

Controversies: Sasol

- In February of 2020, the report [Toxics Release Inventory](#) ranked the Sasol complex of Lake Charles, Louisiana, number two among the US' 100 biggest air toxics polluters, making them one of the world's "super polluters". Officials at Sasol said the report was wrong and not based on proper analyses.
- In January of 2020, an [explosion and fire](#) occurred at Sasol's low-density polyethylene plant in Lake Charles, Louisiana. According to the company, all workers were safe and accounted for after the blast.
- In June 2019, environmental groups [sued the South African government](#) over its failure to crack down on Sasol refineries and Eskom power plants for causing severe air pollution in the region. Sasolburg, where Sasol operates an oil refinery, frequently has worse air quality than Beijing and Jakarta, two of the world's most polluted cities, according to AirVisual, an app that gives data on global air pollution levels.
- In February 2019, an official at Sasol Secunda accused the petrochemical giant of [intentionally polluting the Vaal River](#) in a submission made to the South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) during its inquiry into the contamination of the river. SAHRC initiated the enquiry following complaints from residents over a foul smell from the river. Whistleblowers from the company claimed that the facility was illegally discharging vanadium and potassium carbonate into the river.
- On 22 May 2017, Sasol's National Petroleum Refiners of SA Ltd (Natref) refinery in Sasolburg, South Africa reported [an explosion](#) that injured 11 workers.
- In January of 2017, Sasol said it would apply to [postpone a 2020 deadline for meeting stricter air pollution laws](#), claiming it would meet most of the new plant standards by 2025. The company said reducing sulfur dioxide (SO₂) and hydrogen sulfide (H₂S) to compliance levels could require postponements past 2025.
- On 8 October 2014, more than [20 people were injured](#) when a fire broke out at Sasol's Secunda plant in Mpumalanga, South Africa.
- Between 2011 and 2019, Sasol and its subsidiaries paid [over 8 million USD in penalties for four environmental violations](#), according to the violation tracker project of Good Jobs First.