



Photo credit: Rebecca Lupton

The State of the Air in Greater Manchester

What are we doing and What is next?



Why Greater Manchester?

Recorded levels of Nitrogen Dioxide, Greater Manchester, 2023

2023 measurements

Annual mean diffusion tube measurements from across Greater Manchester.

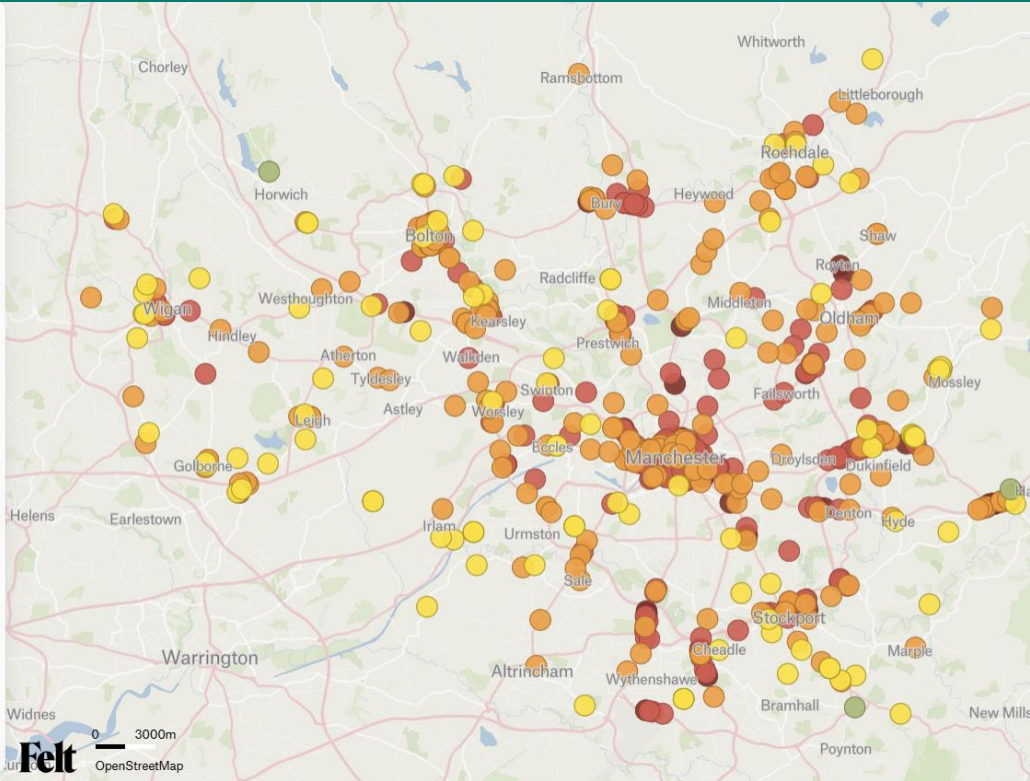
Further info on the health impacts of NO₂ and recommended levels available here:

<https://www.who.int/teams/environment-climate-change-and-health/air-quality-and-health/health-impacts/types-of-pollutants>

- <10 µg/m³ (WHO guideline)
- 10 to 20 µg/m³
- 20 to 30 µg/m³
- 30 to 40 µg/m³
- >40 µg/m³ (UK legal limit)

2022 measurements

Annual mean diffusion tube measurements from across Greater Manchester.





Children's Health in Greater Manchester

'Compared to the rest of England, on average children in Greater Manchester have a lower life expectancy and worse health outcomes'

Greater Manchester Children & Young People Health & Wellbeing Framework





Greater Manchester

- Building a network of those affected by or worried about air pollution, to call on the Mayor and local authorities for stronger action
- Campaigning for School Streets to be rolled out across Greater Manchester
- Lobbying for more awareness of and action on the dangers of wood burning.
- Campaigning for a phase-out of diesel cars by 2030, to protect the next generation from diesel's devastating health impacts.





Children's Health



Photo credit: Rebecca Lupton

- Between Jan 2022 and Jan 2023, 6482 children and young people (0-19 years) attended A&E due to asthma and 1346 were admitted to hospital in Greater Manchester.
- Emergency admissions for children and young people with asthma are currently 226.9 per 100,000 population in Manchester (nearly twice the national average of 131.5 per 100,000).



Key moments to raise awareness and push for change



Dear Bev Craig

Please commit to:

- Meeting interim WHO air pollution guideline limits by 2030
- Creating a Clean Air cabinet member
- Taking effective action to reduce wood burning
- Implementing School Streets at 25% of schools by 2029

Yours (sign)



Bev Craig
Leaders' Office
Manchester City Council
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M60 2LA

Photography by: Rebecca Lupton Photography



School Streets - Are we being left behind?

School Streets are roads closed to motor traffic at drop-off and pick-up times, in term-time only



Photo credit: Etta Collier

- Creates a safer environment for everyone near and outside a school, & encourages active travel, which improves health and learning outcomes for children.
- In 2019 there were just 85 School Streets in London. In early 2025, there are now over 700.
- Research shows that nitrogen dioxide levels can reduce by up to 23% where there is a School Street



What's holding back the scheme outside of London?





Lack of funding?

- Fund ANPR at the next School Street scheme
- Fund School Enforcement Officers ('Lollipop people')
- Fund green screens and playground planting at the most polluted primary schools
- Fund digital and real world awareness campaigns to encourage active travel and discourage idling

AIR POLLUTION IN GREATER MANCHESTER

OUR TOXIC AIR IS A DEADLY PROBLEM
Air pollution from road transport (especially diesel vehicles) and wood burning permanently damages children's health, contributes to thousands of early deaths each year and affects the day-to-day life of people across the country. Diseases that air pollution causes or is linked to include lung, brain and breast cancer, heart damage, strokes, diabetes, dementia, COPD and asthma!

