



IAQM Early Careers Network newsletter - summer 2026

We hope that everyone has had a great first half of 2026! It has certainly been a busy few months in the field of air quality, with updates to IAQM technical guidance documents, preparations well underway for the Routes to Clean Air event, and excitement building for the new awards to be given in October.

Keep reading to find out more!

Past and
upcoming events

Exclusive ECN in-person networking event

24th September, 5pm onwards. Bristol, Leeds and London (venue details will be shared with attendees).

For the first time ever, we are planning to run multiple IAQM ECN social events on the same day! Spread across the country, these events will bring the IAQM ECN closer to you. They will be smaller events and a great opportunity to network with local air quality professionals in a casual setting. For more information and to register for your free place, head to the link below.

[Book your place](#)

Day in the Life: panel discussion

We are currently finalising a “Day in the Life” webinar, a format in which environmental professionals share information about their career paths and current roles. We are delighted that this instalment will be presented by members of our own Subcommittee, who will provide talks on each of their typical working days as air quality professionals, including highlights, advice and tips for those either new in their professional air quality journey or wanting to learn new and varied perspectives.

The date will be announced shortly: please keep an eye on the IAQM events page to be the first to know.

[IAQM events](#)

These events will also be a great opportunity to provide feedback to the IAQM ECN Subcommittee so that we can further improve how we organise future events to boost interest, engagement and value for our IAQM ECN members’ continued professional development.



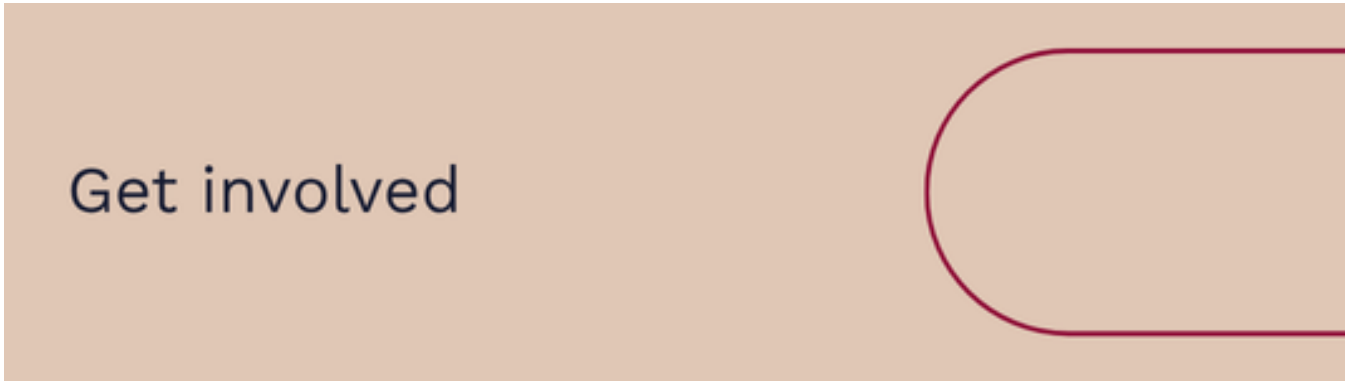
Routes to Clean Air - Early Bird Prices available now!

Booking is now open for RTCA 2026 – the IAQM’s flagship conference. It will take place over two days, 21st and 22nd October, at thestudio, Birmingham.

This year will focus on topics related to air quality measurement, monitoring, and modelling. This follows the IAQM's decision to absorb topics that were previously covered under the separate Dispersion Modelling User Group (DMUG) and Measuring Air Quality (MAQ) conferences under the RTCA umbrella.

The day will go beyond theory, offering cutting-edge insight on emissions measurement, real-world data, and the practical delivery of clean air solutions across cities and regions. With expert speakers from government organisations, consultancy, and academia, the conference will offer cross-sector perspectives, with a strong focus on what works in practice now and what's going to be needed in the future. It is a unique opportunity to stay ahead of policy, learn from leading projects, and connect with peers tackling the same challenges.

[Book your place](#)



Get involved

Award nominations now open

We're in the middle of award season at the IAQM, with nominations still open including for the **two Early Career Network awards – the iconic Ian McCrae award and the brand-new Helen ApSimon Award!**

The Helen ApSimon Award recognises the outstanding contributions to the IAQM by an early career professional, including the contribution towards IAQM or IES events on a subject relevant to the field of air quality in the last 12 months. This can include anything from presentations to articles to posters. This award can be a self-nomination, or a nomination on the behalf of another IAQM ECN member.

