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THE STATE OF GLOBAL AIR QUALITY FUNDING 2026 METHODOLOGY

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1. INTRODUCTION

This document sets out the methodological approach that underpins the quantitative analysis in the *State of Global Air Quality Funding 2026* report. This methodology has been developed by the Clean Air Fund and Climate Policy Initiative and has been iteratively improved over several years.

The *State of Global Air Quality Funding* reports use clear and transparent data and analytical insights to provide a deeper understanding of the state of play on international development funders' action on air quality. The 2026 report unpacks air quality funding trends and developments focusing on 2020 to 2024, and examines financing patterns across funders, sectors, instruments and regions. These insights are presented alongside deep dives into black carbon production (called “black carbon funding” in this report), the abatement of tropospheric ozone precursors (called “tropospheric ozone funding”) and the fossil fuel-prolonging funding that works against the interests of air quality funding.

This methodology document captures the approach to capturing, cleaning and analysing quantitative data to track various funding flows:

- **Air quality funding** from 2020 to 2024, including (i) outdoor air quality funding and (ii) funding with outdoor air quality co-benefits. This funding is further broken down to provide insights on black carbon funding, funding addressing tropospheric ozone, and funding with both air quality and climate benefits.
- **Fossil fuel-prolonging funding** from 2020 to 2024, covering development finance for projects and activities that prolong the use of fossil fuels and therefore contribute to air pollution.

This methodology is to be considered an iterative document, subject to regular updates and improvements. The Clean Air Fund and Climate Policy Initiative (CPI) aim to continue to improve this methodology and incorporate feedback from relevant experts, including those within The *State of Global Air Quality Funding* Advisory Group. The 2026 report follows the methodological approach that was established in the 2023 iteration of The *State of Global Air Quality Funding* and improved and used in the 2024 and 2025 iterations. The 2026 report makes some improvements to the 2025 methodology, most notably updates to the keyword taxonomy, updated sectoral mapping and new exclusion criteria. On the approach to identifying renewable energy projects that count as air quality (AQ) funding, further details are provided in Section 2.

The *State of Global Air Quality Funding* analysis is built on a foundation of publicly available development finance data, and as such, reflects the transparency and reporting efforts of international donors. Additional feedback and suggestions on the methodology can be sent to info@cleanairfund.org.

2. CHANGES TO THE 2026 METHODOLOGY

The 2026 methodology introduces several updates to improve the accuracy, consistency, and analytical depth of the *State of Global Air Quality Funding*. A summary of these changes is provided below, with further detail in the relevant sections later in this document.

Enhanced manual checks: The manual checking process for both the AQ and fossil fuel-prolonging datasets has been strengthened, including new thresholds (e.g. checking 100% of projects flagged as false positives in 2025, and raising the total-value coverage threshold to 97% for AQ and 100% for fossil fuel prolonging) and a stronger alignment process between checkers. See Sections 4.4 and 4.5.

New keywords for air quality: Several new keywords have been added to the AQ keyword taxonomy, spanning sectors including Transport, Energy Generation + Industry, Residential Sector/Buildings, Waste, Agriculture, and Natural Sources. See Section 5.2.

Exclusion of roads from the fossil fuel-prolonging taxonomy: Road development and expansion projects, along with the related “support to fossil fuel-powered transport sector” sub-sector, have been removed from the fossil fuel-prolonging taxonomy to maintain a conservative definition of fossil fuel-prolonging finance. See Section 5.4.

New sector and sub-sector taxonomy: AQ sectors and sub-sectors will now be assigned using CPI’s *Global Landscape of Climate Finance* (GLCF) taxonomy and OECD sector codes, rather than being derived from keywords. This enables more granular and consistent sectoral analysis. See Section 6.

Additional geographic classifications: New alternative regional groupings have been added, including Sub – Saharan Africa, Middle East, and a Southeast Asia classification, to support more targeted regional analysis. These sit alongside, rather than replace, existing regional classifications. See Section 8.1.

Exclusion of flows to Western Europe: A new exclusion criterion has been introduced to remove flows to Western Europe from the dataset, to keep the analysis focused on recipient countries most in need of international development finance. See Section 8.2.

Tropospheric Ozone funding: Expanding the report’s coverage of super pollutants beyond black carbon, this year’s report includes a new funding category for tracking finance for the abatement of tropospheric ozone precursors. See Section 3.1.

3. SCOPE OF THE ANALYSIS

3.1 DEFINITIONS

The *State of Global Air Quality Funding 2026* report analyses funding for projects that tackle ambient (outdoor) air pollution between 2020 and 2024. It also compares these flows with funding for projects that may work against the clean air agenda by prolonging the use of polluting fossil fuels. The report also analyses the overlap between air quality funding and climate finance, and finance that addresses black carbon.

Table 3.1 includes the definitions of the principal analytical categories used in the report. Table 3.2 outlines additional funding flows that will also be discussed in this report. This includes further sub-sets of total air quality funding which cut across outdoor air quality funding and funding with air quality co-benefits.

TABLE 3.1 DEFINITIONS OF FUNDING CATEGORIES ANALYSED

Funding flow		Definition	Examples
Overall air quality funding	Outdoor air quality funding	Finance committed to projects where improvements to outdoor/ambient air quality are an explicit benefit and objective (mentioned in the project name or description).	Air pollution prevention programmes, such as a multi-strand project to address air quality in a specific city through improving monitoring, funding interventions and raising awareness. Funding for technical assistance to help a country develop an outdoor air pollution strategy.
	Funding with air quality co-benefits	Finance committed to projects where improvements to outdoor/ambient air quality are a co-benefit to the investment but are not explicitly mentioned in the project name or description. This also includes indoor air quality projects, which improve outdoor air quality indirectly.	Electric vehicle incentive programmes for commercial fleets. Funding to promote alternative uses for crop residues to prevent agroresidue burning.
Fossil fuel prolonging funding		Finance committed to projects or interventions (a) involving the construction of assets and infrastructure that directly cause air pollution; or (b) leading to the creation of, or promoting, air polluting activities.	Development or expansion of a coal power plant. Funding for airport expansion.

TABLE 3.2 DEFINITIONS OF OTHER CROSS CUTTING FUNDING CATEGORIES ANALYSED

Funding Flow		Definition	Project Example
Air quality and climate funding		Finance committed to projects that meet our air quality criteria (i.e. have relevant air quality keywords in the project name or description) <i>and</i> have also been tagged as climate finance by the reporting institution. This covers both (a) outdoor air quality funding that addresses climate change and (b) funding with air quality co-benefits that addresses climate change. This funding category represents a subset of total air quality funding flows that simultaneously address climate change.	Bus rapid transit projects to reduce urban air pollution and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Energy decarbonisation programmes that look to phase down coal use through replacement with renewable energy sources.
Total international development funding		The total of international development finance reported within published datasets prior to <i>the State of Global Air Quality Funding</i> keyword taxonomies being applied.	N/A
Black carbon funding	Primary black carbon funding	Finance committed to projects where black carbon emissions reduction is a primary objective of the project (with black carbon and associated keywords mentioned explicitly in the project name or description). This also includes funding for black carbon monitoring and modelling projects. The majority of primary black carbon funding sits under the outdoor air quality funding category.	Black carbon monitoring training. Soot reduction program.
	Secondary black carbon funding	Finance committed to projects that are making improvements to black carbon-rich sources. These projects mention either black carbon-rich sources (such as brick kilns or diesel vehicles) or pollutants that are co-emitted with black carbon (such as carbon monoxide) in the project name or description. Projects that set out to tackle short-lived climate pollutants are also included in this sub-category.	Technical assistance to support waste management strategies that reduce open burning. Funding for developing and implementing new emissions standards for petrol and diesel vehicles.

