

your have say!

This leaflet describes what Hillingdon council is doing to tackle air pollution in the borough and gives you a chance to have your say.



Does Hillingdon have a problem with air pollution?

Unfortunately, yes it does. For several years the council has measured the levels of certain pollutants and found that some of them are too high. This means that there is a risk to the health of Hillingdon residents who are sensitive to air pollution and in particular the young and elderly. The pollution can cause difficulty in breathing and in some cases more severe effects. In this borough we suffer especially from high levels of the pollutant nitrogen dioxide but other pollutants are also of concern.

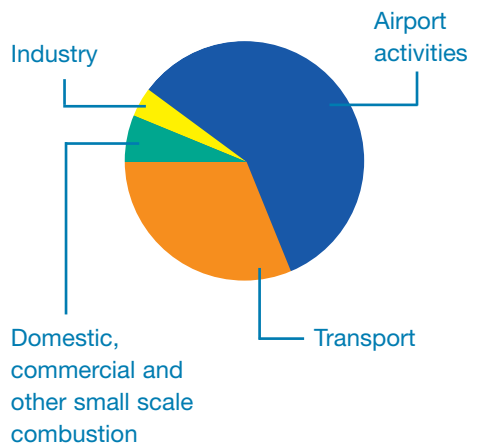
There are legal standards which determine how clean the air should be to protect those who are vulnerable to air pollution and European countries are taking concerted action to reduce air pollution. The Greater London Authority (GLA) is co-ordinating actions across London and Hillingdon too must take what action it can to improve the specific problems in the borough. In order to do this the council has adopted an Air Quality Action Plan which aims to reduce air pollution in the next few years. The full version of the Plan and other air pollution reports are available on the website www.hillingdon-air.info but this leaflet summarises the main points.

How was the Plan developed?

The council used expert guidance from the Government and from environmental professionals to come up with the Plan. A key question was to look at the causes of the pollution.

It turns out that many activities both in and outside of Hillingdon contribute to the pollution and it is particularly bad in the southern part of the borough. The council has declared this region an Air Quality Management Area. Traffic on roads and activity at Heathrow Airport are the main contributors to the pollution. Emissions from road transport have a disproportionate impact on communities living close to the road

Pie chart showing share of oxides of nitrogen emissions in Hillingdon from different sources



network. There's also a share that comes from things like industrial sites and home heating systems that burn fuel.

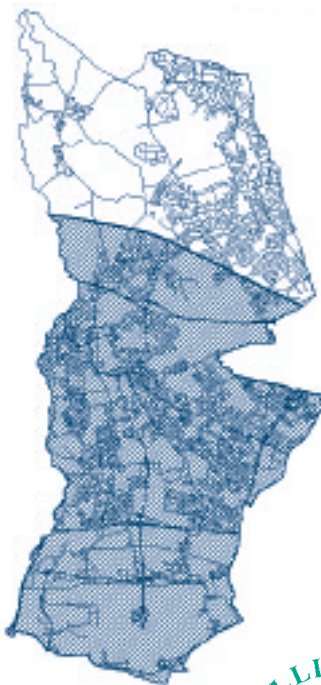
The Plan includes measures that will reduce these contributions and improve air quality. Businesses and stakeholders who are affected by these measures have already been consulted and the council has noted their comments. The Plan will be reviewed every year and adjusted if necessary to take account of changing circumstances.

So what's in the plan?

The council has grouped the actions in the Plan into seven packages that each focus on different ways to help solve the pollution problem. The packages are listed opposite along with some of the key actions in each case. In many cases everybody in Hillingdon can play a part and these actions are highlighted.



London Borough of Hillingdon Air Quality Management Area 2003



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A **Low Emission Zone** is an area from which vehicles that fail to meet a specified emission standard are excluded.

A **'Home Zone'** is a residential area where the streets are designed to accommodate the car, but the needs of the residents (particularly children, pedestrians and cyclists) are given the highest priority.

Package 1

Reducing road traffic by switching to more efficient modes of transport



We are aiming to reduce the number of journeys made by car within the borough in many ways including:

- Improving public transport services.
- Introducing more safe routes to school.
- Developing more cycle-friendly and pedestrian routes.

You can help by walking or using your bike for some short journeys; it's more healthy and saves money.

Package 2

Reducing through traffic in the borough

We want to reduce the impact of traffic just passing through the Borough by:

- Creating Home Zones in particular areas.
- Contributing to the national debate on road pricing which could reduce congestion significantly and may reduce overall traffic on the major road network.
- Working with organisations like the GLA and Highways Agency to seek improvements on the major roads such as the M4, A4, A312 and A40.

Package 3

Promoting cleaner vehicles

In the short to medium term there would be benefits in introducing newer, cleaner vehicles onto roads.

