



September 2021

NEWSLETTER

Air Pollution Theme of the Month: ANTI IDLING

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A message from Lisa McNally, Director of Public Health

Dear all

Firstly, I must thank you for all you have done and continue to do.

I am aware that many faith centres in Sandwell already undertake activities to improve their local environment, such as tree planting, organising litter picks and encouraging people to act in a more sustainable way to protect the planet, as we know these are strong beliefs shared by many religions.

We want to build on this great work by enabling faith centres to monitor air pollution in their local area and to develop their own actions to improve air quality. We will then share this learning across all faith centres in the borough, leading to a cleaner and ultimately healthier environment for our residents.

With thanks,

Dr. Lisa McNally

Air quality monitors are installed

Sandwell Council's [project working with faith centres to improve air quality](#) has officially launched, with the installation of the monitors near to each of the first eight faith centres taking part. Screens showing the results of the monitors on a custom-made map dashboard are in each of the centres, with the final dashboard being available to view soon. The Zephyr monitors were installed by a team from EnviroTech, Sandwell's Highways team and Air Quality Technician Amarpal Mahal. They are currently being calibrated, and results will be ready shortly.



The final stages of the custom-made dashboard are underway by EarthSense. The link to the webpage showing this dashboard will be provided to the faith centre leaders as soon as it is live. Meetings are currently being arranged with centre leaders to discuss their first steps in community engagement for the project. A copy of the Air Pollution Toolkit is also available on our [Air Quality documents webpage](#).

The amazing centres taking part in the first stage of this project are:

- Parish Church of St Francis of Assisi, Friar Park, Wednesbury
- St Matthew's, Tipton
- Shree Pashuptinath Mandir (Shani Dham) Hindu Temple, Blackheath, Rowley Regis
- Yemeni Community Association in Sandwell, West Bromwich
- Guru Nanak Gurdwara Smethwick, Smethwick
- Shri Venateswara (Balaji) Temple, Tividale, Oldbury
- Smethwick Jamia Masjid
- The Wesley Centre for All, Wednesbury



Car Idling

Do you ever sit in your car with the engine running, waiting for a passenger or delivery?

This **wastes fuel** and is **bad for air quality** and **health**. It can also damage your engine.

Learn more about the air pollution idling your car produces from this video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iAQGOYJFB1c&t=16s>



Q: What is idling?

A: Idling is having the engine of your car running whilst it is stationary. For example, waiting on the drive for other passengers to get in the car, waiting outside the school gates or waiting outside the train station to pick someone up.

Q: How much fuel does idling use up?

A: Idling for an hour can waste over half a gallon of fuel. 5 minutes here and there of idling adds up, costing you a significant amount of money after just a month.

Q: What air pollution does idling cause?

A: Idling increases the amount of exhaust fumes in the air. These fumes can cause lung problems like asthma. These pollutants are carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide, hydrocarbons and nitrogen dioxide.

Q: What does idling do to your engine?

A: Idling causes your engine to only partially burn fuel, causing residue build up which hurts engine parts and reduces mileage.

Q: Don't I need to warm up my engine?

A: Modern cars do not need any "warming up" at all.

What can you do to help stop idling?

- ⇒ Put up anti-idling signs outside the faith centre
- ⇒ Encourage children to make signs
- ⇒ Educate and spread the word to friends, family and neighbours
- ⇒ Talk to schools about anti-idling zones by school gates



Free trees available from the Woodland Trust

Applications are now open to receive a free tree pack in November 2021. Faith communities are one of the groups that are able to apply for these free packs, to plant trees in publicly accessible land. This would be a great way to help improve the air quality in your local area. If there isn't any room at the centre, any schools or other community groups you work with could be made aware of this great opportunity.



Congratulations are in order to the Balaji Temple who have successfully applied for over 400 trees through this process with the Woodland Trust this year!

For more information about the application for free trees, visit the [Woodland Trust website](#).

Great Big Green Week

The [Great Big Green Week](#) is coming up fast, from 18-26th September 2021. This is a national week of over 30,000+ events across the country, celebrating nature. It will be the biggest event for climate and nature ever in the UK, and everyone's invited! Check out the Great Big Green Week's [webpage](#) to see how you can get involved, or visit [Sandwell's Great Big Green Week webpage](#) to view local event information.



**We want to
hear from you!**

We want to share news from all our participating centres in this newsletter, even if you feel they are small actions we value all activities that help improve local air quality in Sandwell. Please feel free to get in touch with us, and we will make sure we share your news.

If you have any questions about the content of this newsletter, please contact a member of the Air Quality team via pollution_control@sandwell.gov.uk The content of this email is correct at time of circulation.