



DRAFT CLEAN AIR ACTION PLAN

2027-2030

This is Camden Council's plan for making the air we breathe cleaner, healthier, and safer for us all

camden.gov.uk/air-quality

Contents

Part 1: Introduction

[Contents](#)

[Foreword](#)

[Executive summary](#)

[Glossary and scientific terms explained](#)

Part 2: Setting the scene

[Introduction: what air pollution is and how it harms us](#)

[Our goal: Clean Air for Camden](#)

[How this document relates to other strategies and action plans](#)

[Air pollution in Camden](#)

[How we measure air quality](#)

[Indoor air quality](#)

[Air quality and our changing climate](#)

Part 3: Our work so far

[What we have done so far](#)

[Case studies](#)

[How air quality has changed](#)

Part 4: Our plan for 2027-2030

[Our Plan for 2027-2030](#)

[How we produced the draft Clean Air Action Plan 2027-2030](#)

[What we are asking from you](#)

[What is new in the Clean Air Action Plan 2027-2030](#)

[Theme 1: Reducing emissions](#)

[Theme 2: Reducing exposure](#)

[Theme 3: Leadership and advocacy](#)

[What we have not included in our Plan](#)

[Summary: Clean Air Action Plan 2027-2030](#)

Part 5: Appendices

[Evidence base](#)

[Map of air quality monitoring in Camden](#)

[Map of Air Quality Focus Areas in Camden](#)

[Map of Camden's Air Quality Management Area](#)

[References](#)

Foreword



Clean air means being able to go outdoors and feel like you can properly breathe.

That is the overriding message that came through during the powerful community engagement that helped to shape Camden's new Clean Air Action Plan for 2027-2030. It is a simple but urgent statement, and one that all too often

becomes lost in the complexities of air quality statistics, legal duties, and target-setting. Put simply, we need to make Camden a place where nobody gets ill because of the air they breathe.

Camden is a borough that stands up to challenges with ambition and bold action. In our work for clean air, we have always said that we will not shy away from standing out, from deviating from the norm, or for pushing for something better if current practice does not go far enough in protecting public health. That is why we were the first

London borough to adopt the stringent World Health Organization limit values for air pollution in 2018.

It is this ambition that has helped to drive significant air quality improvements across Camden. Air quality monitoring shows how the air in Camden is now much cleaner than when we first adopted the World Health Organization limits, with the vast majority of Camden's nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) monitoring sites meeting the UK legal limit in 2025, and 87% of sites compliant with our interim World Health Organization target for 2026.

Despite this strong progress, the levels of air pollution are still higher than the World Health Organization limits. We also now know more about the far-reaching impact of air pollution on our health and our communities. There is therefore still significant work to do.

Our new Clean Air Action Plan sets out how we propose to continue to clean Camden's air over the next four years. It also sets out how we plan to lead by example and advocate for positive change beyond our boundaries. The programme forms part of our We Make Camden

ambition for the borough to be a green, clean, vibrant, accessible, and sustainable place for everyone.

Our new Clean Air Action Plan is designed to build on the successful air quality projects we have delivered, as well as the excellent ideas we've heard from people living and working in Camden. We are also broadening our approach to tackle other sources and types of pollution, notably the growing risk of poor indoor air quality. It is intended to improve air quality for everyone, both outdoors and in indoor environments, but also seeks to focus our efforts on the communities who are the most vulnerable and most affected by air pollution.

There is no escaping the fact that times are tough and that we are facing multiple challenges – housing shortages, the cost of living, the climate crisis, poverty and homelessness – the list goes on. But despite the uncertainties we face, we should never neglect our health and wellbeing. They are centrally important for everything we do and for the people we hold dear to us.

I would like to encourage everyone to continue to play a role in improving air quality in Camden, whether it is changing how we travel, choosing not to light the wood burner, or changing how we manage

indoor air quality at home or at work, it all adds up to help create a cleaner, healthier borough where we can all thrive.

Councillor James Slater

Cabinet Member for Planning and a Sustainable Camden

Executive summary

Clean air is important for us all. We breathe twenty thousand times every day, seven million times each year, so it is important for the air we breathe to be safe and not contain substances that can harm us, including air pollution.

Camden has led by example in striving for clean air and climate action: we were the first local authority to adopt the World Health Organization guidelines for air quality; we were the first local authority to hold a citizen's assembly on the climate crisis. We stand up to challenges with ambition and bold action.

Since our first Clean Air Action Plan in 2019, **we have completed many projects that have helped to improve air quality** across Camden and London.

We have created many miles of new and improved cycle lanes to help people travel healthily. We have provided clean power for vehicles, ice cream vans, and canal boats. We have led London-wide campaigns about air pollution from wood burning and idling vehicles. We have increased Camden's outdoor air quality monitoring network, and we started the first indoor air quality monitor loan project, to help improve indoor air quality in homes throughout the borough.

Communities are breathing cleaner air as a result, and this will help to protect and improve health, both now and in the future.

We have much more work to do. Despite the progress, air pollution still causes people to become sick, children to miss school, and adults to miss work. It causes 30,000 early deaths every year in the United Kingdom, according to the Royal College of Physicians.

Air pollution also has an unequal effect on our communities. Poorer households and more deprived neighbourhoods usually have worse air quality. Air pollution exposure in the UK and Europe is typically higher for people from minoritised ethnic backgrounds. People experiencing homelessness may be exposed to high levels of air pollution when living on the street.

Achieving clean air in Camden is not only a matter of environmental health, it is a matter of fairness, social justice, and health equality.

Our Clean Air Action Plan 2027-2030 builds on the success of our previous work and sets out what we will do over the next four years to achieve our long-term goal for a borough with clean air for everyone, a borough where no person gets sick because of the air they breathe.

By the end of 2030 we will:

- ✓ Deliver clean air projects with Camden schools, reducing pollution emissions and building awareness so that schools and children learning in Camden are empowered to act for better air quality.
- ✓ Improve how we use and communicate air quality data.
- ✓ Reduce air pollution from often-forgotten sources, including generators, filming, and street trading.
- ✓ Work with businesses and employers to create a culture of universal action for cleaner air inside and outside of the workplace.
- ✓ Work across Camden Council to ensure clean air and environmental protection is strongly embedded in decision-making and policy.
- ✓ Improve our preparedness and resilience to climate-linked air pollution events and incidents.
- ✓ Further expand our innovative indoor air quality programme to support more Camden households to achieve cleaner, healthier air at home.



Glossary and scientific terms explained

Word or terminology	What is means in this document
Air quality	A description of whether the air we breathe is healthy and safe for us to breathe (or not), in relation to the amount of air pollution it contains.
Air pollution	Chemicals, gases, and particles in the air that can harm our health.
Clean air	Air that does not contain high levels of air pollution and is safer for us to breathe.
Nitrogen oxide (NO), nitrogen dioxide (NO ₂), and nitrogen oxides (NO _x)	Nitrogen oxide is a molecule of one atom of nitrogen and one of oxygen. Nitrogen dioxide is one nitrogen and two oxygen atoms. NO _x is used to refer generally to both NO and NO ₂ . These are all gases. We mainly focus on NO ₂ , and it is one of the main forms of air pollution that we are concerned about.
Particulate matter (PM)	‘Particles’ means tiny dust or molecules that float in the air that are small enough for us to be able to inhale them into our lungs. PM is one of the main forms of air pollution.
Coarse particulate matter (PM ₁₀)	Airborne PM that is no larger than 10 micrometres in size (one hundredth of a millimetre). This is about ten times smaller than the width of a human hair.
Fine particulate matter (PM _{2.5})	Airborne PM that is no larger than 2.5 micrometres in size (one four-hundredth of a millimetre). This is about three times smaller than a red blood cell.
Ultrafine particulate matter (UFP)	Airborne PM that is no larger than 0.1 micrometres in size (one ten-thousandth of a millimetre). This is smaller than bacteria and about the size of viruses.
Black carbon	A type of particulate matter (PM) that is formed when fuels do not burn completely. It is sometimes referred to as ‘soot’, and can harm our health as well as warming the climate.
Ozone (O ₃)	A gas that is helpful when it is high in the atmosphere, where it shields us from solar ultraviolet (UV) radiation, but is harmful for our health when it exists closer to the ground where we can breathe it.
Volatile organic compounds (VOC)	A general term for chemicals in the air that are released from materials, products, surfaces and reactions. Some of these can harm our health.

Word or terminology	What is means in this document
Polycyclic Organic Hydrocarbons (PAH)	Organic compounds produced as part of the combustion cycle with the potential to cause environmental damage and harm human health.
Micrometre	One-thousandth of a millimetre. Sometimes referred to as a 'micron'.
Nanometre	One-millionth of a millimetre.
Greenhouse gas (GHG)	A gas, such as carbon dioxide, which has the potential to increase global heating
Carbon dioxide (CO ₂)	Carbon dioxide is a gas comprising one atom of carbon and two of oxygen. The gas is produced during the combustion of fossil fuels such as gas or oil, and is a form of greenhouse gas.
Carbon monoxide (CO)	Carbon monoxide is a gas comprising one atom of carbon and one of oxygen. It is produced when fuels and other materials burn without enough oxygen present to form carbon dioxide (CO ₂). Carbon monoxide can be very dangerous for health.
Automatic monitoring site	A measuring device that automatically takes continuous readings of the amount of air pollution in the air at that location. You might see the terms 'AURN', 'Air Quality England', and 'London Air Quality Network' in relation to automatic air quality monitoring. These are networks of automatic air quality monitors. 'AURN' means 'automatic urban and rural network' and is managed by the government. Air Quality England and the London Air Quality Network are websites that local authorities use for presenting their air quality data.
Diffusion tube	A small measuring device for monitoring NO ₂ air pollution. These are put up, collected and analysed manually, and are useful for understanding long-term changes in air quality.
Concentrations (of air pollution)	The amount of a substance, like a gas or dust, in the air. Measured as the amount (weight) present per unit volume of air (one cubic metre) in a specific location and at a specific time (or averaged over a specific duration of time, for example a yearly average)

Word or terminology	What is means in this document
Emissions (of air pollution)	The release of a substance, like a gas or dust. Measured as the amount (weight) released over a specific time period.
Air Quality Expert Group (AQEG)	The scientific committee that advises government about the sources of air pollution and air quality science in the UK.
Committee on the Medical Effects of Air Pollutants (COMEAP)	The scientific committee that advises government about how air pollution affects human health.
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)	The government department that has overall responsibility for air quality in the UK.
Greater London Authority (GLA)	The regulatory body with overall responsibility for air quality in London.
Transport for London (TfL)	The public organisation responsible for public transportation and major roads in London.
United Kingdom Health Security Agency (UKHSA)	The government department that has overall responsibility for supporting public health protection and improvement in the UK, including in response to environmental hazards.
Disease incidence	Incidence is the rate of new cases of a particular illness in a population or area over a specific time period, for example the incidence of new cases of asthma in children in Camden in 2026.
Disease prevalence	Prevalence is the total number existing cases of a particular illness in a population or area at a specific point in time, for example the prevalence of childhood asthma in Camden in June 2026.
Exposure (in relation to air pollution)	Being in a place that contains air pollution. When we talk about ‘reducing exposure’ it means we want to reduce the overall amount of time people spend in places with air pollution, either by encouraging changes in behaviour so that people can avoid those places, or by reducing the amount of air pollution in these environments.
Health hazard	Something that has the potential to harm health. This could be air pollution, a heatwave, a flood, or other climate-related event, for example.

Word or terminology	What is means in this document
Health risk	The likelihood that a hazard will actually cause harm to health.
Climate change / climate crisis	Climate change is the change in global temperatures and weather patterns, mainly caused by human activities. ‘Climate crisis’ is often used to describe the serious impact of climate change, which includes hazards like heatwaves, flooding, and extreme weather events (like storms) which we expect to happen more often and for them to be more severe when they do. It also refers to the impact this has on the environment and on people. For example, damage to ecosystems and biodiversity, food security, and water and resource availability.
Global warming	The long-term increase in the Earth’s average surface temperature, caused by climate change.
Heatwave	A heatwave is when we have three consecutive days (three days in a row) where the maximum temperature on each day is at least 28°C.
Public health	The general health of a population or community.
Cardiovascular disease	Diseases and illnesses affecting the heart, for example stroke, ischaemic heart disease, and hypertension.
Endocrine disorders	Diseases and illnesses affecting our hormones, for example diabetes.
Neurological disease	Diseases and illnesses affecting the brain, for example dementia.
Respiratory disease	Diseases and illnesses affecting the lungs and our breathing, for example asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disorder (COPD), and lung cancer.
Premature death / early death	A person’s death that happens earlier in their life than would be expected, for example because they got ill as a result of exposure to air pollution.

Part 2: Setting the scene

This part of the Clean Air Action Plan 2027-2030 looks at:

- What air pollution is
- How it harms us
- What Camden's goals are for clean air
- Where air pollution in Camden comes from
- Why indoor air quality is important too
- How air quality links to climate



Background to air pollution

What this document is about

Air pollution causes hundreds of thousands of people in the UK to become ill, and causes tens of thousands of deaths every year from these illnesses. It worsens existing health conditions and makes people more likely to develop other illnesses.

The Camden Clean Air Action Plan 2027-2030 is Camden Council's plan for reducing air pollution and how much we are exposed to it. The purpose is to protect and improve the health of everyone who lives, works, and learns in Camden, and everyone who visits or travels through the borough.

What air pollution is

'Air pollution' is gases, particles, and chemicals in the air that can directly harm our health.

Air pollution is often invisible, and sometimes we cannot smell it, but it has a very serious effect on our health – both as individual people, and as a society.

'Air quality' is the term that is used to describe whether the air in a particular location at a particular time is polluted or not; that is to say, if it can generally be considered to be safe and healthy to breathe. If the levels of air pollution are higher than can be considered safe then we describe this as 'poor air quality'. If the levels of pollution are low enough for it to be generally safe and health then we describe this as 'good air quality'.

The main types of air pollutants that we are focusing on are:

- Nitrogen dioxide (NO₂)
- Particulate matter
- Ozone
- Volatile organic compounds

How air pollution harms our health

In Camden, air pollution causes more than 100 early deaths every year¹. About 7% of all deaths in Camden (one in every fourteen) is caused by particulate matter air pollution (PM_{2.5})².

Many of the health conditions caused by air pollution develop over a long period of time, so it is often not obvious that pollution is damaging our health. We must listen to real people and hear about air pollution affects their lives, and not only focus on the statistics.

Air pollution can harm anyone, at any stage in life, but it is even more harmful for people whose bodies are not able to cope with the damaging effect. This includes babies and children, older people, people with weakened immune systems, and people with existing health conditions affecting their lungs, heart, or brain.

When we breathe air pollution, harmful gases and particles enter our lungs and can damage our bodies. The smallest particles are so small that they can pass from our lungs into our blood, where they are carried to other parts of our bodies. This is why air pollution damages our lungs, brain, and other parts of the body too.

Professor Sir Stephen Holgate is a leading figure for air quality science and clean air action in the United Kingdom. Whilst giving evidence about the far-reaching health impacts of air pollution during a House of Commons inquiry, he highlighted that a large majority of causes of death are linked in some way to poor air quality³.

However, one of the biggest challenges with air pollution is that its effects are not immediately visible. It can be very difficult to know if a person's illness has been caused by air pollution or something else, or a combination of things.

The way we can think about it is that:

- ***Spending a lot of time in places with higher levels of air pollution (having high long-term exposure to pollution) will cause damage to our bodies, and this makes it more likely that we will develop a long-term illness*** like asthma, heart disease, or lung cancer. This is similar to how we understand that smoking cigarettes makes it more likely that someone will get lung cancer or another illness affecting the lungs or heart.
- ***Spending a lot of time in places with higher levels of air pollution can also increase the severity of these kinds of health conditions, or the speed with which they develop.*** For

example, people living with asthma, heart disease, or another lung health condition may experience more severe symptoms, more frequent flare-ups, or a faster decline in their health. This is similar to how drinking alcohol can increase the severity of illnesses like diabetes or heart disease.

- ***Spending time in places with very high levels of air pollution (having very high short-term exposure) can trigger the symptoms of existing health conditions*** like asthma and heart disease (stroke). For example, it can provoke asthma attacks, increase the risk of heart attacks and strokes, and worsen breathing difficulties. This is similar to how being in a really dusty room can trigger someone's asthma.

There has only been one recorded death in the UK in which air pollution was formally identified as a cause of death. This is because it is difficult to say exactly which individual cases of illnesses are caused by air pollution.

The one exception is Ella Adoo-Kissi-Debrah, who became the first person to have 'air pollution' recorded as a cause of death on her death certificate. Ella died after a severe asthma attack in 2013 aged just nine years old.

Ella's mother, Rosamund Adoo-Kissi-Debrah, was not told that air pollution might have been an important factor in Ella's illness. It was only afterwards that Rosamund investigated local air pollution levels, discovering that a busy road near to their home had illegally high levels of air pollution.

Rosamund campaigned for many years to have air pollution formally recognised as a cause of Ella's fatal asthma, resulting in the Coroner for Inner South London coming to this conclusion at the inquest into Ella's death.

Although Ella did not live in Camden, her legacy and her mother's campaigning has highlighted the devastating consequences that poor air quality can have for individuals, families, and communities. Ella's story has had a profound impact on how we think about our responsibility for improving air quality and protecting the health of communities in Camden.

IN DETAIL: How exactly does air pollution affect our bodies?

Pollution in the air we breathe is inhaled into our lungs. Some of the main types of air pollution (nitrogen oxides (NO_x), particulate matter (PM) and ozone can cause inflammation to the tissue in our lungs.

Particulate matter air pollution can contain various chemicals that react with fat molecules in our cells, and if this happens a lot, or over a long period of time, this can damage our cells and organ systems.

Because particulate matter air pollution includes tiny particles, some of these can cross from our lungs into our blood. These particles are then transported around the body, and can cause their damaging effect in many other places.

Some forms of air pollution also cause chemical imbalances, and some can affect our genes.

This is why air pollution does not only affect our lungs, but is also linked with other health conditions affecting the heart, brain, and other body systems. It is also why the effects of air pollution can be passed between generations.

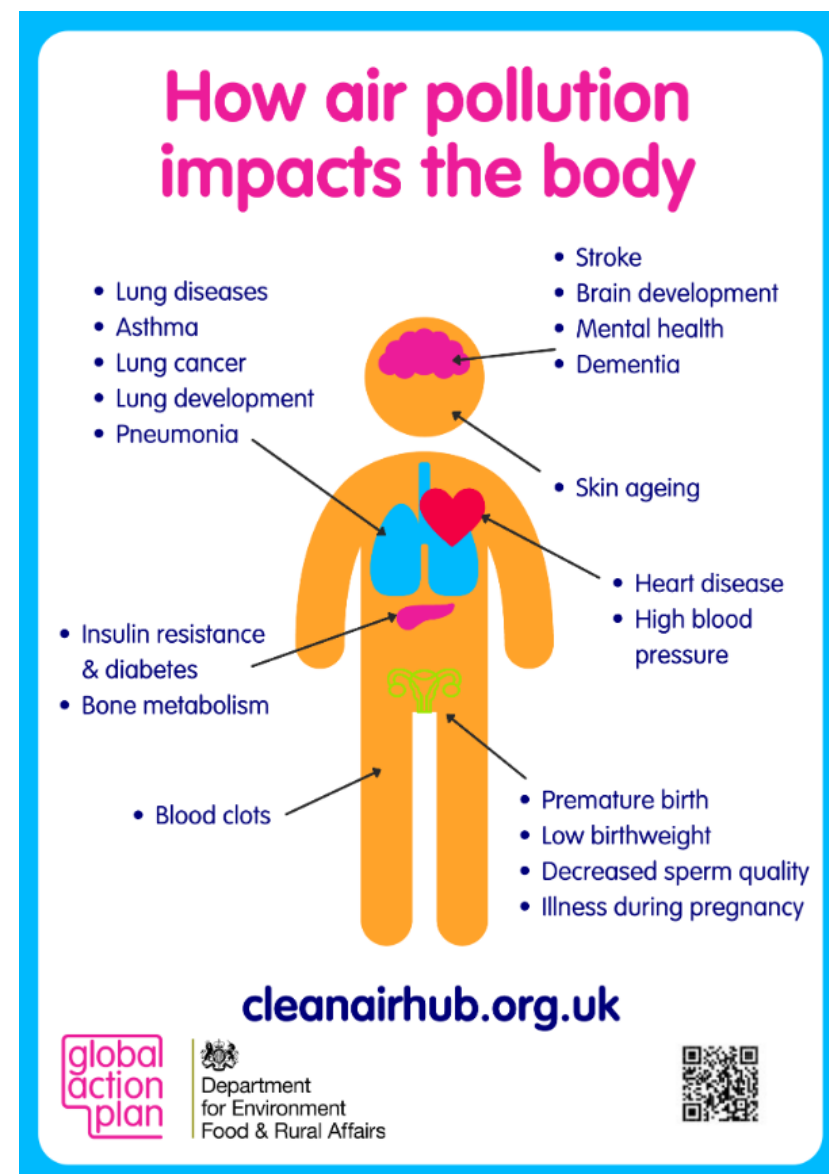


Figure 1: How air pollution affects the body. Credit: Global Action Plan.

What are the recommended limits for these air pollutants?

There are legal limits for air pollution in the UK. These are higher than the limits recommended by health experts, so meeting the legal limits does not mean there is no risk to health.

For this reason, Camden Council has adopted the much stricter air quality guideline limits recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO). We were the first council to do this.

We have committed to achieve these limits everywhere in Camden by the end of 2034. We have also given ourselves interim targets for 2026 and 2030 to help to measure progress.

The graph (Figure 2) shows Camden’s clean air targets for 2034, as well as our interim targets for 2026 and 2030, and the UK legal limits for comparison.

The Mayor of London has committed to achieving the 10µg/m³ WHO ‘interim target 4’ for PM_{2.5} throughout London by 2030. This is the same as Camden’s target for PM_{2.5} for 2030.

