

Clean Air Zones: Practical Guidance for Cities

Introduction to the new Clean Air Fund Guidance

Low Emission Zones Knowledge Exchange Workshop, 20 May 2025

UKRI Clean Air Programme & Queen's University, Belfast

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Origins of the Guidance

Who?

- The Clean Air Fund is a philanthropic initiative “Working together for clean air will create a healthier, fairer, more prosperous future for everyone.”
- Arup, with support from ICCT and Kaleidoscope Health and Care, developed the guidance, including interviews with cities and stakeholders, for the Clean Air Fund.

Why?

- Supporting cities' informed decision-making, providing a framework for cities
- Bridging evidence gaps
- Providing practical insights for cities that are interested in Clean Air Zones, in the early stages of planning a Clean Air Zone, and supporting organisations.
- To share and amplify experiences and voices from local policymakers and citizens in tackling air pollution so others can benefit from this learning

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Introduction to the Guidance

- This guidance aims to support global cities that are interested in adopting a Clean Air Zone.
- This comprehensive and practical guidance builds on and complements other resources in this area, outlining a start-to-finish process for cities to use.
- The guidance does not advocate for CAZ. It provides information and a framework for cities to decide the right approach for their city.
- This guidance is built on a review of existing literature and support and interviews with cities on what they need.
- It includes guidance on CAZ in different city types, which may not be reflected in implemented schemes.

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Key insights

Tailoring a CAZ to your city's needs and situation

If it is tailored to the city's needs and situation, a CAZ can be an effective way to reduce transport pollution and improve air quality and health.

This guidance will help cities to:

- ask the right questions at every stage, so your CAZ meets your needs and situation, reflecting different aims, legal powers, data, existing infrastructure and fleet;
- understand the role of data in developing an effective scheme;
- see examples of different approaches, allowing them to choose the best approach for their situation;
- understand how different groups are affected.



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Key insights

The role of data in developing an effective scheme

Understanding your air pollution, transport, population, and how your city operates, will allow you to design and implement a more effective CAZ.



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This guidance will help cities to:

- identify what data is already available, and how this can be used to plan and design an appropriate scheme;
- what further data would be useful, including different metrics and sources;
- how to set up or expand data collection, to refine your CAZ design and support implementation;
- how to collect and use data to monitor and evaluate the impact of the CAZ.

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Key insights

The role of communication and equity

CAZ can be controversial and have experienced public and political opposition. Addressing equity and establishing a sense of fairness are critical for effective CAZ schemes. Good communication and engagement is key.

This guidance will help cities to:

- understand the impact a CAZ could have on different groups, including those particularly vulnerable to the impact of air pollution, and those more impacted by the implementation of the scheme;
- understand the benefits and challenges of good communication and engagement around a CAZ scheme;
- understand how other cities have addressed opposition and resistance;
- embed equity in communication, so all stakeholders are included, and to develop a more effective narrative and message.

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Summary & Structure of the Guidance

The guidance aims to help cities identify whether a CAZ might be suitable and align with the city's aims.

It provides support on every step of the development, implementation and evaluation of a CAZ.

Practical examples are included throughout, with further details on key case studies.

A Technical Annex provides more information on data, covering approaches, sources and use.

INTRODUCTIONS

Chapter 1: Introduction

Chapter 2: Benefits and challenges of Clean Air Zones

Chapter 3: Is a Clean Air Zone right for your city?

STAGE A – PLANNING AND COMMUNICATION

Chapter 4: Planning for a Clean Air Zone

Chapter 5: Communication and engagement

STAGE B – DESIGNING AND IMPLEMENTING

Chapter 6: Designing a Clean Air Zone

Chapter 7: Implementing a Clean Air Zone

STAGE C – MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Chapter 8: Monitoring the impact of a Clean Air Zone

Chapter 9: Case Studies

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Introduction

Chapter 1: Introduction

What is a CAZ?

“A Clean Air Zone or CAZ is a specified area in which vehicles are required to meet minimum emission standards.”

This guidance focuses on transport CAZ, but these can be part of a wider programme.

How to use the guidance?

As a step-by-step guide, or for support on specific aspects. Each chapter includes:

- a summary for decision-makers
- further details and examples
- Insights and quotes from cities
- a checklist

Chapter 2: Benefits and Challenges



Benefits of a CAZ
for local people



Benefits of a CAZ
for cities

Challenges

Limitations

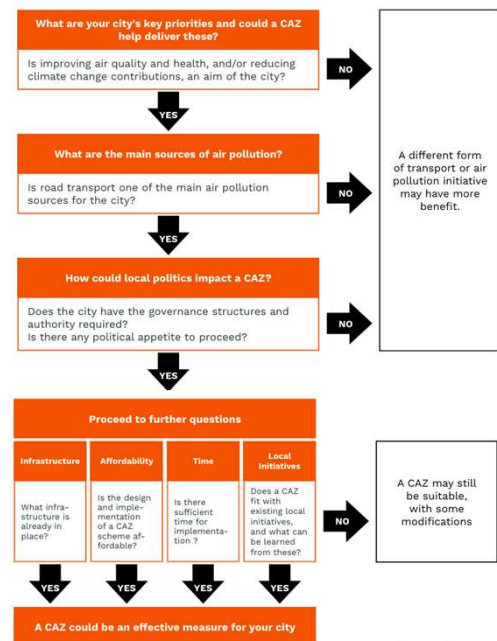
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Chapter 3:

Is a CAZ right for your city?

