

Why clean air is important



The air is cleaner than it was a few years ago.



This is because of rules made to help stop some [air pollution](#).

But we still have a lot of work to do. Because we know that:



- [Air pollution](#) can make people unwell. This could be things like headaches and feeling sick.



But if people have serious problems with their heart and lungs, [air pollution](#) can make them more unwell.



- [Air pollution](#) can have a big effect on children as they are growing. And can cause problems for babies before they are even born.



- There are also costs like people having to take time off work and costs to the NHS.



- Some people live in areas that have more **air pollution** than others.



And **air pollution** can cause worse health problems in areas where people are poor and already have bad health.



So we need to think about how we can protect people who are most at risk when we make our rules.

What can the public do?



There is a website called **The Air Quality in Wales** website: www.airquality.gov.wales. This gives information about levels of **air pollution**.



People can look at this and check the air quality where they live.



We are going to make the website better, with more information. And we will make it easy to understand.



We will work with **Public Health Wales** to think about how to get information in places like doctor's surgeries and hospitals.



We support an event called **Clean Air Day**. This is run by a charity called **Global Action Plan** and teaches people about **air pollution**.



We encourage everyone to get involved in **Clean Air Day**. For example, people can join in by choosing to walk, cycle, skate or scoot instead of using a car.



In 2022 there is going to be a change to the way subjects are being taught in Welsh schools.



Pupils are going to learn more about **air pollution**. We are going to work with schools to help with this.



There are also projects that help people learn more about science and research. They are called **Citizen Science**.

