

BIRMINGHAM
COLMORE

Clean Air Day 2026

Thursday 18th June

“Let’s use our voices to clean up our air”

What the Colmore area needs to know -
and what you can do

ACCESSIBLE & SUSTAINABLE **COLMORE**

Connecting Colmore for everyone. Now and forever.

Accessible & Sustainable Colmore shapes how people experience getting to and moving through our district. We champion inclusive mobility, sustainable travel, and smarter infrastructure – ensuring Colmore works for everyone while leading on environmental responsibility.

The result: A district that's easier to reach, simpler to navigate, and committed to a sustainable future – setting standards others follow.

Group lead: Alison Kilby, Arup

Why air quality matters

28-36k

premature deaths
in the UK each year

#1

largest environmental
health risk in the UK

90%

of people now do at least
one thing to cut pollution

Air pollution affects everyone - not just those with existing health conditions.

Key health impacts: respiratory disease, reduced lung function, heart disease, lung cancer, and cognitive effects.

Business case: active commuting reduces sick days, supports staff wellbeing, and lowers your organisation's air pollution footprint.

Air quality in the Colmore area

UK legal limit for NO₂: 40 µg/m³ | Dominant pollutant in our area: NO₂ (nitrogen dioxide)

Monitoring Site	2024 Annual Mean (µg/m ³)	vs UK Legal Limit (40)
Colmore Row	19.5	✓ Within limit
St Philips Churchyard	22.2	✓ Within limit
Snow Hill	26.9	✓ Within limit
Livery Street	29.0	✓ Within limit
Snow Hill Bridge	39.4	⚠ Approaching
Suffolk Street Queensway	30.0	✓ Within limit
Great Charles Street (2)	34.8	✓ Within limit
Great Charles Street (3)	43.0	✗ Exceeds limit

Birmingham's Clean Air Zone: what's been achieved



33%

reduction in NO₂
within the CAZ since 2016



27%

reduction in NO₂ vs 2019
(pre-COVID baseline)



£82.5m

CAZ proceeds reinvested
in travel schemes (to Jan
2025)

Progress is real - but two Colmore area monitoring stations still exceed the UK legal limit.

West Midlands Active Travel Investment: £36m Active Travel Fund secured by Mayor Richard Parker in 2025/26 - largest allocation in England.

Coming in 2026: Jewellery Quarter-City Hospital cycle route upgrade; Bradford Street route upgrade.

Common myths about air pollution

"If I can't see it, it isn't that bad"

FALSE. PM2.5 particles are invisible and enter the bloodstream through the lungs.

"It only affects people with health conditions"

FALSE. Poor air quality harms everyone. It is the UK's largest environmental health risk.

"Being indoors protects me"

FALSE. Indoor pollution can be 2–5× higher than outdoors - cooking, cleaning products and heating all contribute.

"There's nothing I can do"

FALSE. Walking, cycling or taking the bus instead of driving makes an immediate difference - at no cost.

Getting to Colmore without a car



Rail

Snow Hill (West Midlands Railway & Chiltern), New Street - both a short walk away.



Metro

St Chads, Bull St and Town Hall tram stops (Line 1) provide direct services from Wolverhampton to Edgbaston.



Bus

Over a dozen NX West Midlands routes serve Colmore Row and Snow Hill Queensway. NX fleet will be fully zero exhaust emission by 2030.



Lime e-bikes & e-scooters

Docking stations across city centre. First 2 rides free. £1 unlock + 20p/min pay-as-you-go, or save 40% with a LimePass.



Walk

Birmingham city centre is compact. Walking from New Street to Colmore Row takes under 10 minutes.



Cycle

A38 and A34 dedicated cycleways provide fast, easy routes into the city centre. Offices and streets around the district provide plentiful cycle parking.

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Free Dr Bike check-up at Snow Hill Square

This Clean Air Day - Thursday 18th June 2026

Courtesy of Birmingham Colmore, our Dr Bike mechanic will carry out a thorough safety inspection and provide a **free light service**, helping to keep your bike in great condition and ready for the road.

Whether you cycle every day or your bike has been gathering dust, bring it along and get it checked by an expert - completely free of charge. No need to book, just drop by.

Snow Hill Square (outside Snow Hill Station)
10am – 3pm



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Travelling with confidence

Some people are put off public transport by safety concerns. Here's what's in place:



Visible support

Uniformed transport staff across the network, plus regular patrols from the Safer Travel Policing Team and Transport Safety Officers.



Safety infrastructure

CCTV on buses, trains, trams and at stations. Well-lit platforms, help points and clear signage throughout.



Plan ahead

Use apps and live timetables to know your route. Don't be afraid to ask staff for help.



If something feels wrong

Move to a busier area. Trust your instincts. Text SeeSay to 81018 (bus) or 61016 (rail). Call 999 in an emergency.

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Zero emissions travel



Zero emissions

No exhaust = cleaner air



Step-free access

For mobility impairments and pushchairs



Extra legroom

Comfy seats onboard



USB power

Charge on the go



Stop announcements

So you don't miss your stop



CCTV

For safer travel



What can your organisation do?

01 Encourage staff to walk, cycle or use public transport – especially for short journeys.

02 Promote flexible start times to help employees avoid peak traffic commuting.

03 Share this information - use Clean Air Day on 18th June to start the conversation.

04 Consider a Cycle to Work scheme or travel subsidies for active commuting.

05 Switch off vehicle engines when stationary. Idling for one minute produces 150 balloons' worth of pollution.

06 Check your air quality on Clean Air Day:
portal.earthsense.co.uk/BCCpublic

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Useful resources & links

Clean Air Day 2026

- actionforcleanair.org.uk/campaigns/clean-air-day
- globalactionplan.org.uk/clean-air/clean-air-day

Birmingham air quality data

- portal.earthsense.co.uk/BCCpublic (live monitoring)
- brumbreathes.co.uk | cleanair.wmca.org.uk

Getting here sustainably

- li.me/en-gb/locations/west-midlands (Lime e-bikes & e-scooters)
- nxbus.co.uk/west-midlands/zero-emissions-buses
- tfwm.org.uk (Transport for West Midlands)

Active travel & cycle routes

- birmingham.gov.uk - search 'cycling in Birmingham'
- cyclestreets.net (route planning)

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This Clean Air Day

Thursday 18 June 2026

- ✔ Try a different way to get to work - walk, cycle or take the bus
- ✔ Check today's air quality at portal.earthsense.co.uk/BCCpublic
- ✔ Share this with a colleague and start the conversation
- ✔ Use [#CleanAirDay](#) and tag Birmingham Colmore on socials

[#CleanAirDay](#) | [#ColmoreLife](#)



BIRMINGHAM COLMORE

COLMORE LIFE

Birmingham Colmore is the cultural, commercial and civic heart of Birmingham – a vibrant district driving footfall, economic growth and quality of life for everyone who invests, works and visits here.

- Home to over 650 companies and more than 75,000 professionals as the hub of the West Midlands' business, professional and financial services cluster.
- Distinctive mix of heritage architecture, productive workspaces, world class hospitality, independent retailers and enriching cultural venues.
- Since 2009, we've championed Colmore at the heart of our city rich in diversity and talent as a leading Business Improvement District (BID).

We curate Colmore Life, delivering transformational public realm improvements, hosting major events and festivals and connecting businesses across the city with civic institutions.

We advocate for continued investment and promote Birmingham's interests on behalf of levy-paying businesses with local, regional and national government.

Eight Working Groups structure our delivery.

