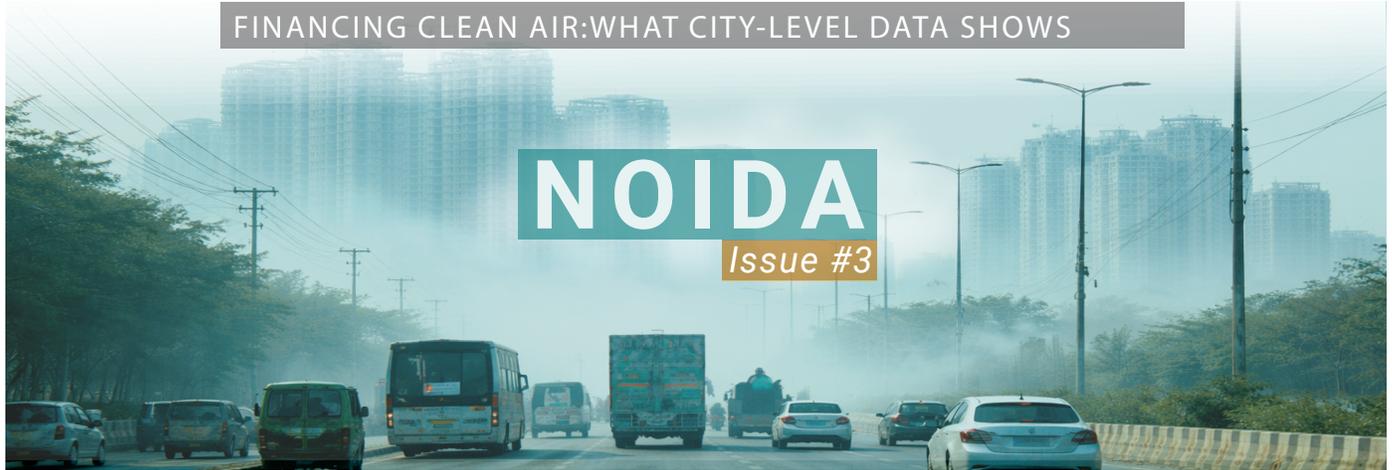


## FINANCING CLEAN AIR:WHAT CITY-LEVEL DATA SHOWS

# NOIDA

Issue #3



### HIGHLIGHTS

-  Between FY 20-21 and FY 25-26, ₹127 crore was allocated to Noida under NCAP for air pollution mitigation.
-  52 per cent of this i.e. ₹56 crore has been released till 4 January 2026. However, only ₹30 crore has been utilised till date.
-  Until FY 24-25, all funds were used to reduce road dust, with expenditure on other polluting sources being nil.
-  Though PM10 levels in Noida have reduced over the years, between FY 21-22 and FY 24-25 Noida did not meet its annual PM10 target levels. Further, the PM10 levels are higher than national and international standards.

### OVERVIEW

In January 2019, the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) launched the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP), a time bound, national level initiative to improve air quality.<sup>1</sup> The programme follows a collaborative approach, involving union government ministries, state governments, local bodies and other stakeholders.<sup>2</sup>

Presently, 130 cities, comprising cities having a million-plus population (million-plus cities) and non-attainment cities (NACs)<sup>3</sup> are implementing air pollution control measures under the NCAP. These cities are required to prepare and implement clean air action plans that target major pollution sources. Funding for implementing the action plans is drawn by converging resources from central schemes like the Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban) (SBM), Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT), Smart City Mission, along with support from state governments, urban local bodies and development authorities.<sup>4</sup>

Additionally, performance-linked grants serve as supplementary funding to bridge critical resource gaps. Between FY 19-20 and FY 25-26, ₹19,611 crore was allocated as performance-linked grants for NCAP implementation, comprising:<sup>5</sup>

-  ₹16,539 crore for 48 million-plus cities funded by the XV FC (Fifteenth Finance Commission)<sup>6</sup>
-  ₹3,072 crore for the remaining 82 NACs funded by the MoEF&CC<sup>7</sup>

The NCAP targets a 40 per cent reduction in PM10 levels or achievement of NAAQS for PM10 concentration by FY 25-26.<sup>8</sup> To support implementation and enhance transparency, the government launched the PRANA Portal (Portal for Regulation of Air Pollution in Non-attainment Cities), a web-based platform for better monitoring, in September 2021.

