

# Applying the AQMx Guidance on eliminating Open Waste Burning

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# AQMx Sectoral Guidance

- Global guidance with many resources and examples from Asia.
- Six success stories including: Indonesia, Maldives, India.
- Clear, brief, actionable steps.
- Designed for air quality managers, who are not waste experts.

# Context of Open Waste Burning

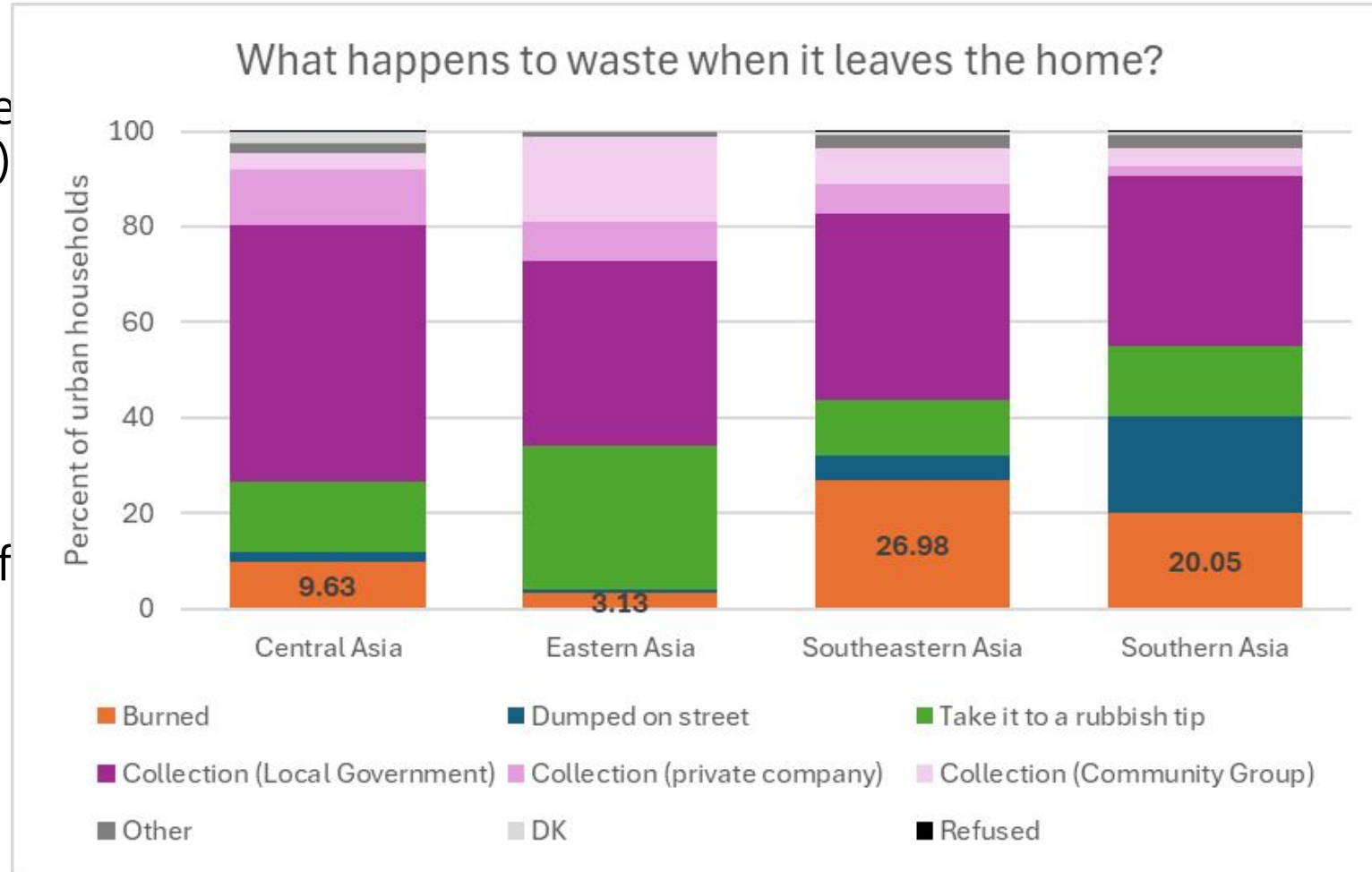
- 6 out of the 10 countries with the worst air pollution levels are from Asia and the Pacific (Global Environment Outlook V7, December 2025)
- Open Burning of Waste is often an important contributor to poor air quality.
- OWB not only contributes to levels of PM2.5 (standard measure of air quality), but contains high concentrations of **dangerous toxins** extremely harmful to human health.

# Context of Open Waste Burning

Open Waste Burning by households is a common practice across Asia (World Risk Poll 2023)

Waste is also burned after being dumped in the streets, or at disposal sites.

In Indonesia, for example, 31% of plastic waste ends up being burned, either in the streets (82%) or after being collected (18%). (PISCES study 2020)



# Regional Roadmap to end Open Waste Burning in Asia

As part of a global CCAC-funded programme, IGES has led the development and endorsement of a **Regional Roadmap to end Open Waste Burning in Asia**.

Their baseline study for 10 countries and city pilot activities in Lao PDR, Maldives and Iraq identified two important sites and reasons for OWB.

## Dumping Sites

- Poor site management / spontaneous fires
- No space for new disposal site (reduction of waste volume by burning)
- Extraction of valuable materials

## Residential Areas

- Cultural habits, with intention to clean neighbourhood
- Inadequate collection service
- Lack of supportive system, vehicles, equipment, enforcement, leading to lack of willingness to pay collection fee



# AQMx sectoral guidance walk-through

<http://aqmx.org>

< Home / Sectoral Guidance / Waste Management / Eliminating Open Waste Burning

## AQMx Sectoral Guidance: Eliminating Open Waste Burning

Why take action on Open Waste Burning?

Step 1. Baseline Assessment

Step 2: Institutional Arrangements

Step 3. Planning and Design

Step 4. Policy Integration

Step 5. Standards and Regulations

Step 6. Communications and Awareness-Raising

Step 7. Implementation

Step 8. Enforcement

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