



**Environmental
Protection
Scotland**



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THOUSANDS of people are expected to flock to George Square on Clean Air Day after the city's council launched plans for a major free event in the heart of Glasgow to raise public awareness of efforts to improve Scotland's air quality.

The local authority - which will become the first city north of the Border to introduce a Low Emission Zone later this year in a bid to cut down on air pollution - is getting behind Clean Air Day on Thursday June 21 with a packed series of events and activities in the main square.

Clean Air Day, a UK-wide event which is growing in popularity in Scotland, aims to encourage people to pledge at least one action by considering ditching their car on June 21 and waking, cycling or using public transport to go about their everyday lives to improve the quality of the air we breath.

Environmental Protection Scotland (EPS), which is coordinating the event north of the Border event on behalf of the Scottish Government's Cleaner Air for Scotland (CAFS) strategy, also wants motorists to consider electric or low emission vehicles as an alternative to polluting diesel and petrol models.

City officials have lined up the packed series of events in George Square for June 21 – the longest day of the year. A section of road outside the City Chambers in the square will be sealed off from cars so people can try out bicycles and electric bikes along a specially designed course.

There will be cycle training sessions, the chance to try out an electric bike and mechanics will hand to carry out free on the spot repairs and provide maintenance tips for riders who bring their bikes along on the day.

One of the star attractions will be a portable mini 'pump track' loaned to the square for the day by the organisers of the Glasgow 2018 European Championships so budding stunt riders can try out the jumps, stunts and tricks on their bikes or even scooters in safety!

People will also have the chance to make their own delicious smoothie by simply pedalling on a specially adapted exercise bike

There will be electric cars, vans and information on display along with information about motorists can car clubs, to cut down on the number of cars on our streets, and how to get involved in cycle rides and official routes in Glasgow during the event which runs from 10am to 2pm.

The event was launched by Councillor Anna Richardson, City Convener for Sustainability and Carbon Reduction, with the support of a group of Glasgow school children outside the City Chambers in the square on May 31.

A group of pupils from Hyndland Secondary School in Glasgow travelled to the square with teacher Kate Samuel to take part in a photoshoot with electric bikes, and later met Councillor Richardson. They then took part in a mini-experiment involving NO₂ diffusion tubes and a 'MicroAeth' Black Carbon air quality monitor. They saw the data downloaded onto a laptop under the supervision of Susannah Telfer, a senior technical expert at Ricardo Energy & Environment.

Councillor Richardson said: "Reducing emissions is a top priority for the city. Events like Clean Air Day can increase awareness of what is being done to improve the quality of the air we all breathe.



“Clean Air Day will showcase a huge range of exhibits and activities such as active travel, renewable energy, car clubs and electric vehicles that can all help to improve air quality.

“We have made big improvements in air quality in Glasgow but poor air remains a public health concern and a major social justice issue for the city.

She added: “The forthcoming Low Emission Zone will make significant reductions to air pollution in the city centre. Our LEZ will be the first in the country and will deliver cleaner air for the people of Glasgow.”

Events include special courses for youngsters to try out bicycles for the first time or for people considering an electric bike to try them out on a special course on the main street outside the City Chambers which has will be sealed off from road traffic for the event.

The mini-pump track will allow youngsters to bring their own scoot bikes, scooters and bicycles, and test their skills on the jumps, twists and turns.

Colin Hartley, Championships Director for Glasgow 2018 European Championships, said: “We’re looking forward to coming along to Clean Air Day on June 21 and we’re really delighted to be a part of such a positive initiative. We’ll be down in George Square with our mobile pump track and we encourage all of the young people participating to bring along their own scooters and bikes so they can have a go on this exciting piece of equipment.”

Aberdeen-based motoring adventurer Chris Ramsey and his wife Julie, who took part in the epic 10,000-mile long Mongol Rally last year in an electric Nissan Leaf will also be showing off the car in the square.

Chris, who founded Plug In Adventure in 2011 to promote the benefits of electric car ownership, and Julie are currently on a tour of five Scots cities with the Leaf.



He said: “We cannot wait to arrive in Glasgow and engage with the public.

“Cleaner air is essential for our health and well-being, and helps to protect our environment as a natural asset. Electric vehicles emit zero tailpipe emissions, and therefore can make a massive impact on tackling the dangerous levels of air pollution in our cities.”

