

Early Careers Network newsletter



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IAQM Early Careers Network Newsletter: September 2025

Welcome to the September 2025 edition of the IAQM Early Careers Network (ECN) Newsletter, we hope you are feeling refreshed following the summer holidays! Keep reading for updates on the work of the ECN, as well as news from around the air quality sector.

Upcoming events

As a reminder, attending IAQM events like the ones below counts towards your [Continuous Professional Development \(CPD\)](#). We have prepared an [IAQM-branded business-case form \(.docx download link\)](#) to help support our ECN members in preparing a strong case to attend IAQM events, as CPD benefits both ECN members and their employers. You can find the document permanently linked on the [ECN page of the IAQM website](#), under the header 'Attending our events'.

Routes to Clean Air

20th & 21st October 2025

Woburn House, London



Institute of
Air Quality
Management

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Routes to Clean Air 2025

The IAQM's annual conference, [Routes to Clean Air](#), returns on Monday 20th – Tuesday 21st October at Woburn House, London. The event is the largest gathering of IAQM members each year and gives air quality practitioners and professionals a platform to share knowledge and explore topical subjects in air quality management. Spaces are filling up fast, so book your ticket soon!

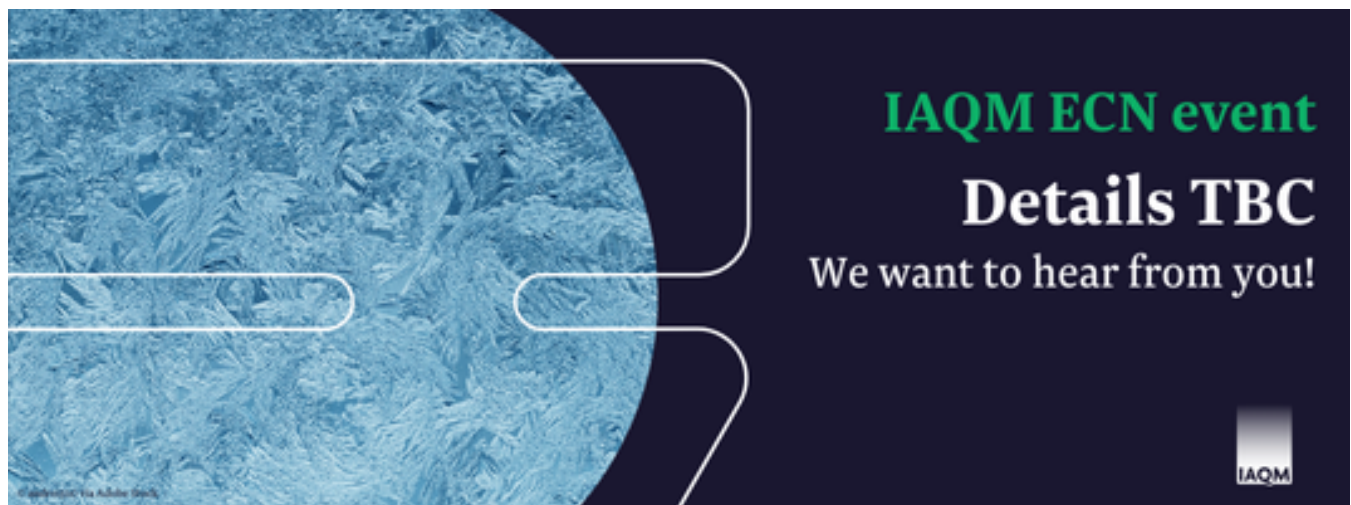
The session themes across the two days include: health impacts; indoor air quality; inequalities; novel pollutants; advocacy; innovation and national insights. The [agenda](#) can be found on the event page.

IAQM ECN Vice Chair Mark Nichols will be chairing the session on novel pollutants on day one, where we will be hearing from two members of the ECN:

- Owen Dudman (Assistant Consultant, AQC) who will be providing a talk on ultra-fine particles.
- Dr Rachel Whitty (Air Quality Consultant, WSP) who will be providing a talk on nitrosamine assessment methodology and implications for permitting. Rachel has shared her thoughts on presenting at Routes to Clean Air: “I am excited to present recent work on modelling amine emissions from carbon capture facilities, as part of the Early Career Network session at Routes to Clean Air. It's a great opportunity to contribute to the conversation around permitting and environmental impact assessments.”

Day 2 will also include a pre-conference ECN discussion hosted by Mark Nichols and is open to all ECN members.