Funding Flow		Definition	Project Example
Tropospheric ozone funding ⁱ excluding methane ⁱⁱ	Primary tropospheric ozone funding	Finance committed to projects where reducing tropospheric (ground-level) ozone, or its formation, is an explicit benefit or objective, as mentioned in the project name or description.	Programmes explicitly targeting the reduction of ground-level ozone or smog, including through measures to reduce ozone formation.
	Secondary tropospheric ozone funding	Finance committed to projects that address emissions, concentrations or management of pollutants that contribute to the formation of tropospheric (ground-level) ozone, including nitrogen oxides (NOx), volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and carbon monoxide (CO), without tropospheric ozone itself being explicitly mentioned in the project name or description.	Programmes to reduce emissions of nitrogen oxides (NOx) or volatile organic compounds (VOCs) from transport, industry or other sources.

3.2 SOURCES OF FUNDING

The analysis in the report covers funding from international development funders. These include multilateral development banks, bilateral development agencies, and governments providing development financing, that has a direct or indirect effect on air quality. This can include, but is not limited to, concessional and non-concessional loans and grants.

Specifically, international development finance includes:

- (i) Official development assistance (ODA);
- (ii) Other official flows (official sector transactions that do not meeting ODA criteriaⁱⁱⁱ); and
- (iii) Flows from other public development funders that are not members of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's Development and Assistance Committee (OECD-DAC) (e.g., the Islamic Development Bank).

A share of the finance provided by these funders is directed to climate mitigation and adaptation projects contributing to the goals of the Paris Agreement; we refer to this share of international development funding as international public climate finance.

ⁱ Tropospheric ozone is not emitted directly but is formed in the atmosphere through sunlight-driven chemical reactions involving precursor pollutants, including nitrogen oxides (NOx), volatile organic compounds (VOCs), carbon monoxide (CO) and methane. Tropospheric ozone concentrations are therefore reduced indirectly by controlling emissions of its precursors. Consequently, precursor abatement is commonly used as a proxy for ozone abatement, although the relationship is nonlinear and depends on local atmospheric chemistry and meteorological conditions. The State of Global Air Quality Funding report analyses focuses on pollutant-specific keywords and does not include sector- or solution-based keywords. As ozone precursors are emitted across a wide range of sectors, including transport, energy, industry, agriculture and waste, applying sector-based keywords would substantially broaden the scope of the analysis and risk capturing projects without a sufficiently explicit link to ozone precursor abatement, as well as increasing the potential for double counting.

ⁱⁱ While an important precursor of tropospheric ozone, methane is excluded from this analysis. Methane finance is substantial and spans a wide range of sectors and interventions; its inclusion could therefore materially influence the results and obscure trends in finance more explicitly targeting other ozone precursors.

ⁱⁱⁱ OECD. **Other Official Flows (OOF)**.

The analysis in the report does not currently include funding coming from local governments' domestic resources (e.g., from national budgets) or private sector financing. This is due to data limitations and in no way should suggest that these sources play a small role in funding air quality projects; rather, we recognise the important contribution they make to the overall air quality funding landscape.

Funding from philanthropies is analysed in a separate Clean Air Fund publication.

3.3 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The analysis in the report captures funding made through the following financial instruments:

- **Grants:** Transfers made in cash, goods or services for which no repayment is required.
- **Loans:** Debt relying on a project's cash flow for repayment.
 - *Low-cost loans* refers to loans extended at terms preferable to those prevailing on the market. We count the full amount of the loan, not the grant equivalent. This type of financing (along with grant financing) is also referred to in the report as concessional loans or concessional debt.
 - *Market-rate loans* refers to loans extended at regular market conditions.
- **Equity:** Equity investment relying on the project's cash flow for repayment.

We acknowledge the importance of risk management instruments like guarantees and insurance in enabling increased private climate flows, in particular to areas and sectors with low risk appetites for private investment. However, following the principle of conservatism, we exclude these instruments from the total air quality finance figures because actual disbursements from these instruments are contingent upon uncertain future events. Guarantees are only exercised in particular circumstances, and there is a chance of there never being any financial outflow from the guarantor.

4. BUILDING THE DATABASE

4.1 METHODOLOGICAL STEPS

The following methodological steps were followed to build the air quality funding and fossil fuel prolonging funding databases.

Step 1: Data collection

Data on international development funding for 2020-2024 is collected from data sources detailed in Section 4.2.

Step 2: Data processing

The keyword search is applied, checking the data from Step 1 to see whether specific keywords appear on project names and descriptions, using the lists of keywords included in Section 5.

Step 3: Data standardisation and cleaning

The results of the keyword search are manually checked to remove false positives.

STEP 1: DATA COLLECTION

Data on international development funding for 2020-2024 was initially collected from relevant data sources (see Section 4.2).

STEP 2: DATA PROCESSING (IDENTIFYING RELEVANT DATA)

As the data collected in Step 1 spans all development areas (e.g. health, education, humanitarian assistance), the next step was to identify the air quality and fossil fuel-prolonging projects within this broader database. This was carried out by applying a keyword search on project names and descriptions implemented in Python 3.12.3, using the lists of keywords developed for air quality, and fossil fuel-prolonging projects—included in Tables 5.1 - 5.5. These projects were categorised according to the criteria in Table 3.1.

Projects that claim to have air quality benefits but have weak impact evidence were not targeted by the keyword search. This includes, for example, new buses that use **compressed natural gas**, for which some evidence suggests that despite the claim of being a clean solution, the technology emits high levels of toxic pollutants. These were excluded in cases where better alternatives (e.g. electric vehicles) are available.

Additional processing and checks were done using project names, descriptions, and project IDs to ensure there was no double counting between projects extracted from data sources.

STEP 3: DATA STANDARDISATION AND CLEANING

Once all relevant projects were extracted, the data was standardised and cleaned as follows:

- All projects were further categorised based on economic sectors (e.g., transport, energy systems, waste management) which were further broken down by solutions (e.g., electric and hybrid road vehicles or power & heat generation and fuel production).
- Applying CPI's categorisation used in the *GLCF* (**CPI, 2025**). database, international development funders were categorised as bilateral development finance institutions, multilateral development finance institutions, national development finance institutions, governments and government agencies, export credit agencies, multilateral climate funds, and public funds (see Section 3.2).
- Funding instruments were categorised by instrument, such as grants, loans, and equity (see Section 3.3) using a combination of information provided by reporting institutions and CPI's *GLCF* reference table.
- Air quality projects with climate finance co-benefits were tagged based on their climate use (mitigation, adaptation, or multiple objectives), cross-checking against CPI's *GLCF* database.
- Projects that address black carbon as a primary or secondary objective were tagged based on any black carbon keywords found in project names and descriptions (see Tables 5.1 – 5.3).
- Projects that address tropospheric ozone were tagged based on any ozone keywords found in project names and descriptions (see Table 5.2).
- Countries of origin of multilateral development banks were split according to the share of subscribed capital (or ownership) by the country stakeholders. For example, if Country A has a subscribed capital representing 2% of the multilateral development bank's total shares, then 2% of the total project's value is assigned to Country A as the country of origin.
- Amounts reported in currencies other than USD, we converted using a consistent exchange rate (World Bank or European Central Bank annual average rate).
- Data that was shared with CPI under data licensing or confidentiality agreement were anonymised.