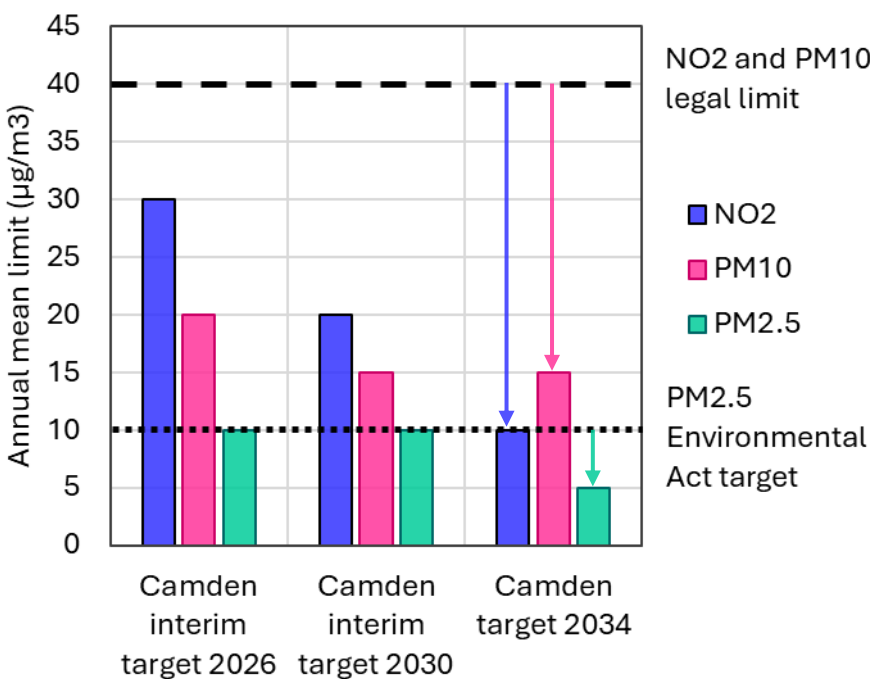


Figure 2:UK legal limits and Camden's targets for NO₂ (nitrogen dioxide), PM₁₀ (coarse particulate matter), and PM_{2.5} (fine particulate matter). In order, the bars show: UK legal limit; Camden interim target for 2026; Camden interim target for 2030; Camden target for 2034. The horizontal lines and arrows are to help illustrate the difference between the legal limits and Camden’s 2034 targets. All of the limits and targets are expressed as annual mean (average) concentrations, in micrograms of pollution per cubic metre of air.

Note: No Camden interim target for 2026 is shown for PM_{2.5} because the final World Health Organization interim target for this pollutant is 10µg/m³, and most of our monitoring sites already meet this.

Air pollution and climate

Air pollution and climate change are different challenges, but we need to tackle them together.

Air pollution is not the same as carbon dioxide or greenhouse

gases, which cause our climate to become hotter but do not usually affect our health in the direct way that air pollution does.

Some types of air pollutants also contribute to the climate crisis

by having a heating effect on the climate. These include black carbon (soot) and ozone when this is formed at ground level. But when we talk about air pollution we are mainly referring to things that affect health rather than climate.

Many of the effects of climate warming can harm us, like extreme heat and severe weather. In some cases, **climate change can increase air pollution**, for example during heatwaves when there are usually higher levels of ozone, and when extreme heat causes fires – which release air pollution.

In Camden we make sure that our work to improve air quality and tackle the climate crisis are combined to avoid unintended consequences.

Examples of unintended consequences would be:

- If we switched to a different vehicle fuel because it releases fewer greenhouse gases and therefore has a lower impact on global heating, but the production of the fuel is actually worse for local air quality. The shift to diesel vehicles to help address climate goals in the 2000s is a good example of this – the impact of diesel on local air quality was not fully considered, leading to a worsening of air quality.
- If we burned wood for heating or electricity generation because it is technically ‘carbon neutral’, but actually it is much worse for local air quality, and releases more carbon than using gas.
- If we focused only on air filtration and air purifiers without reducing air pollution, and increased our use of electricity, which would increase our climate impacts.
- If we improved building energy efficiency by reducing air permeability without thinking about ventilation, and found that we

were spending more time indoors in spaces with worse indoor air quality as a result.

There is more information about the interactions between air pollution, local air quality, and climate in the [Air quality and our changing climate](#) section of this document.

Air pollution and biological air contaminants

When we talk about air pollution and air quality, we are usually not referring to viruses, bacteria, fungi and mould, or other airborne pathogens. This is because UK air quality laws require us to focus our Action Plan specifically on gas, particle and chemical air pollutants.

However, many of the actions that we take to improve indoor air quality will also help to reduce our exposure to (and the health risk from) damp and mould and airborne pathogens.

We have designed our actions around indoor air quality to support Camden's work to tackle damp and mould in homes and other indoor spaces.

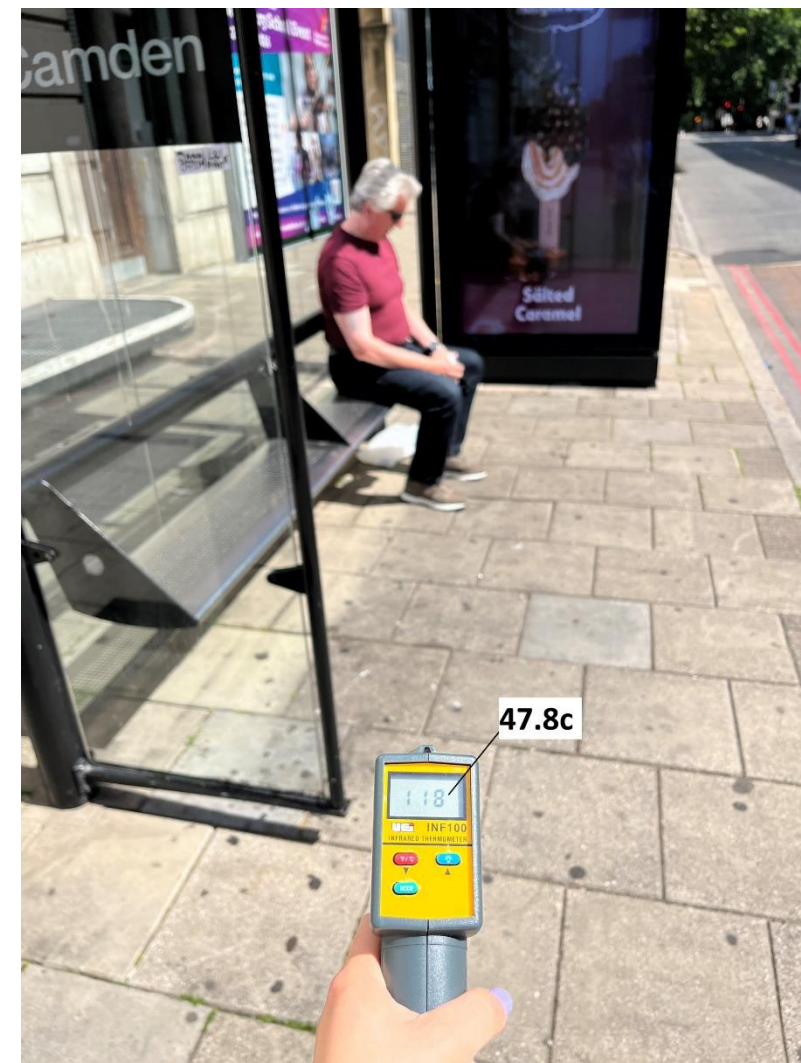


Figure 3: A portable thermometer showing a temperature of 47.8 degrees at a bus stop in Camden during a heatwave in 2026. At the same time, there were high levels of air pollution partly caused by the heatwave. Photo credit Chin Chin Lam.

Our goal: clean air for Camden

What Clean Air for Camden means

Our goal is to achieve clean air in Camden. **We want Camden to be a place where nobody gets ill because of the air they breathe.**

We want this to include the air both outdoors and indoors, inside our homes, schools, workplaces and public buildings.

Our air quality targets help to drive our progress towards this goal.

The Camden Clean Air Strategy 2019-2034

The Camden Clean Air Strategy 2019-2034 formalises the vision for a borough with clean air for everyone⁴. It lists a set of **seven strategic commitments** for improving air quality and protecting health. It also lists some **guiding principles** for *how* we want to achieve our goals.

The strategic commitments are:

1. Camden's air quality programme, its strategies, action plans, projects and policies will be guided by a set of principles (see guiding principles list below)
2. Camden Council will commit to achieving the most stringent evidence-based air quality targets available, in as short a timeframe as possible
3. Camden's work to improve air quality will be empirical, data-led and evidence-based
4. We will ensure the Camden's air quality and climate programmes are interlinked
5. We will measure and report on changes in air quality (resulting from our actions or otherwise) with transparency and openness
6. We will not be afraid to deviate from the norm and to push beyond statutory obligations or legal limits if these do not go far enough in protecting public health
7. Camden will develop our action plans, strategies and other programmes of work to improve air quality with Camden's residents, businesses and community groups.

The guiding principles are:

- ✓ We must do everything we can to realise Camden’s vision for a borough in which no person experiences ill health as a result of the air they breathe
- ✓ Air pollution can affect anyone, at any stage of life
- ✓ Some people are more severely affected by air pollution because they are exposed to more of it, or because they have existing health vulnerabilities, and we must tackle this health inequity
- ✓ We must all take action, collectively and individually, to reduce our contribution and exposure to air pollution
- ✓ Clean air is better for our health now and in the future
- ✓ We can address air pollution, the climate crisis and wellbeing together



Figure 4: Cover of the Camden Clean Air Strategy 2019-2034.

How the Clean Air Action Plan relates to other documents and strategies

Legal duties and national targets

Local authorities have a legal responsibility to measure air quality. If air pollution is higher than the legal limits, local authorities must create Air Quality Management Areas and create an Air Quality Action Plan to improve air quality.

Camden Council created an Air Quality Management Area in 2001, covering the whole of the borough.

The Camden Clean Air Action Plan 2027-2030 will be our new Air Quality Action Plan, and this will satisfy our legal duty. This follows our previous Clean Air Action Plans.

Camden's air quality targets are stricter than the legal limits for the UK, and our Clean Air Action Plan exceeds the legal requirements for local authorities.

London

The Greater London Authority (GLA) is responsible for ensuring the 32 London Boroughs and the City of London are complying with their legal responsibilities for air quality.

The Mayor of London and the GLA have an ambition for London to have the best air quality of any major world city by 2050, to protect health and to minimise inequality. As part of this commitment the GLA encourages the London local authorities to maintain their AQMAs until the World Health Organization (WHO) air quality guideline limits are met.

The Camden Clean Air Action Plan 2027-2030 will help to achieve the Mayor of London's ambition for better air quality and health in London.

Camden Council

We Make Camden is the overarching vision for Camden, and contains several 'ambitions', 'missions', and 'challenges', including:

- Camden should be a green, clean, vibrant, accessible, and sustainable place
- Camden should be a borough where every child has the best start in life
- Camden should have enough decent, safe, and warm housing

- Camden’s estates and neighbourhoods should be healthy and sustainable
- Camden’s local economy should be strong, sustainable, and inclusive
- Camden’s communities should support good health and wellbeing
- Camden should tackle injustice and inequality

Our Clean Air Action Plan 2027-2030 supports We Make Camden because having cleaner air will be good for everyone’s health. It will help to ensure children have a good start to life, it will help to improve the healthiness and comfort of homes and the sustainability of our estates and neighbourhoods. It will support local businesses and employers to improve workplace air quality and reduce impacts for surrounding communities, and will work to tackle the health inequity and social injustice that air pollution worsens.

The Clean Air Action Plan 2027-2030 is an important component of how Camden Council will achieve its wider strategic objectives.

The Clean Air Action Plan 2027-2030 also supports, and is supported by:

- **Camden Climate Action Plan 2026-2030**
- **Camden Transport Strategy 2019-2041**
- **Camden Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2025-2030**
- **Camden Biodiversity Strategy (Making Space for Nature in Camden)**
- **Camden Tree Planting Strategy**
- **Camden Local Plan 2017 and Draft Local Plan 2025**

Other relevant plans and strategies include the Love Camden Cultural Strategy 2026-2031, the Evening & Night-Time Strategy 2024-2029, and the Camden Market and Street Trading Strategy 2026-2031.

Who has created this plan

The Camden Clean Air Action Plan 2027-2030 has been created by Camden's Air Quality Team, with feedback and recommendations also contributed by Camden residents at several community conversations we held during the process of drafting the Plan.

Camden's Air Quality Team is part of the Council's Sustainability, Air Quality and Energy service. **We are committed to making Camden's air cleaner and safer for everyone, to help protect and improve everyone's health.**

Who we work with

Although the Air Quality Team has overall responsibility for Camden's Clean Air Action Plan and our air quality programme, we think everyone can have some positive involvement in making our air healthier and safer.

We work with many teams across Camden Council, from Health and Wellbeing to Housing, from Transport to Trading Standards.

Achieving clean air for Camden involves people working in different roles.

We also work with external partners, including:

- Community organisations, neighbourhood groups, and charities
- Businesses and employers
- Schools, nurseries, and play centres
- Campaigns like Global Action Plan, Clean Air Day, Mums for Lungs, and Camden Breathing Better
- The NHS and healthcare organisations, including hospitals and GPs
- Universities and researchers
- Other local authorities, especially the London boroughs
- Transport for London and the Greater London Authority
- Government departments

Air pollution in Camden

Outdoor air pollution

Air pollution comes from many different sources. **Most of the pollution that we are concerned about comes from human activities**, but some comes from natural processes.

There is also more we can do to control and reduce air pollution from human activities, so we focus on this.

The human sources of air pollution:

- **Using fossil fuels** in engines, heating systems, and power generation and industrial processes
- **Cooking and heating food**
- **Burning garden and household waste**
- **Construction sites**
- **Using chemicals, solvents, and synthetic products**
- **Dust and particles from tyres and brakes in vehicles**
- **Farming** (machinery and emissions from fertiliser and manure)
- **Factories and power stations**

- **Ships and aeroplanes**

The natural sources of air pollution:

- **Volcanic eruptions**
- **Desert dust**
- **Smoke from forest, moorland, and grassland fires** – although the increasing frequency of fires is caused by climate change, which is the result of human activities

Air pollution is complex. Some types of pollution are very reactive in the air, meaning if they are not inhaled they are likely to react with other gases and chemicals to produce something else.

With reactive types of air pollutants (like nitrogen dioxide, NO₂) we often find there are large differences in the concentrations (the amount of pollution in the air) in different places. For example, next to a busy road compared to a park.

Some types of pollution are less reactive, and we find there are smaller differences when comparing different places.

Where air pollution in Camden comes from

Figure 3 shows what we think the main sources of pollution in Camden are. This has been calculated by the Greater London Authority (GLA) and Transport for London (TfL), with help from researchers⁵.

This represents the emissions of pollution within the borough of Camden. This will be combined with air pollution that is emitted outside of Camden and is carried by the wind into the borough. We call this ‘transboundary’ air pollution, which means air pollution that crosses over administrative or political borders.

In Camden, buildings are now the largest source of air pollution, both from the way they are heated and also from kitchens in restaurants, hotels, pubs, and takeaways.

Vehicles are still an important source of air pollution in Camden but the combination of cleaner engines, electric vehicles, and better cycling and walking infrastructure means the total amount of pollution from vehicles has reduced.

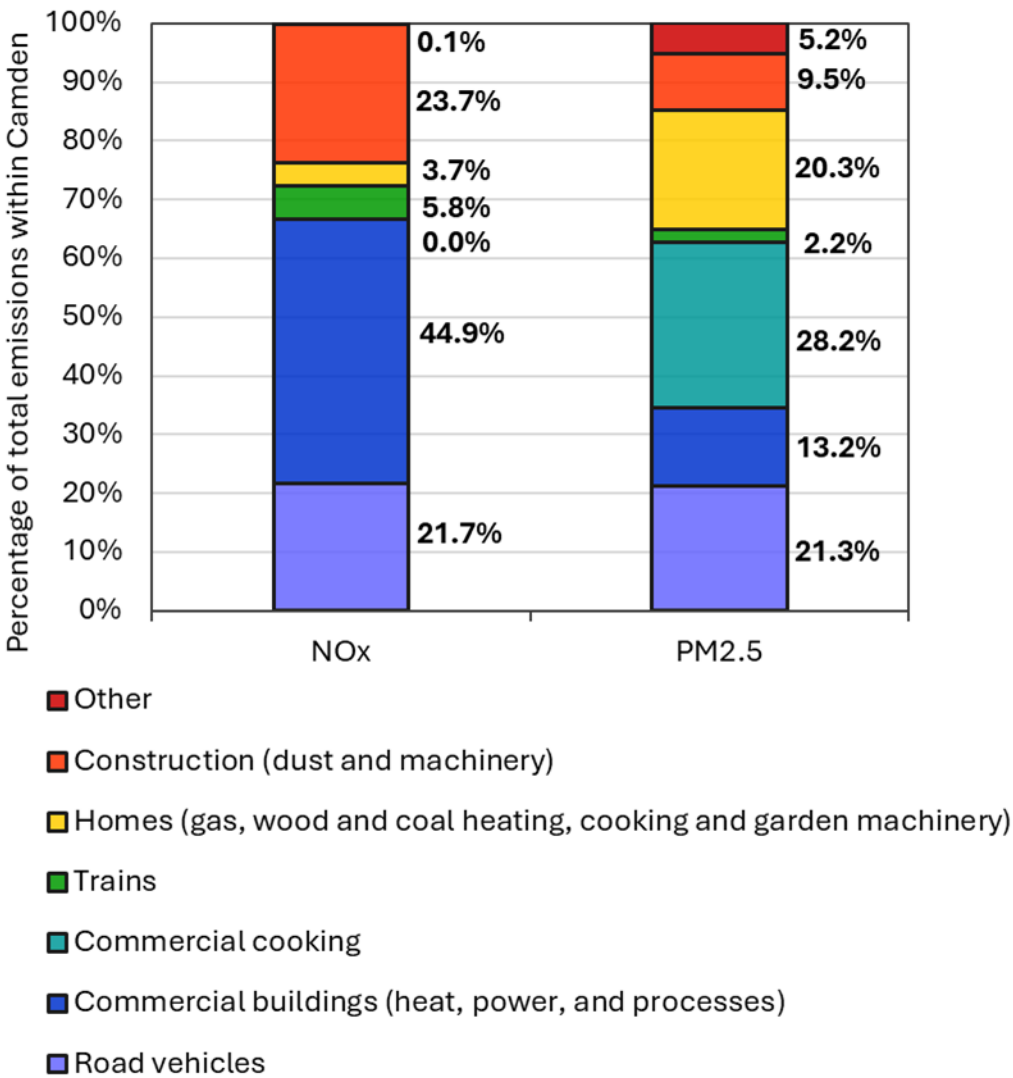


Figure 5: A stacked bar graph showing the relative contribution of different sources of pollution to total emissions of nitrogen oxides (NO_x) and fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) in Camden. Data from the London Atmospheric Emissions Inventory, published 2025. Sources are listed in the order they appear in the graph, from top to bottom.

How we measure air quality in Camden

Why we measure air quality

We measure air quality because we need to know if the air we are breathing is safe and healthy, or if it is harmful and can damage our health.

How we measure air quality

We measure air quality by measuring different types of air pollutants in the air (the concentration of air pollution).

We use several different kinds of equipment to measure air pollutants.

We use **automatic monitors** to measure NO₂, particles (PM) and ozone (O₃). These monitors produce very precise data. Automatic monitors are expensive so we can only use a small targeted number in Camden.

We use **passive monitors called diffusion tubes** to measure nitrogen dioxide (NO₂). These are cheap, so we can measure NO₂ in many places. The quality of the data is reasonably good, but not as accurate as using automatic monitors.

Both automatic monitors and diffusion tubes are considered to be suitable for local authorities to use for our legal responsibility to measure air quality, and to compare air pollution levels against the legal limits for the UK.

There is more information on the following pages about diffusion tubes and automatic monitors, including examples of how we use the data.

When we talk about air quality monitoring and air pollution limits, we are talking about the concentration of air pollutants in the air. This is important to know because the harm that air pollution can do to our bodies depends on how much pollution we are breathing compared to everything else in the air that is not harmful.

On the next page you will find an explanation about the difference between measuring emissions of air pollution and measuring concentrations of air pollution.

IN DETAIL: The difference between emissions and concentrations

Air pollution is dynamic. The molecules and particles in the air do not exist permanently. They can be deposited on surfaces and washed away by rain, they can be destroyed or transformed by chemical processes, and they can be absorbed into our bodies when they are breathed in.

In order to reduce the harm that air pollution causes to our bodies, to society, and to the environment, we need to know how much new pollution is being created, and how much is already present in the air in different places.

Measuring emissions of air pollutants tells us how much new pollution is being created. Usually this is expressed as the mass (weight) of pollution released into the air over a specific timeframe. For example, air quality modelling data from the London Atmospheric Emissions Inventory (LAEI) tells us that about 19 tonnes of fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) was emitted in Camden during 2022¹.

However, knowing the emissions of pollutants cannot tell us whether the air in a specific place is safe to breathe. That is why we **measure concentrations** of air pollutants too. Concentrations are expressed as the average mass of pollution per volume of air (usually one cubic metre, m³) in a specific location over a specific time period. For example, we know that in 2022 the average concentration of PM_{2.5} in the air next to Euston Road was 12 micrograms (12 thousandths of one gram) per cubic metre of air, 12µg/m³. This is the average of readings taken every hour throughout 2022, and is higher than the World Health Organization target that Camden has committed to.



Emissions is the amount of pollution created or released.



Concentrations is the amount of pollution in the air.

Diffusion tubes

Diffusion tubes are small clear plastic tubes that contain a chemical that reacts with nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) pollution in the air.