### ABOUT THIS BRIEF

The city brief focuses on Noida, reviewing:

-  Fund flow mechanisms, allocations, receipts, and expenditures under the NCAP
-  Key activities undertaken using these funds
-  Air quality monitoring systems and AQI trends

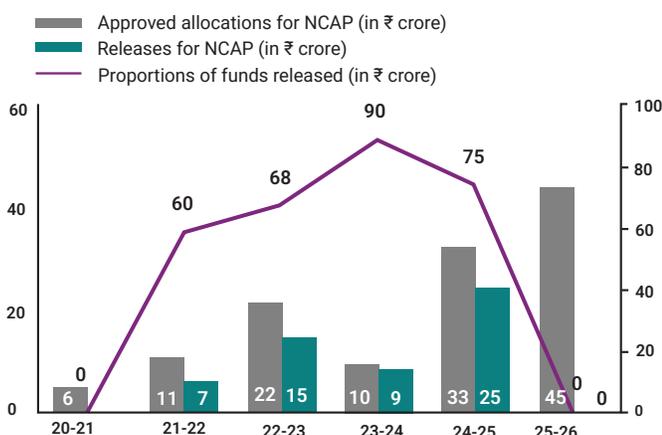
The purpose is to provide a snapshot of Noida's progress under NCAP and examine how resources have been used to improve air quality.

**TRENDS IN ALLOCATION, RELEASES AND EXPENDITURES**

This section provides an overview of the allocation, release and utilisation of NCAP funds in Noida between FY 20-21 and FY 25-26.

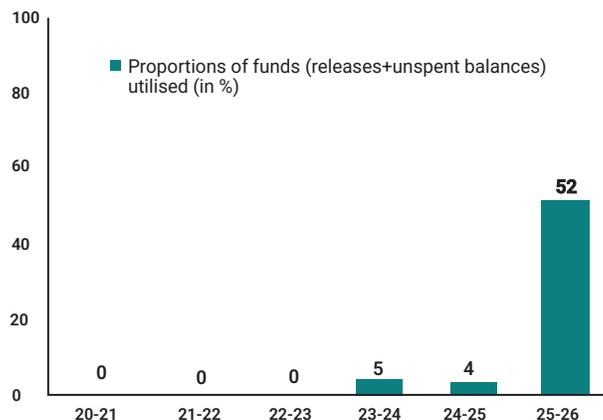
- ▶ Between FY 20-21 and FY 25-26, the total proposed allocations of NCAP funds to Noida was ₹127 crore. As per Steering Committee Meeting Minutes, in FY 23-24, despite performing poorly in the previous year and not being entitled to a performance grant or incentive Noida received a special grant of ₹10 crore.<sup>10</sup>
- ▶ Overall, 44 per cent of allocated funds have been released to Noida, till date. Fund release was the highest in FY 23-24, when 90 per cent of the special grant was released. However, except for that year and FY 24-25, less than 70 per cent of annual allocations have been released each year. In FY 20-21 none of the allocated amount was released to Noida.
- ▶ Further, no funds have been released for FY 25-26 till 4 January 2026, indicating a delay in disbursement, with releases likely to occur towards the end of the financial year.
- ▶ There are also delays in release of funds to the Noida Authority by the SPCB. As per an RTI response, as of 22 August 2025, only ₹8 crore of the total ₹25 crore released in FY 24-25 i.e. 32 per cent had been released to the authority.

**Figure 1: Approved allocation and releases for NCAP in Noida (FY 20-21 to FY 25-26)**



Source: For FY 21-22, FY 22-23, FY 23-24 FY 24-25 and FY 25-26, approved allocation figures are from the 1st National Apex Committee Meeting, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee Meetings and 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> Monitoring Committee Meeting, respectively. For FY 20-21, the allocation was manually computed as a percentage of NCAP’s total outlay (based on the outlay mentioned in MoEF&CC’s Annual Report (2024-25)) and so may be over/under-estimated. Release data was sourced from the PRANA portal and is updated as of 4 January 2026.

