

June 2022 Newsletter

AIR POLLUTION THEME OF THE MONTH: CLEAN AIR DAY



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What is Clean Air Day?

Clean Air Day was 16 June 2022 and is the UK's largest air pollution campaign. It focuses on bringing together communities, businesses, schools and the health sector to consider air quality. Each year, air pollution causes up to 36,000 deaths in the UK. 82% of people think that air pollution should be a priority for the UK. For Clean Air Day, Global Action Plan release free resource packs for different groups to get involved. These packs were circulated amongst the faith centres taking part in this project, and they were invited to come up with some ideas for their own Clean Air Day. The Clean Air Day [website](#) has everything from social media packs, to walking playlists to help you leave your car at home, to a public insight tracker.



What did we do for Clean Air Day?

Sandwell Council's Air Quality team took to the streets outside Oldbury Council House to spread the word about Clean Air Day, with an anti-idling installation, promoting the benefits of walking and highlighting the formal public consultation about the proposed borough-wide Smoke Control Area. 150 biodegradable balloons were tied to the back of a car to illustrate the amount of air pollution when a stationary car idles its engine for just one minute! It was great to engage

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with so many members of the public and to spread the word about how we can all help improve local air quality with simple changes.



Litter Picking Day

You may remember back in March that the 'Faiths for Clean Air' project supported the planting of over 400 trees at the Balaji Temple. Whilst we were all busy planting trees we noticed that there was a lot of litter on the site. With agreement from the Balaji Temple a litter pick was arranged on 15th June to help clean up the area and to support Clean Air Day.



Leaflets Available

Thank you to the Prime Foundation and the members of the Public Health team who helped out. Over 15 bags of waste were collected!

If your centre would be interested in arranging a litter pick let us know, we have some equipment that you can borrow. It's a great way to help people think more about how we look after our local environment and what more we can do to help protect it.

Visiting Centres for Clean Air Day

With Clean Air Day rapidly approaching, Air Quality Team members Sophie Morris and Liz Stephens, and Deputy Director of Public Health, Paul Fisher, visited some of the faith centres to see if they had any plans for Clean Air Day and to discuss how the 'Faith Centres for Clean Air' project was progressing. It was great to hear all the different ideas and thoughts that various faith leaders and their communities had with regards encouraging behavioural change to reduce local air pollution. It was also really encouraging to hear a lot of enthusiasm for other general changes that also promote more sustainable living. We would like to thank the following centres for showing us a warm welcome; The Yemini Community Association in West Bromwich, The Balaji Temple in Oldbury, The Wesley Centre in Wednesbury and The Shri Pashupatinath Temple in Rowley Regis.



We are also giving each centre a big poster from the Clean Air Day campaign, this promotes and encourages us all to do a bit more walking instead of driving. We also have leaflets explaining the health risks from idling cars and wood burning stoves as well as another that explains how to save money and reduce air pollution. We are planning some more visits over the coming weeks, so if you haven't had your visit yet then you soon will! Please let us know if there is any literature or information that you would like about air quality as we can arrange for it to be printed and bought to your centre. We have attached examples at the end of this newsletter.

