

Module 3:

Understanding air pollution policies: from formulation and implementation to impact



Module objectives and content



How can air pollution policies help to fight air pollution?



Who is involved in policy making and implementation?



Who is affected by the implementation of policies and why does it matter?



Why is an inclusive and equitable approach to formulating and implementing policies necessary?



**How can air
pollution policies
help fight
air pollution?**



Clean air is a shared, common resource.

Air pollution means less of that clean air is available, with negative consequences.



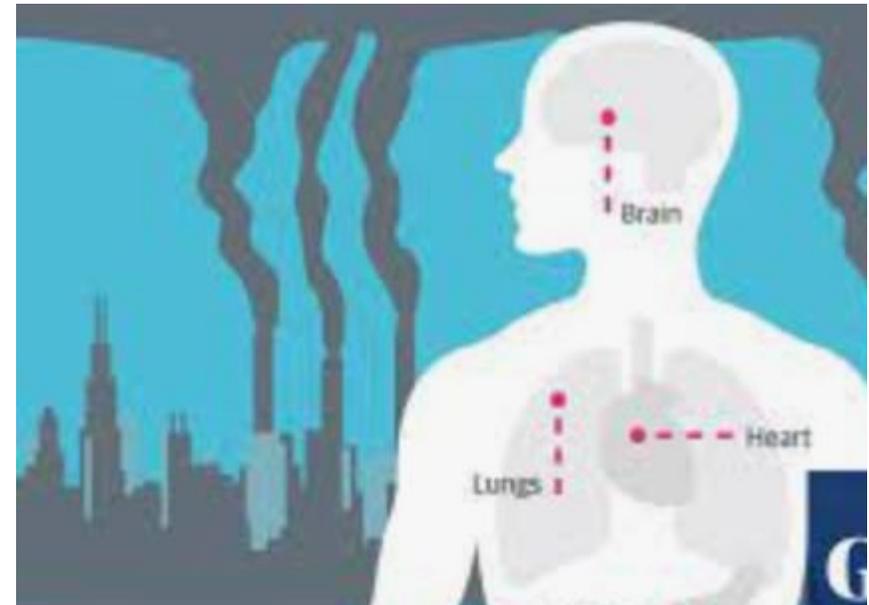


The 'polluter pays' principle



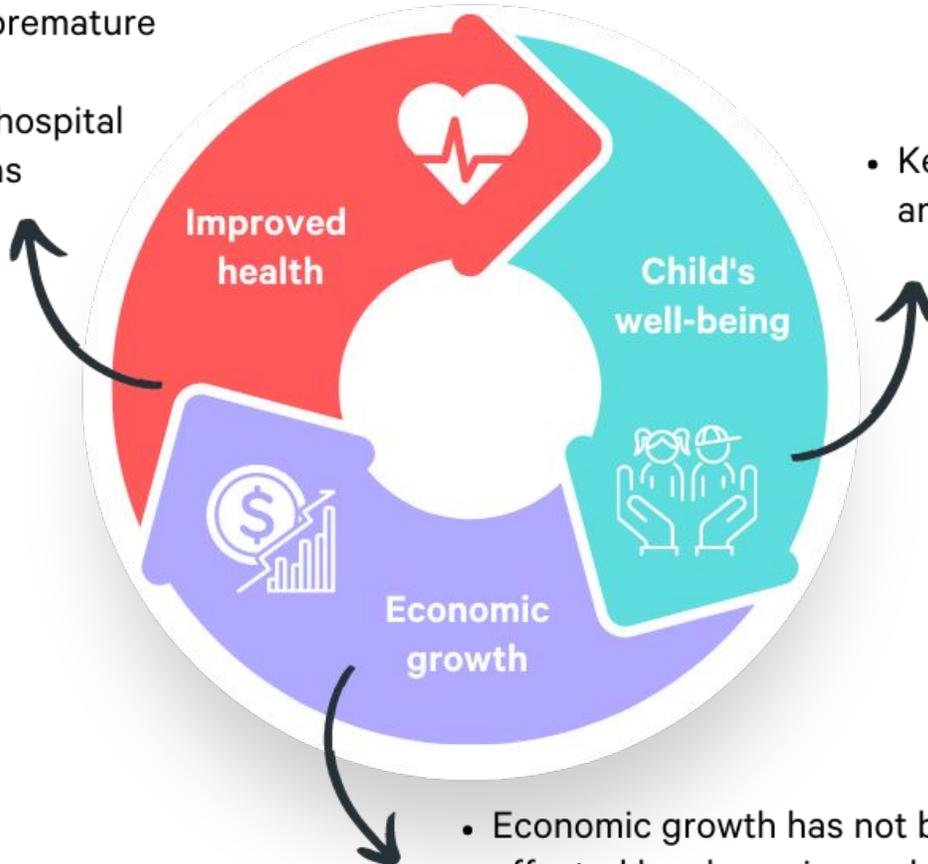
What is the role of air pollution policies?

