

A guide to air quality

For businesses



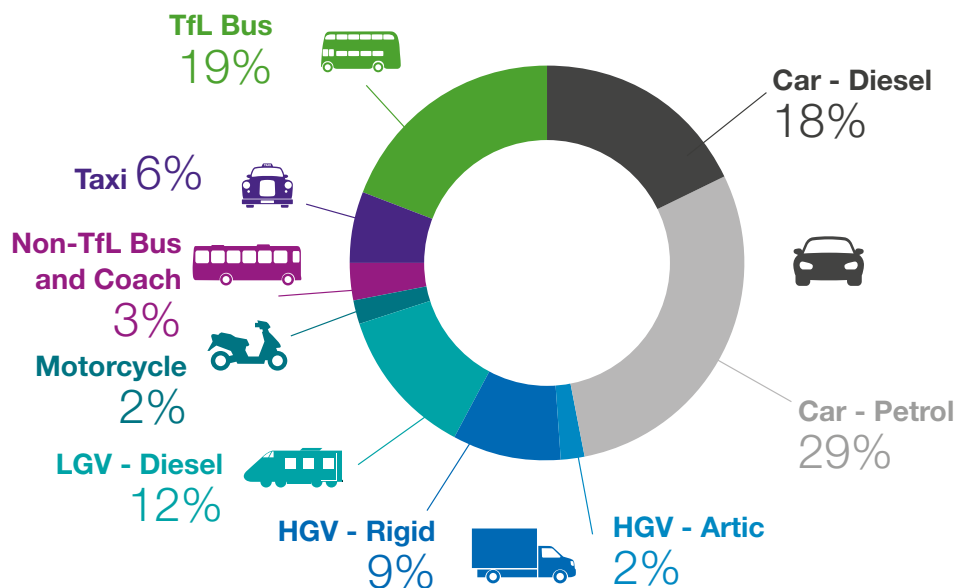
What are the main sources of air pollution in Lambeth?

Like most parts of London, Lambeth suffers from poor air quality. Invisible to the eye, this is largely due to a combination of emissions from vehicles on the roads, construction sites, and domestic and commercial heating.

Improving local air quality is vital to ensuring our area is a healthy and vibrant place to live, work, visit and do business in. As part of our Air Quality Action Plan, we have a number of initiatives in place to monitor local air quality and deliver interventions to the areas that need it the most.

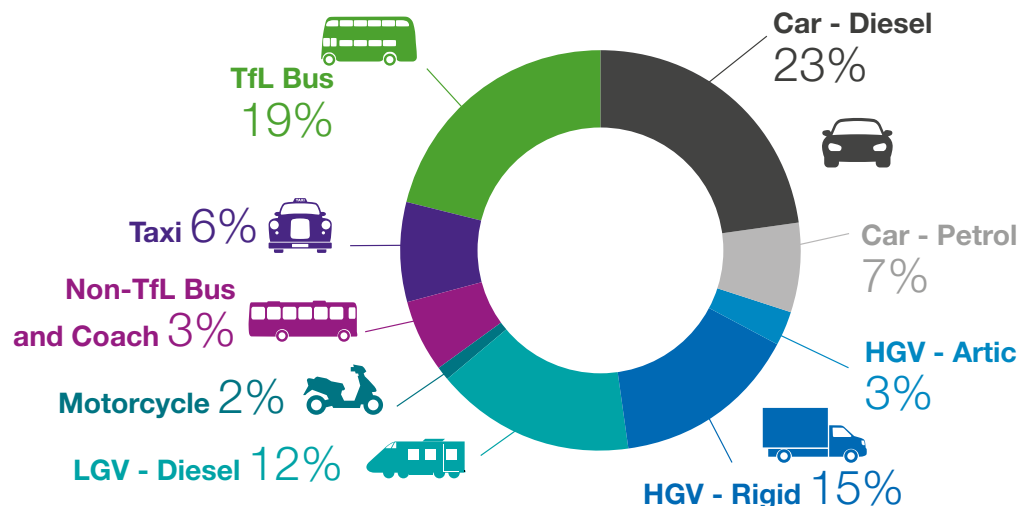
Lambeth Road Transport CO2 Emissions 2016

