

Air pollution is a problem in Scotland...

...and it's getting worse. There are 41 Air Quality Management Areas in Scotland which are at levels **damaging to human health**¹ and do not meet the air quality standards set by the World Health Organisation.

Am I at risk?

Yes. It is especially harmful to children, older people, pregnant women and people with existing health conditions. Air pollution is often worse in inner-city areas increasing inequalities in health.

Can it affect my health?

Yes. It can cause acute harm to our heart and lungs and chronic harm to every organ in the body. It is linked to pregnancy loss, premature birth, low birth weight and can affect lung development.²

Can it be fatal?

Yes. It is considered the biggest environmental health risk across Europe.³ In the UK it is linked to 28,000-36,000 premature deaths a year.⁴

Air pollution is linked to over 1700 premature deaths a year in Scotland.⁵

What causes air pollution?

Traffic is the number one cause of air pollution in Scotland.⁶ Other sources include industrial facilities such as power plants, refineries, factories and agriculture.

Is my air pollution monitored?

Possibly. There is live air monitoring from 100 sites around Scotland which can be found on this [website](#). The 41 Air Quality Management Areas can be found on this [website](#).

What is the Scottish Government doing about air pollution?

[Cleaner Air For Scotland 2](#) outlines Scotland's air quality strategy to comply with European Union⁷ and UK-wide air quality standards.⁸ [Low Emission Zones](#) is a scheme to create low emission zones in Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh and Glasgow local authorities.

We all have the right to
CLEAN AIR

Get involved in campaigning against air pollution

Contact:

[Friends of the Earth Scotland Campaign](#)

[Clean Air Day Scotland](#)

More information

[Overview of air pollution and health](#) / [UK air quality tool](#) / [Scotland's standards for different air pollutants](#) / [2020 Air Quality Scotland Brochure](#) / [Breathe Scotland website](#)

What can I do if I have a concern?

Contact our Rights Officer to talk more at rights@ercs.scot

Contact our free legal advice service at www.ercs.scot/get-advice

Call our office on **0131 358 0038** or freephone on **0800 861 1738**

¹ Scottish Air Quality (accessed 8 June 2022), [Air Quality Management Areas](#)

² Schraufnagel et al. (March 2018), [Air Pollution and Noncommunicable Diseases](#)

³ European Environment Agency (accessed 8 June 2022), [Air pollution: how it affects our health](#)

⁴ Committee on the Medical Effects of Air Pollutants (2018), [Associations of long-term average concentrations with mortality](#)

⁵ Health Promotion Scotland (June 2018), [Air Pollution & Health Briefing Note](#)

⁶ Scotland's environment (accessed 8 June 2022), [Air Quality](#)

⁷ European Union (2010), [Industrial Emissions Directive \(Directive 2010/75/EU\)](#)

⁸ Scottish Government (2016), [Part IV of The Environment Act 1995](#)