

IAQM Membership Survey 2022 - Results

The IAQM membership survey was at the end of the IES membership survey. In total 72 members completed this section of the IES survey, representing 11% of the IAQM membership.

Of the respondents 4% were Fellows, 65% Members, 27% Associates and 4% Affiliates.

Membership services

When asked how important the following IAQM membership services were, it was indicated that the majority of respondents rank the guidance as very important, followed by webinars, position statements and air quality themed issues of the Environmental Scientist journal.

In all cases (excepting the Early Careers Network (ECN)) IAQM membership services were rated as very important or important. The ECN is expected to be less important due to its limited applicability to the more senior membership levels.

	VERY IMPORTANT	IMPORTANT	NEUTRAL	NOT IMPORTANT	TOTAL
Webinars	56.94% 41	36.11% 26	5.56% 4	1.39% 1	72
Events, including conferences	45.83% 33	43.06% 31	9.72% 7	1.39% 1	72
Air quality-themed editions of Environmental Scientist	48.61% 35	38.89% 28	11.11% 8	1.39% 1	72
Guidance	75.00% 54	19.44% 14	4.17% 3	1.39% 1	72
Position statements	55.56% 40	31.94% 23	11.11% 8	1.39% 1	72
Post-nominal letters e.g. AMIAQM, MIAQM	25.00% 18	37.50% 27	34.72% 25	2.78% 2	72
Representation through policy activities	41.67% 30	38.89% 28	18.06% 13	1.39% 1	72
Early Careers Network	19.44% 14	30.56% 22	31.94% 23	18.06% 13	

IAQM events calendar

93% of respondents ranked webinars as very important or important in terms of the IAQM membership services. When asked how frequently they would like webinars to be held 44% wanted monthly, 28% every two months and 28% quarterly.

Suggested topics for future webinars/discussion meetings were wide-ranging but a few topics came up multiple times including indoor air quality, air quality policy (WHO guidelines in particular), Clean Air Zones, ammonia etc.

Suggested topics for webinars:

- Pollution and controls from power plants including biomass and waste fired
- Future of NH₃ modelling and management
- London air quality guidance i.e., air quality neutral/positive
- Indoor air quality, odour WHO limit values and impact on UK policy
- Clean Air Zone and impacts on suburbs

- Air quality problems in a decarbonised world; the importance, or otherwise, of airborne microplastics; and evaluating impacts of NH₃ emissions and the ecological effects
- Dispersion modelling, using R to visualise data, and indoor air quality
- Air quality assessments are highly technical and methodology approaches might vary significantly from consultant to consultant. Would like to see more webinars on how to undertake air quality assessments and quality assurance methodologies
- More about the growth on CAZ and how current CAZs are getting on
- The relationship between energy consumption and air pollution. NO₂ and gas boilers Openair, worldmet and ECMWF tools. R.
- Indoor air quality, WHO Guidelines update, emerging/new air pollution threats.
- Vehicle and plant exhausts, electric vehicle air quality impacts
- Population exposure assessments
- AQ for residential developments application
- Ammonia from cars and impact on ecological receptors. Presentation from an ecologist on sorts of things they consider when determining significance of AQ effect if PEC > CL.
- Links between air quality and climate change
- Odour assessment
- Interactions between air quality issues and climate change
- Guidance and policies application of software i.e., ADMS, Arcmap
- GM CAZ - What went wrong? Why suddenly there was a huge U-Turn on the wish for a CAZ for public health
- Indoor air, construction dust/AQ impacts

Suggested topics for future discussion meetings:

- WHO guidelines and how we should use them
- Pollution and controls from power plants including biomass and waste fired
- Planning and air quality
- The future direction of air quality and assessments (in terms of legislation/policy)
- Indoor air quality, odour WHO limit values and impact on UK policy
- Climate change, carbon footprint and Indoor Air Quality
- Low-cost sensors and their place in the field of monitoring
- Ultra-fine particles.
- Themes might be: use (and misuse) of IAQM guidance; practical interventions at a local level for air quality management; the reality of 'green infrastructure' and air quality benefits; and the potential for more effective land use policies at a local level for air quality management.
- Indoor air quality
- Aerosol pollution, the new WHO guidelines, dispersion modelling
- PM_{2.5}
- Approach to new WHO guidance and upcoming changes in policy. Air quality and climate implications. Air quality and transport sector interconnection and future changes.
- How WHO AQS can be incorporated into the UK. Our way forward to cleaner air. Indoor Air Quality
- The effectiveness of 'CAZ'
- Updates on UK and EU AQ policy.
- Particulate matter - measurement and assessment, primary and secondary, concentration vs exposure
- Emission factors/AQ standards/Ecological receptors
- Impacts on habitats, in particular of ammonia
- Potential unintended consequences of move to electric vehicles
- Air Quality and the construction industry Local Authority Guidance and Policies
- Town Planning and Air Quality Progress since the Environment Act 1995

In terms of event attendance the respondents indicated that hybrid options are the most popular:



IAQM Guidance

Respondents indicated that the guidance: Assessment of dust from demolition and construction was the most widely used, with the majority of guidance having been used by most respondents.

