

Joint Declaration
Megacities Partnership for the Santiago Metropolitan Region within the
framework of the United States - Chile Environmental Cooperation
Agreement

SANTIAGO – January 23-27, 2017

The United States Environmental Protection Agency and the Chilean Ministry of Environment are launching the Megacities Partnership for the Santiago Metropolitan Region, within the framework of the United States-Chile Environmental Cooperation Agreement. The Megacities Partnership is designed to enhance, adapt and share climate and air quality management tools, which will help improve air quality, protect the climate and provide important public health benefits.

In the Santiago Metropolitan Region, this partnership will evaluate current air quality management efforts and identify promising opportunities to advance additional air quality, public health and climate programs. One focus of the partnership will be to reduce emissions of black carbon, which has harmful impacts on areas of snow and ice. Because of Santiago's proximity to the Andes, reducing black carbon and other co-emitted pollutants can achieve significant benefits for both public health and environment.

The work under this partnership falls within the framework of the United States - Chile Environmental Cooperation Agreement, the objective of which is to promote the conservation and protection of the environment, the prevention of pollution and degradation of natural resources and ecosystems, and the rational use of natural resources, in support of sustainable development under the existing Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between Chile and the United States. The United States and Chile have coordinated over 80 projects with US \$5 million under the FTA's environment chapter to protect the environment and the conservation of natural resources under the Agreement since June 2003.