

Air Quality Update

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National and Local Air Quality Management

Defra

Air Quality Update



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1. PM₁₀ and NO₂ Time Extensions
2. NO₂ Measures and LEZs
3. Local Air Quality Management
4. Natural Environment White Paper
5. National Ecosystems Assessment
6. Monitoring Review
7. Commission Review of Air Quality Directives

PM₁₀, NO₂ Time Extensions

PM₁₀

- Time extension given until June 2011
- Air Quality Plan for London updated to reflect short term measures
- Additional £5m funding to TfL to support extension of local measures

NO₂

- Consultation 9 June - 5 August
- About fifth of roads in major urban areas exceed the limit value
- Plans set out national, regional and local measures

Local Sustainable Transport Fund

- £500 million
- Reducing carbon promoting growth
- Air quality measures treated favourably

National Measures

- Reduced Pollution Certificate for HGV Euro VI from Jan 2012 for 5 years
- Support for ultra low emission vehicles through plugged in places and Electric vehicle grant

Considering measures to promote LEZs outside London

- Measures targeted on improving HGVs and Buses
- Aimed at zones where it helps to achieve compliance or significantly reduce compliance gap by 2015

Uncertainties

- What NO_x reductions can be achieved?
- What are enforcement and administration implications
- What is local appetite or interest

Research and workshop into feasibility of national framework

- Emission standards, technology and reductions available
- Administration and certification
- Market capacity and fitting
- Enforcement considerations
- Costs to Government local authorities and operators

Next steps

- Consider evidence from workshop and other investigations
- Identify any remaining evidence gaps
- Put forward options to ministers

Context

- current system good at diagnosis but less so on solutions
- On going challenge to improve air quality – esp. NO₂ but also PM_{2.5}

Policy aims

- align national and local priorities
- Provide clarity on what is expected of local authorities
- Maintain accountability for management of local air quality

Need right framework for

- LAs to deliver improvements and support progress to EU obligations
- Provide flexibility to respond to local circumstances

Focus on delivery

- ▶ Current reporting cycle heavy and prescriptive
 - ▷ Emphasis on diagnosis – might take several years before action plans implemented
 - ▷ Ensure screening and reporting is proportionate and less prescriptive
 - ▷ Allow more flexibility, combined reporting, joint action plans
 - ▷ Help to share best practice on what works
- ▶ Developing proposals now and expect to consult on these later this year some key points
 - ▷ Consolidate local authority and EU obligations
 - ▷ Responsibility for PM_{2.5} – a new objective?
 - ▷ Relationship between national and local assessment
 - ▷ Evaluating impacts of air quality measures

Natural Environment White Paper



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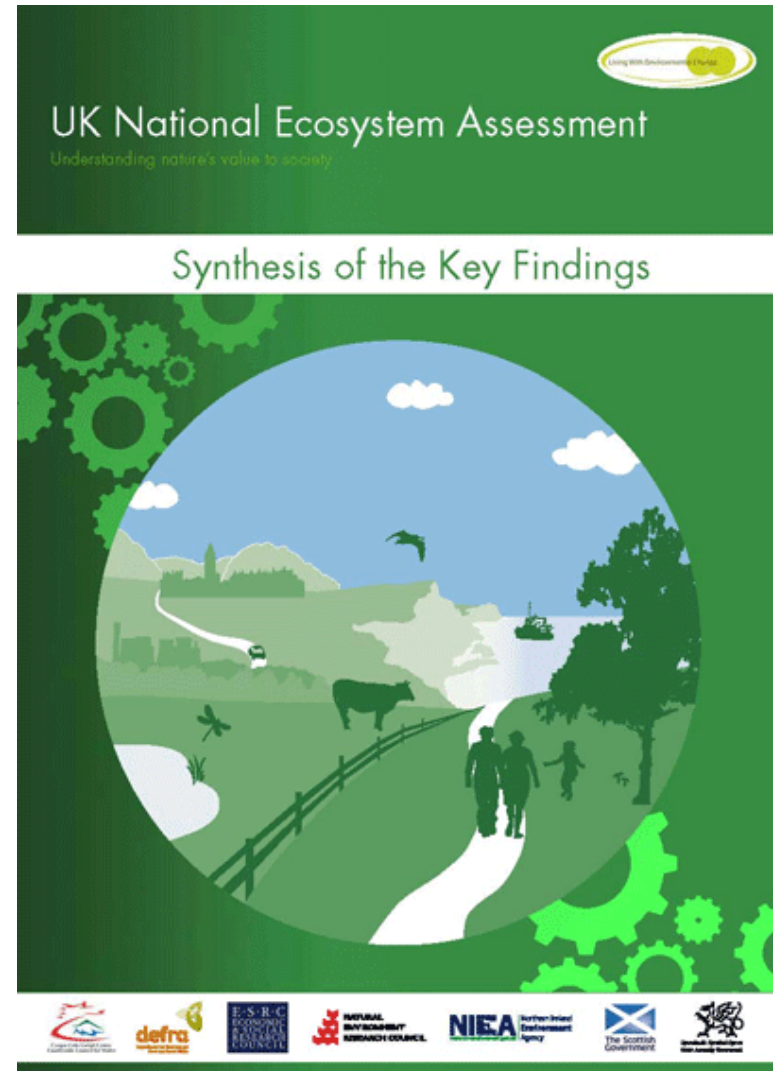
- ▶ Published 6 June
- ▶ Highlights need to secure value of nature and services it provides
- ▶ Commitments on air quality
 - ▷ Consult on NO₂ plans
 - ▷ Investigate potential of LEZs
 - ▷ Consult on changes to LAQM

