

### A LOW EMISSION ZONE FOR LONDON

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London's air quality is the worst in the UK. Levels of pollution cause serious health impacts, which have led to UK and EU air quality targets. A considerable proportion of London will not meet these targets, particularly for nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) and particulate matter (PM<sub>10</sub>). To achieve the air quality targets, significant additional action is needed, particularly to reduce road transport emissions. The Mayor's Air Quality Strategy is part of this action. There is a limit to what can be achieved with traffic reduction. Major improvements can be gained by increasing the numbers of modern, cleaner vehicles and removing old polluting ones. There are many already measures to encourage the increase in new vehicles, however, these alone are insufficient. One of the ways of doing this is through a low emission zone (LEZ), where older, more polluting vehicles are excluded from an area, thereby increasing the proportion of cleaner vehicles in the area. The Mayor of London, together with the Association of London Government (ALG), London boroughs and the Government commissioned a feasibility study into LEZs in London. It investigated the costs and benefits of various LEZ options, what it could achieve and how it could be implemented. It modelled the air quality impact of different scenarios, but also the practicalities of implementing them. The study recommended an LEZ which restricts heavy-duty vehicles, with possible extensions to light-goods vehicles, and is based on Euro Standards and particulate traps. The potential of using emerging technology to reduce nitrogen oxide (NO<sub>x</sub>) emissions is also discussed. At the time of writing, the Mayor of London has stated the intention to implement a low emission zone. While none of the options achieves the EU limit values on their own, some of them make significant improvements to air quality towards the targets. They have also been shown to be cost-effective. If these options are not possible, other significant interventions - yet to be identified - are required to help achieve the EU Limit Values.