What is the Clean Air Zone?

Birmingham’s Clean Air Zone is an initiative introduced by Birmingham City Council following the Government’s request for Birmingham to reduce its air pollution levels. The Clean Air Zone represents an area of Birmingham where targeted action is to be taken to improve the air quality.

A Clean Air Zone discourages the most polluting vehicles from entering an area. No vehicle is banned from the zone, but vehicles of specified classes that do not meet emissions standards will be required to pay a daily charge if travelling within the area.

Birmingham’s Clean Air Zone now operates 24 hours, seven days a week. The zone covers roads within the A4540 Middleway Ring Road but not the Middleway itself. Birmingham became the second city to introduce a Clean Air Zone on 1 June 2021, following Bath, where a Clean Air Zone came into effect in March 2021.

How does the Clean Air Zone affect those visiting NEC Group city centre venues the ICC and Utilita Arena Birmingham?

The ICC, Utilita Arena Birmingham and visitor car parks associated with the venues are situated within Birmingham’s Clean Air Zone. Our visitors need to be familiar with potential charges and arrange payments directly, if applicable. Charges will apply to those using vehicles that do not meet emissions standards.

You can check if your car is eligible to drive within the Clean Air Zone without charge by visiting the Brum Breathes website and following the instructions.

What are the Clean Air Zone charges?

The daily charges apply to the following vehicles; cars, taxis, LGVs, HGVs, coaches and buses and range from £8 for a private car to £50 for HGVs. The criteria for not incurring a charge differs across diesel, petrol, gas, electric and hybrid vehicles.

Charges apply from midnight to midnight and are payable from six days before the day of travel to six days afterwards via the GOV.UK website. Only vehicles in motion incur the charge.

Vehicle entry into the Clean Air Zone will be monitored by automatic number plate recognition cameras and failure to pay on time will result in a Penalty Charge Notice of up to £120.

Are any exemptions available?

In certain circumstances, Exemption Permits can be applied for.

Further information on exemptions is available from the Brum Breathes website.

View the Clear Air Zone Map

Take a closer looks at the zone with this interactive map.