

# Enforcement of the Low Emission Zone begins on Saturday 1 June

## Enforcement of the LEZ begins on Saturday

- Don't get caught out. Enforcement of the **Low Emission Zone** begins in Edinburgh on Saturday with the automatic number plate recognition cameras now in action.
- LEZ restrictions will apply to motor vehicles, except motorcycles and mopeds. Vehicles must meet the minimum emissions standards to drive within the zone, though national exemptions apply including for blue badge holders and emergency vehicles. [Individuals can check whether their vehicle is compliant](#) on the LEZ Scotland website.
- For contraventions of the LEZ, the Council will issue Penalty Charge Notice (PCN) fines, in line with Scottish Government regulations, from 00:01 on 1 June 2024. [Full details of LEZ penalties](#) are available online.



Enforcement of the LEZ in Edinburgh will begin in June 2024  
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The Scottish Government is also providing £5m across Scotland to reopen the [LEZ Support Fund for 2024-25](#) where residents and businesses can apply for support to ease the transition through retrofitting, disposal and other grants. Over the past three years people in the Edinburgh region benefited from £2.4m of grant support to prepare for the LEZ.

Changes have also been made to roads to allow drivers with vehicles that don't meet the standards to avoid the entering the LEZ. These include key junctions in the Old Town (junction of Pleasance with Holyrood Road), and Tollcross, as well as changes to Morrison Street.

The LEZ forms part of the city's wider ambitions under our [2030 Climate Strategy](#) and other schemes such as the [City Mobility Plan](#) and the [2050 Edinburgh City Vision](#).

Transport and Environment Convener, Councillor Scott Arthur said: "I'm proud that we've reached this important milestone

in our journey to become a healthier, greener, and more sustainable city. For the past two years we've run a positive information campaign to give people time to get ready for the LEZ, and to make sure they avoid penalties once enforcement begins.

"We have ambitious plans to achieve net zero, accommodate sustainable growth, cut congestion, and improve air quality, amongst other commitments to create a safer and more people-friendly city; and the LEZ is a key component of these.

"Public attitudes towards LEZs are improving across Scotland, with a [recent poll indicating that 60% of respondents were in favour of the zones, with just 21% opposed.](#) This is clear evidence that people are seeing the many benefits of LEZs, and how they link in with our wider aims to make our city cleaner, greener and healthier for everyone.

"Alongside Aberdeen, Glasgow, and Dundee we're sending a clear message that our major cities are united in pursuing a better future for all.

"And as Scotland's capital city, we have a duty to lead on these key climate issues which will define our country for generations to come."

Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Fiona Hyslop said: "I'm pleased that Edinburgh is protecting public health and improving air quality through their Low Emission Zone.

"This bold action mirrors the decisive measures we've seen in towns and cities right across Europe. There are now over 320 similar schemes in effect which respond to the latest medical understanding concerning the dangerous effects of air pollution from vehicle emissions.

"To help those that need it most, the Scottish Government has provided over £16m to help people and businesses to comply with LEZs. Support remains available and I would encourage

anyone who wants to know if their vehicle is compliant, or to find out more about funding, to visit [www.lowemissionzones.scot](http://www.lowemissionzones.scot).”

Consultant in Public Health at NHS Lothian, Flora Ogilvie said: “Reducing air pollution has clear long and short-term health benefits for everyone but is especially important for vulnerable groups. NHS Lothian welcomes the introduction of the Low Emission Zone and wider actions to encourage walking, wheeling, cycling and public transport use.

“We encourage our staff, patients and visitors to travel sustainably wherever possible, for the benefit of their own health and that of the wider community. We have been working to get our fleet of vehicles ready and make sure our staff are aware of the enforcement date.”

Policy and Public Affairs Manager at British Heart Foundation Scotland, Jonathan Roden said: “Air pollution is a public health emergency. Our research has shown that air pollutants can have a damaging impact on people’s heart and circulatory health. Each year up to 700 deaths from heart and circulatory disease in Scotland are attributable to particulate matter pollution. That’s why BHF Scotland welcomes the implementation of Edinburgh’s LEZ, which will help to improve the capital’s air quality **and help to protect people’s health.**”

Chair of Healthy Air Scotland, and Policy and Public Affairs Officer at Asthma + Lung UK Scotland, Gareth Brown said: “With 1 in 5 Scots developing a lung condition like asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) in their lifetime, for them, air pollution can trigger life-threatening asthma attacks and flare-ups.

“Children are more susceptible to air pollution as their lungs are still growing, and they also breathe faster than adults. As they grow, toxic air can stunt the growth of their lungs, making them less resilient into adulthood and placing

them at greater risk of lung disease in the future.

“Public health focussed policies like LEZs are seen as the most effective tool, but we would like to see policies that go further, helping to clear up pollution hotspots throughout the country, not just in our four main cities. It is vitally important that we protect the lungs and health of our communities, no one should be forced to breathe in toxic air.”



Pic Greg Macvean 30/05/2024

Edinburgh Council – LEZ introduction which begins on 1st June 2024