

AIR QUALITY IN CITIES

An urban challenge

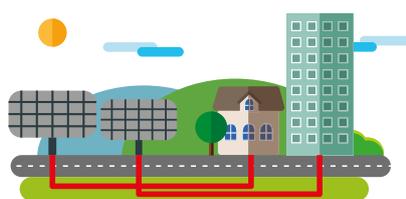
Clean air in Europe's cities improves our health and overall quality of life and helps fight climate change and preserve our environment.



Home to 3 out of 4 Europeans, many urban areas suffer from dangerously high levels of air pollution. The EU, national and local authorities need to take more action, especially against the main offenders – urban transport and the use of fuels such as coal or wood for household heating.

Existing policies and international cooperation have resulted in Europe's air being cleaner today than it has been for decades. New EU policies and legislation aim to cut air pollution-related health impacts further, by at least half by 2030.

Good practices to improve city air quality include:



City or district heating, using heat from existing industry or renewable energy sources



Traffic restrictions such as low-emission zones, reduced speed limits and congestion charges



More **energy-efficient buildings**



Reliable, affordable and clean **public transport** such as electric buses and trams and new Euro VI or retrofitted buses



Extensive and safe **cycling networks**, abundant bike-parking facilities with easy access to public transport



Promoting substitution of old, dirty **stoves and boilers** with clean models, and banning **dirty fuels for household heating/cooking**

Did you know?



400 000 premature deaths in the EU every year are linked to air pollution



Air pollution costs over **€4 billion in healthcare** and **€16 billion in lost workdays**



About **130 cities** across Europe do not meet EU air quality standards



Particulate matter and nitrogen dioxide are the main urban pollutants and are **very harmful** to **human health**



72% of Europeans want **public action** to improve air quality

EU funding is available for implementing air quality policy.

Details at: <http://bit.ly/2xA9sCY>



Publications Office