



Westminster Commission for Road Air Quality

Improving the quality of the air we breathe using evidence-based research to shape policy and develop legislation.

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Barry Sheerman, MP for Huddersfield and chair of the Westminster Commission for Road Air Quality.

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"We are bound by a deep-rooted belief that it is every citizen's inalienable right to breathe clean air."

It has only been a few short months since the launch of the Westminster Commission for Road Air Quality, and already we have seen our Commission develop and grow at quite a remarkable pace.

It was frustration at the lack of progress in the fight to clean up the air we breathe that brought together a small group of MPs and experts from academia and industry to deliver fast improvements in air quality across our nation. Poor air quality is an existential threat to public health. We believe that action must be taken urgently and decisively by the Government, private industry, and citizens to protect future generations from poor air quality.

While we fully support the work of parliamentary groups focused on clean air, we were determined to create an organisation that would bring together networks of knowledge and expertise to best advantage wherever we found them. To ensure that our recommendations are based on high-quality research and sound evidence, we have created six working parties - Air Health, Research, Education, Energy, Fuel and Vehicles, Planning, and Air Quality Monitoring. These working parties will be responsible for maintaining high standards as we campaign for effective action across Government, industry, and society.

Already, we have built up a healthy, varied, and expert membership. Each member brings a unique perspective on how we, as a Commission, should focus our efforts, and how, across the industry, we can improve the country's roadside air quality. With our working party objectives now agreed, we have in place what we need to begin working towards real change, campaigning for urgent action, and building our already large, expert-led network even further.

There is a real feeling of energy and excitement in all members of the Commission. Our activities are already gaining interest and attention amongst MPs, Government ministers, and critical players in fleets, supermarkets, and the logistics sector. We are bound by a deep-rooted belief that it is every citizen's inalienable right to breathe clean air and that all of us can play a vital part in reducing road air pollution, sooner rather than later.

Barry Sheerman

Member of Parliament for Huddersfield
 Chairman of the Westminster Commission for Road Air Quality.



WHY WCRAQ EXISTS

Air pollution is the single biggest killer globally and the most significant threat to our generation and the generations of the future.

It is thought that air pollution contributes to between 36,000 and 40,000 premature deaths a year in the UK, though recent studies suggest this figure may be as high as 68,000.

Road transport is responsible for more than one third of NO₂ and particulate air pollution in the UK, but a much more significant proportion in our cities, towns and highways.

Road pollution is most damaging as emitted close to people and can lead to serious and adverse impacts on our health, including the acceleration of the development of respiratory diseases, heart disease, and long-term nerve, brain, and organ damage. It has also been linked with increased risk of miscarriage, and stunted lung development in children. More recently, road air pollution has been associated with worse outcomes from Covid-19 infection.

BACKGROUND

The Westminster Commission for Road Air Quality is a Limited by Guarantee Social Enterprise chaired by Barry Sheerman MP. It was set up to research air pollution from road transport and explore solutions to reduce emissions and improve air quality in the UK while bringing this crucial issue to the attention of Parliament and the Government.

'The World Health Organisation estimates that air pollution kills seven million people around the world every year,' says Barry Sheerman, Chairman of the Commission. 'This number is shocking. More importantly, it is also preventable. By taking a deep look into one of the biggest sources of air pollution – road transport – this Commission will take an important step towards solving one of the biggest health and environmental issues of our time.'

"The World Health Organisation estimates that air pollution kills seven million people around the world every year."



GOVERNMENT ACTION

While the UK Government has announced a series of measures to reduce air pollution at a national and local level, there is still a significant gap in terms of linking research about air pollution's effects on human health and subsequent Government actions.

There must be a much broader and more ambitious approach to this existential problem. Additionally, local authorities have been tasked with a lot more than they can handle, given the economic and resource restrictions they are currently faced with.

'WCRAQ is bringing together the leading voices in the sector to investigate the main challenges and opportunities around improving transport-related air pollution in the UK,' says Commission Chair Barry Sheerman, MP. 'It is a crucial issue for the health of people and the environment, and it is only by bringing the greatest minds together that we will be able to solve it.'

WHAT THE COMMISSION HOPES TO ACHIEVE

The primary purpose of the Westminster Commission for Road Air Quality is to improve the air we breathe using evidence-based research to shape policy and improve legislation.

WCRAQ is built to hold the Government to account on the issue of roadside air pollution and highlight shortfalls in the Government's policies. The Commission works across Parliament to build a sense of real consensus on unity in its efforts to improve Britain's air quality.

The membership of the Commission consists of MPs and peers working alongside academics and industry experts, organised into six working parties, to promote air quality measures and legislation.

SIX WORKING PARTIES

WCRAQ comprises six working parties to discuss, debate, and agree on policy recommendations. These working parties provide quarterly reports for the All-Parliamentary Clean Air Group to help shape Government policies.

www.wcraq.com/working-parties

AIR QUALITY MONITORING

Chair: Ralph Wilce, Wijs Air.

Objectives:

- Introduce certification for short-form monitors.
- Expand air quality monitoring network across the UK.
- Introduce stricter MOT emission testing.

