

# British Safety Council Air Pollution Manifesto

## Our 7-Point Plan for Metro Mayor Electoral Candidates

Air pollution is the UK's largest environmental risk to health with 40,000 early deaths a year, including deadly impacts on outdoor workers, and a £20 billion cost to the UK economy. Air pollution is an invisible, silent killer that can no longer be ignored. It is preventable.



Our **goal** is that no illnesses or deaths of outdoor workers should be directly caused by them working in poor air pollution areas of the UK. Breathing should not be deadly.

It **involves** enshrining into UK law tighter limits for air pollutants based on World Health Organisation (WHO) recommendations and committing to achieving these to protect outdoor workers' health.

It **means** giving local authorities extra resources to tackle all the most dangerous sources of ambient air pollution (Particulate Matter 2.5 and 10, Nitrogen Dioxide and Ozone). In this way, the UK can once again be the world leader in tackling air pollution.

It **demand**s investing in air pollution monitoring infrastructure across the UK, particularly in cities as the main source of ambient air pollution, as well as investment in cleaner energy, reducing road transport emissions and investing in active travel.

The British Safety Council is calling on all candidates standing for election as a Metro Mayor to commit to our Time to Breathe 7-Point Plan:

1. Appointing a Clean Air Czar with executive powers to ensure that levels of ambient air pollution are reduced to below legal/ WHO guideline limits in the shortest time possible.
2. Running a publicity campaign to encourage drivers to stop engine idling.
3. Permitting electric cars only in cities from 2030 at the latest
4. Retrofitting diesel buses to be powered by electricity to improve urban air quality.
5. Implementing a Clean Air Zone or an Ultra-Low Emissions Zone covering the metro area.
6. Funding air pollution monitoring infrastructure to the same accuracy as London for emissions data.
7. Investing in cleaner energy, cycling and walking.

Elected Metro Mayors currently have a combined 30-year investment fund of £7.45 billion. Now is the time to invest in clean air for outdoor workers. In their thousands, these include street cleaners, refuse workers, traffic police, cycle couriers, construction and maintenance workers, scaffolders, newspaper sellers, gardeners, teachers and security guards working on busy roads. As a group, they help us cross the road, guard our children, fill potholes, deliver our food and ensure we have clean water, electricity, gas or WiFi.

The British Safety Council is a charity and a trusted leader in health, safety and environmental management. We have been campaigning for the public benefit since being founded over 60 years ago. Our vision is that 'no one should be injured or made ill through their work'. We live this vision and make our experience count.

**Thank you for supporting the British Safety Council  
and ensuring clean air is our future.**