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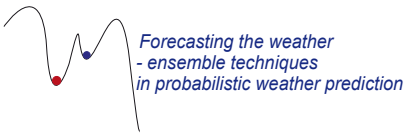

The Swedish network for Short Lived Climate Forcers

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In Sweden aerosol particles have been identified as a health issue in urban environments, especially close to heavily used roads. Also in less populated areas in Sweden where wood burning can be the major energy source for house heating, air quality can be significantly impaired during the winter season. These air pollutants in addition to ozone, methane and freones, have now been identified to also have a important climate effect, therefore the name Short Lived Climate Forcers (SLCF). Through long-range transport, Swedish emissions of aerosol particles, in particular soot, can contribute to the climate change in the Arctic, which is a particularly vulnerable part of the globe.

The Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute (SMHI) has recently received an assignment from the Swedish Ministry of Environment to coordinate Swedish actions to reduce Short Lived Climate Forcers (SLCF).

As a first step SMHI has initiated a Swedish SLCF network to provide a platform for discussion between Swedish ministries, governmental agencies, research society, industry, NGOs and media. One of the activities of this network is to arrange workshops and seminars where representatives from the involved organizations can meet. A new national website has also been initiated, where information concerning SLCF and coming events are gathered.

As a next step an updated and improved inventory of the Swedish emissions of black carbon (soot) will be performed coordinated by the Swedish Environmental protection agency. An inventory of the knowledge concerning SLCF is also planned, with possible futures research funding's aimed to target potential research gaps.
Reducing SLCF will have positive synergy effects both for the climate and health, where the health benefits will be most evident in the urban environments.