The guidance does not advocate for CAZ, it provides information and a framework for cities to decide the right approach for their city.

A city's context, current situation and enabling conditions help determine whether a CAZ could be a useful approach.



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STAGE A – PLANNING AND COMMUNICATION

Chapter 4: Planning for a Clean Air Zone

There is no 'one size fits all' solution for Clean Air Zone, so we need to ask foundational questions, which will shape subsequent steps of designing and implementing a CAZ.

- What is an appropriate area?
- How to determine a suitable boundary?
- How to define an effective policy?
- How to make sure a CAZ is equitable?
- What data is needed?



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STAGE A – PLANNING AND COMMUNICATION

Chapter 5:

Communication and engagement

Guiding questions for communication and engagement:

- What will people need to know?
- How can the city's message reach everyone effectively?
- Why is equity important in engagement?

"Framing it as a health policy and highlighting the impact of pollution drove the most support."

"Public resistance is our main concern. People will ask us why they have to pay certain fees to enter certain areas or why there will be some limitations for vehicles, but then at the same time some other citizens are asking us to reduce traffic congestion and improve air quality."

"Speaking about the daily impact on children and how it affects their schooling, their development, that was pretty important to the mayor."

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STAGE B – DESIGNING AND IMPLEMENTING

Chapter 6: Designing a Clean Air Zone

Designing the core scheme

- Consider location, operational hours, targeted vehicles, charges and whether people have alternatives?
- Advice on how to choose the best option for your city - selecting the core scheme and decision to proceed.

Refining the scheme

- Questions on addressing equity impacts, discounts, exemptions and complementary measures?

Considering delivery of the scheme:

- Phased approach, pilot schemes?

"You have to balance exemptions against the impact you want the LEZ to have."

- City representative, Global North



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STAGE B – DESIGNING AND IMPLEMENTING

Chapter 7: Implementing a Clean Air Zone

The key considerations for implementing a CAZ:

- What assets and systems are needed to implement a CAZ?
- How will the functions be delivered and who will be responsible?
- How will the city transition from design to operation?
- What organisation and governance does the city need for CAZ operation?
- What does the city need to manage a CAZ?

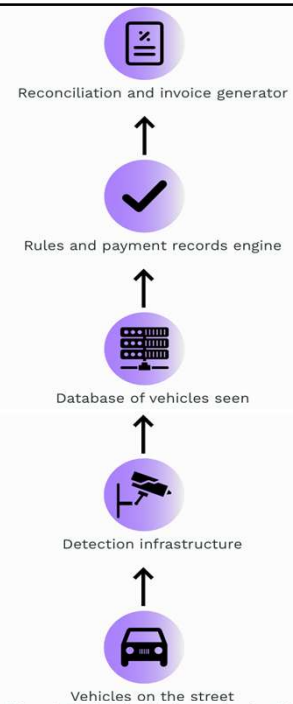


Figure 9: The building blocks of a charging CAZ

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STAGE C – MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Chapter 8: Monitoring the impact of a Clean Air Zone

Undertaking monitoring before and after a CAZ is implemented can help understand and evaluate its performance and effectiveness.

Building an evidence base will support making adjustments and/or develop future phases, mitigate unintended consequences, and develop complementary measures.

It will also help to communicate the benefits to the public and other stakeholders throughout the project.

The guidance provides advice on different approaches, metrics and data sources, and advice on data gaps.

The annex includes more detailed information on data.



Monitoring metric themes

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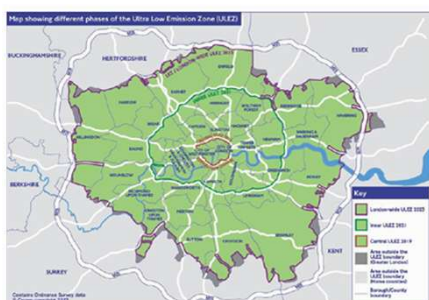
Chapter 9: Case Studies

Krakow - Tackling legal challenges and working through an existing regulatory framework

Jakarta - Additional challenges for a growing city

London - Navigating political challenge and public opposition

Bogotá - Scaling up a CAZ



“while public support for a scheme can dip close to its launch, we tend to see it increase in the months following”

– City representative, London



“how we can provide an inclusive and equitable clean air zone?”

– City representative, Jakarta

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Further information

The guidance and annex are available at

www.cleanairfund.org/resource/clean-air-zone-guidance/

With thanks to Arup, ICCT, Kaleidoscope Health and Care, and the Clean Air Fund.

www.cleanairfund.org

www.arup.com

www.theicct.org

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