

# ACAP Arctic Council Action Plan to Eliminate Pollution of the Arctic

## Reduction of Atmospheric Mercury Releases from Arctic States

# Arctic Mercury Releases Inventory





**Arctic Council Action Plan to Eliminate Pollution of the Arctic (ACAP)**  
**Reduction of Atmospheric Mercury Releases from Arctic States**

**Arctic Mercury Releases Inventory**

**Prepared for the Arctic Council by:**

**Danish Environmental Protection Agency**

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Sweden, questionnaire response
The United States of America, questionnaire response
The United States of America, memo on methods for release estimation for questionnaire
Assessment of Mercury Releases from the Russian Federation (ACAP, 2004).
Largest point sources identified in the Assessment of Mercury Releases from the Russian Federation (ACAP, 2004).

## Preface

Over the past 10 years, the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP) have conducted assessments documenting the sources, levels, trends, and effects of a wide range of priority pollutants including mercury in the Arctic. The main conclusions of these assessments are that: *“In comparison with most other areas of the world, the Arctic remains a clean environment. However, for some pollutants, combinations of different factors give rise to concern in certain ecosystems and for some human populations. These circumstances sometimes occur on a local scale, but in some cases may be regional or circumpolar in extent.”*

Mercury is a heavy metal of special concern. It is toxic to human and other living organisms and bioaccumulates in the Arctic marine food chain to reach levels that are a cause for concern especially for that part of the population of Canada and Greenland whose traditional diets include fish and marine mammals.

In response to the AMAP findings, the Arctic Council decided in 2001 to implement a number of projects; among these a project on ‘Reduction of Atmospheric Mercury Emissions from Arctic States’ as part of the ‘Arctic Council Action Plan to Eliminate Pollution of the Arctic’ (ACAP). The project objective is to contribute to a reduction of mercury releases from the Arctic countries, partly through supporting development of mercury release inventories and release reduction strategies, and partly by initiating actions to demonstrate release reduction options at one, or a few, specific sources located in an Arctic

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