- We will improve the council service fleet and encourage businesses and other important fleets in the borough to do the same.
- The council supports the investigation into the introduction of a London Low Emissions Zone.
- We will lobby the Government for more grants enabling motorists to convert or replace older vehicles.



You can help and save money whilst improving air quality by the following:

- Switch off your engine if stationary for more than 20 seconds.
- Fuel costs are 30% less when driving at 50mph than at 70mph, slow down on major roads.
- Low tyre pressures cost more money in fuel consumption, check your tyres.

You can also help by replacing your car with a cleaner one when the time comes:

- Low emission cars cost less in vehicle excise duty.
- There are government grants available for some types of new car.
- Some alternative fuelled cars are much cheaper to run.
- Approved vehicles don't have to pay the London Congestion Charge.

Package 4

Reducing the effect of Heathrow airport

The airport is a huge concern to some residents living within the borough.

- The council will continue to oppose strongly the current proposal for a third runway at Heathrow airport and will hold the Government to its promise that no such proposal can continue unless stringent environmental standards for noise and air pollution are achieved and maintained.
- The council will continue to work with the Government and the airport operator to investigate and implement all practical policies that are necessary to make the airport comply with the legal environmental standards.



Package 5

Focus on industry and business

These are smaller issues where air pollution in the borough is concerned but the council will:

- Work with the Environment Agency to reduce the effect from industry where warranted.
- Consider an environmental award scheme to reward improved performance in local industries and businesses.

You can help by championing good practice at your home and in your business, such as car sharing or waste reduction.

Package 6

Planning for the future

The planning system as well as efficiency in council-run assets and future developments have important roles to play.

- The council will improve housing stock to reduce emissions of air pollutants.
- The council will expect developers to demonstrate that their projects are sustainable and to enter into planning agreements to help reduce emissions to air.

You can help by improving your home insulation and by turning down your thermostat by one degree. By reducing your demand for energy you will save on heating bills in the long run and cause fewer pollutants to be emitted overall

Package 7

Concerted actions within Hillingdon, our neighbouring boroughs and the GLA

We cannot solve the pollution problem alone.

- The council will look to adopt a corporate environmental management system to reduce pollutant emissions and improve energy efficiency.
- We will work with the West London Alliance, the GLA and BAA Heathrow to implement measures in a consistent way.

It looks like there is a lot to do!

The Air Quality Action Plan is very challenging and depends on many people for its success but we must take action to reduce air pollution in the borough. The council will seek funding from the Government and other external sources to pay for parts of the Plan. The actions of Hillingdon residents will help to determine the success. The plan will also contribute to overall improvements in Hillingdon's environment.

AIR QUALITY ACTION PLAN

have
your say!

If you require a translation please contact:

Arabic	إذا كنت بحاجة إلى خدمة الترجمة، يُرجى الاتصال:	07753 600281
Bengali	আপনার যদি অনুবাদের প্রয়োজন হয়, এখানে যোগাযোগ করুন	07776 184247
Gujarati	જો તમને ભાષાંતરની જરૂર હોય તો, કૃપા કરીને સંપર્ક કરો:	01895 250286
Hindi	अगर आपको हिन्दी में अनुवाद चाहिए, तो कृपया सम्पर्क करें:	01895 250045
Punjabi	ਜੇ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਭਾਸ਼ਣਾਂ ਦੀ ਸਹੂਲਤ ਚਾਹੀਦੀ ਹੈ, ਤਾਂ ਮਿਲਣਗੇ ਸਹਾਇਤਾ ਕਰੋ:	01895 250045
Somali	Haddii aad u baahatid turjumad, faddilan la xidhiidh:	07956 570536
Urdu	اگر آپ کو اس کے ترجمے کی ضرورت ہے تو براہ مہربانی رابطہ کیجئے:	01895 250045

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Although Hillingdon council has started work on the Plan we would still like to hear from you. Listed below are questions that you may like to consider when replying to this leaflet:

1. Do you have any particular concerns regarding air quality in Hillingdon? (please ring)

Yes

No

Don't Know

2. Are there areas of improvement that you think the council should take action on first?

3. What is your perception of the air quality in your area? (please ring)

Good Fair Poor Don't know

If it is unsatisfactory, please state main causes of poor air quality in your area

AIR QUALITY ACTION PLAN

4. Do you have any practical suggestions for air quality improvements in your area that the council could consider?

5. Information on air quality in Hillingdon can be accessed via the website www.hillingdon-air.info. In addition to this would you like to see air quality information published in a different form? If so, what is the best method for communication, for example, local papers, a regular air quality bulletin to households, information in libraries?

If you would like to comment further on the Air Quality Action Plan or would like further details you can contact us in several ways.

On-line at <http://www.hillingdon-air.info/>

By post by returning this form to:

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Environmental Protection Unit
3South 02
Civic Centre
High Street
Uxbridge UB8 1UW