

## Community Air Quality Monitoring

Are you concerned about the air quality in your neighbourhood? Are you interested in learning about the situation by collecting data where you live, work or your children go to school and seeing the results of the analysis? If so then get involved and join the citizen scientists!

Many people are rightly worried about London's air. But air pollution can be hard to measure, and most air quality monitoring carried out by local councils relies on measurements from a few fixed measuring points. These often fail to reflect the ways in which air quality varies across small distances. There are many factors that affect our air, which makes the need for better measurement even more important.

A new research project based at University College London (UCL) is giving communities the resources and support to monitor local environmental conditions. The data you gather will help create a clearer picture of air quality at the very local level. This will inform us all and help encourage the Mayor and local councils take effective measures to improve our environment.

### How does this work?

Mapping for Change is a social enterprise set up by University College London, and the charity London 21. We can help communities to collect information to build an accurate picture of **local air quality** where you live. You collect the information – we do the technical analysis.

Our work looks at four issues. We'll measure levels of two chemicals in the air: nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) and ozone (O<sub>3</sub>). We'll also assess particles in the air ('particulate matter') and your personal perceptions of how it feels.

### What do you need to commit to?

To assess NO<sub>2</sub> levels all that's required of you is:

1. 1 hour in week one to position the diffusion tube in a suitable location
2. 1 hour in the fourth week to collect the diffusion tube
3. ½ an hour at the beginning and the end to collect the equipment and drop it off to your Local Co-ordinator

You don't need to be any kind of expert. But we do need your voluntary help. We'll give you everything you need and will analyse the information. When that's been done we will present the information on a local map to everyone involved, and the wider community, in an open meeting. We will give you maps of the data for future use and dissemination.

To make this work we need your help (many hands make light work!). We'd like to find at least **six 'citizen scientists'** - community volunteers in your area (anywhere in **Southeast England**), who can put in a bit of time over 4 weeks, and one person to agree to act as Local Co-ordinator.

If you would like to monitor any other pollutants such as ozone get in touch with us and we can give you the details of what's required.

### Can I get involved?

Yes! To get involved or find out more about the methods that will be used visit our website at: [www.mappingforchange.org.uk](http://www.mappingforchange.org.uk)

You also can contact us by phone (call 020 7679 2296) or email us: [l.francis@mappingforchange.org.uk](mailto:l.francis@mappingforchange.org.uk)

