

CASE STUDY: Institution of Civil Engineers 'Engineering Cleaner Air'

The Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE) is one of the pre-eminent engineering institutions in the world and works to be the voice of civil engineering. We do this through raising the profile of civil engineering in the media, developing policy positions on the key issues of the day and working with government to deliver improvements to our infrastructure and beyond.

Celebrating our 200th anniversary, the ICE was established as a learned society in 1818, it has over 90,000 members and provides a voice for civil engineering, continuing professional development and promoting best practice throughout the industry.

ICE London and South East England supports and represents around 20,000 members living and working in the Capital and the South East to actively promote civil engineering with industry, schools, universities, local government and the media.

ICE London and its members have been key in providing expert advice to City Hall and London policy makers on a wide range of infrastructure issues. ICE produces reports, provides thought leadership and develops infrastructure policy to better inform decision makers.

In autumn 2017, ICE London published a report *Engineering Cleaner Air* which was the culmination of the work of the Air Quality Taskforce, led by Professor Peter Hansford.

The 14 strong panel came up with ten key proposals to help clean up London's air, and we are delighted that we received the backing of the Considerate Constructors Scheme to raise the issue of air pollution as part of their monitoring of construction sites.

By including air quality measures in these best practice schemes, the industry can help monitor local air quality and reduce the emissions from sites. This will make construction sites healthier places to work and help to record the impact of construction on air quality.

Amongst the reports other recommendations, we called for:

- A long term commitment from City Hall to provide strategic leadership on vehicle consolidation centres
- Increased pedestrianised zones across the capital, whilst taking a strategic approach on the impact of public transport
- A zero-emission approach to building planning within the London Plan
- Air quality improvements to be a central objective of the new Energy for Londoners agency
- Promotion of good practice air quality planning policy in Neighbourhood Plans
- Incentivised use of commercial wharves along the river
- London to become a world-leading city in electric vehicle usage, whilst taking action to prepare for the growing burden upon the electricity grid
- A programme roll-out for monitoring Underground station air quality

As we live in an era of technical innovation, new technologies will be crucial to boost air quality, and that is why we have called on London to become a world leader in electric vehicle usage.

With new methods of delivery – including drones, and autonomous vehicles - vehicle consolidation centres will also be key to unleashing that new technology, and reducing the number of vehicle movements for deliveries – crucially cutting down unnecessary vehicle movements and improving the air around us.

The ICE continues to engage with stakeholders and politicians at both London and national level to not only raise awareness of the issues, but also help to shift attitudes and opinions into delivering real change for air quality in London, and beyond.

Our 10 point plan to improve air quality in London presents clear and achievable targets, and with the success in engaging with Considerate Constructors Scheme, every aspect of the report can help improve the air for us all.

We, as civil engineers have a significant role to play in reducing air pollution, helping to improve air quality for all residents and visitors in London.

Whilst our report focuses on London it can act as a blueprint for urban areas across the UK and around the world.

The full report can be found [here](#).