

Comments to the author:

Please consider updating the sentence "As only air quality models can simulate the impacts of emission reductions considering the complexity of the atmosphere, they are potentially the only tools able to support the planning of reduction strategies" to reflect that a multitude of data sources (e.g. ambient observations) and tools are often used to plan reduction strategies.

We have changed the beginning of the sentence to "As only models can simulate the impacts...". This is to account for other type of models than air quality models, like receptor models. We however did not add observations explicitly because although they can be used to improve or calibrate the model baseline, observations cannot be used directly to simulate the impact of emission reductions.

Non-public comments to the Author:

Reviewer #2's most significant concern was the possible duplication of this work with a previous 2016 manuscript. After reviewing the 2016 paper, there seemed to be enough new content to avoid duplication.

Figure 6 may need some formatting as each panel is different in size.

We reformatted the figure

Notification to the authors:

1. For the next revision, please rename the Table 1 in section "6. Appendix" to "Table A1". See more: <https://www.geoscientific-model-development.net/submission.html#manuscriptcomposition> / 7. Appendices / 2. Your tables contain coloured cells or/and coloured values. Please note that this will not be possible in the final revised version of the paper due to HTML conversion of the paper. When revising the final version, you can use footnotes or italic/bold font. But if the colour spectrum is necessary and cannot be exchanged for footnotes, bold, or italic, then please inform us via email. 2. Please ensure that the colour schemes used in your maps and charts allow readers with colour vision deficiencies to correctly interpret your findings. Please check your figures using the Coblis – Color Blindness Simulator (<https://www.color-blindness.com/coblis-color-blindness-simulator/>) and revise the colour schemes accordingly.

Updates have been done in the document.