

Clean Air in Cities *One Atmosphere: 'Out' and 'In'*

By Simon Birkett Founder and Director Clean Air in London Twitter: @CleanAirLondon



Lead sponsor since 2011

Air pollution in London



Clean Air in Cities – 'Out' and 'In'

- 1. Context
- 2. 'Out' air pollution and greenhouse gases
- 3. 'In' inside and outside sources
- 4. 60th anniversary of first Clean Air Act

1. Context

- It's a great time to be an air pollution campaigner!
- Great Smog 1952 and Clean Air Act 1956
- 'Cohort studies' identified long-term effects of PM_{2.5}
- Myopic focus in UK since 1990 on CO₂ and fuel efficiency
- Many roads in Central London tend (today) to have the highest NO₂ concentrations in the world. Blame diesel
- Need to protect ourselves and reduce air pollution
- Back where we <u>thought</u> we were 60 years ago
- 60th anniversary of first Clean Air Act on 5 July 2016

2. 'Out' on 15 March 2012



London: 29 June 2016

2. 'Out' – Jargon

- Particles (PM₁, PM_{2.5}, PM₁₀) and gases (NO₂). Ozone (O₃)
- Short (e.g. PM₁₀) and long-term (e.g. PM_{2.5}) health effects. Mortality and morbidity. Overlapping effects
- Emissions and concentrations. Exposures, impacts and outcomes. Visible and invisible
- All affected. Up to 9,400 attributable deaths in London (3,500 PM_{2.5} and 5,900 NO₂) versus 8,500 from smoking. Mainly cardiovascular. Biggest environmental risk
- Local (NO₂), regional (PM_{2.5}) and transboundary pollution e.g. tropospheric ozone (O₃)

2. 'Out' – Huge changes in the last 5 years

- Scientific evidence is overwhelming
- Public understanding is rocketing. Over half of Londoners want a diesel ban in central London
- Ongoing media campaigns e.g. ES, Guardian, ST
- National political attention e.g. PMQs
- New legal cases. ClientEarth on NO₂. Ella Kissi-Debrah
- New Mayor 'Top 3' issue in the election
- Interventions by UN (e.g. SDGs), WHA, WHO, UNEP

WHO declared outdoor air carcinogenic in 2013



Examples of media coverage

ABC Al Jazeera Ars Technica BBC Bloomberg Boston Globe Business Green CBS Channel 4 China Central Television China Radio International CNN DW Eco dalle Citta El Pais ENDS Euronews Evening Standard Express Financial Times France 24 Gibraltar Chronicle Guardian The Hill Independent ITV LBC London Live Mail Metro Mirror New York Times Observer Oriental Morning Post Radio France International Reuters RT Saturday Paper Le Soir Sky Southern Weekly Sun Svenska Dagbladet Sydney Morning Herald Telegraph Time Time Out Times Vice Voice of Russia Yellow Advertiser ZDF

2. 'Out' – Pollution challenges



2. 'Out' – Protect yourself (26 March 2012)



Clean Air in London

London: 29 June 2016

2. 'Out' – Protect yourself Graph by King's College London



2. 'Out' – Protect yourself (City Air app)



Clean Air in London

London: 29 June 2016

2. 'Out' – Priorities

- 'One Atmosphere' seek win-win for greenhouse gases <u>and</u> local air pollution
- Integrate policies e.g. air, energy and transport
- Mitigation reduce emissions at source
- Adaptation protect people e.g. route choice
- Diesel. Diesel. Diesel.
- Achieve zero local and then zero total emissions

Better ultra-low emission zone sooner



3. 'In' – Inside and out on 19 February 2013



3. 'In' – Jargon

- European citizens spend on average over 90% of their time indoors
- 75% or more of the health impact of outdoor or 'ambient' air pollution can therefore occur indoors (Source: EnVIE 2010 p82)
- Indoor concentrations of some pollutants can be much higher than outdoor (e.g. 10 or 20 times higher in the case of formaldehyde)
- We can use air filters to protect ourselves from 90% of air pollutants for up to 90% of the time
- British and European standard BS:EN 13779 (2012) specifies the required filter performance for good indoor air quality in nonresidential buildings taking into consideration outdoor air quality
- Second hand smoke (ETS) is still an issue e.g. children in homes

