



AIR POLLUTION FACTSHEET



According to Public Health England, poor air quality is the largest environmental risk to public health in the UK. Long term exposure to man-made **air pollution** in the UK has an estimated annual effect equivalent to 28,000-36,000 deaths. Air pollution can lead to a variety of health problems including cardiovascular disease and lung cancer.

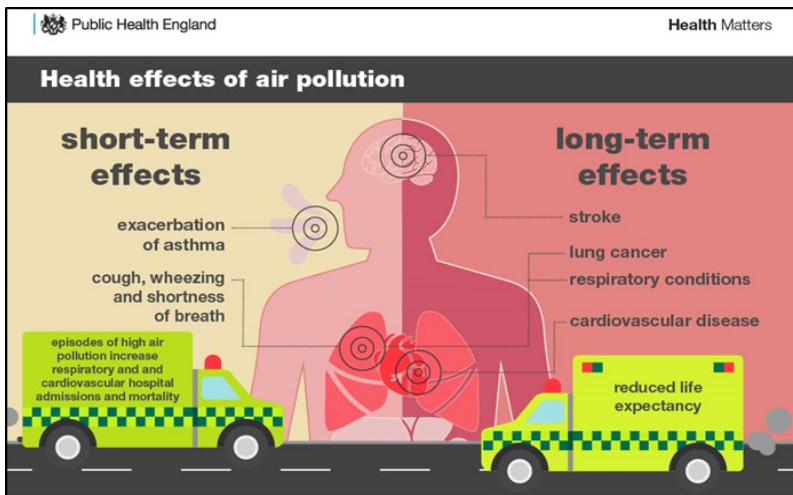


Image Source: Public Health England Health matters: air pollution - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Groups at a high-risk of air pollution effects:



- Older people (65+)
- Children
- Those with cardiovascular disease and/ or respiratory disease
- Pregnant women
- Communities in areas of poor air quality
- Poorer communities

AIR POLLUTION MONITORING

The council's Air Quality Monitoring Network includes Nitrogen Dioxide diffusion tubes at 56 location, 6 x Air Quality Monitoring Stations (4 newly installed in 2023). Levels of Nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), and Particulate matter (PM₁₀, PM_{2.5}) are recorded hourly in H&F at continuous monitors at **Shepherds Bush Town Centre (HF4)**, **Hammersmith Town Centre (HF5)**, **Fulham Town Centre (HF6)**, **Frank Banfield Park (HF7)**, **Wormwood Scrubs (HF8)** and **Sands End (HF9)**. Results are compared against the [National Air Quality Objectives \(NAQO\)](#) and the [World Health Organisation Air Quality Guideline Values](#).

The council during 2022/2023 installed forty-seven [Breathe London Air Quality Sensors](#) near the student entrances of Primary, Nursery and Secondary Schools across Hammersmith & Fulham. These Air Quality sensors also allow residents to check their local pollution levels.

H&F exceeds the National Air Quality Objectives (NAQO) for NO₂ so is required to have an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) in place: LBHF declared a whole borough AQMA and was required to produce an Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) to detail how the borough will reduce air pollution and meet the NAQO for NO₂ and PM_{2.5}. The borough reports progress on its AQAP annually in the Annual Status Report (ASR) for Air Quality submitted to the GLA and Defra. The latest ASR can be viewed [here](#).

Hammersmith and Fulham like the majority of London boroughs **exceeds** the **WHO annual average air quality guidelines for Nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), and Particles (PM_{2.5}, PM₁₀)**. The WHO Air Quality Guidelines in the Table below are for these pollutants and time frames that are most challenging for the borough to meet by 2030.

Annual Average Pollutant Concentrations at Air Quality Monitoring Stations (HF4, HF5)

Pollutant	UK Air Quality Target ug/m-3	WHO Air Quality Guideline ug/m-3	Shepherds Bush Town Centre (HF4)				Hammersmith Town Centre (HF5)			
			2019	2020	2021	2022	2019	2020	2021	2022
NO ₂	40	10	60	42	41	35	52	38	44	45
PM ₁₀	40	15	25	28	29	39	22	19	19	23
PM _{2.5}	10	5	-	-	10	13	15	14	11	10

IMPACT OF COVID-19 AND ULEZ ON AIR POLLUTION

Data collected since the beginning of the first coronavirus lockdown in March 2020 indicates that there have been significant changes in pollutant concentrations in LBHF, for nitrogen dioxide. There was a sharp decline in road traffic in March 2020 across the U.K however, vehicle traffic returned to pre-pandemic levels from Autumn 2021. The trend for PM10 is much less clear with an initial increase seen at Shepherd's Bush.

London's Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) was introduced on the 25th October 2021. The ULEZ is predicted to improve air quality in H&F as the whole borough is located within the ULEZ.