A subset of these data entries was then manually checked to ensure that they met project criteria set out in the methodology. The subset of projects that were manually checked included the projects with the largest funding values and projects selected by keywords pre-determined to have a high probability of generating false positives. Tables 5.1 – 5.3 set out the keywords that have been flagged for their false positive risk. High risk of generating a false positive can stem from a number of reasons, including words having multiple meanings

(e.g., ‘train’ can refer to both funding for rail transport and funding for training projects) or projects only being eligible in a specific context (i.e., projects identified through the ‘cleaner vehicles’ keyword being excluded if they are exclusively funding increased take-up of biofuels). Projects that did not meet the methodology’s criteria were then removed from the dataset.

4.2 DATA SOURCES

The analysis is based on project-level data drawn from a range of primary and secondary sources. The main data source for both air quality and fossil fuel prolonging data is the OECD Creditor Reporting System.

As not all international development funders are members of and report to the OECD (e.g., the Islamic Development Bank), we integrate data from the OECD Creditor Reporting System with other relevant sources used in CPI’s *GLCF* database, namely, CPI’s proprietary survey data as well as publicly available data reported by development finance institutions.

TABLE 4.1 DATA SOURCES

Database	Data sources
Air quality funding	Development funding flows • OECD Creditor Reporting System for 2015–2024^{iv} • OECD Climate-Related Development Finance for 2015–2024^v International public climate finance flows • CPI’s proprietary survey data for 2015–2024 (anonymised) • Climate Funds Update database maintained by ODI • Publicly available data reported by development finance institutions
Fossil fuel prolonging	Development funding flows • OECD Creditor Reporting System for 2015–2024

4.3 PRINCIPLES APPLIED IN DATA COLLECTION AND REPORTING

TRACK PRIMARY INVESTMENT

The analysis captures total primary financial transactions and investment costs and components of activities that directly contribute to air quality and prolong the use of fossil fuels. Secondary market transactions (e.g., reselling of stakes or public trading in financial markets) are not tracked, as they do not represent new investment targeting new assets, but rather capital being exchanged for existing assets.

^{iv} While the majority of *The State of Global Air Quality Funding 2026* report analysis was conducted on data covering 2020–2024, data for 2015–2019 was also collected for the purpose of comparison with previous years’ reports.

^v This data source (the OECD Climate-Related Development Finance database) has been implicitly included in previous years of *State of Global Air Quality Funding* reports as it is a key component of CPI’s proprietary climate finance database. This year, keyword searches have been run directly on this database to maximise the number of relevant projects captured.

INCLUDE TANGIBLE FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS

In the analysis, “funding” generally refers to financial commitments – as opposed to disbursements – represented by a firm obligation by means of a board’s decision on investment programmes, the closure of financing contracts, or similar actions. Such commitments are backed by the necessary funds to provide the specified financing to a project.

Commitments record the amount of an expected transfer at the time when the corresponding contract was closed, irrespective of the time required to complete the disbursement. This approach can yield results that differ from those of approaches that consider investment based on disbursements. For example, under the approach adopted in this analysis, a project which reaches financial close in 2017 but becomes operational in 2018 will be recorded as a 2017 investment, regardless of when construction starts and ends. By contrast, an approach that records investment when an asset becomes operational would treat the same investment as having occurred in 2018.

Disbursement information would provide a more accurate picture of the actual volume of financial resources devoted to air quality projects in a given year. However, consistent data on disbursements are not universally made available by all donors that report to OECD-DAC. Data gaps in disbursements are particularly high among multilateral development finance institutions. As such, to avoid information bias due to partial data, the analysis continues to use commitments data (at least until data quality on disbursements improve). Furthermore, commitment data provides a better view of the trends of funding decisions and priorities by donors, who are the main target audience for the report.

ERR ON THE CONSERVATIVE SIDE

In case of insufficient details, a conservative approach is taken, and under-reporting of funding flows is preferred to over-reporting. Based on this principle, the analysis excludes risk-mitigation instruments, such as guarantees and insurance products, since actual disbursements from these instruments are contingent upon uncertain future events.

AVOID DOUBLE COUNTING

The analysis tracks only investments in new projects. Investments in private research and development which might be relevant for air quality are excluded, since the costs to develop new technologies are capitalised and factored into the investment amounts of new projects implementing these technologies. Including R&D investments would, therefore, increase the risk of double counting.

Similarly, policy-induced revenue-support mechanisms and other public subsidies whose primary function is to pay back investment costs are not tracked. Revenue-support mechanisms, such as feed-in tariffs, pay back investment costs, so including the investments made for their implementation would constitute double counting.

4.4 ENHANCED MANUAL CHECKS: AIR QUALITY DATA

A process of enhanced manual checks was undertaken for *State of Global Air Quality Funding 2026*. A keyword search methodology inevitably generates false positives and the miscategorization of projects, making the manual checks process a crucial step in mitigating the risks of including false positives within the final dataset. A rigorous manual check process has always been deployed by CPI's researchers: at least 95%* of total values in the AQ dataset were manually checked in 2025.

This cycle, an improved workflow has been deployed to enhance this process, aiming to:

- Increase the number of projects checked;
- Improve categorization consistency; and
- Build further confidence in the *State of Global Air Quality Funding* dataset.

TABLE 4.2 MANUAL CHECKS PROCESS 2026

Step	Detail	Impact
0. Internal processes	Procedures, FAQs, file management, designated responsibilities and communication channels are implemented to deliver efficiency and consistency between manual checkers.	Ensures consistency and rigor of manual check decisions.
1. Setting and applying thresholds	The team will manually check keyword results according to the below thresholds: 100% of keyword results designated as a risk of false positive in the keyword taxonomy are manual checked. AND New for 2026: 100% of keyword results which generated false positives in last years' manual check even if they were not marked as at risk within the keyword taxonomy (see step 4.) AND The top 100 largest projects by value of total project count (these accounted for over 95% of total value in 2025) AND New for 2026: At least 97% of total value (an increase from 95% in 2025) if threshold not already covered by the other preceding steps.	Ensures high value projects do not lead to a small number of projects being checked.
2. Alignment round	Before beginning manual checks the team will perform a preliminary alignment round to harmonise decisions where edge-cases or differing perceptions exist. The team will then agree on a consensus approach for such projects, ensuring a consistent decision framework is applied across the team. E.g. Select 20-30 random projects from the list and cross-check them as a team to compare interpretations. This can identify: • What counts as a false positive/negative • What's an ambiguous case • Whether keywords are performing as expected Results can inform further threshold and risk of false positive revision, requiring iteration and optimisation between step 1 and step 2.	Further improves consistency between decisions and rigor of final data.
Manual checks undertaken		
4. Post Hoc Iteration	CPI's data science team share final keyword stats for next-round improvements. For 2026, we will revisit 2025 false positive results.	Continuous improvement on keywords and threshold setting.