Total of **163,203 tonnes.** 30% of the boroughs total CO2 emissions



Lambeth Road Transport NOx Emissions 2016

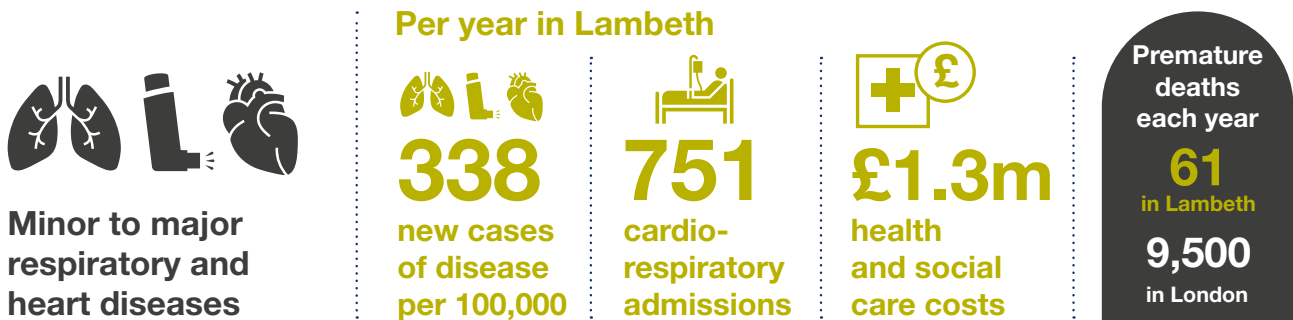
Total of **558 tonnes.** 60% of the boroughs total NOx emissions



Why should I care?

Air pollution is an invisible killer which affects our health through the course of our life time, from cradle to grave.

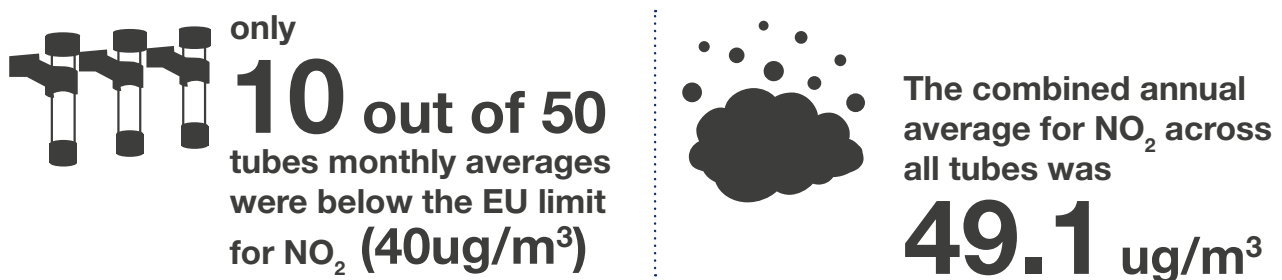
Pollution and poor air quality are linked to



People most affected by the effects of air pollution



2018 Air Status Report showed that



Air pollution in Lambeth comes mainly from



Improving air quality goes hand in hand with improving the public realm and the areas in which we work and live. **For businesses, improving air quality through energy and business efficiencies can deliver financial savings and improve business reputation.**

Lambeth Businesses

There are over **10,000**  **businesses** in Lambeth trading in a wide variety of sectors.

Many of these businesses are **small**  **or micro businesses**

employing less than **10**  **people** but make a significant contribution to the local economy.

By making **simple changes** to the way they do business they can help **reduce their personal exposure and the exposure of their staff and customers to air pollution**. There is no one-size-fits-all approach when it comes to businesses improving air quality.

Large businesses will operate differently from small businesses, therefore different actions will be appropriate for different businesses. The next section of this document will provide your business with practical suggestions to improve air quality in your area.

Transportation

Delivery and servicing is essential to keep London's businesses in operation, and to provide us all with the goods we require.

Road transport is estimated to cause about **60%** of total emissions of nitrogen oxides

Increased use of **diesel vehicles** across the city has substantially affected pollution emissions.

The decisions that businesses make on travel, as well as their supply chain can have a significant impact on improving air quality in London.



Deliveries

Nearly **20%** of all traffic emissions in London are from delivery vehicles.



