

13 IMMEDIATE MEASURES

THE GOVERNMENT MUST UNDERTAKE TO
ADDRESS AIR POLLUTION

1. IMMEDIATE, COMPLETE, AND CONTINUOUS PUBLICATION OF DATA ON AIR POLLUTION



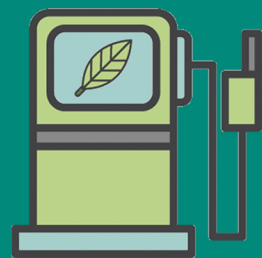
The Government of Kosovo, through the Environmental Protection Agency, claims they have more monitoring devices, more indicators they measure, and more data on the levels of air pollution, however, their publication leaves a lot to be desired! Transparency concerning our health is not an alternative! That is a legal and constitutional obligation and whoever has deprived us of that right needs to be held accountable. Air pollution levels need to be published in real time and not once a year somewhere in the corner of a non-promoted website.

2. NOT VOTING THE PROPOSAL PERMITTING THE IMPORT OF VEHICLES UP TO 15 YEARS OLD

Older cars emit much more pollutants. Instead of this destructive law, the following policy measures need to be taken into account: (1) The removal of excise and customs tax for new cars and those that fulfill higher standards like Euro 6; (2) The doubling of excise tax for older cars that are not Euro 6; (3) No VAT for electric and hybrid cars; (4) Technical control centers should be obliged to measure the levels of the emission of gases in every vehicle that goes under technical control; (5) Incremental taxes for road usage tax and environmental tax according to the weight of the vehicle, by type of engine, mileage crossed, and ensuring these financial means are treated as dedicated exclusively for traffic safety and environmental protection, and not as wages and salaries for Governmental officials.



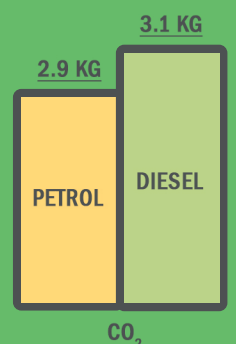
3. CONTROLLING AND INCREASING FUEL QUALITY



Kosovo Customs has no sophisticated laboratory to control the quality of fuel. The Customs only achieves to analyze some of the parameters of a fuel sample and of its derivatives. Not only that it is not controlled, but only the reading of documents is undertaken and the description of analysis is done, and this is achieved through inspecting bodies who have room to manipulate the analysis. The quality of fuel is essential to improve the air quality in the country.

4. IMPLEMENTING AN EXCISE TAX OF 20 EURO CENTS/LITER FOR DIESEL FUEL

The burning of one liter of petrol emits 2.9 kilograms of CO₂, while the same amount of diesel emits 3.1 kilograms of CO₂. Kosovo imports around 500 million liters of fuel annually, as a result, the burning of these fuels produces around 1.5 million tons of CO₂ annually. Therefore, the implementation of an excise tax of 20 euro cents/liter would make diesel fuel to become more expensive and lessen the demand given the environmental pollution aspect of using it.



5. REFORMING PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION IN KOSOVO



Discouragement of the use of cars must be conducted by offering them qualitative alternatives of transportation. This must include not only transportation within cities but also those that are between them. A large part of the congestion in the capital city is caused by cars coming from other cities. Urban transportation needs to be reformed and improved so as to ensure the arrival in Pristina in an organized public transportation while discouraging the usage of private cars.

6. EXTENDING ENVIRONMENTAL ZONES ACROSS ALL CITIES IN KOSOVO WHERE PASSING BY CAR IS PROHIBITED

Larger urban centers in Kosovo must have environmental zones in the city where the entrance by car is prohibited (a pilot project during the winter season when temperatures are lower and air pollution is more noted). Nevertheless, this measure needs to be longer-term because not only that the environment is protected but also the path would be opened for the use of bicycles and the improvement of public transportation, both of which are economically sustainable.



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7. DEDICATED ECOLOGICAL TAX CATEGORIZED ACCORDING TO ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT



The ecological tax is not treated as a dedicated tax. When we register our car, we pay in the name of environmental protection but that amount goes to the total budget of the state which is then disbursed to who knows how many deputy-ministers and salaries! This practice is practically robbing citizens and INDEP has alarmed on this issue through its analysis “Dedicated taxes in Kosovo, what we receive in return of payments made”. At the same time, we also have requested a categorization of the payment of this tax. How is it possible to pay the same amount for a car with 20,000 kilometers per year compared to one that has 8,000? The categorization of the tax must also include age, type of fuel used, engine, etc.

8. CONTINUOUS AND TRANSPARENT MONITORING OF POWER PLANT FILTERS

Citizens must be informed and made aware in real time on the level of emissions from the power plants, on the stance of industrial waste and the dangers of pollution during different periods throughout the year. Information on the level of emissions and on the work of the filters is essential in order to protect and rule out any suspicion that someone is turning off the filters to ensure more production.



9. HIGHER TAXES FOR INEFFICIENT DEVICES

The Government of Kosovo must undertake all the measures necessary that energy efficient devices be competitive with those that are not. This means that besides fiscal relief in payments for efficient devices, the contrary should be in place for those devices that are not efficient. In the Kosovar market, inefficient light bulbs must be eliminated! At the same time, a new elevated tax scheme concerning electrical devices and their energy use is necessary.

10. FUNCTIONALIZATION OF THE ENERGY EFFICIENCY FUND

This fund will promote efficiency measures and help citizens to invest in their houses. A large number of houses in Kosovo are equipped with inefficient devices where there is also a lack of proper thermal insulation. Even if the Government says that there is a lack of data to reach such conclusion, the fact of not having data from the Government’s side is an issue in itself that needs to be addressed immediately.



11. A FIVE-YEAR PROGRAM PROHIBITING THE USE OF COAL FOR HEATING

The prohibition of coal as a heating fuel in industrial, residential and public buildings, as well as the finding of other alternative solutions for heating, must be a medium-term priority of the Government of Kosovo. Only after the establishment and functionalization of the Energy Efficiency Fund, the Government must announce a five-year program banning every system of heating that uses coal in Kosovo. Combined measures of efficiency, central heating systems, the prohibition of illegal extraction of coal and programs creating green jobs need to be coordinated in a manner that makes this five-year policy makes sense.

12. NATIONAL TREE PLANTING PROGRAM

The Government of Kosovo, specifically the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning in cooperation with municipalities must announce a joint program to add more green areas, especially in urban areas. The selection of locations and types of trees must serve the purpose of the creation of corridors that clean the air.



13. ANNULLING THE CONTRACT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF “NEW KOSOVO” POWER PLANT AND INCREASING INVESTMENTS IN RENEWABLE ENERGY

The Government of Kosovo must show the political will to transform the energy system in step with Europe and not put coal forward as the basis for energy development in the future. The construction of another coal power plant ruins market competition, extinguishes hopes for environmental improvement, and undermines the European future of Kosovo.