

Schools sustainability peer-support network

Air Quality and Camden Schools

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Agenda

- Main pollutants and their sources
- Pollution exposure and health
- Air pollution in Camden
- What is Camden doing about air pollution
- How can schools help to reduce air pollution in Camden
- How can schools help to protect health
- National Clean Air Day – how to get involved

Pollutants

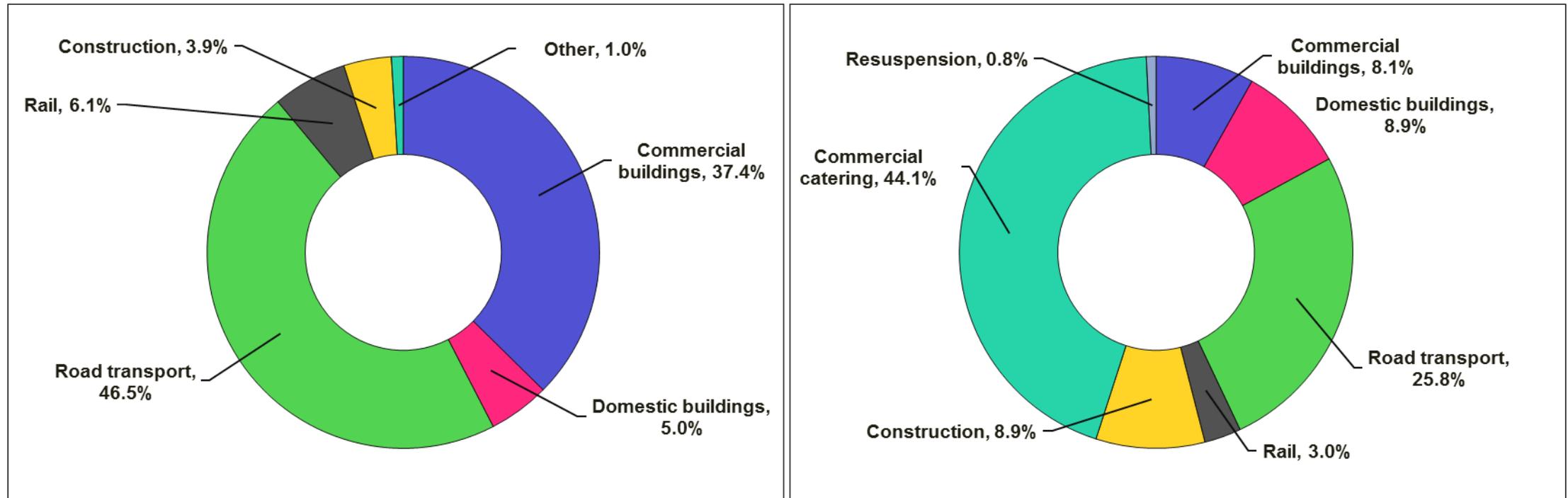
Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂):

- An invisible gas produced by burning fossil fuels, and produced primarily by the transportation sector (mainly road transport) and heating systems in buildings

Particulate Matter (PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}):

- Small airborne particles like dust, soot and drops of liquids. PM in urban areas is formed from road vehicles, commercial catering, construction activities and equipment, and fuel use in buildings

