

# CLEAN AIR DAY 2021 BUSINESS CHALLENGE

## CLEAN AIR DAY: CAN YOU BE A CLEAN AIR BUSINESS?

The theme for Clean Air Day 2021 is 'protecting our children's health from air pollution'. Be part of the solution to air pollution and safeguarding your community's health and wellbeing. Join the [Clean Air Day Business Challenge](#), organised as part of [Cross River Partnership's Healthy Streets Everyday](#) Programme and learn how to take simple actions to improve air quality (AQ) for your community and business!

Here is our step-to-step guide for our Top 10 actions. Share your AQ adventure with us on social media using #HealthyStreetsEveryday, and check out our [Clean Air Photography Competition](#) running till [Thursday 12pm 17th June!](#) Just share a photo on Twitter or LinkedIn from one of the following themes along with a short description for your chance to win a £250 prize: clean air walking or cycling trip, enjoying urban nature, a picture of an electric vehicle in action or a picture of a cargo bike in action. Remember to tag Cross River Partnership (@CrossRiverPship) and #CleanAirDay in your post - Good Luck!

### 1. CONSOLIDATE YOUR DELIVERIES

Consolidating your business deliveries is a great way to reduce carbon emissions from your supply chain, as well as the number of vehicles on the road, therefore improving local and national air quality.

#### To consolidate your deliveries:

1. Assess how often you are getting your deliveries and from which suppliers.
2. See if you can combine orders and reduce suppliers to minimise your business deliveries.
3. Talk to your business neighbours to see if you can use the same suppliers and coordinate delivery days to reduce deliveries to your area.
4. [Get in touch](#) with the Cross River Partnership team for assistance in auditing your suppliers and deliveries.



### 2. EASE YOUR EMPLOYEES' CYCLE TO WORK PLANS

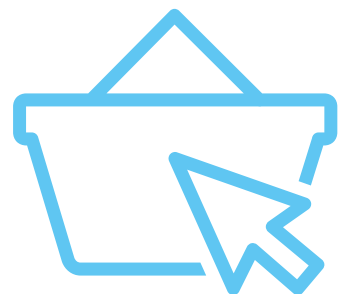


Helping your employees reduce their contribution to air pollution is a great way to collectively work towards cleaner air. You can make walking or cycling to work more accessible, affordable and comfortable for your employees by following these steps:

1. Offer a [cycle-to-work scheme](#) to help employees combat the costs of purchasing a bike and cycle gear.
2. Provide employees with resources for cycling such as free cycling lessons and safety courses from [Cycle Confident](#), journey planner tools like CRP's [Clean Air Route Finder](#), [Komoot](#), and [Dr Bike](#) maintenance services.
3. Ensure that you provide employees with adequate facilities for cycling including safe and secure storage, showers or changing facilities and locker space for storing cycle gear during work hours.

### 3. USE CLICK + COLLECT FOR ONE-OFF DELIVERIES

Personal deliveries to the workplace can contribute to more traffic and congestion in the local area. Encourage your employees to use [click + collect](#) services so that they can pick up their parcels from a convenient local hub. This is also a great service for small, sporadic or one-off deliveries. Click and collect options are available from many online and local retailers and can help businesses save money on shipping costs. It also helps avoid missed deliveries, so no one needs to plan around the postman!



## 4. ASSESS YOUR INDOOR AIR QUALITY (AQ)



Many jobs involve spending lots of hours indoors, so its important to monitor your indoor AQ and make changes where necessary. Poor indoor AQ can cause aggravated asthma attacks, headaches and nausea, shortness of breath, sinus infection, sneezing, coughing, sore eyes, nose and throat, skin irritations - and contribute to more serious illnesses.

To help keep AQ fresh and healthy in your office you can:

- Keep air vents clean and change filters frequently
- Ventilate the office with fans and open windows
- Keep offices surfaces clean, vacuum once or twice a week to reduce dust and microfibre levels
- Purchase [indoor plants](#) to help filter air naturally
- Have your air quality assessed professionally!

