

Air Quality in Westminster



Adam Webber – Principal Policy Officer (Air Quality)
13 May 2019

Overview

Context

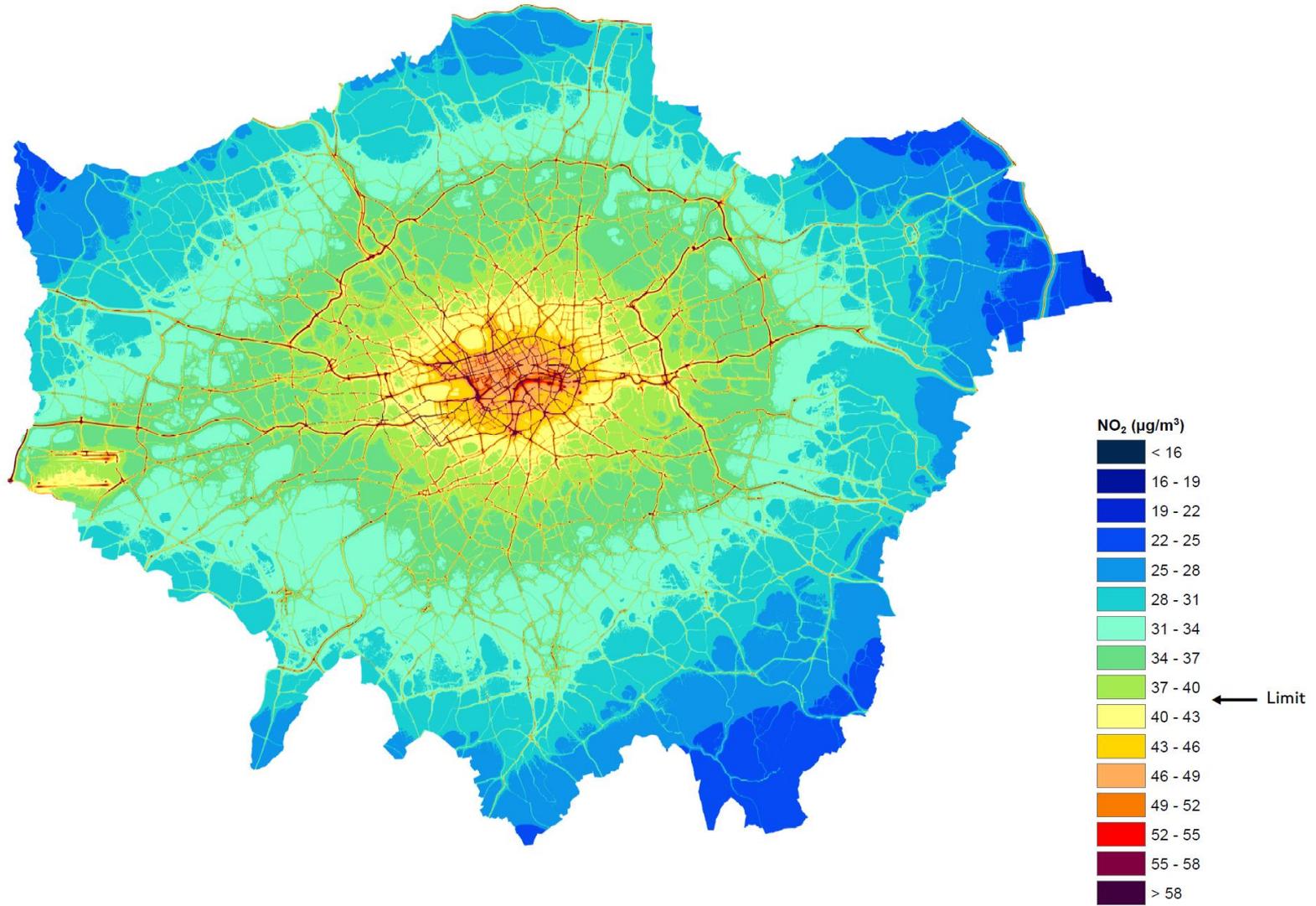
- Air pollution in London and Westminster
- Sources of pollution
- Impacts of pollution
- Policy and strategy framework