The vast majority of deliveries in London are made using a diesel vehicle. Consolidating orders to reduce the number of deliveries will help reduce emissions, improve air quality and generate savings as buying power is increased.

By making supply chains and deliveries more efficient, businesses are achieving:

- **Efficiency and cost savings**
- **Corporate social responsibility outcomes**
- **An improved environment for staff and customers**



Don't know where to start?

Take 60 seconds to complete a short questionnaire at deliverBEST.london to receive relevant recommendations to make your deliveries more efficient and uncover further efficiencies you may have not considered before.

Clean Air Villages

Lambeth is part of the Clean Air Villages Project, which aims to help businesses share suppliers with their neighbours, and even trialling a shared electric van. Find out more and get involved here:

crossriverpartnership.org/projects/clean-air-villages-2/

Find out more

about phase 1 and 2 of the project, and how your business can get involved in phase 3 by visiting crossriverpartnership.org or by emailing sustainability@lambeth.gov.uk

Using click and collect facilities

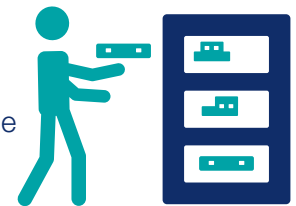
Did you know that over

30% of deliveries to businesses are personal?



The large volume of vans on London roads is increasing congestion and health risks for the public.

Redirecting these personal parcels to 'click and collect' locations nearer to home improves efficiencies and reduces the number of vans on busy high streets, helping improve air quality.



Cross River Partnership have created **Click.Collect.Clean air**, a convenient easy and affordable way to use click and collect facilities for your personal deliveries. The location of alternative parcel collection points across London and the U.K are mapped making it easy for online shoppers to identify their most convenient collection point. The website also provides free deliveries and free trial memberships for some of the paid-for services. Promotional materials including a short video are available for businesses to promote alternatives to your staff.

By redirecting personal deliveries from central London workplaces you'll be helping reduce traffic congestion and improve air quality, making central London a nicer, safer and healthier place for all.

"Prohibiting personal deliveries has improved the efficiency of the post room, allowing us to focus on core business processes."

**Post Room Manager,
John Lewis Head Office**

Do you deliver?

Consider offering free click and collect for customers to help reduce congestion and air pollution (see above).

If you don't have much space **why not use a cargo bike for local deliveries?** There are no fuel costs and you'll be doing your bit to help improve air quality.

In September 2018, the government launched a **£2 million funding scheme to support the uptake of e-cargo bikes**. The funding aims to encourage businesses to replace old, polluting vans with electric delivery bikes. **Find out more here.**

Talk to your local BID or email sustainability@lambeth.gov.uk about support available businesses who want to deliver using cargo bikes and zero emission vehicles.



Driver Training

Efficient driving skills training is helping fleet operators reduce their fuel usage, cut costs and lower emissions. A subsidised, one hour, on road session for drivers is all it takes.

The Energy Savings Trust offers subsidies for training courses. Find out more here:

www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/business/transport

Idling Action London are also working on a series of resources for businesses to raise awareness of the dangerous effects of idling. Visit their website to find out more: idlingaction.london/

Choose cleaner and greener vehicles

By converting their fleets to ultra-low emission capable vehicles, businesses can **cut emissions** and **avoid Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) charges**.

Use the **Zero and Low Emission Suppliers Directory** and the **Clean Air Villages ultra-low emission supplier directory** to choose a supplier that uses zero and low emission vehicles.

Alternatively, ask your suppliers to provide information on how clean and green their fleet is and check it against this **list of vehicles and criteria**. Ask your supplier to use zero or low emission vehicles when delivering to you and build this into your procurement decision-making.

Grants for low-emission vehicles

For electric vehicles of up to 3.5 tonnes, total costs over a vehicle's lifetime tend to be lower than for a diesel equivalent. **You could save money by switching your own vehicles to zero or low emission.**

Making the change is made much easier with **government grants of up to £8,000 off the purchase price**. See [here](#) for more information on grants and eligibility and use this **vehicle finder** to search for one to fit your needs.



Is any funding and support available?

The Carbon Trust Green Business Fund is offering **up to £10,000** to small and medium sized businesses, who could benefit from financial support when buying energy saving equipment.

The Energy Saving Trust offers free **fleet advice**.

