



City of Westminster

City  
for  
All

# Air Quality Action Plan Summary

2019 – 2024

# Introduction

Nearly 250,000 people call Westminster their home, with another one million visitors every day. Areas of Westminster have recorded some of the worst air quality in the U.K making an action plan to tackle this issue vital to our city and its residents.

This plan details the actions we will take to improve air quality in Westminster between 2020 and 2024.

This is just one part of our plan to make Westminster cleaner and greener and will also help us reach our goal of becoming a carbon neutral city by 2030.

## Air quality action plan

The council's vision for Westminster's air quality is for everyone who lives, works and visits the city to have clean and breathable air. To achieve this, we need to work holistically and collaboratively across the council and with a variety of external stakeholders including residents, businesses and other levels of government.

For the first time, this plan commits Westminster to meeting World Health Organisation guidelines for air quality, which exceed the targets set by UK law. Setting this ambitious target emphasises our commitment to improving the air we all breathe in Westminster.

As with previous Action Plans, the actions we will take to improve air quality are split into five categories:

- Monitoring air quality
- Reducing emissions from buildings and new development
- Reducing emissions from transport
- Raising awareness of air quality
- Lobbying and partnership working



## Monitoring air quality

### Key actions from our Action Plan:

- Introducing a new city-wide diffusion tube monitoring network to supplement our existing automatic monitoring stations
- Continuing to trial and test new and emerging monitoring technologies, from solar powered sensors to smartphone apps
- Creating a new online interactive map of all of Westminster's monitoring locations and data
- Committing to extensive pre- and post-project monitoring of the Oxford Street District to evaluate our interventions across this area of the city
- Prioritising the provision of PM<sub>2.5</sub> monitoring in new automatic monitors

## Reducing emissions from buildings and new developments

### Key actions from our Action Plan:

- Adopting and implementing the air quality policies in our ground-breaking City Plan 2019 – 2040
- Updating our London-leading Code of Construction Practice for developers
- Implement local scale solutions such as greening our markets and reducing emissions from major events and street works
- Deliver projects based on addressing indoor air pollution and reducing emissions from buildings with Heritage status
- Publish a holistic Carbon Reduction Strategy for the whole city
- Investigating the adoption of a city-wide definition of valuable green space, looking at biodiversity, climate resilience, air pollution, well-being and social value

## Reducing emissions from transport

### Key actions from our Action Plan:

- Continuing to be the leading London local authority for the provision of Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure
- Investigate changes to our resident parking permit structure to encourage modal shift away from private vehicle use and discourage the use of older more polluting vehicles
- Updating our own procurement and green fleet policies to ensure that emissions are reduced from our own fleet and our major contractors' fleets
- Investigating the potential for major changes to parking and the use of parking bays across the city following our Parking Occupancy Survey 2018
- Implement innovative projects to reduce emissions from non-road sources of transport, including those from rail, river and canal

## Raising awareness

### Key actions from our Action Plan:

- Continuing to support and disseminate information on high pollution episodes through alert systems such as airTEXT
- Raising awareness of indoor air pollution
- Leading on innovative behavioural insight projects on issues such as parking to understand how to maximise the impacts of our policies
- Fostering closer relationships between the council and Public Health professionals including GPs to raise awareness of air pollution among traditionally hard to reach groups

## Lobbying and partnership work

### Key actions from our Action Plan:

- Working with schools to deliver our £500,000 schools air quality audit programme followed by our £1m Schools' Clean Air Fund
- Working closely with businesses and business groups to tackle emissions from deliveries and vehicle fleets
- Leading innovative projects with academic institutions such as King's College London to support and then put into practice research across a range of air quality issues
- Lobbying central Government for vital policies that will help reduce emissions from road transport, including changes to vehicle excise duty and the introduction of a national diesel scrappage scheme
- Continuing to press the Mayor of London and TfL for greater action to reduce emissions from black cab taxis

If you would like more information on this Action Plan or further details on our work on air quality, you can contact us in the following ways:

Visit: [westminster.gov.uk/air-pollution](https://westminster.gov.uk/air-pollution)

Email: [airquality@westminster.gov.uk](mailto:airquality@westminster.gov.uk)

This document was last updated December 2019.