Also present will be an electric luxury Tesla car, electric vehicles, including a Renault Zoe, a Renault Kangoo ZE electric van, a Nissan Leaf and an electric BMW i3 and the company’s hybrid i8.

The boom in car clubs is to be highlighted by Co-Wheels, which has 36 cars and around 1,400 members in Glasgow, and Enterprise Car Club.

Tony Archer, Scottish Manager of Co-Wheels, said: “We are delighted to be involved with the Clean Air Day event in Glasgow to showcase the convenience and simplicity of joining car clubs, which are growing in popularity in this city.”

Glasgow cabbies are sure to be interested in an electric ‘Hackney Cab’ that will also be parked up in the square . A spokesperson for the car’s manufacturers, the London EV Company said: “The taxi sector is leading the charge when it comes to reducing dangerous emissions from city centres through innovative electric vehicle technology.”

Officers from Cycling Scotland will be on hand to train youngsters to gain the confidence needed to cycle in safety along a special course in the sealed off street directly outside the City Chambers.

Katharine Brough, the charity’s Head of Behaviour Change, said: “Toddlers will have the chance to learn to cycle on balance bikes in George Square through the inspiring Play on Pedals programme. There will be a ‘Bikeability’ showcase in front of the City Chambers, demonstrating how older children are gaining skills and confidence to cycle on-road. These events will show the appetite for more people of all ages and backgrounds to enjoy cleaner air and a healthier environment.”





Scottish Cycling will also have a stand promoting its organised bike rides, and especially its popular women-only Breeze Rides which are encouraging thousands of riders to dust off their cycling gear and get cycling.

Eight electric bicycles are being provided by Home Energy Scotland for demo runs.

Robbie Dalrymple, the Operations Co-ordinator of Home Energy Scotland, an independent organisation which provides impartial free advice to people on how to save energy, said: "Technology is making switching to an electric vehicle or a renewable source of energy more achievable and more affordable than ever. Our team will be on George Square helping people find out how they can make environmentally friendly energy choices at home and on the road."

People will also be able to pedal off calories while whipping up a delicious smoothie on an exercise bicycle adapted to make the delicious drinks thanks to the Rutherglen-based charity Healthy n' Happy Community Development Trust.

The trust's spokeswoman Bernie Strachan said the 'Healthy n'Happy Shake Machine' would provide a 'fun and innovative way' for people to get their five a day fruit and veg intake.

Two well-known Glasgow shops, Billy Bilsland Cycles, and Bike for Good (formerly Glasgow Bike Station), will both be offering on the spot repairs and advice, as well as showing off their latest bikes ranges, including electric models, and also advice on safe commuting for riders. Free security marking of bikes will be provided by police officers.

Neil Bilsland, who co-runs the Bilsland Cycles founded by his father Billy in 1980, said: "We are keen to support anything that encourages more



people to cycle in the city centre – with the cleaner air benefits and others such as better physical and mental health.”

Bike for Good’s Richards Andrews added: “Travelling by bike is a logical, low carbon intensive mode of transport and a good alternative to driving in a city, with not only each cyclist benefiting from the physical and mental exertion of cycling – but the whole city, by having less vehicles emitting pollution on the streets.”

Meanwhile, cycle charity Sustrans will be out in George Square promoting the city’s South City Way route and the Woodside Mini Holland project, which aims to deliver a safer cycling community in the city’s Woodside area.

Elsewhere, visitors to the square will be able to wear virtual reality goggles to find out what it will be like to walk in Queen Station railway station once the redevelopment work is complete, in the Balfour Beatty/Network Rail tent.

Tommy McPake, Network Rail Programme Manager for the Queen Street project said: “Being part of Clean Air Day is a great opportunity for us to share how we’re transforming Glasgow Queen Street station - extending platforms to introduce longer, greener, electric trains with more seats and building a bigger and brighter new concourse.

“As well as creating a new landmark for the city by 2020, the redevelopment, together with the completed electrification of the main Edinburgh-Glasgow line, is part of our wider plan to build the best railway Scotland has ever had with modern, accessible station facilities and improved infrastructure to enable more electric trains to run on the network.”





Air quality teams from Ricardo Energy & Environment and Air Monitors will be showing visitors to their tent how the hi-tec equipment used to measure pollution levels in towns and cities works with prizes also on offer.

