



Fig. S6. Scatterplots of daily aerosol optical thickness (AOT) at 440 nm versus PM₁₀ concentrations in Beijing (March 2001 to February 2007) during (a) spring, (b) summer, (c) autumn, (d) winter and (e) in Guangzhou (June to July 2006). The 440 nm AOT data for this comparison are from the AERONET sites of Beijing and BackGarden_GZ (data are available from the AERONET Web site, <http://aeronet.gsfc.nasa.gov/>). The AOT was computed from ground-based direct sun intensity measurements at 440 nm that were made using automatic tracking sun and sky scanning radiometers, which measured solar direct radiances and diffuse sky radiances. The AERONET data used here are level 2.0 quality-assured, which have been pre-field and post-field calibrated and automatically cloud screened.