

Working with businesses to improve air quality in Camden

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Camden
Climate Change
Alliance

CLEAN  **AIR**
FOR CAMDEN

 **Camden**

Air quality in Camden: Importance for health

Gases and particles in the air which are harmful to health

- Nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) – transport, building heating and power, cooking facilities
- Particulate matter (PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}) – transport, building heating and power, construction, cooking
- Volatile organic compounds (VOCs) – chemicals in cleaning products, furnishings and materials

Long-term and short-term health impacts

- 40,000 deaths nationally each year from exposure to air pollution (4,100 in London, 109 in Camden)
- Range of effects on the body, from minor respiratory irritation, exacerbation of asthma and other conditions, reduced lung capacity/development, through to increased prevalence of cardiovascular and respiratory diseases, lung cancer...

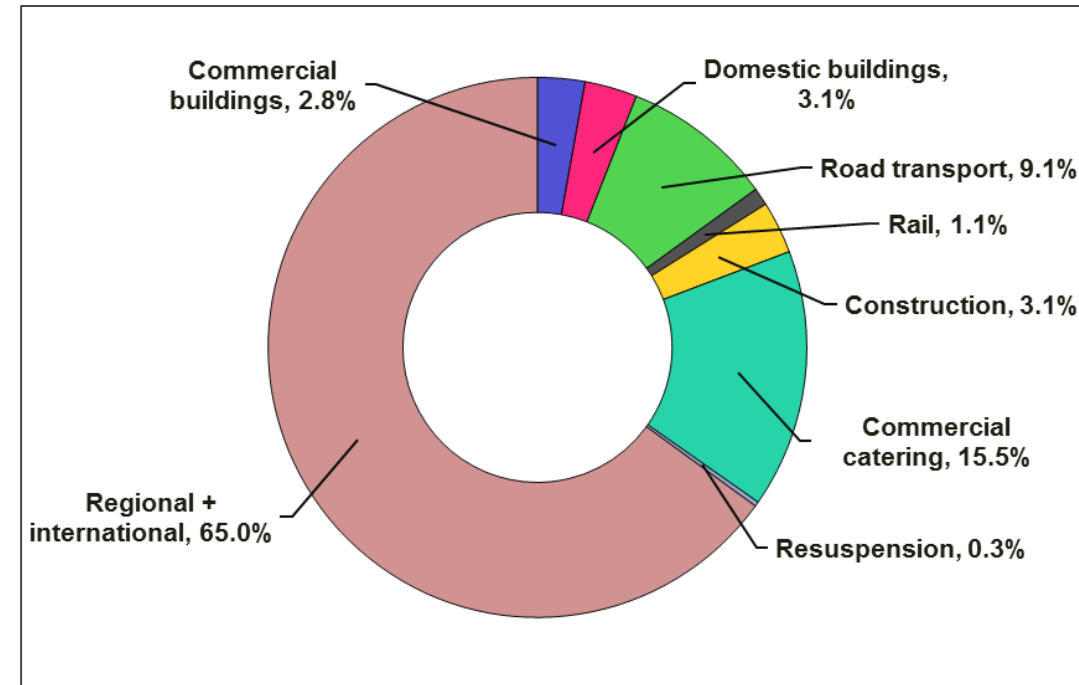
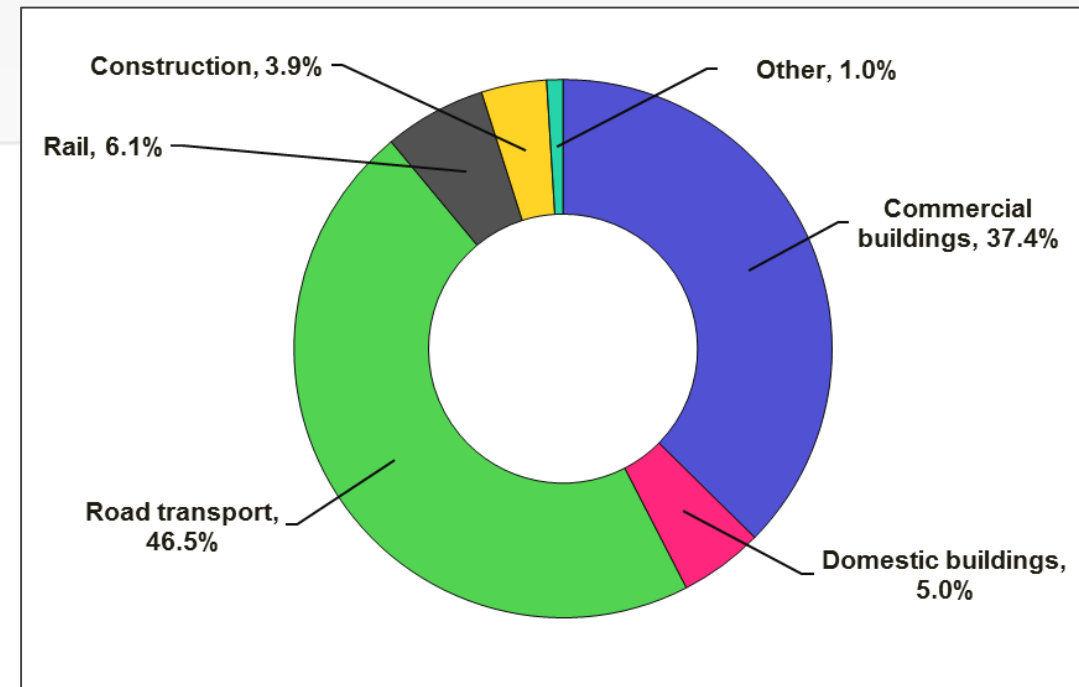
Air pollution can cause us harm even if we don't notice at the time

