



Cleaner Air 4 Secondary Schools

The challenge

Poor air quality is responsible for 29,000 deaths a year in the UK. It contributes to myriad health problems including asthma, heart disease and lung disease. Young people are particularly at risk as growing lungs are most vulnerable to the impact of pollution, and studies show those exposed to poor air quality have 8% reduced lung function.¹ Air quality has been linked to children's behaviour, birth outcome, cognitive development and cardiovascular effects. Secondary School students are targeted as they are starting to make their own travel decisions and life choices, in particular as they start to think about further education and careers.

Since many teenagers may consider themselves resilient to adult influence, to be effective project must take a student-centred approach, giving them control, and equipping them with the knowledge and life skills to enable them to make safer, more sustainable choices in their independence. Crucially, they are also influential in setting the social norm for their community, and have a heavy influence on their parents and guardians.² Cleaner Air 4 Schools aims to reach beyond the classroom, to effect and inspire change that benefits the whole school community

What we offer

Cleaner Air 4 Schools is a curriculum based, educational investigation into air quality that helps students

- Improve awareness, knowledge and understanding of air pollution
- Develop strategies to reduce emissions and exposure
- Encourage the adoption of sustainable travel behaviours and inspire their future travel habits.
- Establish broader links to sustainability and local governance, drawing out specific elements of air quality.
- Offer extra-curriculum opportunities especially in relation to Duke of Edinburgh and Crest Awards.

Our track record

London Sustainability Exchange's Cleaner Air 4 Schools project has successfully raised awareness of air quality in primary schools across London; helping individuals to reduce both their impact on air quality and their exposure to harmful pollutants. With support from East Hertfordshire District Council, and the London Borough of Southwark, LSx have developed a Secondary schools approach piloting this is seven secondary schools as well as developing a Cleaner Air 4 School's Toolkit.



¹ Kings College London https://kclpure.kcl.ac.uk/portal/ian_mudway.html

² Target Marketing to Children – The Ethical Aspect Dr. Ritu Bhattacharyya* Dr. Sangita Kohli**

What people say

"This project was a fantastic way for students to work 'beyond the syllabus', broadening and deepening their knowledge of pollution and healthy living. Working with highly approachable professionals, and as competing teams, was a great experience for them from which they learnt many skills that will help them in their future careers and studies" – **Dr. Louise Morris, Head of Science, Richard Hale**

"It was amazing that the young people asked such enthusiastic and important questions on how air quality can be improved. The girls have worked so hard to understand how that can make the difference, I am keen to stay in touch, and make sure that new planning decisions take the need to improve air quality in the area. " - **Bermondsey & Old Southwark MP Neil Coyle**

"I feel the project was really helpful as now I know how to change the way I travel to stop air pollution"- **Josephine, Year 8 Student, Notre Dame**

"This project has been excellent – well organised, interesting, and fitted into the curriculum"- **Teresa Crowley, Careers Coordinator, Notre Dame**

Contact Us

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