



Air pollution

This fact sheet can be made available in other languages or formats on request by contacting 0161 770 6666. For further information please see our detailed fact sheet Information for all.

Air pollution can affect us all. Young children and the elderly are particularly susceptible as pollutants can be quickly absorbed into their bodies. Asthma sufferers are especially sensitive and raised levels of common pollutants may trigger attacks.

What are the main causes?

Road transport, industry and people at home are the main causes of air pollution in the UK.

Road transport

Emissions from cars and other vehicles contribute around 70% of the air pollution in our towns and cities.

We have the power to carry out roadside vehicle emission checks and fine drivers of polluting vehicles. There are also pollution reducing measures contained in greater Manchester's Local Transport Plan, which can be viewed at www.gmltp.co.uk.

As one of the biggest employers in the area we have a Travel Plan to encourage our staff to travel using forms of transport that have a less polluting impact on the environment.

Industry

Larger industries, such as power stations and oil refineries, are regulated by the Environment Agency.

We regulate the emissions of smoke and other air pollutants from smaller factories and industrial processes. Operators of installations must apply to us for an authorisation which sets controls to prevent the release of harmful pollutants. For more information, please see our fact sheet [Air pollution control \(industrial processes\)](#).

Domestic

We enforce the controls in operational smoke control areas. These have been in place in many areas to ban the burning of smoky fuels, such as coal or wood.

We might also be able to do something about your neighbour's bonfire if the smoke from it is causing you a problem and you are not able to persuade them to stop. Use the contact details below to tell us about the problem.

Air Quality Management Areas

Since 1996 we have worked with the other councils in Greater Manchester to declare and act upon Air Quality Management Areas. These are areas for which we develop action plans to reduce the levels of air pollutants by working with, for instance, planners, highway engineers, health planners and environmental health officers.

You can see information on these Air Quality Management Areas at www.mapac.org.uk

Contacting us

If you would like more information about air pollution you can contact us by:

Writing to

Environmental Health, Chadderton Town Hall, Middleton Road, Chadderton, Oldham, OL9 6PP

Phoning

0161 770 4502

Faxing

0161 770 3444

Emailing

environmentalhealth@oldham.gov.uk

You can also see our detailed fact sheet:

- [Air pollution control \(industrial processes\)](#)

Or visit one of the following websites:

www.nasca.org.uk

www.environment-agency.gov.uk

We value your comments and suggestions

We want to provide good quality service for people in Oldham and as we are a public service you have a say in what we do. We want you to be completely satisfied with our services but to ensure this we need to know what you think. What do we do best? Where could we improve things? Do you have any ideas or suggestions? Only by listening to you can we give you the service you deserve.

If you wish to make a comment about our services you can e-mail us on

[**customer.feedback@oldham.gov.uk**](mailto:customer.feedback@oldham.gov.uk)

or you can phone us on 0161 770 4191

or you can write to us:

Complaints Officer

Strategy and Resources Directorate

PO Box 160

Civic Centre

Oldham, OL1 1UG

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