**Figure 2: Utilisation of NCAP funds in Noida (FY 20-21 to FY 25-26)**

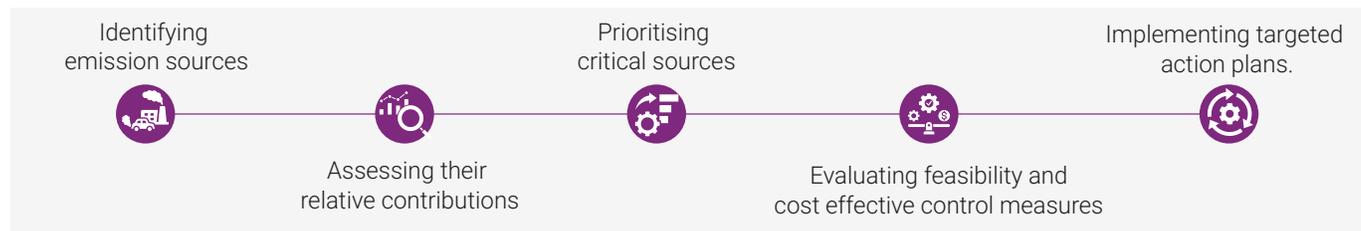


Source: Expenditure data has been obtained from the PRANA portal and is updated as of 4 January 2026. Note: Utilisation has been computed as a proportion of releases and unspent balances for each year.

- ▶ Yearly expenditure has been estimated as a proportion of total funds available which includes unspent balances or the funds that are carried forward from previous years, as well as fresh releases for that year.
- ▶ Overall, fund utilisation across years is poor. As of 4 January 2026, ₹30 crore has been spent on air pollution related activities, accounting for 54 per cent of total releases. If we compare this to the allocated amount, then only 24 per cent of allocations have been utilised.
- ▶ Utilisation of funds only began in FY 23-24 and has been the highest in FY 25-26 (52 per cent).

## TRENDS IN NCAP EXPENDITURE

Air pollution stems from multiple sources. The CPCB highlights that improving air quality in polluted cities requires a systematic approach involving: identifying emission sources, assessing their relative contributions, prioritising critical sources, evaluating feasibility and cost-effective control measures and implementing targeted action plans.<sup>11</sup> Thus, under NCAP, cities are required to conduct source apportionment studies to guide planning and resource allocation.



Noida has completed its emission inventory, but the source apportionment study is still under progress.<sup>12</sup> Winter sampling is ongoing with the final report expected by December 2025. Hence, findings of the study could not be examined. The City Air Action Plan, however, identifies key sources of pollution in Noida as vehicular emissions, road dust, construction and demolition activities, industrial emissions, garbage burning and agricultural waste burning.<sup>13</sup> The plan outlines short- and long-term measures to control pollution from these sources.



An RTI response revealed that as of 22 August 2025, between FY 20-21 and FY 24-25, only ₹3 crore out of ₹56 crore received was utilised by the Noida authority, exclusively to reduce road dust. Three main activities were undertaken:

- ▶ Purchase of 5 truck mounted sprinkler water tankers: ₹1 crore
- ▶ Purchase of 4 mechanised road sweeping machines: ₹2 crore
- ▶ Purchase of 5 anti-smog guns: ₹0.2 crore

By 4 January 2026, the utilisation number had risen by ₹27 crore, though details of the activities are not available. However, as per plans made for utilisation of the remaining funds received until FY 23-24, which were under different stages of progress, funds were to be utilised as follows:

- ▶ 99 per cent of available funds were to be used for road dust mitigation. This includes the procurement of 10 additional truck mounted anti-smog guns, 20 truck mounted sprinkler tankers and road paving work. These activities are mostly either in the tendering stage, or awaiting approval.
- ▶ The remaining 1 per cent funds were to be used for public outreach activities.

In FY 24-25, the Noida Authority expected to receive ₹33 crore, which it planned to spend through the Noida Traffic Cell and Horticulture Department on road dust mitigation (by paving roads and greening traffic corridors) and public outreach activities. As previously mentioned, it actually received only ₹8 crore for the year.

