



## The role of NACA in air quality management in South Africa

The National Department of Environmental Affairs has recognised the active role that NACA has in the area of air quality management in South Africa, and that NACA members include key opinion formers and stakeholders in the field. A cooperation agreement between NACA and DEAT is in place to broadly support air quality management initiatives in the country, and to specifically focus on the implementation of the Air Quality Act.

The primary objective of The National Association for Clean Air is to promote the cause of clean air in South Africa. With over 400 members from a diverse range of companies, civil society and various levels of government, NACA is the prime technical and scientific non-governmental body in the area of air quality management in South Africa.

The legislation governing air quality in South Africa has recently undergone substantial change - necessitating informed comment and advice, as well as responses to the various challenges that the new legislation presents. As a non-political entity, NACA promotes balanced debate on issues relevant to air quality management by providing a forum where opinions and viewpoints in connection with air pollution can be raised and discussed. NACA also acts as a channel through which public and industrial opinions concerning air pollution problems may be communicated to regulatory authorities and has done this through collating comment from all parties on new elements of legislation.

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The Association, through its regional branches, also aims to improve and update members' skills and knowledge on air quality matters, by hosting seminars and workshops on topics of interest. In addition, NACA hosts the Annual NACA conference where peer-reviewed scientific papers are presented, and companies have an opportunity to exhibit their products and services. The conference is held immediately after the Annual Air Quality Governance Lekgotla hosted by the National Department of Environmental Affairs to enable synergy between the two events.

NACA is a full member of IUAPPA, the International Union of Air Pollution Prevention and Environmental Protection Associations. These associations all share a common commitment to promoting the exchange of information and development of understanding on air pollution prevention and environmental protection. Last year, NACA had the privilege of hosting the IUAPPA Regional Conference in Nelspruit, and in 1998, hosted the World Clean Air Congress in Durban.

Finally, an emerging priority for NACA is to address the critical capacity needs in air quality management in South Africa. As responsibility for air quality management is delegated to local authorities and metro's, targeted and appropriate training is needed to ensure that officials in both government and industry are sufficiently informed and skilled to address the multiple challenges presented by the new Air Quality Act. Thus NACA is currently developing various courses in Air Quality Management which can be offered through any appropriate tertiary institution. Our approach is to capitalise on the broad skills base of NACA's professional members in the development of course contents, and to use practising professionals to present the material. Current courses are formally accredited through the University of Johannesburg. Participants are expected to submit assignments and write formal examinations, and successful participants can earn NQF credits. Courses and programmes developed to date include an Introduction to Air Quality Management, Atmospheric Dispersion modelling at both introductory and advanced levels, Air Quality Policy and Regulations, and Ambient Air Quality Monitoring.

Additional courses are planned to include emissions inventories, emissions licensing, and emissions testing. Courses are offered on demand so please contact Bev Terry ([bev@naca.org.za](mailto:bev@naca.org.za)) or Mieke van Tienhoven ([amvantienhoven@gmail.com](mailto:amvantienhoven@gmail.com)) for anticipated dates, or check the NACA website: [www.naca.org.za](http://www.naca.org.za) 