When NO₂ reacts in the diffusion tube, it is absorbed into a small mesh disc. We weigh the amount of NO₂ that has been collected in the mesh disc.

Diffusion tubes are called ‘passive’ air quality monitors because there are no electrical parts to them. We simply put them up where we want to measure air quality and leave them there for about one month. After one month we seal the tube with a rubber cap and send it to a laboratory to weigh the amount of NO₂ in the mesh disc.

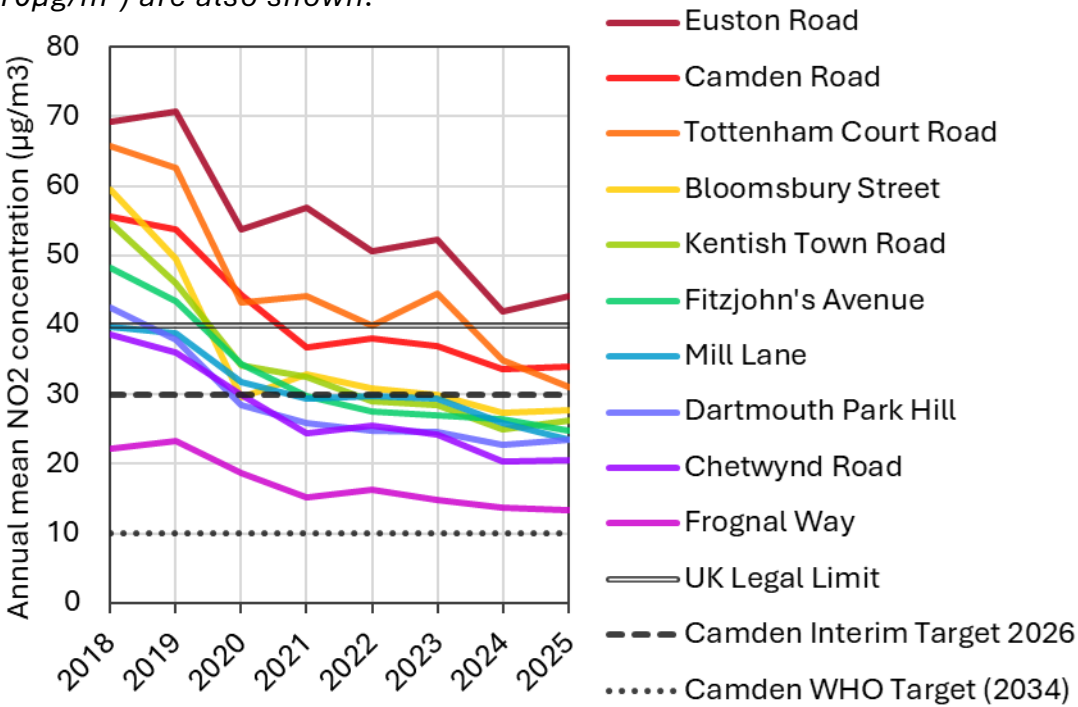
We can calculate how much air goes into the diffusion tube each hour, so we record when the diffusion tube was first installed and when it was sealed so that we know how much air in total went into the tube.

This allows us to calculate the average concentration of NO₂ in the air at that location, during the total period of time the diffusion tube was there.

Figure 7 (right): Diffusion tubes for measuring nitrogen dioxide (NO₂). There are three tubes here so that we can calculate an average reading, to produce more reliable data.



Figure 6 (below): A graph showing annual average NO₂ levels at several diffusion tube monitoring locations in Camden. The UK legal limit (40µg/m³), Camden’s interim target for 2026 (30µg/m³), and our WHO target for 2034 (10µg/m³) are also shown.



Automatic monitoring

Automatic air quality monitoring uses electrical sensors that continuously measure the amount of air pollution in the air in a particular location.

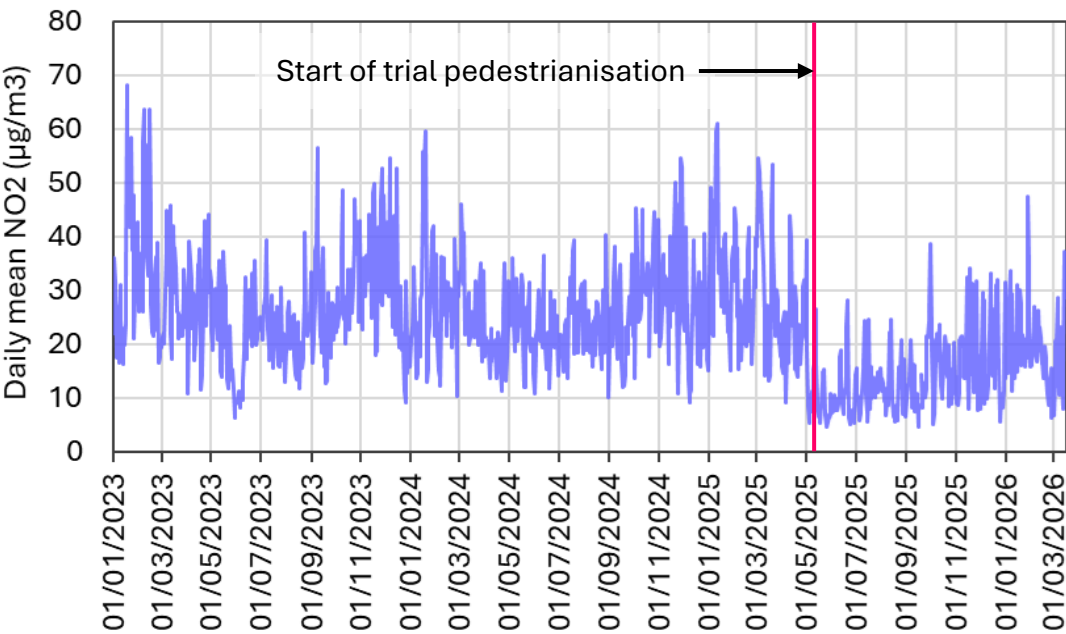
Automatic monitors must be serviced and calibrated regularly. Calibration is where we make sure the readings from the monitor are correct, by testing them with a controlled sample of air.

Because automatic monitors are continuously measuring air pollution, we can see how air quality changes over much shorter periods of time (and in much more detail) than we can with diffusion tubes.

Figure 8 (right): An automatic monitor on Kilburn High Road. This one was installed in 2026 and measures nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), coarse particulate matter (PM₁₀), fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}), and ozone (O₃).



Figure 9 (below): A graph showing daily average nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) concentration measured on Camden High Street from January 2023 to March 2026. It is clear to see the reduction in NO₂ from May 2025 onwards, due to the trial pedestrianisation of Camden High Street.



Air quality modelling

Air quality monitoring tells us the amount of air pollution at a particular location over a specific time period. It cannot tell us about where the pollution comes from and which activities contribute the most to it.

Air quality modelling helps to fill in these gaps in our knowledge. The main air quality modelling database for London that we use is called the London Atmospheric Emissions Inventory or 'LAEI'.

The latest LAEI dataset was published in 2025 and shows that building heating and commercial kitchens (restaurants, takeaways, pubs and cafes) are now the largest sources of nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) and fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) air pollution in Camden.

What we do not measure

We do not measure ultrafine particulate matter (UFP) air pollution, which are particles smaller than 100 nanometres (10,000 times smaller than one millimetre). UFP may be more dangerous for health than larger particles, because its tiny size means it can more easily pass from the lungs into our blood, and from there to other parts of the body.

We also do not measure particle number (PN) concentration, which is the number of particles per cubic metre of air. PN is useful to know because the same mass of particulate matter in the air (for example 10µg/m³) could contain a very large number of very small, light particles, or it could contain a smaller number of relatively larger, heavier particles. We might expect a larger number of smaller particles to pose a larger risk for health because of the larger total surface area of these particles, which increases their potential to harm our bodies.

The reason we do not measure UFP is because our PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀ measurements include all of the tiny particles that fall within the ultrafine size fraction. The reason we do not measure PN is because there is currently not an established way of interpreting PN measurements in terms of potential health risks.

We do not measure volatile organic compounds (VOC) outdoors, because the measurement equipment for VOCs is specialised and expensive.

We encourage the expansion of air quality monitoring for these types of air pollution, so that the public, researchers, and regulatory

authorities have a better understanding of the range of different types of air pollution that can affect our health and the environment.

Air pollution that comes into Camden from elsewhere

Some types of air pollutants can be transported large distances in the air. This means the emissions of pollution in one place can affect the health of people or the environment far away.

Air quality in Camden is affected in this way. This means that some of the damage that air pollution causes to people's health in Camden is due to pollution sources outside of our borough. We sometimes call this 'transboundary' air pollution.

Some of the main sources of transboundary air pollution that is not emitted in Camden but still affects our air quality are:

- Ships
- Aeroplanes and airports
- Farming and agriculture
- Electricity generation that uses fossil fuels
- Industrial activity that uses fossil fuels

- Natural processes like volcanos
- Natural and human-caused processes like forest fires



Figure 10: Air pollution from a power station in Europe. Photo credit United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), Press Release: 'UNECE's Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution celebrates 30th Anniversary, 2009.

Indoor air quality

Air quality is not only something we should think about when we are outdoors

Air pollution is not only an outdoor issue. Poor air quality can also be found indoors — in homes, workplaces, schools, hospitals, health centres and care homes.

Recent evidence shows that indoor air quality can often be worse than outdoor air quality^{6,7,8}. Everyday activities such as cooking, cleaning and burning fuel can create indoor air pollution. We typically spend up to 90% of our time indoors, so improving the air we breathe inside buildings is important for protecting health.

Exposure to air pollution can cause and worsen a range of health conditions affecting our heart, lungs, and brain. It also places significant pressure on the NHS, social care services, and the wider economy, with estimated costs of £27–50 billion per year.

Poor indoor air quality also contributes to health inequalities. Lower-income households are more likely to experience poor indoor air quality and related health problems, because homes are often smaller but may have more people living in them. We also typically see that air pollution exposure is higher for racially minoritised

communities, and this leads to an increased prevalence of health conditions linked to air pollution among these communities. For example, in Camden the prevalence of asthma is higher among Asian and Black children than among white children.

Improving outdoor and indoor air quality will help to tackle health inequalities and environmental health injustice.

Action for indoor air quality will also help to reduce damp and mould

Improving indoor air quality often involves improving ventilation. This will have the benefit of helping to reduce the build-up of water vapour in the air inside our homes, and this can reduce the likelihood of us experiencing damp and mould from condensation.

Some actions to reduce the sources of air pollution indoors will also help to reduce the creation of water vapour. For example, replacing a gas hob (stove) with an induction one will remove a source of water vapour in the kitchen (because the reaction of burning gas forms water vapour along with carbon dioxide, CO₂).

Taking steps to improve indoor air quality can help to reduce the risk of damp and mould.

Air quality and our changing climate

How local air pollution affects climate

The main reason to reduce local air pollution is to protect and improve people's health and create a healthier, stronger community and economy.

However, some of the air pollutants that harm our health also contribute to climate change. These include ground-level ozone (O₃), some forms of particle air pollution, and some volatile organic compounds (VOCs). For example, black carbon (soot) is produced when wood, solid fuels, or diesel is burned. Because it is dark in colour, it absorbs more of the sun's energy, which adds heat energy to the atmosphere and contributes to global warming.

This means there is a double-win from reducing these types of air pollution because we will also be helping to reduce climate impacts.

How climate affects local air pollution

Our changing climate will also affect air quality in Camden. Sunlight and heat provide the conditions for creating ozone air pollution at ground level. We can expect that the levels of ozone in spring and summer will increase over time as our climate warms and we experience more heatwaves.

Additionally, when we experience extremely hot weather – which is more likely and will become more common – we can expect that there will be accidental fires caused by excess heat.

This happened in 2022 when temperatures in London reached 40 degrees for the first time. The smoke that is released by house fires, rubbish fires, and fires in grassland or moorland can be extremely harmful for human health. We consider this to be a serious air pollution incident. In this way, our changing climate is likely to cause more air pollution incidents, and we need to be prepared to respond to these in a way that helps to keep people safe and well.

How climate affects how we manage air quality and protect health

Heat can be dangerous for our health. Older people, babies and infants, and people with existing health conditions are especially vulnerable because the heat places their bodies under stress that they may not be able to cope with.

Air pollution is often worse during heatwaves, for the reasons noted above. There is scientific evidence to show that the combined effect

of extreme heat and high levels of air pollution is more harmful for our health than extreme heat and high air pollution taken independently.

This means it is especially important for us to ensure our communications and awareness-raising about summertime air pollution also provides advice about staying well during hot weather, and that our hot weather health advice includes information about reducing exposure to air pollution.

How will we respond to these challenges in Camden

We will continue to strengthen the links between Camden’s air quality climate programmes.

This includes making sure our actions to improve air quality take account of any potential impacts on (and from) climate, and that we maximise any opportunities to support the climate programme through our air quality work.

It also means making sure our climate programme takes account of (and avoids) any potential impacts on local air quality, and that we maximise any opportunities for helping to improve local air quality through our climate work. This could include, for example, adding the

avoided health damage costs from reduced air pollution into the business case for replacing the gas heating system at one of the Council’s buildings.

How we will respond to climate threats to local air quality

We will need to become better prepared to give out important health advice at short notice to people who live and work in Camden, in the event of an air pollution incident that is caused by our changing climate. This could include, for example, improving our communications channels to reach people who have health conditions that make them especially vulnerable to air pollution.

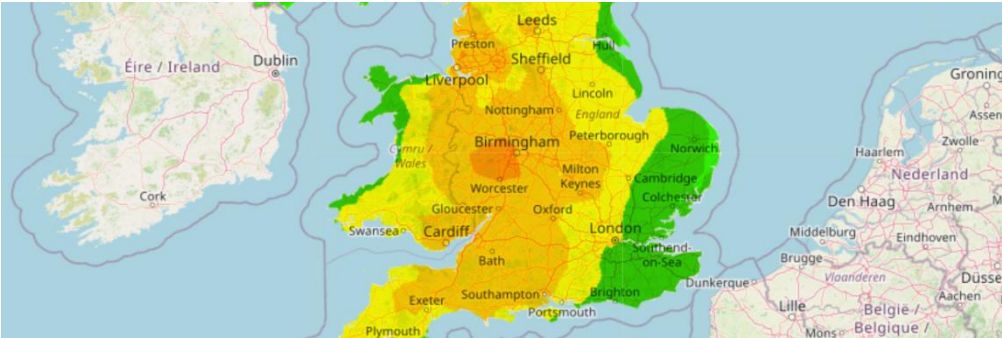


Figure 11: A portion of a pollution forecast taken from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) UK AIR Pollution forecast webpage: <https://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/forecasting/>

Part 3: What we have been doing, and how it is going

This part of the Clean Air Action Plan 2027-2030 looks at:

- What we have done so far to improve air quality
- Case studies and examples of our headline projects
- How air quality in Camden has changed



What we have done so far to improve air quality in Camden

Overview

Since 2019, in support of our ambition to be a borough with clean air for everyone, Camden Council has completed many projects to improve air quality and protect people's health from air pollution.

So far we have:

- Helped people to travel sustainably and more safely by building 25 kilometres (15 miles) of new or upgraded cycle lanes and 430 bike storage hangars.
- Supported the transition to electric vehicles by installing 550 electric vehicle charging points.
- Helped protect the health of schoolchildren learning in Camden by creating 30 permanent Healthy School Streets.
- Improved air quality in public spaces by providing clean electrical power supplies for ice cream vans at four popular trading spots.
- Accelerated the transition to cleaner vehicles by introducing the first Air Quality Surcharge for older, more polluting petrol and diesel vehicles.
- Reduced air pollution from Camden's own vehicle fleet by switching more vans and cars to electric vehicles, which now make up 25% of all our vehicles. The whole of Camden's vehicle fleet is now compliant with London's Ultra Low Emission Zone.
- Led London-wide public awareness campaigns featuring billboards, online, and radio adverts about air pollution from vehicle engine idling and smoke from wood burning stoves and fireplaces.
- Strengthening our approach for enforcing against avoidable air pollution by updating Camden's Smoke Control Order.
- Directly reducing air pollution from Camden's own buildings by replacing gas heating systems with clean electric heating at sites such as Swiss Cottage library, Acland Burghley School and Highgate library.
- Helped to reduce air pollution from construction machinery by joining the Cleaner Construction for London project, with 115 building sites in Camden audited from 2020 to 2025 to make sure the rules are being followed.
- Provided air quality training for more than 250 NHS staff and healthcare workers, so that they have the knowledge and

confidence to give their patients practical advice about air quality.

- Built local knowledge about indoor air quality by supporting a research project at the London School of Economics, and by loaning home air quality monitors to 95 residents in Camden by the end of 2025.
- Shared air quality and climate news and advice via the 'Clean Air and Climate Friendly Camden' email newsletters, which are sent out every two months to more than 900 recipients.
- Worked with teams across the Council to make sure air quality is considered early in the process of designing new projects and policy decisions, and when procuring new contracts for council services.
- Secured £2.3m in grant funding to deliver air quality projects in Camden and across London in partnership with other boroughs.



Figure 12: A stakeholder event for the Clean Air for Camden Schools programme.

Case studies

Cleaner Filming for Camden

Camden is a popular borough for filming. Our vibrant streets, iconic architecture, and green spaces often appear in films and television shows.

Unfortunately, this has an impact on our air quality, because film sets require electricity for lighting, crew catering, and accommodation, and this is usually provided by diesel generators.

Cleaner Filming for Camden is a small experimental project to try to work with the filming industry to become more sustainable and better for local air quality and public health. It is partly funded by the Mayor of London's Air Quality Fund.

Camden's Air Quality team has been working with FilmFixer to visit film sets and provide guidance for reducing emissions from filming. The guidance includes recommendations for choosing the smallest and most efficient generators, alternative power supply systems (like hybrid generator-battery combinations), and using cleaner vehicles.

Since autumn 2024 the project has audited 17 on-location film sets, supporting changes that save an average of 0.8kg fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}), 4.7kg nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) and 0.4 tonnes carbon dioxide (CO₂) per day of filming for each film set. The reduced air pollution represents approximately £960 in avoided public health costs for a single one-week filming shoot on one location. As the project continues, the total savings will continue to build, helping to ensure filming in Camden is cleaner and healthier for us all.



Figure 13: Cover of an FilmFixer emission reduction report for a film set, created by the Cleaner Filming for Camden project.



Figure 14: *Electrical power supplies for ice cream vans (top) and canal boats (bottom).*

Clean power for ice cream vans and canal boats

There are some situations where diesel engines are used because there is no suitable alternative.

For ice cream vans, the use of refrigeration equipment and ice cream machines means there is a continual need for electrical power. In older vans this means the engine must keep running to ensure the vehicle batteries are topped up.

We secured government funding to install electrical power supplies at several popular ice cream van locations in the borough, to reduce air pollution and climate impacts.

For people living on canal boats, the lack of onshore power supplies at visitor moorings means it is almost always necessary to have to run the boat engine to keep batteries topped up whilst moored.

The UK's boat-dwelling population has higher rates of long-term illness compared to the rest of the country. Boaters in London are often marginalised from decision-making, and many struggle to access public services.

With funding from the Mayor of London, we installed power supplies to connect up to 16 boats at a time to clean, reliable mains electricity at the visitor mooring area between Camley Street and St. Pancras Way, near King's Cross.

Idling Action London

Vehicle engine idling is when a driver keeps their vehicle's engine running when they are parked or waiting at the side of the road. It does not include queuing in traffic or waiting at traffic lights or for obstructions.

Drivers often do this because they do not realise it is a problem, but engine idling is illegal (unless the engine is needed for a specific purpose, like powering machinery or specialist equipment) and against the Highway Code. Most importantly, it is a completely avoidable source of air pollution that can harm the health of the driver, any passengers, and people near the vehicle. In places with heavy engine idling, such as schools, health centres, and high streets, this poses a long-term health risk.

Camden leads the Idling Action London public awareness-raising campaign, with funding from the Mayor of London's Air Quality Fund. The campaign shows how engine idling is a source of air pollution and that adopting the concept of 'Engine Off, Every Stop' will help to improve air quality, reduce carbon emissions, and save fuel and money.

Idling Action has achieved 163 million impacts and impressions (opportunities for people to see or hear the campaign) in London in the last two years alone, commissioned small research projects, and supported London boroughs to adopt and strengthen their enforcement approaches for vehicle engine idling.



Figure 15: Idling Action London's 'Engine Off, Every Stop' awareness campaign, which featured four images showing common environments where vehicle engine idling often happens, including outside shops (top) and outside schools (bottom).

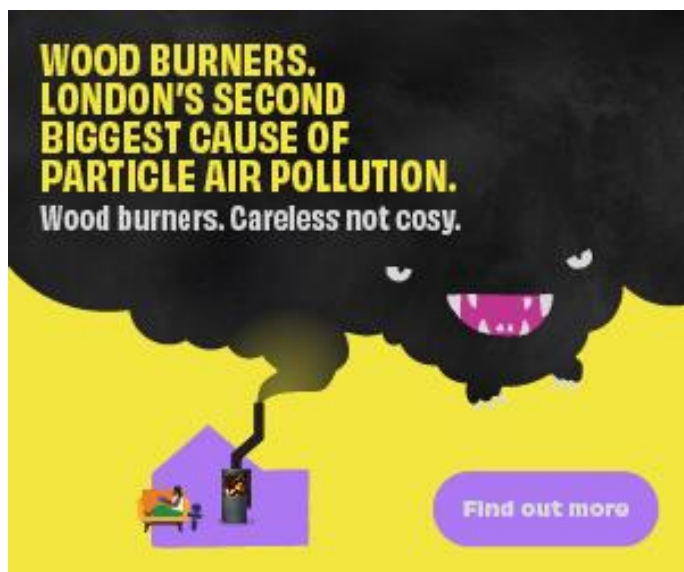


Figure 16: The London Wood Burning Project public awareness campaign, featuring digital advertisements (top) and billboard advertisements (bottom).