Policies and projects

- #Dontbeidle
- Marylebone Low Emission Neighbourhood
- Diesel parking surcharge
- Oxford Street District
- Schools' Clean Air Fund

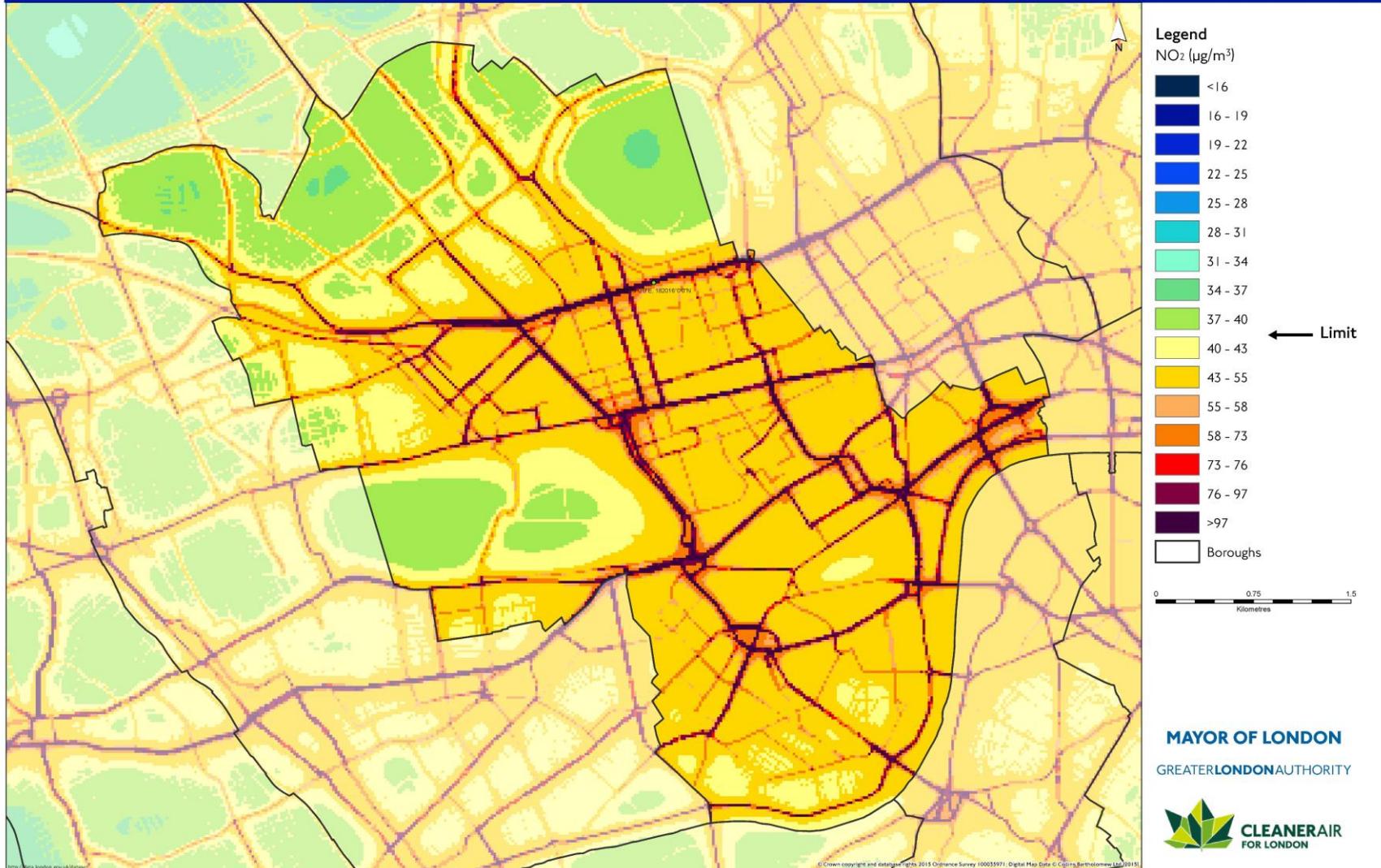
Next steps and questions