- Regulations on air pollution can:
 - Prevent the pollution of our shared commons
 - Minimise the public health impacts of air pollution



How a Clean Air Act can help

- Avoided premature deaths
- Reduced hospital admissions



- Kept kids healthy and in school

- Economic growth has not been affected by clean air regulations

- USA Clean Air Act

Health

- Avoided more than 230,000 premature deaths
- Avoided 200,000 heart attacks
- Avoided millions of cases of respiratory problems such as acute bronchitis and asthma attacks

Economic growth

- Prevented 17 million lost workdays
- improving worker productivity which contributes to a stronger economy

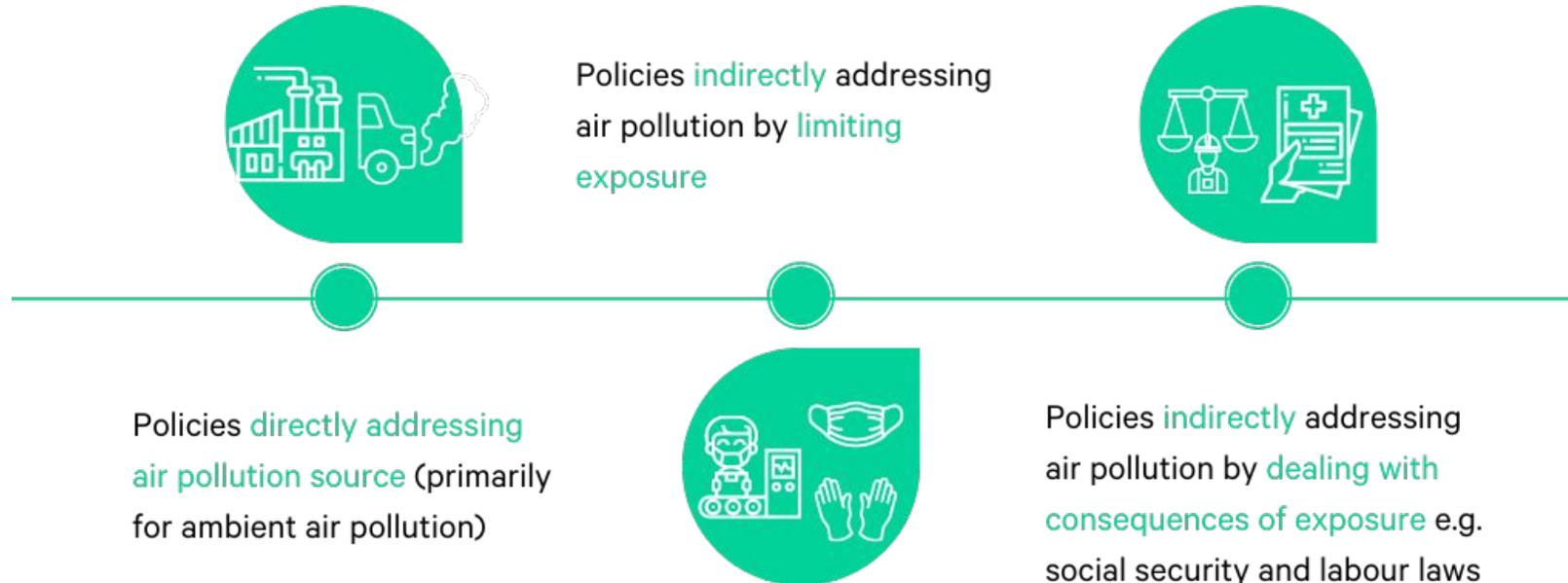
Child's well-being

- Avoided 5.4 million lost school days due to respiratory illness and other diseases caused or exacerbated by air pollution



What types of policies can be applied?

