# Air Quality Policy Implementation System and Future Initiatives

23 September 2025



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## Major Air Pollution Management System

### Particulate Matter



- Policies for reducing air pollution are implemented with different objectives, durations, and intensities depending on the pollution situation.
- Emergency reduction measures are issued when high concentrations of PM (50 μg/m³) are detected, according to the disaster response system

			Regular Measures	Seasonal Management	Emergency Measures	
	Period		Year-round	Dec-Mar	On issuance	
	Ob,	jective	Improve annual average levels	Reduce frequency of high PM	Minimise peak concentrations	
	Policy	Intensity	Low ★	Medium ★★	High ★★★	
		Power · Industry	<ul> <li>Upgrade emission standards</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Restrict operation of some coal power plants</li> </ul>	Output cap on all coal power plants	
	Main Policy	Transpor tation	<ul> <li>Early scrappage and retrofit subsidies for old diesel vehicles (Grade 4, 5)</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Operation restrictions on Grade 5 diesel vehicles</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Driving restrictions and alternate day driving for vehicles in the public sector</li> </ul>	
		Living · Other	<ul> <li>Supervision of agricultural waste burning</li> </ul>	Strengthened dust control at construction sites	<ul> <li>Adjust or suspend operation times for public construction sites</li> </ul>	

#### Ozone

# Intensive measures during high-concentration periods (May-Aug)

Emission Reduction Measures	Public Action Guidelines
<ul> <li>Joint inspections of large         NOx and VOC emitters</li> <li>Expand drone and mobile         monitoring in large         petrochemical complexes</li> <li>Provide technical support         to small businesses and         gas stations</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Monitor ozone alerts and reduce outdoor activities</li> <li>Avoid outdoor exercise</li> <li>Limit outdoor learning for children</li> <li>Use public transport instead of personal vehicles</li> <li>Reduce usage of sprays, paints, and thinners during alerts</li> </ul>

# Industrial Emission Management System

Classification	Emission Standards	Monitoring	Total Emission Control	
Emission sources are classified from Type 1 to Type 5 based on the amount of air pollutants emitted (SOx, NOx, dust combined).  80t † 20-80t 2-10t 2-10t 2t   Type 1 Type 2 Type 3 Type 4 Type 5	<ul> <li>Emission standards are set for each pollutant.</li> <li>Under the Air Quality Management Area Act, local governments may apply stricter standards.</li> <li>In Special Control Zones (e.g., Ulsan/Mipo &amp; Onsan, Yeocheon Industrial Complex), special emission caps are enforced</li> </ul>	Types 1–3: Use TMS to send real-time emission data from stacks to a control center.  Types 4–5: Use IoT devices to check if control systems are running properly.  - (TMS) Real-time measurement of emission concentrations of regulated pollutants → Transmitted to the control center  - (IoT) IoT devices attached → Determine proper operation of control facilities through electric current signals	High-pollution areas are designated as <i>Air Quality Control Zones</i> , with total emission limits set per region every 5 years.  Targets: High-emission facilities (Types 1–3) emitting over 4 tons/year of NOx/SOx or 0.2 tons/year of dust	

## Vehicle Management System

### Internal Combustion Engine(ICE) Vehicles

Emissions · Noise	Greenhouse Gases	Restrictions	Emission Reduction
<ul> <li>Manufacturers must obtain certification before sale to meet emission and noise standards.</li> <li>Certification required for any major model change</li> <li>Emission standards follow U.S. for gasoline/LPG cars, EU for diesel and noise.</li> <li>Manufacturers are responsible for recall during emission warranty (10 years for diesel vehicles, 15 years for gasoline and LPG vehicles)</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Manufacturers Must comply with CO₂ emission limits.</li> <li>Applies to passenger vehicles and small vans/trucks</li> <li>* Vehicles over 3.5 tons (medium and large): pilot project for voluntary greenhouse gas emission reporting underway (2023-)</li> <li>97g/km (2021) → 95g/km (2023) → 70g/km (2030 goal).</li> <li>* U.S. target (2032): 45.4g/km, EU: 0g/km by 2035.</li> </ul>	Grade 5 diesel vehicles are restricted during seasonal management (Dec–Mar) and emergency reduction days.  New registration of diesel vehicles for specific uses (e.g., school buses, delivery) is restricted in AQM areas from 2024.	<ul> <li>and installation of emission control devices (DPF, PM-NOx)</li> <li>Targets include Grade 4, 5 diesel vehicles and pre-2004 construction equipment.</li> </ul>

