



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Environmental Improvement Plan and Air Quality Strategy

Air Quality and Industrial Emissions

Air Quality Introduction – rationale for action

- Poor air quality has harmful effects on human health, the economy and the environment.
- Air pollution is the biggest environmental risk to public health.
- Long-term exposure reduces life-expectancy, mainly due to increased risk of mortality from cardiovascular and respiratory causes such as lung cancer.
- Evidence of links with cognitive decline and low birth weight is building.
- It has a disproportionate impact on the elderly, infants, and those suffering from diseases like bronchitis, asthma and heart disease.

The PM_{2.5} targets

- Fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) is considered the air pollutant of most harm to human health.
- New targets were set under the Environment Act 2021 to reduce exposure to this pollutant.
- The new targets for 2040:
 - Annual mean concentration target (AMCT) of 10 µg m⁻³
 - Population exposure reduction target (PERT) of 35% compared to 2018
- The two targets work together to reduce concentrations where they are highest, providing equity, and reduce exposure across the country, maximising the health benefit.
- These new targets fit with our existing legal commitments to reduce emissions of five key pollutants, including PM_{2.5}.

Target delivery

- National government is responsible for meeting the targets, but local government, industry and individuals have a role to play
- There are numerous sources of PM_{2.5} and action will need to be taken across multiple sectors
- The Environmental Improvement Plan published Feb 2023 set interim targets to be met by 2028:
 - AMCT of 12 µg m⁻³
 - PERT of 22%
- The EIP also sets out the actions government plans to take to deliver these interim targets
- Further action will need to be taken to deliver the 2040 targets.
- Government and industry will need to work together to find the best approach to delivering the targets and improving public health

Strategic framework documents



Strategic framework documents



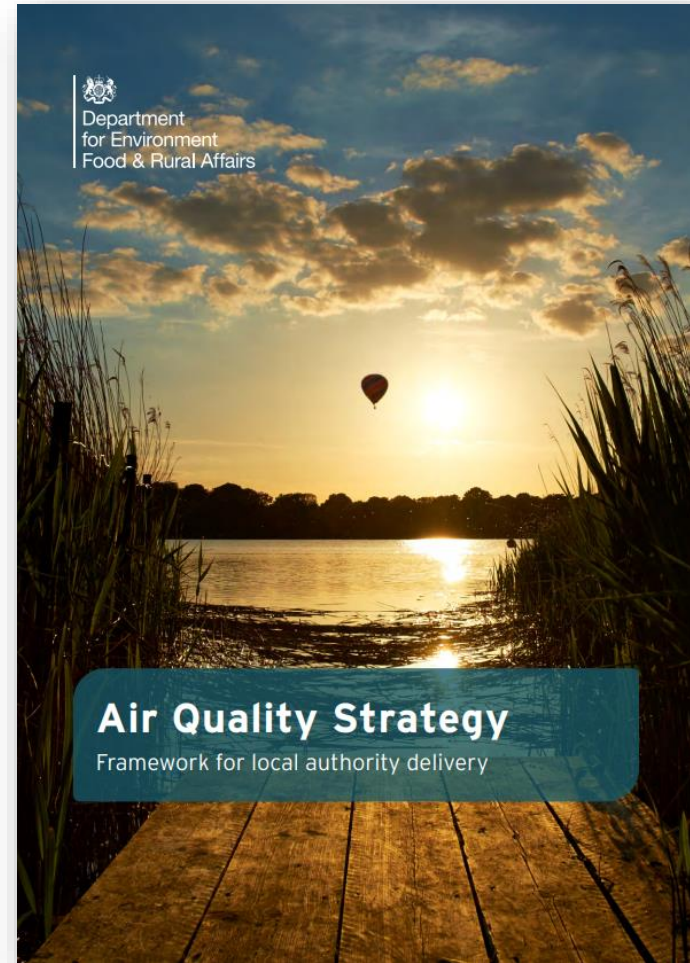
Environmental Improvement Plan – Clean Air

- Measures to be delivered over the next 5 years
 - Domestic burning – tighter stove and fuel standards, driving more replacements, comms campaign
 - Agriculture – environmental permitting for the dairy and intensive beef sectors, tighter regulation of urea fertilisers
 - Industry – extend a BAT-type approach to smaller industry
 - Transport – Transport Decarbonisation Plan, NO2 Programme
 - Local Authorities – encourage greater action and boost capability





















Strategic framework documents

Air Quality Strategy

- Local authority focus
- Environment Agency and National Highways also have to have regard
- Clarifying, explaining and raising awareness of recent changes to LA framework
- Increasing focus on enforcement
- Building capability
- Boosting local action on PM_{2.5} emissions
- To be reviewed in 5 years



Legal obligations on local and national government

Obligation	District	Unitary	County	Central Government
Local Air Quality Management duty				
Air Quality Partner duty				
NO2 concentrations				
PM2.5 concentrations				
PM2.5 Emission reductions				

Strategic framework documents



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Part IV of the Environment Act 1995 as amended by the
Environment Act 2021

Local Air Quality Management Policy Guidance (PG22)

August 2022



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Part IV of the Environment Act 1995 as amended by the
Environment Act 2021

Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002 Part III

Local Air Quality Management Technical Guidance (TG22)

August 2022



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