



## IAQM Early Careers Network Newsletter: December 2024

Welcome to the winter edition of the IAQM Early Careers Network (ECN) Newsletter, we hope you are all starting to get into the festive spirit!

We want to start this newsletter off by welcoming our new sub-committee members, Sophie Brough (Hoare Lea), Kit Benjamin (Buro Happold) and Jekabs Jursins (Ricardo). We are glad to have you on board and are excited to see what we can do over the coming years.

With three new members on the sub-committee, we bid a fond farewell to Jason Wong and Abbie O'Sullivan who have stepped down after their terms have come to an end. We thank them for all their help and the contributions they have made over the past two years.

These are not the only changes on the ECN sub-committee. Our chair, Honor Puciato, is also stepping away from the IAQM to take up a role in Singapore and is being replaced by her deputy Davide Pascarella. Honor has done a fantastic job leading the ECN and we are excited to see how Davide steps up into the role after being a very capable deputy for the last couple of years. Assisting Davide in the vice-chair role is former ECN sub-committee member Mark Nichols, who has recently stepped up to join the main IAQM committee. He clearly couldn't stay away!

You can get to know the sub-committee on the [dedicated ECN webpage](#).

### A message from our new Subcommittee Chair, Davide Pascarella:

Dear Members,

I have been on the IAQM committee since 2020, and have thoroughly enjoyed being involved with the IAQM Early Careers Network (ECN) subcommittee. I am delighted to have been appointed as the Chair of this wonderful group.

Our current ECN is growing – a lot of efforts have been made on delivering events, webinars, site visits, and informal networking evenings.

The group has been recognised by the IAQM committee members and as a result has been allocated an allotted time to present during the main events for the ECN members.

The IAQM Early Careers Network (ECN) is a community of air quality professionals in the early stages of their careers. The network exists to develop members' knowledge and skills in a supportive and accessible environment.

Moving forward I see the ECN further enriching our work at the IAQM and what we can provide to our membership and wider air quality community.

I would like to pass my sincere thanks for all the support and hard work from the ECN subcommittee members involved. Your contributions have made a positive impact to the community and beyond, and for that you should be incredibly proud. Thank you again for your contribution and support. A big thank you and farewell to my predecessor Honor and to two subcommittee members who have completed their terms. I would also like to warmly welcome our new subcommittee members Sophie, Jekabs and Kit.

As we are moving into 2025, we are committed to delivering more events, providing ECN members with a platform to share experiences and prepare essential skills to thrive as air quality professionals.

We are always open to new ideas on how we can improve and how to involve members, if you have any thoughts, please do reach out!

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## Upcoming Events



### IAQM Early Careers Network Field Trip

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Ricardo Emissions Testing Centre  
Tuesday 28th January, 14:00 GMT

#### Field trip: Ricardo's Shoreham-by-Sea Centre

IAQM Early Careers Network members are invited to visit Ricardo's emissions testing centre in Shoreham-by-Sea for an exclusive field trip on the 28th January 2025. The event is free to ECN members. More details will be shared in the new year, for now we can confirm that the event will include:

- A general overview of Ricardo and the Shoreham site
- A guided tour, with particular focus on the Vehicle Emissions Research Centre
- Relevant case studies shared by members of staff at the site to give an insight into their work
- Coffee and cake with time for networking

The event will start at 14:00 and conclude by 17:30.

Spaces are limited so book early if you are interested. Please get in touch with Amy at [communities@the-ies.org](mailto:communities@the-ies.org) if you have any questions, or give the IES admin team a call on +44 (0)20 3862 7484.

[Register](#)

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## Previous Events

#### Routes to Clean Air: ECN sessions

The annual Routes to Clean Air conference was held in Birmingham between the 22nd and 23rd October. The afternoon of the second day featured a slot dedicated to the ECN, chaired by our very own Eleri Paterson Hughes.

We had four outstanding talks on a variety of different topics, all delivered by ECN members:

**Quantifying Emissions from Festival Power** – Sam Murphy, Hydrock now Stantec;

**Modelling Of Fugitive Emissions from A Large Hard Rock Quarry** – Paul Eaton, Dustscan AQ; and

**Marine Emissions and Dispersion Modelling** – Grace Staines, Port of London Authority.

This is the second year we have showcased our ECN members at RTCA and it is something we hope to keep doing in the future, as it has quickly become a highlight of the conference for many attendees. So, make sure to get your presentations ready for next year!

But don't just take our word for it, here are a couple of testimonials from ECN members that attended the event.

**RTCA ECN member testimonials:**

"I recently attended the Route to Clean Air Conference, which included talks from the Early Career IAQM Group, and it was an exciting experience! I enjoyed listening to engaging presentations and connecting with others who share same interest as me in air quality. The range of topics, from emissions modelling to practical data analysis, I found very relevant to my daily work. The presentations were particularly helpful, giving me new insights and a better understanding of how colleagues outside my company are tackling similar challenges and the tools they're applying to their projects.