## Vehicle Management System

### Zero-Emission Vehicle Deployment

(ZEVs) by 2030: Electric Vehicles (EVs): 4.2 million units, Hydrogen Vehicles (FCEVs): 300,000 units (Charging Infrastructure) by 2030: EV Chargers: 1.23 million units, Hydrogen Stations: Over 660 stations

Deployment	Infrastructure Plan	Institutional support		
Differentiated subsidies to promote high-performance, eco-friendly vehicles.  - EV: Promote affordable, safe, high-performance models  - FCEV: Support for operating costs (e.g., hydrogen stack replacement).	<ul> <li>Expansion of accessibility-, convenience-, and safety-centered chargers deployment.</li> <li>EV chargers: rapid chargers installed at mobile hubs (e.g., motorway rest areas), fire-safe slow chargers installed at residential areas</li> <li>Hydrogen: High-capacity, liquefied hydrogen stations and hybrid facilities (CNG+Hydrogen)</li> </ul>	Zero-emission vehicle deployment promoted through manufacturer low-emission vehicle supply targets, mandatory purchase/lease system for public institutions, and zero-emission vehicle transition campaigns  - ZEV Sales Mandate: Manufacturers must meet a quota of eco-friendly vehicles Public Sector Procurement: Mandatory ZEV purchases/rentals - ZEV Campaigns: Encourage private companies to pledge full(100%) ZEV transition by 2030		

### Three Major Mid- to Long-Term Plans

1. 3rd Comprehensive Plan for Air Quality Improvement (2023–2032)

#### Goal

- Reduce annual average PM2.5 concentration to 12 μg/m³ by 2032
- Achieve 50% compliance rate for 1-hour ozone standard nationwide

#### Key Strategies

- Establish a health-focused air quality management system
- ☑ Enhance emissions management at industrial sites
- Accelerate reduction of emissions from mobile sources
- ☑ Effectively manage and reduce emissions from the living areas
- ✓ Strengthen scientific capabilities and practical international cooperation

2. 2nd Comprehensive Fine Dust Management Plan (2025–2029)

#### Goal

 Achieve 13 µg/m³ annual average of PM2.5 by 2029

#### Key Strategies

- ✓ Simultaneously reduce greenhouse gases and PM levels
- ✓ Focused management of environments near citizens (e.g., subways, kitchens)
- ☑ Enhance protection for sensitive/vulnerable populations during high pollution periods
- Strengthen policy foundations for ammonia and VOCs

3. 2nd Regional Air Quality
Management Plan (2025–2029)

#### Goal

- By 2029, achieve regional targets of 13– 15 μg/m³ of PM2.5
  - \* Seoul Capital Area:  $21 \rightarrow 15$ , Central Area:  $20 \rightarrow 15$ Southern Area:  $16 \rightarrow 12$ , Southeastern Area:  $17 \rightarrow 13$

#### Key Strategies

- ☑ Reduce total allowable emissions in Air Quality
   Management Areas by 30% compared to 2023 by 2029
- Develop tailored regional strategies based on emission source characteristics
- \* Capital Area: High population density and transport emissions → Promote scrapping of old diesel vehicles and electrification of construction equipment
- Central Area: Many large power plants →
   Strengthen total emission controls for large facilities

Reduction in Air Pollutant Emissions Leading to Improvement in PM levels

Since 2016, focused reduction policies targeting large emitters (industry, transport, etc.) have led to a decline in PM2.5 levels and precursor emissions.

# PM2.5 Levels ( $\mu$ g/m<sup>3</sup>) Lowest-ever nationwide annual average PM2.5 concentration recorded since measurements began. 26 2016 2022 2024 2019

# Improved PM2.5 Levels During High-Pollution Season (Dec–Mar)



During the 6th Seasonal Management Period (Dec 2024 – Mar 2025):
Achieved the lowest recorded fine dust concentrations during high-pollution season.

