

POLLUTION KILLS: FACT SHEET

What is pollution? Air pollution is when harmful substances are introduced into the earth's atmosphere, affecting the air that we breathe.

- Air pollution is known to speed up the aging of lungs puts us at a higher risk of COPD (Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease) which is the third leading cause of death in the world.
- South Africa is the world's 14th largest emitter of greenhouse gases.
- There are three pollution hotspot areas: the Vaal Triangle Airshed Priority Area (VTAPA) which covers parts of Gauteng and the Free State; the Highveld Priority Area (HPA) which covers parts of Mpumalanga and Gauteng; and the Waterberg-Bojanala Priority Area (WBPA) which encompasses parts of Limpopo and the Northwest.



- Sasol's emissions annually are more than the entire country of Portugal.
- The Carbon Majors Report listed the top 100 global fossil fuel producers from 1988-2015. Total SA ranked at 19, and Sasol 45th
- Mpumalanga is the global number one hotspot for NO₂ emissions.
- On 24 July, two South African towns fell within the top 10 worst air qualities, globally. Thabazimbi, a town in Limpopo, had the second highest AQI (204). Fourth on the list was Ermelo in Mpumalanga, AQI (201). Air pollution in Mpumalanga is regularly higher than that in Beijing and Jakarta, two of the most polluted cities in the world, according to AirVisual.
- A UK based air quality expert found air pollution from Eskom coal-fired power stations kills 2239 South Africans annually (157 from lung cancer; 1 110 from ischaemic heart disease; 73 from chronic obstructive pulmonary disease; 719 from strokes; and 180 from lower respiratory infection. Other health consequences include asthma, bronchitis and restricted activity.
- ESKOM emits 205 million tons of carbon a year, if it were a country, it would place 29th in the world, ahead of Argentina.
- SASOL emits 67 million tons of carbon a year, if it were a country, it would be 50th in the world, ahead of Oman
- Over 80% of South Africa's saleable coal is produced by 5 dominant companies, these are: BHB Billiton's Energy Coal South Africa, Anglo American Thermal Coal, Xstrata Coal, Exxaro Resources and SASOL Mining.
- A considerable amount of pollution deaths in South Africa come from indoor pollution such as burning wood and coal in individual homes, something poor communities are forced to do due to the limited access to electricity, either structurally or financially.

South Africa's Oil Industry:

The **main players** in the South African oil industry include:

- BP Southern Africa (BP PLC ranked 11th largest polluter globally*)
- Chevron South Africa (Chevron Corp ranked 12th)
- Engen Petroleum
- PetroSA
- Sasol Oil (Sasol LTD ranked 45th)
- Shell South Africa (Royal Dutch Shell PLC ranked 9th)
- Total South Africa (Ranked 19th)

*globally in terms of cumulative global industrial greenhouse gas emissions from 1988 – 2015

There are **six oil refineries in South Africa**, of which four (Chevref, Enref, Natref and Sapref) refine crude oil, one (Sasol Secunda) processes and refines gas and coal, and one (PetroSA) processes and refines gas.



Figure : Map Showing Refineries in South Africa

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Images: SAIPA website (<http://www.sapia.org.za/overview/south-african-fuel-industry>)