- There are three key categories of policies that affect air quality or the consequences of air pollution:



- Policies affecting public spaces – as spaces for informal vendors/workers



Air quality standards in South East Asia

	Brunei	Cambodia	Indonesia	Lao PDR	Malaysia	Myanmar	Philippines	Singapore	Thailand	Vietnam	China	
Uses of solid fuels	Do > 85% of the population have access to non-solid fuels?	NA	88% use solid fuel	47% use solid fuel, 79% in rural areas	98% of rural population use solid fuel	NA	93% use solid fuels	49% use solid fuels	NA	24% use solid fuels	51% use solid fuels, 72% in rural areas	31% use solid fuels, 71% in rural areas
Vehicle emissions	Vehicle emissions standards – EURO 4 or above?	Target Euro IV by 2016, not clear if achieved	Pre-Euro	Euro IV (petrol from 2018, diesel from 2021)	None	Euro IV for petrol	None	Euro IV	Euro IV	Euro IV	Euro IV	Euro IV
	Is maximum allowable Sulphur content 50ppm?	50ppm (diesel)	1500ppm	3500ppm	2500ppm	50ppm (diesel)	2000ppm	50ppm (diesel)	10ppm	50ppm (diesel and petrol)	50ppm (diesel)	10ppm
Regulations	Is there a Clean Air Act?	Environmental Protection and Management Order 2012 includes air pollution control	Circular on Measure to Prevent and Reduce Ambient Air Pollution (2020)	Government Regulation (PP) No. 41/1999 on Air Pollution Control	No legal framework	Environmental Quality (Clean Air) regulations 2014	Environment Conservation Law 2012 but no regulations or standards	Philippine Clean Air Act 1999	Environmental Pollution Control Act 1999	Various policies and acts mention pollution but no overarching	Articles 111 and 112 of the Environmental Protection Law 2020	Air Pollution Prevention and Control Law (New Air Law) 2016
	Are there Ambient Air Quality Standards (AAQS)?	NA	NA	WHO interim target 3	WHO interim target 2	WHO interim target 1	No AAQS	WHO interim target 2	12ppm	WHO interim target 2	WHO interim target 2	WHO interim target 1

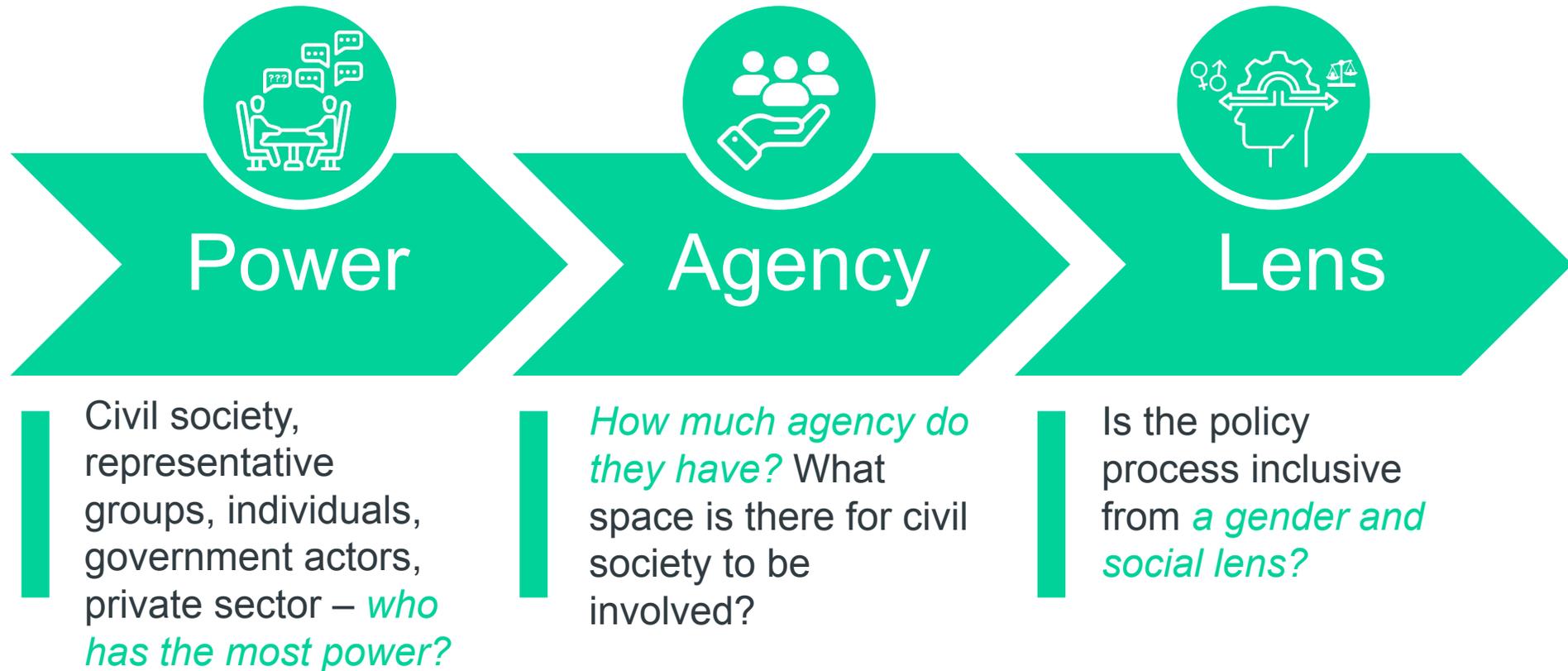
**Who is involved in
policy making
and implementation?**