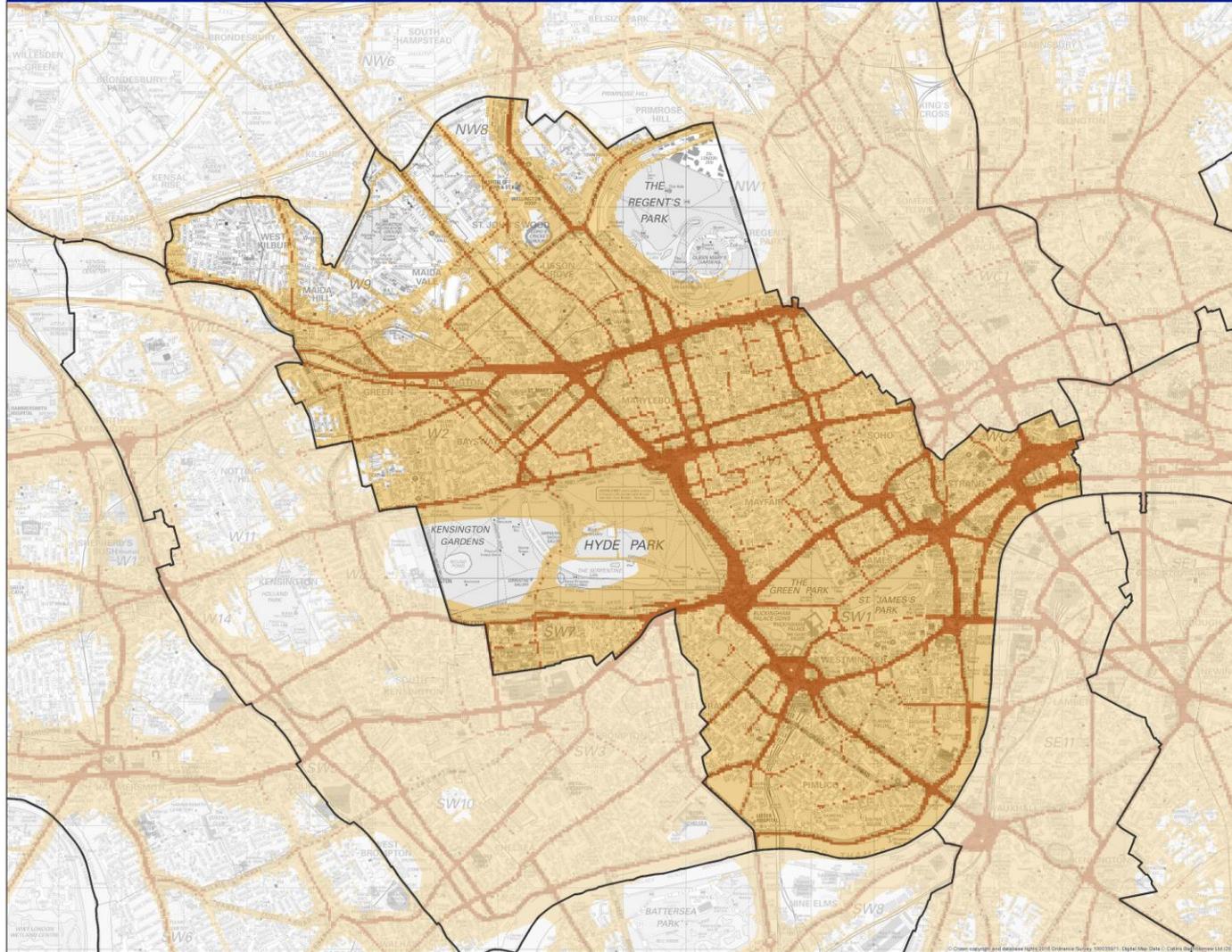
London Borough of Westminster Annual Mean NO₂ concentrations 2013

LAEI 2013



London Borough of Westminster Annual Mean NO₂ concentrations 2013

LAEI 2013



Legend

NO₂ (µg/m³)