London Wood Burning Project

Burning wood and other solid fuels in buildings that already have gas or electric heating creates completely avoidable air pollution. This contributes to public exposure to air pollution and harms everyone's health. In Camden and many other parts of London, all homes and businesses are connected to mains electricity or gas, so it is not necessary to burn wood for heating.

The London Wood Burning Project is an air quality and public health awareness campaign that is led by Camden's Air Quality team on behalf of 26 London local authorities (covering the majority of the city) and is partly funded by the Mayor of London's Air Quality Fund.

The campaign is helping to increase public knowledge about the damage that wood and solid fuel burning in fireplaces and log burners does to public health and the climate. Since November 2023, the London Wood Burning Project has achieved 81 million impacts and impressions with the instantly-recognisable 'Burny' campaign imagery.

We have also published: a health impact evaluation, finding that wood and solid fuel burning costs London £187m per year in health costs and £10m in economic costs; an air pollution research study, concluding that wood and solid fuel burning leads to localised pollution hotspots and higher levels near to homes burning these fuels; and undertaken two surveys of public attitudes towards wood and solid fuel burning.

Clean Air for Camden Schools

In 2024 we launched the ‘Clean Air for Camden Schools’ programme with funding from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra).

The programme had the ambition to work with schools throughout Camden to teach children about the importance of clean air for health, and to work with school communities to take action to improve air quality in and around school environments.

We called this the Year of Clean Air for Camden Schools, and it concluded on Clean Air Day 2025 with a coordinated celebratory event featuring activities at 10 schools.

During the Year of Clean Air for Camden Schools we delivered 58 workshops, assemblies, lessons, and events at 30 different schools, involving 5,200 pupils.

Additional events (outside of the school environment) involved a further 2,000 people, bringing the total number of children and adults engaged in the project to 7,200.

Project highlights included creating a series of fun classroom and playground activities to illustrate how air pollution affects health, children creating a series of professionally produced videos raising questions about the sources of air pollution, and the creation of a bespoke piece of artwork, created by children in Kilburn, to cover a new air quality monitoring site on Kilburn High Road.



Figure 17: Clean Air for Camden Schools: a demonstration of lung capacity (top), a fun way to imagine how choice of travel route can change the amount of pollution we breathe (middle), and a video created by Camden pupils (bottom).



Figure 18: Images from our indoor air quality programme, showing an indoor air quality training session delivered in partnership with Think & Do London (top), and a community air quality workshop led by a member of Camden's Air Quality team (bottom).

Cleaner Air, Healthier Homes: Indoor Air Quality

Our Camden Clean Air Action Plan 2023-2026 contained an outcome to improve indoor air quality in homes in Camden.

Health risks linked to indoor air pollution can often be reduced through simple actions and practical improvements to home ventilation. Research shows that indoor air quality monitors can help households improve ventilation and reduce exposure to indoor pollution, particularly in lower-income households.

In 2022 we launched a trial project to lend indoor air quality monitors to residents living in Somers Town as part of the Future Neighbourhood 2030 programme. The monitors were loaned along with information about improving air quality at home.

The monitor loans were popular, and in 2023 we expanded the project to the rest of Camden so that anyone living in the borough can borrow an indoor air quality monitor for free. By the end of 2025, 90 households had borrowed a monitor.

So far in 2026, we have further expanded the indoor air quality monitor loan scheme to reach more households, and we are working with community organisations and local services to set up monitor loan hubs and deliver community air quality training, so that more people in Camden are empowered with the knowledge and the tools to take action for clean air at home and outdoors.

Partnership, collaboration, and leadership: Working with healthcare

As well as working with schools and community organisations, we have worked with healthcare workers, NHS organisations, and community health champions to raise awareness of the causes and health impacts of poor air quality.

Health professionals are trusted to give advice about staying healthy and well. We wanted to support healthcare professionals to speak confidently with their patients about how air quality is an important factor in many health conditions affecting the heart, lungs, and brain. We also wanted to highlight the opportunities for how the Council can directly support people to improve air quality as a way of reducing health risks.

Over the past three years we have participated in the North Central London ICS (integrated care system) Tier 2 and Tier 3 asthma training programme for health professionals, by giving the ‘environmental determinants and air quality’ part of the training. So far, we have trained more than 250 healthcare professionals, who will now feel more knowledgeable and confident in giving practical, helpful advice for patients whose health conditions might be caused or worsened by air pollution.

We have also worked with Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children and the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH) to create a set of short videos and accompanying background information to show healthcare workers how they could sensitively approach a conversation about air quality with a patient.

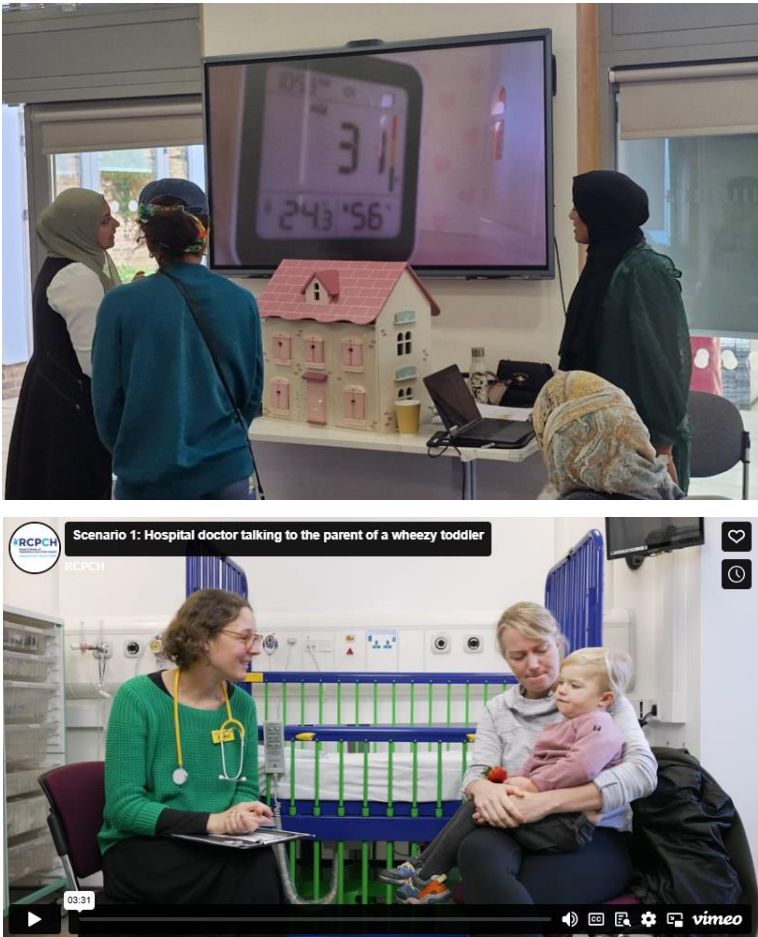


Figure 19: A Community Champions training session (top), and a still image from a video created by Camden Council, Great Ormond Street Hospital, and the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health to demonstrate how to sensitively introduce the topic of air quality in a conversation with a patient (bottom).

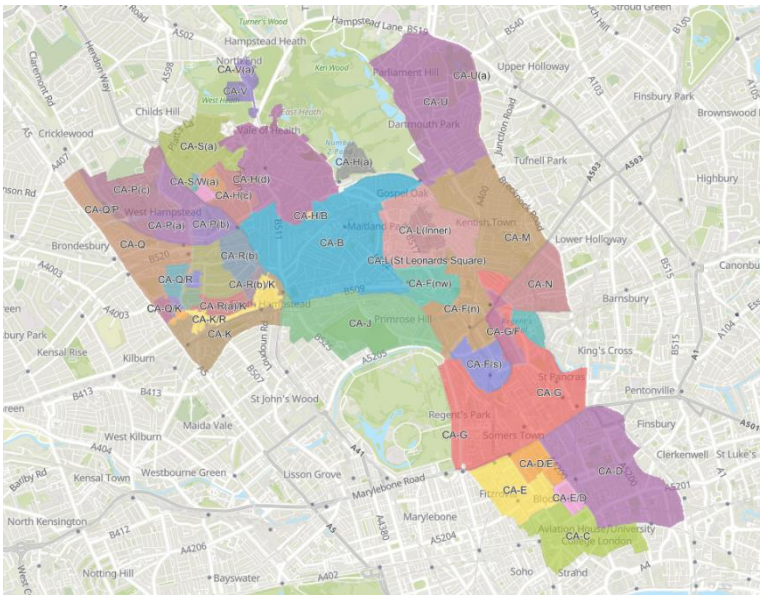


Figure 20: A photograph showing how road space can be used for supporting biodiversity and flood resilience instead of car parking (top), and a map of controlled parking zones (CPZs) in Camden (bottom).

Cleaner, Fairer Parking

Almost 70% of households in Camden do not have access to a car, and 85% of the journeys taken by Camden residents are by walking, cycling, public transport, or another non-car mode of travel. However, the demand for parking in Camden is still much higher than the amount of space that is available.

The Camden Transport Strategy (CTS) is designed to support healthier, more sustainable transport for commuting, business, and leisure. We use parking policies and traffic regulations to find a fair balance between providing space for parking and also ensuring that there is space for pedestrians, cyclists, buses, and other types of vehicles. This also supports a transition to cleaner, less polluting vehicles, and a reduction in vehicle use, ultimately reducing climate and air quality impacts and helping to protect public health.

Controlled Parking Zones (CPZs) and emissions-based parking charges are examples of how we achieve this in Camden. CPZs limit parking to vehicles that have a specific permit to park in that area, and this helps to control demand and the pressure on limited parking space. Emissions-based parking charges (like our Air Quality Surcharge for older petrol and diesel vehicles) apply higher costs to the most polluting vehicles, both in terms of their impact on the climate and on local air quality.

Research commissioned by London Councils has found that CPZs and increases to parking prices do reduce the amount of kilometres driven by cars and vans⁹.

How air quality has changed in Camden

Changes in concentrations of air pollution

Outdoor air quality in London has improved vastly since the days of ‘pea-souper’ fogs and the deadly Great Smog of 1952. Even in the last 10 years we have seen a dramatic reduction in nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) and particulate matter (PM) air pollution. This is largely because we have cleaner vehicles with more efficient engines and emission controls (including a growing portion of electric vehicles on the roads), cleaner construction machinery, better management practices for construction dust, and cleaner heating and power systems with many fewer buildings using solid or liquid fuels.

In many parts of Camden, the UK legal limit for NO₂ has been met. In fact, in 2025 out of 404 diffusion tube NO₂ monitoring sites only three exceeded the 40µg/m³ legal limit; all three of these sites were located along Euston Road, which is the busiest road in the borough.

There are 88 diffusion tube NO₂ monitoring sites in Camden that have measured outdoor air quality every year since the start of our series of Clean Air Action Plans (2019).

The average change in annual average NO₂ concentrations from 2019 to 2025 is a 16µg/m³ reduction in NO₂, representing an average 42%

reduction over this time period. All 88 monitoring sites have seen a reduction from 2019 to 2025.

In 2019 the 40µg/m³ legal limit was exceeded at 29 out of the 88 long-term monitoring sites (33%). In 2025, the legal limit was exceeded at only two of these sites (2.3%) and both were on Euston Road.

In 2025, as well as 97.7% of the long-term diffusion tube sites complying with the legal limit, 88.6% also met our 30µg/m³ Camden interim target for 2026 – a year early. 42% of the monitoring sites also met our 20µg/m³ interim target for 2030, although none had yet achieved our ultimate 10µg/m³ World Health Organization-aligned target for 2034. (The lowest-NO₂ site in 2025 measured 12.9µg/m³.)

Statistic	2019	2025
Meeting the legal limit (40µg/m ³)	60 / 88 (67%)	86 / 88 (97.7%)
Meeting our 2026 interim target (30µg/m ³)	14 / 88 (15.9%)	78 / 88 (88.6%)
Meeting our 2030 interim target (20µg/m ³)	0 / 88 (0%)	37 / 88 (42%)
Meeting our 2034 target (10µg/m ³)	0 / 88 (0%)	0 / 88 (0%)

Figure 20 shows the distribution of annual average NO₂ concentrations measured by these 88 long-term diffusion tube monitoring sites from 2019 to 2025.

The horizontal x axis (along the bottom) shows the seven years for which we have NO₂ air pollution measurement data from these 88 monitoring sites. The vertical y axis (along the side) shows that annual average NO₂ concentration measured at the different monitoring sites. Each cross represents the annual average NO₂ concentration measured at a monitoring site.

The purpose of the graph is to illustrate the trend of reducing NO₂ concentrations across our monitoring network from 2019 to 2025. The graph also shows how there is now less variability in NO₂ throughout the borough. There was a smaller range from the highest to the lowest NO₂ concentration measured in 2025 (31.6µg/m³) compared to 2019 (49.7µg/m³).

It is clear to see that the two highest annual average NO₂ concentrations in 2025 (which were both measured along Euston Road) are much higher than the next highest.

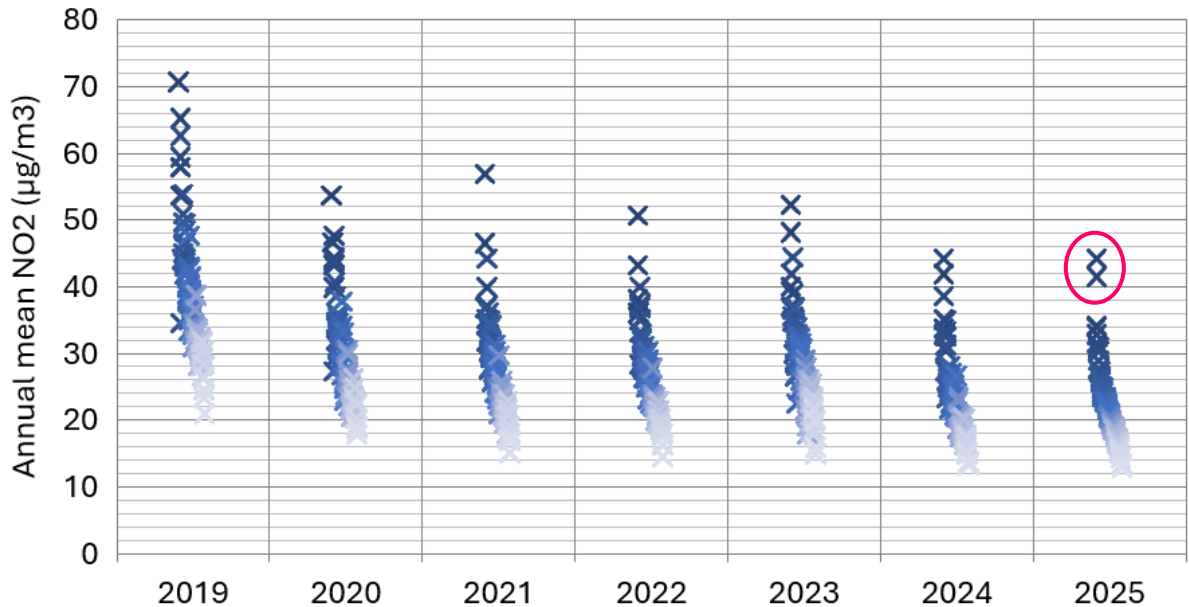


Figure 21: A scatter plot showing the distribution of annual average NO₂ concentrations measured at 88 long-term diffusion tube monitoring sites from 2019 to 2025. The red circle highlights the two outlying annual average NO₂ concentrations measured in 2025, both of which were on Euston Road.

When we look at the long-term air quality data from our automatic monitoring sites, we also clearly see the large reduction in NO₂ concentrations since the early 2010s, and the reduction in variability between measurement locations (Figure 22, top graph). However, it is clear that the rate of reduction in NO₂ has slowed since 2020.

We can also see that fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) has reduced somewhat since the early 2010s, but that the trend is more erratic with some years showing a reduction compared to the previous year, and some years showing an increase (Figure 22, bottom graph).

PM_{2.5} has reduced overall because of the reduction in emissions from road vehicles and from construction machinery. However, the reason it has not reduced as much as NO₂, and the reason for the variability from one year to the next, is because local PM_{2.5} concentrations are much more affected by non-local sources that we are much less able to control or influence (see **Air pollution that comes into Camden from elsewhere**, in Part 2 of this document).

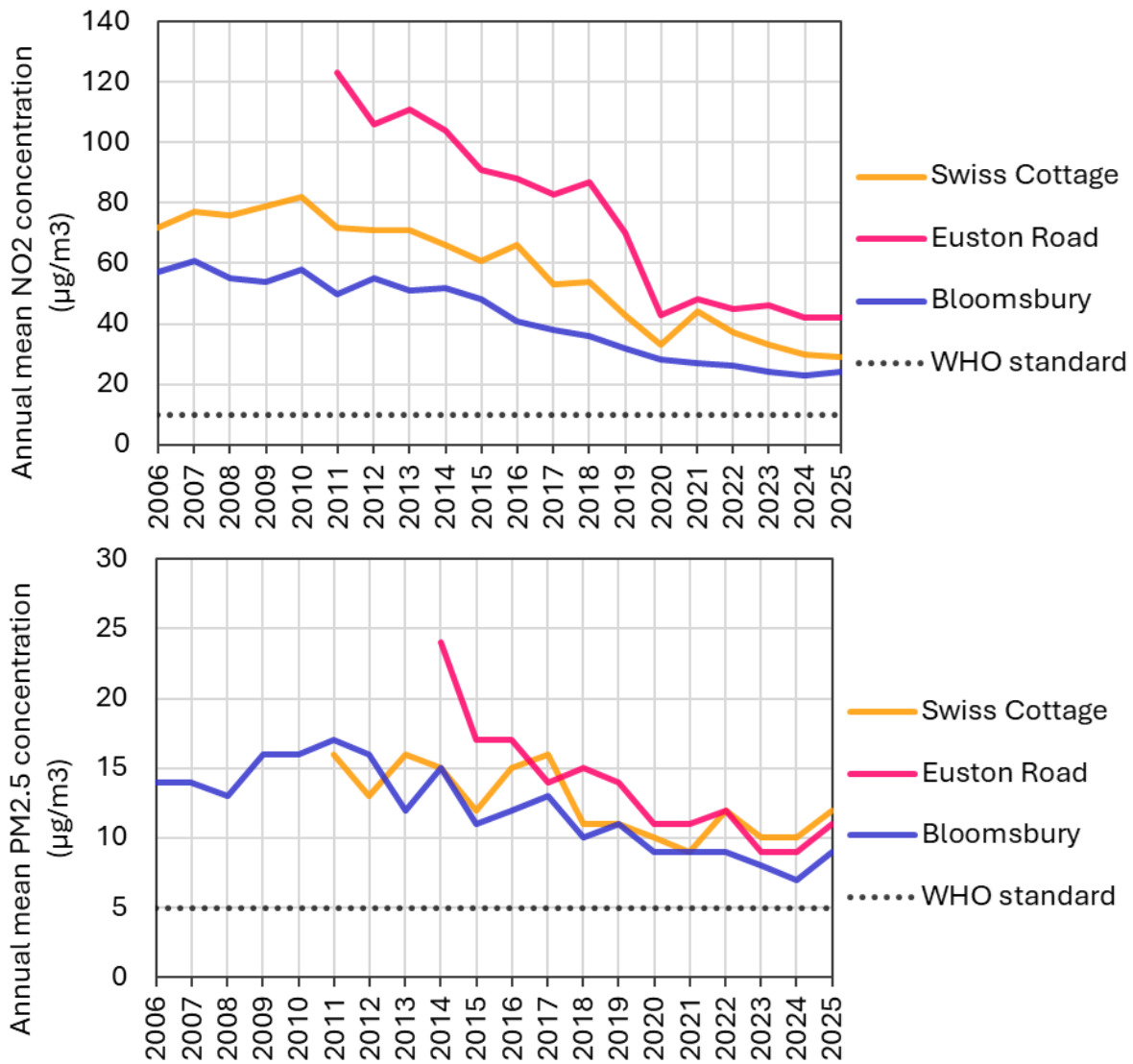


Figure 22: Graphs showing annual average NO₂ (top) and PM_{2.5} (bottom) concentrations measured at some of our automatic air quality monitoring sites, over the period 2006-2025. The World Health Organization (WHO) guideline limits that we have committed to achieving in Camden by 2034 are shown with dotted lines.

Assessing progress towards our 2034 air quality targets and interim targets

In our Camden Clean Air Strategy 2019-2034 we committed to achieving the World Health Organization air quality guideline limits for nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), coarse particulate matter (PM₁₀) and fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) no later than 2034, and at all monitoring locations.

We also set ourselves interim targets for 2026 and 2030, to help assess our progress towards our long-term goals.

We use the data from our automatic monitoring sites for this assessment, because this is the best quality data that we have.

Figure 23 shows that we have not yet met our 2026 interim targets, although two of four NO₂ and two of three PM₁₀ monitoring sites did meet the targets.

	Nitrogen dioxide (NO ₂)	Coarse particulate matter (PM ₁₀)	Fine particulate matter (PM _{2.5})
Number of automatic monitoring sites with data for 2025	4	3	3
Highest 2025 concentration measured	42µg/m³ (Euston Road)	23µg/m³ (Swiss Cottage)	12µg/m³ (Swiss Cottage)
How far away from 2026 interim target?	12µg/m ³ (40% higher than target, 30µg/m ³)	3µg/m ³ (15% higher than target, 20µg/m ³)	No interim target for 2026
Objective met Y/N Number compliant with 2026 interim target	No 2 out of 4 meeting 30µg/m³	No 2 out of 3 meeting 20µg/m³	No interim target for 2026
Objective met Y/N Number meeting 2030 interim target	No 1 out of 4 meeting 20µg/m³	Same as interim target for 2026	No 1 out of 3 meeting 10µg/m³
Objective met Y/N Number meeting 2034 target	No 0 out of 4 meeting 10µg/m³	No 1 out of 3 meeting 15µg/m³	No 0 out of 3 meeting 5µg/m³

Figure 23: Assessment of progress towards 2026 and 2030 interim targets and 2034 WHO-aligned target.