AIR HEALTH

Chair: Professor Sir Stephen Holgate, University Southampton

Objectives:

- Agree and communicate Commission narrative, reinforcing the links to adverse health across the life course.
- To add air quality to undergraduate and postgraduate curriculums for healthcare professionals.
- Create mechanisms for healthcare professionals to adopt and take ownership of air pollution as a significant public health issue, set an example and create leadership across the NHS workforce.

EDUCATION

Chair: Trewin Restorick, Hubbub

Objectives:

- Engaging with formal education – start early primary and preschools.
- Techniques to educate the wider audience.
- Educate policymakers.

ENERGY, FUELS AND VEHICLES

Chair: Jason Airey, CMS SupaTrak

Objectives:

- Optimise use of current fuel technologies.
- Investigate hydrogen as a long-term solution.
- Explore the reduction of non-exhaust pipe emissions.

RESEARCH

Chair: Associate Professor James Tate, University of Leeds

Objectives:

- Synthesise UK and International research to provide clear, compelling evidence to accelerate efforts to manage road traffic demand and the shift to cleaner and zero-emission vehicles.
- Plug knowledge gaps that hinder and slow the change to shift to a cleaner, more sustainable and healthy road transport system for all.
- Provide research support to the other working parties.

PLANNING

Chair: Dr Louise Brooke-Smith OBE, FRICS, MRTPI, Consilio Strategic Consultancy

Objectives:

- Review and summarise recent and relevant air quality research relating to land use and placemaking.
- Improve planning statute, guidance and regulation to reflect air quality research fully.
- ‘Home Buyers’ report to reference an air quality index.

GET INVOLVED

The Westminster Commission for Road Air Quality invites scientists, charities, air quality professionals, journalists, transport operations and consultancies and other qualified individuals to become part of this new initiative.

To join the Westminster Commission for Road Air Quality, please email Jason.pidgeon@visiecommunications.co.uk.

WCRAQ ACTIONS TO DATE

Parliamentary Questions

See the [list of questions](#) put to ministers.

Letter to the Chancellor of the Exchequer

asking for duty changes for HVO/Diesel to help accelerate the adoption of HVO in the UK, in turn, reducing emissions (CO₂, NO₂ and PMs).

Project funding in progress by members

- Primary School behaviour change pilot for Air Quality.
- Primary School and GP behaviour change pilot for Carbon Monoxide.
- Development of a Tyre Wear Standard.

WE HAVE TO ACT NOW!

Air pollution is the biggest killer of our generation. We have to take immediate steps to protect our future and the future of our children. The problem is immense. The only way we can combat this is to join up together and to convince the Government, the public and industries that change is required now. Not later. **Now.**

JOIN WCRAQ

- SMEs (up to 250 people) £1,000 per annum
- Corporate membership £5,000 per annum
- Registered Charities and NGOs FREE
- Academic membership £250 per annum
- Local authorities £500 per annum

Membership enquiries:

Jason Pidgeon
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Every application is reviewed individually. The Commission reserves the right to decline membership.



FLEET VISION
INTERNATIONAL

Fleet Vision International is the official journal of the Westminster Commission for Road Air Quality. The leading international magazine for frontline services and fleet management operations, Fleet Vision International is distributed four times a year to 8,300 fleet and transport managers in local authorities, operational managers, and fleet and workshop managers in the emergency services, construction, utilities, airports, transport, and commercial fleet sectors.

www.fleetvisionintl.com

BECOME A MEMBER

The Commission invites scientists, charities, air quality professionals, transport and planning professionals, consultancies and other qualified individuals to become part of this initiative.

Benefits of membership

- Learn to understand and influence air quality policy.
- Network and associate with industry leaders.
- Use the commission logo on your email signature.
- Invitations to attend Commission-related events in Westminster.
- Access to a maximum of two Working Parties depending on professional expertise.
- Access the research hub.

Benefits of corporate membership

- Gain an understand of policy, which will positively impact your business.
- The opportunity to work with the Commission and its working parties on scrutinising air quality policy.
- Extensive networking opportunities with leading professional across many fields.
- Access to relevant events and individuals involved across the air quality group.
- Coverage in Fleet Vision International magazine, the official journal of the Commission.
- Right to use of Affiliated Member logo on all communications.
- Access to as many working groups as required.

Specific additional benefits for corporate membership

- 10% discount on all advertising in our partner publication Fleet Vision International.
- Sponsorship and speaking opportunities at events.

MEMBERS

Addex

Arriva Digital

Biffa

Bucher Municipal

City of London

Corporation

CMS SupaTrak Ltd

CoGDEM – Council

of Gas Detection and

Environmental Monitoring

Commercial Air Filtration

Dennis Eagle

Electra Commercial

Vehicles

Element 4

EMSOL

Enviro Technology

Services

ePowerTrucks

Faun Zoeller

Fuel Experts Association

GPS Marine

Guy's and St. Thomas'

Charity

Imperial College

(Dr Ian Mudway)

NRG Fleet Services

Queen Mary University

of London (Professor

Jonathan Grigg)

Renault Trucks UK

RVS

Scarab

Siemens Mobility

Thomas Group

Turnkey

Ubico

Wijs-Air

Visit our website or follow WCRAQ on social media
www.wcraq.com





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