>60

>40

Boroughs

Total area - 22.03 Km²

Area greater than - 18.12 Km²
40µg/m³
Percentage greater than - 82.25 %
40µg/m³

Area greater than - 2.92 Km²
60µg/m³
Percentage greater than - 13.27 %
60µg/m³

0 1 2
Kilometres

MAYOR OF LONDON

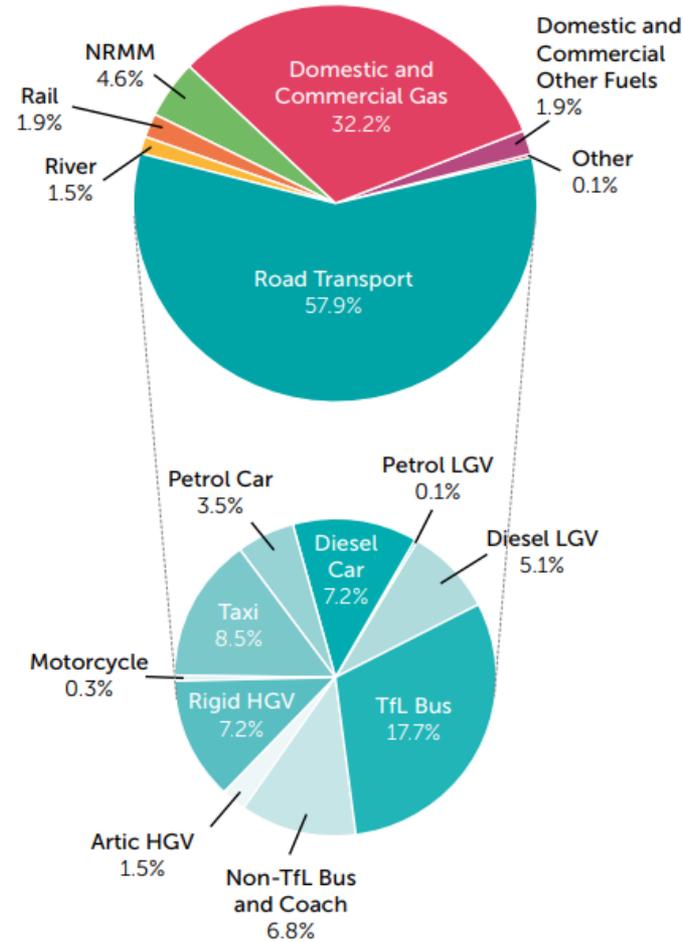
GREATERLONDONAUTHORITY





Sources of pollution

Source Composition of NO_x for Westminster (LAEI 2016)



Impacts of pollution

- Health impacts of poor air pollution are increasingly well understood
- Exposure to poor air pollution has been conclusively linked to asthma incidences, COPD incidences and other respiratory diseases, and increasingly to brain and cognitive diseases
- 9,400 equivalent premature deaths in London in 2010 from two major pollutants
- Research is now linking pollution to all kinds of other societal / health impacts, including:
 - Exam results
 - Incidences of dementia
 - Depression and mental health issues in young people
 - Petty crime





Air Quality Action Plan 2013 - 2018



April 2013


City of Westminster





Air Quality Action
2013 - 2018



Report of the Air
Quality Task Group
June 2017





Air Quality Action
2013 - 2018



April



Air Quality Manifesto
March 2018
Report of the
Air Quality Task Group
June 2017





Air Quality Action
2013 - 2018



Greener City
Action Plan
2015-2025

March 2018

Report of
Quality Task Group
June 2017

April

City of Westminster
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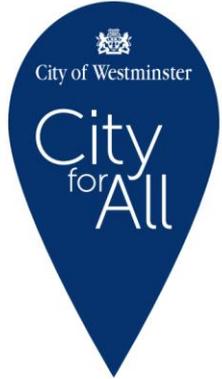


Air Quality Action
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WORKING
WITH YOU
TO BUILD A
CITY FOR ALL

2018/19



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City of Westminster
westminster.gov.uk #cityforall



