

# Early Careers Network newsletter



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## IAQM Early Careers Network Newsletter: December 2025

Welcome to the December 2025 edition of the IAQM Early Careers Network (ECN) Newsletter, we hope that you are looking forward to the festive season!

### Upcoming events

As a reminder, attending IAQM events (like the ones below) counts towards your 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'.

# A Breath of Fresh Air: changing behaviours and policy in air quality

IAQM

## Christmas event and social

Following the success of the ECN event 'The Air Necessities' in July, we are pleased to be finishing the year strong through the upcoming ECN winter 2025 event: 'A breath of fresh air: changing behaviours and policy in air quality'.

We've listened to your feedback on hosting ECN events in different locations across the UK, and so we have arranged this year's winter event for the first time in Manchester. We hope this change in location will bring greater accessibility to our ECN members who live away from the south of England.

The event will be held on Thursday 11th December 15:00-17:00 GMT, in person at Arup's Manchester office (6th Floor, Three Piccadilly Place, Manchester, M1 3BN).

At this half-day event, we will explore how behaviour change and policy practices can drive cleaner air. We have arranged five planned talks that cover a range of UK and international perspectives and will highlight innovative approaches, real-world successes, and lessons learned in improving air quality for healthier communities.

Alongside presentations from ECN members, the event will feature an exciting keynote talk from Global Action Plan's Natalie Johnson. In Natalie's talk, she will address the concerns that have grown in recent years over the impact of domestic wood burning on air quality inside and outside of homes. This presentation will cover the campaign's background, successes and challenges so far, as well as how to get involved for Clean Air Night 2026 on Thursday 2nd January.

The event will also include a closing statement from Chris Rush, Chair of the IAQM.

There will be an opportunity for audience questions and discussion following each talk, and the option to network with other attendees after the event at an informal social that will be hosted at The Taphouse, a short walk from the venue.

This event is free to members of the IAQM ECN. Be sure to book your place if you have not already done so, as registrations will close at 3pm on 9th December, or when we reach capacity – whichever comes first!

Register for a place

## Looking ahead

We are already planning events for the start of 2026, including a field trip in February, and a webinar on Air Quality and Ecology in April. More information will be shared on these events in due course via email, [LinkedIn](#) and on the [IAQM website](#).

We are always looking ahead to future webinars and live events, with knowledge exchange in the field of air quality in mind. Please enquire with Amy at [communities@the-ies.org](mailto:communities@the-ies.org) if you have any suggestions or are interested in presenting at a future ECN session.

## Previous events

### Routes to Clean Air

20th & 21st October 2025

Woburn House, London



### Routes to Clean Air 2025

The Institute of Air Quality Management's annual conference Routes to Clean Air was held over Monday 20th – Tuesday 21st October at Woburn House, London.

We had a great turnout this year, with great ECN representation, and heard from a great array of speakers on topics from health impacts and inequalities to indoor air quality and innovation in the field.

We heard from two members of the Early Careers Network, Owen Dudman and Dr Rachel Whitty, whose respective talks on ultra-fine particles and nitrosamine assessments were well received by the wider IAQM community. Rachel and Owen also hosted a panel talk, alongside Prof Jo Barnes & Dr Ian Mudway, on the topic of novel pollutants.

Congratulations to Eve Brooks-Parkin (Hilson Moran), who was awarded the Ian McCrae Award during Routes to Clean Air 2025 for her essay on the future key challenges in air quality. You can [read Eve's essay](#) on the IAQM website.

We're pleased to be able to share testimonials from ECN members that participated in Routes to Clean Air:

“Routes to Clean Air 2025 was excellent, full of inspiring presentations and engaging discussions. I was delighted to share my work in the novel pollutants session and contribute to a thought-provoking panel. Many thanks to IAQM for hosting such a great event!” – Dr Rachel Whitty

“As a first-time attendee, speaker and discussion panel member at a conference, I felt the IAQM Routes to Clean Air 2025 exceeded my expectations. I found all presentations very thought provoking and engaging. I highly recommend Routes to Clean Air if given the opportunity to attend and / or present as part of the ECN” – Owen Dudman

Early on Day 2 at Routes to Clean Air, Mark Nichols hosted an ECN Breakfast Discussion. This provided a chance for members to provide feedback on ideas about how we can better engage with the members of the ECN. Thank you to all those who came along, and watch this space!

## New ECN awards

In addition to the annual Ian McCrae Award, which is awarded to the most excellent demonstration of knowledge and expertise in the field of air quality via an essay competition, we are planning on releasing a new award for ECN members: the Helen ApSimon Award.

