



GOVERNMENT SECTOR



• **ENFO** is Ireland's public information service on environmental matters, including sustainable development.

www.enfo.ie



• **Citizens Information Board** is an Irish eGovernment website. The site provides public service information for Ireland.

www.citizensinformation.ie



• **The Office of Tobacco Control** was set up in response to a national anti-tobacco strategy adopted in Ireland in 1999 and in particular the Public Health (Tobacco) Act, 2002.

www.otc.ie

NGO SECTOR



• **An Taisce** is the only independent, non-statutory and charitable body in Ireland prescribed within planning legislation. An Taisce works to influence planning and in particular the negative impacts of land use and traffic.

www.antaisce.org

OTHER SECTORS



• **Adamstown** is to be a self-contained new town located less than 10 miles from Dublin city. Adamstown was designated as a Strategic Development Zone where a whole spectrum of amenities such as schools, shops, offices, leisure facilities, creches, parks and integrated transport must be put in place by the developers as a condition agreed to in the planning process.

www.adamstown.ie

Some things to think about

Twice as many people suffer from asthma today compared to 20 years ago.

63,269 people entered Dublin daily by car in November 2007 down from 73,561 in 1997.

Since 1997 people using buses in Dublin have increased by 19 per cent.

The number of people using their bikes only rose by 1 percent in the last ten years.

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Six Common Air Pollutants

Ozone (O₃) is a gas composed of three oxygen atoms and can be found at ground level and high in the atmosphere. Ground level O₃ can reduce lung function and inflame the linings of the lungs. Repeated exposure may permanently scar lung tissue.

Nitrogen oxides (NO_x) is the generic term for a group of gases which all contain nitrogen and oxygen in varying amounts. NO_x forms when fuel is burned at high temperatures. Because NO_x reacts easily with other compounds it causes a wide variety of health and environmental impacts such as acid rain, water quality deterioration and eutrophication, ground-level ozone, particulate matter and a wide variety of toxic products which may cause biological mutations. Significant reduction of NO_x from road transport is required if Ireland is to meet its commitments under the National Emissions Ceiling Directive by 2010.

Sulphur Dioxide (SO₂) comes from the family of sulphur oxide gases and can easily dissolve in water creating acid rain which damages vegetation and buildings. SO₂ is created mainly from the burning of coal, and crude oil.

Carbon monoxide (CO) is a colourless, odourless gas that is formed when carbon locked in fuel is not burned completely. CO is poisonous even to healthy people at high concentrations. It can affect people with heart disease and respiratory problems as well as the central nervous system.

Lead (Pb) is a metal found naturally in the environment as well as some manufactured products. High concentrations of Pb retard mental development in children. Long term exposure to low levels of lead can affect the nervous system. The introduction of unleaded petrol in Ireland has dramatically reduced emissions.

Benzene (C₆H₆) is an organic compound and a known carcinogen. Benzene is used in the production of styrene and Nylon. Short-term inhalation may cause drowsiness, dizziness, headaches, as well as eye, skin, and respiratory tract irritations, and, at high levels, unconsciousness.



What goes up, comes down.

Air pollution is both a local and international problem. Emissions from one country can travel great distances in the air causing negative effects in other countries. Two significant transboundary effects are:

Eutrophication - an excess input of nitrogen nutrients (NO_x and ammonia) which disturbs the structure and function of land-based and aquatic ecosystems. Excess nitrogen in terrestrial ecosystems can lead to a loss of biodiversity and nitrogen leaching into water courses.

Acidification - Acid rain (caused by emissions of SO₂, NO_x and ammonia) damages forests, rivers, lakes and other ecosystems as well as buildings and historical sites.

Healthy Transport

Clean air is vital for human health and a healthy environment. However, since the industrial revolution, the quality of the air we breathe has deteriorated considerably - mainly as a result of human activities.

The EPA's Air Quality in Ireland report tells us that emissions from traffic is one of the main source of damaging air pollution in Ireland and since 1990 emissions from this sector have increased by a massive 180 per cent.

Sustainable transport describes a transport system designed to minimise emissions of carbon dioxide and other pollutants to the air.

Air pollution from transport is directly linked to economic growth and our unprecedented economic growth of the last 15 years has left us unhealthily dependent on the private car.

The link between proper land use, transport and air emissions is clear. Recent housing projects

like Adamstown in Co. Dublin are positive new examples of such an integrated approach.

For Irish people to start using healthier modes of transport we will require a well planned, functioning and integrated public transport system to move us around.