Emissions of NO₂ and PM_{2.5} in Camden

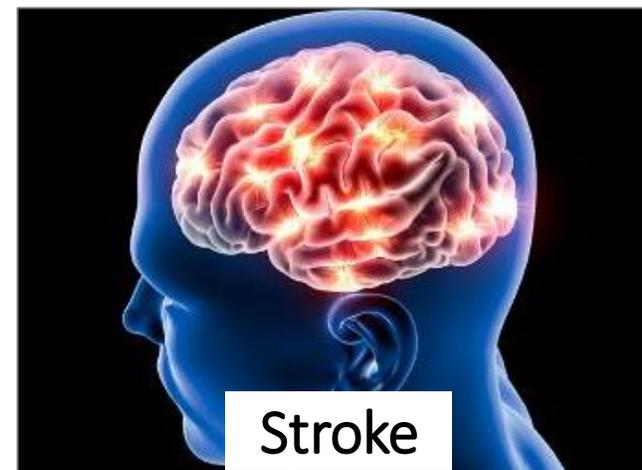


NO₂

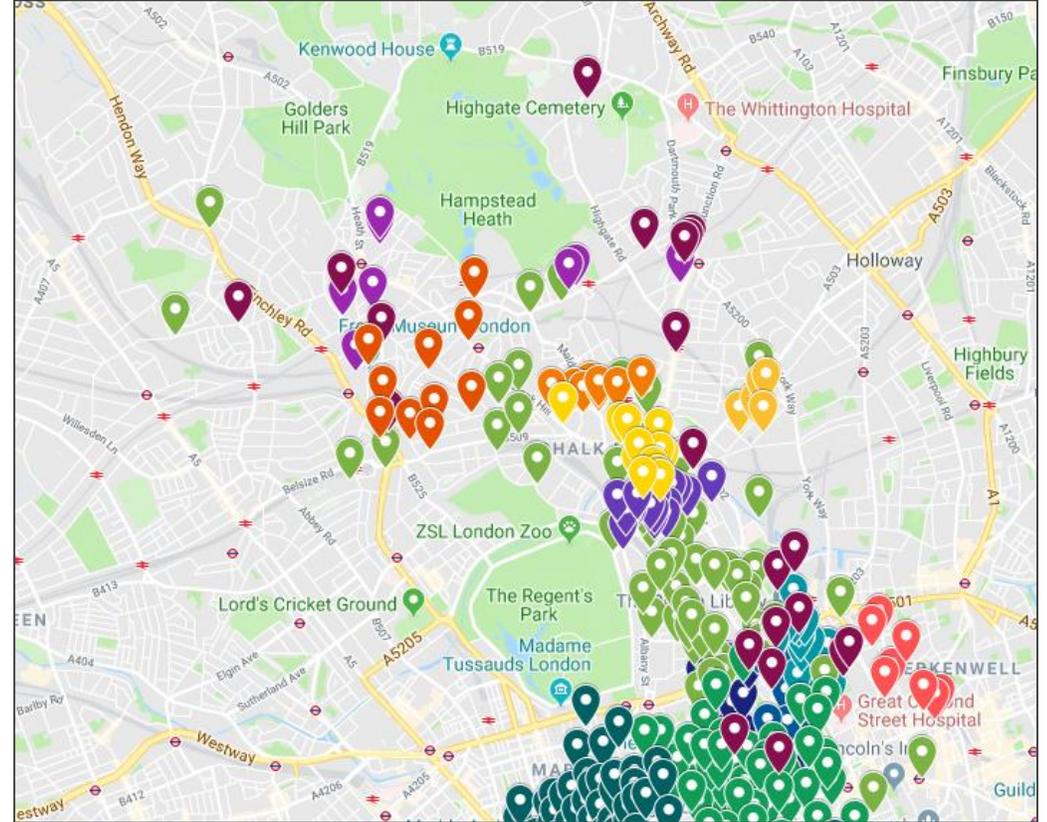
PM_{2.5}

PM_{2.5} emitted within Camden makes up only 30-40% of total PM in the air in the borough (depending upon location)

