

Bristol's Clean Air Zone

Business toolkit

Use this toolkit to find out how to the zone works and how you can help make the air we breathe cleaner.



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“We have a moral, environmental and legal responsibility to make Bristol’s air cleaner. Our city is already benefitting from positive changes, including improvements to bus infrastructure, walking routes and cycle paths. Now, the Clean Air Zone will reduce air pollution, support people and businesses to upgrade their vehicles and help us become a healthier, more sustainable and inclusive city.”

Marvin Rees, Mayor of Bristol

1. About the Clean Air Zone

A major source of pollution is road traffic, particularly diesel engines. Air pollution affects everyone in Bristol, especially in the most polluted areas of the city.

The council has a legal and moral duty to reduce pollution in the shortest possible time. The government has directed Bristol and other cities to do this through a Clean Air Zone.

No vehicle is banned from driving in Bristol’s Clean Air Zone, but the most polluting vehicles will have to pay a daily charge to travel within the area.

Unlike a congestion charge, which charges all vehicles to enter the area, only the most polluting vehicles are charged to drive within the Clean Air Zone. The majority of vehicles that travel in Bristol already meet the zone’s emission standards and will not be charged.

The zone will also encourage more people to switch to alternative ways of travelling, such as public transport, walking and cycling.



Location

The zone is designed to improve air quality in the central area where it's worst.

By encouraging people to switch to cleaner vehicles or change the way they travel, the zone will improve the air quality throughout the city and not just in the zone.

We also estimate the zone will reduce the traffic travelling into the city by approximately 1,500 vehicles per day.

Visit our website to [view an interactive map of the zone](#).

How to know if you've driven in the zone

Look out for road signs that will tell you if you are approaching or entering the Clean Air Zone. These are placed at regular intervals as you approach the zone boundary.

Signs have a clearly marked green cloud with the letter 'D' inside.



Clean Air Zone standards

Only vehicles which do not meet the emission standards for the zone will be charged.

71 per cent of vehicles travelling into the zone already meet the emission standards so only a minority of vehicles will be charged.

[Check whether your vehicle\(s\) will be charged](#) on the government's website.



DIESEL:
Euro 6 (VI)
standard or
better (most new
registrations after
1 September
2015)



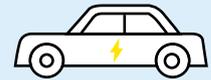
PETROL OR LPG:
(Added to original
petrol engine)
Euro 4 standard
or better (most
new registrations
after 1 September
2006)



GAS:
Euro 6 (VI)
standard or
better



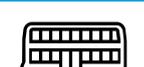
FULLY ELECTRIC:
(Or hydrogen
fuel cell)
all are compliant
and avoid CAZ
charges



HYBRID ELECTRIC:
Diesel engine
must be Euro
6, petrol engine
must be at least
Euro 4

Charges

If your vehicle doesn't meet the zone's emission standards you will have to pay a daily charge to drive into it.

Vehicle type	Charge
 Private car	£9 per day
 Taxis	£9 per day
 Vans	£9 per day
 Heavy goods vehicle	£100 per day
 Buses	£100 per day
 Coach	£100 per day
 Motorcycle	No charge

There's only one charge per 24 hour period (midnight to midnight). The zone will operate 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Vehicles entering the zone will be picked up by automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) cameras.

If you live within the zone and drive a vehicle that doesn't meet the zone's emission standards, you will only be charged if you make a journey.

How to pay

Charges must be paid via the [government's online payment system](#) or by calling their Clean Air Zone Support Centre on 0300 029 8888 (Monday to Friday: 8am to 7pm, Saturday: 8am to 2pm).

Please note you will **not** receive written notification or an alert when you have entered the zone and a payment is due. You are fully responsible for managing all payments.

You can pay the charge to enter Bristol's Clean Air Zone from **up to six days before until six days after you enter the zone**. If you do not pay the charge before the end of this window you may be issued with a Penalty Charge Notice of £120 (which is reduced to £60 if you pay it within 14 days).

If you drive in the zone across two days, for example before midnight and after midnight, you will need to pay two daily charges.

You can also set up a business account to manage payments for multiple fleet vehicles on the government website. Remember that charges cannot be paid automatically. You are fully responsible for managing all payments within six days of driving in the zone.