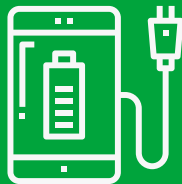
## 6. MAKE SURE YOUR COMPANY VEHICLES ARE ULTRA LOW EMISSION ZONE (ULEZ) COMPLIANT

The ULEZ will be expanding on 25 October 2021 to all of Greater London. The current ULEZ has helped reduce nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) emissions by 44% within its boundaries. **How can you get ready for the ULEZ expansion?**



1. Check if your vehicle(s) is [ULEZ compliant](#).
2. Consider switching to an electric vehicle, [check out the government grants](#) available here.

3. Discover EV charge points in your area through [Zap-Map](#) or [apply for a grant](#) for one on site.



## 5. REDUCE YOUR SUPPLY CHAIN EMISSIONS

Business deliveries are essential, but why not **choose a supplier or service provider that's committed to zero or low emission delivery methods** - think cargo bikes and electric vehicles! Check out the CRP [Clean Air Villages Directory](#) for ultra low emission suppliers near you! These vehicles will also be ULEZ compliant already, so you don't have to worry about incurring any extra charges when the expansion goes live.

If you are a retail, food & beverage or even office-based company, **check your stock before purchasing and try to minimise unnecessary orders**. Automatic stocking lends to more frequent deliveries, often whether or not a top-up is truly needed. Instead, let your stock get low before you re-order and you might find yourself ordering less stuff less often - saving your business money and emissions.

## 7. CONSOLIDATE YOUR WASTE

Check with your business neighbours to see if they are using the same waste provider as you are. You might be able to **consolidate waste pick-up days and times** and, perhaps, even share the waste collection site. Get extra bonus sustainability points for **expanding your recycling** beyond the typical paper, glass and aluminium. [First Mile](#)'s smart and sustainable recycling offers zero-to-landfill recycling, where un-recyclables are sent to generate green energy. Check out [Terracycle](#) who also offer free recycling programmes for many unique products.



## 8. HOST AN AQ AWARENESS EVENT



A large part of improving AQ and increasing engagement and buy-in from your employees and business partners is dependent on increased awareness and education. **Host an air quality awareness talk or event to help others learn about air quality issues and interventions!** This could be targeted at your staff, your customers, clients, business partners or even the wider community. It can cover everything from what causes poor air quality to how it can be prevented by individuals and the organisation alike. An event like this can be held online or in person and incorporate educational speakers or even be part of a promotional campaign for your business. The air is open to possibilities!

## 9. CHECK YOUR BUILDING'S ENERGY EFFICIENCY

On a local level, gas boilers and stoves contribute to air pollution, mainly indoors, but also outdoors at their waste outputs. Switching to electric appliances and a green energy provider, as well as following past practices for indoor air quality can help reduce a building's contribution to air pollution. Are you ready to switch?

While it may not be an obvious connection, building energy performance can actually affect air quality. Using appliances and lighting causes demand for electricity generation, which increases air pollution - if you aren't using a green energy provider. Check your provider to see if they use renewable energy sources and look into switching providers if not - it's easier and more affordable than ever now!



## 10. INCORPORATE AQ INTO YOUR BUSINESS PLAN

Want to make truly sustainable, long-term goals to improve air quality? **Incorporate air quality interventions, monitoring and educational programming into your business and corporate social responsibility plans.**

Think about new and engaging ways you can keep your staff interested in the topic - host an employee clean air challenge, or a cycle-to-work week. Talk to your business suppliers, partners and clients about your AQ goals and get them on board. Air pollution knows no boundaries and every business can be part of air quality solutions!

**HAVE YOU STARTED YOUR CLEAN AIR CHALLENGE? LET US KNOW ON [TWITTER](#) OR [LINKEDIN](#)!**



## ABOUT THE HEALTHY STREETS EVERYDAY PROGRAMME

Cross River Partnership's Healthy Streets Everyday Programme is a 3-year cross-sector project that is funded by the Mayor's Air Quality Fund. The project aims to empower boroughs, businesses and communities across London to deliver pedestrian-priority healthy streets, increase walking rates and reduce emissions and exposure to toxic air pollution.

The programme is also helping to supplement London's COVID response by creating streets that can accommodate and encourage increases in sustainable and active travel, and that are pleasant, safe places that all Londoners can safely enjoy.

For more information please visit CRP's Healthy Streets Everyday [webpage](#).

