

Tower Hamlets Air Quality Annual Status Summary Report for 2017

Introduction

This report provides a brief overview of air quality in Tower Hamlets during 2017.

The EU sets limits for a number of known air pollutants, that member states must meet. Tower Hamlets is exceeding EU limits for the gas Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) in parts of the borough. Tower Hamlets is required by the Government and the Mayor of London to monitor air pollution in the borough, and take action to reduce it. The Government and the Mayor of London also have a range of responsibilities for taking action to reduce pollution.

We are currently meeting the limits that are set by the EU for all other air pollutants, although we remain focused on Particulate Matter (PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}) because these pollutants have detrimental impacts on health at any level.

The main sources of pollution in the borough is road transport emissions.

NO₂

We monitor NO₂ across the borough through a combination of highly accurate continuous (or automatic) monitoring stations and indicative low-cost diffusion tubes. In 2017, overall, levels of NO₂ have showed no significant change.

PM₁₀

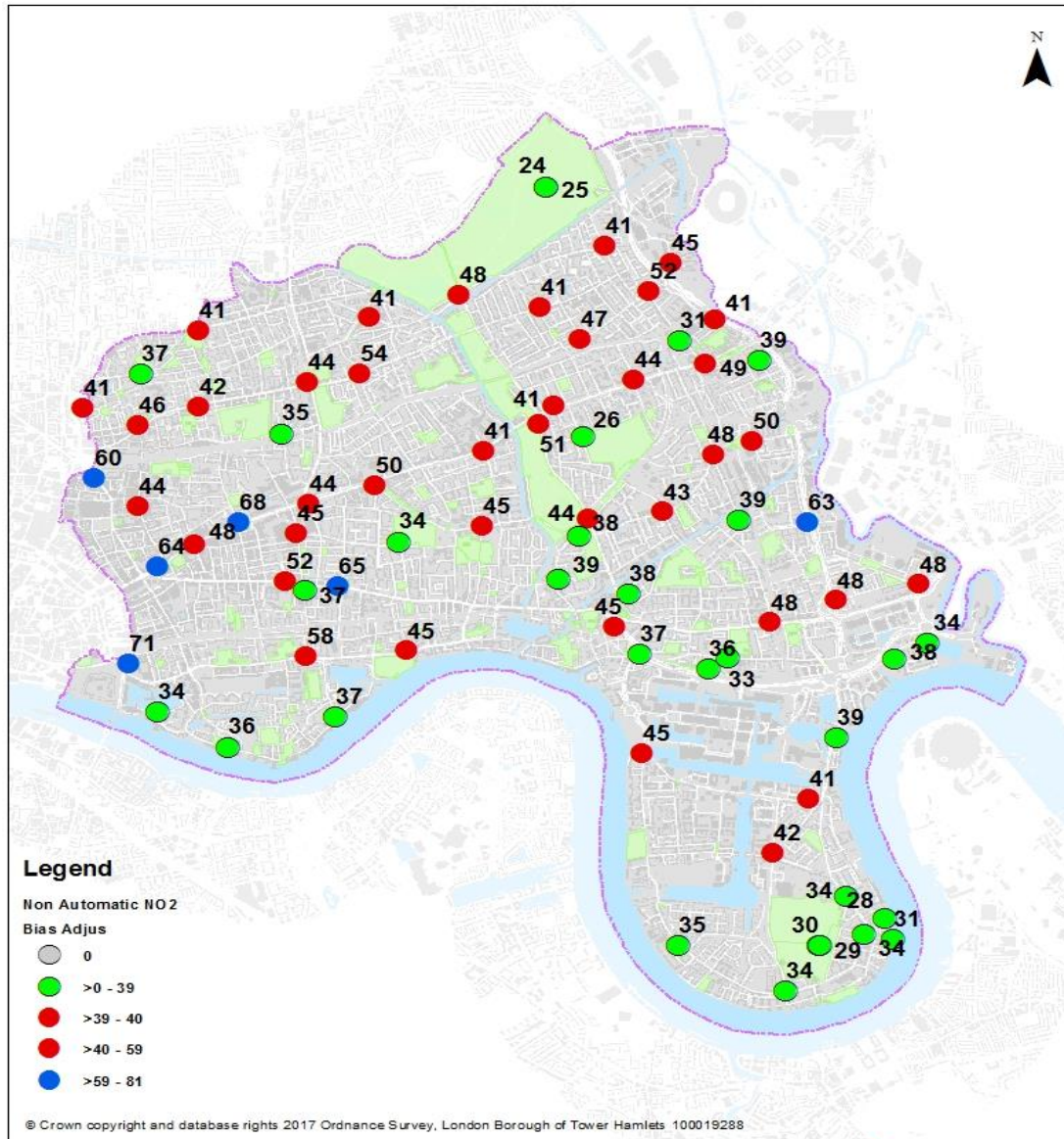
PM₁₀ is monitored at three continuous (or automatic) monitoring stations. The longest in operation is on Blackwall Tunnel Approach where data is available from 2011. Whilst PM₁₀ levels fell until 2014, they have remained constant since.

