

## **MEDIA ALERT**

### **UNEP RELEASES SHORT-LIVED CLIMATE FORCERS (SLCFs) REPORT**

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### **METHANE, BLACK CARBON, TROPOSPHERIC OZONE ARE GROWING THREATS; CLEAN AIR TASK FORCE ADVOCATES FOR SLCF MITIGATION STRATEGIES**

**WHAT:** On Tuesday, June 14 the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) will release the full text of its long-awaited report: "The Integrated Assessment of Black Carbon and Tropospheric Ozone," following the distribution in February of the report's Summary for Decision Makers. Key findings of the report include:

- The global climate is changing now, warming most rapidly in polar and high-altitude regions, where black carbon's role in darkening of snow and ice exacerbates already dangerous climate trends. (A related Arctic Council report released last month found that the Greenland ice sheet is particularly at risk, and dangerous trends in its degradation have led to much higher estimates of sea level rise by the year 2100).
- Black carbon (BC) can disturb tropical rainfall and regional circulation patterns such as the Asian monsoon, affecting millions of people on the subcontinent. Ozone can also reduce crop yields, and together these pollutants lead to many premature deaths worldwide.
- In the U.S. and Europe, older diesel engines are responsible for about 60% of black carbon emissions, and are the fastest-growing source of black carbon emissions in developing countries.
- Implementing aggressive emission reductions of black carbon, and contributors to tropospheric ozone, including methane, could cut projected climate warming by as much as 0.5 degrees Celsius, or about 0.9 degrees Fahrenheit, by 2070. Such cuts could be made with existing technology and through current political structures, and would have immediate and multiple benefits for human health and that of the planet.

**WHEN:** The report results will be released on **June 14 at 5:00 AM EDT** at a press conference during the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change meeting in Bonn, Germany. We expect the materials to be posted on the UNEP website at [www.unep.org](http://www.unep.org)

**WHY:** Unlike carbon dioxide and other long-lived greenhouse gas emissions, where cuts will require many decades before temperature reductions can be measured, mitigation strategies for reducing SLCFs can be implemented quickly, and positive results can be expected over a much shorter time frame, according to Clean Air Task Force climate scientist Ellen Baum. In the U.S., local, state and federal efforts are underway to reduce the black carbon component of diesel pollution, said Brooke Suter, National Diesel Clean-up Campaign Director. Federally, (S 972) *The Clean Construction Act of 2011* was introduced last month to incorporate Clean Construction principles in the federal Transportation Reauthorization bill. House

and Senate committee drafts of the Transportation bill are expected to be released as early as the week of June 13.

**WHO:** For comments from CATF experts, please contact:

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