4.5 ENHANCED MANUAL CHECKS: FOSSIL FUEL PROLONGING

For 2026, CPI will manually check 100% of all projects within the fossil-fuel prolonging dataset, reflecting the high concentration of keywords at risk of generating false positives and a smaller number of overall projects compared to the AQ dataset.

5. KEYWORDS

5.1 KEYWORDS FOR AIR QUALITY PROJECTS

Keywords to extract air quality projects from the database were developed by Clean Air Fund and CPI, building on the Clean Air Fund’s Methodology “Rule Book” for *The State of Global Air Quality Funding 2023*. As in 2023 – 2025, the keywords were separated into three groups to capture respectively:

- (i) Explicit air quality improvements
- (ii) Pollutants and their effects
- (iii) Air quality sector solutions

To make sure all relevant projects are captured, the lists of keywords include both US and UK English spelling. In addition, wherever project descriptions were in a language different than English, these were translated before running the keywords search. The keyword search was applied to a combination of project descriptions and project titles. For the purposes of the search, both the project strings and the keywords to be searched for were converted to lower case and singularised programmatically to most efficiently and accurately perform the search. This removes the need to create multiple versions of words to search for in their singular and plural form.

The three lists of keywords – in Tables 5.1, 5.2, and 5.3, respectively – indicate whether the project captured would be categorised as outdoor air quality funding or as funding with air quality co-benefits, and flag whether projects captured should be double checked for false positives. If multiple keywords are found and a project qualifies as both outdoor air quality funding and funding with air quality co-benefits, the project is categorised as outdoor air quality funding.

EXPLICIT AIR QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS

This group of keywords extracts projects where the **explicit intent** of the project is to address and improve outdoor/ambient air quality. This list (included in Table 5.1) was developed via coordination between Clean Air Fund and CPI, building on Clean Air Fund’s Methodology that was used in previous *State of Global Air Quality Funding* reports.

All explicit air quality improvements projects are categorised as outdoor air quality funding, with the sole exception where any of these keywords are found with a clear mention of indoor air pollution, in which case projects are classified as funding with air quality co-benefits.

TABLE 5.1 LIST OF KEYWORDS FOR EXPLICIT AIR QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS

Keywords	Air quality funding type	Risk of false positive	Primary black carbon funding	Secondary black carbon funding	Secondary Ozone
air + management	Outdoor air quality	Yes			
air + measurement	Outdoor air quality	Yes			
air + measure	Outdoor air quality	Yes			
air + modelling	Outdoor air quality				
air + modelling	Outdoor air quality				
air + monitor	Outdoor air quality	Yes			
air + monitoring	Outdoor air quality				
air + pollutant	Outdoor air quality				
air + pollution	Outdoor air quality				
air + sensor	Outdoor air quality	Yes			
air + action	Outdoor air quality	Yes			
air + policy	Outdoor air quality	Yes			
air + reduce	Outdoor air quality	Yes			
air + mitigate	Outdoor air quality	Yes			
air + co-benefit	Outdoor air quality	Yes			
exhaust + measurement	Outdoor air quality	Yes			
air + emissions	Outdoor air quality	Yes			
air + quality	Outdoor air quality				
clean air	Outdoor air quality				
healthy air	Outdoor air quality	Yes			
health + air	Outdoor air quality	Yes			
exposure + air	Outdoor air quality				
Acid Deposition Monitoring Network	Outdoor air quality				
Atmospheric chemistry	Outdoor air quality				x
Climate and clean air coalition	Outdoor air quality			x	
CCAC	Outdoor air quality			x	
Aethalometer	Outdoor air quality		x		

Note: ‘+’ separated words appear in any order in the descriptive data; words separated by a space appear in this precise order in the descriptive data.

POLLUTANTS AND THEIR EFFECTS

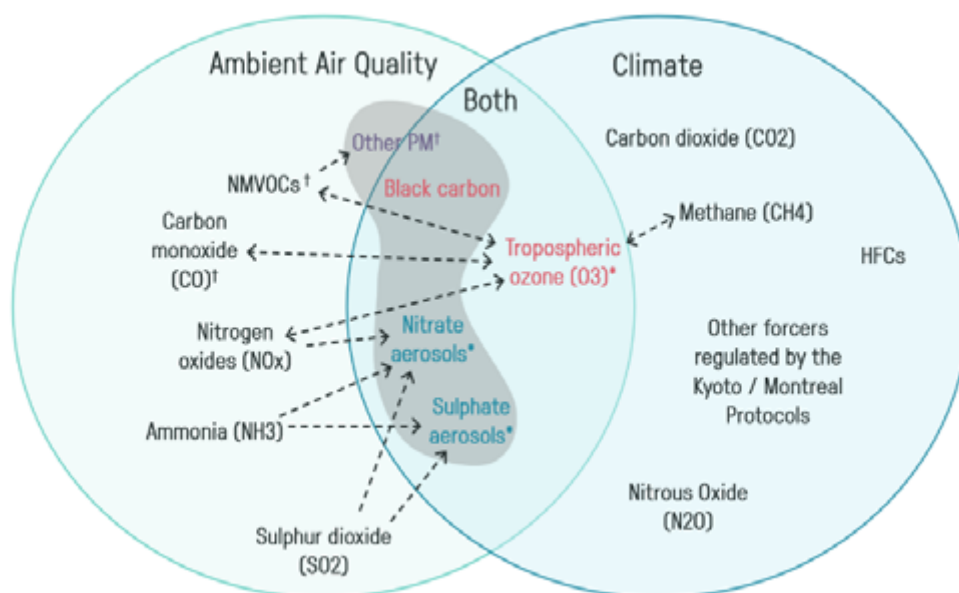
This group of keywords extracts projects mentioning outdoor/ambient air quality-related pollutants and their effects (e.g., acid rain).

To make sure this list of keywords (in Table 5.2) captured a comprehensive and widely accepted list of air quality-related pollutants, the following frameworks and guidelines were consulted:

- UNECE **Guidelines for Reporting Emissions and Projections Data under the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution**;
- WHO's **list of pollutants**;
- Air pollutants **tracked by EU member states** (NECDs);
- EMEP/EEA **Air Pollutant Emission Inventory Guidebook**;
- CCAC's **A Practical Guide For Business: Air Pollutant Emission Assessment**.

Pollutants (and related keywords) are categorised based on whether they have a direct effect on outdoor/ambient air quality (*outdoor air quality funding*) or they have mainly an impact on climate change (*funding with air quality co-benefits*). This categorisation was based on the Venn diagram in Figure 5.1, which shows the overlap and interlinkages between pollutants that impact air quality and climate change.