**미세먼지
알리미**

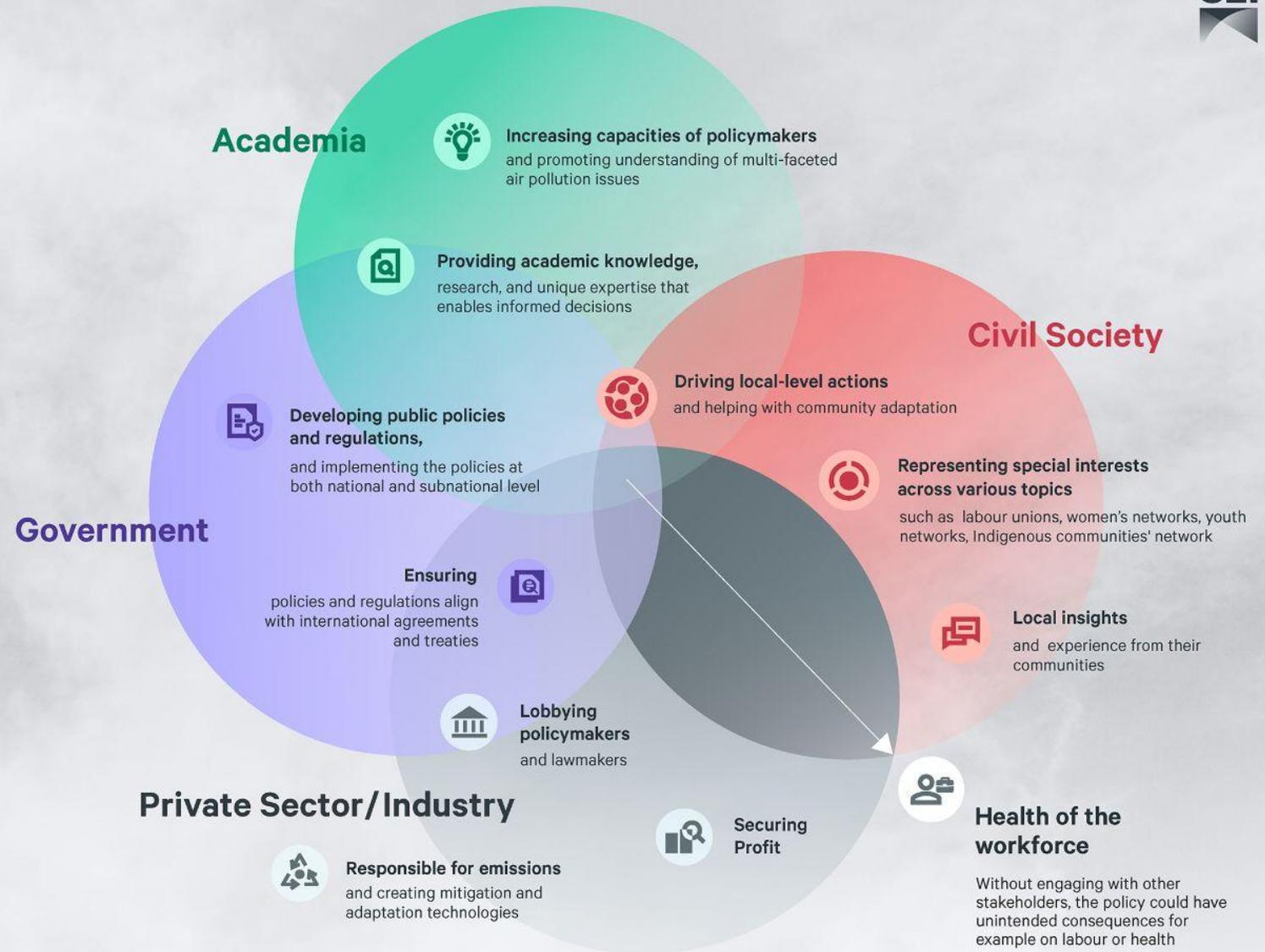


Who is involved in policy making?

Inclusion is key



Who is involved in policy making on air quality?



To ensure inclusion

- ✓ Public consultation
- ✓ Transparency
- ✓ Accountability



Who is affected by the implementation of policies and why does it matter?



Who is affected by the implementation?





Diesel Jeepneys are responsible for 15% of PM in Manila.

Case study:

Informal handicraft workers in Vietnam

A case study that looks at a daily life of a female worker in a lacquer craft village in Vietnam and her daily health risks found that:

- ❌ The implementation of policies and laws on air pollution in craft villages is *not been fully and effectively implemented*.
- ❌ Existing regulations *are scattered and not specific*, leading to a lack of comprehensive regulations on ensuring safe working conditions for informal workers.
- ❌ Village conventions contain some regulations related to environmental protection, but there is *a lack of supervision and resources* to ensure that they are implemented.
- ❌ Similarly, there are *no formal systems of accountability* to ensure and monitor occupational safety and health at the work place.
- ❌ Measures such as carrying out air pollution assessments or installing monitoring systems in facilities are limited due to *a lack of financial and technical capacities* at the local level.





