

MEDIA RELEASE

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LowCVP and Clean Air Alliance lead initiative to join up the climate change and air quality agendas

Reflecting the growing concern about the health effects of urban air pollution alongside renewed pressure for carbon reduction, the LowCVP and the Clean Air Alliance – working with other representatives of the air quality community – have announced an initiative to help make sure that transport actions to mitigate both problems are joined-up as effectively as possible.

The initiative, which is focused on the impacts of road transport, is being launched at a seminar and Parliamentary reception today – attended by over 200 stakeholders - which will see the publication of a communiqué outlining the areas of agreement and potential collaboration between the two communities.

The aims of the initiative are:

- To demonstrate the climate change and air quality communities working hand-in-hand
- To show how many policies aimed at tackling climate change also serve to limit air pollution
- To help identify any areas of tension or confusion between the two agendas and explore how coordinated activity can help to resolve both, for the benefit of all

Road transport is responsible for approaching 20% of the UK's total emissions of CO₂ and most of the critical emissions (particulates and NO_x) which can have damaging health impacts in areas of high pollution concentration. The UK is legally obligated under the Climate Change Act and European regulations to reduce emissions of both types.

The joint Parliamentary event comes shortly after the news that London breached annual pollution limits just one week into 2016, and follows soon after the announcement that the Government will be introducing Clean Air Zones in five areas across the UK. It also follows the landmark climate agreement in Paris which has provided a new impetus for policy makers around the world to tackle climate change.

Recent developments have pushed both air quality and climate impacts from road transport up the political agenda. It's clear that policy must address both and this collaboration is intended to support that objective.

Andy Eastlake, Managing Director, LowCVP said: "The LowCVP has been working throughout to make sure that the climate initiatives in which we're involved also make a positive contribution to air quality, but forging closer relationships and working in an even broader partnership can only help both of our agendas.

"We look forward to collaborating with representatives of the air quality community and will be looking for practical ways to embed consideration of air pollution into all our processes."

Dan Byles, Chair of the Clean Air Alliance said: “The science shows that if air pollution is addressed, there will generally also be a significant decrease in climate carbon emissions.

“It’s vital that this exciting partnership between the Clean Air Alliance and the Low Carbon Vehicle Partnership helps the air quality and climate change communities work more closely together to better understand the links between them and the benefits of addressing the two issues together.”

NOTES TO EDITORS

The joint communiqué can be [found here](#). Signatories to the communiqué include: The Low Carbon Vehicle Partnership; Clean Air Alliance; Environmental Protection UK; Clean Air in London; Kings College London, Environmental Research Group; Imperial College London, National Heart & Lung Institute; Environmental Industries Commission; Transport for Greater Manchester; Green Alliance; Deliver Change; Society for the Environment; Institution of Mechanical Engineers; Cenex and the Institution of Environmental Sciences.

Speakers at the Parliamentary seminar/reception include: Dr John Lamonte, Chief Executive, Transport for Greater Manchester; Barry Gardiner MP, shadow DECC minister (seminar host); Edmund King OBE, The AA; Nicholas Cecil, Deputy Political Editor, Evening Standard (Chair); Dan Byles, Chair, Clean Air Alliance; Andy Eastlake, Managing Director, Low Carbon Vehicle Partnership; the Rt Hon Lord Whitty, President EP-UK (reception host); Isabel Dedring, Deputy Mayor for Transport, London.

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About the LowCVP

The LowCVP is a public-private, not-for-profit partnership that exists to accelerate a sustainable shift to lower carbon vehicles and fuels and create opportunities for UK businesses. The LowCVP has been - and continues to be - mainly funded by the Department for Transport but with increasing contributions via membership fees and sponsorship/project income. Approaching 200 organisations are members, from diverse backgrounds including automotive and fuel supply chains, vehicle users, academics and environment/not-for-profit bodies.

For more information visit: www.lowcvp.org.uk

About the Clean Air Alliance

The Clean Air Alliance was launched in June 2015 as a coalition of environment groups, public bodies, business and academic institutions. The objective of the Alliance is simple: to develop a broad partnership of experts and institutions which will work together to accelerate progress towards cleaner and healthier air in the UK.

For more information contact: clean.air@the-alliance.uk