



Environmental
Protection
Scotland



Newsletter

April 2018

Welcome

At 11.59pm on Hogmanay, as most people are preparing to celebrate the start of 2019, Scotland's first Low Emission Zone will come into force.

It will represent the culmination of almost two years of work by officials at Glasgow City Council and Transport Scotland – and a landmark event in the Scottish Government's Cleaner Air for Scotland (CAFS) strategy.

Last month, the latest plans were outlined to councillors, but there was controversy because only 20% of buses will be expected to comply with ambitious emissions standards next year.

To address these concerns and talk about the LEZ's implications for Glasgow's citizens, and the air they breathe, Duncan Booker, the council's Chief Resilience Officer, has been interviewed at length for the Newsletter.

We also have the latest information on our plans for Clean Air Day, on June 21 – with details of where local authorities can find the updated toolkits.

On Noise Action Week, there's news of Aberdeen City Council's enterprising social media campaign on noise too.

We also publish a full report of our members' responses to the Glasgow Airport flightpaths and statutory noise consultations. However, it is concerning to learn that aspects of the flightpaths changes consultation may need to be re-run due what can only be described as an oversight by the Department for Transport.

We wish everyone a very pleasant month of May.

Interview with Duncan Booker

“It's a balanced judgement. We don't want to damage the city centre economy.” Glasgow's Chief Resilience Officer Duncan Booker responds to criticism of the LEZ

When Duncan Booker sat down at a committee to address councillors about his detailed plans for Glasgow's Low Emission Zone last month, the city's Chief Resilience Officer did so against a backdrop of negative headlines about Scotland's flagship scheme to cut air pollution levels.

Mr Booker and his team had spent months preparing a case to put before the Environment, Sustainability and Carbon Reduction Policy Committee on March 20, that will see 20% of buses using the city centre comply with the latest emissions standards in the first year alone.

But Friends of the Earth said they did not go far enough, branding the plans a 'No Ambition Zone' and opposition politicians on the council produced an amendment calling for road charging for cars in addition to the LEZ.

Mr Booker and his colleague Vincent McNally, who also spoke about the LEZ plans, have now submitted their request to Transport Commissioner Joan Aitken, for a Traffic Regulation Condition that will enable Scotland's first LEZ to begin at 11.59pm on December 31.



It will be a landmark moment in the Scottish Government's Cleaner Air for Scotland (CAFS) drive to improve air quality and a policy promised by the SNP City Government in its manifesto for the local elections in May 2017. Read the full interview [here](#)

Clean Air Day 2018

With just 54 days to go until Clean Air Day on June 21, Environmental Protection Scotland wishes to make supporters aware this year's toolkits are available on the website.

To register to take part in CAD, all you have to do is follow the simple steps of completing a form, giving your details and they will be available from www.cleanairday.org.uk/clean-air-scotland

Scotland is gearing up for the event. Glasgow City Council has secured George Square on Clean Air Day for an event that will see members of the public allowed to test ride electric bicycles around a special course and there will be other festivities, a display of electric vehicles – and even a hybrid 'Hackney Cab.'

City of Edinburgh has ambitious plans for an event too – with more details to be released shortly.

Aberdeen and Dundee are also planning major events to entice the public to find out more about CAD. Highland Council's Keith Masson and the rest of the Carbon Clever team are also working on clean air initiatives. We are grateful to other supporters such as Cycling Scotland and Sustrans Scotland and thank the Scottish Government, SEPA, Transport Scotland and NHS Scotland/Health Protection Scotland for their continued support.

EPS Policy and Communications Officer John Bynorth is to speak about Clean Air Day and air quality in Scotland, then take part in a Q&A, at Greenfleet Scotland's Motor Trade Show at the Royal Highland Showground in Edinburgh on May 3. Details of the event can be found by visiting www.royalhighlandcentre.co.uk/events/greenfleet-scotland/

Luke Wynne, Head of Youth and Schools at CAD's UK organisers GAP, proudly wore a Clean Air Day t-shirt (complete with EPS and Scottish Government logos) before competing in the heat of the London Marathon on Sunday. He passed the finish line with a time of 3 hrs 25 mins. Well done, Luke!



Press Room

EPS SWEEPS UP ON WEBSITE

The report on the EPS website about a new campaign for chimney sweeps to offer practical advice to householders about how to use wood burning stoves was picked up by Air Quality News last week.

EPS was quoted in the story, which by last Friday was the third item on the Air Quality News website – behind only stories about Michael Gove and 'Diesel-gate.'

The Air Quality News report can be found at www.airqualitynews.com/2018/04/19/chimney-sweeps-launch-burnright-air-quality-campaign/

Campbell Gemmell, a former SEPA Strategy Director, and Daniel Jones, policy and public affairs officer at the British Heart Foundation Scotland, have joined the Cleaner Air for Scotland General Governance group

The full news release can be found at www.beta.gov.scot/news/cleaner-air-for-scotland/

A video of the Scottish Parliament debate on the findings of the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee's report into air quality, is at www.scottishparliament.tv/meeting/debate-air-quality-in-scotland-inquiry-april-17-2018

Management guidance on local air quality policy has also been published by the Scottish Government.

It can be found at <http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2016/03/9717/1>

The official air quality website for Wales, developed by Ricardo, went live this week, ahead of the launch of the country's clean air plan.