PM_{2.5}

PM_{2.5} is monitored at a continuous (or automatic) monitoring station at Blackwall Tunnel Approach where data is available from 2011. There are no clear trends in PM_{2.5} levels. An additional PM_{2.5} monitor is planned for 2018 at the Council's Mile End site.

NO2 Monitoring

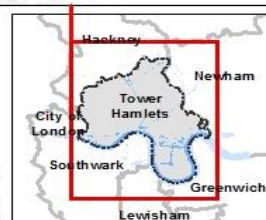
Figure 1 below shows map of non-automatic NO₂ monitoring sites in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets, showing annual mean results from 2017



Non-automatic NO₂ stations

Scale @ 1:33,523
490 245 0 490 980 1,470 Meters

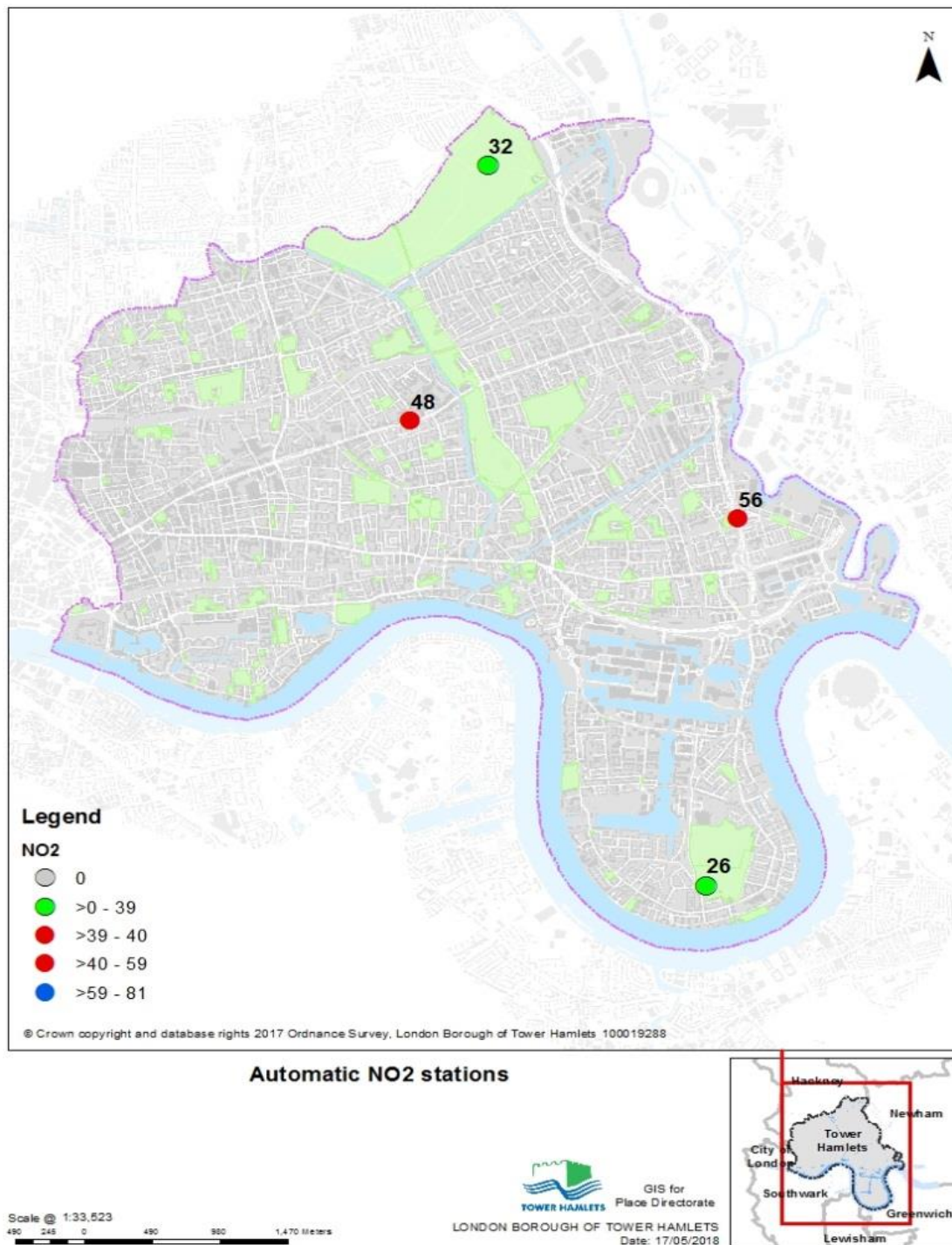
 GIS for Place Directorate
LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS
Date: 17/05/2018