HM Government

The Natural Choice:
securing the value
of nature



- ▶ Highlights need to better manage ecosystems and natural resources they provide
- ▶ Recommends we take account of full value of ecosystems services
- ▶ Defra funded research to provide methodology for applying this to air pollutants



- ▶ All Member States must undertake air quality assessment and report the findings to the European Commission on an annual basis.
- ▶ The Directives:
 - ▷ The Council Directive on Ambient Air Quality and Cleaner Air for Europe (2008/50/EC) : NO₂, PM₁₀, PM_{2.5}, SO₂, CO, Pb, O₃ and Benzene.
 - ▷ The 4th Daughter Directive (2004/107/EC): PAHs, Cd, As, Ni and Hg.
- ▶ The UK has statutory monitoring networks in place to meet the requirements of these Directives.
- ▶ The monitoring and assessment must be reviewed every 5 years with a review taking place this year, 2011 for the AQ Directive.

Why does Defra do AQ Monitoring?



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▶ **Legislative Drivers**

- ▶ To fulfill statutory air quality reporting requirements, particularly those developed within Europe. See 2008/50/EC and 2004/107/EC.

▶ **Public information**

- ▶ To provide the public with open, reliable and up-to-date information

▶ **Policy Development**

- ▶ To provide a sound scientific basis for the development of cost-effective control policies and solutions

▶ **Information and Research**

- ▶ To evaluate potential impacts on population health and welfare.
- ▶ To determine the impact of air pollution on ecosystems and our natural environment.

AQ Monitoring Review 2011

- ▶ Pollutants covered by the Ambient AQ Directive (AQD) – 2008/50/EC.
- ▶ Review will be conducted in accordance with methodology in Articles 5, 6 and 7 of the AQD.
- ▶ Step 1: For each zone, review 5 years' assessment data to determine how many monitoring stations are needed, taking into account supplementary modelling.
- ▶ Step 2: Review existing network to check for compliance and identify any changes needed. Any new sites required to be implemented in accordance with Annex III of AQD, macro and microscale siting criteria.
- ▶ Step 3: Aim to implement changes end of 2011/12 to establish monitoring for next 5 years.



The EU review of air quality legislation launched in 2011 and will conclude in 2013



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- ▶ Commission working paper now published;
- ▶ Aims to update existing policies and directives (ambient air quality and emission ceilings);
- ▶ Commission to launch consultation in 2011;
- ▶ Commission stakeholder meeting in June;
- ▶ http://ec.europa.eu/environment/air/index_en.htm

European Commission review of air quality legislation

- European Commission aims to update its 2005 Thematic Strategy which set health and environmental objectives for 2020;
- European Commission conducting public consultation later this year;
- Clean air strategy package to be adopted by 2013, including proposals to revise the Air Quality and Emission Ceilings Directives;
- BUT many Member States still face challenges to meet existing air quality and emission legislation;

The UK welcomes the review:

- It should deliver objectives on public health and the environment which are also consistent with those on economic development;
- It must be evidence based and result in targets which enables resources to be focused on actions to reduce air pollution and meet other environmental objectives such as carbon reduction in a coherent way;
- Principles of better regulation must be applied.

- ▶ PM10 extension until June 2011 Government has allocated additional £5m for measures in London and has updated its plan for London
- ▶ NO2 Consultation under way further information available at
 - ▷ <http://www.defra.gov.uk/consult/2011/06/09/air-quality/>
 - ▷ Or <http://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/library/no2ten/>
- ▶ Consultation ends 5 August and must submit application by September 2011
- ▶ Significant number of measures already planned especially around carbon reduction, investigating further action including low emission zones
- ▶ Local Air Quality Management Review will align national and local action and move focus onto communications and delivery
- ▶ EU review of air quality legislation launched