Part 4: Our plan for 2027-2030

This part of the Clean Air Action Plan 2027-2030 sets out what we intend to achieve over the next four years:

- The structure, key themes and sections of the Plan
- How we produced the Plan
- What we are asking during the consultation on the Plan
- What is new in the Plan compared to the last one
- Theme 1: Reducing emissions of air pollution
- Theme 2: Reducing exposure to air pollution
- Theme 3: Leadership and advocacy



Our Plan for 2027-2030

The purpose of the Camden Clean Air Action Plan 2027-2030

The Clean Air Action Plan 2027-2030 sets out what we want to do over the next four years to fulfil our long-term ambition for a borough with clean air.

The purpose is to provide a plan of work to help achieve the interim air quality targets we have set for 2030, and to support progress towards our ultimate objective of achieving the World Health Organization (WHO) air quality guidelines for nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), coarse particulate matter (PM₁₀) and fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) everywhere in Camden by 2034.

The structure of the Camden Clean Air Action Plan 2027-2030

The Clean Air Action Plan 2027-2030 has three Themes for the main ways that we will work to reduce air pollution and public exposure to it in Camden.

Within these three Themes are seven Sections that relate to specific sources of emissions or activities to protect health.

Themes and sections of the Clean Air Action Plan 2027-2030

Theme 1: Reducing emissions of air pollution in Camden

- Section 1: From buildings
- Section 2: From transport
- Section 3: From construction and development
- Section 4: From other sources of pollution in public and open spaces

Theme 2: Reducing exposure to air pollution in Camden

- Section 5: Building public awareness and empowering action
- Section 6: Reducing indoor air pollution exposure

Theme 3: Leadership and advocacy

- Section 7: Leading, advocating, and influencing change for clean air

How we produced this draft Camden Clean Air Action Plan 2027-2030

Learning from our previous Clean Air Action Plans

Much of what we are proposing as part of this draft new Camden Clean Air Action Plan is based upon what we have learned from our previous Camden Clean Air Action Plans (2019-2022 and 2023-2026).

Some of the actions that we have committed to previously turned out to be very challenging to complete, either because of technical difficulties, a shortage of funding for clean air projects in the UK, or because the legislation for air quality and the environment did not enable us to take the action we wanted to. In some cases we have changed our approach, and in other cases we are still committed to the same outcomes but need to take additional steps to get there.

Some of the actions that we committed to previously were very successful and demonstrated that it is worthwhile expanding our work to new parts of the borough. An example of this is our indoor air quality monitor loan programme, which started as a small pilot project in Somers Town as part of the 'Future Neighbourhood 2030 programme', and has since been expanded to the whole of Camden.

With our work toward cleaner air for everyone, it is a process of continual and gradual improvement. Many of the projects we started

during the Clean Air Action Plan 2019-2022 and the Clean Air Action Plan 2023-2026 are ongoing. For example, our work to improve planning controls and reduce emissions from construction and development, and our work to expand our air quality monitoring and increase public knowledge about air quality and health.

Using evidence and data

We have extensive air quality monitoring in Camden. The data from our monitoring network helps us understand how air quality has been changing in the borough, and how different types of air pollution and different activities that create air pollution are changing. This helps us to know what we need to do to reduce air pollution further and informs how we should prioritise in our Clean Air Action Plan.

As well as using monitoring data, we use the latest scientific research on air pollution and health to help us make sure our projects and our overall Strategy are going to achieve the largest benefits for health in Camden. Additionally, research helps us to ensure our work tackles health inequalities and social injustice. For example, research on indoor air quality has shown that households with lower income often have higher levels of air pollution at home. Knowing this means we can focus our indoor air quality projects on the communities and

households that are likely to be at greatest risk health impacts from indoor air pollution.

Engaging with communities

We have a strong air quality monitoring network and good scientific evidence to help us understand how to improve air quality in Camden. However, it is just as important to hear from people who live, work, study, and spend time in the borough. Your experiences and ideas will help shape our Clean Air Action Plan, because:

- **Local knowledge matters.** We have a large air quality monitoring network, but we cannot measure air quality outside every home or even on every street. Residents can tell us about local issues and activities that may be affecting air quality in their neighbourhood.
- **It is important to understand what residents’ priorities are for Camden, and what changes they want.** Air pollution is not the only challenge we face. Climate change, the cost of living, housing, and pressure on public services all affect people’s lives, and some people are affected more than others. It is important for us to try to understand how air quality fits in alongside other

concerns, so that we can try to make sure our work for clean air brings wider benefits wherever possible.

- **People in Camden have excellent ideas.** Camden is a diverse, creative, and vibrant borough with more than 200,000 residents as well as many people who work, study, or visit here. By listening to people with a connection to Camden, we can hear new ideas and create opportunities to improve air quality and protect everyone's health. We will always be open to input and conversations with anyone who spends time here.

In creating the draft Clean Air Action Plan 2027-2030 we met with the Highgate Society, Synergy Advocacy Project, and the Third Age Project. The feedback, concerns, and ideas shared at these sessions all helped to shape this draft Plan.

Some of the concerns and ideas shared during community conversations:

- Where possible, we need to make sure our proposed actions and objectives have clear targets. For example, giving a target for the number of electric power supplies installed for ice cream vans or canal boats, and set a date by which this will be done.

- We should be clear and open in how we measure air quality and communicate monitoring data, so that people can see and understand how air quality is changing where they live.
- We should still try to do what we can to take action on sources of pollution that we cannot directly control. For example, many people may be concerned about exposure to air pollution whilst travelling on the London Underground, which can have very high levels of particulate matter (PM) air pollution at some stations and on some lines. Camden could work with Transport for London (TfL) and advocate for more action to improve air quality on the Underground network.
- We should go further in trying to reduce air pollution from vehicle engine idling, especially around Regent's Park and the High Speed 2 construction sites.
- We should make sure our communication about air quality and health, our engagement materials, and other resources are as accessible and inclusive as possible. We should use clear language that is free from jargon so that everyone can receive and understand important information about clean air and health.

These are just a few examples of the comments and suggestions we received during the pre-consultation engagement conversations. All that we heard in these sessions has helped to create this draft Action Plan, and we are very grateful to everyone who gave us their time.

Consulting on the draft Camden Clean Air Action Plan 2027-2030

The pre-consultation engagement helped to create this draft Clean Air Action Plan, but that is not the end of the opportunity for people to have their say on how Camden Council should work to improve air quality.

We are holding a public consultation on the draft Action Plan, and anyone with a connection to the borough or an interest in air quality is welcome to share their views. The responses to the consultation will help to shape the final Clean Air Action Plan 2027-2030.

What we are asking from you

The consultation

This draft Clean Air Action Plan 2027-2030 sets out what we are proposing to do over the next four years to improve air quality and public health in Camden.

We believe our proposed actions are the best possible set of measures to improve air quality and reduce public exposure to air pollution in Camden, in a way that will benefit everyone whilst also tackling health inequality and environmental health injustice.

In designing this proposed plan and the actions within it, we have been realistic about what can be done over the next four years, considering the financial and resourcing limitations we face and the limited policy and legislative controls for some sources of air pollution.

We have also carefully considered where some actions might have a knock-on effect on some people, for example if a particular action to reduce a source of air pollution also had a negative impact that mainly affected a particular group of people.

What we will be asking in the consultation

- What you think of our draft Clean Air Action Plan 2027-2030 and our proposed actions.
- Whether or not you agree with and support what we are trying to achieve.
- If you think our objectives and actions go far enough in seeking to improve air quality and protect health.
- For your thoughts and any concerns about air quality where you live or work, or in other parts of Camden that you visit.
- For you to share any ideas, suggestions, or opportunities for how we could improve air quality and protect people's health, or if you think we have missed anything.
- Some questions about you, including your connection to Camden. This information helps us to understand if the responses we receive to the consultation are broadly representative of Camden's population. It will also help to understand whether the sentiment in the consultation responses has clear differences based upon the characteristics of the people responding. This will help us to understand whether some of the actions we are proposing are viewed negatively because

they might have a specific impact upon some people more than others.

How you can respond

We want the consultation to be as open and accessible as possible, so that anyone who wants to respond and share their views can do so. We will use **the Council's 'We Are Camden' online consultation hub** (<https://consultations.wearecamden.org/>) to host this draft Clean Air Action Plan 2027-2030 and the consultation questions.

We will invite people to respond to the consultation **by emailing** AirQuality@camden.gov.uk with their responses, if they would prefer not to complete a survey on We Are Camden.

We will make physical copies of the Action Plan and the consultation questions available for people to complete **in pen and paper**, rather than having to do it online. These can be sent to 'FAO Air Quality Team, Sustainability, Air Quality and Energy, 5th floor, 5 Pancras Square, London, N1C 4AG'.

We will attend community events and activities to provide an opportunity for people to **share feedback in person** about the draft Clean Air Action Plan 2027-2030.

We will also share information about the consultation through Camden Council's communications channels so that we can reach as many people as possible.

We will produce a short, easy-to-read summary of what we are planning to do to improve air quality over the next four years, so that people who do not want to read the whole Clean Air Action Plan 2027-2030 can still share their views.

What we will do with your responses

We will keep any personal information or data that you share with us in your consultation response secure and private. We will not share this information with anyone outside of Camden's Air Quality team, which will be the team that receives responses to the consultation.

We will review all responses to the consultation and give them proper consideration, and will make changes to the Clean Air Action Plan 2027-2030 based upon the overall feedback we receive from the consultation.

What is new in the Clean Air Action Plan 2027-2030

An increased focus on reactive as well as preventative actions to protect health from air pollution

Usually, local authority Air Quality Action Plans try to reduce the sources of pollution that we can predict, measure, and control, and support the public to avoid exposure to air pollution in normal, everyday circumstances.

However, our changing climate brings new concerns for air quality and environmental health. Our exposure to air pollution may be less dominated by regular, predictable activities (like commuting, working, and cooking at home), and instead may be affected increasingly by less predictable events (like high air pollution caused by heatwaves and fires, or power outages).

The draft Camden Clean Air Action Plan 2027-2030 includes actions to help us be more prepared for unpredictable and irregular pollution incidents. We want to continue building widespread awareness of air quality and have systems in place to ensure we can effectively provide timely information and advice for the public during air pollution incidents and alerts, including those caused by our changing climate.

An increased focus on indoor air quality environments

There is growing evidence about the potential for indoor environments to have poor air quality, and that indoor air pollution exposure is typically higher for lower-income households.

Achieving clean air (based upon the World Health Organization air quality guidelines that we have committed to achieving in Camden) would reduce the number of new cases of heart, lung, and brain health conditions, and possibly the severity of existing conditions or the frequency of people feeling the symptoms of these conditions. However, we will not achieve a transformational improvement in health if we improve outdoor air quality but do nothing to improve indoor environments, with people still spending the majority of their time in homes, workplaces, learning environments, and other spaces that may have poor air quality.

Our draft Clean Air Action Plan 2027-2030 has a growing focus on the need to improve indoor air quality in pursuit of our vision for a borough where nobody gets ill because of the air they breathe.

Taking action across a larger range of sources of air pollution

We have seen how air pollution from road transport has reduced, and how air quality has improved as a result. This shows what can be achieved through effective policies to tackle environmental challenges and projects to support cleaner alternatives.

Despite road transport emissions reducing, air pollution remains a serious threat for public health. We therefore need to broaden our programme of action to tackle a larger variety of pollution sources.

Some of these sources are known to us at the time of creating this new Clean Air Action Plan 2027-2030, and include street food markets, grounds maintenance, filming, public events and temporary power, and heating systems.

New sources of pollution are likely to emerge during the four-year timeframe of implementing this new Action Plan; we are committed to responding to the latest science and evidence about air quality and air pollution, and will build flexibility into our Plan so that we can respond. This will help us to use our resources in the most effective

way possible, to deliver the best possible outcomes for cleaner air quality and healthier lives.

Increasing coordination of clean air and climate resilience work

Our local environment and our global climate are inextricably linked. Air quality is a local characteristic that is affected by human activities, and in turn affects our health now and in the future. It is also affected by our changing climate, and so is our approach to managing and improving air quality.

We can use our work to improve air quality in Camden to also help to improve our resilience and adaptability to other climate hazards, like heat, flooding, and extreme weather. When we speak to residents, businesses, schools, and other audiences about air quality, our advice will be more useful if we can also provide guidance on reducing risks from these other climate-related hazards.

We should also use the additional benefit of reducing carbon emissions as further justification for undertaking work to reduce air pollution, and vice versa. For example: by installing electrical power supplies for ice cream vans and canal boats we will reduce air

pollution *and* carbon emissions; by replacing gas boilers with heat pumps as part of our decarbonisation programme, we will reduce carbon emissions *and* the emission of air pollution, helping to protect and improve public health as well as the environment.



Figure 24: An air source heat pump installed at Talacre Community Sports Centre. This has replaced a gas boiler and will therefore reduce climate impacts whilst also helping to improve local air quality and protect community health and wellbeing.

Theme 1: Reducing emissions of air pollution in Camden

Section 1: Reducing emissions from buildings

The way we heat and power our homes, offices, schools, and other buildings has an effect on local air quality.

Gas boilers are still used for heating the majority of buildings, and in Central London boilers are now the biggest source of nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) air pollution (38.6% of total NO_x emissions in Camden).

Replacing gas heating with electric heating will help to improve local air quality and will reduce climate impacts.

Diesel generators are used for emergency backup power for many large buildings, including commercial sites, hospitals, and facilities with essential safety systems. Although generators are not often used in power outages because our electricity grid is very reliable, they still need to be tested often and this creates air pollution. We need to reduce the use of diesel generators, and push for those that are used to be as clean as possible.

Cooking is also a large source of air pollution in Camden. According to air quality modelling data, commercial cooking (in restaurants, pubs, cafés and takeaways) is the largest source of fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) air pollution in the borough (28.2% of total PM_{2.5}

emissions). We need to ensure new commercial kitchens contain effective air filtration systems, and must work with the hospitality sector so that business owners understand the benefit and opportunity from switching away from gas and charcoal cooking.

Wood and solid fuel burning stoves (log burners) and traditional fireplaces are used in a small number of homes in Camden, but this creates air pollution (6.3% of total PM_{2.5} emissions in the borough). This is avoidable because all homes are connected to the gas or electricity networks. Some restaurants and other hospitality venues also have open fireplaces.

Burning wood and solid fuels is also worse for our climate than using gas or electric heating. This might be surprising because the carbon that is released when we burn wood was once absorbed from the air by the tree we are burning, so it is sometimes referred to as being ‘carbon neutral’.

Unfortunately, when we burn a tree in the form of firewood, it takes a long time for a new tree to grow to a size where it has absorbed the same amount of carbon that was released. It is crucial that we reduce our emissions of carbon dioxide and greenhouse gases as quickly as possible to limit global warming.

There is simply not enough time for us to tackle the climate crisis for us to justify burning wood fuels in homes and buildings where there are alternative forms of heating that provide the same amount of heat but with much lower carbon emissions.

We must try to reduce the amount of wood and solid fuel that is burned in homes and businesses in Camden, and ensure the existing rules for smoke control are followed whilst exploring new ways to protect public health from this avoidable air pollution.



Figure 25: A photograph showing smoke from the chimneys of some houses in the United Kingdom. Creative Commons, CC BY-NC-ND 4.0. Photo credit: Mary Turner / Climate Visuals.

What we will do from 2027-2030

- **Support the transition from gas heating to clean electric heating in homes, businesses, and other buildings as part of Camden’s Climate Action Plan.** This includes by undertaking retrofit in the Council’s own buildings, supporting renters, homeowners, community organisations and businesses through the Camden Climate Fund, and by ensuring our communications campaigns for climate and air quality highlight the joint benefits for human health and climate protection that comes from decarbonising heating. We will use planning policy to limit emissions from new developments and refurbishments, and keep policies under review with the intention of strengthening them where we can.
- **Work with businesses, business networks, and the hospitality sector to explore and promote opportunities for reducing air pollution from commercial kitchens.** This includes by highlighting funding opportunities for reducing sources of air pollution, and by creating awareness-raising materials, guidance, and toolkits to provide practical information to support improvements.

- **Strengthen policy and regulatory controls over air pollution from commercial premises, including emissions from kitchens.** This could include exploring tighter planning and licensing controls, and more robust enforcement of Building Regulations and Environmental Health legislation.
- **Continue the programme of decarbonising Camden Council's own buildings, which helps to improve air quality and public health.** This includes both the decarbonisation of housing and the Council's offices and other public buildings, such as libraries and leisure centres.
- **Reduce emissions from standby diesel generators,** by applying the expectations in the Camden Local Plan that fossil fuel generators will only be considered as a last resort, and by using Emission Limit Values to reduce air pollution for all generators, regardless of size. We will seek to limit generator testing hours to a minimum and only at times when there is not a current or predicted pollution alert.
- **Reduce pollution from wood and solid fuel burning,** by enforcing the Smoke Control Area rules prohibiting smoke from buildings, continuing to raise awareness about the health and environmental damage from wood and solid fuel burning, and

explore options for strengthening restrictions on solid fuel use in Camden to reduce avoidable air pollution.



Figure 26: Solar panels installed on the roof of Highgate Library, as part of a whole-building retrofit project.

Section 2: Reducing emissions from transport

The way we travel, and how we order and deliver goods and services, has an impact on local air quality because many forms of transportation create air pollution.

London's Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) has sped up the replacement of older, more polluting petrol and diesel vehicles in London. Combined with local on-street transport improvements (like new cycle lanes and electric vehicle charging points) and sustainable travel policies (like the Air Quality Surcharge for older vehicles), the ULEZ has supported a large reduction in air pollution from road transport. **Road transport is now estimated to contribute 22% of the total emission of nitrogen oxides (NOx) and 21% of fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) air pollution in Camden.**

New diesel and petrol vehicles are much cleaner than before the vehicle emissions testing loopholes were dealt with (sometimes called the 'Dieselgate' scandal). **Road vehicles emit air pollution not only from burning fossil fuels in engines, but also from the friction between tyres and the road surface and in brake pads.** This means that electric vehicles also emit air pollution and contribute to

local air quality problems, although they are less polluting than diesel or petrol vehicles.

Because modern vehicles are much cleaner now, each new cycle of replacing vehicles with new ones will give smaller and smaller improvements in air quality, so **the rate of improvement in roadside air quality in Camden has slowed down.**

The most effective way to reduce the approximately one-fifth of NOx and PM_{2.5} emissions in Camden that is from road vehicles will be to **support people and businesses to avoid vehicle use entirely, or to reduce the amount of driving that is needed.**

Camden's Transport Strategy has a vision to:

*"To work alongside residents and partners in transforming transport and mobility in Camden, enabling and encouraging people to travel sustainably; nurturing healthier lifestyles; **creating radically less polluted places**; and upgrading the transport network to meets Camden's needs and those of London as a growing capital city."*

The draft Clean Air Action Plan 2027-2030 supports this vision, and conversely the Camden Transport Strategy clearly supports our vision for a borough with clean air for everyone.

Besides road vehicles, **diesel trains also release air pollution and are responsible for approximately 6% of NO_x emissions and 2% of PM_{2.5} emissions in Camden.** The effect of trains on local air quality is concentrated in areas surrounding stations and along railways with diesel train traffic. Indoor air quality inside trains and stations is also a matter for concern, especially for people who work in these places and for people who often spend a lot of time travelling on the rail network.

Camden Council has no direct control over the railways or public transport system, but **we will continue to work with the rail industry and with Transport for London (TfL) to advocate for more action to reduce air pollution** from trains, buses, and other forms of public transport in Camden.

What we will do from 2027-2030

- **Reduce emissions from personal and private travel in Camden through the delivery of the Camden Transport Strategy.** This will include: improving infrastructure for sustainable, active travel; installing electric vehicle charging points for essential vehicle use; supporting and promoting the uptake of non-car travel through awareness-raising around clean air, climate, and health; analysing air quality monitoring data and reviewing the latest evidence about air quality and transport, to support the design, implementation, and assessment of transport projects and programmes; promoting uptake of electric cargo bikes; and reviewing and improving parking policy and charges for more polluting vehicles.
- **Reduce emissions from deliveries, freight, servicing, and logistics, as part of Camden's Freight and Servicing Action Plan,** including by promoting opportunities and incentives for low- and zero-emission deliveries and logistics through our air quality communications and awareness-raising activities and our work with businesses.

- **Continue to reduce emissions from Camden Council's own vehicles, and from vehicles used in council services and contracts**, by procuring cleaner vehicles and introducing environmental management policies and monitoring systems. We will use air quality research and data to provide technical recommendations and guidance about reducing air pollution from vehicles, and will support colleagues to critically assess (and reduce) the likely air quality impacts from the use of vehicles in procured contracts.
- **Continue to deliver public awareness messaging about the importance of avoiding vehicle engine idling**, to reduce air pollution from stationary vehicles and to provide an opportunity to engage with drivers and the public on a broader range of topics.
- **Continue to work with the rail industry and Transport for London to advocate for more action to reduce air pollution**, including from mainline trains as well as from TfL-managed trains and buses, and also to improve indoor air quality on the public transport network including on the London Underground and in railway stations serviced by diesel trains.



Figure 27: A photograph of a cyclist using a cycle lane in Camden and a pedestrian crossing a road which has a 20mph speed limit.

Section 3: Reducing emissions from construction and development

Camden has a dynamic, global economy, supporting more than 400,000 jobs. It is also the ninth most densely populated borough in London and in the United Kingdom, so there is huge demand for space for building new homes and workplaces.

Demolishing buildings and structures and constructing new ones creates air pollution. This is because demolition and construction almost always involves the use of heavy machines that have diesel engines, and also because breaking up and moving materials creates dust.