[Secure your conference ticket](#)



ECN Christmas event 2025

Following the success of the ECN event 'The Air Necessities' in July, we are seeking to arrange an in-person Christmas event in a similar format, with a keynote speaker

alongside other presentations - including from ECN members. We are currently in the planning process, but we are aiming to gather presentations on international development, policy development and campaigning on the health impacts of air quality.

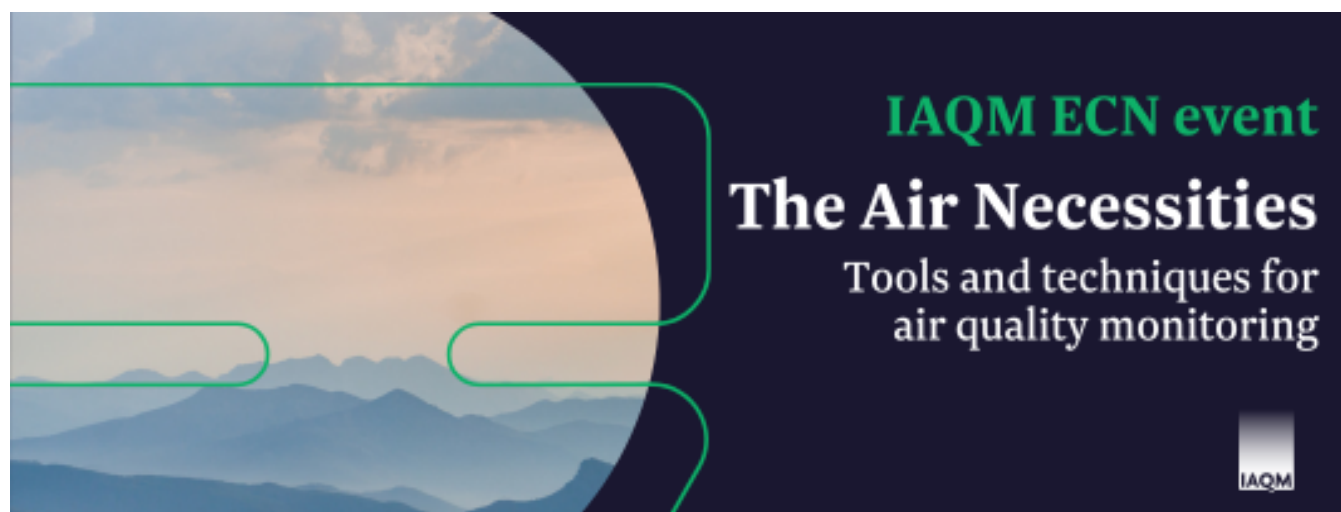
If you would be interested in presenting at the Christmas event (noting that the location is TBC), please get in touch with Amy at communities@the-ies.org.

From the feedback received at previous events, we are exploring a range of cities for this event to ensure we are making in-person events accessible to the wider ECN. Please express your opinion through this poll on the preferability and viability of your attendance at our next in-person event if it was hosted in either London, Birmingham, Manchester, or Leeds. You can place your votes & express any further opinions via the poll linked below.

The poll will remain open until 11.59pm Monday 6th October, so please make sure your voice is heard!

Share your preference

Previous events



The Air Necessities: tools and techniques for air quality monitoring

Our latest in-person ECN event: 'The Air Necessities: tools and techniques for air quality monitoring' was held on 2nd July in London with a successful turnout of around 30 attendees.

Attendees heard from speakers from the London Borough of Camden; UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology; Bureau Veritas Group; RSSB and AtkinsRéalis, covering a range of tools, techniques and case studies, and had the chance to find out more in engaging Q&As after each presentation and a well-attended networking session in the evening, which facilitated some interesting further discussions between attendees and speakers.



Attendee Harry Foster, Air Quality Consultant at Anderson Acoustics, shared:

"This was my first experience of an ECN event - will certainly be attending the next one too!"

We're always glad to receive feedback about our events, and hope to see even more of you at future ones.

Industry updates & resources

Low-Cost Sensors

The IAQM have also published a Position Statement outlining their position on the use of low-cost sensor systems for PM₁₀, in the vicinity of demolition and construction sites.

It is designed to sit alongside the use of the [IAQM guidance on Air Quality Monitoring in the Vicinity of Demolition and Construction Sites \(2018\)](#).

