

## Charter for Cleaner Air

We all have a right to breathe clean air. However, across the UK illegal and harmful levels of air pollution are damaging people's health and their quality of life and cutting lives short. It affects all of us, from the time that we are in the womb and through to old age, though some are more vulnerable, including children and older people.

It doesn't have to be this way. Together we are asking you to put the health of our communities first. We call on the UK Government to:

- 1. Show national leadership in removing the most polluting vehicles from the most polluted parts of our towns and cities to protect people's health.** Road transport is a major source of illegal and harmful levels of air pollution. We need national leadership to support the development of Clean Air and Zero Emission Zones across the UK and provide help and support for people and businesses to move to cleaner forms of transport.
- 2. Provide greater investment in public transport, walking and cycling infrastructure to give people real alternatives.** We need cleaner and fewer vehicles on the road, which will not only help reduce air pollution but also tackle congestion and make our towns and cities healthier, safer and better places to live and work.
- 3. End the sale of all new petrol and diesel cars and vans earlier than 2040.** Bring forward plans to phase out the sale of new diesel and petrol cars from 2040 to 2030 and ensure that action is taken now, not in ten years' time, to make cleaner vehicles more affordable and accessible to people and businesses.
- 4. Revise the tax regime and provide fiscal incentives to help people and businesses adopt cleaner vehicles.** Address perverse policies to, instead, encourage the take up of cleaner vehicles, including electric bicycles. Targeted diesel scrappage and retrofit schemes, part-funded by the motor industry, could help people on low-incomes and small businesses access cleaner vehicles as well as, for example, pay for public transport season tickets and car club membership.
- 5. Accelerate the zero emission revolution by investing in charging infrastructure and the supporting power network.** The UK's power network must be ready to support the growing number of electrified vehicles on our roads. We also need investment in charging infrastructure that will support people and business in adopting these cleaner technologies.
- 6. Ensure fossil fuels do not generate the power used to fuel electrified vehicles.** The electric vehicle revolution must not lead to increased power generation from fossil fuels, which contribute to air pollution and climate change emissions.

**7. Tighten legal limits on air pollution to match safer WHO guideline levels.** Current legal limits are twice as high as World Health Organisation (WHO) guideline levels for particulate matter pollution. UK air quality law should reflect the latest scientific consensus to better protect people's health. The Government should start by adopting WHO guideline levels for particulate matter and commit to achieve these by 2030.

**8. Improve the national monitoring and modelling of air pollution to show the true extent of the problem.** The disparity of data collected locally and the data used to inform the UK's national plan is concerning. The current national system can often overlook known local pollution hotspots, which then do not receive targeted national support. All appropriate local authority data must be taken into account in national policy formulation.

**9. Adopt a new Clean Air Act, or equivalent fit for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century backed by an independent watchdog with teeth.** In the long-term, a new Clean Air Act, or equivalent is needed to tackle our modern pollution problem and safeguard our right to breathe clean air. We need post-Brexit governance arrangements for air quality, written into legislation, to create an independent watchdog that will be backed up by the courts.

**10. Launch a national public health campaign and alert system to highlight the dangers of air pollution.** Air pollution is an invisible public health problem. The public need to understand how dirty air affects their health and that of their families, as well as how they can be part of the solution. There also needs to be a comprehensive alert system for pollution episodes with clear advice to help people, schools, hospitals and care homes, for example, protect their health and those most vulnerable.