

Early Careers Network newsletter

Welcome to the March 2026 edition of the IAQM Early Careers Network (ECN) newsletter, we hope that you have had a great start to the new year! It's been an eventful past few months in the IAQM sphere:

- We would like to congratulate Sarah Horrocks on her role as the new IAQM Chair and thank Chris Rush for his leadership and active engagement with IAQM ECN events over the past few years.
- We would also like to welcome IAQM Vice Chair Helen Venfield who will be joining us to bridge the gap between the main IAQM Committee and ECN Subcommittee, working alongside our ECN chair Davide Pascarella and Vice Chair Mark Nichols.
- The IAQM has announced four new awards in addition to the Ian McCrae Award for the recognition of excellence in the field of air quality innovation; activism and scientific development. One of the new awards is the Helen ApSimon Award, exclusively open to ECN members for their contributions to the IAQM.

Upcoming events

ECN webinars and summer event

The ECN Subcommittee are in the process of planning upcoming webinars and our in-person summer event, and we are always looking ahead to future webinars and live events in which the exchange of knowledge in the field of air quality can be platformed.

Please get in touch at communities@the-ies.org if there is a topic of interest that you would like to present on or hear about at one of our future webinars, or if you are interested in presenting at any future ECN session.

Save the date: Routes to Clean Air 2026

The Institute of Air Quality Management (IAQM) presents Routes to Clean Air 2026 (RTCA), its annual conference on topics relevant to air quality practitioners and associated professionals.

This year's conference will take place over two days from Wednesday 21st – Thursday 22nd October at 'thestudio', Birmingham. The programme will feature thought-provoking presentations and panel discussions, ensuring an extensive exploration of the most relevant subjects in air quality measurement, monitoring and modelling.

The IAQM is planning on specific activities for the Early Careers Network to engage with during RTCA. If you would like to present on a topic around air quality

measurement, monitoring or modelling at RTCA, please get in touch at communities@the-ies.org.

RTCA is also a great opportunity for networking, allowing delegates to forge meaningful connections with fellow air quality professionals. We understand the value of collaboration and knowledge exchange as well as gaining CPD. Additionally, attendance and contributions to RTCA is a prime opportunity for eligibility for nomination of the Helen ApSimon Award.

Previous events



King's Road Park gasworks remediation site visit

Inspired the latest IAQM guidance on Good Practice on Air Quality Monitoring for Brownfield Projects, the Early Careers Network subcommittee arranged a tour of King's Road Park, which is a redevelopment of the Imperial Road gasworks in Fulham, West London by St William (part of the Berkeley Group).

The site, which was in use as a gasworks for over 100 years has been heavily impacted by its previous land use. The remediation and redevelopment requires the excavation and removal of a significant amount of contaminants including benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene and xylene (BTEX), ammonium, coal tar and other odour and VOC-generating substances in this constrained urban area. As such, the odour control and monitoring strategy is of utmost importance to the project and local stakeholders. Therefore, a robust, multilayered approach ensuring best practice and minimal practicable disturbance during the works has been adopted. This made the site a particularly interesting case study to observe first-hand.

The visit was attended by 13 members of the ECN. As well as a site tour, they attended talks on air quality and odour monitoring strategy given by:

- Jack Holliday (St William) provided an overview of the site history, challenges and activities being undertaken.
- Sarah Horrocks (AtkinsRéalis, IAQM Chair) on the good practice guidance for air quality monitoring for brownfield projects, including insight into the case-studies that informed the guidance.
- Harry Joseph (AtkinsRéalis) on VOC and odour monitoring surveys.

The site visit was well-received by attendees and thought to be relevant to their air quality and odour work on remediation sites. Two ECN members, Nikoleta Alushi and Patrick Harland, provided their reflections on the site visit in a blog, which you can read at the link below.

[Read the blog](#)



Manchester AirTime 2026

AirTime events provide a space for members to hear interesting talks by industry professionals in a relaxed setting after work, in different regions of the UK.

The IAQM hosted an AirTime evening event on Wednesday 4th February in Manchester, which was sponsored by Air Quality Consultants Ltd (AQC). The evening included presentations and panel discussions around the theme of road transport emissions.

Presentations were given on the topic of air quality management in Greater Manchester from Nigel Bellamy (AQC) and on road transport modelling from Duncan Urquhart (AECOM), followed by an informative panel discussion on air quality and transport, where the speakers were joined by Matthew Evans (Transport for Greater Manchester).

