



PRESS RELEASE

Tackling clean air and Net Zero together will save money and lives, according to a new report from UK100

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- UK's only network of local and regional leaders committed to ambitious Net Zero and clean air action launches new Clean Air Net Zero (CANZ) report
- Report calls on local and regional policymakers to consider the air quality impact of Net Zero policies to avoid another "dieselgate scandal"
- Report finds aligning clean air and Net Zero policies will save £1.6bn a year
- Report identifies four key "win-win" areas where clean air and Net Zero policies need to be urgently aligned:
 - Transport
 - Heating and improving the energy efficiency of our homes
 - Managing nitrogen and ammonia in farming practices
 - Transparency

Local authority Net Zero and clean air policies need to be aligned to save lives and taxpayers' money, according to a new report from UK100, released ahead of **Clean Air Day**.

UK100 is the UK's only network of climate ambitious local and regional leaders committed to delivering Net Zero ahead of the government's 2050 target and tackling air pollution.

The report, [Yes We CANZ: Local leaders delivering Clean Air and Net Zero](#), introduces the concept of "**Clean Air Net Zero**" (CANZ) — ensuring Net Zero policies include a clean air audit and vice versa.

It argues not enough has yet been done to learn from the mistakes that led to **dieselgate**, where diesel vehicles were promoted across Europe as a climate-friendly option without regard to the increase in deadly air pollution emissions [associated with diesel combustion](#).

Identifying the "wins-wins" to be gained from a CANZ approach, the report calls on local authorities to:



- **Support a transport shift away from private car reliance**
- **Make homes warmer through insulation and energy efficiency measures while switching to fossil-fuel-free heating systems**
- **Work with the agricultural industry to support less intensive farming and reduce the level of ammonia emissions**
- **Empower local communities to make informed choices with more data transparency and access**

The report comes one month before UK100 plans to co-host a clean air and Net Zero local and regional leaders summit in Leeds with **Tracy Brabin**. The Mayor of West Yorkshire also acts as the UK100 Co-president.

Together, UK100 and Tracy Brabin will convene a conference of local and regional leaders and mayors from up and down the country to accelerate local clean air and Net Zero progress and turn declarations into delivery. The **Local Net Zero Delivery Summit 2022: From Declaration to Delivery** will take place at NEXUS in Leeds on July 14.

Like the “CANZ” report, the summit aims to demonstrate that jointly accelerating action on Net Zero and clean air will save lives and money.

In fact, action to bring air pollution levels in line with World Health Organisation targets would **boost local and regional economies by £1.6bn a year** while **saving children from 388,000 days of asthma symptoms** and **reducing cases of coronary heart disease by over 3,000 every year**¹.

At the same time, however, the report highlights a handful of policy areas where a careful balance between the clean air and Net Zero agendas is necessary.

The challenges outlined in the report include:

- **Balancing the carbon emission reductions linked to "low carbon" heating fuels, like biomass and hydrogen, with the negative impacts on local air quality**
- **Learning the lessons of dieselgate and carefully considering which vehicles are most beneficial overall as the UK transitions away from petrol and diesel-only vehicles**
- **Understanding the unintended consequences of poorly designed tree planting and green infrastructure policies**

¹ According to UK100's CANZ report and research from [Imperial College London's Environmental Research Group](#)



- **Considering the trade-off associated with air-tight energy efficiency schemes and the ventilation needs to improve indoor air quality**

Welcoming the findings, **Polly Billington, Chief Executive of UK100**, says:

"While it might feel like the scandal is firmly in our rearview mirrors, one of the most important lessons of "dieselgate" was that we cannot and must not divorce clean air and climate policies. Our new report demonstrates that acting on these issues together is easier than some might think."

"With local authorities the best placed to deliver effective climate and clean air action, our report finds Clean Air Net Zero (CANZ) presents a series of win-win opportunities to support local and regional leaders to align the two agendas. From public transport to clean heating; from energy efficiency to farming, clean air and Net Zero goals are inexorably linked."

"Aligning clean air and climate policies will save lives and money while accelerating Net Zero progress. And that's why we're calling on the government to give local authorities the support they need to avoid past mistakes and deliver cleaner air, warmer homes and a more secure future for their communities."

The report includes a series of case studies from local authorities up and down the country leading the way in aligning clean air and Net Zero, including; **Birmingham City Council's** Clean Air Zone, The **London Borough of Camden's** adoption of the WHO air quality target, **Gloucestershire County Council's** GREAT farming project, **Sheffield City Council's** air quality data project, **Leeds City Council's** Clean Air Zone planning, **The City of Edinburgh Council's** new Low Emissions Zone, **Lancaster City Council's** solar-powered leisure centre, **South Tyneside Council's** air quality planning requirements, **Cornwall Council's** adoption of doughnut economics, and the **Greater London Assembly's** implementation of building regulations to promote energy efficiency.

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About UK100

UK100 is a network of the most ambitious local leaders working towards Net Zero as soon as possible but no later than 2045. We help them collaborate to take decisive action in their communities.



Our members represent more than 37 million people in towns, cities and counties across the UK.

We facilitate knowledge-sharing between members, partnership-building and leadership mentoring. And support them to harness their collective power to affect vital national change.

Warm homes, affordable energy, clean air, and healthy landscapes make thriving communities.

And UK100 members have pledged to deliver a Net Zero future that delivers for people and planet.

[UK100.org](https://www.uk100.org)



UK100 members across the UK

