

CLEAN AIR DAY 2021 SCHOOL CHALLENGE

The theme for Clean Air Day 2021 is 'protecting our children's health from air pollution'. Want your business to be part of air pollution solutions and safeguarding your community's health and wellbeing? Join the [Cross River Partnership Healthy Street's Everyday](#). Clean Air Day School Challenge and learn how to take simple actions to improve air quality (AQ) for your community and school!

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. CAMPAIGN FOR A SCHOOL STREET

A 'School street' is a road directly outside a school that has temporary traffic restrictions on motorised vehicles during school drop-off and pick-up times. Approximately half of London's emissions are a result of road traffic, since April 2020, there have been **350 School Streets** implemented across the city where the collective aim has been to reduce children's exposure to pollutants.

The benefits of School Streets are:

- reductions in air pollution around schools by 23% in nitrogen dioxide levels alone
- improved road safety to facilitate active travel

School Streets greatly improve the safety and wellbeing of pupils, staff and teachers as well as the surrounding community. It aides children to develop positive behaviour change associated with their environment and mobility.

Find out where your nearest School Streets are by using CRP's Health Streets Everyday website. If your local school doesn't have one, contact your local council and see if a School Street programme is in place.



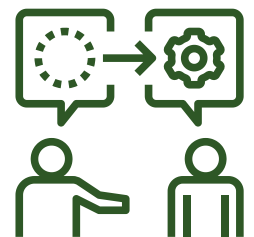
2. ENCOURAGE STAFF, STUDENTS AND PARENTS TO WALK OR CYCLE TO SCHOOL

Helping staff, students and parents to reduce their contribution and exposure to air pollution is a great way to collectively work towards cleaner air. **Walking, cycling or scooting to school instead of driving improves the local air quality of the environment surrounding the school as well as reducing students' exposure to air pollutants.** You can make walking or cycling to school more accessible, affordable and comfortable by following these steps:

1. Use the [cycle-to-work scheme](#) to help staff reduce the costs of purchasing a bike and cycle gear.
2. Provide students 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](#) and [Dr Bike](#) maintenance services.
3. Consider hosting a class, year or whole school cycling / walking challenge to boost engagement.
4. Provide sufficient cycle parking for staff and students.

3. HOST AN EDUCATIONAL AQ ASSEMBLY OR WORKSHOP AT YOUR SCHOOL

- Raise awareness with teachers, staff, students and respective families on poor air quality, its impact on children's health and the benefits of reducing air pollution on school performance and wellbeing. Clean Air Day resources, including an assembly pack, can be found [here](#).
- Organise [pledge ideas](#) for your school, or initiate action orientated workshops to increase participation and engagement.



4. ASSESS YOUR INDOOR AIR QUALITY (AQ)



Students and staff spend many hours indoors, it is therefore 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.

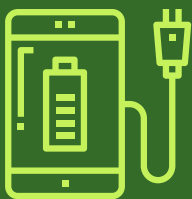
To improve AQ in your school you can:

- Keep air vents clean and change filters frequently
- Ventilate the classrooms with fans and open windows between peak traffic hours
- Keep surfaces clean, and 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

5. SWITCH TO ZERO EMISSIONS SUPPLIERS



Delivery and servicing trips account for a large portion of traffic related air pollution and contributes to congestion. These vehicles are often diesel powered which emit some of the most carcinogenic and harmful pollutants into our air. Switching suppliers that operate zero-emissions vehicles such as electric vans or cargo bikes help to reduce overall air pollution associated with deliveries as well as emissions on school premises.



Check CRP's Ultra Low Supplier Directory and find out which suppliers are near you!

6. INTRODUCE GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE SCHOOL



Greening of the school premises improves air quality, especially if established along the perimeter of the school, which acts as a barrier, separating school students and staff from direct emissions sources.

Green vegetation should be planted on key areas where pupils spend their time such as playgrounds, sports pitches, drop off areas and school entrances.

Active play is an important part of a child's growth yet only 10% of UK students have access to outdoor learning opportunities. **Enhanced greening initiatives can provide an improved immersive educational experience and has shown to improve learning, health and well-being**. It also encourages pupils' to participate in the upkeep of green spaces and promoting a positive role within their community.

7. CONSOLIDATE YOUR WASTE

Could you up your recycling game? Why not check with your neighbouring businesses or schools to see if they are using the same waste provider as you are. You could consolidate waste pick-up days and times and, perhaps, even share the waste collection site. Get extra sustainability bonus 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. CHECK YOUR SCHOOL'S ENERGY EFFICIENCY



Conserving energy can easily reduce the amount of energy (and money) spent insulating and ventilating classrooms and gyms. Installing double glazed windows and using motion detecting lights are some useful ways to conserve energy and reduce electricity usage. Additionally, an efficient ventilation system can improve energy efficiency whilst also benefitting indoor air quality as it helps to dilute the level of indoor airborne pollutants.

9. SWITCH TO A CLEAN ENERGY SUPPLIER



Have you thought about which provider your school uses for energy? Switching to a clean energy provider has several benefits over long-term. They usually involve less maintenance and greatly reduces both indoor and ambient air pollution. [The Big Clean Switch](#) let's you compare the UK's leading clean energy providers.

Check [Solar for Schools](#), an initiative that helps with costs and maintenance of solar energy at London schools.

10. REDUCE PROCUREMENT RELATED EMISSIONS

Multiple delivery trips increase your net emissions, especially if this is over a longer distance. Consider sourcing local, and where possible, sustainable products to reduce emissions from transport and delivery.

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:

- Assess how often you are getting your deliveries and from which suppliers.
- See if you can combine orders and reduce suppliers to minimise your deliveries. This also reduces the amount of time spent on sorting deliveries and waste generated at the school, saving staff time and money.
- Get in touch with the [Cross River Partnership](#) team for assistance in auditing your suppliers and deliveries and check out CRP's [DeliverBEST](#) tool for some recommendations.



HEALTHY STREETS EVERYDAY

[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](#).