The most recent London Atmospheric Emissions Inventory (LAEI) dataset estimates that **construction and development is responsible for 24% of nitrogen oxides (NOx) and 10% of fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) emissions in Camden.** Pollution from construction and development has a larger impact on the people living near to construction sites and on the people working on them.

We can try to reduce air pollution from construction and development by setting and enforcing rules about the process of building new

buildings. This includes a requirement for a developer to produce an assessment (an 'Air Quality Assessment') of whether a proposed development will have an impact on local air quality, either during the process of its construction or when it is finished and operational.

We then use the outcome of the Air Quality Assessment to set a requirement for on-site construction dust monitoring, with monthly reporting, as well as the use of a list of actions to reduce the amount of dust and pollution created.

Camden participates in the Cleaner Construction for London project. This involves inspectors visiting construction sites to make sure they are compliant with the London Low Emission Zone for construction site machinery (often referred to as 'non-road mobile machinery' or NRMM).

Some parts of Camden are very affected by the High Speed 2 (HS2) construction works. Residents living near to HS2 sites live with construction noise, dust, construction vehicles, and travel disruption linked to the work. Camden has very limited influence over how HS2 manages its air quality construction impacts, but over the years we have tried to hold HS2 and its contractors to account when there have been dust or air quality issues, and have consistently pushed for HS2

to adopt higher standards for construction machinery and road vehicles for all sites in Camden. **We will continue to do what we can to reduce the effects of HS2 and other infrastructure projects on local air quality and public health.**

What we will do from 2027-2030

- **Use planning policy and development controls to reduce emissions from construction machinery and generators,** including through the Construction Management Plan scrutiny process, and by collaborating with other teams within the Council to ensure any air quality concerns are quickly reported and acted on. We will provide technical recommendations to other teams to support higher standards for construction management in Camden.
- **Use planning policy, development controls, and planning enforcement to reduce dust emissions from demolition, construction, earthworks, and trackout (vehicle movements),** as above, and in particular by working with Planning Enforcement teams to explore new options for holding contractors and developers to the standards that we expect for air quality management in the construction process. For example, through

the use of ‘construction impact bonds’ and other mechanisms to provide penalties for non-compliance.

- **Reduce emissions from street-works, highways improvements, and utility works, and small-scale construction activity that does not go through the normal planning process,** including by creating updated guidance documents and standards that would apply to all scales of construction and development activity, by communicating this effectively to residents and businesses, and by working with Camden’s Engineering service to set standards for contractors undertaking work for the Council.
- **Continue to work with and scrutinise High Speed 2 construction activities, and to advocate to the highest possible standards for dust and air quality management in HS2 and other infrastructure projects,** including by maintaining contact with HS2 and its contractors, ensuring secured Assurances are adhered to, and by providing technical recommendations, guidance, and support to colleagues, residents, community organisations, and local businesses in relation to highlighting and mitigating the impact of local construction activity.

Section 4: Reducing emissions from other sources in the public realm

Over the past few years, we have learnt that there are many other sources of public air pollution in Camden that do not fall within our themes of reducing air pollution from buildings, transportation, or construction and development.

In this Clean Air Action Plan 2027-2030 we are calling this ‘other sources in the public realm’, and it includes street food vending (such as ice cream vans and market stalls), canal boats, film sets, public events, temporary power supplies (such as boilers and generators), barbeques, bonfires, grounds maintenance, and other activities.

This is a wide range of activities, and although each of them individually might not contribute a large portion of total air pollution emissions, collectively they are an important and potentially significant source of the overall air pollution health hazard in Camden. These sources are highly localised and will have a larger impact on people living and working nearby.

Our approach for reducing air pollution from other sources in the public realm will need to include a mixture of policy controls, projects

to provide clean power alternatives for polluting activities, and engagement and awareness-raising to highlight the health risks and opportunities for living and working in a way that is better for air quality and health.

What we will do from 2027-2030

- **Reduce emissions from street food cooking and trading,** including ice cream vans, hot food markets, and other on street vendors. This could include by providing electrical power where this would reduce or avoid the use of fossil fuels and solid fuels for power or cooking, and by updating licensing and policy to support sustainable street food.
- **Reduce emissions from canal boats in a way that supports boating communities,** including seeking and administering grant funding to support live-aboard boaters to comply with Smoke Control Area rules and more generally to reduce air pollution emissions and exposure, and climate impacts. We will work to strengthen partnerships with boaters and representative organisations, and to support boater access to important infrastructure and services for sustainability, health, and resilience.

- **Reduce emissions from grounds maintenance**, including by highlighting the potential impact from fossil fuel-powered machinery, and encouraging the avoidance of burning garden and green waste and tree cuttings, and by ensuring Camden's grounds maintenance contracts include requirements for using electrically-powered machinery where possible.
- **Reduce emissions from filming, public events, and temporary heating and power.** This would include working with filming companies and film industry organisations to promote sustainable and lower-pollution power options for on-location filming, and by seeking to build on and expand the Mayor of London-funded 'Cleaner Filming for Camden' project to audit film sets. We will also work with Camden's Events and Engineering services to explore options to reduce air quality impacts from public events and temporary heating and power arrangements, including by setting requirements for the avoidance of fossil fuel use, electrical power supplies, careful selection of equipment, and by positioning equipment in a way that minimises exposure for people nearby.
- **Reduce emissions from outdoor burning, including barbecues, allotment fires, bonfires and other activities.** This

would include providing technical recommendations for policy decisions and supporting projects to provide clean power in public spaces, for example the provision of electric barbecues to reduce or avoid the use of fossil fuel barbecues. We will also seek to highlight the air quality health risks linked to garden waste and allotment fires and bonfires, especially for people with existing health conditions and in areas where the resultant air pollution is likely to affect neighbours and other people nearby.

Figure 28: A lower-emission generator (foreground) and a hot drinks kiosk on a film set in Camden.



Theme 2: Reducing exposure to air pollution in Camden

Section 5: Building awareness and empowering action

Theme 1 is about reducing and avoiding the emission of air pollution in Camden. There are some forms of air pollution that are difficult to reduce, or where it will take a very long time to do so. However, air quality can be very different from one street to the next, and at different times of the day, week or year, so **there will still always be things we can do individually to reduce the amount of time we spend in polluted places**. This will help to protect our health now, by reducing how air pollution might be causing us to feel ill, and in the future, by reducing the likelihood or severity of illnesses caused by air pollution.

We can also help to encourage people to take individual action to reduce how much air pollution they create, for example when driving, using wood-burning stoves or open fireplaces, by burning garden waste, or by having barbecues or setting off fireworks.

To support people to take individual action to reduce their exposure to air pollution, and their contribution to air pollution, first **we need to build public knowledge about why air pollution is important for everyone to think about, and why we should all be taking some action to reduce and avoid it**.

We need to make sure we can communicate this message in a way that is accessible for people, because people have different levels of familiarity with scientific ideas, or different preferences for how they receive information (for example, spoken or written, in-person or online), and many people who live in Camden do not speak English as their first language.

We need to make sure that our communication and awareness-raising about air quality is appropriate and suitable for the audience we are speaking to. We may need to have a different approach when speaking to people who live in socially rented housing (council housing) compared to people who own their own home, and we will need to have a different approach when speaking to businesses compared to when we are speaking to healthcare professionals.

We also need to consider how some people may already have less of an impact on local air quality, or be less able to reduce their impact on it, because they do not have the financial means to change their activities as easily as someone with more money. For example, someone living in rented accommodation will usually be less able to replace a gas boiler with an electric heating system than someone who owns their own home.

More frequent and challenging air pollution events resulting from the climate crisis will disproportionately affect children.

All children are particularly vulnerable to the effects of the climate crisis and even a few days of missed school can have a significant impact on a child's education and prospects.

To safeguard life chances for young people, the Safe Air and Climate Friendly programme will prioritise support for schools and other learning environments in areas with already high air pollution levels and in settings where a high percentage of children have pre-existing health conditions like asthma, are in poorer communities, and belong to Black, Asian and minoritised ethnic groups.

Over three years, the programme will support up to 30 settings in Camden to develop climate action plans with a focal point on climate adaptation and resilience. Up to £1m of funding will be allocated to projects that tackle sources of air pollution within settings, mitigate against similar risks and build capacity through staff professional development, education programmes and green skills development.

What we will do from 2027-2030

- **Create and promote a council awareness campaign about air quality, to build public awareness and knowledge and to empower local action for clean air and better health.** We will aim for everyone to have an understanding about how they and others can be affected by air pollution and why clean air is important for us all, and how we can reduce our exposure to air pollution in different environments.
- **Build on our Clean Air for Schools programme to expand how we support schools, nurseries, family centres and children's centres, play centres, and other learning environments in Camden to tackle air pollution and take action for cleaner air, healthier environments, and climate resilience,** including by building awareness and empowering local action, and by seeking to establish funding opportunities to implement improvements that will directly reduce air pollution emissions or reduce exposure to it.
- **In our air quality communications and awareness-raising we will aim to align our messaging with recommendations from communications experts** including the Air Quality Information System (AQIS) Review from the Department for Environment,

Food and Rural Affairs (Defra). This is to ensure our messages are accessible, relatable, helpful, sensitive, and relevant for the different audiences we are trying to engage with in Camden.

- **Continue to build awareness and knowledge about air quality and health for Camden Council staff and councillors**, to help ensure everyone working for or with the Council is empowered to take action to protect their own health, and also better able to take action to protect the health of Camden's communities.
- **Work with the NHS, healthcare professionals and organisations, universities, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), and other stakeholders to extend our reach and positive impact for cleaner air and health.** This includes collaborative engagement and awareness-raising, promoting opportunities for reducing air pollution from the health and academic sectors, and by taking part in research projects that improve our shared understanding of air quality and health, whilst directly supporting improvements for air quality in Camden.
- **Expand our air quality monitoring network where appropriate and necessary**, to enhance our understanding of air quality in Camden and to effectively assess our progress towards our air quality targets and the impact of our policies and projects to

improve air quality. We will be tactical with our monitoring to ensure we use technologies that are suitably reliable, accurate, and precise for our monitoring needs, and capable of supporting our wider air quality programme.

- **Improve how we share, present, and communicate air quality data and monitoring information**, including exploring innovative ways to improve public access and engagement in air quality information, and by working with communities and stakeholders to increase transparency and access to monitoring data.
- **Provide public information and guidance during air pollution incidents and alerts**, in a way that is timely and easy to put into action, including from events that are linked to our changing climate. This would include integrating air quality health messaging into public information and alert systems, promoting air quality alerts (for example, airTEXT, the Mayor of London's air pollution alerts for health centres, schools, and care homes, and the Daily Air Quality Index), and also by working with Camden's Corporate Resilience service, the Climate team, and the Health Protection team to ensure severe and extreme weather alerts and heat health alerts include information about air quality and health, and vice versa.

Section 6: Reducing indoor air pollution exposure

We spend the majority of our time indoors, and this air can be just as polluted – or worse – than the air outdoors.

Indoor air quality monitoring research shows that a home can have poor indoor air quality even if the outdoor air has low levels of pollution. It also indicates that a home in an area of poor outdoor air quality can still have good indoor air quality, if occupants take steps to reduce pollution indoors and are careful about when and how they ventilate their home.

Although the legal air quality responsibilities for local authorities do not include indoor environments, we have an ambition for Camden **to be a borough where nobody gets ill because of the air they breathe.**

For this reason, we cannot ignore indoor air quality, so our Clean Air Action Plan 2027-2030 will include actions to reduce indoor air pollution and pollution exposure within indoor spaces in Camden.

This includes homes, workplaces, education buildings, and other indoor environments.

What we will do from 2027-2030

- **Work to improve indoor air quality and reduce air pollution exposure in homes in Camden.** This includes by building awareness and empowering individual action, for example by delivering indoor air quality training sessions, mobilising Community Champions, and by expanding our indoor air quality monitor loan project. For our monitor loan project, we will establish a network of monitor loan hubs across the borough so that it is easy as possible for anyone who lives in Camden to borrow a monitor to learn about indoor air quality in their own home. In communicating the importance of indoor air quality and reducing indoor air pollution, we will ensure our guidance also covers damp and mould, whilst also highlighting legal protections and rights for renters. We will work with the Breathe Stop Smoking Service, Camden's Damp and Mould Repairs team, and housing Environmental Health team to ensure we have a joined-up approach across different indoor health and environmental hazards.
- **Seek opportunities to provide practical support and direct improvements for indoor air quality,** for example by supporting the replacement of polluting appliances if possible, and by

providing technical recommendations for improving indoor air quality in homes for Camden's Housing service, Housing Retrofit team, Environmental Health team, and Community Investment Programme (CIP) service.

- **Work with businesses, business networks, and other partners to reduce occupational exposure to air pollution in Camden.**

This includes, for example, working with the Camden Climate Alliance, Camden Breathing Better campaign, and Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) to support businesses to take action on indoor air quality and staff engagement and awareness, whilst co-promoting opportunities for improve heat-resilience in workplaces.

- **Improve indoor air quality in schools, learning environments, health and care facilities, and other public buildings in Camden.** This includes through the expansion of our Clean Air for Schools project as noted in Section 5 above, as well as working with health and care services and the Council's Health and Wellbeing department to explore opportunities for improving indoor air quality in care homes and other buildings, and working with service managers and building managers to improve indoor air quality in other council-managed premises.

- **Support the advancement of scientific research on indoor air quality and health**, including by seeking partnerships and collaboration with researchers, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), communities, and other partners.



Figure 29: Residents speaking to a member of Camden's Air Quality team at an indoor air quality engagement event in Somers Town, Camden.

Theme 3: Leadership and advocacy

Section 7: Leading by example, lobbying, and effecting change beyond our borders

There are many sources of air pollution that affect air quality and health in Camden, but which we cannot control, regulate, or influence directly. This includes pollution from outside of the borough, most notably from agriculture, airports, ports and shipping, industrial activities, and power generation.

There are also sources of air pollution in neighbouring local authorities and others upwind from Camden, which could effectively be reduced or avoided to the benefit of air quality in those areas and in Camden (and other places downwind).

Finally, there are sources of air pollution in Camden and other places that are regulated to some extent, but where local authorities have a limited level of influence or control. This includes, for example, our ability to regulate air pollution through the planning process, vehicle engine and non-exhaust emissions for modern vehicles that are otherwise compliant with emission-control policies, air pollution from commercial kitchens, and air pollution from domestic wood and solid fuel burning – which is legal as long as an ‘authorised’ fuel or ‘exempt’ appliance is used, and no smoke is emitted, even though all forms of

solid fuel burning are hugely more polluting than other forms of heating that all buildings in Camden have access to.

It is important that our air quality programme includes a commitment to work with external partners to try to protect public health and the environment by improving the regulatory approach for air quality and air pollution in the UK.

Camden was the first local authority to commit to meeting the World Health Organization (WHO) air quality guidelines, and we will continue to encourage other local authorities, regional authorities, and the government to do the same so that there is a clear and unified vision for a country with clean air for everyone.

We will continue to work collaboratively with other local authorities in London and will seek to build connections with local authorities elsewhere in the UK, to lead by example, share best practice, and strengthen our partnership working.

What we will do from 2027-2030

- **We will seek to maintain and strengthen Camden's reputation as a leading local authority for action for clean air and health,** including through our existing connections and by establishing new connections with local, regional, and national authorities.
- **We will advocate for clean air, action to reduce air pollution and public exposure to it,** including setting stronger national air quality targets, adopting standards for indoor air quality, more effective regulation of pollution sources that affect rural and urban air quality (including agriculture, shipping, aviation, industry, power generation, and wood and solid fuel burning).
- **We will respond to consultations, surveys, and other opportunities to contribute to the national or regional conversation on air quality,** sharing our experience and insight and seeking opportunities to learn from other local authorities that have delivered great work for air quality and public health.
- **We will engage in air quality, public health, and environmental science networks, conferences, and participatory projects,** to contribute to knowledge exchange and transfer, to strengthen partnership working to improve the efficiency of using public

resources, and to share and benefit from best practice, collective knowledge, and a shared evidence base so that air quality is improved everywhere, as quickly and as much as possible.

- **We will continually review and assess the latest evidence relating to air quality and health,** making sure we adapt to updated science and employ a dynamic approach in our work so that we are undertaking the most effective action we can, to deliver the greatest improvement in air quality and health, and in the most efficient way possible.



Figure 30: A member of Camden's Air Quality team giving evidence to the House of Commons Environmental Audit Committee during the inquiry on air pollution in England. Image credit parliamentlive.tv.

What we have not included in our Plan

Trees and greening

Trees, plants, and greenery bring many benefits for the environment and human health. They can provide shade to protect us from the sun and shelter us from the rain. They help to reduce flooding during heavy rainfall. They provide habitats and homes for animals and other plants, helping to increase biodiversity. They make our streets, parks and gardens more pleasant and help us feel good about where we live.

There is often an assumption that trees, plants, and greenery also improve air quality by absorbing and removing air pollution from the air, so that there is less for us to breathe in.

This is not untrue. When plants photosynthesise, they absorb air, and some of the pollution in the air then becomes held within the plant. Plants can also be a physical barrier or a surface for pollution to become stuck to, meaning there is less in the air.

However, the overall effect is limited. Plants do not absorb enough pollution to make a meaningful difference for air quality, either outdoors or inside buildings.

Also, some species of plants emit natural chemicals called biogenic volatile organic compounds (BVOC). These are not usually harmful for human health, but they can react with other types of human-made air pollution to create new chemicals that actually are harmful. In this way, some plant species can contribute to air pollution and the risk this has for public health.

In some situations, trees with large canopies can reduce how much the air at ground level can mix with air from higher up. If there is pollution at ground level, for example along a busy road, from a construction site, a restaurant, or a street food market, tree canopies can prevent the pollution from being removed and trap it closer to the ground. This means people in these spaces are exposed to more air pollution.

Where plants do have a role is where they can create a physical barrier between a large source of air pollution and a space where people spend time. An example of this would be a school playground that is right next to a busy road, where a tall, dense hedge could help to reduce pollution passing from the road into the playground.

Camden is committed to increasing the number of trees on our streets and greening the borough, but this does not form part of our

Clean Air Action Plan 2027-2030. Instead, we focus on reducing pollution at source, and by reducing people's exposure to it.

Outdoor air filters

Like with plants, the effect of outdoor air filters is very small. They can be very expensive to install and maintain. Some filters require electrical power, which costs money and has an impact on climate.

For these reasons our Clean Air Action Plan 2027-2030 does not include any proposals to install outdoor air filters.



Figure 31: Clean air will be better for everyone who lives in Camden. Photo credit Gillian Rodgers.

Summary table: The Camden Clean Air Action Plan 2027-2030

	What will we do?	What does this involve?	Who is involved?	Target
Theme 1: Reducing emissions of air pollution in Camden				
Section 1: Reducing emissions from buildings				
1.1	We will reduce heating emissions from homes, businesses, and other buildings.	Continue to reduce gas combustion from heating Camden Council's housing stock via the Council's housing retrofit programme. This includes improving insulation (to reduce heating demand) and replacing gas with electric heating and heat provided by efficient heat networks. Providing funding for homeowners, landlords and private tenants, and community organisations via the Camden Climate Fund. Use and enforce planning policy to ensure new and refurbished buildings emit as little pollution as possible. This includes through the application of Air Quality Neutral (AQN) and Air Quality Positive (AQP) guidance, and any other relevant local, regional, or national policy and regulatory controls. We will keep our local planning policies relating to air quality under continuous review and will try to make further improvements to limit air pollution where feasible. Communicating and promoting the co-benefits for climate, local air quality, and human health if we reduce air pollution by supporting the transition to electric heating.	Air Quality team Housing Retrofit Climate team Camden Climate Alliance Community organisations Participation Inclusive Economy service Business networks and campaigns, including Business Improvement Districts (BIDs), and Camden Breathing Better	We aim to achieve the largest possible impact, but cannot give a specific target because this work is very dependent on the amount of external grant funding available, and we cannot predict this at the time of writing this draft Plan. All in-scope planning applications to adhere to Air Quality Neutral (AQN) and/or Air Quality Positive (AQP) guidance. We will create communications materials about clean air, decarbonisation, and climate resilience by the end of 2028.

	What will we do?	What does this involve?	Who is involved?	Target
		Advocating for electricity to be more affordable to support uptake of electric heating.		
1.2	We will work with businesses, business networks, and the hospitality sector to explore and promote opportunities for reducing air pollution from commercial kitchens.	Highlighting funding opportunities for reducing sources of air pollution. Creating awareness-raising materials, guidance and toolkits to provide practical information to support improvements.	Air Quality team Business networks and campaigns, including Business Improvement Districts (BIDs), and Camden Breathing Better Hospital sector representative organisations	Publish guidance for fixed premises with kitchens by the end of 2026. Work with other local authorities to support the publication of research to improve understanding of air pollution from commercial kitchens (and its management), by the end of 2027.
1.3	We will strengthen policy and regulatory controls over air pollution from commercial premises, including emissions from kitchens.	Explore options for tighter planning and licensing controls, and more robust enforcement of Building Regulations and Environmental Health legislation.	Air Quality team Market Development team Health & Safety and Environmental Health teams Planning Building Control	We will keep policy and regulatory controls under review and will seek to make continuous improvement during the implementation of this Action Plan (2027-2030).
1.4	We will continue the programme of decarbonising Camden Council's own buildings	This includes both the decarbonisation of housing and the Council's offices and other public buildings.	Climate team Property Management	Camden Council has an ambition to be net-zero by 2030 in relation to its own buildings and operations.