## CONVERGENCE ACTIONS IN NOIDA

NCAP emphasises convergence across ministries and departments to achieve air quality improvements. In Noida, several interlinked initiatives have been implemented through both Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes:

-  Noida has 66 electric vehicle charging stations to encourage the adoption of electric vehicles.<sup>14</sup> In addition, under initiatives of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (National Biofuel policy and SATAT), plans were made to develop city gas distribution infrastructure comprising 56 CNG stations and 2,88,734 PNG connections.<sup>15</sup>
-  The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs' PM e-Bus Sewa scheme seeks to augment urban bus operations with central assistance of ₹20,000 crore to deploy 10,000 fully air-conditioned buses under a Public-Private Partnership model. As of 3 September 2024, Noida had not participated in the scheme. It was estimated that the city requires at least 100 buses, and Noida was advised to expedite its participation.
-  Eligibility for NCAP grants requires cities to establish Automated Testing Stations (ATS) and Registered Vehicle Scrapping Facilities (RVSF). Noida has made only partial progress. While one ATS was to be set up, none were approved or operationalised as of September 2024, however, two RVSFs were operational.<sup>16</sup>
-  It was planned to remediate 68 dumpsites across Noida and Ghaziabad, which together generate an estimated 84.5 lakh tonnes of waste. For this purpose, ₹125 crore was allocated. However, as of 1 April 2022, work was still ongoing and no funds had been utilised, despite the original completion deadline of December 2022.<sup>17</sup>
-  The Nagar Van/Vatika Yojana, aimed to develop 400 Nagar Vans and 200 Nagar Vatikas across the country to expand urban green cover, mitigate pollution, improve air quality, reduce noise, support water harvesting, and curb urban heat island effects. The scheme was to be implemented in convergence with CSOs, NGOs and industries. As of 17 October 2023, approval for a Nagar Van or Nagar Vatika in Noida was still pending because the city had not submitted any proposal for approval.<sup>18</sup>

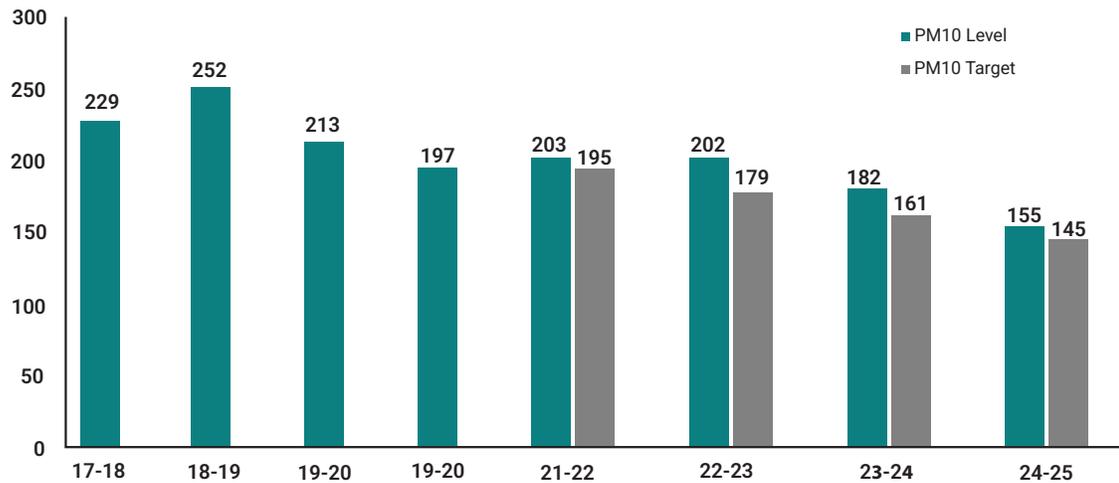
## GRIEVANCE REDRESSAL MECHANISM

Citizens can report air pollution-related complaints, on the 'Sameer' app. According to information obtained through an RTI response, a total of 707 air pollution related complaints were received from 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2021, which were disposed of within a stipulated period of time. There is no clarity on the status or number of complaints received after this period. However, as per a tech enabled program rolled out by the Air Pollution Action Group (A-PAG) a total of 24,426 issues were identified in Noida, of which 21,686 were resolved.<sup>20</sup>

