



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government



Welsh Government Update: Air Quality Policy

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Delivering Clean Air for Wales

Aim

To improve air quality and reduce the impacts of air pollution on human health, biodiversity, the natural environment and our economy

Means

Strategic plan – Clean Air Plan for Wales: Health Air, Healthy Wales

Enabling legislation – Environment (Air Quality and Soundscapes) (Wales) Act 2024

Strategic and Legislative Context

Also need to take account of wider Welsh Government and UK Government commitments...

- **Programme for Government** commitments and well-being objectives, e.g. building a stronger, greener economy; making cities/towns/villages better places to live and work, etc
- **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act (2016)** – comprehensive framework for sustainable development in Wales
- **Environment (Wales) Act (2016)** requires the Welsh Government to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases in Wales to net zero for the year 2050 with a system of interim emissions targets and carbon budgets.
- **Broader UK and devolved Government** commitments and developments

How We Work in Air Quality

Air Quality, Noise and Soundscapes

- Coordinating reporting of commitments made in Environment (Air Quality and Soundscapes) (Wales) Act 2024
- Promoting awareness of AQ issues and actions to tackle these...
 - LAQM policy and guidance
 - Smoke control policy
 - Domestic solid fuel burning (regulations and guidance)
 - Road transport emissions, including NO₂
 - Anti-idling policy.

Air Quality Evidence, Monitoring and Assessment

- National AQ target setting framework and implementation
 - Development of new air quality targets for Wales
- Air quality evidence, monitoring and assessment
 - AQ monitoring and assessment policy
 - International air quality, including Wales' contribution to UK emission reductions
 - AQ evidence integration into cross-government policy
 - Engagement with expert bodies and research councils, including Clean Air Advisory Panel
 - Assessments to underpin the national strategy
 - Emerging evidence, including assessment of the indoor-outdoor interface
 - Air quality data and information provision

National air quality target setting indicative timeline*

PHASE 1 PM2.5 TARGETS DEVELOPMENT TIMELINE



[*Subject to further consideration by Welsh Ministers]

National air quality target setting indicative timeline*

PHASE 2: ADDITIONAL TARGETS DEVELOPMENT TIMELINE



[*Subject to further consideration by Welsh Ministers]

Promoting Awareness and Tackling Air Quality

Welsh Ministers to take steps to promote awareness of the risks to human health and the natural environment caused by air pollution, and ways of reducing or limiting air pollution:

- development of delivery plan – consultation early 2025

Smoke control:

- development of guidance for consultation (alongside LAQM policy guidance) – late 2024

Domestic solid fuel burning:

- consultation on regulations – early 2025 coming into force – autumn 2025

Vehicle idling:

- consultation on draft regulations – spring 2025
- publication of guidance and coming into force of regulations – autumn 2025

Tackling roadside emissions:

- Consultation on updated Welsh Government supplemental Plan to the UK Plan for tackling roadside nitrogen dioxide concentrations 2017 (the 'Air Quality Plan') – spring 2025

Local Air Quality Management

Local Air Quality Management Fund

- c£600k allocated to 5 local authorities in 2024/25
- More sustainable funding approach being considered
- How can we best facilitate sharing of findings and best practice?

Local Air Quality Management Guidance

- To be consulted on late 2024
- Opportunities for strengthening links with noise and soundscapes

Annual progress reports

- Important update on activities in local areas
- Reviewing purpose and use of reports

Opportunities and Challenges

How can we work together as effectively as possible to achieve our shared aim of delivering cleaner air?

Opportunities

Partnership working, sharing resources, intelligence, messaging ...?

Challenges

Limited resources, public perceptions ...?