Relative size of particles

Human hair: 70 μ m



Spores 3-50 μm



Clean Air in London

Pollen: 20-100 μm



Airborne particles < 1 μm



3. 'In' – Huge changes in the last 5 years

- Scientific evidence is overwhelming e.g. WHO
- Clean Air in London's investigations
 - local authorities don't know if their schools use air filters
 - few hospitals comply with indoor air standards
- Environmental Audit Committee warned on schools
- Planning approvals in London are setting indoor standards – but still linked to WHO guidelines!
- New study links office performance to air pollution

Few hospitals comply with indoor air standards



Clean Air in London

London: 29 June 2016

3. 'In' – Pollution challenges



Photo of soot particles in lung tissue Photo: Lennart Nilsson A white blood corpuscle from the body's immune system (blue) tries to attack a soot particle and consume it Photo: Lennart Nilsson

3. 'In' – Protect yourself *Particle filters with different efficiency*



Source: Camfil

Clean Air in London

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Gas filters – activated carbon/charcoal

Key issues include:

- Charcoal's ability to retain gas molecules on their surface
- This capacity varies for different gases and charcoal quality
- Gas concentration
- Contact time



Source: Camfil

Air filter groups and classes

Group	Filter class (example of use)	Example of use	Average collection efficiency for the most penetrating particle size (MPPS)%	Average efficiency for 0.4 μm particles %	Average arrestance of dust %
Coarse	G4	Warehouses			Over 90
Medium	M5	Protection of ventilation systems		40-59	
	M6			60-79	
Fine	F7	Schools		80-89 (min 35)	
	F8	Laboratories		90-94 (min 55)	
	F9	Healthcare		95 and above (min 70)	
Efficiency particulate filters	E10	Precision tooling	85		
	E11		95		
	E12		99.5		
High efficiency particulate filters	H13 and H14	Operating theatres	Over 99.95		
Ultra low penetration air filters	U15, U16 and U17	Space craft	Over 99.9995		

Clean Air in London

British and European standard BS:EN 13779 Since April 2007 for non-residential buildings

Outdoor Air Quality (ODA)		Indoor Air Quality (IDA)			
		IDA 1 (High)	IDA 2 (Medium)	IDA 3 (Moderate)	IDA 4 (Low)
Increasing pollution	ODA 1 eg countryside	F9	F8	F7	F5
	ODA 2 eg smaller towns	F7 + F9	F6 + F8	F5 + F7	F5 + F6
	ODA 3 eg city centres	F7 + GF + F9	F7 + GF + F9	F5 + F7	F5 + F6

GF = Gas filter (carbon filter) and/or chemical filter.

Table based on appendix A.3 "Use of air filters" in European standard BS:EN 13779





2,500,000

2,000,000

1,000,000

500,000





Home office test – City S unit Over 25 minutes Range 0.3 to 5 microns

97% - 98% Particle number reduction









Note: Readings were taken during a week of high air pollution in London March 2015. During these events HVAC filters were severely challenged and stretched to deliver clean indoor air. 10 million particles per m³ and below is required for clean healthy air. Nitrogen dioxide the other associated health damaging traffic air pollution gas was also correspondingly high during this period.

3. 'In' – Priorities

- Mitigation of pollution reduce energy use
- Adaptation protect occupants
- Improved liability management by building owners
- Comply with BS:EN 13779 (2012) and BS:EN 779 (2012)
- Comply with new ISO 16890 standard for PM₁
- Demand better than just compliance with WHO guidelines for PM and NO₂ in planning permissions
- Ambitious new London Plan and Neighbourhood Plans
- Respond positively to increasingly public concern

Benefits of air filters



Photo: Lennart Nilsson

London: 29 June 2016

We can protect ourselves from 90% of air pollutants for up to 90% of the time



If your office has a mechanical ventilation system or air conditioning (i.e. it is likely to contain the necessary ducting) please ask your facilities manager:

"Does our ventilation system include regularly maintained air filters that comply fully with BS:EN 13779?"

Ask Camfil for an 'Air Quality Test' http://signup.air-cleaner.co.uk/5602156350

For anything else please visit <u>www.camfil.co.uk</u> or call 01706 238 000

Photo of soot particles in air filter Photo: Lennart Nilsson

5. 60th anniversary of first Clean Air Act

- Build public understanding of air pollution
- Ban diesel, diesel, diesel as we banned coal in 1956
- Restrict polluting activities e.g. ultra low emission zones and/or Emissions Based Road Charging
- Promote positive measures e.g. active travel and carfree centres
- Re-engineer our cities to make us a world leader

The London Matrix – 'One Atmosphere'

	Air pollution	Climate change	
London	Success		
Rest of world			

Air pollution in London



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