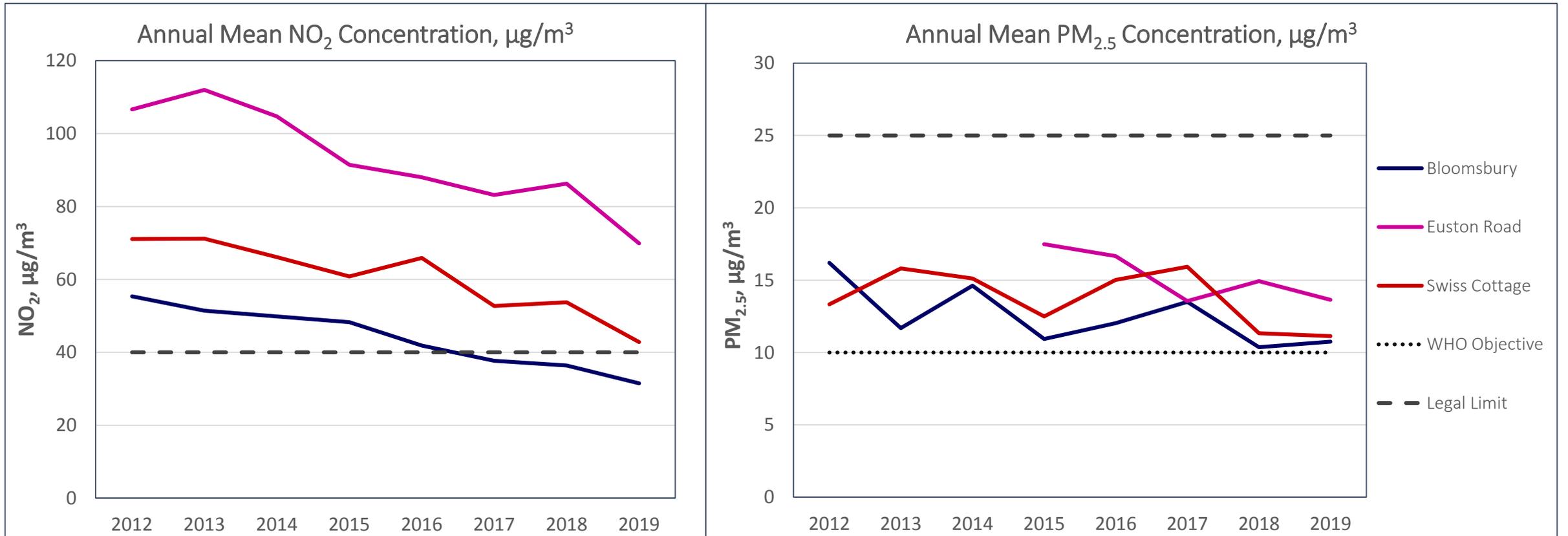
Health Impacts of Air Pollution



Air Pollution in Camden – Monitoring



Air Pollution in Camden – Data

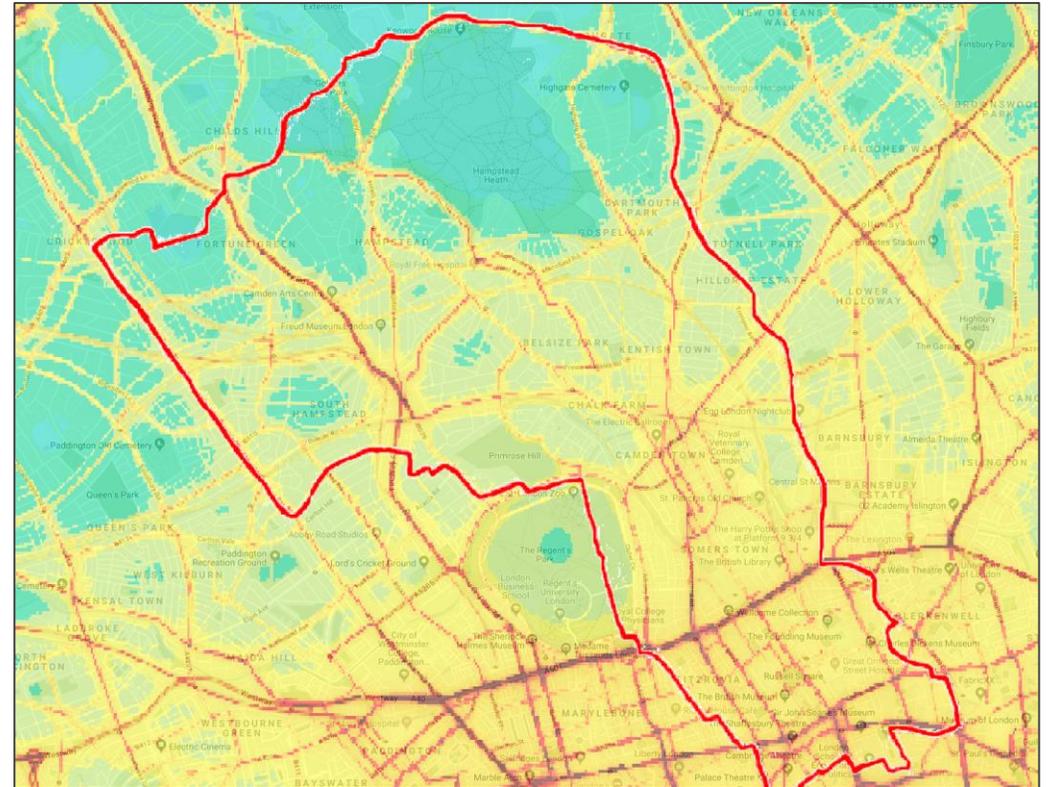


Air Pollution in Camden – Our Obligations

Camden **exceeds the legal limit for NO₂** and is an ‘**Air Quality Management Area**’. We are legally required to:

- Measure air quality
- Produce a four-year Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP)
- Report each year to the GLA on our progress

We meet the legal limit for PM_{2.5} but exceed the WHO limit



Camden's Clean Air Action Plan 2019-2022

- 116 actions to improve air quality
- Responsibility shared between LBC and other organisations/groups
- Seven key themes:
 1. Construction emissions
 2. Building emissions
 3. Transport emissions
 4. **Supporting communities and schools**
 5. Deliveries, servicing and freight
 6. Public health and awareness raising
 7. Lobbying