Legend

On this map, the circles represent NO₂ diffusion tubes. The EU limit value for annual mean NO₂ is 40µg m⁻³. All monitoring sites that recorded NO₂ concentrations above this level are coloured in red and all that are below this level are coloured in green. The numbers in each square or circle are the annual mean NO₂ concentration for 2015.

Figure 2 below shows map of NO₂ automatic monitoring sites in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets, showing annual mean results from 2017

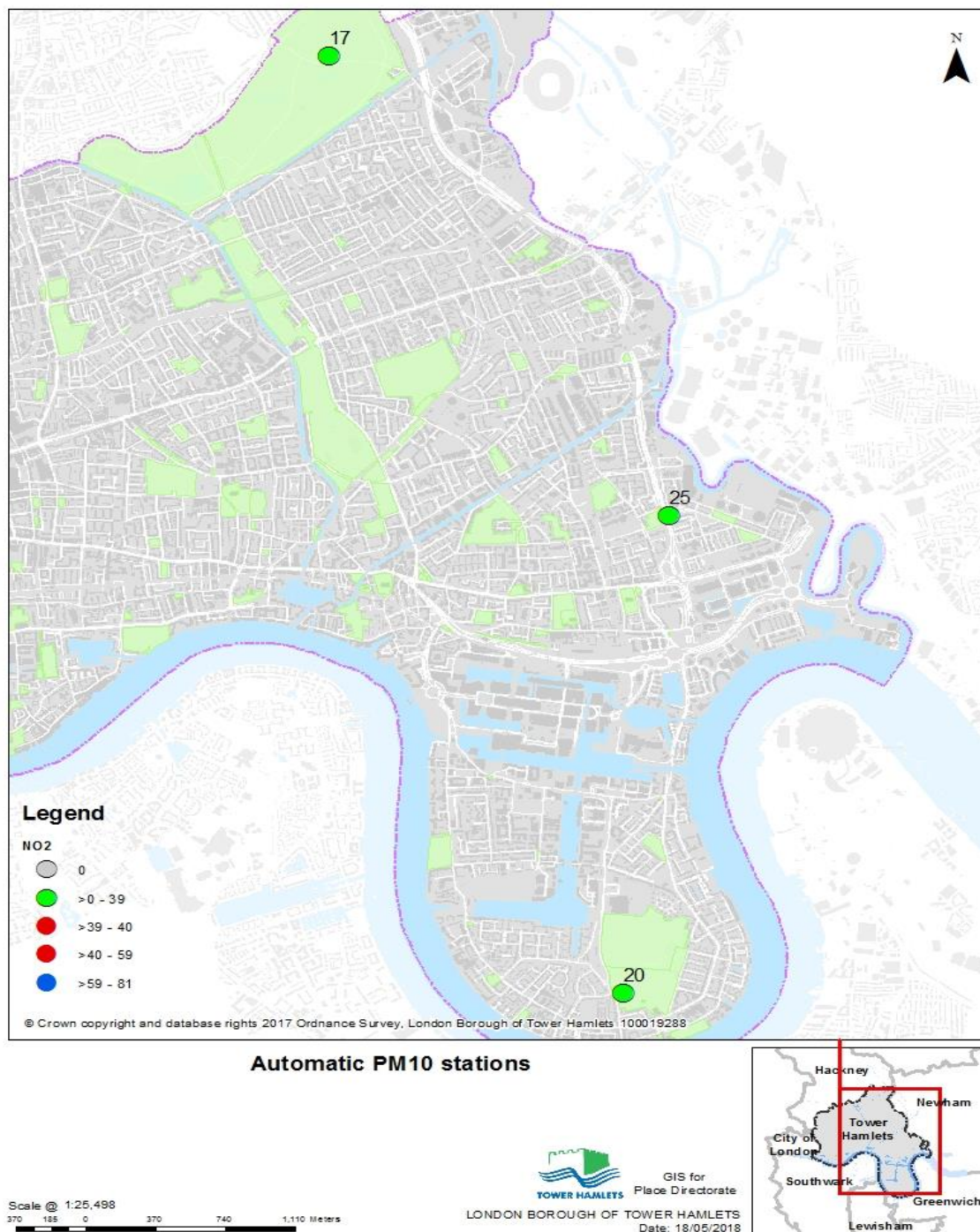


Legend

On this map, the circles represent NO₂ real time sites. The EU limit value for annual mean NO₂ is 40µg m⁻³. All monitoring sites that recorded NO₂ concentrations above this level are coloured in red and all that are below this level are coloured in green. The numbers in each square or circle are the annual mean NO₂ concentration for 2015.

PM₁₀ Monitoring

Figure 3 Map of PM₁₀ monitoring sites in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets, showing annual mean results from 2017



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Legend

The green circles represent continuous PM₁₀ monitors. The EU limit value for annual mean PM₁₀ is 40µg m⁻³. All monitoring sites recorded levels beneath this threshold, and so are coloured in green.). The numbers in each circle are the recorded annual mean PM₁₀ concentrations for 2016.