Air pollution affects us throughout our lives

We're all at risk, but some are more vulnerable due to health risks or increased exposure to pollution

Air quality in Camden: Sources of pollution

- Road transport the biggest source of NO₂ pollution
- Commercial buildings extremely important as well
- Commercial catering the biggest source of in-borough PM_{2.5} pollution, but ~65% coming into Camden from outside of the borough/London
- **Business community has a hugely significant role in local air quality:**
 - Buildings
 - Transport (personal, goods and services, deliveries etc.)
 - Construction and development
 - Consultancy advice
 - Catering



How businesses can help to improve air quality in Camden

Reducing emissions from heating and power

- Energy efficiency measures to reduce gas consumption or decarbonise altogether
- Alternative sources of backup power (avoidance of diesel generators)

Reducing emissions from staff transport

- Staff commuting – active travel behaviour change programmes, driver training etc.
- Business travel – investing in electric vehicles, shared bikes, or opt for public transport

Reducing emissions from cooking and food preparation

- Avoidance of wood or coal fuels altogether
- Preference for induction stoves rather than gas

Reducing emissions from supply chain

- Delivery and waste consolidation
- Procurement guides for sustainable and low-pollution

Reducing emissions indirectly through leading by example

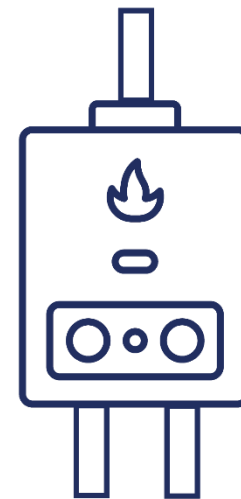


How the Council and the CCCC A can support businesses to improve AQ

- Indoor Air Quality Guide for businesses
- Indoor air quality audit
- Travel Plan guide for businesses
- #EnginesOff pledge (London Idling Action)
- CCF
- Climate Pledge
- Bespoke support and advice

A note on indoor air quality

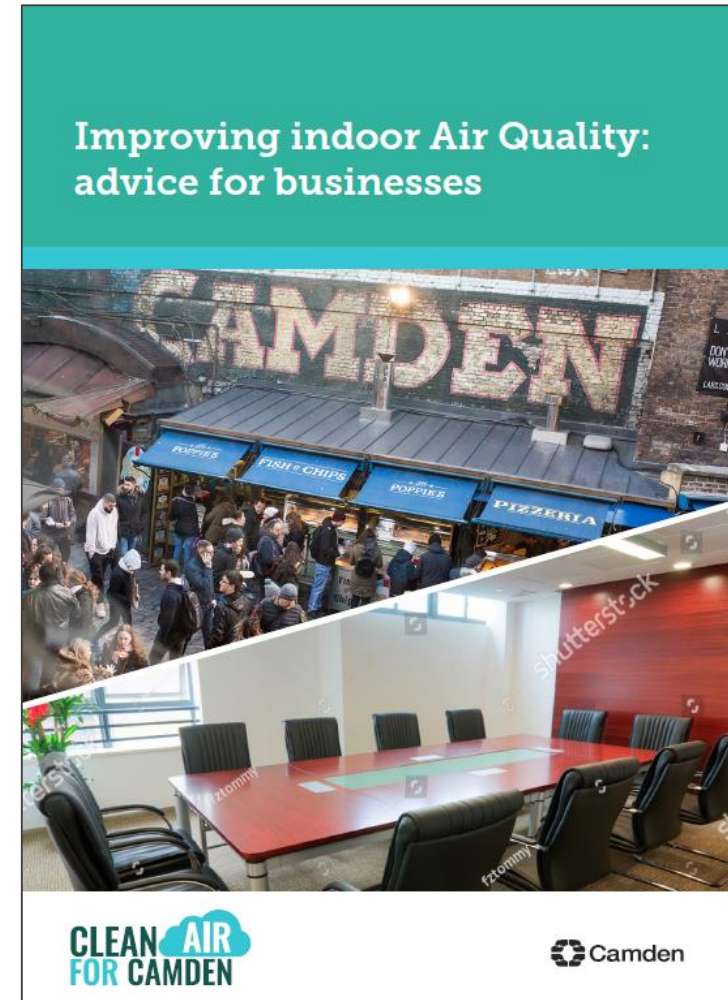
- Same pollutants as found outdoors, plus a mix of additional chemicals
- Environmental conditions important for health and wellbeing
- Lack of regulatory control for indoor air quality
- Local authorities will increasingly need to support residents, businesses and schools to improve indoor air quality



