



**Environmental
Protection
Scotland**



Councils through their support behind Clean Air Day with 2 months to go

PLANS are gathering pace for Scotland's second Clean Air Day with all local authorities throwing their weight behind the event on Thursday June 21.

Environmental Protection Scotland (EPS), which is co-ordinating the event, on behalf of the Scottish Government, working with UK organisers Global Action Plan, has been working closely with the 32 councils in recent weeks.

Many are ready to download specialist toolkits which provide a plan for how to take part from the Scotland section of the Clean Air Day website. These are currently being updated and will be on the site shortly.

The enthusiasm shown by the local authorities and other organisations has inspired the EPS team even further to make a success of this year's event.

Scotland's biggest local authority, Glasgow, plans to stage a display of electric vehicles on Clean Air Day, where the public will be able to find out more about how affordable they can be, in the city's George Square, as it gears up to introduce the country's first Low Emission Zone in December 2018. Home Energy Scotland is involved in arranging vehicles and electric bicycles to encourage people to try them out in what promises to be a fun event while there's been interest from private companies in providing vehicles – such as electric taxis – too.

Edinburgh and Dundee are also pressing ahead with their own plans and Aberdeen has also expressed enthusiasm for Clean Air Day, which will see emphasis what individuals can do to improve air quality by taking part in active travel (such as cycling, walking to work or school or using public transport) and for motorists to consider switching to an electric vehicle to cut down on pollution from diesel or petrol engine vehicles.

Other councils are considering involving primary schools in organising monitoring of air pollution in the playground, advising motorists to switch off their car engines when stationary outside school gates and involving them in local campaigns to encourage people to walk to school or get out on their bicycles more often.

The toolkits which advise on how people can take action in these areas to improve air quality will be available for download shortly, using the links from this website to the Scotland section of cleanairday.org.uk

Other local authorities are already tapping into the potential to encourage people to ditch their cars by encouraging them to use public transport or consider an electric vehicle with local authority internal communication networks and social media a key tool.



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Some environmental health officers have expressed an interest in highlighting their work in adopting Transport Scotland's ECO stars initiative. This aims to encourage both private fleet operators and councils to use the most environmentally efficient fleets of vehicles.

Other local authorities also wish to tap into Clean Air Day to make the public more aware of their No Idling campaigns and emission testing to improve air quality.

EPS is also working closely with Health Protection Scotland (HPS) on ensuring Clean Air Day messaging get to staff in the country's 14 health boards, with NHS employees keen to get across how better quality helps improve public health. Clean Air Day pop-up banners are to be displayed in the main entrances to the main administrative NHS headquarters in Glasgow and Edinburgh to remind visitors the event is taking place.

Transport Scotland has kindly expressed an interest in allowing Clean Air Day messages to be conveyed using the Variable Message Signs (VMS) situated on major routes and utilising the Traffic Scotland website to promote activities linked to the core messages about leaving the car at home.

EPS has also been delighted with the support shown by the British Heart Foundation, which is organising a private members' Clean Air Day debate at Holyrood in the run up to June 21.

The British Lung Foundation has also pledged to get behind the event and EPS is looking forward to working with the charities to highlight the impact of poor air quality on public health.

There's one small thing we would ask people. It would be greatly appreciated if anyone taking part in Clean Air Day can tweet their activities using #cleanairday and #EPSScotland

To help make the day a success, colourful Clean Air Day t-shirts in various sizes, mugs and t-shirts are also available free from the EPS offices by emailing us at admin@ep-scotland.org.uk and providing your name, address, contact number and details of the event you are organising. Alternatively, you can call us on 0141 333 6655.

John Bynorth, EPS Policy and Communications Officer, said: "It's been a very exciting start to our plans to celebrate Clean Air Day in Scotland on Thursday, June 21 and having so many local authorities, charities and other participants showing enthusiasm has fired up our own desire to put on a great event even more.

"Every day people are contacting us wanting to get involved and we would urge anyone interested to go onto Environmental Protection Scotland's website and download the toolkits from the Scotland section of cleanairday.org.uk

"We can't wait for all the plans to come together successfully and see what people are doing in their areas to help raise awareness of air quality across Scotland.

"Good luck with your plans for Clean Air Day!"