The criteria for this new award is undergoing discussions within the wider IAQM committee –you will hear more in 2026...

## Industry updates & resources

### Welsh Government: Fine particulate matter air quality targets – Public Consultation

In November 2025, the Welsh Government opened a consultation on draft regulations to implement stricter fine particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) air quality targets with the aim of achieving cleaner and healthier air. The proposed targets are:

- Reducing annual mean concentrations of PM<sub>2.5</sub> in ambient air to a level of 10 µg/m<sup>3</sup> by 31 December 2035; and

- Reducing average population exposure by 25% by 31 December 2035.

These are comparable to England's PM<sub>2.5</sub> objectives, but are accelerated by five years for the same annual mean concentration target (10 µg/m<sup>3</sup>) and for a lower exposure reduction target. The public consultation is open until 16 February 2026. You can respond by following the link below.

[View the consultation](#)

## Updates to the UK National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory (NAEI)

Over the past few months, the following additions and updates have been made to the UK NAEI:

AQ Inventories for Devolved Administrations for a number of AQ pollutants disaggregated by available data into emissions across 2005-2023

[Access the inventories](#)

Gridded spatial outputs at 1km x 1km for Scope 1 emissions and point sources

[View the spatial outputs](#)

Interactive local authority map for greenhouse gas emissions split into Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions

[View the map](#)

Emission data selector, in which data can be searched by classification; year (up to latest available data in 2023); pollutant; sector and source

[Access the data](#)

## Natural England: Air pollution and development: advice for local authorities

Natural England have published new guidance on how to assess sector-specific planning applications that could affect air quality on a protected site. This guidance now formally accepts the use of [JNCC decision-making thresholds](#) for air quality in relation to the Habitats Regulations. The guidance is applicable to Special Protection Areas, Special Areas of Conservation, Ramsar sites and Sites of Special Scientific Interest.

[Read the guidance](#)

## UK GOV: Consultation on the introduction of Electric Vehicle Excise Duty (eVED)

The UK Government announced the full UK Budget 2025 on Thursday 26th November 2025. A notable addition was the inclusion of an excise duty on electric vehicles to be in effect from April 2028. At present, the duty is planned to be based on estimated annual mileage, rather than energy consumption, with the aim for the duty to be proportional to half of the equivalent regular fuel duty rate for petrol or diesel vehicles. The consultation note also sets out planned investment projects to support the installation of electric vehicle infrastructure.

The eVED is open to consultation until 18th March 2026, which can be read about in the [published consultation note](#). You can respond to the consultation at the link below.

[eVED consultation](#)

## IAQM Guidance on Good Practice on Air Quality Monitoring for Brownfield Projects

Following consultation that concluded in July 2025, this guidance document was published in October 2025. Produced in collaboration with the [IES Land Condition Community](#), the guidance aims to improve collaboration between those working in the contaminated land and air quality disciplines, be they consultants, developers or regulators, and to increase understanding between the different topics.

[Access the guidance](#)

Other updates on IAQM Guidance updates will be announced over the course of 2026 via email updates to all IAQM members.

# Interesting reads

## Wood burners linked to 2,500 deaths a year

In October, The Guardian published an article covering a [study led by Ricardo](#) for the Global Action Plan and Hertfordshire County Council on the health impact of wood burners in the UK. The study explored the air quality and health impact if Smoke Control Areas were applied in all urban areas in the UK, which would reduce annual domestic combustion emissions of PM2.5 by 14.6% and save approximately 3,500 life years across the UK by reducing illnesses attributed to poor air quality.

[Read the article](#)

## Clean Air Routes London

As part of their 2025-2030 Air Quality Action Plan, Westminster Council launched 'Clean Air Routes London' earlier in September this year. The tool is a free interactive map to help plan active travel routes across London whilst experiencing the best available air quality. defined start and end points and at the time the journey is planned to take place. After defining the start and end points of the journey, the tool generates two to three route options of varying pollution levels according to forecast data from Cambridge Environmental Research Consultants. The tool indicates which option will result in the lowest exposure to different pollutants based on the concentrations along the route and the time exposed.