Improving Indoor Air Quality: advice for businesses

- **Gain an understanding of what ‘*air pollution*’, ‘*air quality*’, and ‘*indoor air quality*’ mean**, and why these concepts are important for health
- **Become familiar with the main sources of air pollution** which affect indoor air quality inside workplace environments
- **Develop an awareness of the possible solutions** for improving indoor air quality and environmental conditions and reducing pollution exposure
- **Advice for reducing contributions to outdoor air pollution in Camden**
- **Specific advice for different types of workplaces**

(Note: due to be published late-Mar / early-Apr)



Improving Indoor Air Quality: advice for homes

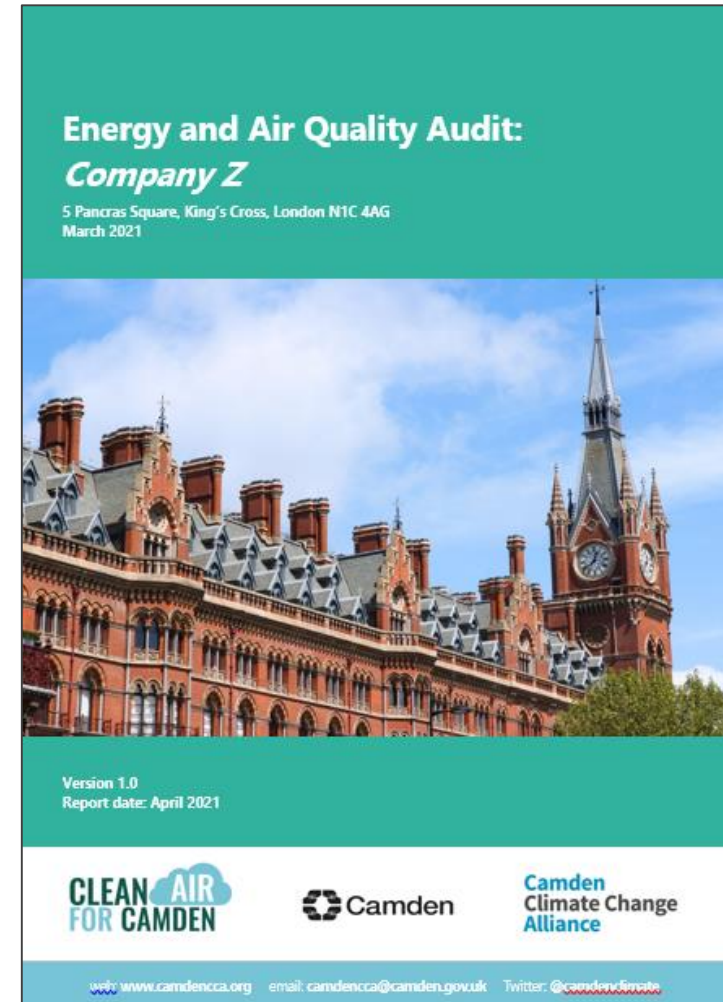
- **More people working from home** during lockdowns
- **Awareness** of air pollutants, indoor AQ and environmental conditions in the home
- **Key pollution sources** and how to reduce and avoid indoor pollution
- **Resources for residents:**
 - Well and Warm – home energy advice visits
 - WISH Plus referral hub for a range of services
 - Camden Climate Fund – up to £1,500 for 50% of total cost of home renewable energy measures

The Guide is on the Council's [air quality webpages](#)



Indoor Air Quality Audit: 1-1 virtual ‘walk-through’

- **Paid-for service, covering:**
 - The primary sources of indoor air pollution in your business or workplace
 - The most effective measures you could take to improve indoor air quality and protect health
 - How to reduce your business’s impact on ambient (outdoor) air quality
 - But it’s **not a quantitative survey** – we can’t do indoor AQ monitoring
- **Eligibility for 1:1 virtual audit – you must be:**
 - Small, medium and large enterprise
 - CCCA member



Travel Plan Guide: What is a travel plan for?

What is a Travel Plan?

- **An organisational commitment** to encouraging and facilitating sustainable travel for all staff travelling to and from their workplaces and for work purposes
- **A set of actions specific to your business** to encourage safe, healthy and sustainable travel options

Why should we have a Travel Plan?