	What will we do?	What does this involve?	Who is involved?	Target
	to help improve local air quality.		Housing Retrofit	Achieving this will deliver a significant reduction in emissions of air pollution from the Council's own buildings.
1.5	We will reduce emissions from standby generators.	Apply the expectations in the Camden Local Plan that fossil fuel generators will only be considered as a last resort, and by using Emission Limit Values to reduce air pollution for all generators regardless of size. We will seek to limit generator testing hours to a minimum and only at times when there is not a current or predicted pollution alert.	Air Quality team Planning Planning Enforcement	Use planning conditions to limit generator testing hours for all applications with standby generators. Introduce a requirement for anyone proposing to install a fixed standby generator to undertake an Alternative Power Feasibility Assessment, with this requirement in place by the end of 2028.
1.6	We will reduce air pollution from wood- and solid fuel burning	Enforce the Smoke Control Area rules prohibiting smoke from buildings. Continue to raise awareness about the health and environmental damage from wood and solid fuel burning. Explore options for strengthening restrictions on solid fuel use in Camden to reduce avoidable air pollution.	Air Quality team Environmental Health Legal service	We will report in Annual Status Reports on the number of warning letters and penalty notices issued for Smoke Control Area contraventions. Continue to lead the London Wood Burning Project, working with other local authorities in London and elsewhere in the United

	What will we do?	What does this involve?	Who is involved?	Target
		Engage with solid fuel retailers to communicate legal restrictions on solid fuel sales and the importance of clean air.		Kingdom, subject to receiving necessary grant funding to cover project and resourcing costs. We will seek to make continuous improvement in our approach for smoke control during the implementation of this Action Plan (2027-2030).
Section 2: Reducing emissions from transport				
2.1	We will reduce emissions from personal and private travel by continuing delivery of relevant policies and measures in the Camden Transport Strategy and associated Action Plans.	Explore and support measures to reduce inessential vehicle use, and to incentivise the use of smaller and cleaner (less polluting) vehicles. Provide technical recommendations and support policy review for the Camden Transport Strategy and associated action plans and delivery programmes, for example Cleaner, Fairer Parking. Continue to provide and improve the infrastructure to support sustainable, active travel, including public realm improvements and greener walking routes, cycle lanes, on-street cycle storage, traffic-calming measures, and shared mobility options. ('Shared mobility' means transport options that are shared by users, for example shared dockless bikes or e-scooters.)	Air Quality team Transport Strategy service Parking service	90% of residents' trips should be on foot, by cycle, or by public transport by 2031. By 2030 our target would be 89.8% (Camden Transport Strategy). 29-33% reduction in total vehicle kilometres driven in Camden by 2041 compared to a 2016 baseline. This equates to a 22-26% reduction by the end of 2030 (Camden Transport Strategy).

	What will we do?	What does this involve?	Who is involved?	Target
		Continue to expand the provision of electric vehicle charging to support the transition to electric vehicles for essential vehicle travel. Support and advise on air quality monitoring and analysis. Highlight the benefits for air quality and health by making sustainable, active travel choices, in air quality communications and engagement activities. This includes actions for reducing emissions of and exposure to air pollution (including those supported through the Healthy Travel Choices programme, and general actions like choosing lower-pollution walking routes). Work with Transport for London (TfL) to strengthen the Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) and/or the Congestion Charge to further reduce air pollution from road vehicles. Work with TfL on the proposed Central London Movement Strategy to support sustainable, active travel and healthier streets with better air quality.		5% of residents' trips to be made by car by 2031 compared to 13% from 2014-2016. By 2030 out target would be 8.4% of trips to be made by car (Camden Transport Strategy).
2.2	We will reduce emissions from	Reducing the number of trips made by motor vehicles for freight, deliveries, servicing and logistics.	Air Quality team Transport Strategy service	Develop an e-cargo bike and pedal van support scheme for businesses by

	What will we do?	What does this involve?	Who is involved?	Target
	deliveries, freight, servicing, and logistics.	Supporting the shift to low- and zero-emission freight movements, including through pedestrian portering, cargo bikes, electric vehicles, and non-road transport. Promoting opportunities and incentives for low- and zero-emission deliveries and logistics through our air quality communications and awareness-raising activities and our work with businesses.	Business networks and campaigns, including Business Improvement Districts (BIDs), and Camden Breathing Better	2028 (Freight and Servicing Action Plan). We will seek to continually improve the provision of low- and zero-emission options for freight in Camden during the implementation of this Action Plan (2027-2030).
2.3	We will reduce emissions from Camden's own vehicles, and from vehicles used in council services and contracts.	Providing technical recommendations and guidance about reducing air pollution from vehicles, in support of the ambition for Camden's fleet to be zero exhaust emission by 2030. Introduce a fleet management and telematics system to support emissions management and reduction, and driver engagement. Introduce a fleet Environmental Impact Policy. Supporting colleagues to critically assess (and reduce) the likely air quality impacts from the use of vehicles in procured contracts. Include requirements through the procurement process for contractors and service providers to reduce motor vehicle usage and emissions.	Air Quality team Camden Accessible Travel Solutions (CATS) Procurement service	Transition Camden Council's vehicle fleet to a 100% zero exhaust emission fleet by 2030. Procure a fleet management and telematics system by the end of 2027. Introduce a fleet Environmental Impact Policy by the end of 2027. Update Camden's Green Vehicle Fleet Standard for Contractors and Service Providers by 2028.

	What will we do?	What does this involve?	Who is involved?	Target
		Support the rollout of vehicle anti-engine idling training for Camden drivers and third-party drivers involved in delivering contracted council services.		
2.4	We will continue delivering public awareness messaging about the importance of avoiding vehicle engine idling.	Continue to lead Idling Action London through to the end of March 2027 (the current funded period), and will seek further funding to extend this project. Work with Camden's Parking service to explore opportunities for enhancing engagement with drivers and strengthening the deterrent for vehicle engine idling in Camden.	Air Quality team Parking service	Continue to lead the Idling Action London, working with other local authorities in London, subject to receiving necessary grant funding to cover project and resourcing costs.
2.5	We will work with the rail industry and Transport for London to advocate for more action to reduce air pollution from trains, the London Underground, buses, and other forms of public transport.	Maintain and strengthen working relationship with rail industry including the Rail Safety and Standards Board (RSSB), train operating companies (TOCs), Network Rail, and Transport for London (TfL). Advocate for the conversion of more bus routes to zero-exhaust-emission bus routes in Camden. Support TfL to future-proof bus stops and bus stands to help the expansion of London's zero-exhaust-emission bus fleet.	Air Quality team	We will continually review and act on any opportunities for working with external partners and advocating for changes that would help to reduce emissions from trains, buses, and other public transport, during the implementation of this Action Plan (2027-2030).
Section 3: Reducing emissions from construction and development				
3.1	We will work to reduce emissions from construction machinery and generators.	Using Construction Management Plan scrutiny process. Collaborating with other teams within the Council to ensure any air quality concerns are quickly reported and acted on.	Air Quality team Planning Planning Enforcement	We will keep planning and regulatory controls under review and will seek to make continuous improvement during the

	What will we do?	What does this involve?	Who is involved?	Target
		Providing technical recommendations to other teams to support higher standards for construction management in Camden. Enforcing rules for construction machinery (subject to funding), and exploring options for introducing stricter requirements for cleaner machinery.	Environmental Health	implementation of this Action Plan (2027-2030). Ensure all construction machinery used on in-scope construction sites in Camden meets or exceeds the non-road mobile machinery (NRMM) standards for London.
3.2	We will work to reduce dust and emissions from other activities on construction sites (demolition, construction, earthworks, and trackout).	Using Construction Management Plan scrutiny process. Collaborating with other teams within the Council to ensure any air quality concerns are quickly reported and acted on. Providing technical recommendations to other teams to support higher standards for construction management in Camden. Exploring options for holding contractors and developers to the standards we expect.	Air Quality team Planning Planning Enforcement Environmental Health	We will keep planning and regulatory controls under review and will seek to make continuous improvement during the implementation of this Action Plan (2027-2030). Introduce a system for issuing financial penalties for contractors if they do not comply with Construction Management Plan rules, by the end of 2028.
3.3	We will work to reduce dust and emissions from streetworks, highways improvements, utility works, and small-scale	Updating guidance documents and standards that would apply to all scales of construction and development activity.	Air Quality team Engineering service	Create and publish a guidance document and standard for reducing air quality impacts from streetworks, highways

	What will we do?	What does this involve?	Who is involved?	Target
	construction activity that does not go through the normal planning process.	Communicating this effectively to residents and businesses. Working with Camden's Engineering service to set standards for contractors undertaking work for the Council.	Planning Planning Enforcement	improvements, utility works, and small-scale construction activity, by the end of 2029.
3.4	We will work with and scrutinise High Speed 2 construction activities, and other infrastructure projects.	Maintaining contact with HS2 and its contractors, ensuring Assurances are adhered to. Providing technical recommendations, guidance, and support to colleagues, residents, community organisations, and local businesses in relation to highlighting and mitigating the impact of local construction activity	Air Quality team Camden's Euston Regeneration team	We will maintain proactive and constructive contact with HS2 and its contractors, and will use every opportunity to advocate for more action to reduce emissions and pollution exposure from HS2 and any other infrastructure projects in Camden. We will do this throughout the implementation of this Action Plan (2027-2030).
Section 4: Reducing emissions from other sources in public spaces				
4.1	We will reduce emissions from street food trading, including ice cream vans, hot food markets, and other on-street vendors.	Providing electrical power where this would reduce or avoid the use of fossil fuels and solid fuels for power or cooking. Updating licensing and policy to support sustainable street food.	Air Quality team Market Development team	We will install more electrical power supplies for street food traders, and will create more electric-only licensed ice cream trading spots. We do not have a specific target because this is dependent

	What will we do?	What does this involve?	Who is involved?	Target
		Providing guidance for how street food traders can reduce air pollution emissions from their activities.		upon the amount of external funding we receive. We will keep licensing policies under continual review during the implementation of this Action Plan (2027-2030).
4.2	We will reduce emissions from canal boats in a way that supports boating communities.	Seeking and administering grant funding to support live-aboard boaters to comply with Smoke Control Area rules. Seeking funding to support boaters more generally to reduce air pollution and climate impacts and to improve resilience. Establishing and strengthening partnerships with boaters and representative organisations. Working to support boater access to important infrastructure and services.	Air Quality team	Provide £150,000 in grant funding support for canal boaters to transition to cleaner heating systems, by the end of 2030. Continue to jointly deliver Healthy Waterways London project until end of March 2027 (end of current funding period), and apply for further funding by this date. We will continue to advocate for more action to support canal boating communities throughout the implementation of this Action Plan (2027-2030).

	What will we do?	What does this involve?	Who is involved?	Target
4.3	We will reduce emissions from grounds maintenance.	Highlighting the potential impact from fossil fuel-powered machinery and encouraging the avoidance of burning garden and green waste, and tree cuttings. Ensuring Camden's grounds maintenance contracts include requirements for using electrically-powered machinery where possible.	Air Quality team Greenspaces service	Provide a standardised wording for procurement documents and contract specifications, by the end of 2027.
4.4	We will reduce emissions from filming, public events, and temporary heating and power.	Working with filming companies and film industry organisations to promote sustainable and lower-pollution options for on-location filming. Seeking further funding for the 'Cleaner Filming for Camden' project to audit film sets and encourage greener and cleaner power uptake within the industry. Working with Camden's Events and Engineering services to explore options to reduce air quality impacts from public events and temporary heating and power arrangements, including by setting requirements for the avoidance of fossil fuel electrical power supplies, careful selection of equipment, and by positioning equipment in a way that minimises exposure for people nearby.	Air Quality team Events service Camden filming office and FilmFixer Engineering Service	Deliver the Cleaner Filming for Camden project until the end of March 2027 (the current funding period) and seek further funding to continue the project, preferably with an expansion to include other local authorities in London. Create and publish guidance for how people holding public events in Camden should reduce emissions of and exposure to air pollution, by the end of 2029.
4.5	We will reduce emissions from outdoor burning, including barbecues, allotment	Providing technical recommendations for policy decisions. Supporting projects to provide clean power in public spaces.	Air Quality team Greenspaces team Environmental Health	Seek funding for installing electric barbecues in Camden, subject to feasibility.

	What will we do?	What does this involve?	Who is involved?	Target
	fires, bonfires and other activities.	Highlighting the air quality health risks linked to garden waste and allotment fires and bonfires, especially for people with existing health conditions and in areas where the resultant air pollution is likely to affect neighbours and other people nearby.	Environmental Services	Continue to send information letters about air quality and health where there have been reports of, or complaints about, smoke from outdoor burning and other smoke nuisances.
Theme 2: Reducing exposure to air pollution in Camden				
Section 5: Building public awareness and empowering action				
5.1	We will create a council awareness campaign to build public awareness and knowledge about air quality and health.	Create a communications campaign to improve public knowledge about air quality and health, to promote the small actions that can help to reduce air pollution and exposure, and to highlight the benefits for everyone from having cleaner air in Camden. Promote our communications campaign and materials on Camden Council's social media and engagement channels, and through our Clean Air for Camden email newsletter. Attend and hold events, meetings, and activities in the community to build meaningful connections and share information and guidance in a helpful and accessible way.	Air Quality team Communications team Participation	Create and publish a communications campaign by the end of 2028. We will engage and work with residents and communities as an everyday part of our work, throughout the implementation of this Action Plan (2027-2030). We will aim to increase the number of subscribers to our newsletter from 900 in 2026 to 2,000 by the end of 2028 and 3,000 by the end of 2030.

	What will we do?	What does this involve?	Who is involved?	Target
5.2	We will build on our Clean Air for Schools programme to expand how we support schools, nurseries, family centres and children's centres, play centres, and other learning environments in Camden to tackle air pollution and take action for cleaner air, healthier environments, and climate resilience.	Create a route for providing financial support for schools and other educational centres to implement measures to improve air quality, reduce pollution exposure, and support children's health. This could also include measures to improve climate resilience, such as reducing heat or flood vulnerability. Work with schools in Camden to create school Climate Action Plans containing a section on air quality. Provide training and guidance for teachers, school Business Managers, and other staff to better understand air quality, climate resilience, and health. Engage with schools, other learning centres, and school communities to deliver activities to improve public knowledge about air quality and health, and to make learning about sustainability and the environment fun for children.	Air Quality team Property Management	Provide £500,000 in financial support for schools and other learning environments, family centres, and children's centres to take action to reduce air pollution or pollution exposure, by the end of 2029. All non-independent schools in Camden to have received support from (or engaged with) Camden's Safe Air and Climate Friendly Schools programme, by the end of 2030.
5.3	We will aim to align our messaging with recommendations from communications experts.	Review and implement recommendations from internal and external experts, for example from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) Air Quality Information System (AQIS) review.	Air Quality team Communications team	Keep air quality information, messages, and communications approaches under continuous review during the implementation of this Action Plan (2027-2030).
5.4	We will continue to build awareness and capacity within Camden Council	Deliver informal awareness and training sessions for council officers and councillors, for example through lunchtime webinars or drop-in knowledge sessions.	Air Quality team Communications team	We will provide at least two internal air quality information sessions every year, and will continue to

	What will we do?	What does this involve?	Who is involved?	Target
	including staff and councillors.	Use staff intranet and internal communications channels to build awareness about air quality and health, the action that all staff can take to support clean air in Camden, and the links between clean air and climate resilience.		share information about clean air and health as an everyday part of our work, throughout the implementation of this Action Plan (2027-2030).
5.5	We will work with the NHS, healthcare professionals, universities, non-governmental organisations, and other stakeholders to extend our reach and positive impact for cleaner air and health.	Provide information for healthcare professionals in Camden about actions to improve air quality locally, and how they can support their patients to safeguard their own health. Provide air quality and climate resilience training for healthcare professionals in Camden. Participate in events, community activities, research projects, and university and other educational programmes to share information about air quality in Camden (for example, giving guest lectures about air quality management in Camden).	Air Quality team Health and Wellbeing department	This is an ongoing action, and we will try to take every viable opportunity to work with external partners to improve public and professional knowledge about air quality and health, throughout the implementation of this Action Plan (2027-2030).
5.6	We will expand our air quality monitoring network where appropriate and necessary.	We will review our monitoring network and its performance, and expand it (either in terms of the total number of sites, or the coverage of specific air pollutants) where this is needed for our air quality programme and delivers benefit to Camden.	Air Quality team	We will keep our monitoring network under continuous review throughout the implementation of this Action Plan (2027-2030).
5.7	We will improve how we share, present, and communicate air quality data and monitoring information.	Work with residents, community partners, and internal and external stakeholders to understand what different people think about how present and share air quality data and monitoring information, and what they would find more helpful and accessible.	Air Quality team Communications team Data Insights team	We will keep our air quality monitoring data communications under continuous review and will seek progressive

	What will we do?	What does this involve?	Who is involved?	Target
		Keep up-to-date with how other local, regional, and national authorities and other organisations are sharing air quality data and monitoring information and apply any learnings from this in our own approach.	Participation	improvement throughout the implementation of this Action Plan (2027-2030).
5.8	We will provide public information and guidance during air pollution incidents and alerts, in a way that is timely and easy to put into action, including from events that are linked to our changing climate.	We must become better at proactively providing information during (and before) air pollution alerts or incidents in a way that is timely, accessible, and easy to act on. Information will be tailored to the relevant audience, and will contain any other guidance that will also help to protect health. For example, information about staying well when there is a high air pollution alert during a heatwave. Work with community organisations, healthcare professionals and the health and social care systems to make sure residents (and especially vulnerable people) are receiving this information and that it is trusted. Continuing to promote existing air quality forecasting and alert systems like airTEXT and the Mayor of London's pollution forecast.	Air Quality team Corporate Resilience service	Create a plan and implement a protocol for giving public information and guidance during air pollution alerts and incidents, by the end of 2027.
Section 6: Improving indoor air quality				
6.1	We will work to improve indoor air quality and reduce air pollution exposure in homes in Camden.	Expanding our air quality monitor loan project so that more Camden residents can learn about indoor air quality in their home, with a shorter waiting list, and more convenient options for collecting and dropping off monitors locally.	Air Quality team Housing service	Have a fully functional network of indoor air quality monitor loan hubs operational by the end of 2027, with at least one GP

	What will we do?	What does this involve?	Who is involved?	Target
		Delivering indoor air quality training to establish a network of local indoor air quality champions who can help to raise understanding of indoor air quality and share knowledge and advice within their networks. Working with local partner organisations and communities to mobilise a network of indoor air quality hubs in Camden. Ensuring our guidance also covers damp and mould, whilst also highlighting legal protections and rights for renters. We will work with the Breathe Stop Smoking Service, Camden's Damp and Mould Repairs team, and housing Environmental Health team to ensure we have a joined-up approach across different indoor health and environmental hazards. Working to create design standards for good indoor air quality inside homes in Camden.	Private Renters service Environmental Health Community Investment Programme (CIP)	surgery and three libraries included in this network. Create design standards for good indoor air quality, by the end of 2028.
6.2	We will seek opportunities to provide practical support and direct improvements for indoor air quality.	Supporting the replacement of polluting appliances where possible (for example, gas hobs (stoves) in homes, schools, and nurseries), and by providing technical recommendations for improving indoor air quality in Council homes.	Air Quality team Housing Retrofit	This is an ongoing action, and the scale of implementation will be dependent upon external grant funding. We would like to undertake at least one project of removing gas cooking appliances and replacing with clean

	What will we do?	What does this involve?	Who is involved?	Target
				induction hobs in a small housing block in Camden (either Council housing or housing association), subject to feasibility and funding, by the end of 2030.
6.3	We will work with businesses, business networks, and other partners to reduce occupational exposure to air pollution in Camden.	Promoting the Camden Climate Alliance and providing indoor air quality guidance and training through that network. Continuing to participate in the Camden Breathing Better campaign and working with Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) to support businesses to take action on indoor air quality and staff engagement and awareness, whilst also promoting opportunities for improve heat-resilience in workplaces. Working with unions, representative organisations for different sectors of employment, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), and other stakeholders to positively support businesses and employers to workplace air quality and reduce occupational exposure to air pollution.	Air Quality team Camden Climate Alliance	This is an ongoing action. We will deliver at least one workshop or presentation on workplace air quality every year through the Camden Climate Alliance, throughout the implementation of this Action Plan (2027-2030).
6.4	We will work to improve indoor air quality in schools, learning environments, health and care facilities, and	Building on our Clean Air for Schools project (as noted in Section 5) to provide financial support for schools and learning environments to directly improve air quality,	Air Quality team Property Management Healthy and Wellbeing department	See 5.2 in relation to schools. Undertake indoor air quality monitoring in at least one

	What will we do?	What does this involve?	Who is involved?	Target
	other public buildings in Camden.	Working with health and care services and the Council's Health and Wellbeing department to explore opportunities for improving indoor air quality in care homes and other buildings. Working with service managers and building managers to improve indoor air quality in other council-managed premises.		care home in Camden, by the end of 2028. Other work on this action will focus on continuous improvement, and making changes subject to funding. This will be done throughout the implementation of this Action Plan (2027-2030).
6.5	We will support the advancement of science on indoor air quality and health.	Seeking partnerships with and supporting researchers and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) working on indoor air quality.	Air Quality team	We will aim to take up every opportunity to support research on indoor air quality in Camden, especially where the research directly and immediately benefits Camden residents. We will do this throughout the implementation of this Action Plan (2027-2030).
Theme 3: Leadership and advocacy				
Section 7: Leading, advocating, and influencing change for clean air				
7.1	We will seek to maintain and strengthen Camden's reputation as a leading local authority	Continuing to lead partnership projects and being a prominent voice in the air quality community.	Air Quality team	This is an ongoing action and we seek to continuously improve Camden's reputation in the air quality community