Save Energy, Save Money and Save the Planet

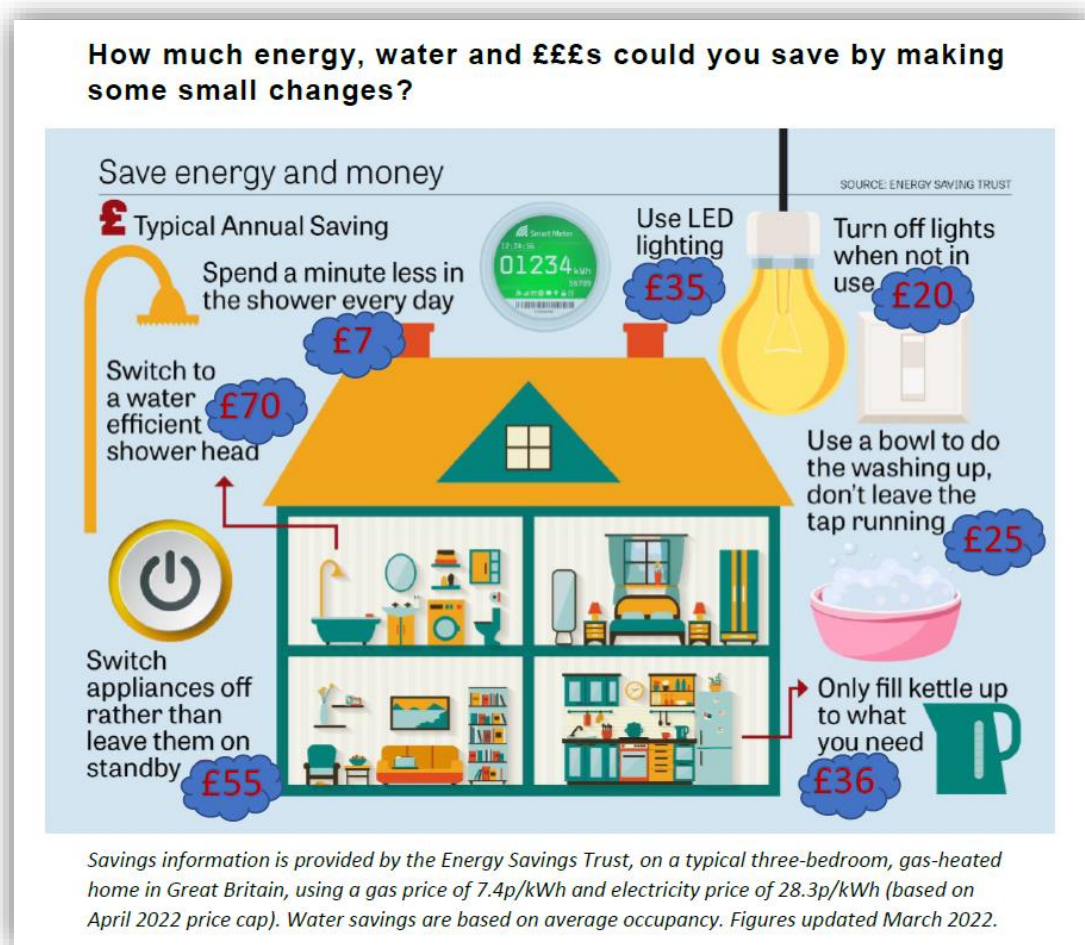
How much money could you save by making small switches?

Each year you could save up to:

- **£45 by draught-proofing gaps**
- **£28 by washing clothes at 30°C**

Children's Activity Sheets Available

- £60 by avoiding using a tumble dryer
- £70 by having 4-minute showers
- £12 by switching one bath a week to a shower instead
- £35 by insulating your hot water cylinder



Want to find out more?

For impartial and independent advice, visit www.simplyenergyadvice.org.uk or call freephone 0800 444202 Monday to Friday: 8am to 8pm, Saturday and Sunday: 9am to 5pm

We have leaflets available to support the project and raise awareness about air quality. We also have a couple of word searches and a colouring in sheet that can be shared with children who attend or visit your centres. If you would like copies printed just let us know.

Leaflets Available

Save Money and Help Reduce Air Pollution

How much energy and **£££s** could you save by making some small changes?

Save energy and money

Typical Annual Saving

- Spend a minute less in the shower every day: £7
- Switch to a water efficient shower head: £70
- Switch appliances off rather than leave them on standby: £55
- Use LED lighting: £35
- Turn off lights when not in use: £20
- Use a bowl to do the washing up, don't leave the tap running: £25
- Only fill kettle up to what you need: £35

Savings information is provided by the Energy Savings Trust, for a typical three-bedroom, gas-heated home in Great Britain, using a gas price of 7.4p/kWh and electricity price of 28.3p/kWh (based on April 2022 price cap). Figures updated March 2022.

And that's not all! Each year you could save up to:

- **£45** by draught-proofing gaps
- **£28** by washing clothes at 30°C
- **£60** by avoiding using a tumble dryer
- **£70** by having 4-minute showers
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STOP MAKING US COUGH, TURN YOUR ENGINE OFF!