- Reduce local air pollution and CO₂ emissions from staff commuting and business travel
- Support employee health and wellbeing
- Reduce congestion on Camden's roads – indirect additional benefits for AQ and climate and a positive contribution to the community and the environment
- Show your organisation's commitment to tackling the air quality health crisis and the climate emergency

Travel Plan Guide: What it covers

- **Current travel situation:**
 - Staff commuting
 - Business travel
 - Customer/client travel
- **Freight, deliveries and servicing**
- **Action plan with SMART targets**
- **Monitoring and evaluation**
 - Timeline and duration
 - Senior management buy-in
 - Governance
 - Responsibility and accountability

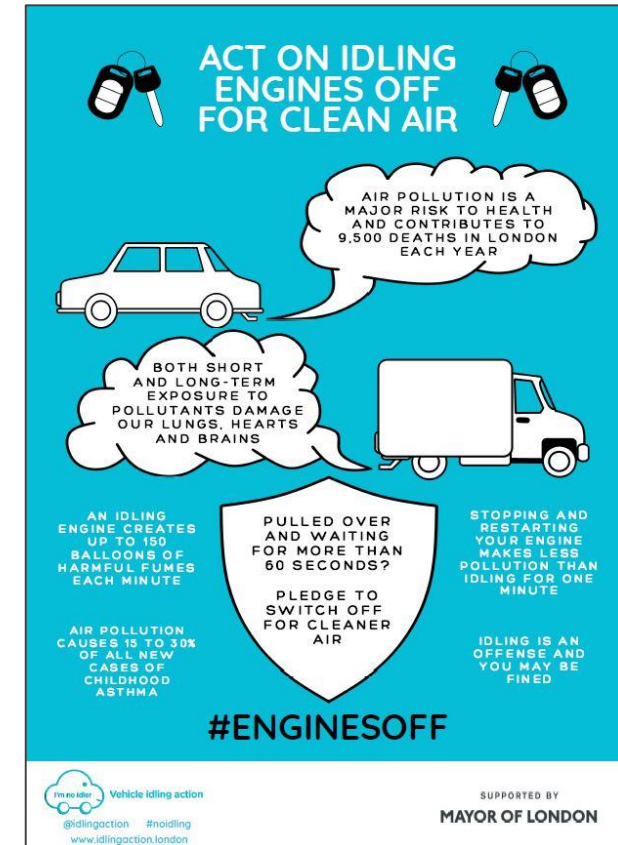


#EnginesOff Campaign: Why engine idling is a problem

Engine idling produces air pollution which damages the health of drivers and those around them:

- It is almost always avoidable
- It is against the law
- It wastes fuel (adding to operational costs)

London Idling Action (Camden and City of London) has developed the **#EnginesOff campaign** to encourage businesses, fleet operators and professional drivers to commit to avoiding engine idling wherever possible



#EnginesOff Campaign: Business toolkit and comms materials

Idling Action London can provide **free driver education sessions and a toolkit of resources to businesses**

1. Educate drivers using our workshop (currently delivered virtually)
2. Ask drivers to take the #EnginesOff pledge
3. Implement supporting policies by using template engine idling and green vehicle fleet procurement and management policies
4. Promote the campaign by using our logo on CSR sections of webpages, display ready-made posters and stickers in vehicles, and share online
5. Take part in an idling action event and arrange some direct action to reduce air pollution from engine idling


<https://idlingaction.london/business/> for more information

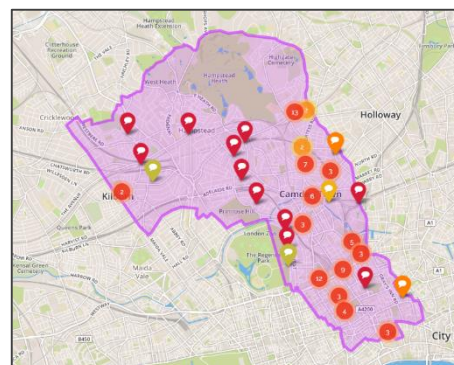


Driving continuous improvement: The next steps for air quality in Camden

- Camden Council needs to produce next Clean Air Action Plan 2022-2026
- Continue the push towards WHO AQ standards
- Support residents, employers and employees to improve indoor air quality
- Sustainable and resilient recovery from COVID-19
- **Your thoughts and feedback will be crucial to ensuring our CAAP is as effective as possible in delivering change**



 Air Quality Guidelines World Health Organization <small>µg/m³ = micrograms per cubic meter</small>	
PM _{2.5}	PM ₁₀
10 µg/m ³ annual mean	20 µg/m ³ annual mean
25 µg/m ³ 24-hour mean	50 µg/m ³ 24-hour mean



Thanks for listening!

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