

Climate Action4Clean Air

Innovative business solutions to decrease air pollution



Through the Climate Action4Clean Air Innovations, we seek to foster an environment to develop enterprise-friendly viable air pollution solutions by mobilizing youth to respond air pollution impacts on environment and society. This is a step towards establishing a regional platform to promote enterprises and start-ups to come up with and showcase simple, practical and sustainable solutions.

Call for applications

We are inviting enterprises, start-ups and organizations from Bhutan and Nepal to share innovations that mitigate air pollution. We encourage applications from all sectors focusing on air pollution solutions. These can include innovative products, technological innovations and/or process innovations to reduce air pollution from industrial, agricultural, business and household-levels. We will prioritize solutions pertinent to industries, household use, crop residue and garbage burning.

We welcome proposed business solutions or practices that are economically viable, socially responsible, and environmentally friendly. Tested air pollution solutions or technologies with potential for scaling up and reducing

pollution will be of critical value. Start-ups working on mitigating air pollution through their business solutions in the transport, residential, industrial, construction, and agricultural sectors can also apply.

To apply for this event the following criteria must be met by applicants:

- Identify and accelerate air pollution solutions that engage youth and women to develop commercially viable air pollution mitigating solutions
- Foster entrepreneurship ecosystems that encourage new entrepreneurial ideas to address air pollution and foster partnerships and South-South knowledge sharing
- Promote innovative technologies and solutions to mitigate air pollution to increase public, government and other stakeholder awareness and attention and foster cross-learning among stakeholders
- Encourage all innovations focusing on mitigating air pollution that are pre-tested or at prototype stage, commercially viable, and bankable with the potential for scaling up

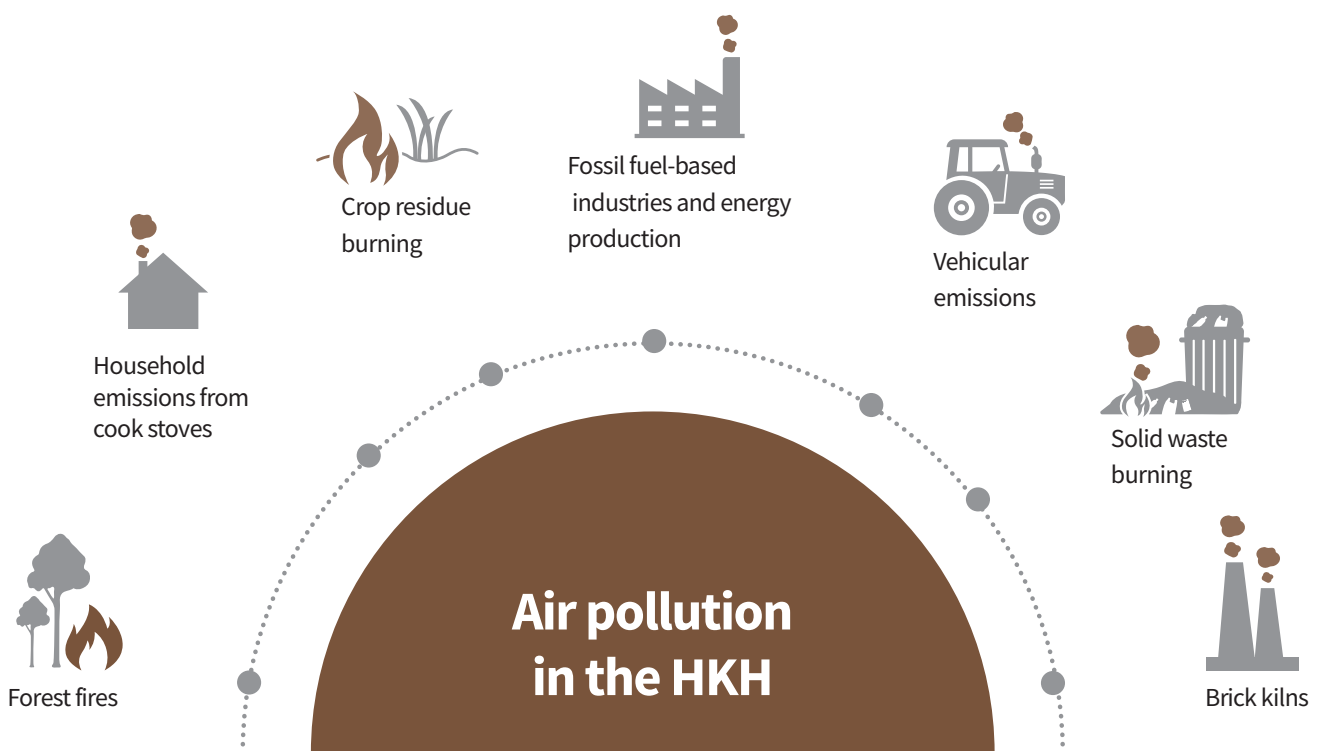
Call for interest roadmap

- This is an open call for enterprises engaging in air pollution solutions in Bhutan and Nepal
- 30 innovative air pollution solutions will be shortlisted
- Shortlisted enterprises will make competitive, virtual pitches to a regional expert panel of representative industries, financial institutions, and government officials
- 5 enterprises will be selected for each country, with total of 10 winners
- Winners will each be awarded USD 1200
- The winners will be mentored at reputed incubation centres to further strengthen market orientation and develop bankable business models for acceleration/ scaling up
- Winners undergo a 3-month boot camp incubation period, including close interaction with respective government agencies and chambers of commerce
- Along with Antaprema and Institute for Learning Solutions, we will host cross sharing events in-person or virtual depending on the COVID-19 pandemic
- ICIMOD and our partner institutions will document the lessons learnt and roll out interventions in other HKH countries

Background

Air pollution has had profound impacts on the health, environment, economy, and food security of the Hindu Kush Himalaya (HKH). Pollutants have reached alarming levels, threatening the health of millions in the region, particularly women, children, elderly, and the poor. The UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have a strong emphasis on reducing pollution, specifically, SDG 3.9 – “substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals, and air, water and soil pollution and contamination” by 2030. SDG 7 (clean energy) and SDG 9.4 (clean technologies and industrial processes) are also related to air pollution. For more than two decades, we have been generating and sharing knowledge, and working with a wide range of regional stakeholders to improve local and regional air quality through monitoring and assessment, understand the implications of transboundary air pollution, and implement localized solutions.

Through this two-decade experience, it has become clear that air pollution solutions require coordination, cooperation, and innovation from all sectors, especially in mobilizing youth and spreading awareness. There is an urgent need to build an enabling environment and to explore practical, cost-effective, and proven pathways for mitigating air pollution by combining science, policy, governance, and technological solutions. The COVID-19 pandemic has also highlighted the need to mobilize opportunities to address climate pollutants and market-based solutions as part of the recovery process.





Tentative timeline

AUGUST

Call for applications
Application screening
and e-hackathon
Cohort launch

SEPTEMBER

Incubation programme

DECEMBER

Cohort graduation
and cross learning

Interested candidates can apply [here](#). Apply by **10 September 2021**.

Partners and collaborators

IMPLEMENTING TECHNICAL PARTNERS

- Institute for Learning Solutions, Bhutan
- Antarprrerana Pvt Ltd., Nepal

INSTITUTIONAL COLLABORATORS

- National Environment Commission (NEC) Bhutan
- Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Supplies (MoICS), Nepal



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