What is Camden doing to support schools and communities

We are delivering a range of projects to help improve air quality around schools:

- [Healthy School Streets](#) – timed closures and direct measures to reduce pollution
- Working with schools on [TfL STARS and school travel plans](#)
- Supporting community groups e.g. [Green School Runs](#)
- Co-leading the [Idling Action London](#) programme
- Working with the Sustainers and other advocacy groups



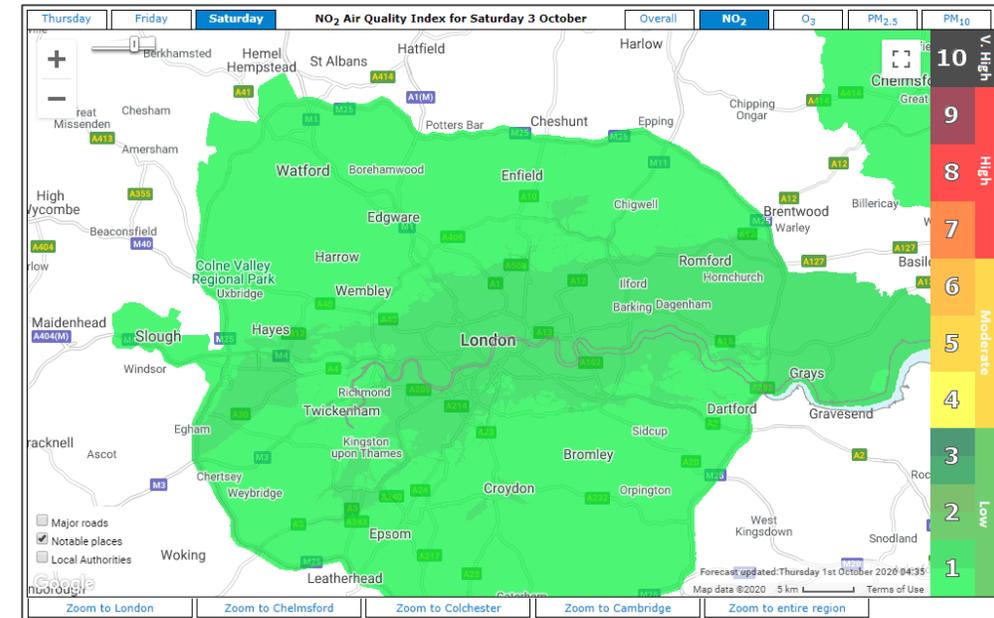
How can schools help to reduce air pollution

- Hold an AQ and anti-idling workshop for pupils with Idling Action London, covering:
 - Basics of clean air – where pollution comes from and understanding health and air quality
 - Travelling to school and air pollution from transport
 - Key messages about avoiding engine idling
 - Challenges and pledges to get others involved
- Promote active travel and ‘clean air routes’



How can schools help to reduce air pollution

- Look at [Park and Stride](#) (e.g. Green School Runs [walking bus](#) and [Park & Stride](#))
- Promote [AirText](#) pollution alerts
- Sign up for [Indoor Air Quality Working Party](#) resources for primary age children (relevant for parents and teachers):
 - Information sheets for parents
 - Activity packs for Y5+
 - 'Ask a scientist' interactive classroom session
 - Monitoring projects



How can schools help to protect health

- Reminder: Pollution can cause, contribute to and exacerbate respiratory health conditions like asthma
- Properly-managed asthma will help children stay well and live full and healthy lives
- Become an [Asthma Friendly School](#) – see Healthy London Partnership’s ASF programme and download the toolkit and other useful materials
- Be aware of [Camden School Nursing Service](#) referral service



What is National Clean Air Day and how can schools get involved

[Clean Air Day](#) is the UK's biggest air quality campaign where schools, businesses, and the health sector come together to:

- Improve public understanding of air pollution
- Build awareness of how air pollution affects our health
- Explain the easy actions we can all do to tackle air pollution

[Global Action Plan school resources](#) for CAD and beyond:

- Cleaner Air Schools Framework / campaign action plan
- Assembly pack / posters / newsletter / games and challenges



Questions for the group

- Has your school been involved in any air quality projects or campaigns?
- What are your ambitions for air quality / what are the barriers?
- We want to work with schools to promote clean air walking routes and understanding about exposure to pollution; what is an effective way for us to work with schools on this?

Thank you!

For further information, please visit:

Camden air quality: <https://www.camden.gov.uk/air-quality>

London Idling Action <https://idlingaction.london/schools/>

Global Action Plan: <https://www.globalactionplan.org.uk/clean-air/clean-air-day>

Or contact us directly!