HOW DOES THIS AFFECT CHILDREN?
Children are affected by air pollution before they are even born. Inhaled carbon particles have been found in mothers' placentas and maternal air pollution exposure results in premature and low birth-weight babies*. There are links between air pollution and a reduced ability to learn† and poorer academic performance‡. Children living in highly polluted areas are more likely to have reduced lung growth§.

HOW BAD IS THE AIR IN GREATER MANCHESTER?
In 2022, Manchester had the highest nitrogen dioxide concentrations of any local authority in the UK.‡ Greater Manchester has some of the highest asthma rates for children in the country. In 2020/21, the paediatric asthma hospital admission rate was almost twice the national average.†

"My 10 year old son has had a few admissions to hospital with his asthma. When we go away to the countryside his breathing gets dramatically better. It makes me feel sad to think that the air he breathes every day is negatively affecting his health".
MUM, MANCHESTER

LEVELS OF NITROGEN DIOXIDE IN GREATER MANCHESTER ARE OVER 5 TIMES THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION GUIDELINES¹⁵

MUMS FOR LUNGS
www.mumsforlungs.org.uk

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The infographic features a central illustration of human lungs with a green trachea. The lungs are filled with a dark, smoky substance, representing air pollution. The text is arranged around this central image, providing statistics and a personal testimonial. The MUMS FOR LUNGS logo is in the bottom right corner.

Lack of awareness of School Streets up North?

<https://youtu.be/qL16vgvV98E>

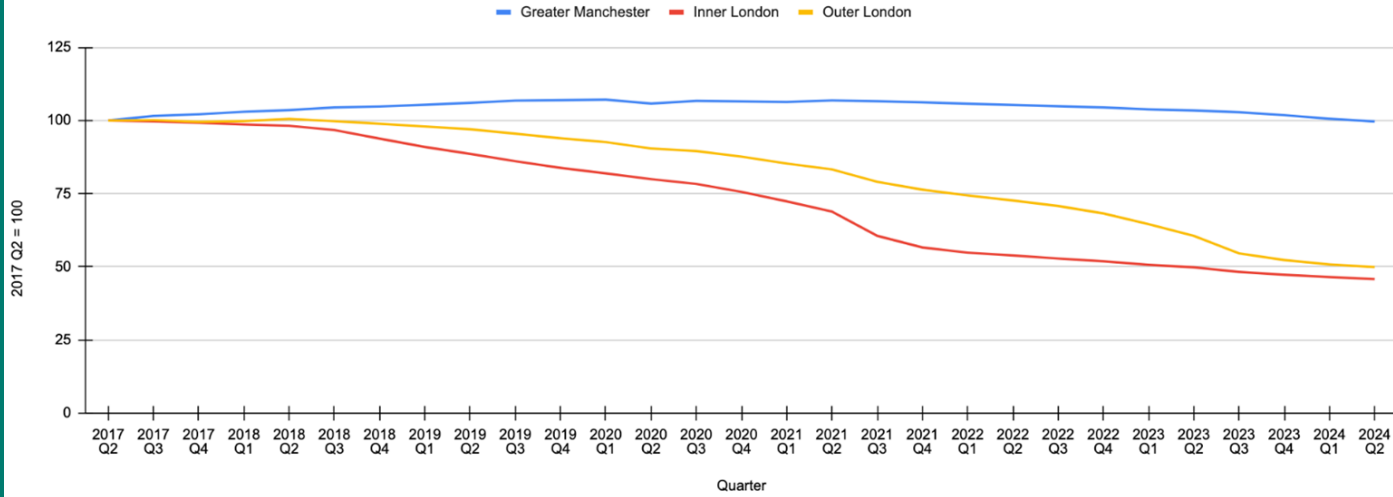




Ditch Diesel

Licensed Diesel Cars by Region

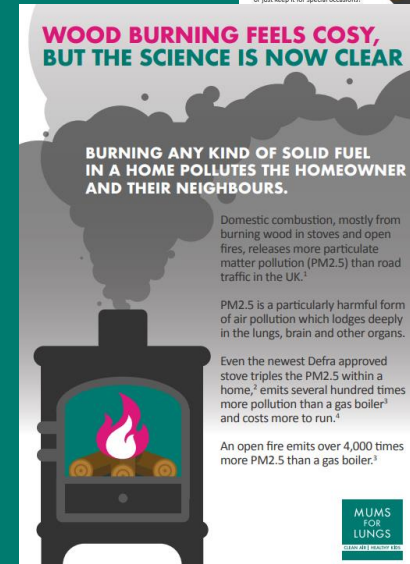
Licensed Diesel cars by region
2017 Q2-2024 Q2; excludes Stockport





Wood burning

- Wood burning very underestimated – hard to campaign on, lifestyle choice, cosy and primal.
- Our 2024 Freedom of Information requests to England councils revealed 5600+ complaints about wood burning, yet only 4 fines issued
- In GM - over 450 complaints in a year in smoke control areas and no fines.
- MCC - sent out 7 guidance letters in response to 213 complaints





What need to happen for things to change?

- Political will and leadership
- Funding
- Diesel phase out
- Public awareness
- Messaging from healthcare professionals
- Business and the workplace





Join us! Our resources

Find our [flyers](#) on our website, along with our School Streets campaigning guide, posters, and template letters to schools, councils & media.

School Streets Facebook [group](#) (called Mums for Lungs School Streets).

To join our wood burning email group, email us at hello@mumsforlungs.org.

We offer one-to-one chats and school assemblies on School Streets – email us!





Please get in touch for support or advice at hello@mumsforlungs.org

www.mumsforlungs.org

Social media: @mumsforlungs