



IAQM Early Careers Network Newsletter: January 2024

Hello everybody and welcome to the January 2024 edition of the IAQM Early Careers Network (ECN) Newsletter, the first of the new year!

New subcommittee members

We have had a bit of change recently on the IAQM ECN subcommittee. Amy Van de Sande and Emily Portergill have stepped down after completing their terms. We would like to thank them both for all their hard work whilst being part of the subcommittee.

In their place, we would like to welcome Eleri Paterson Hughes and Isobel Ward to the subcommittee. You can see a full list of our subcommittee members below:

- Chair – Honor Puciato (Ricardo)
- Vice Chair – Davide Pascarella (London Boroughs of Merton, Richmond and Wandsworth)
- Communications & Discussion Organisers - Jason Wong (Ricardo) and Eleri Paterson Hughes (Ricardo)
- Events Organisers - Mark Nichols (Hydrock) and Abbie O'Sullivan (Stantec)
- Content and Topics Organisers - Jack Richmond (Arup) and Isobel Ward (Arcadis)

If you wish to find out more about any of our current subcommittee members, please check out the [ECN section of the IAQM website](#).



A message from our IAQM ECN Subcommittee Chair, Honor Puciato

As we bid farewell to the vibrant year of 2023, I want to take this opportunity to say thank you and farewell to two subcommittee members who have completed their terms. Amy and Emily, it was a pleasure to work with both of you. I would also like to warmly welcome our new subcommittee members Isobel and Eleri. I am excited about the fresh perspectives and energy you will bring to our dynamic team.

At the same time, I want to extend my gratitude to everyone who has remained on board. Your creativity, dedication and drive have breathed life into the enriching events for our community. Thank you for your ongoing contributions.

Reflecting on the bustling activities of 2023, I trust you all enjoyed the array of events and workshops we organised for our community.

As we step into 2024, brace yourselves for more!

We're committed to organising more knowledge-sharing events, providing ECN members with a platform to share experiences and hone essential skills to thrive as an air quality professional. Get ready for an expanded agenda featuring exciting field trips, offering our members first-hand industry experiences and knowledge.

For those aspiring to progress their careers or eager to share their wisdom, we're crafting a mentoring offer catered around air quality.

Keep a keen eye out for updates, and if you have any ideas or are yearning to contribute, please do reach out!

2024 is poised to be a great year, and we invite you to be an integral part of it!



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.



Congratulations to Ian McCrae Award winner Yi Zhang

Congratulations to Yi Zhang from Buro Happold who won the 2023 Ian McCrae Award, which was presented at the annual Routes to Clean Air Conference in October.

This award takes the form of an essay competition that is open to early careers members of the IAQM. It is presented in honour of the late Dr Ian McCrae who made significant contributions to the understanding of emissions from transport and their links with air quality.

Yi's winning entry explored measures that could be put in place in the London Borough of Camden to improve the local air quality. Several initiatives were proposed, including stakeholder and community engagement, improving active mobility and cross-regional collaboration. The judges were particularly impressed with Yi's understanding of the local area and for providing a strong argument for the initiatives selected.

This is what Yi had to say about their win:

"I'm honoured to be selected as the recipient of this year's Ian McCrae Award and deeply appreciate the acknowledgement from the judges. For young professionals in air quality like myself, the annual essay competition hosted by IAQM offers an opportunity for us to contemplate crucial questions about air quality that may not necessarily be the primary focus of our day-to-day work, which allows us to broaden our horizon. I believe the knowledge I acquired during essay preparation will be invaluable to my work and future career."

Congratulations Yi! You can read their submission in full on the IAQM website.

[Read the winning entry](#)

Previous Events



London Meetup and Christmas Social: Air Quality's Next Top Model

On the 7th December 2023, we hosted our last event of the year [IAQM Early Careers Network Meetup and Christmas Social: Air Quality's Next Top Model – Early Careers Air Quality Modelling Case Studies](#).

The event featured four amazing presentations by five of our ECN members, followed by a festive themed social networking session at the venue and later moving to a nearby pub. You can access the presentation slides from the event [here](#).

The event was a great success, and we look forward to bringing you more like this in the new year. But don't just take our word for it, here is what an attendee had to say:

"I had a fantastic time at the Christmas social, which was also my first time attending an IAQM event! Grateful for the opportunity to meet new faces and walked away with a greater understanding of the different areas in the air quality industry!" – Danny Mengel, Cass Allen

We love to give our ECN members the chance to present through our events. If you wish to get involved in a future event, please contact us at: communities@the-ies.org



Routes to Clean Air Conference

The annual Routes to Clean Air Conference was held over 10th – 11th October in Manchester.