## AIR QUALITY MONITORING IN NOIDA

-  Noida has a population of 6,37,272.<sup>21</sup> According to CPCB guidelines on air quality monitoring stations, cities with populations between 5,00,000 and 10,00,000 must operate at least:<sup>22</sup>
  -  3 manual air quality monitoring stations (with two located in residential/ commercial areas).
  -  3 CAAQMS strategically placed across traffic-dominant, residential, and commercial zones.
-  CAAQMS are advanced systems with power backup that generate real-time air quality data and can be remotely managed.<sup>23</sup> Noida exceeds the minimum requirement- it has 4 functional CAAQMS and 4 manual stations.<sup>24</sup>
-  As per data available on the PRANA portal, there has been an improvement in PM10 levels between FY 17-18 and FY 24-25. PM10 concentration has declined by 32 per cent from 229µg/m<sup>3</sup> in FY 17-18 to 155µg/m<sup>3</sup> in FY 24-25. However, between FY 21-22 and FY 24-25 the actual PM10 levels have remained higher than the target set for Noida for that year.

Figure 3: PM10 levels in Noida from 2017-18 to 2024-25 and the PM10 target from 2021-22 to 2024-25



Source: PM10 levels are from the PRANA Portal. The PM10 targets from FY 21-22 onwards are from the NCAP Guidelines (25 August 2022).



Further, the PM10 levels are still above national and international standards:



The CPCB's NAAQS prescribe PM10 levels below  $60\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ .<sup>25</sup>

The WHO's recommended annual limit is  $15\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ .<sup>26</sup>



PM 2.5 concentration is not being monitored under NCAP in Noida. There is a need for the MoEF&CC to revisit its monitoring framework to include this and ensure that data collection includes qualitative components that reflect public experiences and on ground realities.<sup>27</sup>

## CONCLUSION

While Noida has shown some improvement in air quality indicators, poor fund utilisation and slow implementation is a significant challenge. To progress towards clean air goals, it is important to address these gaps by:



Ensuring adequate allocations in upcoming funding cycles, particularly in view of the new 16<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission report and the upcoming Union Budget announcements.



Revisiting performance metrics so that cities are not incentivised to prioritise short term measures that lead to quick improvements in PM10 levels, over interventions that will have a longer-term impact



Enhancing transparency of the PRANA portal by publishing detailed expenditure break-ups and information of convergence activities, to enable better tracking of spending and facilitate cross city learning



Strengthening citizen engagement by increasing awareness about pollution-related grievance helplines and displaying both complaint status and resolution taken on a public dashboard



Regularly updating source apportionment studies to ensure that interventions are aligned with current realities and emerging trends



Providing targeted capacity building for officials involved with NCAP implementation to strengthen evidence-based decision making and planning

## REFERENCES

<sup>1</sup>Government launches National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) (10 January 2019) [url](#).

<sup>2</sup>*Ibid*

<sup>3</sup>Non-attainment cities are those where air quality levels exceeded the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for 5 consecutive years. These standards were notified by the Central Pollution Control Board on 18 November 2009. As per them, PM10 levels should not be greater than 100µg/m<sup>3</sup> in residential areas within a 24-hour period, [url](#). The list of NACs must be updated every year

<sup>4</sup>MoEF&CC Annual Report (2024-25) [url](#).

<sup>5</sup>*Ibid*

<sup>6</sup>For FY 21-22 to FY 25-26 ₹12,139 crore was earmarked for achieving ambient air quality in million plus cities under the million-plus cities challenge fund. For FY 20-21 ₹4,400 crore was recommended.

<sup>7</sup>Funding for NCAP is under the MoEF&CC's control of pollution scheme.

<sup>8</sup>National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) to improve air quality in 131 cities by engaging all stakeholders (23 March 2023) [url](#); Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 17 (25 November 2024) [url](#).

<sup>9</sup>Guidelines for Release and Utilisation of Funds under NCAP, 2022, [url](#); Guidelines for Release and Utilisation of Funds under NCAP (14 May 2025) [url](#).

<sup>10</sup>6th Steering Committee Meeting Minutes (13 September 2023) [url](#).

<sup>11</sup>Model Framework for conducting source apportionment studies, [url](#).

<sup>12</sup>City Air Action Report for FY 24-25, Noida (29 October 2025)

<sup>13</sup>Action Plan for the Control of Air Pollution in Noida City (2018) [url](#).

<sup>14</sup>2<sup>nd</sup> National Apex Committee Meeting (15 March 2023) [url](#).

