

Situation

Air quality in our major cities is amongst the worst in Europe. Poor air quality has a significant impact on health, taking months and even years off each and every one of our lives. If that's not enough to get us all thinking, the economic cost of poor air quality in the UK is around £15 billion.

Pollutants

The pollutants covered here are of most interest as we are failing World Health Organisation and EU standards:

PM₁₀ Small Particles invisible to the naked eye



NO₂ Nitrogen Dioxide



Man-made sources of both these pollutants are primarily from combustion, mostly road transport and gas boilers.

Health Impact

- 30,000 people die every year due to poor air quality
- That's nearly 10 times the number of people that die each year on our roads
- The effects of poor air quality are worse than passive smoking
- The lung capacity of children in areas of poor air quality can be reduced by at least 5%



A CrispAir Fact Sheet

Further information and references are available online - www.crispair.co.uk

Solutions

Communications

If we don't know that air quality is a problem then we won't look for solutions to improve it. Raising the profile of poor air quality and its effects is key, alongside championing the following simple solutions:

The Built Environment

In urban environments gas boilers contribute over half the NO₂ released into the local atmosphere. Some simple steps can reduce this:

- Use less gas by making buildings more efficient
- Consider a low NOx boiler or leaner burner
- If it's cold, put a jumper on!

Transportation

Road transport contributes to up to 80% of PM₁₀ released in our cities. Our transport choices are key to getting levels down:

- Walk or cycle when possible
- Drive only low emission/hybrid vehicles in town
- When stationary in your vehicle turn your engine off!



Supply Chain

A more efficient supply chain reduces congestion in our cities, keeps cost down and improves air quality. Work collaboratively with other businesses and supply chain partners to:

- Reduce the number of deliveries made each week
- Consolidate with other businesses
- Insist that supply chain partners use more efficient vehicles
- Enforce no idling on site!



Action

You are the key to cleaner air...

We all have a responsibility to improve local air quality in our urban environment.

Business, community groups and individuals all have a role to play. It is only with collective and collaborative action that we can make a difference.



Guidance and support to achieve better air quality is available so please get in touch. Whether setting up a walking and cycling campaign, making the supply chain more efficient or simply raising the profile of air quality, help is there every step of the way.

By working together we can make poor air quality a thing of the past.