FIGURE 5.1 OVERLAP AND INTERLINKAGES BETWEEN POLLUTANTS THAT IMPACT AIR QUALITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE



Note: Pollutants shown in red have a positive climate forcing effect (warming), while those in blue have a negative climate forcing effect (cooling); those shown in purple can be either warming or cooling.

‘*’ denotes pollutants that are secondary species – these are not emitted but formed as a result of multiple atmospheric mechanisms.

‘†’ denotes pollutants that can be directly emitted (primary) AND are also formed as secondary pollutants. Dashed arrows show atmospheric mechanism that links primary species to secondary species. Pollutants included in grey are components of PM_{2.5} are aerosols.

In Table 5.2, pollutants that primarily have an impact on climate change (such as methane and short-lived climate pollutants) are categorised as funding with outdoor air quality co-benefits unless they are found in combination with words such as “air” and “health”, which thus suggests that tackling air pollution is a primary objective of the project.

In addition, pollutants mainly contributing to indoor air pollution (such as formaldehyde or carbon monoxide) are always categorised as funding with outdoor air quality co-benefits as per our definitions in Table 3.1.

TABLE 5.2 LIST OF PROPOSED KEYWORDS FOR POLLUTANTS AND THEIR EFFECTS

Keywords	Air quality funding type	Risk of false positive	Primary black carbon funding	Secondary black carbon funding	Primary Ozone	Secondary Ozone
sulphur dioxide	Outdoor air quality					
sulfur dioxide	Outdoor air quality					
Sox	Outdoor air quality	Yes				
SO2 + emissions	Outdoor air quality	Yes				
SO2 + reduce	Outdoor air quality	Yes				
SO2 + remove	Outdoor air quality	Yes				
so2 + abatement	Outdoor air quality	Yes				
sulphur oxides	Outdoor air quality	Yes				
sulfur oxides	Outdoor air quality					
nitrogen oxides	Outdoor air quality	Yes				x
nitrogen dioxide	Outdoor air quality	Yes				x
NOx	Outdoor air quality	Yes				x
NO2	Outdoor air quality	Yes				x
Ammonia + emission	Outdoor air quality	Yes				
Ammonia + air	Outdoor air quality	Yes				
NH3	Outdoor air quality	Yes				
Non-methane volatile organic compounds	Outdoor air quality	Yes				x
Non methane volatile organic compounds	Outdoor air quality	Yes				x

Keywords	Air quality funding type	Risk of false positive	Primary black carbon funding	Secondary black carbon funding	Primary Ozone	Secondary Ozone
NMVOC	Outdoor air quality	Yes				x
particulate matter	Outdoor air quality					
particulate emissions	Outdoor air quality					
PM1	Outdoor air quality			x		
PM 1	Outdoor air quality			x		
PM2.5	Outdoor air quality					
PM 2.5	Outdoor air quality					
PM7	Outdoor air quality					
PM 7	Outdoor air quality					
PM10	Outdoor air quality					
PM 10	Outdoor air quality					
ultrafine particles	Outdoor air quality			x		
UFP	Outdoor air quality	Yes		x		
total suspended particulate matter	Outdoor air quality					
black carbon	Outdoor air quality		x			
BC	Outdoor air quality	Yes	x			
Soot	Outdoor air quality	Yes	x			
elemental carbon + air	Outdoor air quality		x			
organic carbon + air	Outdoor air quality	Yes		x		
carbon monoxide***	Outdoor air quality co-benefits			x		x
carbon monoxide + ambient	Outdoor air quality			x		x
CO + ambient	Outdoor air quality			x		x

Keywords	Air quality funding type	Risk of false positive	Primary black carbon funding	Secondary black carbon funding	Primary Ozone	Secondary Ozone
carbon monoxide + outdoor	Outdoor air quality			x		x
ground-level ozone	Outdoor air quality				x	
ground level ozone	Outdoor air quality	Yes			x	
ground-level O3	Outdoor air quality	Yes			x	
ground level O3	Outdoor air quality	Yes			x	
tropospheric ozone	Outdoor air quality	Yes			x	
tropospheric O3	Outdoor air quality	Yes			x	
Ozone + precursor	Outdoor air quality	Yes			x	
methane + health*	Outdoor air quality	Yes				
CH4 + health*	Outdoor air quality	Yes				
Methane**	Outdoor air quality co-benefits	Yes				
CH4**	Outdoor air quality co-benefits	Yes				
short-lived climate pollutants**	Outdoor air quality co-benefits			x		
short lived climate pollutants**	Outdoor air quality co-benefits			x		
SLCP**	Outdoor air quality co-benefits	Yes		x		
super pollutants**	Outdoor air quality co-benefits			x		
short-lived climate pollutants + health*	Outdoor air quality			x		
short lived climate pollutants + health*	Outdoor air quality			x		
SLCP + health*	Outdoor air quality			x		
super pollutants + health*	Outdoor air quality			x		

Keywords	Air quality funding type	Risk of false positive	Primary black carbon funding	Secondary black carbon funding	Primary Ozone	Secondary Ozone
heavy metals + air	Outdoor air quality	Yes				
formaldehyde + air***	Outdoor air quality co-benefits	Yes				
lead + air	Outdoor air quality	Yes				
mercury + air	Outdoor air quality	Yes				
cadmium + air	Outdoor air quality	Yes				
persistent organic pollutants + air	Outdoor air quality	Yes				
POPs + air	Outdoor air quality	Yes				
radon + air	Outdoor air quality	Yes				
arsenic + air	Outdoor air quality	Yes				
chromium + air	Outdoor air quality	Yes				
copper + air	Outdoor air quality	Yes				
nickel + air	Outdoor air quality	Yes				
selenium + air	Outdoor air quality	Yes				
zinc + air	Outdoor air quality	Yes				
construction dust	Outdoor air quality					
Smog	Outdoor air quality			x	x	
Smoke	Outdoor air quality	Yes		x		
acid rain	Outdoor air quality					
volatile organic compounds	Outdoor air quality	Yes			x	x
VOC	Outdoor air quality	Yes			x	x
sulphur trioxide	Outdoor air quality co-benefits	Yes				
sulfur trioxide	Outdoor air quality co-benefits	Yes				

Keywords	Air quality funding type	Risk of false positive	Primary black carbon funding	Secondary black carbon funding	Primary Ozone	Secondary Ozone
SO3	Outdoor air quality co-benefits	Yes				
sulphuric acid	Outdoor air quality co-benefits	Yes				
sulfuric acid	Outdoor air quality co-benefits	Yes				
H2SO4	Outdoor air quality co-benefits	Yes				
hydrogen sulphide	Outdoor air quality co-benefits	Yes				
hydrogen sulfide	Outdoor air quality co-benefits	Yes				
Mercaptans	Outdoor air quality co-benefits	Yes				
dimethyl sulphides	Outdoor air quality co-benefits	Yes				

Note: ‘+’ separated words appear in any order in the descriptive data; words separated by a space appear in this precise order in the descriptive data.

* Health indicates primary air pollution focus.

** Categorised as funding with outdoor air quality co-benefits because predominantly climate motivated.

*** Categorised as funding with outdoor air quality co-benefits because predominantly related to indoor air quality.

5.2 KEYWORD EXPANSION AND TAXONOMY UPDATES

The *State of Global Air Quality Funding* 2026 methodology continues to expand the keyword taxonomy used to identify air quality funding and funding with air quality co-benefits. This update reflects the continued development of the database and aims to improve the coverage of relevant projects that may not be captured in existing keyword lists.

