



# Integrated management of industrial effluents in Montevideo - Uruguay

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# Introduction

Montevideo the smallest of the 19 political/administrative divisions of the Republic of Uruguay, is concentrated most of the country's industries, most of Uruguay's service activities, and almost half of the country's population.

The main contamination sources are basically:

- domestic sewage,
- industrial effluents and
- solid waste disposal.

# Objetives

- Optimize technical resources (public and private) and identify weaknesses and strengths.
- Reduce pollution loads contributed by Montevideo's industries.
- Work in an holistic manner, with the continuous participation of the community.

# Methodology

- The Industrial Effluent Monitoring Program is complementary to the Program of Water Bodies and Environment and Education, initiated in the year 1997.
- The companies responsible for 90% of the pollution of Industrial origin in Montevideo, are included in the Industrial Effluent Monitoring Program according to their actual or potential contribution to such pollution and are grouped into prioritization categories.

# Results

- The industrial restructuring, the implementation of quality systems and environmental management, the monitoring and control together with civic monitoring, have achieved important reductions.
- A growing interest and participation by citizens through complaints and the establishment and training of environmental commissions. This prompted improvements between the related industries and the community. The industries became more open in their relationship with the population, which involved more and better information.

# Conclusions

- The Industrial Effluent Monitoring Program is an innovative action and it has been very helpful as a tool for solving contamination problems in Montevideo.
- That marks an improvement in terms of industrial waste treatments and water quality, and could be used as a benchmark and a framework to resolve city problems in other areas and cities.
- Given that the modality of work is based on the coordination and efficient use of resources (a priority for countries with economic shortfalls such as ours), it permits the creation of a foundation for new policies and management strategies, and contributes to sustainability in departmental government management.