[View the interactive map](#)

## Air pollution in the UK 2024: compliance assessment summary

Defra has published a compliance assessment summary that shows the extent to which the UK has met its obligations under the Air Quality Standards Regulations (2010) and Environmental Targets (Fine Particulate Matter) (England) Regulations (2023). Highlights of the report includes:

- Five zones (out of 43 in the UK) were non-compliant with annual mean NO<sub>2</sub> limit values (40 µg/m<sup>3</sup>).
- All zones were compliant with annual mean PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub> limit values (40 µg/m<sup>3</sup> and 20 µg/m<sup>3</sup> respectively).
- No zones in England exceeded the interim PM2.5 target to be met by 2028 (12 µg/m<sup>3</sup>)

- All zones were compliant with the limit values for sulphur dioxide, carbon monoxide, benzene and lead, and the target values for arsenic and cadmium.
- All zones met the target value for benzo[a]pyrene for the first time.
- Three zones exceeded the target value for nickel.

[Read the summary](#)

## Environment Agency - Chief Regulator's report 2024-5

This report includes chapters on protecting air quality, which summarises the trends in air quality and resultant health and cost impacts, and also the damages to the environment in terms of exceedances of acid deposition. It also provides a summary on the trends in emission reductions from sources regulated by the Environment Agency for NO<sub>X</sub>, SO<sub>X</sub>, PM<sub>10</sub>, NH<sub>3</sub> and NMVOCs. Beyond air quality and emissions, the report also covers adjacent environmental issues such as climate change and compliance with Environmental Permitting Regulations.

[View the report](#)

## What happened at COP30?

The [IES Climate Action Community](#) have published a briefing document reporting on what happened at the 30th Conference of Parties (COP30) in Brazil earlier in November; the implications of the summit for environmental science; and how COP30 fits into the wider context of climate action on an international and national level.

[Find out about COP30](#)

## Fifth EU Clean Air Forum

The European Union convened in Bonn, Germany on Monday 1st December and Tuesday 2nd December to discuss:

- AI and machine learning for air quality analysis;
- Clean air innovation and innovations for a competitive Europe;
- Improving communications on clean air and health;
- the evaluation of the National Emission reduction Commitments Directive (Directive 2016/2284); and
- the transposition of the revised Ambient Air Quality Directive (Directive 2024/2881).

[Find out more](#)

## Get involved

### Connect with us

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.

[Request to join](#)

### Share your feedback

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

The IAQM Early Careers Network Engagement Survey is always open to responses, so please feel free to provide your thoughts at the link below.

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.

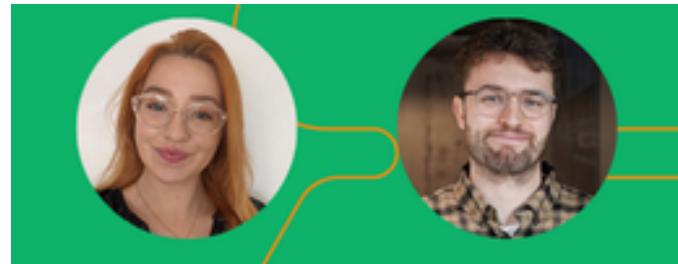
[Fill in the survey](#)



## Chair & Vice Chair

Davide Pascarella (Merton, Richmond and Wandsworth Council)

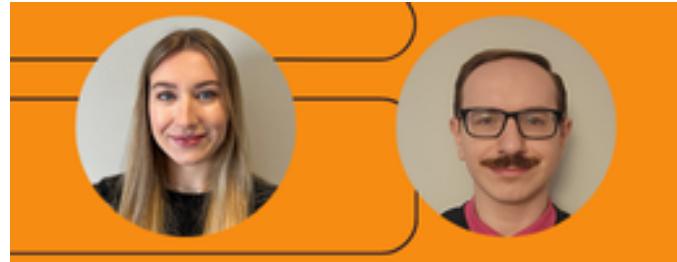
Mark Nichols (Ardent)



## Events

Eleri Paterson Hughes (Ricardo)

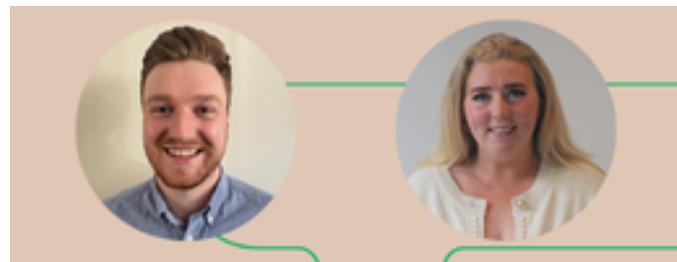
Kit Benjamin (Buro Happold)



## Content & 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](mailto:communities@the-ies.org).

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