



# Our plan for clean air in Wales

We want to know what you think



This document was written by Welsh Government. It is an easy read version of **'The Clean Air Plan for Wales. Healthy Air, Healthy Wales'**

December 2019



# How to use this document

This is an easy read version. The words and their meaning are easy to read and understand.



You may need support to read and understand this document. Ask someone you know to help you.



Words in **bold blue writing** may be hard to understand. They have been explained in a box below the word.

If the hard word is used again it is in **normal blue writing**. You can check what all the words in blue mean on **page 18**.



Where the document says **we**, this means **Welsh Government**. For more information contact:

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This document was made into easy read by **Easy Read Wales** using **Photosymbols**.

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# What this document is about



We want your views about our plan for clean air in Wales. This document says what we want to do.



There is a second document with this one. It has the questions in it. It is called the **Response Form**.



Please fill in the response form after reading this document. Or you can answer the questions online: [www.gov.wales/consultations](http://www.gov.wales/consultations).



We are also going to run events to ask people what they think. You can find out about the events on our website: [www.gov.wales/consultations](http://www.gov.wales/consultations).



We want to know what you think by **10 March 2020**.

# About air pollution



**Air pollution** causes lots of health problems. It also damages the **environment**.

**Air pollution** is made when chemicals are let off into the air in a way which can harm us, or the **environment**.

The **environment** is where we live. It is the land, the sea, the air and everything that lives in and on it. For example plants, animals and fish.

Noise is also a type of **air pollution**.

**Air pollution** is caused by things like:

- How we heat our homes.
- How the things we buy are made.
- The transport we use.





We have made this plan to make the air cleaner.



This work is really important for everyone's health as well as our **environment** and **economy**.



The **economy** means how much money the country has.



Our plan also supports other plans and laws that aim to improve life in Wales.



We can only achieve this plan if we all work together.

# Why clean air is important



The air is cleaner than it was a few years ago.



This is because of rules made to help stop some [air pollution](#).

But we still have a lot of work to do. Because we know that:



- [Air pollution](#) can make people unwell. This could be things like headaches and feeling sick.



But if people have serious problems with their heart and lungs, [air pollution](#) can make them more unwell.



- [Air pollution](#) can have a big effect on children as they are growing. And can cause problems for babies before they are even born.



- There are also costs like people having to take time off work and costs to the NHS.



- Some people live in areas that have more **air pollution** than others.



And **air pollution** can cause worse health problems in areas where people are poor and already have bad health.



So we need to think about how we can protect people who are most at risk when we make our rules.



# What can the public do?



There is a website called **The Air Quality in Wales** website: [www.airquality.gov.wales](http://www.airquality.gov.wales). This gives information about levels of **air pollution**.



People can look at this and check the air quality where they live.



We are going to make the website better, with more information. And we will make it easy to understand.



We will work with **Public Health Wales** to think about how to get information in places like doctor's surgeries and hospitals.



We support an event called **Clean Air Day**. This is run by a charity called **Global Action Plan** and teaches people about [air pollution](#).



We encourage everyone to get involved in **Clean Air Day**. For example, people can join in by choosing to walk, cycle, skate or scoot instead of using a car.



In 2022 there is going to be a change to the way subjects are being taught in Welsh schools.



Pupils are going to learn more about [air pollution](#). We are going to work with schools to help with this.



There are also projects that help people learn more about science and research. They are called **Citizen Science**.

# Our plan in 4 parts

## Part 1: Improving air quality for the health and well-being of everyone



Everybody has a part to play in making Welsh air cleaner.



We need to make sure people understand what causes **air pollution** and how it can affect their health.



We also need to give people information about what they can do to reduce **air pollution**.



We want to:

- Keep on learning more about **air pollution** and how it affects our health. We will work with different groups of people to do this.



We will help the public learn more about **air pollution** and what they can do to stop it.



- Carry out checks of **air pollution** across Wales at places like schools and hospitals.



- We will make sure that Local Authorities check the work they are doing to make the air cleaner every 3 years.



- We will make a new law called the **Clean Air Act for Wales**. It will have rules about:



- Reducing **air pollution** from the way people heat their homes.



- Selling cleaner fuels.



- Reducing **air pollution** from road traffic.



- How organisations like the NHS and other public services can reduce **air pollution**.



- The **World Health Organisation** has set guidelines for how much pollution should be allowed in the air.



- We want pollution in Wales to be below these guidelines where it is possible.



- And we want to lower the amount of **air pollution** people experience more widely.



- We will make a plan by March 2020 called the **Clean Air Zone Framework**. It will focus on areas where we need to reduce **air pollution** most quickly.



## Part 2: Improving air quality to support the environment and wildlife

We want to:



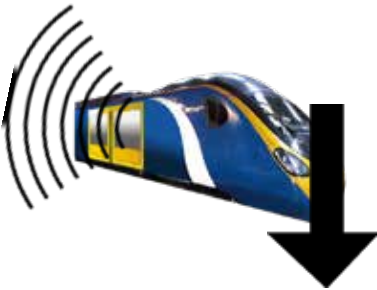
- Make sure there are enough plants and wildlife. And that there are more woodlands to support this life.



- Work with **Natural Resources Wales** to help the public take action against pollution.



- See if we can farm in a way that is better for the [environment](#).



- Reduce pollution from noise. This comes from things like roads and trains.



- Welsh Government is going to develop a plan by Autumn 2020 called **Environmental Growth Plan**.

It is going to focus on 3 areas:



**STOP** – the loss of nature.



**GROW** – nature. For example, more forests.



**CHANGE** – this is about helping people to think more about doing the right thing for the [environment](#).

## Part 3: Improving air quality to help make Wales a better off place

We want to:



- Work with the people who make things in factories. And help them to find ways to make things in a way that causes less pollution.



- Focus on places and factories where most **air pollution** is made.



- Keep following rules which stop factories from causing pollution. Even after we leave the **European Union**.

The **European Union** is a group of countries whose governments work together.

## Part 4: Improving air quality to make Wales a better place to live

We want to:



- Reduce **air pollution** from transport. Especially in public places. And make sure the new plans about Welsh transport support this.



We can do this by helping people use their own cars less. And by having better public transport.



- Help people think about cleaner and more active ways to travel. Like walking or cycling. This is good for people's health as well as the air.



Because of this, we are giving money to Local Authorities to make walking and cycling routes.



Llywodraeth  
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- Work on the **Clean Air Zone Framework** to improve transport.



This could include charging people money to drive in certain areas. And could mean stopping transport that causes the most pollution.

# Hard words

## Air pollution

Air pollution is made when chemicals are let off into the air in a way which can harm us, or the environment.

## Economy

The economy means how much money the country has.

## Environment

The environment is where we live. It is the land, the sea, the air and everything that lives in and on it. For example plants, animals and fish.

## European Union

The European Union is a group of countries whose governments work together.

## Natural Resources Wales

Natural Resources Wales looks after our environment for people and nature in Wales.

## Public Health Wales

Public Health Wales works to protect and improve health and well-being for people in Wales.

## World Health Organisation

The World Health Organisation works for better health and a healthier future for people all over the world.