In 2023 we gave our Early Careers Network members the chance to present for the first time, and heard from Ella Wingard (Ricardo) who presented on the "Air Pollution Footprint Partnership" and Lauren Nixon (WSP) who presented on "Indoor AQ monitoring of central London Schools and Lessons Learnt".

Both gave excellent talks and were recognised as being "very interesting, and amongst the most fluent, organised and well presented of the conference" by IAQM Committee member and conference organiser Carl Hawkins, a sentiment that was echoed by IAQM chair Chris Rush.

This is what they both had to say about presenting at the conference:

Ella Wingard: *"Being able to present at the Routes to Clean Air conference as an ECN speaker was invaluable, particularly because opportunities to present in-person are much harder to come by since the COVID-19 pandemic. It was great to present alongside other air quality professionals who have a wealth of expertise, and to still receive positive feedback on my presentation from the audience as an ECN speaker. The experience has really boosted my confidence, so thank you to IAQM!"*

Lauren Nixon: *"The Routes to Clean Air Conference was such a fantastic event with a diversity of themes and speakers which amplify the variety of subjects which link to air quality. It was a great event to meet like-minded and brilliant other air quality professionals. Speaking at such a well-organised and prestigious event has been a highlight of my career so far."*

We'll be continuing to offer the opportunity to present at IAQM conferences to early careers members, so watch this space!

Emissions Factors Toolkit (EFT) V12.0

In November 2023, the Emissions Factors Toolkit (EFT) was updated to volume 12.0. Some of the key changes include:

- Being able to output emissions to 2050;
- Use of the COPERT v5.6 NOx and PM speed-based emissions factors;
- Update to the methodology for calculating CO2 exhaust emissions;
- Emissions factors for PM non-exhaust emissions sources have been updated in line with information published in the EMEP/EEA Emissions Inventory Guidebook 2019.

You can [find the full range of updates, EFT v12.0 and the guidebook here](#).

Mayor's Air Quality Fund (MAQF)

Applications for Round 4 of the Mayor's Air Quality Fund are now open. London boroughs are encouraged to apply for a share of £5.3 million in new funding made available by the GLA and TfL to support ambitious projects that reduce air pollution, protect public health, and make London a cleaner and healthier city for everyone.

This round of funding aims to help boroughs:

- Reduce Harmful particulate matter (PM2.5) emissions;
- Run more sustainable events;
- Protect the most vulnerable Londoners from pollution exposure in locations such as schools and hospitals;
- Improve indoor air quality.

Applications are open until 5pm on Friday 19th January 2024. [Find out more information here](#).

Interesting Reads

Africa's dangerous air pollution levels are a global problem

A report in Nature Geoscience by the University of Birmingham, University of Cambridge, Imperial College London, South Eastern Kenya University and the African Centre for Clean Air has brought to light the challenge of air pollution levels in Africa and why international action is needed to combat it.

A combination of burning of biomass fuel for cooking, heating and lighting, crude oil exploitation, coal mining industries and old vehicles being imported from Europe have all been identified as causes for the poor air quality in African nations.

[Read the report](#)

Workplace air quality

An article published in the Harvard Business Review by Joseph Allen has highlighted the importance of companies monitoring their workplace indoor air quality.

The benefits of monitoring indoor air quality include:

- Improving worker health, safety and presence by being able to confirm that the building is performing the way it should;
- An increase in work productivity; and
- Helping with climate goals and sustainability, as buildings account for around 40% of global greenhouse gas emissions.

[Read the article](#)

COP28 briefing

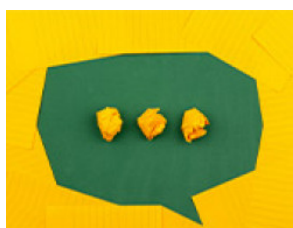
The annual United Nations Climate Change Conference COP28 took place in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, between 30th November and 12th December.

The 2023 meeting featured delegates from nearly 200 countries negotiating on how to ramp up the response to the ongoing global climate crisis.

There was a renewed commitment to the Paris climate agreement with countries agreeing to focus on moving away from the use of fossil fuels.

The IES has published a briefing on COP28: Implications for policy and environmental science.

[Read the briefing](#)



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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