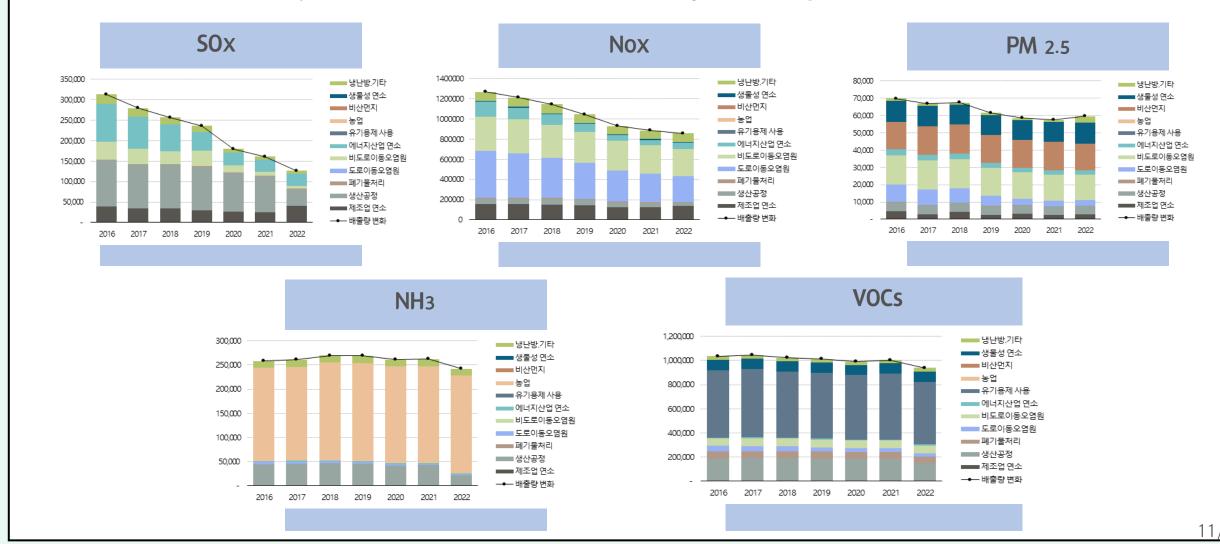
Increase in the number of "Good" air quality days, and decrease in "Bad" days.

Category	Before	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3rd	4 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup>
μg/m³	33.4	24.4	23.4	23.7	23.2	24.6	20.3
Good	13	28	35	40	34	47	54
Bad	35	22	18	18	20	15	12

- "Good" day: daily average PM2.5  $\leq$  15  $\mu$ g/m<sup>3</sup>
- "Bad" day: daily average PM2.5  $\geq$  36  $\mu$ g/m

### Reduction in Key Precursor Emissions (SOx, NOx)

Emissions of major PM2.5 precursors like SOx and NOx are steadily decreasing.

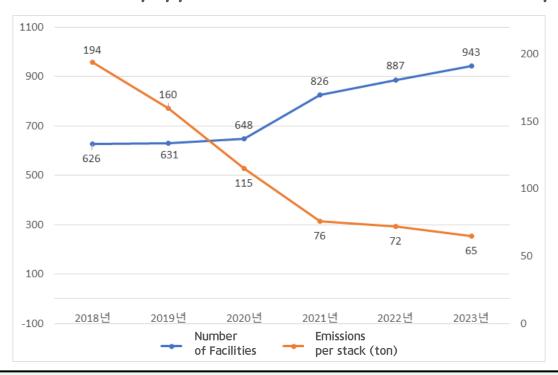


### Decrease in Industrial Emissions

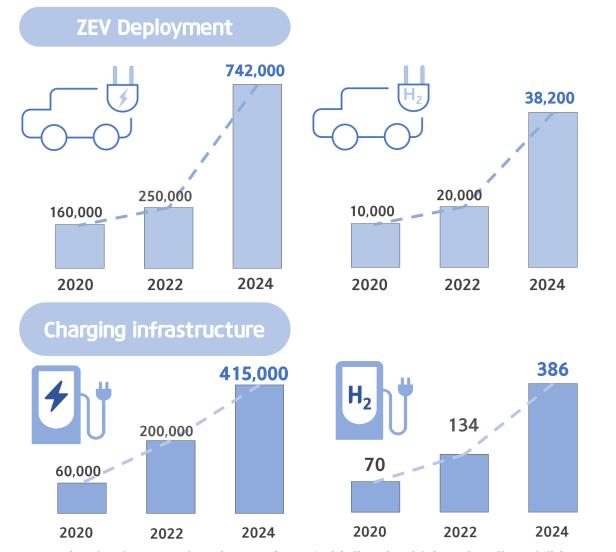


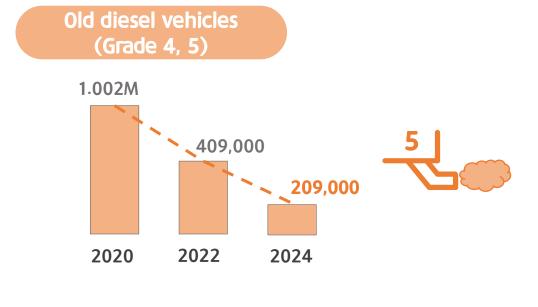
- Large-scale facilities: Expansion of TMS (Tele-Monitoring Systems) and tighter regulatory oversight have reduced pollutant emissions per smokestack.
- Small-scale facilities: Since July 2023, mandatory installation of IoT-based monitoring devices enables remote
  supervision to ensure pollution control systems operate properly.
  - \* For small businesses, 90% of installation costs are subsidised to ease the financial burden.