Exemptions

You may be able to apply for an exemption from Bristol's Clean Air Zone charge if you meet our eligibility criteria and own a vehicle that doesn't meet the zone's emission standards. There are temporary exemptions for Bristol's Clean Air Zone and national exemptions for all Clean Air Zones.

For [more information about exemptions](#) visit our website.

Keep informed

Visit our website for [updates and news](#).

Follow [@BCC Clean Air](#) on Twitter or search for the hashtag #cleanairforbristol.

The council's Transport Engagement Team send out regular e-newsletters which will keep you up to date with the latest transport and travel news. Email the team at transport.engagement@bristol.gov.uk to be added to their mailing list.

2. Support and guidance

Check your fleet

[Check whether your vehicle\(s\) meets the emission standards](#) for the zone by using the government's vehicle checker.

Take advantage of financial support

The council recognises that smaller businesses and people who are self-employed may need extra support to prepare for the zone.

We want to help businesses grow and prosper. Funding is available to help you prepare for the zone in various ways.

Funding will be open to all businesses that operate within the zone. Initially we will be prioritising small or medium sized enterprises, sole traders and charities.

[Find out about the support on offer and register your interest](#) on our website.

Funding for small or medium enterprises (SMEs)

Heavy Duty Vehicle Fund

SMEs with coaches or heavy goods vehicles may be eligible to apply for support through the Heavy Duty Vehicle Fund.

This can help with the cost of retrofitting vehicles which do not meet the zone's emission standards and purchasing or leasing compliant vehicles. [To find out more about the Heavy Duty Vehicle Fund](#) visit our website.

Growth Hub

The West of England's Growth Hub provides [free advice on how to access investment and funding](#).

Additional Support

Sustainable transport can benefit your staff and business. [Find out more about grant funding, travel offers for your staff, support for going electric and use of delivery hubs](#).

Support for individuals travelling into the zone for work

If you're travelling into the zone for work in a non-compliant vehicle and earning less than £27,000 a year, and no more than £13.51 per hour, you may be eligible for financial support.

[Find out if you meet the conditions and apply for support](#) on our website.

Get free travel support

If you live or work in Bristol, we can provide free travel offers to help you save money and find new ways of getting about.

Our free offers include bus, train and e-scooter vouchers and car club credit.

[Apply for vouchers on our website.](#)

Funding for electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure

You may be eligible to apply for funding for the installation of EV charging infrastructure through government grant schemes.

[Find out more about the support available for the installation of EV charging points](#) on the government's website.

Visit the Travelwest website to [find out more about financial support for EVs](#).

Invest in cleaner vehicles

If your vehicles meet the emission standards for the zone, you won't be charged for driving in the zone.

You may want to consider updating your fleet to save money and reduce your emissions.

As well as improving air quality and helping to combat climate change, choosing a low or zero emission vehicle can also save you money.

Whilst the upfront costs may currently be slightly more than for a petrol or diesel vehicle, the running costs of these newer technologies are lower. This helps owners make significant annual savings and means that over time the total cost of owning a low or zero emission vehicle (including purchase price) is often cheaper.

Car clubs

Car clubs offer an alternative to private car ownership for individuals and businesses. They reduce the need for private parking and can help more people give up their cars while allowing for occasional car travel.

The Travelwest website has [more about car clubs in Bristol](#).

Review staff travel policies

Supporting and encouraging your staff to use active and sustainable travel options (such as walking, cycling and public transport) makes good business sense. It can help save money on Clean Air Zone charges and parking fees as well as have a positive impact on air quality, health, wellbeing and corporate social responsibility goals.

Why not consider:

- staff salary sacrifice car scheme and bicycle schemes
- provision of pool cars / car clubs and pool bikes
- reviewing business travel policies
- encouraging staff to visit the Travelwest website for [information on public transport, cycling and walking options for any journey](#)

Implementing flexible working or home working policies may also benefit your business, your staff and the environment.

Travel audit

We offer support to businesses that are looking to better understand their workforce's travel behaviour and establish a travel plan.

A travel audit is designed to give you a better understanding of your organisation's strengths and weaknesses in relation to sustainable travel.

[Find out more about travel audits](#) on the Travelwest website.

Review delivery and service plans

By managing deliveries effectively and reducing the number of journeys required, you can cut your freight and delivery costs. By doing this you are helping to reduce air pollution and congestion.