Actions to Improve Air Quality

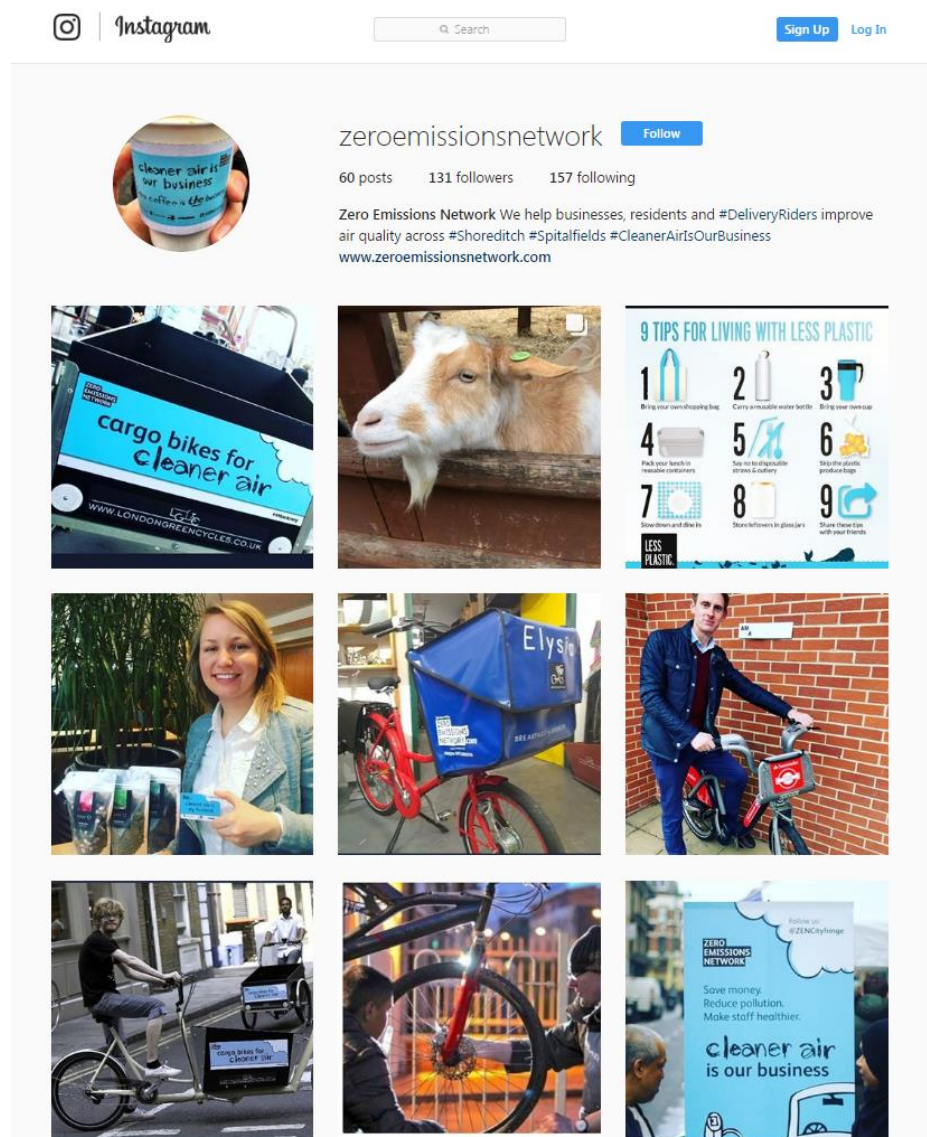
Tower Hamlets two main air quality achievements in 2016 were:

1. Introduction of the Zero Emission Neighbourhood (ZEN), supported by the GLA.

The [Zero Emissions Network](#) (ZEN) is a free to join network that helps residents and businesses both throughout the borough and in London's City Fringe area save money, reduce emissions and improve air quality. The ZEN offers free advice and services to switch to low emission energy and travel options with the goal of making the area a better place to live, work and visit.

Since it was established in 2012, the network has gained over 1,500 members and has implemented over 600 emission reducing initiatives. Register your [business](#) or [household](#) to the Zero Emissions Network to benefit from cash-saving services, or come along to one of our networking events or on-street [pop-ups](#) to find out more.

The Zero Emissions Network is a partnership project between the London Boroughs of Hackney, Islington and Tower Hamlets and it is supported by the Mayor of London.



2. Completion of an entirely new air quality action plan – see Tower Hamlets web pages for information (link below)

Tower Hamlets two main priorities to reduce exposure to poor air quality for 2018 are:

1. Replacement of diesel with electric vehicles in the Council's fleet
2. Funding from the governments Air Quality Fund and the Tower Hamlets' Mayor's Air Quality Fund to raise awareness of air pollution in the borough and to promote more sustainable travel

Further information

For more detailed information on air pollution in the borough see

https://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/lgn/environment_and_waste/environmental_health/pollution/air_quality/air_quality.aspx

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