Working Group 1

Air Pollution and Climate including Short Lived Climate Pollutants Working Group

Questions for attendees to think about

1) Scientific understanding of short lived climate forcing pollutants (SLCFs)[1], and their climate effects. A particular question is regional vs global, i.e. does Europe, North America or LRTAP region overall health and climate benefit preferentially from reductions of SLCFs mitigation in those areas?

2) What are the current levels of emissions and the projected trends for the particular SLCFs? Regionally and Globally?

3) What are the current concentrations of SLCFs?

4) What are the options for control measures to mitigate SLCFs?

5) How can the climate benefits be accommodated in air quality policy? Can SLCFs be accommodated in climate policy? What metrics and techniques can be used to estimate the benefits?

6) What kind of research studies have been done or are under way looking at issues and relationships of strategies to address climate and air quality?

7) What strategies make the most sense when trying to address local/urban air quality health and environmental issues and pollutants like short lived climate forcers? Diesel engines? Woodstoves? Agriculture burning?

8) What research is needed to better assist air quality planners to incorporate climate concerns or short lived climate forcers into their planning and regulatory structures? Better emission inventories? Modeling? Control strategies?

9) For some climate pollutants like methane or CO2, local strategies will not benefit local air quality as quickly. However, some reduction strategies like getting more efficient motor vehicles, increasing transport systems and thereby reducing the amount cars are driven, moving to electric vehicles could all help reduce climate and air quality pollutants. Is there a complete list of those kinds of strategies? Are countries promoting

[1] For air quality purposes, we would focus on black carbon, ozone and methane because of its contribution to the global background of ozone.

these strategies in their air quality planning to achieve the appropriate air quality standards? What about other energy efficiency approaches?

10) Where do you think opportunities to maximize air quality and climate benefits are being missed today? What is needed to stop that from happening? More dissemination of information on strategies? More research? Information sharing forums/websites?

11) Are there obstacles or disincentives in the air quality planning of countries from considering climate issues as you develop strategies?

12) Do industry and the general public understand the linkages between air quality and climate or is greater education needed to get broader support for action?

13) What are the benefits including reduced costs for transportation (e.g., more efficient vehicles) and lower costs for heating (more energy efficient buildings)? Is information on costs and benefits readily available so consumers can make informed choices?

14) Would we change future efforts to continue to bring down PM knowing that BC-rich sources of PM might get us more climate benefits? Would we want to do that action if there are some health tradeoffs (e.g., at regional levels) to consider? Are there other such climate/air quality trade-offs?

15) What should be the 5 key next steps on climate and air quality linkage issues coming out of the meeting that would have the greatest benefits?

16) What should be the 5 key recommendations on future actions and who are they directed to?