Projects and policies

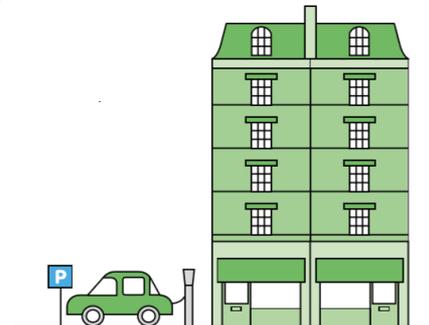
#DontBeldle
Campaign

Schools' air
audits &
Clean Air
Fund

Trial and roll
out of Diesel
Surcharge

Marylebone
LEN

Oxford
Street



#Dontbeidle

- Over 14,000 individuals have signed our Dontbeidle campaign pledge, which pledges drivers to avoid unnecessary emissions from vehicle idling.
- This year we have just launched phase 2 of the campaign, which is focusing on large fleet operators through a combination of board room level pledges and training for drivers. Deliveroo were one of the first companies to sign up.
- Free kits and downloadable packs available for residents online



#DontBeIdle
westminster.gov.uk/dont-be-idle



Marylebone LEN

- Low Emission Neighbourhoods are GLA funded area based schemes focusing on strong partnerships with stakeholders and trialling innovative new projects and policies
- £1m match funded by Westminster and partners; project ended in April 2019.
- The diesel parking surcharge was first trialled in the Marylebone LEN. Other major projects include anti-idling events and campaigning, work with schools in the LEN area, pioneering 'backpack monitoring' to identify personal exposure to pollution in the LEN.



Diesel parking surcharge

- After a successful trial of a 50% surcharge on pay to park fees for older diesel vehicles in the Marylebone LEN last year, last autumn we consulted on rolling out this policy across the city
- The trial in parking zone F (analogous to the Marylebone LEN) saw a 16% reduction in older diesel vehicles parking in the area, with no displacement to neighbouring areas
- We received 1300 responses to the consultation
- We're now rolling this policy out city-wide



Oxford Street District

- Much stronger and more holistic focus on Oxford Street *district* than previous TfL proposals
- Residents' and businesses' concerns about displacement of traffic and pollution was one of the reasons that the council moved away from the TfL full pedestrianisation scheme

It is well understood that air quality in the Oxford Street District is exceptionally poor. The primary source of air pollution is vehicular traffic. Westminster City Council proposes a threefold approach to improving air quality across the district.

- Improve the street environment to encourage walking and cycling and reduce the need for vehicle trips in the district.
- Accelerate the adoption of ultra-low and zero emission buses, taxis and private hire vehicles, and commercial vehicles throughout the district leading to an eventual ban on highly polluting vehicles on Oxford Street at an appropriate time.
- Work with local businesses and stakeholders to minimise, consolidate and manage the movement of freight.



Schools' Clean Air Fund

- £1m scheme announced by the leader of the council last year to provide funds for schools to tackle pollution in their immediate areas
- Interventions will be based along three key themes:
 - Reducing emissions from local roads and highways
 - Reducing emissions from school buildings and improving indoor air quality
 - Green planting and infrastructure
- As well as this £1m, Westminster is setting aside around £500,000 to fund Air Quality Audits for all Westminster schools. These audits will provide schools with the recommendations for them to apply to the £1m Schools' Clean Air Fund





What these examples say about our approach

- Working in partnership with stakeholders
- Maximising external funding
- Showing leadership
- Focusing on hotspots and where pollution is worst
- Creating a positive message
- Understanding our opportunities and constraints



Next steps for Westminster

New Westminster Clean Air Action Plan 2019-24 due for public consultation later this year

City Plan 2019-2040, including Supplementary Planning Documents on the Environment

Westminster Energy Strategy to be launched later this year



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Final thoughts and questions

Air pollution as a public health problem rather than an environmental problem

Income and age inequalities of air pollution – how do we influence those who are traditionally hard to reach?

Issues I didn't have time to address: electric vehicle charging infrastructure; emissions from new developments and construction sites; Westminster's lobbying work for a new national Clean Air Act; trialling innovative new monitoring technologies across the borough; helping residents take action to reduce their emissions and reduce their own exposure to pollution; how can we tackle emissions from wood burning stoves?

Long-term trend for pollution is downward

Current major policy focus is on road transport. As this declines will the relative importance of household emissions go up?

Constraints for local authorities





Contact

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Westminster Air Quality webpage: <https://www.westminster.gov.uk/air-pollution>

#Dontbeldle project webpage: <https://www.westminster.gov.uk/dont-be-idle>

Information on Electric Vehicle charging points: <https://www.westminster.gov.uk/electric-vehicles>

