**What are VOCs?**

VOCs (volatile organic compounds) are a family of chemicals that can harm our health and the environment. They are closely linked to air pollution and climate change.

**How do VOCs cause smog?**

VOCs play a significant role in the formation of ozone and fine particulates in the atmosphere. The accumulation of ozone and particulates results in smog that reduces visibility. The growth in the Pearl River Delta, with its increased use of motor vehicles and industrial activities, has led to an increase in VOC emissions. This contributes to the production of ozone and particulates, which together form ground-level ozone, fine particulates, and nitrogen oxides (NOx).

**How does smog affect us?**

Smog can irritate our eyes, nose, and throat, and can worsen existing health conditions such as asthma. Prolonged exposure to severe smog conditions can cause permanent damage to lung tissues and affect our immune system. In addition, smog reduces visibility and has a negative impact on tourism.

**What has the Government done to reduce VOC emissions?**

To address the regional smog problem, the HKSAR Government is working closely with Guangdong Provincial Government to set targets to jointly reduce VOC emissions in the Pearl River Delta region. The HKSAR Government has:

1. **Increased the recovery of petrol vapour released during petrol unloading and refueling at local petrol stations:**

2. **Elevated emissions standards of motor vehicles:**
   - In line with the European Union regulations
   - Amended the “Air Pollution Control Ordinance (Volatile Organic Compounds) Regulation (VOC Regulation)” which will come into effect from April 2007, to impose severe control on VOCs in consumer products in retail stores, gasoline stations, and industrial processes.

3. **Reduced VOC emissions from road transport:**

4. **Strengthened regulations for VOC emissions in industrial processes:**

5. **Adopted the VOC Regulation in 2009 to extend the control to phases starting from January 2010:**

6. **Further amended the VOC Regulation in 2017 to cover more sectors:**

**How can I help reduce adding VOCs to the air?**

- Use unleaded petrol or diesel fuel instead of leaded petrol.
- Use fuel additives to reduce particulate emissions.
- Maintain your vehicle regularly to ensure emissions are reduced.
- Keep your windows closed while driving to reduce the amount of pollutants entering your vehicle.
- Reduce your speed and avoid accelerating suddenly.
- Use public transportation or carpooling instead of driving alone.
- Use energy-efficient appliances and equipment.

**For more information, please contact:**

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Note: The information provided is intended for general reference only and may not be comprehensive. For specific questions, please contact the relevant authorities.