The Position Statement sets out the IAQM's views on the use of low-cost sensor systems for monitoring PM₁₀ around construction sites and provides recommendations for their use. It also sets out the challenges around their use and relevant standards and limitations.

[Read the IAQM Position Statement](#)

Low-Cost Air Quality Sensors

Defra have also produced an FAQ note on Low-Cost Sensor use for LAQM. This FAQ note provides guidance to local authorities on the suitability of using low-cost sensors in meeting LAQM requirements.

[Read the FAQ note](#)

Welsh Government – Promoting Awareness of Air Pollution Delivery Plan progress update

[The Welsh Government is preparing a delivery plan](#) to promote the awareness of air quality in Wales and how the government is meeting its objectives in its national air quality strategy, [Clean Air Plan for Wales: Healthy Air, Healthy Wales](#). The public consultation phase is open for comments until 28th October 2025.

[Access the Welsh Government consultation portal](#)

Defra – Consultation on modernising environmental permitting for industry

Defra has opened up consultation on improving environmental permitting for industry across multiple emissions sources which includes, but not limited to, small/medium combustion plant; back-up generators and data centres. It also includes a chapter on interactions with legislative requirements such as local planning, Local Air Quality Management and emission limit value guidance. The public consultation phase is open for comments until 21st October 2025.

[Access the Defra consultation portal](#)

Interesting reads

Alari et al (2025) – Quantifying the short-term mortality effects of wildfire smoke in Europe

[A study funded by the European Commission](#) found that global deaths attributed to respiratory and cardiovascular diseases caused by PM_{2.5} pollution from forest fires is underestimated by 93%. These findings are especially prevalent given the extent of wildfires across Southern Europe over summer this year.

Healthy Air Coalition - “Making Britain’s air cleaner, healthier and better to breathe: A blueprint for government action on clean air.”

The Healthy Air Coalition comprises of over 30 health, environmental, and transport organisations, which calls for a new Clean Air Act that treats clean air as a fundamental right in the UK. [The report](#) contains key recommendations including, but not limited to:

- Aligning UK air quality objectives with WHO interim target guideline values (PM_{2.5} annual mean limit value of 10 µg/m³ and NO₂ annual mean limit value of 20 µg/m³ by 2030)
- Setting sector specific actions targeting emissions from transport; domestic; heating; industry and agriculture;
- Implement legal mandates on regular progress review of attainment of air quality targets every four years;
- Committing to long-term funding for local authorities to enforce regulations and investment into air pollutant mitigation measures.

University of Chicago - Air Quality Life Index 2025 Report

The [annual update to the Air Quality Life Index](#) highlights the continuation of the air quality issue: PM_{2.5} continues to be the greatest external health threat globally in reducing life expectancy (1.9 years). The paper provides time-series graphs of average PM_{2.5} concentrations across major regions across the world to demonstrate that PM_{2.5} continues to be an issue in many non-European regions. It provides a summary on air quality monitoring density for the majority of countries across the world.

Department for Transport – HS2 Air Quality Annual Report 2024

The [annual status report for the air quality impacts on the construction of the HS2 Phase One route](#) includes:

- A summary of significant effects identified in the Environmental Statement;
- The status of compliance with NO₂ and PM air quality objectives from monitoring undertaken by HS2;
- The proposed measures to improve air quality and offset the impact of HS2, which include establishing construction vehicle emission standards and dust mitigation measures.

Department for Transport – HS2 Air Quality Annual Report 2024

All across the world, people came together to use alternative sustainable transport to cars. This was facilitated by local and regional authorities in activities such as:

