with complex interactions and linkages. In developing countries the promotion of air quality policies that consider climate change issues may help to bridge the gap between the implementation of air quality and climate change policies. Opportunities therefore exist for developing country cities to play a role in initiating innovative responses to climate change. Capitalizing on air quality and climate change co-benefits could contribute toward meeting the objective of creating low carbon, resilient cities. South Africa is one of the few countries on the African continent to have developed robust air quality legislation. South African municipalities or local governments are required to develop and implement air quality management plans (AQMPs), which present opportunities to integrate climate change considerations. The opportunities and possible challenges to innovatively use local AQMP interventions to support climate change mitigation and adaptation measures in South Africa are discussed in this paper. Particular emphasis is placed on the road transport and industrial sectors, highlighting policies and interventions that will allow cities to reap the socio-economic benefits that these sectors offer whilst minimizing the environmental and health impacts.