

# Reducing Road Traffic Air Pollution in Wales

Outdoor air pollution is the biggest environmental threat to health

Parts of Wales regularly experience poor air quality



Two thirds of urban air pollution is due to road traffic emissions

Road traffic emissions contain pollutants including **particulate matter** (PM) and **nitrogen dioxide** (NO<sub>2</sub>)<sup>1</sup>

## Impact and cost of air pollution in Wales



### Health impact

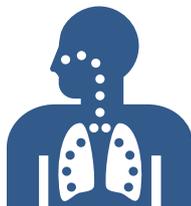
Air pollution is linked with conditions including



heart diseases

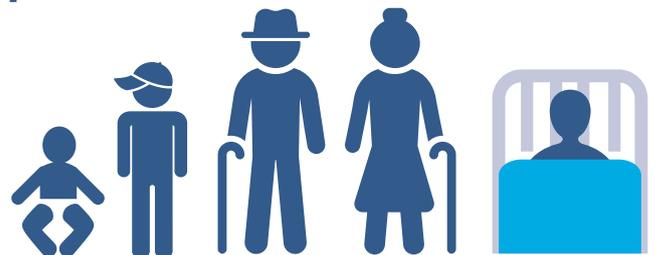


stroke



lung diseases and lung cancer

Some people are at **more at risk** than others e.g. **children, older people**, those with **existing health problems**



On average, life expectancy is reduced by **7-8 months**



### Cost to society

The cost to society from air pollution is around

**£1 bn** per year

in Wales

<sup>1</sup> NO<sub>2</sub> is an irritant gas produced by combustion processes, PM refers to tiny particles of varying chemical composition less than 2.5µm (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) or 10µm (PM<sub>10</sub>) in diameter that can be inhaled deep into the lungs



# The Solutions

## Reducing road traffic air pollution in Wales

Everyone can play a role in reducing air pollution  
A number of joined up actions at local, regional and national level together can produce significant change



**Planning our communities**  
Take account of air pollution problems and solutions in planning decisions

### Active Travel and Sustainable Transport

For shorter journeys such as trips to shops or schools, **walking** and **cycling** has a return of **£8** for **£1** invested. For longer journeys use **public transport**, together with walking and cycling



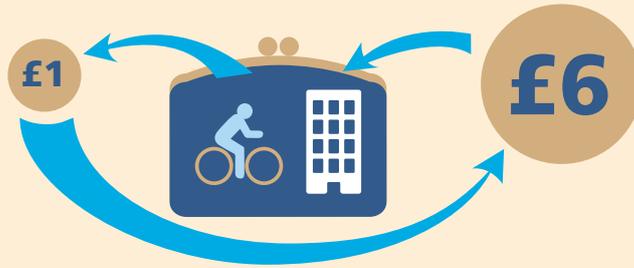
Promoting **zero emission transport** for the **final mile of business deliveries** returns **£5** for every **£1** invested



**Linking places where people live and work** through walking and cycling infrastructure has a return of **£10** for every **£1** invested



**Corporate low emission travel plans** like cycle to work schemes return **£6** for every **£1** invested



### Reducing vehicle emissions

**Car clubs** can help **reduce the number of vehicles on the road** and encourage use of public and active transport, with



**Low emission zones** in populated areas can return

**£27** for every **£1** invested



**Reducing urban speed limits from 30mph to 20mph** would reduce PM emissions, crash casualties and fatalities, as well as increase community cohesion



**Note:** This infographic is part of the 'Making a Difference: Investing in Sustainable Health and Well-being for the People of Wales' report. The methods and sources of information are available in the 'Supporting Evidence' document on the Public Health Wales website. Where possible, latest figures for Wales are presented. Where unavailable, figures for Wales have been estimated from the latest UK/England/other data on unadjusted per capita basis.