The Clean Air Fund and CPI continue to engage closely with MDBs to ensure the report's keyword taxonomy accurately reflects the terminology reporting institutions deploy when reporting into the public data sources the *State of Global Air Quality Funding* draws its project information from. In particular, we are grateful for the Asian Development Bank for sharing their own keyword taxonomy for identifying clean air projects across their own portfolio. Those keywords which were both absent and relevant to the scope of the *State of Global Air Quality Funding* have subsequently been included within the updated *State of Global Air Quality Funding* keyword taxonomy for 2026. Both the Clean Air Fund and CPI continue to leverage internal expertise to continue improving the keyword taxonomy, with CPI's *Landscape of Super Pollutant Abatement Finance* (2026, forthcoming) a further source of additional keywords. All additions were approved by the Clean Air Fund before their final inclusion. Table 5.3 below contains the keywords identified for expansion.

TABLE 5.3: NEW KEYWORDS 2026

Keyword	AQ funding type	Risk of false positive	Primary BC funding	Secondary BC funding
metro	Outdoor air quality co-benefits	X		
fossil + reduce	Outdoor air quality co-benefits			
rapid transit system	Outdoor air quality co-benefits			
urban transport system	Outdoor air quality co-benefits			
mass transit system	Outdoor air quality co-benefits			
transport + maintenance + emission	Outdoor air quality co-benefits			X
multi-modal transport	Outdoor air quality co-benefits			
indoor air quality	Outdoor air quality co-benefits			
source apportionment	Outdoor air quality co-benefits	X		
low-cost sensor	Outdoor air quality co-benefits	X		
Pollutant + effect	Outdoor			
transport + efficiency + standards	Outdoor air quality co-benefits			X

Keyword	AQ funding type	Risk of false positive	Primary BC funding	Secondary BC funding
pv + decarbonisation	Outdoor air quality co-benefits			
pv + decarbonise	Outdoor air quality co-benefits			
pv + replace	Outdoor air quality co-benefits			
pv + decarbonization	Outdoor air quality co-benefits			
pv + decarbonize	Outdoor air quality co-benefits			
pv + replace	Outdoor air quality co-benefits			
fire + forest	Outdoor air quality co-benefits	x		x
home + energy + efficiency	Outdoor air quality co-benefits			
home + energy + efficient	Outdoor air quality co-benefits			
lighting + standard	Outdoor air quality co-benefits	x		
replace gas + solar	Outdoor air quality co-benefits			x
commercial + energy efficiency + renewable	Outdoor air quality co-benefits			
residential + energy + efficiency	Outdoor air quality co-benefits			
residential + energy + efficient	Outdoor air quality co-benefits			
food + consumption + waste	Outdoor air quality co-benefits			
waste + manage + economic	Outdoor air quality co-benefits			
soil + health	Outdoor air quality co-benefits			
sustainable + solid waste	Outdoor air quality co-benefits			
solid waste + reduce	Outdoor air quality co-benefits	x		
solid waste + reduction	Outdoor air quality co-benefits	x		
wastewater + network	Outdoor air quality co-benefits	x		

Keyword	AQ funding type	Risk of false positive	Primary BC funding	Secondary BC funding
wastewater + management	Outdoor air quality co-benefits	X		
wastewater + plant	Outdoor air quality co-benefits			
wastewater + treatment	Outdoor air quality co-benefits			
wastewater + collection	Outdoor air quality co-benefits			
wastewater + system	Outdoor air quality co-benefits			
fossil + reduc	Outdoor air quality co-benefits			
fossil + decrease	Outdoor air quality co-benefits			
electric tuktuk	Outdoor air quality co-benefits			
e-tuktuk	Outdoor air quality co-benefits			
emission inventory	Outdoor air quality co-benefits			
airshed management	Outdoor	X		
diesel particulate matter	Outdoor		X	
diesel particulate filter	Outdoor air quality co-benefits			X
non-road mobile machinery	Outdoor air quality co-benefits	X		X
off road machinery	Outdoor air quality co-benefits	X		X
construction machinery	Outdoor air quality co-benefits	X		X
road dust	Outdoor	X		X
stubble burning	Outdoor air quality co-benefits	X		X

5.3 KEYWORDS FOR FOSSIL FUEL-PROLONGING ACTIVITIES

This group of keywords is used to extract projects related to fossil fuel activities that impact air pollution either directly (by, for example, funding the construction of new fossil fuel assets) or indirectly (by, for example, supporting the growth of industries that have high fossil fuel use, such as aviation).

TABLE 5.4 TAXONOMY FOR FOSSIL FUEL PROLONGING ACTIVITIES

Sector	Sub-sector	Project category	Pollution type
ENERGY SYSTEMS	Power & Heat Generation	Coal-fired power plant	Direct
		Natural gas-fired power plant	Direct
		Oil-fired power plant	Direct
		Dual fuel- or fossil fuel-fired of unknown type	Direct
	Power & Heat Transmission & Distribution	Power lines to connect fossil fuel-fired power plant to the grid	Indirect
	Policy & National Budget Support & Capacity Building	Support to fossil fuel sector (Up- mid- and downstream)	Indirect
	Upstream	Coal mining & extraction	Direct & Indirect
		Oil & Gas extraction, production, refinery, storage, transportation, distribution	Direct & Indirect
TRANSPORT	Aviation	Aviation support (Airports, Aircrafts, etc.)	Direct & Indirect
	Waterway	Fossil fuel-powered water transportation	Direct
INDUSTRY	Industry & Manufacturing	Steel plant development or expansion	Indirect
		Production of chemicals	Indirect
		Production of ferrous metals	Indirect

When building the list of keywords in Table 5.6, only projects leading to additional air pollution were considered. This excludes all business-as-usual projects such as the maintenance of transport infrastructure (e.g., roads, airports) or transmission and distribution networks

TABLE 5.5 LIST OF KEYWORDS FOR FOSSIL FUEL PROLONGING ACTIVITIES

Keywords	Related fossil fuel prolonging activity
coal + power plant	Coal-fired power plant
coal + power-plant/plant/power	Coal-fired power plant
coal-fired/coal-powered	Coal-fired power plant
gas + power plant	Natural gas-fired power plant
gas + power-plant/plant/power	Natural gas-fired power plant
gas-fired/CCGT/gas-powered	Natural gas-fired power plant
gas fired	Natural gas-fired power plant
incineration/incinerator/combustion	Manual check
power plant	Manual check
oil + power plant	Oil-fired power plant
oil + power-plant/plant/power	Oil-fired power plant
oil-fired/oil-powered	Oil-fired power plant
oil fired	Oil-fired power plant
waste + incineration/incinerator/combustion/burning	Waste incinerators
gas + pipeline/pipe/transport/transportation/distribution	Upstream Oil & Gas
coal mining/mine/production/extraction/transportation	Upstream Coal
gas/oil/petroleum/kerosene/lng + extraction/production/upstream/refinery	Upstream Oil & Gas
fossil/coal/oil/gas + policy/technical assistance/measure/capacity building/support	Fossil fuel sector support
fossil/coal/oil/gas + capacity building	Fossil fuel sector support
fossil/coal/oil/gas + technical assistance	Fossil fuel sector support
airport/plane/aviation	Aviation support
waterway/boat	Fossil fuel-powered water transportation
coal/gas/lng/methane	Manual check
(palm/olive/edible/vegetable) oil	Manual check
(greenhouse) gas	Manual check
Primary steel plant development/expansion	Industry
Ferrous metals + production	Industry
Chemicals + production	Industry
manufacturing + Industry	Manual check
Gas/oil boiler subsidy	Residential

Note: ‘+’ separated words appear in any order in the descriptive data; words separated by a space appear in this precise order in the descriptive data; ‘/’ separated words were searched separately; words in parentheses were used as discriminants to **exclude projects**.