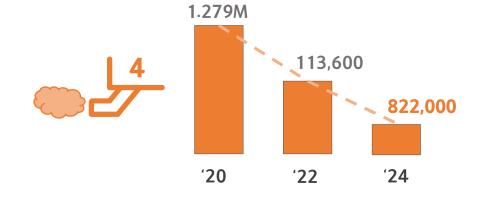
#### Number of TMS-equipped facilities and emission trends per stack



### Efforts in the Transportation Sector: Transition to ZEVs







\*ZEV adoption is outpacing the number of old diesel vehicles, signaling visible growth in the ZEV ecosystem

# 3. Policy Environment

#### Policy Environment

### Rising Ozone Concentrations

Need for Localised Air Quality Management

# Stagnation in ZEV Demand

Transition in Transportation

Management System

Due to climate change and rising temperatures, ozone levels are increasing.

Implement differentiated management plans tailored to local characteristics as some regions are currently failing to meet the air quality standards.

Factors such as global economic slowdown and the EV adoption chasm are contributing to a decline in demand.

Global policy paradigm shifting from conventional exhaust emission management of operating vehicles to non-exhaust pollutants and Life Cycle Assessment (LCA)of greenhouse gas management.

#### 문화일보

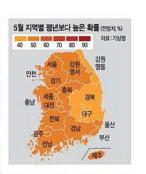
2025년 04월 24일 (목)

사회 12면 5월 기온 평년보다 높을 확률 80% 올여름 더위, 더 빨리 더 세게 온다

고기압성 순환에 이상고온 증가 지난해 이어 '역대급 폭염' 예고

■ 4월 더위가 심상치 않은 가운데 5월 기온이 평년 이상일 확률이 80%에 달하는 등 때 이른 무더위가 예고됐다. 전서 게 기상학계는 최근 몇 년 새 지구적 등 제로 대두되는 여름 역대급 폭염이 올해 도 이어질 가능성을 높게 보고 있다.

24일 기상청은 '3개월 전망' 을 통해 "동인도양과 북인도양의 높아진 해수면 온도로 인해 한반도 부근에 고기압성 순



#### 대규모 아파트 입주 시작 오송, 축사 악취 민원 빗발

★ 김미나 기자 │ ② 승인 2024.11.20 16:10

오송생명과학단지 근처 26년 운영 지난해부터 올해까지 민원 100건 접수 청주시 "2018년 소유주 변심 철거 무산 농장주 "빠른 시일내 저감대책 마련"



#### YTN

"25% 관세"에 '초긴장'..."자동차 수출액 9.2 조 원 감소"

2025년 02월 20일 00시 30분



#### 프랑스 탄소배출 기준 전기차 보조금 추진...탄소 무역장벽 확산

탄소발자국 및 재활용 평가, 합산 60점 이상 차량에만 보조금 지급 '친원전' 프랑스...자동차 산업 발전 도모하기 위한 유리한 제도 마련



15/25

## Reduction of Key Emission Sources

# Efficient Emission Management in Air Control Zones

- Reduce total allowable emissions in air control zones
  - Gradual reduction of total permissible emissions in air control zones (since 2020)
  - Provide support measures to various industries
- Enhance effectiveness through advanced total cap system
  - Strengthen permissible emission levels for major polluters
  - Develop roadmap for effective management considering industry-specific emission levels and reduction technologies

#### Restructure of Industrial Emission Management System

- Create a mid- to long-term roadmap for permissible emission levels
  - Integrate permissible emission levels, total emission caps, and integrated environmental permits → Streamlined industrial emission management

Permissible emission levels (Clean Air Act)

Total emission cap (Air Control Zone Act)

Permits
(Control of pollutant-discharging facility Act)

#### **Industrial Sector**

#### Al & Big Data-Based Monitoring

- Smart monitoring of industrial emissions using ICT and AI
- Build a smart surveillance system using drones, mobile monitoring vehicles, big data
- \* Real-time monitoring using advanced equipment → Analyse high-concentration areas and emission sources with big data → Use AI models to detect suspicious illegal emitters

