



IAQM Early Careers Network Newsletter: April 2024

Welcome to the April edition of the IAQM Early Careers Network (ECN) Newsletter. We can't believe it has been a whole year already since we started producing the ECN newsletter!

A Day in the Life

We want to get more members of the ECN involved, so let us introduce a new 'Day in the Life' feature.

We would love ECN members to showcase what a day in the life looks like for you, which could be in the form of a blog or a vlog. We want to hear from members working across all sectors of the air quality profession including consultancy, research and local government. In shining a spotlight on you and your day-to-day, you'll be supporting other ECN members by enabling the community to better understand the different types of jobs and career pathways available in the sector.

If this sounds like something that would interest you, please contact Jo Maniscalco at communities@the-ies.org to express your interest.

We also welcome any other kinds of guest blogs, vlogs or contributions that we can showcase in future newsletters, on the [ECN section of the IAQM website](#) or in our [LinkedIn group](#).

Upcoming Events



Join IAQM ECN Members at our upcoming visit to the Met Office

On Tuesday 21st May, the [IAQM Early Careers Network are hosting their first ever field trip](#), and you're invited! This is a new type of event where we'll be organising group visits to interesting air quality sites across the UK, exclusively for IAQM ECN members.

This upcoming event is your opportunity to visit the Met Office Headquarters in Exeter, where you'll get the chance to have a tour around their facilities and learn how they undertake their air quality forecasting.

Attendees will need to make their own way to Exeter, meeting at the Met Office Campus at 12pm for registration, lunch and networking before the tour commences at 1pm, lasting until 4:30pm.

There are just a couple of spaces left for this free event, so sign up soon if you'd like to join us there!

[Register here](#)



Join us at the IES's inaugural Dialogue Between Disciplines Conference

As the world grapples with the interconnected crises of climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution, the need for interdisciplinary collaboration has never been more urgent. It is with great excitement that we invite you to the inaugural [Dialogue Between Disciplines Conference](#), presented by the Institution of Environmental Sciences (IES).

Our planet faces unprecedented challenges that demand innovative solutions, solutions that can only emerge when we bridge the gaps between distinct fields of environmental science. The IES is committed to fostering these vital connections, encouraging collaboration across disciplines to unlock multifunctional approaches to today's environmental issues.

Join us at [Woburn House](#) in London on Monday 20th May at the Dialogue Between Disciplines Conference and be part of a movement towards a more sustainable and resilient future. Together, we can turn interdisciplinary dialogue into decisive action for our planet. Don't miss this opportunity to contribute this landmark event - book your place today!

[Register here](#)



Dispersion Modelling User Group (DMUG) conference

Join us at [Woburn House \(London\)](#) on April 25th for the IAQM's DMUG 2024 conference.

We have a packed programme with a focus on managing uncertainty and what the future may hold for our profession. As well as a fantastic programme there are many opportunities

at the conference for networking. Before the morning sessions there is a networking breakfast and after the conference you will be able to talk to the speakers and members of the IAQM committee during our speaker surgeries.

We're also delighted that one of our ECN members, Alex Forest, will be presenting during the conference. You can [view the full agenda here](#).

This is a not-to-miss conference for anyone involved in dispersion modelling for planning, permitting and policy making.

[Register here](#)

Industry Updates & Resources

Construction Dust Guidance

In January the [IAQM released their updated Construction Dust Guidance](#).

Key updates include:

- Box 1 screening criteria distances for human receptors now extend to 250m instead of 350m in Box 1. The same distances have been updated in Table 2 to define sensitivity of the area to dust soiling effects.
- Change to activity levels used to define the potential dust emission magnitude, for example changes to total building volume and height of demolition activities in the demolition and construction categories, changes to site area and bund heights used to define earthwork magnitude, and number of HDVs in the trackout magnitude categories.
- Risk of dust impacts for trackout (Table 9) – Medium sensitivity area and medium dust emission magnitude now give medium risk.
- Mitigation measures, for example:
 - Measure 12 – baseline monitoring highly recommended for low risk sites.
 - Measure 24 – Construction Logistics Plan now not required for medium risk sites.

You can find the [updated construction dust assessment guidance](#) here along with all the other [guidance published by the IAQM](#).

Send Environmental Permit application information in stages

The Environment Agency has produced formal guidance on how to apply for permit applications for “novel” or “complex” processes in stages.

Providing a timetable is supplied and agreed upon at the pre-application stage and the subsequent deadlines are met.

Related updates have also been made to related Installations application forms and pre-application guidance.

[Access the guidance here](#).

Mayor's Air Quality Fund (MAQF)

On 9th March, the successful projects for the fourth round Mayor's Air Quality Fund (MAQF) were announced.

In total, 17 projects were selected for funding looking at topics including reducing particulate matter (PM2.5) emissions, running more sustainable events, improving indoor air quality, and protecting the most vulnerable Londoners from pollution in locations such as schools and hospitals.

Details on the successful projects can be [found here](#).

Interesting Reads

POST – Air Quality: policies, proposals and concerns.

In February, the UK Parliament released a briefing focused on air quality.

The briefing gives an overview of the current outdoor air quality legal framework, changing governance and enforcement mechanisms following the UK's exit from the EU, forthcoming legislative changes and ongoing issues and concerns.

[Read the briefing](#)

ULEZ Report

A March 2024 report from the Mayor of London has revealed that air quality in London has improved dramatically since 2016.

Annual concentrations of roadside NO₂ dropped by nearly 50% between 2016 and 2023, and significant progress has been made towards reaching UK air quality limits for NO₂.

2023 was also the first year since records began when monitored annual mean PM_{2.5} concentrations did not exceed the latest interim World Health Organization (WHO) air quality target.

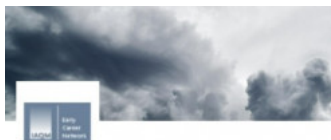
[Read the report](#)

Only 7 countries meet WHO PM2.5 Air Quality Standard

According to a [report published by IQAir](#), only seven countries out of the 134 monitored meet the WHO air quality standard for PM_{2.5} - Australia, Estonia, Finland, Grenada, Iceland, Mauritius and New Zealand.

The top five most polluted countries in 2023 were – Bangladesh, Pakistan, India, Tajikistan and Burkina Faso.

[Read the report](#)



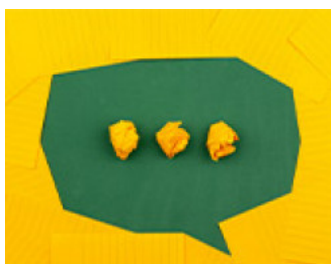
IAQM - Early Career Network

Listed group

Join us on LinkedIn

Don't forget 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.

As members, feel free to also post any questions or interesting pieces of information you may come across into the group.



Have your say

There are a range of ways you can have your say and get involved. For example, we are always keen to receive feedback and suggestions on future topics.

If you wish to write a case study or blog about air quality, feel free to share it with us and we will highlight it in our next newsletter. It's a great chance to get your name out there in the air quality community!

Contact us at communities@the-ies.org.

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