The AirTime events are organised by volunteers at the IAQM and are can be hosted across the UK. If you are interested in getting involved in organising a future AirTime event, please get in touch at events@the-ies.org!

New ECN awards

Are you eligible?

The IAQM ECN has developed a new annual award to recognise outstanding contributions to the IAQM from its members – the Helen ApSimon Award.

The award is open to individuals who have attended at least one live IAQM ECN event within the past 12 months before application, and have presented or

contributed to any live event on a topic related to air quality within the same period. Nominations are open to all eligible IAQM ECN members, including self-nominations.

You can read more about all the new awards at the link below:

[New IAQM awards](#)

Policy, guidance and tools

Updates to the UK National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory (NAEI)

So far in 2026, the following additions and updates have been made by the UK NAEI team (Ricardo, Aether, ADAS, Rothamsted Research and UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology):

- [Latest projected air quality emissions](#) have been produced from 2025 to 2050 for SO₂, NO_x, NMVOC, NH₃ and PM_{2.5} to demonstrate the UK's progress in meeting emission reduction commitments under the National Emission Ceilings Regulations and the Gothenburg Protocol.
- [Latest historical air quality emissions inventory](#) has been produced for the period 1990-2024 for the same pollutants as above.
- The methodology behind the calculation of the historical emissions inventory and projections are set out in the accompanying [Informative Inventory Report](#).

[View the updates](#)

Essential Environment: Clean Air Policy

Published by the IES in January 2026, this annual paper presents a horizontal scan of the latest developments and implications for professionals working in the air quality sector. It sets out latest relevant policy issues and identifies opportunities for members of the IES and IAQM to engage with decision makers and the public. Topics explored in this paper include:

- England's Environmental Improvement Plan
- Local Air Quality Management
- Developments at devolved region and international-level
- Outstanding issues and emerging priorities

[Read Essential Environment: Clean Air Policy](#)

IAQM Guidance on the assessment of Odour for planning (2026)

This guidance document has undergone a significant update following a number of changes in the legislative landscape and wider sector to ensure it is fit for purpose. The working group is pleased to now pass this on for member consultation, which is open until **17:00 BST Thursday 2nd April 2026**.

Following the consideration of consultation responses, the working group will then aim to finalise the content ready for publication.

If you have any comments on this guidance, please provide your comments to info@iaqm.co.uk

[Read the updated guidance](#)

Interesting reads

Public consultation on solid fuel burning - Defra

In January, Defra launched a consultation on fine particulate matter and smoke emissions from solid fuel burning across the UK, which closed on Thursday 19th March. This consultation provided an opportunity for stakeholders to influence policies intended to reduce fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) emissions from domestic solid fuel burning (including wood and manufactured solid fuels).

[Catch up on the consultation](#)

Air pollution's hidden impact: global brain health at risk

The University of Birmingham has released an article highlighting the impact of PM_{2.5} exposure on cognitive ability, and argues for cognitive impacts to be a metric when establishing air quality standards for the protection of human health.

[UoB article](#)

Air Quality Monitoring Network, 2022 and 2023 Annual Report - RSSB

This Rail Safety and Standards Board (RSSB) report sets out the latest available findings from air quality monitoring concentrations of NO₂, PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} across multiple train stations across the UK, with focus given to stations with environments that restrict dispersion and stations with higher rates of diesel train activity. In response to the findings, the UK Government and the rail industry have implemented measures to address air quality issues in the stations identified by the AQMN, including the electrification of the network and rail fleet.

[RSSB report](#)

Statement on the Environmental Audit Committee's inquiry into air pollution in England

The Vice Chair of the IES' [Environmental Policy Implementation Community \(EPIC\)](#), Sarah Legge, gave evidence to Parliament as part of the Environmental Audit Committee's inquiry on air pollution in England. The key messages from EPIC to Parliament were that new and ambitious air quality targets are required, supported by a comprehensive air quality strategies with the resource and powers given to local authorities in order to achieve them.

The IAQM and the IES had both submitted responses, based on the views and insights of members.

[Read the IES and IAQM responses](#)

Have your say

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We are always eager to hear the opinions of our ECN members, whether it's feedback about 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, or contact us at communities@the-ies.org.

[Share feedback](#)

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](#)