

Transformative Action in the Waste Sector

Ending open waste burning by addressing the systemic deficiency in waste management and promoting circularity through waste to resource conversion

The Context

- Open burning is an outcome of a deficient waste management system and has catastrophic effects on human health and the environment.
- It is estimated that up to 90% of waste in African countries is dumped or openly burned¹.
- Up to 80% of the municipal solid waste generated in African cities is recyclable and could be worth US\$8 billion per year if kept in a circular economy².
- Waste is underfinanced – it is not prioritised within national budgets, and it is an overlooked issue with development banks and organisations.

The Resolution

- The 18th regular session of AMCEN passed a resolution on the elimination of open waste burning based on a report by the UN High Level Champions and Engineering X¹.
- The resolution urges policy and legislative action for the elimination of open dumping and burning of waste by 2040.
- It encourages a variety of actors to join the Multi-Stakeholder Partnership (MSP).
- Development partners are requested to support African countries to reduce methane and black carbon emissions, with a focus on reducing open burning of waste.

The Implementation

- The MSP for the elimination of open waste burning launched at COP27 to coordinate collective action.
- Engineering X is funding six projects on ending open burning in Africa, worth £180,000.
- The Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) supported the project on 'Transformative Action in the waste sector' implemented by a consortium of partners coordinated by Engineering X.
- Conducted baseline study, including a regional survey and stakeholder consultations in selected countries to support the development of the African Roadmap to end open burning.
- Financial stakeholders mapped to identify potential funding sources for supporting transformative action on waste management in Africa at local and national level.

Roadmap timeline



Champions for transformative action

You could be champions of transformative actions on waste by:

- Actively engaging and supporting the development and implementation of the African Regional Roadmap for transformative action on waste.
- Consistently placing development of waste management infrastructure as a priority in your engagement with development financing institutions recognising its significant contribution to meet the SDGs.
- Addressing the significant gaps in enforcement of existing policy and legislations on waste management and enacting where they are missing.
- Facilitating the required institutional and financial support for community-based organisations and private enterprises engaged in collection, separation, and recycling of waste at local level.

Contact us

For more information and to engage with the roadmaps please contact:

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Transformative Action in the Waste Sector project

Creating the enabling conditions to eliminate open burning of waste in Africa, Asia and Latin America

Consortium information:

- **Engineering X** – Africa roadmap lead
- **Practical Action** – Africa roadmap
- **UN Habitat** – Africa and LATAM emissions estimations
- **Institute of Global Environment Strategies** – Asia roadmap & Asia emissions estimations
- **International Solid Waste Association** – Latin America roadmap

More information: <https://engineeringx.raeng.org.uk/programmes/safer-end-of-engineered-life/open-burning-of-waste/partnerships/climate-and-clean-air-coalition>

¹ Cogut, A (2016), UNEP (2018), Kaza et al. (2018)

² UNEP, 2018