



# Improving air quality in the City of London

## A summary guide for City businesses

Poor air quality has a significant impact on health.

Air quality in parts of the City of London is the worst in the country.

“Early findings from a major study in London seen by the BBC show that the lung capacity of 8 and 9-year-olds is 5% lower than the national average”

Road particles pose 'higher risk' - BBC News 9th June 2009

**It's time to act - it's time to think air quality**



The major sources of air pollution are from combustion, as a direct result of transportation and heating. Carbon reduction, energy efficiency and modifying transport policies should therefore go hand-in-hand with improving air quality.

With the help of City businesses we can make a difference to our health and the wellbeing of those around us. By implementing some, or all of the above measures, you will not only be improving local air quality, but can also apply to receive a 'Sustainable City Air Quality' award.

### Corporate Responsibility (CR) - doing the right thing



Embed air quality in your CR policies and statement of intent

Monitor PM<sub>10</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub> emissions alongside CO<sub>2</sub> and set targets for reduction

Highlight the health impact of poor air quality and engage with employees to make a real difference

Launch campaigns internally to promote cycling, walking and 'wear a jumper to work' month to keep the heating off at the start of the autumn and end of the winter

Work with the City of London to monitor air quality in the Square Mile

### The Built Environment - we filter the air coming into our buildings and now it's time to think about what's going out



Conduct an energy review and include, in the recommendations, the impact of emissions of PM<sub>10</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub>

Monitor and analyse half hourly utility consumption by floor

Upgrade and fine tune the Building Management System

Install low NO<sub>x</sub> boilers and, if installing CHP, contact the City of London for information on technology to minimise emissions

If installing on-site renewable energy, opt for non combustion technology

Install Green Roofs and Walls to reduce pollution

### Transportation - how we choose to move around the City



Use the WalkIt' service to help you plan a delay-free, healthy and green journey, avoiding pollution

Encourage walking, for instance by launching a 'walk to the client' campaign

Encourage cycling, for instance by signing up to the 'Cycle to Work' scheme and providing cycle safety training in partnership with the City of London

Partner with local gyms to make up for any lack of showering and locker space

For corporate PHV contracts, select a company using the latest low emission vehicles and demand a 'no engine idling' policy

### Supply Chain - small modifications to procurement policies can have a significant impact on local air quality



Incorporate air quality, alongside other environmental targets, into procurement policies

Work with other tenants and save on central contracts for 'business basics' deliveries and waste collection

Demand reduced emissions from contractor vehicles

Assess courier and general freight contracts to reduce number of trips

Move to pedal bike and zero emission couriers wherever possible