The atmosphere was collaborative and supportive, and I had the chance to network with other early-career professionals. Meeting new professionals who are genuinely focused on making a positive impact on air quality was truly inspiring. Overall, this conference was a great experience, and I'm already looking forward to the next one." – **Sofia Gkino, Arup**

"Attending Routes to Clean Air Conference was a great experience. The conference highlighted a wide array of projects and initiatives from various companies and sectors, emphasising the collaborative efforts being made to improve air quality. It was particularly refreshing to see contributions from outside the consultancy sphere, offering diverse perspectives and innovative solutions.

One of the standout aspects of the conference was the opportunity to hear from academics, reminding us of the fundamental reasons we are all working in the air quality field.

Overall, the conference was a fantastic platform for networking, learning, and sharing knowledge. It was inspiring to witness the passion and commitment of all the participants towards creating a cleaner, healthier environment." – **Emily Porterhill, Arup**



Ian McCrae award winner 2024

At Routes to Clean Air, the winner of the Ian McCrae award was announced as Sophie Brough from Hoare Lea, who submitted an essay on the topic:

**“Given the links between good air and good health, how can we make wider society understand the importance of air quality improvement? What can those working in the air quality discipline do to improve its messaging so people are prepared to change their own behaviours?”**

Sophie spoke about the need for increased public understanding of the links between air quality and health, emphasising that messaging needs to be positive rather than fear-inducing to inspire necessary behaviour change. She suggested engaging with school pupils, as well as families, to promote understanding of the daily habits that can impact air quality. Sophie also advocated for real-time air quality data to be more readily available to the public, as well as incentives to increase use of sustainable travel options. The judges were extremely impressed by Sophie’s evident understanding of the topic as well as the validity of her proposed solutions.

**This is what Sophie had to say on winning the 2024 Ian McCrae award:**

“I am honoured to have received the 2024 Ian McCrae award for my essay recognising the links between good air quality and health and the need for air quality professionals to advocate for clean air for all. In my essay, I provided realistic actions to increase awareness of the need for air quality improvement across wider society – including holistic messaging, increasing air quality data accessibility and how we communicate air pollution issues across all branches of society. Air pollution has a dramatic impact on our health throughout our lives – which is why it is so important to also educate the younger generation on the need for air quality improvement, and the environmentally-conscious behaviours to improve air quality at a local level, since the future air quality climate is as much our responsibility as air quality professionals as it is in their hands.”

It has been a big year for Sophie winning the Ian McCrae award and joining the ECN sub-committee!

[Read Sophie's winning essay](#)

## ECN focus group

In May, the ECN sub-committee held a focus group for IAQM ECN members as an opportunity for members to share feedback on their experience with the ECN, and thoughts on future events and initiatives that are being planned. This was a really successful discussion, and we are continuing to apply the feedback and suggestions raised during the focus group to plan our future events and engagement with the ECN. Thank you to the ECN members who participated in the focus group!

## Clean Air Programme Early Careers event

ECN sub-committee member Isobel Ward was invited to attend the Early Career Researchers Breakfast event at the Clean Air Conference, which was an in-person event for networking and knowledge-sharing. At this event Isobel Ward was invited to provide an introduction to the IAQM ECN to members of the Early Career Researchers group, and participated in discussions around current and upcoming air quality challenges and where research is focused.

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# Industry Updates & Resources

## PM2.5 Targets: Interim Planning Guidance

Defra is developing guidance for applicants and Planning Authorities in England to demonstrate that they have appropriately considered the PM2.5 targets when making planning applications and planning decisions.

The [interim guidance](#) encourages developers to consider the risk of exposure to particulate matter when selecting a development site, such as its proximity to sensitive receptors and pollution sources as well as exposure and emissions during both construction and operation. In addition, it also advises on what actions have been considered to reduce PM2.5 exposure such as the development design, site layout, technology used in construction or installed for use in the development and construction, and future use of the development.

## LAQM Updates

In November, Defra released some LAQM updates. This included:

- 2021 reference year background maps for 2021 – 2040 for NOx, NO2, PM10 and PM2.5;
- NO2 adjustment for NOx sector removal tool (v9.0);
- NOx to NO2 calculator (v9.1);
- Roadside NO2 project factors; and
- The 2025 diffusion tube calendar.

More details on the LAQM updates can be found on the [LAQM website](#).

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## Interesting Reads

### Air fryer indoor air pollution

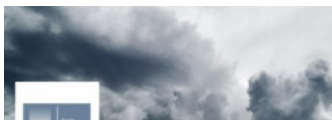
A study by the University of Birmingham has found that using an air fryer is the least polluting cooking method for indoor air quality. Concentrations of particulate matter and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) were found to be far lower when using an air fryer to cook chicken breast compared to pan-frying, stir-frying, deep frying and boiling. However, I would probably avoid cooking all of your Christmas dinner in an air fryer this year!

[Read the study](#)

### Improving air pollution would avoid 80,000 vet visits every year, study finds

London School of Economics (LSE) released a study indicating that improving air pollution would avoid 80,000 vet visits every year. It is not just people who are impacted by air pollution, our furry friends are too. The study found that that a 1µg/m3 increase in PM2.5 over a week leads to a 0.7% increase in vet admissions for both cats and dogs. The study also highlighted that there is relatively little research on how air pollution impacts animal health.

[Read the study](#)



### IAQM - Early Career Network

Listed group

## 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.



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

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