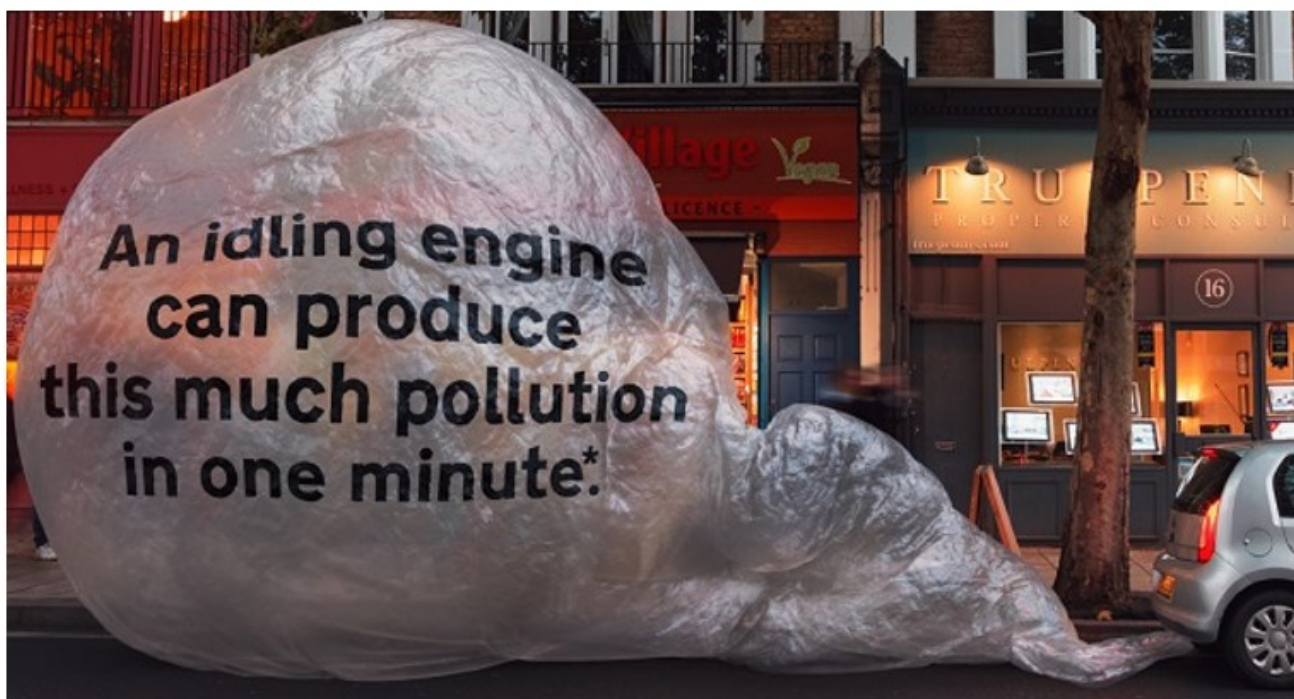


Image source: [Idling Action Pack Download Form](#)

HOW WE CAN IMPROVE AIR QUALITY IN H&F



- **Reduce car use and walk, cycle, scoot or use public transport instead of driving.**
 - More than a third of car trips made by Londoners could be walked in under 25 minutes and two thirds could be cycled in under 20 minutes.
 - H&F is making active travel easier by introducing more dedicated cycle lanes and supporting the introduction of electric cycle and scooter rental schemes.



- **Reduce emissions from domestic heating.** Electric boilers, air source heat pumps and gas heating produce significantly less pollution than solid fuel even when solid fuel controls of the borough's smoke control area are observed.
- **If you must drive a vehicle, never idle the engine and consider using a car club instead.**
- **Reduce the number of van journeys** within residential areas for online purchases by using [CLICK. COLLECT. CLEAN AIR.](#)

HOW TO REDUCE YOUR EXPOSURE TO AIR POLLUTION

- Use the Mayor's [Clean Air Route Finder](#) and avoid walking along the most polluted roads.
- Sign up to [airText alerts](#) so you are aware when there are especially high levels of air pollution.
- Schools, GP surgeries and care homes should receive air quality alerts from the Mayor of London. These alerts will give advice during incidents of poor air quality such as "Adults and children with lung problems, and adults with heart problems, **who experience symptoms**, should **consider reducing** strenuous physical activity, particularly outdoors."

ACTIONS H&F COUNCIL IS TAKING TO IMPROVE AIR QUALITY:

- The [South Fulham Clean Air Neighbourhood](#) has taken 15,000 cars a day off local streets since July 2022.
- Controlling emissions from construction sites by setting action alert levels in planning conditions.
- Building infrastructure to support active travel, such as more cycle lanes.
- Installing no engine idling signage to remind car drivers to switch off their engines and serving penalty notices when drivers continue to idle after a warning.
- Air quality and Transport officers are working with the planning team to prevent new emissions sources from developments and ensuring occupiers of new developments are not exposed to existing poor air quality.
- Enforcing the clean air act
- Considering air quality in procurement decisions
- Continuing to work to reduce emissions from its own borough fleet by moving towards electric vehicles and cargo bikes when journeys must be made by vehicle.
- Completing School Air Quality Audits (SAQA) at additional 20 x Primary Schools in 2023/2024 and progressing the recommendations of the 9 x SAQA already undertaken in 2021/2022.
- Replacing fossil fuelled boilers in Council-owned buildings with Zero Emission Heating plants – e.g., [Air Source Heat Pump](#), at Hammersmith Macbeth Centre and a [Ground Source Heat Pump](#) in the new Civic Campus Town Hall.