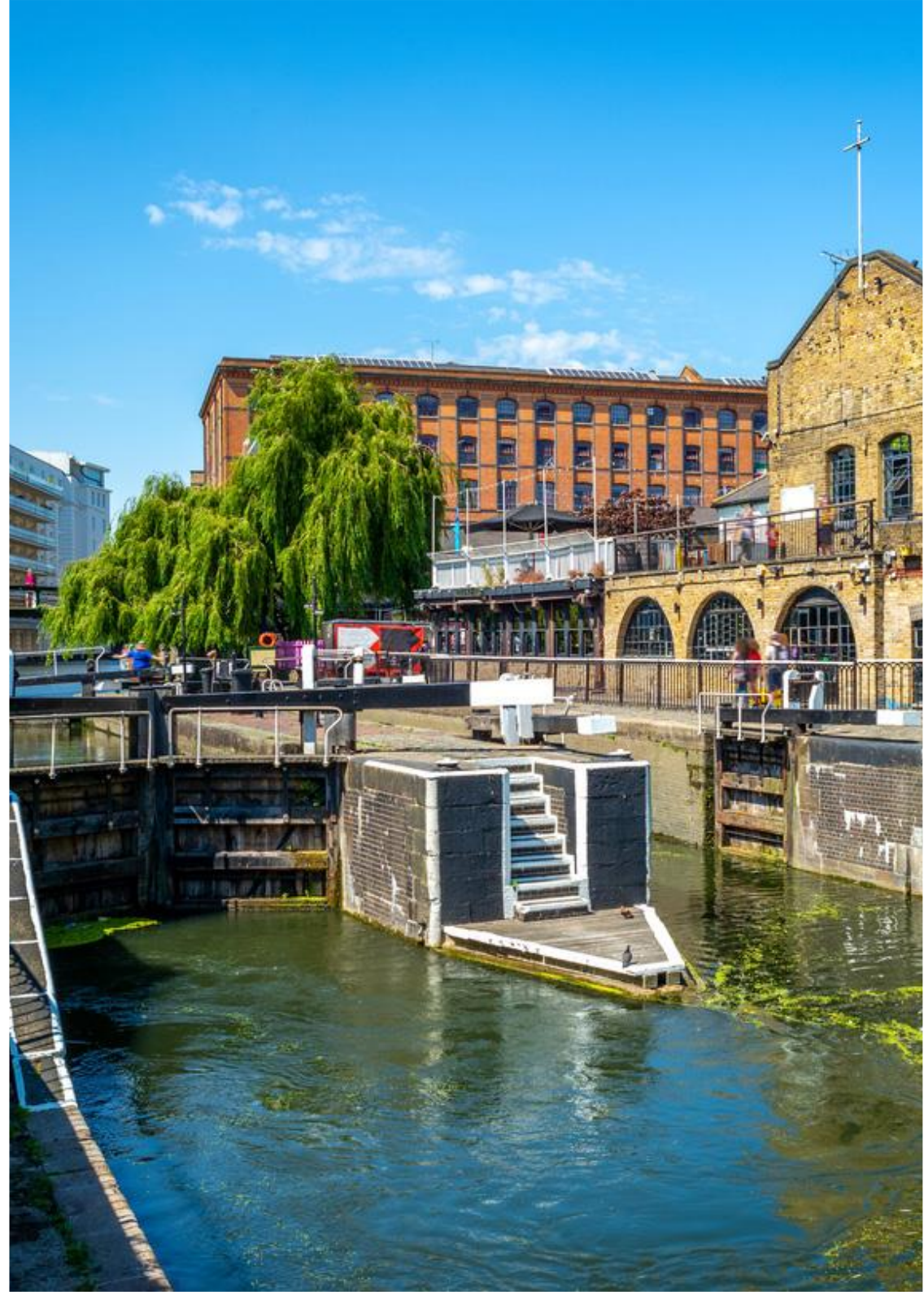
	What will we do?	What does this involve?	Who is involved?	Target
	for action for clean air and health.	Maintaining or expanding the scope of our work on air quality in Camden. Participating in public events and high-profile engagements to highlight Camden's progress and ambitions for clean air, and to encourage greater action elsewhere.		during the implementation of this Action Plan (2027-2030).
7.2	We will advocate for clean air, action to reduce air pollution and public exposure to it.	Advocating for stronger national air quality targets. Advocating for the creation and adoption of standards for indoor air quality. Advocating for more effective regulation of pollution sources that affect rural and urban air quality (including agriculture, shipping, aviation, industry, power generation, and wood and solid fuel burning).	Air Quality team	We will take every opportunity to advocate for stronger national and/or regional air quality targets, standards for indoor air quality, more effective regulation and legislation, and better funding and powers for local authorities. We will do this throughout the implementation of this Action Plan (2027-2030).
7.3	We will respond to consultations, surveys, and other opportunities to contribute to the national or regional conversation on air quality and clean air.	Responding to consultations to share the experience and expertise we have gained in Camden, and to encourage more action for cleaner air throughout the United Kingdom. We will provide specific recommendations where we are equipped to do so, in a way that supports better policy, regulation, and legislation relating to air quality, health, and the environment.	Camden Air Quality Team. Other teams across the Council, depending on the policy area in question.	We will aim to respond to every relevant consultation, survey, and other invitation to contribute to the development of legislation, regulations, and policy and the wider conversation about air quality and action for cleaner air in the UK, during the implementation

	What will we do?	What does this involve?	Who is involved?	Target
				of this Action Plan (2027-2030).
7.4	We will engage in air quality, public health, and environmental science networks, conferences and participatory projects.	Contribute to knowledge exchange and transfer. Strengthen partnership working to improve the efficiency of using public resources. Share and benefit from best practice, collective knowledge, and a shared evidence base so that air quality is improved everywhere, as quickly and as much as possible.	Air Quality team	We will take every opportunity to support, engage, and participate in air quality research projects throughout the implementation of this Action Plan, as long as these will ultimately benefit Camden, and as long as we have the resources to do.
7.5	We will continually review and assess the latest evidence relating to air quality and health, making sure we adapt to updated science and employing a dynamic approach in our work so that we are undertaking the most effective action we can, do deliver the greatest improvement in air quality and health, and in the most efficient way possible.	Keeping up-to-date with the latest scientific evidence about air quality and health. Taking part in research networks and knowledge-sharing communities. Reviewing the latest state of the science around air quality and health, and using this to guide our work to improve air quality and health in Camden. Undertake training for Camden's Air Quality team to ensure we are best placed to deliver for Camden.	Air Quality team	We will make this an everyday part of our work on air quality in Camden, seeking continuous improvement in our approach, throughout the implementation of this Action Plan (2027-2030).

Part 5: Appendices

This part of the Clean Air Action Plan 2027-2030 provides:

- The main pieces of evidence we have used
- Maps of our air quality monitoring
- Maps of Air Quality Focus Areas in Camden
- Maps of our Air Quality Management Area



Evidence base

Air quality data

- Camden Air Quality Monitoring open data webpage: <https://opendata.camden.gov.uk/stories/s/Camden-Air-Quality-Monitoring/bmrm-k7pv/>
- Camden Council Annual Status Reports: <https://www.camden.gov.uk/air-quality#mczc>
- Air Quality England: https://www.airqualityengland.co.uk/local-authority/?la_id=189
- London Atmospheric Emissions Inventory: <https://data.london.gov.uk/dataset/london-atmospheric-emissions-inventory-laei-2022-2lg5g>
- London Air: <https://www.londonair.org.uk/LondonAir/Default.aspx>
- UK AIR: <https://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/>
- National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory: <https://naei.energysecurity.gov.uk/>

Scientific research

We have listed references in a separate section in this Appendix. This has been done where we have referred to a specific piece evidence, research, or data in a particular part of this Action Plan.

Reports

- Air Quality Expert Group (AQEG): <https://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/research/aqeg/publications>
- CBI Economics, Breathing life into the UK economy (2020): <https://www.cbi.org.uk/media/5539/2020-09-cbi-economics-caf-report.pdf>
- Clean Air Fund, The Case for Action on Black Carbon: <https://s40026.pcdn.co/wp-content/uploads/Case-for-Action-on-Black-Carbon-CAF-updated-2.pdf>
- Clean Air Fund, The Case for Action on Tropospheric Ozone: <https://s40026.pcdn.co/wp-content/uploads/Case-for-Action-on-Tropospheric-Ozone-2024.pdf>

- Clean Air Fund, CBI Economics, and WSP, The Clean Air Dividend of Net Zero: <https://s40026.pcdn.co/wp-content/uploads/The-clean-air-dividend-of-net-zero-1.pdf>
- Committee on the Medical Effects of Air Pollutants (COMEAP): <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/comeap-reports>
- OECD (2016), The Economic Consequences of Outdoor Air Pollution, OECD Publishing, Paris. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/9789264257474-en>
- OECD (2020), The Economic Cost of Air Pollution: Evidence from Europe, Economics Department Working Papers No. 1584. <https://dx.doi.org/10.1787/56119490-en>
- Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH), Air pollution in the UK – position statement: <https://www.rcpch.ac.uk/resources/air-pollution-uk-position-statement>
- Royal College of Physicians, A breath of fresh air (2025): <https://www.rcp.ac.uk/policy-and-campaigns/policy-documents/a-breath-of-fresh-air-responding-to-the-health-challenges-of-modern-air-pollution/>
- UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA), Statement on the differential toxicity of particulate matter according to source or constituents: 2022: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/particulate-air-pollution-health-effects-of-exposure/statement-on-the-differential-toxicity-of-particulate-matter-according-to-source-or-constituents-2022>

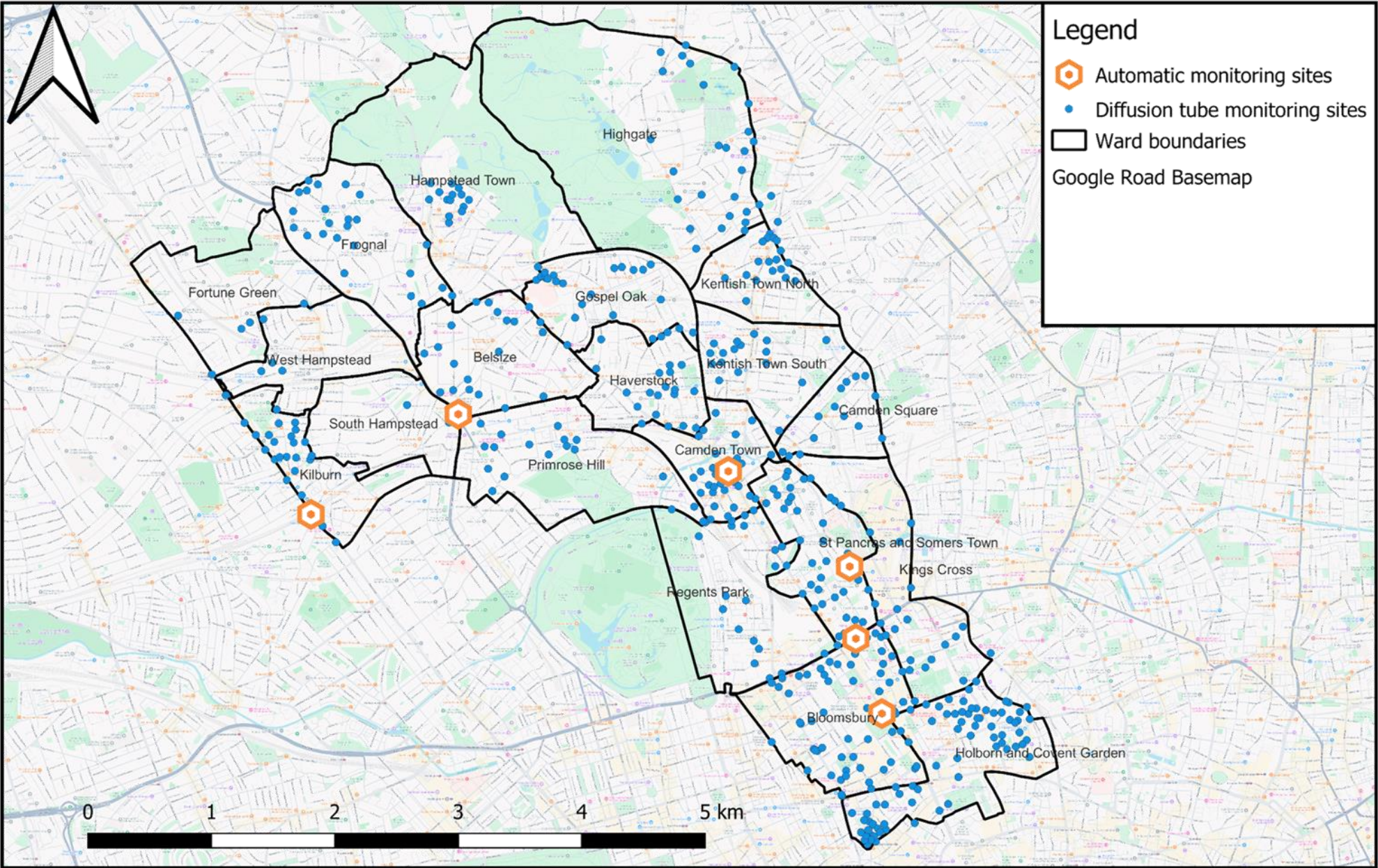
Legal duties

- UK AIR: <https://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/laqm/>
- House of Commons Library: <https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cbp-8804/>

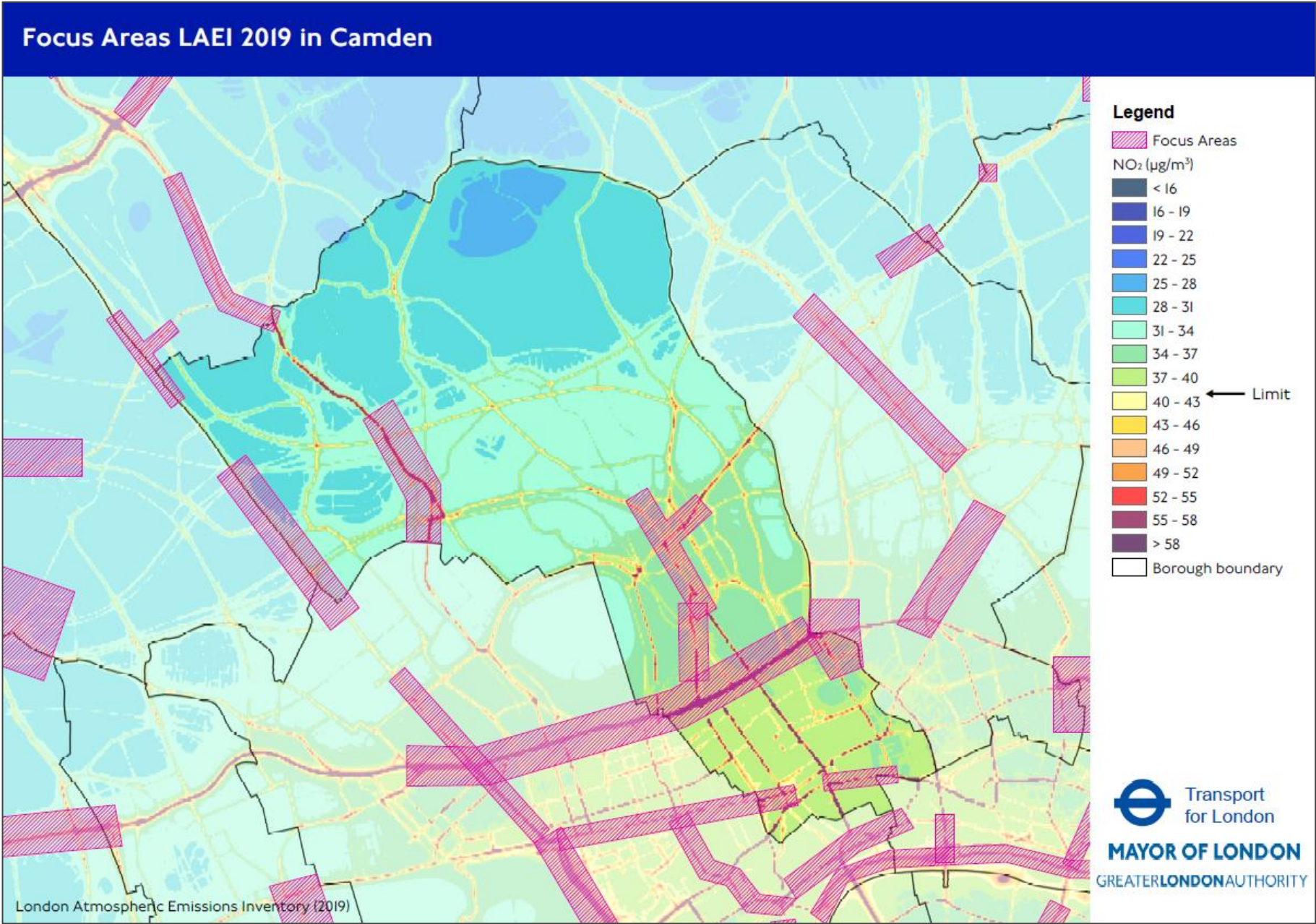
Guidance

- Mayor of London: https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/llaqm_policy_guidance_2019.pdf
- Mayor of London: https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/llaqm_technical_guidance_2019.pdf

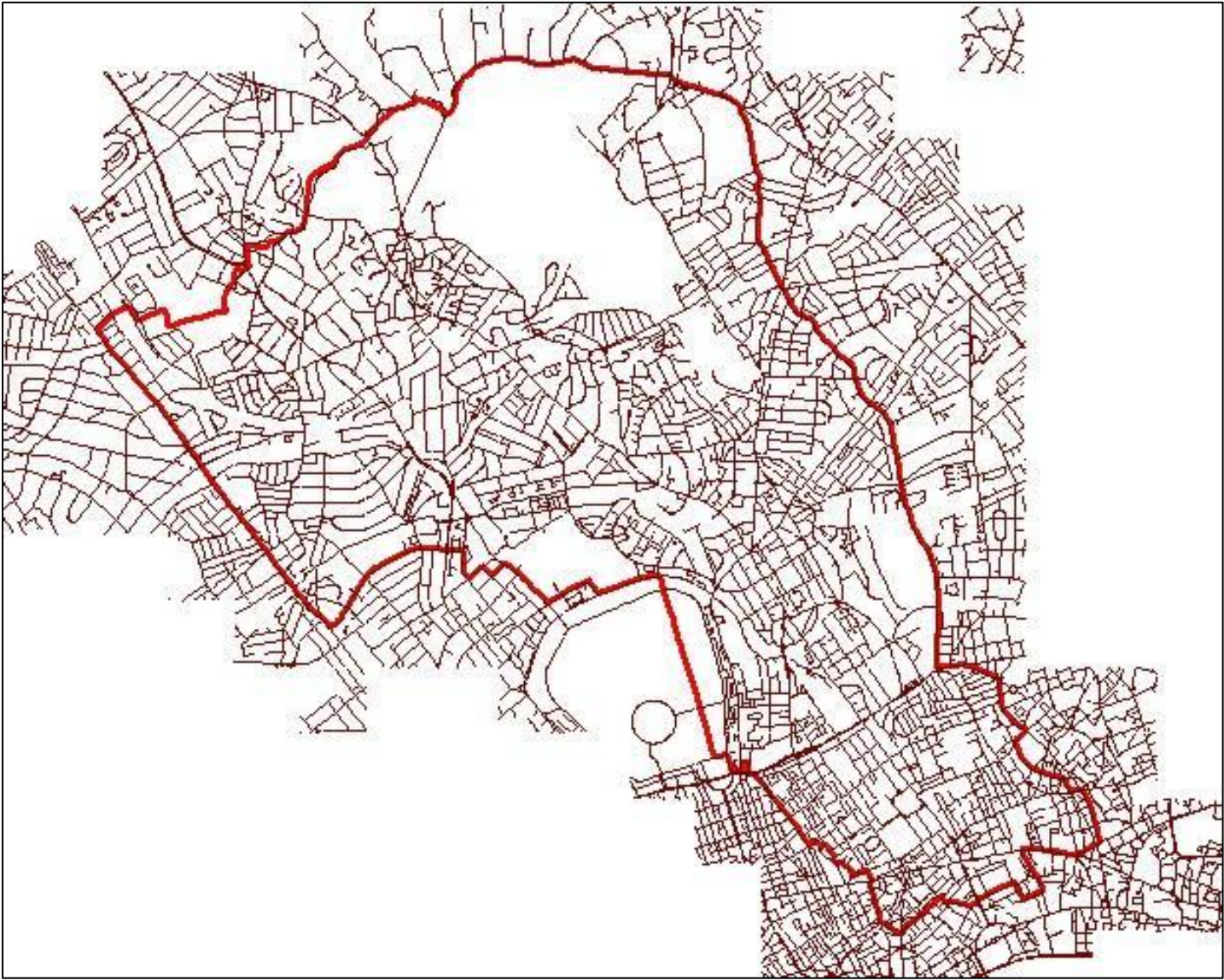
Map of air quality monitoring in Camden



Map of Air Quality Focus Areas in Camden



Map of Camden’s Air Quality Management Area



References

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- ¹ Imperial Projects, Environmental Research Group, Imperial College London, 2026. London health burden of recent air pollution.
- ² Office for Health Improvement and Disparities. Public health profiles. 2026. <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/>©. Crown copyright 2026 (accessed July 2026).
- ³ House of Commons Environmental Audit Committee, Oral Evidence: Air pollution in England, HC 1656, Wednesday 22 April 2026, Questions 63-96.
- ⁴ Camden Council, 2022. Camden Clean Air Action Plan 2023-2026 and Camden Clean Air Strategy 2019-2034. [ad618e94-0113-696d-5fc6-104d8969ab5a](#)
- ⁵ London Datastore, 2026. London Atmospheric Emissions Inventory LAEI 2022. <https://data.london.gov.uk/dataset/london-atmospheric-emissions-inventory-laei-2022-2lg5g>.
- ⁶ Metcalfe and Roth, 2025. Making the invisible visible: the impact of revealing indoor air pollution on behavior and welfare. Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment Working Paper 422. London: London School of Economics and Political Science.
- ⁷ Rathbone et al, 2025. Using low-cost sensors to assess common air pollution sources across multiple residences. Sci Rep 15, 1803.
- ⁸ Air Quality Expert Group, 2022. Indoor Air Quality. Crown Copyright 2022. D.O.I 10.5281/zenodo.6523605.
- ⁹ City Science Corporation Limited and London Councils, 2025. Parking Policy for Climate and Health: an impact assessment for London boroughs.