



# West Kent Air Quality



Poor air quality is a well-known global pollution issue with urban areas and smog / dust clouds increasingly going hand in hand. Kent AQ is poor

As cities and our counties are set to grow this issue will only get worse. There is increasing pressure to build more and make construction practices sustainable by reducing dust pollution.

Dust from construction works can become an environmental nuisance and health risk to those residents living nearby and site operatives.



Pollutant	Source
Coarse and fine particulates	Cutting brickwork and concrete
Nitrous oxides, carbon monoxide	Plant exhausts or similar combustion

## Environment

Pollutant	Effect
Coarse (PM <sub>10</sub> ) and fine (PM <sub>2.5</sub> ) particulates	Dust settling – can runoff into the watercourse and damage aquatic ecosystems. Also a nuisance to local residents.
Nitrous and sulphur oxides	Acid rain – acidifies aquatic environments and soils

## Occupational Health

Pollutant	Disease
Coarse particulates (PM <sub>10</sub> )	Respiratory disease (e.g. COPD, emphysema)
Fine particulates (PM <sub>2.5</sub> )	Cardio-vascular disease, lung cancer
Nitrogen dioxide	Lung irritation and low resistance to flu

## What can be done locally in our community?

1. Damping down – Wetting areas where dust has settled prevents it becoming airborne, such as delivery vehicles and plant wheels and areas around dusty works. Local business action!
2. Suction – This directly removes dust from the air, as opposed to blowing it away (especially effective for carpentry dust).
3. Mobile solutions – Procuring dust busters to create mists that can remove dust when and where it is needed.
4. Greener NRMM – NRMM with DPF's can reduce NO<sub>x</sub> emissions.
5. Vehicle idling – Cutting out unnecessary idling limits emissions. More building = more traffic !
6. **Build East Facing Slips in the vicinity of M25 J5 Sevenoaks, Kent – and link the M26 / A21**

