

Getting ready for Bristol's Clean Air Zone

This factsheet will cover the key points and topics needed to help you prepare your VCSE organisation and volunteers for Bristol's Clean Air Zone.

What is the clean air zone?

The Government has set legal limits for the reduction of pollution. A Clean Air Zone is a specific location that aims to reduce public exposure to nitrogen dioxide through:

- restrictions on the highest polluting vehicles
- encouraging the use of cleaner vehicles
- encouraging people to walk, cycle or use public transports

The introduction of the Bristol's Clean Air Zone will help to ensure the city meets those limits and begins in the summer of 2022.

More details: <https://www.bristol.gov.uk/streets-travel/bristol-caz>

Preparing your vehicles and volunteers for this change.

You MUST ensure that any vehicles are eligible or exempt from charge by summer 2022. Over 71% of vehicles in Bristol are already compliant and so only a minority of vehicles driving in the zone will be charged.

Vehicles owned by your organisation:

Check your vehicle/s meet the required standard: <https://www.bristol.gov.uk/streets-travel/bristol-caz/charges-and-checker>. If they meet the standard, then you will be expected to pay the daily charge each time you drive your vehicle/s into Bristol's Clean Air Zone.

Private vehicles used by your volunteers:

If volunteers use their own vehicles whilst carrying out their volunteering duties for your organisation, you will need to ask them to check their vehicle and bring proof of eligibility for your records. You may need to update your policies to reflect this change and clarify with volunteers whose responsibility it will be to pay any potential fines.

Exemptions:

The exemptions are to give time for people to take advantage of financial support to upgrade to less polluting vehicles. These will apply to:

- Residents within the zone
- Low-income workers in the zone
- Hospital patients and long-term visitors to BRI hospitals
- Specialist vehicles
- Community transport vehicles
- Blue badge holders
- Disabled tax class vehicles

If you think your vehicle is eligible for an exemption: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/driving-in-a-clean-air-zone#exemptions>

Financial & Business support

There are several grants and loans available from the council to help with fund the cost for upgrading to a compliant vehicle. Details can be found here: <https://www.bristol.gov.uk/streets-travel/bristol-caz/financial-support>.

Register your interest for financial support: <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/CAZFinancialSupport/>
FREE sustainable travel advice and support: <https://travelwest.info/for-businesses>

What do I need to do?

- Review and update your travel/transport policy
- Understand and prepare for the potential implications of any extra costs to your organisation
- Review and update your volunteer policy
- Begin conversations with your volunteers to explain the changes and how it may affect them