

# AIR POLLUTION IN GREATER MANCHESTER

## OUR TOXIC AIR IS A DEADLY PROBLEM

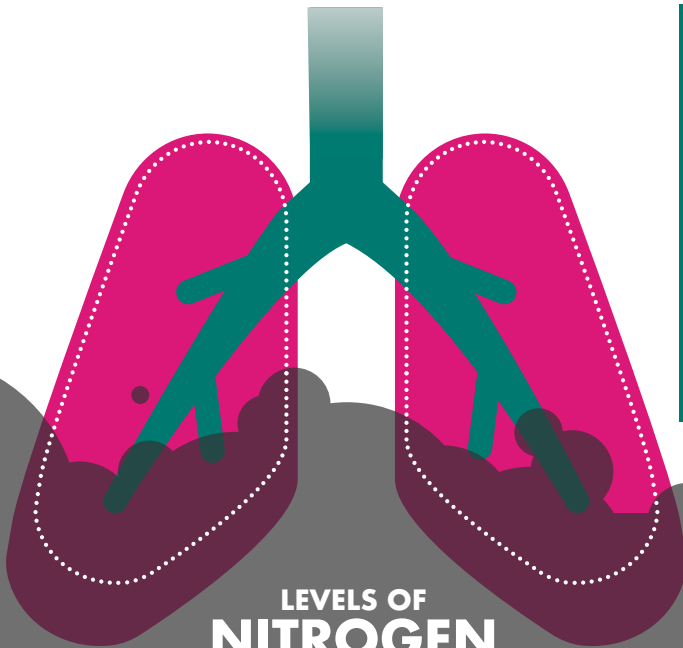
Air pollution from road transport (especially diesel vehicles) and wood burning permanently damages children's health<sup>1</sup>, contributes to thousands of early deaths each year and affects the day-to-day life of people across the country. Diseases that air pollution causes or is linked to include lung, brain and breast cancers, heart damage, strokes, diabetes, dementia, COPD and asthma<sup>2</sup>.

## HOW DOES THIS AFFECT CHILDREN?

Children are affected by air pollution before they are even born. Inhaled carbon particles have been found in mothers' placentas<sup>3</sup> and maternal air pollution exposure results in premature and low birth-weight babies<sup>4</sup>. There are links between air pollution and a reduced ability to learn<sup>5</sup> and poorer academic performance<sup>6</sup>. Children living in highly polluted areas are more likely to have reduced lung growth<sup>7</sup>.

## HOW BAD IS THE AIR IN GREATER MANCHESTER?

In 2022, Manchester had the highest nitrogen dioxide concentrations of any local authority in the UK.<sup>8</sup> Greater Manchester has some of the highest asthma rates for children in the country; in 2020/21, the paediatric asthma hospital admission rate was almost twice the national average.<sup>9</sup>



LEVELS OF  
**NITROGEN  
DIOXIDE**  
IN GREATER MANCHESTER ARE  
**OVER 5 TIMES**

THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION GUIDELINES<sup>10</sup>

*"My 10 year old son has had a few admissions to hospital with his asthma. When we go away to the countryside his breathing gets dramatically better. It makes me feel sad to think that the air he breathes every day is negatively affecting his health".*

**MUM, MANCHESTER**

**MUMS  
FOR  
LUNGS**

CLEAN AIR | HEALTHY KIDS

Manchester

# AIR POLLUTION

## WHAT YOU CAN DO ABOUT IT



### WALK, CYCLE, SCOOT - DON'T POLLUTE!

Did you know pollution inside a car can be more than three times higher than outside? Please consider every drive, and try not to use the car for short trips to school or the shops. Can you use public transport or a bike?



### STOP BURNING WOOD

Domestic burning causes more particulate matter (PM2.5) air pollution in the UK than traffic<sup>11</sup>. Bonfires, fireplaces, fire pits, Defra compliant stoves and even the newest Ecodesign stoves all release harmful levels of particulates into your and your neighbours' homes<sup>12</sup>.



### WALK AWAY FROM THE KERB

As a pedestrian, the closer you are to the traffic, the higher the pollution levels. Keep as far away from the road as you can, especially when waiting at crossings, and try to walk down quieter streets with less traffic.



### RETHINK ONLINE DELIVERIES

Can you collect deliveries from a local shop rather than having them delivered to your home? This cuts down the amount of courier driving. Most courier vans are powered by diesel which is far more polluting than either petrol or electric. Better still, shop locally on foot or by bike if you can.



### ELECTRIC CARS

If you have to have a car, can you ensure it is the least polluting option? Diesel cars are much more polluting than petrol cars,<sup>13</sup> although even electric cars still emit particulate matter (PM2.5) through tyre, brake and road wear.



## Join us in campaigning for cleaner air in Greater Manchester!

- 1 The Guardian: [Air pollution harm to unborn babies may be a global catastrophe](#)
- 2 Chief Medical Officer's Annual Report 2022: [Air Pollution](#)
- 3 The Guardian: [Air pollution particles found on foetal side of placentas](#)
- 4 Science Direct: [Maternal exposure to air pollution and the risk of low birth weight](#)
- 5 Global Action Plan: [Reducing air pollution levels by 20% could improve children's ability to learn](#)
- 6 LSE: [The Effect of Indoor Air Pollution on Cognitive Performance](#)
- 7 Imperial College London: [Impacts of air pollution across the life course](#)
- 8 Healthy Air Coalition data analysis: [Annual Mean NO2 concentrations in 2022](#)
- 9 NHS Greater Manchester: [Presentation on Children and Young People's Asthma Programme](#)
- 10 Client Earth: [UK Air Pollution - how clean is the air you breathe?](#)
- 11 Gov.UK: [Major emission sources of PM2.5 in the UK](#)
- 12 European Environmental Bureau: [Where there's fire there's smoke](#)
- 13 Mums for Lungs: [Ditch Diesel campaign](#)



@MUMSFORLUNGS

E: [MANCHESTER@MUMSFORLUNGS.ORG](mailto:MANCHESTER@MUMSFORLUNGS.ORG)

W: [MUMSFORLUNGS.ORG](http://MUMSFORLUNGS.ORG)