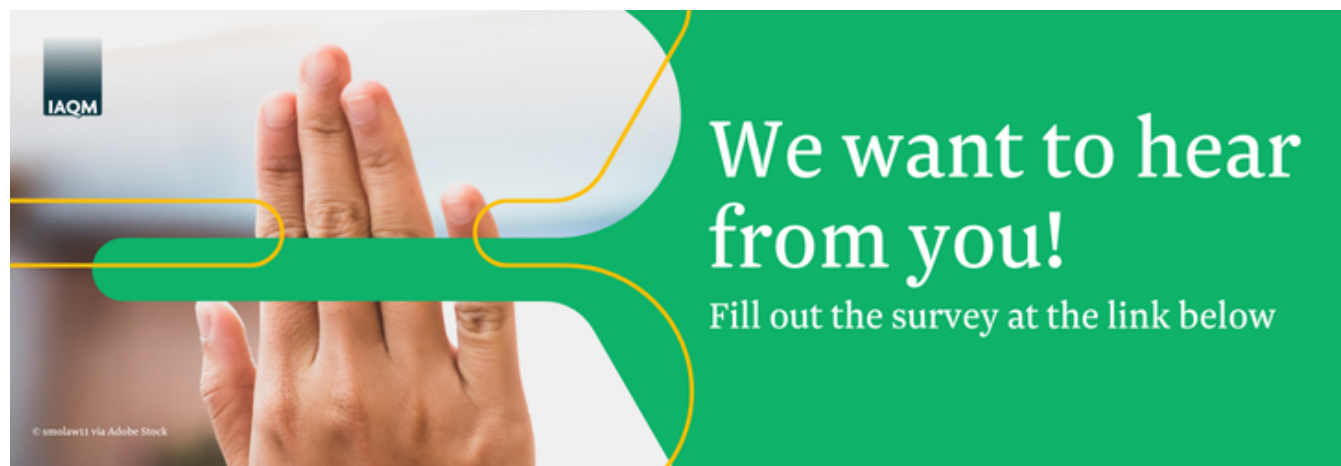
- Pedestrianisation of major streets in capital cities such as Oxford Street in London.
- Free public transport to encourage participation in cities such as Ljubljana (Slovenia) and Warsaw (Poland) or even state-wide such as in Maryland (United States).

Please [share your stories](#) from [World Car Free Day](#) from your local area – any stories or images shared can be featured in next quarter's newsletter or on IAQM's social media accounts!

Get involved

Please make sure to join our [LinkedIn group](#)! This is the place where we will be actively sharing content and promoting discussion on a wide range of topics.

Hopefully, we can build our very own air quality community. As members, feel free to also post any questions or interesting pieces of information you may come across into the group.



We want to hear from you!

We are always eager to hear the opinions of our ECN members, whether it's feedback on the events and material we provide; suggestions of topics for future events; or any other creative ideas to help steer and improve the ECN.

The [IAQM Early Careers Network Engagement Survey](#) is always open to responses, so please feel free to provide your thoughts.

If you wish to write a case study or blog about air quality, please share it with us and we

will highlight it in our next newsletter. It's a great chance to get your name out there and become famous in the air quality community!

We are excited to share with you what we have planned in the near future, and we hope that we can build on our work from the previous years to make the ECN even bigger and better for all its members. So please feel free to reach out to any of the sub-committee members or the IAQM with any ideas or anything you would like to see from the ECN.

Contact us at communities@the-ies.org.

[Complete the survey](#)

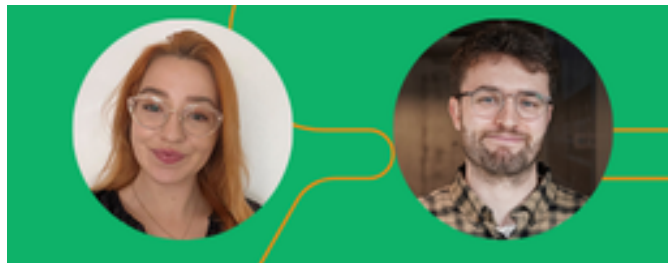
ECN Subcommittee 2025: who we are



Chair and Vice Chair

Davide Pascarella (Merton, Richmond and Wandsworth Council)

Mark Nichols (Arden)



Events

Eleri Paterson Hughes (Ricardo)

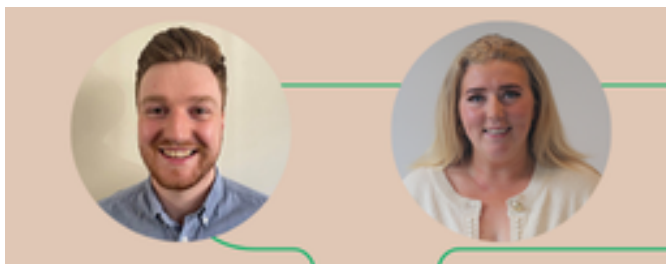
Kit Benjamin (Buro Happold)



Content and Topics

Isobel Ward (WSP)

Jekabs Jursins (Ricardo)



Engagement

Jack Richmond (Arup)

Sophie Brough (Arup)

We are also supported by Amy Bond, Communities and Memberships Officer at the IES. To get in touch with the IAQM ECN Subcommittee, please email Amy on communities@the-ies.org.

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