Women do the task of gold plating. The fine gold dust gets blown everywhere around the room and the ground.

Informal handicraft workers in Vietnam (2)

Recommendations:

- Develop a legal support system for informal workers, especially for women and young workers.
- Encourage community participation in monitoring the implementation of the environmental protection law in craft villages by setting up self-management groups or building community-based models of air environment protection.
- Recognize workers equally in the Labor Law regardless of the nature of the work.



How policies can support workers



- What about compensation for those affected e.g. workers and residents?

- Need to be inclusive of informal workers

- Public space policies need to recognise these sites are not purely physical but are tied to human physical and social experiences
- Those who use public space for their livelihoods are considered undesirable, and blamed for causing congestion



What if there are no policies in place?

- Can NGOs, civil society, cooperatives, or unions fill the gap?

Civil society in Indonesia [filed a lawsuit](#) against the government for inaction on air pollution.

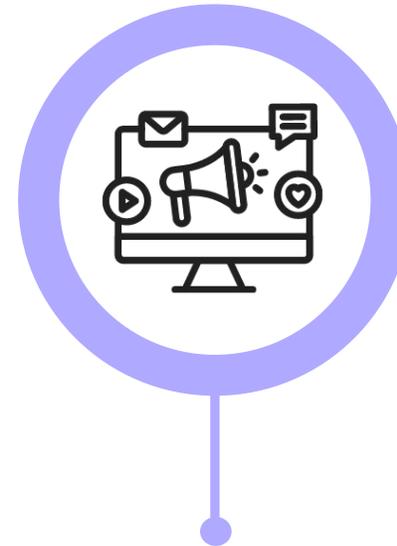
The Trade Union Clean Air Network [provide a guidance](#) and [air pollution detection equipment](#) to investigate potential hazard in workplaces.