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
None of the above	6.94% 5
'Indoor Air Quality Guidance: Assessment, Monitoring, Modelling and Mitigation'	34.72% 25
'A Guide to the Assessment of Air Quality Impacts on Designated Nature Conservation Sites'	51.39% 37
'Air Quality Monitoring in the Vicinity of Demolition and Construction Sites'	52.78% 38
'Guidance on the Assessment of Odour for Planning'	51.39% 37
'Guidance on the Assessment of Mineral Dust Impacts for Planning'	31.94% 23
'Guidance on Land-use Planning and Development Control: Planning for Air Quality'	65.28% 47
'Assessment of Dust from Demolition and Construction'	76.39% 55

Feedback on guidance:

- There needs to be a transparent way of demonstrating that member feedback has been considered in final versions and updates
- Excellent and always useful
- Great and obviously the 'go to' for air quality assessments across the UK.
- Some may need updating now
- It would be good to understand how we as a community can help refine the odour assessment methodology
- Lots of consultants rely on the guidance like it is regulation, and few use it to make professional judgement
- Very useful and comprehensive
- Guidance and position statement issued by IAQM in the last few years (i.e. since 2019) have been poorly considered and, I believe, damaging to the reputations of IAQM (and by extension IES) members. They often appear to reflect specific and narrow vested interests of particular authors with insufficient consideration to who will use it and how. There are many areas where helpful and balanced guidance would be extremely valuable but I have no expectation of IAQM delivering this at present.
- Reduce ambiguity as much as possible and clarify methodology approaches
- Some guidance needs to be updated. Particularly those older than 2016, need reviewing and adjusting/justifying if not changed
- Guidance is excellent and if possible could be broadened to wider range of topics.
- Very good

- I think we should move towards a modernised format, interactive online version
- It's very useful
- Great material
- Not sure when an indoor air quality assessment would be needed
- Important that it is kept under review and updated as necessary
- There are a few important errors in the 'Guidance on the Assessment of Odour for Planning'
- The odour guidance is not clear enough, classification of distances/wind frequencies is not stated like it is in the mineral dust document. This leads to inconsistencies and lack of confidence in findings of odour assessments
- The IAQM should be at the forefront of the industry in terms of guidance and must ensure they are kept fresh and updated as things change over the years
- The Land Use and Planning Guidance should be reviewed. The NPPF has been updated, and I RARELY manage to effect real mitigation through planning as consultants' reports use the guidance to claim "negligible" impacts for even the most significant developments. Also EV charging will fall under Building Regulations soon.
- Keep it coming and get it recognised by DEFRA and similar in their national guidance

15 respondents indicated that they are happy to talk about how they have used the indoor air quality guidance and have provided their email addresses.

Suggested topics to cover in future guidance:

- Dispersion modelling best practice
- More information on how to consider cumulative impacts when detailed assessment is scoped out in the context of an air quality assessment to support planning
- How to ensure travel plans are delivered and monitored
- I don't feel that there are any gaps, however regular reviews of current guidance would be useful
- An edition on uncertainty and how to communicate to stakeholders
- Strategic air quality decision making, clean air zones, more industrial emissions guidance
- Hybrid ambient air quality monitoring networks - a combination of reference methods and low-cost sensors
- Somewhere, we need to address the thorny issue of cumulative impacts in land use planning at the local plan level. Looking at impacts piecemeal is unsatisfactory.
- ADMS road, and using R to visualise data for air quality consultancy job
- I would like to see the guidance relating to designated sites and indoor air quality revised. Until current issues with IAQM are addressed, I would prefer it to not issue any new guidance. This is despite the fact that there are very many areas which are in appreciable need of good guidance
- Although it might overlap with the Environmental Agency responsibilities, would like to see more guidance and support for permitting assessments
- Guidance for transport consultants
- LAQM (could provide some supplementary guidance to PG and TG on specific issues), NRMM.
- More cross over guidance where specialisms interact e.g. contaminated land
- Embodied carbon material and AQ
- Modelling (on its way I know)
- Assessment of medium combustion plants and emergency generators for permitting
- Updated air quality and climate change guidance with a lot more technical details
- Combine the Planning & Air Quality and the Construction Dust / AQ Impacts guidance into an overarching guidance document. Seek adoption by our fellow institutions (CIEH, IES etc) but also RTPI etc.