### Reduction of Key Emission Sources

#### Accelerate ZEV Deployment

#### Expansion of ZEV deployment

- Expand subsidies for actual demand groups (e.g., youth, families with multiple children).
- Reform the subsidy system based on performance and safety
- Establish mid-term ZEV supply targets (2026– 2030)

#### Improve Charging Infrastructure

- Transition to hydrogen stations from CNG stations
- Mass deployment of smart-controlled and mobile chargers
- Promote PnC, V2G, and battery subscription and on-demand charging services

#### **Reduce Old ICE Vehicles**

- Support for early scrappage of old diesel vehicles + EV conversion expansion
- Continue early retirement of Grade 4 and 5 diesel vehicles
- Gradual electrification of heavy-duty vehicles,
   construction machinery, and two-wheelers

# Designate and operate low-emission zones

- Only ZEVs or vehicles permitted by municipal ordinance can operate
- Search for areas to designate lowemission zones

#### Transportation Sector

# Align with Global Trends in Vehicle Policy

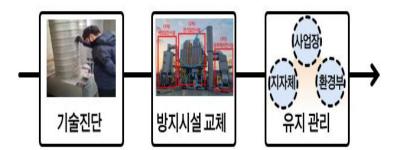
- Implementation of LCA for vehicles
  - Support for SMEs in automotive parts,
     build GHG emissions DB to estimate
     domestic GHG, develop LCA roadmap
- Build management system for nonexhaust wear particles
- Establish a system for estimating nonexhaust emissions
- Develop domestic test methods and permissible emission levels for brake wear particles

## Reduction of Key Emission Sources

# Manage Regional Air Quality & Odour Issues

#### || "Clean Air in My Neighborhood" support package

- Provide focused support to vulnerable areas and residential zones near industrial parks
- \* Field survey  $\rightarrow$  Technical support and facility improvement  $\rightarrow$  Follow-up management



# Reduce Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs)

#### VOC control in living areas

- Strengthen VOC control by using toxic air monitoring networks to intensively monitor VOC-heavy areas (e.g., petrochemical complexes)
  - \* Operate public-private consultative bodies

    → Conduct diagnostics and monitoring →
    Propose and apply mitigation plans →
    Implement full-cycle management
- Develop water-based paints, and roadmap to manage organic solvents (e.g., paint, thinner)

#### Living Environment

# Mitigate ammonia emission sources

#### Ammonia control

- Expand energy recovery of livestock manure (target: 23% by 2029)
- Provide financial support for installing pollution prevention facilities at livestock manure sites

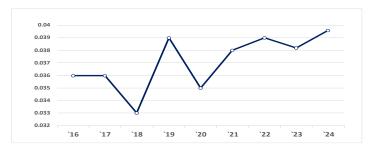
#### Enhance ammonia monitoring

- Expand aerial ammonia measurement targeting key sources
- \* By 2026: pig farms→ 2026–27: cattle farms, roads
- → 2028–29: industrial and residential areas

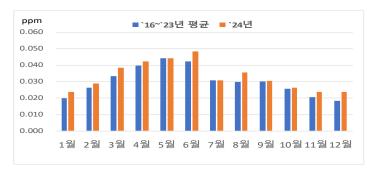
### Air Quality Management in Response to Climate Change

#### Strengthen Ozone Control

- Develop intensive control measures for high ozone episodes
  - Establish summer ozone management strategy
  - Reassess list of VOCs (currently 37 types) contributing to ozone formation
- Upgrade ozone forecast information services
- Expand ozone forecasting services
- Develop integrated forecasting model (observation + numerical modelling + AI)



Hourly average concentration trends (May-Aug)



Monthly concentration trends (Averages during 2016–2023 and 2024)

# Expand atmospheric impact research in response to climate change

- Analyze air quality effects of carbon neutrality implementation and build mitigation system for both air pollutants and greenhouse gases
  - Study air quality impact of lowemission fuel processes
  - Establish integrated management framework considering synergy and trade-offs in air pollutants between air quality management and carbon neutrality policies
  - Strengthen indoor hazardous substance control in response to climate change

### Meticulous Pollution Management in Daily Life

# Focused control of pollution sources in residential areas

- Noise and air quality control in underground stations
- Conduct noise surveys inside subway cars and noise control
- Support air purifier replacement at stations prioritised by pollution and congestion levels
- Reduce cooking fume emissions
- Build monitoring system for cooking facilities
- Provide reduction equipment to large emitters