There is more information about how we can help you [develop a Delivery and Servicing Plan](#) on the Travelwest website.

Bike and electric van couriers are an efficient and green way to make deliveries around the city. As well as avoiding any Clean Air Zone charges, bikes do not pay parking charges and can easily avoid traffic jams.

3. Spread the word

Video testimonials

When it comes to spreading the word there is nothing more powerful than hearing from real people. Let us know how you are raising awareness of the Clean Air Zone.

Simply record a one minute video of how you are helping to keep our air clean. You don't need fancy equipment – your smartphone will work just fine! Share your video with us on Twitter via [@BCC Clean Air](https://twitter.com/BCC_Clean_Air) or email it to CAZsupport@bristol.gov.uk

Suggested email or newsletter content

Bristol Clean Air Zone – do you know what to do?

Bristol City Council has introduced a Clean Air Zone to tackle harmful pollution from vehicles.

No vehicles are banned from driving in the zone, but drivers of some older and more polluting vehicles will have to pay a daily charge. 71 per cent of vehicles travelling into the zone already meet these standards so only a minority of vehicles will be charged.

Check your vehicle

Visit the government's clean air zone website to find out [how to check your vehicle](#) and find out more about the zone.

Pay a charge

If your vehicle doesn't meet the zone's emissions standard you must pay a charge within six days of driving in the zone. You only need to pay a charge once each day (midnight to midnight).

Pay online via www.gov.uk/clean-air-zones or by calling the Clean Air Zone support line on **0300 029 8888**.

Support is available if you live or work in the zone

There are temporary exemptions and financial support to help individuals and businesses who would find it difficult to upgrade to a cleaner vehicle. Visit Bristol City Council's website to [find out more about the support available](#).

Find out more

For [more information about the zone](#) visit Bristol City Council's website or email CAZsupport@bristol.gov.uk

Suggested website content

Driving to Bristol? What you need to know about the Clean Air Zone.

If you are driving to us, please be aware that Bristol City Council has introduced a Clean Air Zone.

The zone covers the city centre where air quality is poorest. Most people won't be affected, but drivers of some older and more polluting vehicles will be charged to drive within the zone.

Before travelling, make sure you check if your vehicle will be charged on the government vehicle checker www.gov.uk/clean-air-zones. You can also view a [detailed zone map](#) to plan your journey in advance.

If you do need to pay, remember to do so within six days of driving in the zone. You can pay online at www.gov.uk/clean-air-zones or by calling the Clean Air Zone support line on 0300 029 8888 (Monday to Friday: 8am to 7pm, Saturday: 8am to 2pm).

If possible, consider alternative ways to travel such as Park & Ride, bus or train. [Plan your journey on the Travelwest website.](#)

Social media content

Post	Post content
Post one	What is the Bristol Clean Air Zone? Visit bristol.gov.uk/cleanairzone #CleanAirForBristol #CleanAirMatters
Post two	Bristol's Clean Air Zone is here. Find out what you need to do. Visit bristol.gov.uk/cleanairzone #CleanAirForBristol #CleanAirMatters
Post three	Bristol's Clean Air Zone is here. If you drive an older vehicle, you may need to pay a charge. Check your vehicle at bristol.gov.uk/cleanairzone #CleanAirForBristol #CleanAirMatters
Post four	Bristol Clean Air Zone – find out more about the zone and the financial support to switch to a cleaner vehicle. bristol.gov.uk/cleanairzone #CleanAirForBristol #CleanAirMatters
Post five	Bristol's Clean Air Zone is here. Check out this handy toolkit for businesses to help you prepare bristol.gov.uk/cleanairzone #CleanAirForBristol #CleanAirMatters

Become a Clean Air Champion

We're looking to showcase Bristol businesses who are making changes to help improve air quality for everyone. If you've already made a change, big or small, we'd love to hear from you. Email us at CAZsupport@bristol.gov.uk to tell us all about how you're helping the city to cleaner air.

Spread the word – download social media content



A4 downloadable poster



Email signature



Facebook/LinkedIn image



Twitter image



Instagram image



Instagram stories image

If you would like help with any further materials to help you share information on Bristol's Clean Air Zone please get in touch with us by emailing CAZsupport@bristol.gov.uk