



PRESS RELEASE

**Ghana Environmental Protection Agency in collaboration with
US Environmental Protection Agency on Launch of
Air Quality Management Plan – August 2018**

August 15, 2018 - Today, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA Ghana) announces an Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP) for the Greater Accra Metropolitan Area (GAMA) as well as draft ambient, vehicle, and point source Air Quality Standards for the country. When implemented, these actions will reduce harmful levels of particle pollution and other air pollution from vehicles, electric generating units, industrial and other man-made sources among others, in the Greater Accra Region. EPA Ghana analysis estimates 440 premature deaths from cardiovascular and respiratory diseases and nearly five thousand asthma-related medical visits can be avoided each year in GAMA when these air quality standards are met.

Particulate Matter (PM), also known as particle pollution, is a complex mixture of extremely small particles and liquid droplets that get into the air. Once inhaled, these particles can affect the heart and lungs and cause serious health effects, including heart attacks and premature death. This pollution, and other types of emissions, can also irritate the lungs and make conditions such as asthma worse and cause people to miss work and school.

Today's actions serve to formally alert institutions and the public about their collective responsibilities to help achieve clean air for Ghana. In addition to the launching of the Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP), over the coming months EPA-Ghana and its stakeholders are undertaking the following activities:

- Initiation of public review of Ghana's vehicle emissions standards and ambient and point source Air Quality standards among others.
- Installation of 2 real-time air quality monitors at Adabraka and University of Ghana this year to promptly inform the public about air quality in the city.
- Deployment of 10 low-cost air quality sensors in strategic areas of GAMA as part of an effort to provide real-time air quality information to the public and also monitor air pollution mitigation efforts going forward (e.g. abatement of open waste burning etc.)

Let's clean the air! Let's help reduce the global Green House Gas (GHG) emissions and enjoy good health.

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