It can be found at www.airquality.gov.wales

Noise Action Week - 21-26 May 2018



HERIOT-WATT UNIVERSITY LAUNCHES NOISE MAPPING EXERCISE IN THREE CITIES

Academics at Heriot-Watt University have launched a project in Edinburgh and two other UK cities aimed at mitigating the impact negative environmental noise has on the health and wellbeing of local residents and visitors.

Dr Sarah Payne and her team are also trying to identify and prepare positive soundscapes, which could be built into future town planning.

People living and regularly visiting the Scottish capital, Brighton and Hove, and Sheffield are being recruited for Heriot-Watt's Designing and Engineering Soundscapes To enable Restorative Environments for Sustainable Societies (DeStress) project team for the first stage of their research.

Dr Payne, wants residents to go online and identify the quietest and calmest parts of their cities. This will establish whether the councils and public agree over which areas are quiet or calm, and determine what is the best criteria to identify those areas.

The initiative was launched in the run up to Noise Action Week, from May 21-26.

The three-city survey is the first step towards the ultimate goal of the 16-month DeStress project: the creation of a visual soundscape simulator (VSS) that will let planners, architects and policy makers 'hear' the sounds that result from a particular built environment, and see the typical health outcomes those sounds have on people in those areas.

Dr Sarah Payne, assistant professor of health in the built environment in the university's Urban Institute, said, "We want the public to help us identify the quiet and calm spots of Brighton and Hove, Edinburgh, and Sheffield.

"At the moment, the public has little to no involvement in identifying quiet areas in their cities, and the methods used by councils are somewhat limited as they largely rely on physical measures of sound levels, decibels.

"How we experience soundscapes, which are the sounds heard within an environment, depends on many more factors than just sound levels, such as the type of sound, what we think about the object or person making the sound, and what we are doing in the place.

"We want to empower more people to identify and safeguard the quiet areas in their cities and increase awareness of the implications of the layout and surrounding building surfaces on soundscapes. This is increasingly important as the public can get involved with Local Community Planning Partnerships and help shape how their neighbourhoods and city centre 'sound', so that it supports their health and wellbeing." Further details can be found at www.destress.hw.ac.uk

The questionnaire and mapping of quiet, calm and tranquil places can be found here

<https://app.maptionnaire.com/en/3813>

Noise Action Week operates on a tight budget and has support from sponsors such as the Institute of Acoustics, Bruel and Jkaer, Cirrus Research Lrd and the Somerset and Wiltshire Environmental Protection Group.

For more information log onto www.noiseactionweek.org.uk or follow it @noiseactionweek on Twitter.

Glasgow Airport flightpaths and draft noise consultations

Glasgow Airport asked to re-think plans after 'significant' noise impact on southern Bearsden properties

East Dunbartonshire Council has urged Glasgow Airport to re-think its proposals to route more aircraft over southern areas of Bearsden in its response to the flightpaths consultation.

Land planning policy and environmental health officials are concerned about changes outlined in the airport's 'Modernising Our Flightpaths' blueprint which they say will result in a 'significant' increase in noise locally over residential properties from planes shortly after take-off.

The airport's plans were dealt another blow when it emerged the consultation may have to be partly re-run after the Civil Aviation Authority clarified that a new 'airspace change process' would be required to be followed for any consultation after January 4.

Glasgow's started after this date and this important development was made public by the CAA little more than a week before the wide-ranging three-month long consultation ended on April 13.

Feedback for the consultation was sought from local authorities, communities and other interested parties to the biggest change in decades to the flightpaths which the airport says are required to make airspace infrastructure 'fit for the 21st century.' It ran in tandem with the airport's separate, statutory five-year Noise Action Plan consultation. Full report can be read [here](#)



EVENTS

Just a reminder that our Survey Monkey is still active and we would like members to let us know what sort of events they would like us to run in 2018. We would be grateful if you could take a few minutes to provide some feedback as to what would work well for you, and what you would like to see from the events you attend. To complete the survey, please go to <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/XBTWSLL>

NEXT MONTH – INTERVIEW WITH THE EFCA PRESIDENT

We are delighted to interview Dr Andrzej Jagusiewicz, President of the European Federation of Clean Air and Environmental Protection Association. Dr Jagusiewicz, 77, has been at the forefront of the work to improve air quality across Europe since the 1970s.

He gained a doctorate in environmental polluting forecasting from his home city university in Warsaw and is the Chief Inspector of Environmental Protection in Poland. He has held key positions in Poland's Government, UN bodies and across other organisations and published a number of books, research papers and other publications on air quality and the environment. EPS members can email any questions they may have for Dr Jagusiewicz to john.bynorth@ep-scotland.org.uk by 9am on Tuesday May 8.



Next month's newsletter will also feature part two of the Duncan Booker interview, covering Glasgow's climate change plans, remedial action on land and the city's work with Pittsburgh as part of the Rockefeller Foundation's 100 Cities initiative. It will be published on Friday May 25. If members have any ideas for the newsletter please email admin@ep-scotland.org.uk

EPS is the continuation of an eminent line of charities going back to the days of the National Society for Clean Air and more recently Environmental Protection UK. Our objectives include the support and development of the work of Scotland's environmental regulators and scientists based on sound science, objectivity and best practice. We seek to work towards a cleaner, quieter, healthier sustainable Scotland.

WE HAVE MOVED

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If you do not wish to receive details of our forthcoming events, please reply to this email with the word STOP in the subject title.