5.4 EXCLUSION OF ROADS FROM FOSSIL FUEL PROLONGING FUNDING

In State of Global Air Quality Funding 2026, solutions relating to the development and expansion of roads have been removed from the fossil fuel-prolonging taxonomy. This update has been made to uphold the analytical principle of conservativeness in relation to the definition of what counts as fossil fuel-prolonging finance.

The fossil fuel-prolonging impact of roads has been carefully considered against their benefits to development and the provision of lower-carbon road transport modes. Road building investments were originally included in fossil fuel-prolonging finance as they enable fossil fuel-powered transport and have some evidence of stimulating induced demand, by which road expansion leads to increased driving and reduces traffic reduction gains and their associated air quality benefit. However, road building can also enable public transport services, and increasingly electric vehicles - solutions tracked in State of Global Air Quality Funding to have air quality co-benefits. Electric vehicles are a key and mature technology for decarbonizing road transport, while public transport and modal shifts also remain central air quality solutions. The methodology already excludes all business-as-usual projects such as transport infrastructure and distribution networks.

Keywords	Related fossil fuel-prolonging activity
van/bus/train/carriage/locomotive/engine/motor + diesel/diesel-powered/diesel-fuelled/oil/coal/ice	Road transport
car/ldv/pldv + diesel/ice/oil/gas	Road transport
passenger car + diesel/ice/oil/gas	Road transport
passenger vehicle + diesel/ice/oil/gas	Road transport

For consistency with the exclusion of roads, we also excluded projects tagged to the following sub-sector in the Taxonomy for Fossil-Fuel Prolonging Activities Tables 5.4 and 5.5:

Sector	Subsector	Project Category	Keywords
TRANSPORT	Policy and national budget support and capacity building	Support to fossil fuel-powered transport sector	transport / transportation + policy / measure / support

This is because these categories of projects do not distinguish roads from other fossil-fuel powered transport modalities, so could therefore include roads by proxy. By excluding the above project categories alongside roads, we also provide greater clarity and distinction between the same subsector within the Energy Generation sector, which includes projects that: “Support to fossil fuel sector (up-, mid and **downstream**)”.

Aviation will continue to be included in the fossil fuel-prolonging taxonomy to categorize projects that support airport expansion, aircraft, or other aviation-supporting infrastructure. This reflects the limited near-term availability and uptake of sustainable aviation fuels and alternative aviation technologies. Airport creation and expansion therefore also remains closely linked to the creation or promotion of fossil fuel-consuming activity. We nonetheless recognize the broad development benefits aviation brings to economies, its negative impacts on air quality notwithstanding.

6. SECTORAL CLASSIFICATION

6.1 SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS APPROACH (2023 – 2025)

The 2023–2025 approach mapped keywords to specific sectors (see Table 5.4 in the published *State of Global Air Quality Funding 2025* methodology document), with projects assigned to sectors according to the keywords they matched. While this was not problematic in and of itself, many projects matched multiple keywords, meaning that a high volume of AQ financing was classified under combinations of different sectors (such as ‘waste/residential sector and buildings/energy generation’). This made it difficult to split these categories into discrete sectors and required additional splitting to avoid a large proportion of finance being classified as ‘multisectoral’. This splitting was undertaken through a largely manual approach, creating scope for manual error or sub-optimal categorisation.

As a result, the sectoral detail in the *State of Global Air Quality Funding* air quality dataset was insufficiently robust for in-depth sectoral analysis and provided limited substantive detail on sub-sectors or solutions. Enhanced sector and sub-sector analysis can support stronger and more meaningful analytical conclusions and recommendations.

6.2 2026 APPROACH

For 2026, *State of Global Air Quality Funding* adopts the high-quality sectoral taxonomy used for the *GLCF (CPI, 2025)*. This taxonomy reflects many years of dedicated and iterative methodological work underpinning CPI’s flagship publication and is continually updated and improved.

For OECD data, the *GLCF* taxonomy assigns projects to sectors and sub-sectors based on the sector codes included in the raw OECD CRS or CRDF data. The *GLCF* taxonomy contains dedicated mappings for each relevant OECD sector code, stored in a reference table and incorporated into the processing code (see Table 6.1 below).

The 2026 approach for sector and sub-sector mapping of *State of Global Air Quality Funding* AQ data assigns sectors and sub-sectors using the OECD sector code of each project identified through the AQ keyword taxonomy. The processing code then assigns each identified project to the updated *GLCF*-based AQ sector taxonomy (see Table 6.1). This approach avoids using keywords to assign sectors and sub-sectors directly. Instead, the *State of Global Air Quality Funding* keyword taxonomy is used to identify AQ-relevant projects, while the OECD sector codes associated with those projects are used to determine their sector and sub-sector classifications.

- **Previous approach (2023–2025):** Sectors were assigned according to keywords identified within project names or descriptions.
- **2026 approach:** Projects are first identified as AQ-relevant using the *State of Global Air Quality Funding* keyword taxonomy. The *GLCF* sector taxonomy is then applied using the OECD sector codes associated with those projects to assign sectors and sub-sectors.

TABLE 6.1 TAXONOMY FOR AIR QUALITY SECTOR SOLUTIONS

SECTOR	SUB-SECTOR
AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, OTHER LAND USES & FISHERIES	Agriculture
	Unspecified / Multiple
	Fisheries
	Policy & National Budget Support & Capacity Building
	Forestry
BUILDINGS & INFRASTRUCTURE	HVAC & Water Heaters
	Appliances & Lighting
	Building & Infrastructure Construction Work
	Other/Unspecified
ENERGY SYSTEMS	Power & Heat Generation
	Fuel Production
	Power & Heat Transmission & Distribution
	Policy & National Budget Support & Capacity Building
ENVIRONMENT & POLLUTION MANAGEMENT*	Policy & National Budget Support & Capacity Building
	Biodiversity, Land & Marine Conservation
	Other/Unspecified
HEALTH*	Other/Unspecified
	Policy & National Budget Support & Capacity Building
INDUSTRY	Industrial, Extraction, and Manufacturing Processes
	Policy & National Budget Support & Capacity Building
	Other/Unspecified
INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY	Other/Unspecified
	Policy & National Budget Support & Capacity Building
OTHER & CROSS-SECTORAL	Other/Unspecified
	Policy & National Budget Support & Capacity Building
TRANSPORT	Rail & Public Transport
	Waterway
	Private Road Transport
	Policy & National Budget Support & Capacity Building
	Other/Unspecified
	Aviation
WASTE	Other/Unspecified
WATER & WASTEWATER	Water Supply & Sanitation
	Policy & National Budget Support & Capacity Building

*bespoke new sectors to account for State of Global Air Quality Funding -relevant OECD sector codes not mapped in CPI's GLCF taxonomy.

