



## Pollution - Air Quality



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The Environmental Protection Team operates a number of individual diffusion tube sites throughout the borough. These diffusion tubes measure the amount of nitrogen dioxide in the air we breathe.

The quality of the air we breathe is important for our health and wellbeing. During large scale events such as the fire at the fuel depot site at Buncefield, the pollution of the air is a very obvious and visible occurrence. However, pollution from traffic and industry is often not visible.

We are a member of the Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire Air Pollution Monitoring Network (HBAPMN).

All local authorities have been assessing air quality across their areas and comparing it against national objectives, set out in the Government's Clean Air Strategy, for a number of pollutants including carbon monoxide, benzene, 1,3 butadiene, lead, nitrogen dioxide, particulate matter and sulphur dioxide. Where air quality is poor an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) is declared and, where possible, local action taken to improve the air in that area. Hertsmer currently have six declared AQMAs due to the levels of nitrogen dioxide.

In 2019 the Government produced The Clean Air Strategy 2019, which sets out the comprehensive actions required across all parts of government and society to improve air quality.

The strategy sets out how we will:

- protect the nation's health
- protect the environment
- secure clean growth and innovation
- reduce emissions from transport, homes, farming and industry
- monitor our progress

It complements three other UK government strategies: the

[Industrial Strategy](#), the [Clean Growth Strategy](#) and the [25 Year Environment Plan](#)



### Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire Air Pollution Alert System, the free air pollution alert messaging system

Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire Air Pollution Alert System is a free service to subscribers in Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire that sends registered users an alert message if air pollution in their area is forecast or measured to be moderate, high or very high. The description of the level of pollution is based upon the UK's Air Quality Banding System.

The alert service is provided for anyone wishing to know about the quality of the air they breathe. It will be of particular benefit to people with medical conditions that may be affected by pollution, such as asthma, bronchitis and emphysema. It may also benefit people whose breathing gets worse when air pollution increases. This early warning service allows you to make informed decisions and to take action if necessary to minimise the effects of pollution episodes.

[Sign up for air quality notifications.](#)

Outlined in the strategy are the air quality objectives for a number of pollutants the Government feels are of most concern at present. Some of these are detailed below.

**PM10 Particulates**



**Nitrogen Dioxide (NO2)**



**Ozone (O3)**



**Sulphur Dioxide (SO2)**



**Where can I get further information**



**Reports**



## **Contact us**

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If you need further information regarding air quality please contact Paul Busz, Senior Environmental Health Officer on 020 8207 2277 or email [environmental.health@hertsmere.gov.uk](mailto:environmental.health@hertsmere.gov.uk)

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