# Protection of sensitive and vulnerable groups

- Strengthen measures during high-concentration episodes
- Diversify fine dust forecasts, implement flexible seasonal management tailored to local conditions, expand emission reduction measures for large private facilities
- Improve environments of facilities used by vulnerable groups (e.g., daycare centres)
- Continuously improve indoor air quality at facilities used by children and the elderly

# Improvement of indoor air quality

- | Manage air quality in multi-use facilities
- Apply stricter PM2.5 standards to 5 types of facilities (e.g., large stores, cram schools, libraries) starting in 2026
- Operate certification system for facilities with excellent indoor air quality (from 2026)
- Strengthen indoor radon control
- Expand radon reduction consulting services
- Develop and distribute ventilation guidelines

## Strengthen Scientific Capacity and Effective International Cooperation

#### Strengthen Science-Based Policy

- Identify emission sources and Advanced monitoring and develop reduction technologies forecasting systems
- Diversify R&D on PM precursors
- \* Identify causes of PM2.5 and ozone and develop mid- to long-term R&D for mitigation technologies
- Regional Research Expansion
- Build localised air quality forecasting system by establishing L-NEAS
- Expand region-specific studies via local centers and specialised graduate programmes

Conduct 3D observations (groundair-satellite) to improve accuracy in PM source analysis

#### Upgrade air pollutant emission data management

- Establish inventory for unaccounted sources (e.g., farmland, ports) and improve statistics
- Improve PM policy impact analysis (from national to regional level)

#### Lead International Cooperation and Support Overseas Expansion of Korean Industries

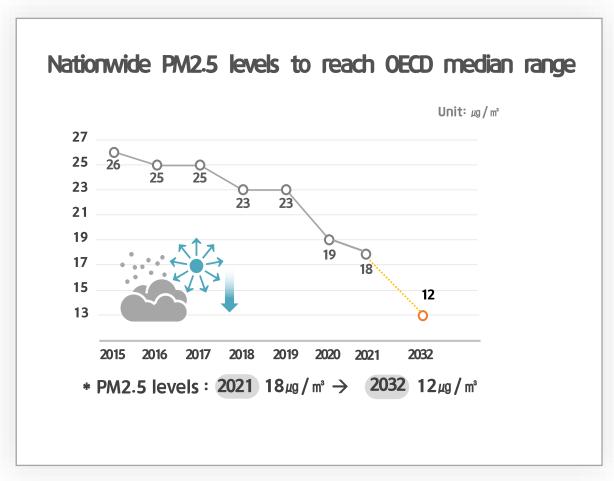
- Lead international cooperation in Asia
- Continue Korea-China PM cooperation, expand policy exchange and joint research in conjunction with the establishment of Korea-China-Japan Joint Action Plan (2026-2030)
- Multilateral cooperation with international organisations (UNDP, UNEP, etc.) to lead air quality improvement across Asia
- \* (UNDP) Support air quality improvement in Asia using environmental satellites (UNEP) Develop regional action plans for air pollution in Asia-Pacific
- Promote diversified overseas market entry for the air quality industry
- Support overseas expansion of Korean industries (e.g., ZEVs, fuel alternatives) through ODA
  - \* Mongolia: Integrated ICT-based air management system Indonesia: Deployment of ZEV charging stations

# 5. Expected Outcomes

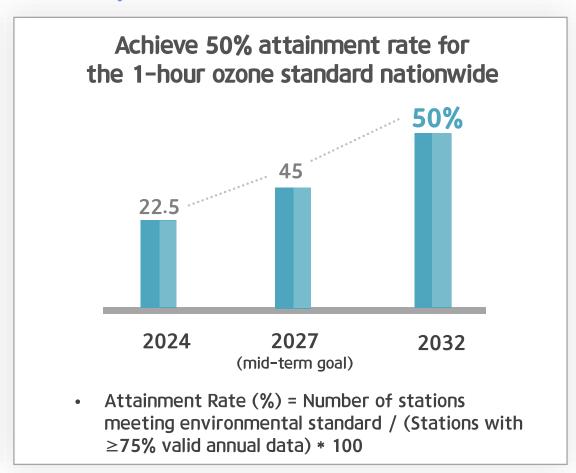
#### **Expected Outcomes**

Based on 3rd Comprehensive Air Quality Improvement Plan (2023–2032)

### Improvement in PM2.5 levels



### Improvement in ozone levels



# Racing for Clean Air!

