



Moving our streets from health negative to health positive

About this webinar

To enhance our wellbeing and the environment around us, a core element of future urban developments is making sure our mental and physical health is a design consideration, which can also add economic value and increasing productivity. Do we now have the best opportunity to change the way we live and work as we recovery from Covid19?

The UK continues to exceed legal air pollution limits, 10 years after the target was meant to be achieved. Air pollution kills thousands of people per year and is known to have drastic effect on health from respiratory problems to heart and lung disease. Open water quality is not much better with the UK only achieving 35% good or high ecological status. Pair these with the loss of thousands of acres of green space and wet features to artificial surfaces. Despite the understanding that green spaces have an economic value of £34 billion for our public health and wellbeing along with saving the NHS millions per year. The biodiversity they support also has economic value as well, due to species of pollinators for the specific food groups and crops we depend on. Why are we not arguing more for green?

Cities and councils have now had the tranche 1 budget confirmed by government to improve their active transport offering. Examples of good practice in our changing cities include the re-elected mayor of Paris, proposing the removal of 72% of on street parking, making the streets cycle friendly and helping Paris be a climate-resilient and sustainable city. The UN is proposing the legal protection of 30% of our planet by 2030 and the UK governments proposed Environment Act, currently at committee stage, could enshrine a principle of biodiversity net gain on new developments.



In our first two webinars we've considered the value of urban greening for cities around the world grappling with the issues of climate change and air pollution and managing transport systems in a post Covid-19 situation [CLICK HERE TO VIEW](#) and whether urban greening targets are deliverable in reality [CLICK HERE TO VIEW](#).

To continue our series, our next webinar will look at how changes to our infrastructure could lead to more health conscious and environmentally considerate streets. Leading to associated benefits, including improved air quality, public health and wellbeing alongside enhancing natural systems.

Our webinar discussion panel will consider:

- How do planners and approval bodies decide if enough is being done?
- What statutory guidelines or best practices are they following?
- How do we develop infrastructure whilst also ensuring consideration to issues around urban greening, public health and the environment?
- Are there enough resources available to validate an installation, making sure it is fit for purpose throughout its life span?
- Do designers have enough resources to consider the future management of the asset and its continued performance?
- What further regulations should be rolled out to ensure delivery of enhanced public spaces?
- How do we take best practice from inner city areas and roll them out nationally?

Key Stats

- The UK continues to exceed legal air pollution limits in **83%** of reporting zones, 10 years after the target meant to be achieved.
- Air pollution is estimated to be responsible for **40,000** deaths per year and is known to have drastic effect on health from respiratory problems to heart and lung disease.
- We lost an estimated **54,000** acres of green space to artificial surfaces between 2006 and 2012.
- Green spaces such as parks have an economic value of **£34 billion** per annum for our health and wellbeing.
- UK percentage of water bodies with 'good' or 'high' ecological status only **35% in 2018**.
- Green spaces save the NHS **£111 million** per year in the reduced visits to GP practices.
- Biodiversity contributes **£680 million** towards the UK economy per annum due to species of pollinators.

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