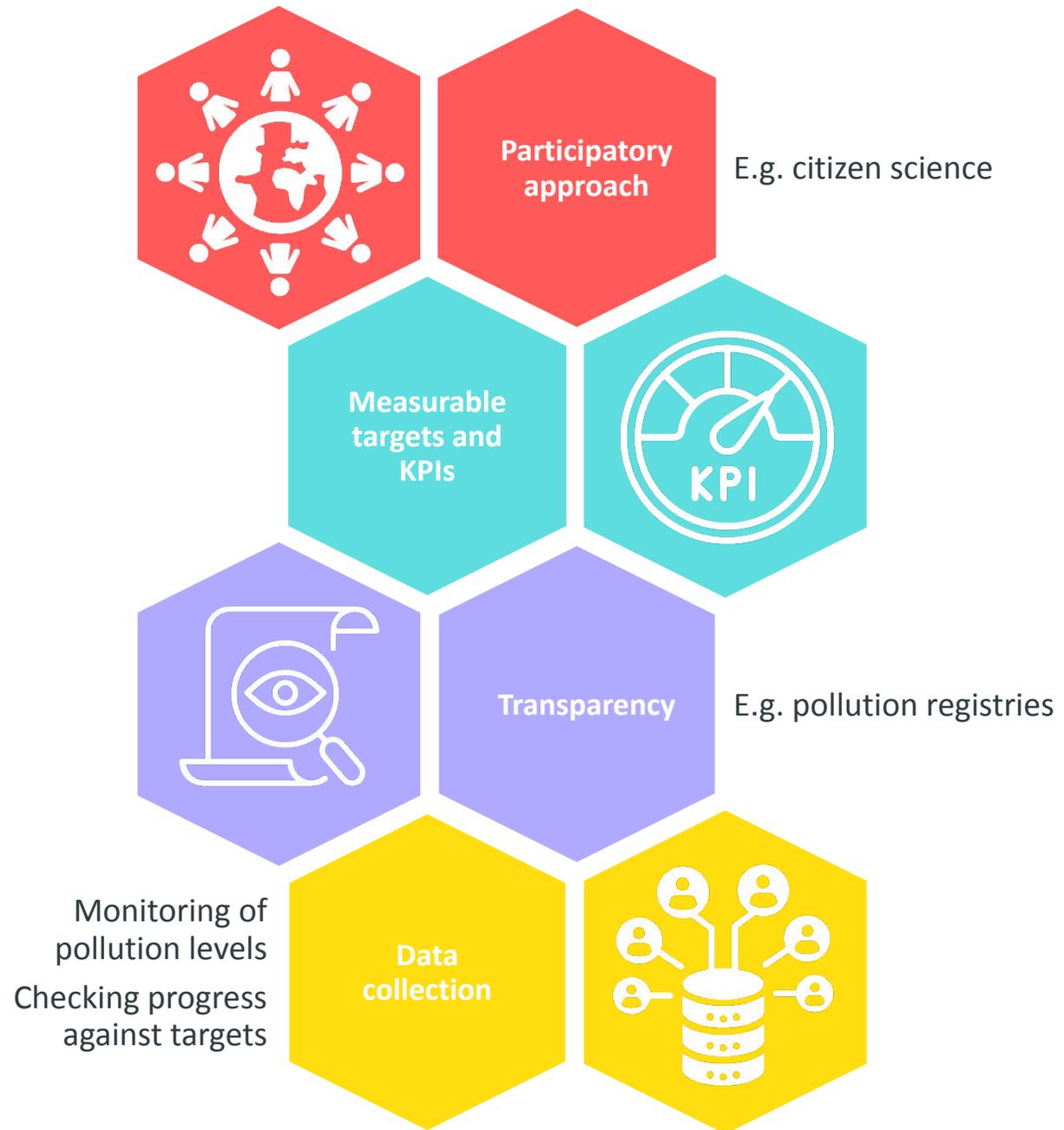
Thailand CAN drafted and submitted a draft citizen-led Clean Air Bill to parliament for consideration.



In Thailand, civil society [did a campaign](#) through social media platforms to put pressure on the MPs not to reject the draft Clean Air Bill.



How to ensure enforcement



Key messages



The UN General Assembly has just recognized *the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment*



Policies and regulations to control air pollution can help to prevent a huge health burden, alongside environmental benefits



Policies can directly address air pollution at source, or indirectly help to minimise exposure to air pollution



An inclusive approach to policy-making is necessary to avoid inequitable impacts



Relevant resources

- Slater, Jessica et al. 2022. "[Air Pollution and the World of Work: Policies, Initiatives and the Current Situation – A Scoping and Evidence Review for Southeast and East Asia.](#)" SEI report. Stockholm Environment Institute.
- United Nations. 2022. "[Resolution 76/300](#): The human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment."
- U.S. EPA. 2011. "[The Benefits and Costs of the Clean Air Act from 1990 to 2020: Final Report.](#)" Office of Air and Radiation.
- Vu, Thanh. 2022. "[A day in the life of a female handicraft worker in Viet Nam.](#)" Stockholm Environment Institute.