Raising staff awareness

Employees are often in the best position to identify inefficiencies and propose improvements. Educating employees can improve profitability by supporting greater efficiency through less waste, water and energy usage.

Providing incentives for staff to walk or cycle to work, such as **cycle-to-work schemes or free use of pool bikes, helps reduce congestion and promotes the health and well-being of staff**. Remember healthy staff are productive staff!

Lambeth Sustainability and Climate Change team offers free air quality workshops and presentations for businesses of any size. If you'd like to find out more or schedule a workshop within your organisation, please email sustainability@lambeth.gov.uk



The more people know about sustainability the more opportunity they see in it.

Fight pollution with Greening

Do you have brick walls or outdoor pavements? Studies show that increasing green infrastructure such as ivy wall green screens and hedging can help trap pollutants and help purify our air.

Consider installing green infrastructure at your work place to help improve air quality and improve the public realm for your staff and customers. Talk to your local BID about funding opportunities.



Reduce your waste

Taking action to reduce volumes of waste could not only **save between £400 and £1,000 annually per employee**, but also helps reduce air pollution by reducing the frequency of waste collection trips.

Most BIDs offer free recycling services to their members. If your business is member of a BID, get in touch with them to see if you are eligible for free recycling services.

Find out more about how to save money through better waste management by visiting www.wrap.org.uk



Protecting your customers

Local businesses support local communities. By improving air quality we improve our local spaces making the public realm safer and more attractive for our customers.



A simple way to protect customers is to promote **clean walking routes**, to walk or cycle to and from your business while avoiding pollution hot spots.

What is the Council doing?

Lambeth is committed to raising awareness of air pollution and improving air quality in our borough. Our **Air Quality Action Plan 2017-2022** highlights the steps we are taking to achieve this.

We run various events throughout the year to raise awareness of air pollution. In June, we celebrate National Clean Air Day with a week full of events around air pollution, called **Lambeth Clean Air Week**.

During the week, we involve residents and businesses in clean air walks, anti-idling walks, conferences, theatre performances, and various other events.

The social media campaign that we run for Lambeth Clean Air Week 2019 engaged over

1.05 million people

and contributed to initiate **conversations and positive actions** around air pollution in our Borough.



Please note, in 2020, National Clean Air Day has been moved to October, and we are therefore celebrating Lambeth Clean Air Week in October. To take part in our business events, email sustainability@lambeth.gov.uk



We also organise regular **anti-idling events** across Lambeth, where we talk with drivers that are idling and we ask them to switch off.

We often involve businesses in these events: we deliver a workshop around air pollution to their staff and we go for an anti-idling walk with them afterwards, to tackle idling behaviours.

Visit our air quality website: lambeth.gov.uk/better-fairer-lambeth/air-quality to find out all the Council is doing and to get involved in one of our regular events, email sustainability@lambeth.gov.uk.

Look at what YOU can do right now, today, to improve air quality

lambeth.gov.uk/better-fairer-lambeth/project/air-quality-what-you-can-do

Sustainability and air pollution

Reducing air pollution is paramount for building a sustainable economy. Businesses need to embrace sustainability and adopt sustainable practices to reduce the harmful effects of air pollution, and contribute to build a sustainable economy.

Below is list of myths about sustainability in business:

1 It's a cost and we can't afford it right now

Sustainability should be considered not just because it is the right thing to do, but also because it **makes business sense**. In good times, sustainability can be a competitive differentiator, in lean times, it's a defensive strategy, and in really hard times, it can determine your survival.

2 There's no money to be made from sustainability

Sustainability provides opportunities for both top and bottom line benefits. Businesses that recycle can resell materials that were previously considered waste whilst also saving on waste removal costs.

3 It's just for big businesses

The size of the business makes little difference. If anything, smaller businesses have an advantage because their competitiveness depends on being lean and resourceful. Big businesses do have more influence over their supply chain but **smaller companies can be more effective at switching to renewable or low emission suppliers.**

4 We don't have to worry about the supply chain because we don't make things

Making simple changes to contracts, deliveries and suppliers **can lead to substantial savings** which require minimal day to day effort. Large businesses can use their purchasing power to demand low emission deliveries whilst smaller businesses can group together to benefit from economies of scale.