

Poor air quality is the largest environmental risk to public health in the UK, as long-term exposure to air pollution can cause chronic conditions such as cardiovascular and respiratory diseases as well as lung cancer, leading to reduced life expectancy. Organisations can play a vital role in the reduction of air pollution to protect employees by providing information, campaigns and key messages to support behaviour change. This could include promoting sustainable and active transport such as cycling or walking to work.

Every year, air pollution causes up to **36,000** deaths in the UK



Criteria:

1. Assess and demonstrate need
2. Raise awareness and provide information about air quality including support and resources available
3. Develop your organisational approach to air quality including support within policies/ processes
4. Develop an initiative/ programme of activity focussing on air quality and ensure the initiative/ activity is evaluated to demonstrate impact



Guidance:

- Demonstrate why this standard/ module has been chosen (using evidence where possible, this could include data or employee feedback/ voice/ engagement).
- Consider how your workplace could reduce air pollution, this could include reviewing the physical workplace environment, signing up to the 'businesses for clean air' initiative, creating an organisational clean air plan or an active travel plan etc.
- Consider reviewing policies and procedures to incorporate supportive approaches such as:
 - Making sustainable and active transport more accessible and attractive to employees
 - Flexible working/ staggered start and end times
 - Cycling storage facilities or changing facilities
 - Including air quality as part of risk assessments
 - Promoting eco-driver training/eco-driver co-ordination programmes
 - Improving green infrastructure
- There may be other actions that your organisation may be able to take such as checking boilers/ furnaces comply with air quality regulations or encouraging customers/ service users to choose and use the least polluting options to access products and services.
- Consider planning a programme of activity around air quality. This could include campaigns, events, toolbox talks, seminars, sharing videos, signposting to online resources.
- It is important to think about senior leadership and employee engagement to develop and implement your approach for this standard.



Local/National Resources:

Gov.UK air pollution [guidance](#) (including infographics)
Defra [website](#)
Global Action Plan Business [webpage](#) with campaigns, resources, action plan

British Lung Foundation [website](#)
Clean Air Day [Resources for workplaces](#)
PHE Health Matters air pollution [guidance](#)
Air Quality England [website](#)