<sup>15</sup>*Ibid*

<sup>16</sup>4<sup>th</sup> National Apex Committee Meeting (7 September 2024) [url](#).

<sup>17</sup>*Ibid*

<sup>18</sup>4<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee Meeting Minutes (1 April 2022) [url](#).

<sup>19</sup>12<sup>th</sup> Monitoring Committee Meeting Minutes (17 October 2023) [url](#).

<sup>20</sup>14<sup>th</sup> Monitoring Committee Minutes (27 May 2025) [url](#).

<sup>21</sup>Census of India, 2011.

<sup>22</sup>Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2701 (17 March 2025) [url](#).

<sup>23</sup>Brief Note on Central Sector Scheme Control of Pollution, CPCB, [url](#).

<sup>24</sup>4<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee Meeting Minutes (1 April 2022) [url](#); CAAQM Dashboard, [url](#).

<sup>25</sup>National Ambient Air Quality Standards, No. B-29016/20/90/PCH-I, MoEF&CC (18 November 2009) [url](#).

<sup>26</sup>WHO Global Air Quality Guidelines (2021) [url](#).

<sup>27</sup>378<sup>th</sup> Demand for Grants (23-24) of the MoEF&CC by the Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment, Forests and Climate Change, [url](#).

## ANNEXURE 1

### FUND FLOW MECHANISM IN NOIDA

Noida receives supplementary funds under NCAP from the MoEF&CC to implement air pollution control measures. The NCAP Guidelines<sup>9</sup> outline the criteria for allocation, conditions of release, and permissible uses of funds:



**Allocation Criteria:** Financial allocation to cities is based on the annual NCAP financial outlay and determined according to the population size and average PM10 concentration in each city. For Noida, the allocation ratio has been fixed at 3.83, meaning the city can receive up to 3.83% of NCAP's total financial outlay in a given financial year.



**Fund Release Conditions:** Earlier funds were released upon submission of Utilisation Certificates (UCs) and satisfactory performance against key indicators like completion of source apportionment studies, progress on action plans and air quality improvement. In 2025, the guidelines were revised:



**Pre-qualification criteria:** Cities must meet pre-requisites to be eligible for fund release. These include submission of the city action plan, annual action plan, UCs, data updating on PRANA etc.



**Performance-based evaluation:** Cities that meet the pre-qualification criteria are assessed on actions taken in waste management, dust control, vehicular emission reduction and public participation. A minimum score of 60 is required to be eligible for funding.

Cities that meet their performance targets receive the full allocation. Those that exceed targets become eligible for additional incentives. All funds are released directly by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) to the State Pollution Control Board (SPCB), which is responsible for further disbursement.



**Permissible Use of Funds:** Funds under NCAP can only be used for specific, approved activities such as road improvement and dust control, greening, traffic management, and public outreach. For activities outside this scope, cities must obtain prior approval from the National Steering Committee.

Cities are also required to maintain comprehensive documentation of all activities undertaken, including before and after photographs, and should upload evidence on the PRANA portal or display it at a publicly accessible location.

## About ResGov

The Foundation for Responsive Governance (ResGov) is a Section 8 not-for-profit working to strengthen the capabilities of government and communities to ensure public initiatives reach the most vulnerable.

## Authors

Pritika Malhotra and Avani Kapur

**How to cite:** Malhotra, P., Kapur, A. (2025), Financing Clean Air: What city-level data shows, Noida City Brief: 3, Foundation for Responsive Governance, New Delhi. 4 January 2026.

## Design

Yashoda Banduni



**We are working to strengthen the capabilities of government and communities to ensure public initiatives reach the most vulnerable.**

 [www.resgov.org](http://www.resgov.org)  [hello@resgov.org](mailto:hello@resgov.org)  [@Res\\_Gov](https://twitter.com/Res_Gov)  [www.linkedin.com/company/resgov](https://www.linkedin.com/company/resgov)

COPYRIGHT & DISCLAIMER: Financing Clean Air:What city-level data shows © 2025 by Foundation for Responsive Governance is licensed under CC BY-NCSA 4.0. You may choose to reproduce or redistribute this report for non-commercial purposes in part or in full to any other person with due acknowledgment to the Foundation for Responsive Governance (ResGov), The opinions expressed herein are entirely those of the author(s)