A spokesperson for Ricardo said: “Ricardo Energy & Environment are excited to be involved with the Clean Air Day event on 21 June in Glasgow. It is a great opportunity to raise people’s awareness of what air pollution is and what can be and is currently being done to tackle the issue in Scotland.”

Jim Mills, Managing Director of Air Monitors, added: “As one of the UK’s leading air quality monitoring technology companies, we are happy to be supporting EPS during Clean Air Day in Scotland. We will be providing some mobile monitoring instruments to help in the understanding of how gaseous and particulate pollutants vary in and around the city and will be donating some neat, “state of the art” indoor air quality monitors as prizes for some of the competitions that form part of the day’s activities.”

John Bynorth, Policy and Communications Officer for Environmental Protection Scotland (EPS) said: “Clean Air Day aims to encourage people to take at least one action to help improve air quality, whether that’s walking the children to school rather than taking the car, or walking to work, using public transport or finding out more information about an electric or low emission car – or joining a city car club.

“George Square is a perfect location for this event in the heart of Glasgow as it will allow office workers, families, shoppers and the thousands of other people who will be passing by to find out more about what they can do to improve air quality.



“We would encourage everyone to come down and have a look at the electric cars, try their hand on an electric bike or get pedalling and make their own delicious smoothie on June 21.”

Meanwhile, Councillor Richardson will be among the keynote speakers at a free mini health conference on Clean Air Day, at which efforts to tackle air pollution will be discussed, in the City Chambers Banqueting Hall from 10.30am-1pm.

Notes to editors:

- Clean Air Day in Scotland is being co-ordinated by Environmental Protection Scotland (EPS), working with the UK organisers Global Action Plan (GAP)
- A number of other events are being organised across the country to mark Clean Air Day, including in Edinburgh, Inverness, Aberdeen, Dundee, Falkirk, Inverclyde, Fife, Clackmannanshire and North Lanarkshire.
- Journalist can visit the news section of the Clean Air Day website at www.cleanairday.org.uk/news for further details.
- In November 2015, The Scottish Government published the ‘Cleaner Air for Scotland (CAFS) – The Road to a Healthier Future’ is to provide a national strategy within which everyone in Scotland can all work together towards the common aim of achieving the best possible air quality for Scotland.
- The Scottish Government last year announced plans for Low Emission Zones to be in place in Scotland’s four main cities by 2020. Glasgow is to introduce Scotland’s first LEZ from 23.59 hours on December 31 2018, followed by Edinburgh in 2019 with Aberdeen and Dundee expected to have LEZ’s in place by the end of the following year.



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- Details and how to get tickets for the UK Health-Alliance mini-conference on air pollution can be found here http://bit.ly/CleanAirDay_Glasgow.
- Picture desks: Please feel free to use the hi-res Clean Air Day logo and free head pic of adventurer Chris Ramsey (both attached) in any media articles about this event. If you require further logos or free images, I would be happy to help. Please contact me on the numbers below.

Contact:

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About Clean Air Day – 21 June

Air pollution is real and harms the health of millions. But there are lots of simple things we can do to improve air quality and look after our own and other people's health.

Clean Air Day is a chance to find out more about air pollution, share information with friends and colleagues, and help make the air cleaner and healthier for everyone.

Clean Air Day is a collaboration of 100+ health institutions, charities, local government bodies and universities. It is co-ordinated by environmental change charity, Global Action Plan and Environmental Protection Scotland.





www.cleanairday.org.uk

#CleanAirDay

@EPScotland

About Environmental Protection Scotland

Environmental Protection Scotland (EPS) has roots stretching back to the 19th Century. We bring together individuals and organisations across the public, private and voluntary sectors to discuss and promote ideas, knowledge and solutions to achieve our aim of a cleaner, quieter, healthier and sustainable Scotland.

About Global Action Plan

Global Action Plan brings people together and inspires practical environmental action. We collect the impact of people's actions and share their stories, so more people are inspired to change. We deliver national and global programmes, through a network of local delivery teams in over 24 countries, from The United States and UK, to Hungary.

Global Action Plan works with many kinds of organisations, from leading FTSE100 multinational companies and the NHS, to local schools and community bodies.

We see people as part of the solution, not part of the problem, when it comes to creating an environmentally sustainable world.





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