7. METHODOLOGY LIMITATIONS

This methodology represents a leading effort to identify and analyse international development funding flows for air quality. There are, however, some limitations should be taken into account:

Tracking of commitments. As mentioned in Section 4.3, the analysis in the report is based on financial commitments rather than disbursements. Commitments record the total amount of a transaction in the year when it is closed, irrespective of the time required to complete the disbursement. The result is that with relatively small funding volumes such as for outdoor air quality funding, single large transactions can significantly skew investment in specific years, making it hard to identify long-term trends. To overcome this limitation, we focus the analysis on cumulative funding for the most recent five years for which data is available (2020 to 2024) to smooth the possible impact of single large transactions. Using disbursement data would provide a more accurate picture of the actual funding volume flowing air quality projects in a given year; however, the disbursement data available today does not permit a cohesive analysis on the scale required for *The State of Global Air Quality Funding*.

Use of keywords. As mentioned in Section 4.1, once the data is collected, we run a keyword search to identify air quality and fossil fuel-prolonging projects within the broader database. The keyword list has been extensively reviewed by relevant experts and iterative improvements are made each year. However, it is possible that the keywords used may not capture all relevant projects for the analysis, meaning that some air quality projects may have names or descriptions that do not include any of the selected keywords. The keyword search approach is also dependent on the quality and level of detail provided in the project descriptions; for projects with brief or non-existent descriptions in the reported data, there is a much lower likelihood of being picked up in the keyword search and therefore, a lower likelihood of being identified as air quality finance. Furthermore, because the keyword search only works with project-level data, investors and sectors for which data is only available in an aggregate format cannot be included in the analysis, leading to potentially considerable data gaps. In the absence of an air quality tag or taxonomy to more accurately identify relevant projects, the use of keywords remains the leading option for extracting projects for the analysis. Clean Air Fund and CPI will continue to refine the list of keywords to make sure the accuracy of our methodology improves over time, and emphasise the importance of accurate detailed project descriptions to studied institutions.

Scope of analysis. As mentioned in Section 3.2, the analysis does not currently include funding provided by the private sector or national governments (e.g., through domestic budgets), which nevertheless play a key role in funding air quality and fossil fuel-prolonging projects. This is due to the focus of the analysis (i.e., on international flows of public development finance to low- and middle-income countries) and in no way seeks to suggest that this does not play an important role in the air quality funding landscape.

Definitions. The distinction between outdoor air quality funding and funding with air quality co-benefits (Table 3.1) is not always clear cut. In many cases, the categorisation of a project under one funding flow or the other will depend on the interpretation of the project description and on whether outdoor air quality

seems to be a key objective of the project or just a co-benefit. In some cases, funders may not provide a lot of detail about project objectives or expected impacts in the descriptions. Due to the size of the database, it is not possible to go over detailed documentation for each project to check project details that may help to interpret project descriptions and/or gather additional detail on specific objectives and impacts.

Instruments. The OECD Creditor Reporting System database does not have a marker or reporting column that indicates whether debt financing has been provided on concessional terms, and proxies have therefore been used in this analysis. Where loans are marked as ‘ODA loans’ in the database, they are categorised in our methodology as ‘low-cost debt’. Loans that do not meet ODA criteria are instead marked as ‘Other Official Flows’ in the database, and are categorised in our methodology as ‘market rate debt’. This assumption is made on the basis that ‘Other Official Flows’ often includes funding that does not meet the ODA requirements on concessionality. It is possible that some loans in this category are provided on concessional terms but do not meet ODA criteria for other reasons; this methodology cannot capture these loans in its analysis of concessional finance, and therefore numbers on concessional finance should be seen as conservative estimates.

8. GEOGRAPHIC CLASSIFICATION

Table 8.1 shows the regional grouping used in *The State of Global Air Quality Funding*. The designations employed do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of Clean Air Fund or CPI concerning the legal status of any region, country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of frontiers or boundaries. Flows are classified as “transregional” when resources are channelled to more than one region.

The 2026 methodology introduces a Southeast Asia grouping, consisting of eight countries based on the Asian Development Bank’s developing member countries for the region (**ADB**). Southeast Asian countries are increasingly expanding climate policy nationally and at a sub-regional level. This includes action on air quality, transport, and energy. The grouping disaggregates these eight countries from the existing East Asia and Pacific regional classification.

TABLE 8.1 REGIONAL GROUPING USED FOR THE ANALYSIS OF AIR QUALITY FUNDING

Region	Country or territory
Central Asia & Eastern Europe	Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Estonia, Georgia, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Kosovo ^{vi} , Kyrgyz Republic, Latvia, Lithuania, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Poland, Slovakia, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Tajikistan, Türkiye, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan
East Asia & Pacific	American Samoa, Brunei, China, Cook Islands, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Fiji, Kiribati, Malaysia, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Korea, Samoa, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu
Latin America & Caribbean	Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bonaire, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guadeloupe, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, St. Barthélemy, Sint Eustatius and Saba, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), West Indies
Middle East and North Africa	Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, State of Palestine, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Yemen
Other Oceania	Australia, New Zealand, Tokelau
South Asia	Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka
Southeast Asia	Cambodia, Myanmar, Timor-Leste, Indonesia, Philippines, Viet Nam, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, and Thailand.

^{vi} This designation is without prejudice to positions on status and is in line with United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 and the International Court of Justice Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.

Region	Country or territory
Sub-Saharan Africa	Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cabo Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Republic of Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mayotte, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Réunion, Rwanda, São Tomé and Príncipe, Saint Helena, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, United Republic of Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe
US & Canada	Canada, United States of America
Western Europe	Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, San Marino, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, Vatican City

8.1 ADDITIONAL REGIONAL CLASSIFICATIONS

Alternative regional classifications have been included in State of Global Air Quality Funding 2026 to support supplementary and more targeted analysis when required. The use of new regions will be clearly signposted in analysis for clarity. These have already featured in previous State of Global Air Quality Funding reports.

TABLE 8.2 NEW ALTERNATIVE REGION CLASSIFICATIONS

Region	Countries
Africa	Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mayotte, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Reunion, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe
Middle East	Bahrain, Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, State of Palestine, Syrian Arab Republic, United Arab Emirates, Yemen

8.2 FLOWS TO WESTERN EUROPE

The 2026 methodology excludes flows to Western Europe as an additional exclusion criterion. Providers of international development finance such as MDBs still finance projects to the region (**World Bank, 2025**), which can then be included within State of Global Air Quality Funding if those projects fulfill the scope and keyword criteria described across the methodology. The State of Global Air Quality Funding reports focus on international public development finance, and flows to this high-income region are incongruent with the principal focus of this research. Excluding such flows therefore helps to ensure that the analysis remains focused on the recipient countries and regions most in need of international development finance.

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