Idling an engine for just one minute produces as much carbon monoxide as smoking **3 packs of cigarettes** and enough toxic air to fill **150 balloons!**

The pollution is especially damaging to young lungs and can impact organ development, as well as aggravating respiratory and cardiovascular conditions!

SWITCH YOUR ENGINE OFF WHEN STATIONARY!

WOOD BURNING STOVES AND POLLUTION

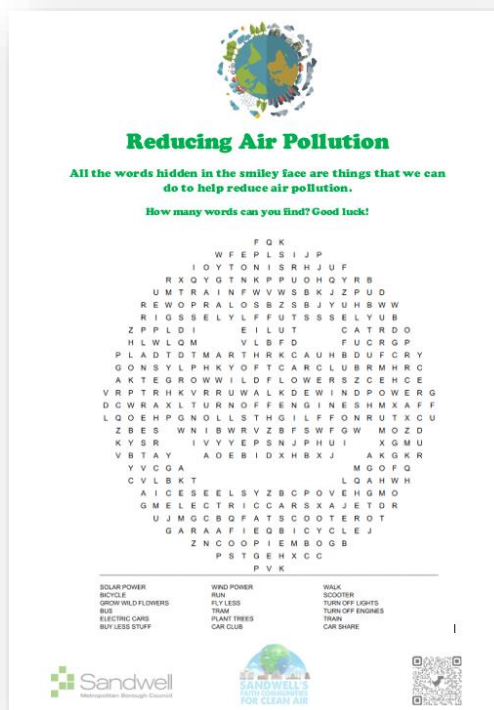
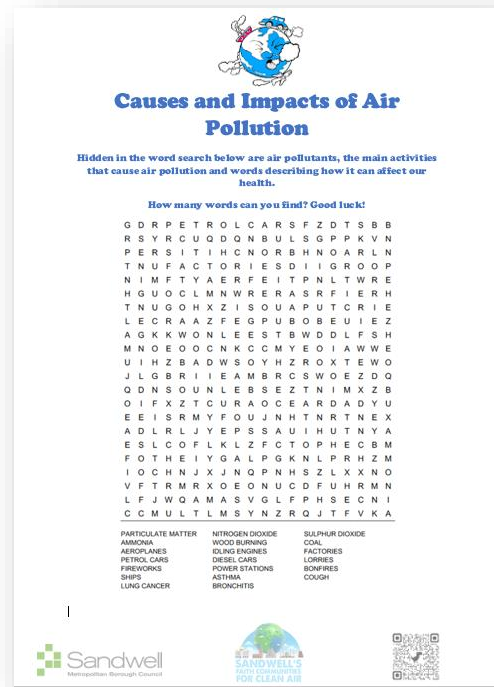
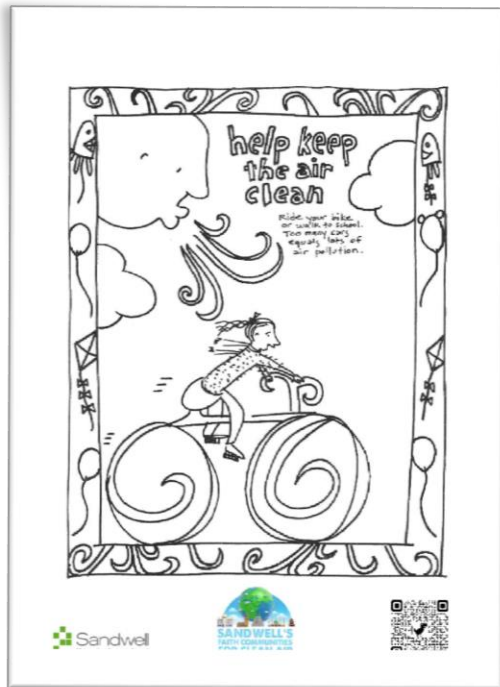
SANDWELL'S FAITH COMMUNITIES FOR CLEAN AIR

This faith centre is raising awareness about local air pollution and taking positive action to help improve air quality in Sandwell.

Find out more about:

- Air quality monitoring
- Air pollution—what it is and the causes
- Why air pollution matters
- How to protect yourself from air pollution using Sandwell's Air Quality Dashboard
- What you can do to help reduce air pollution and improve local air quality

Children's Activity Sheets Available



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.