The Ian McCrae Award recognises an outstanding essay written by an early career professional answering a question put forward by the IAQM ECN Subcommittee. This year's topic is:

“The Environmental Audit Committee (EAC) launched a new inquiry into air pollution in 2026. The inquiry aims to investigate the ongoing public health risks and environmental consequences of air pollution in

the UK. Prepare a written submission acting as though you were providing evidence to the inquiry by answering: What evidence exists of the extent of air pollution directly or indirectly impacting human health in the UK, are there differential impacts (geographically, and across socioeconomic groups), and are current regulatory mechanisms suitable to address this?"

You can find out more about both awards, and enter, at the link below. All IAQM awards are open for nominations until 5pm Wednesday 26th August 2026 – be sure to throw your hat into the ring!

Could you be this year's winner?



Join us on LinkedIn

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

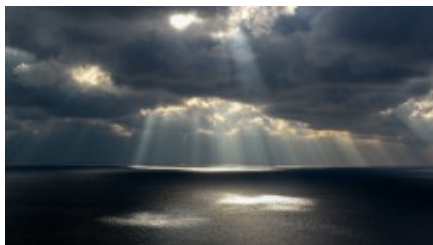


Have your say

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 ECN Engagement Survey is always open to responses, so please feel free to provide your thoughts!

[Share your thoughts](#)



Share your knowledge

If you wish to present a webinar, or write a case study or blog about air quality, please get in touch and we can support you to develop your ideas. It's a great chance to get your name out there and build a profile in the air quality community!

[Get in touch](#)

From the IES family

Some pieces of IAQM guidance are in the progress of being updated and/or undergoing initial stakeholder and committee member review with the aims of the updated versions being published within 2026. These include:

- Guidance on land-use planning and development control
- Guidance on the assessment of odour for planning
- Assessment of air quality impacts on designated nature conservations site

[Read more](#)



22nd September, London.

IES members have expertise in areas such as air quality, land condition, and water. However, environmental issues do not fit neatly into boxes. Each specialism interacts with others, and often they use different terminology, assessment methodologies, and approaches. This can lead to siloed thinking and difficulties when assessments are brought together through processes such as a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), and can lead to sub-optimal environmental outcomes.

Unlocking multi-functional solutions to the interlinked crises of climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution are dependent on effective interdisciplinary working, knowledge sharing, and application of systems thinking approaches.

To bridge some of these gaps, we are proud to present the third Dialogue Between Disciplines conference. The conference is dedicated to fostering collaboration and knowledge-sharing between environmental professionals from across specialisms and sectors. We invite environmental scientists, practitioners, policymakers, engineers, and social scientists from across specialisms to come together in a shared mission to find sustainable solutions to the triple crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution, with the aim of championing solutions and practical action.

[Find out more and get your ticket](#)

Industry updates and interesting reads

These updates have been selected by the ECN Subcommittee. If you think there are developments the ECN should know about, please get in touch via communities@the-ies.org at any time to discuss inclusion in our next newsletter.

Inquiry into air pollution in England

The Environmental Audit Committee has continued progress on its inquiry into air pollution in England that first opened in early 2026. Over the past few months, it has held three major oral evidence sessions with experts, local authorities and campaign groups. The Committee examined whether current air quality targets are sufficient, the health impacts of pollution, and whether councils have adequate powers and resources to deliver cleaner air, with a final report still awaited as of July 2026.

[Stay up to date](#)

Air quality status in Europe

The European Environment Agency published an overview of air quality status in Europe in April 2026. The report analysis the latest reported concentrations of various pollutants across Europe from 2024, and compares these against current EU standards, future EU standards (from 2030 onwards) and WHO guideline levels.

[Read the overview](#)

Electric Vehicle Excise Duty

The UK Government published its policy paper on Electric Vehicle Excise Duty (eVED) in July 2026. The policy paper sets out the affected vehicles and road users, the timeline for rolling out the new mileage-based charges and sets out the projected economic and environmental impacts.

[Find out more](#)

The Clean Air Dividend of Net Zero

The Clean Air Fund, with research from CBI Economics and WSP, released a report 'The Clean Air Dividend of Net Zero' in July 2026. The report highlights the health and economic benefits of the UK's planned net zero policies, estimated to be £7.7 billion by 2050.

[Read the report](#)

Parliamentary progress update

Parliament provided an update on UK progress against Environment Act 1995 objectives, including the reduction in number of air quality management areas by 19% between 2024 and 2025, and the actions taken to support the delivery of air quality improvements.

[Access the update](#)

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Institution of Environmental Sciences

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