

The image features the Greenpeace logo, the word "GREENPEACE", in a white, bold, sans-serif font. The text is positioned in the upper right quadrant of a solid green background. A series of white, wavy lines originate from the left side of the frame and sweep across the middle, passing behind the text. The lines vary in thickness and curvature, creating a sense of motion and energy. The overall design is clean and modern, with a strong emphasis on the organization's signature color, green.

**GREENPEACE**

# Air pollution – a public health crisis

Rosie Rogers, Greenpeace UK

## Meet Sephie



## A Global Crisis

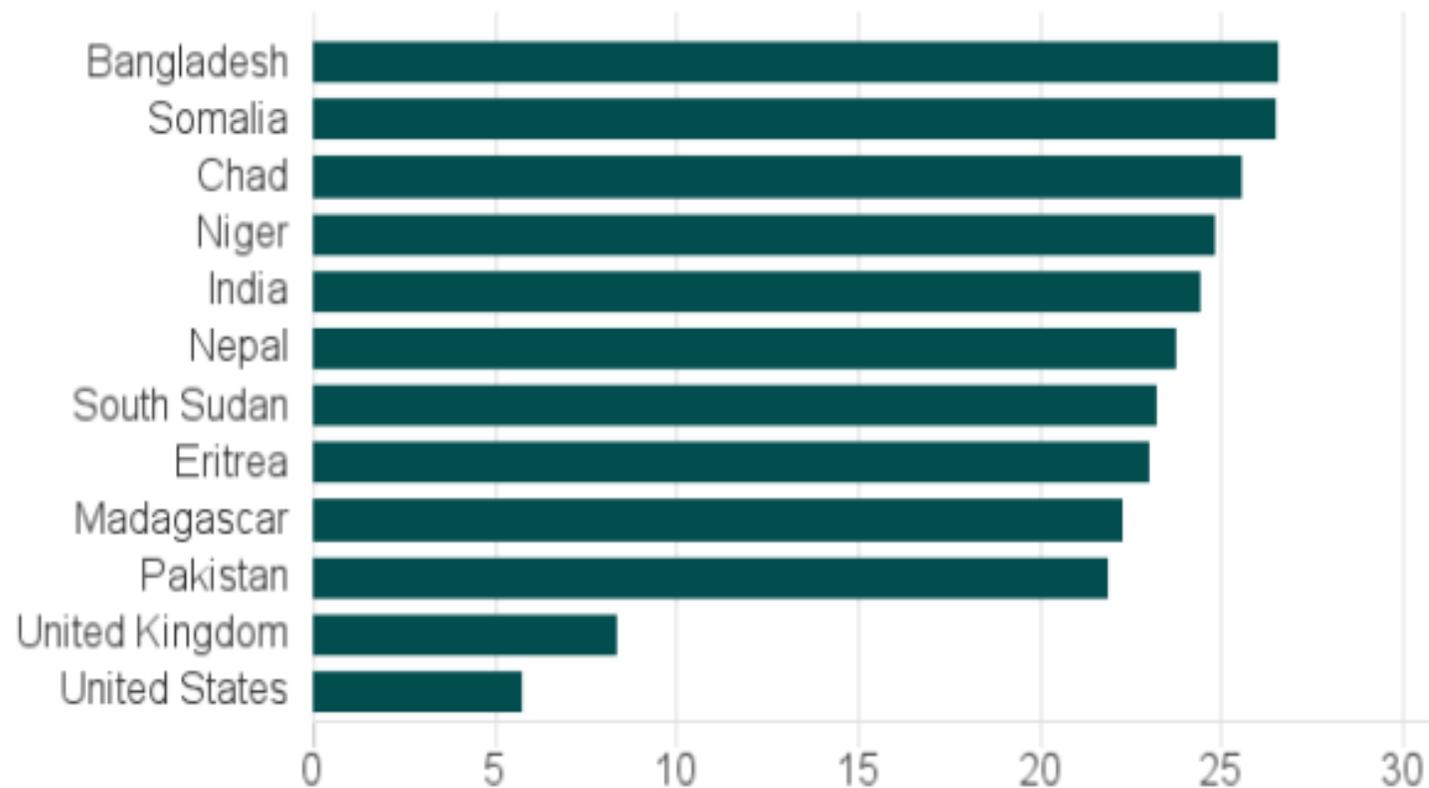
Air pollution, contributed to 6.5 million premature deaths in 2015 (Lancet)



## Where has the highest level of pollution deaths?

Top 10 countries plus UK & USA for reference, 2015

■ Proportion of deaths (%)



Source: The Lancet Commission on Pollution and Health

BBC

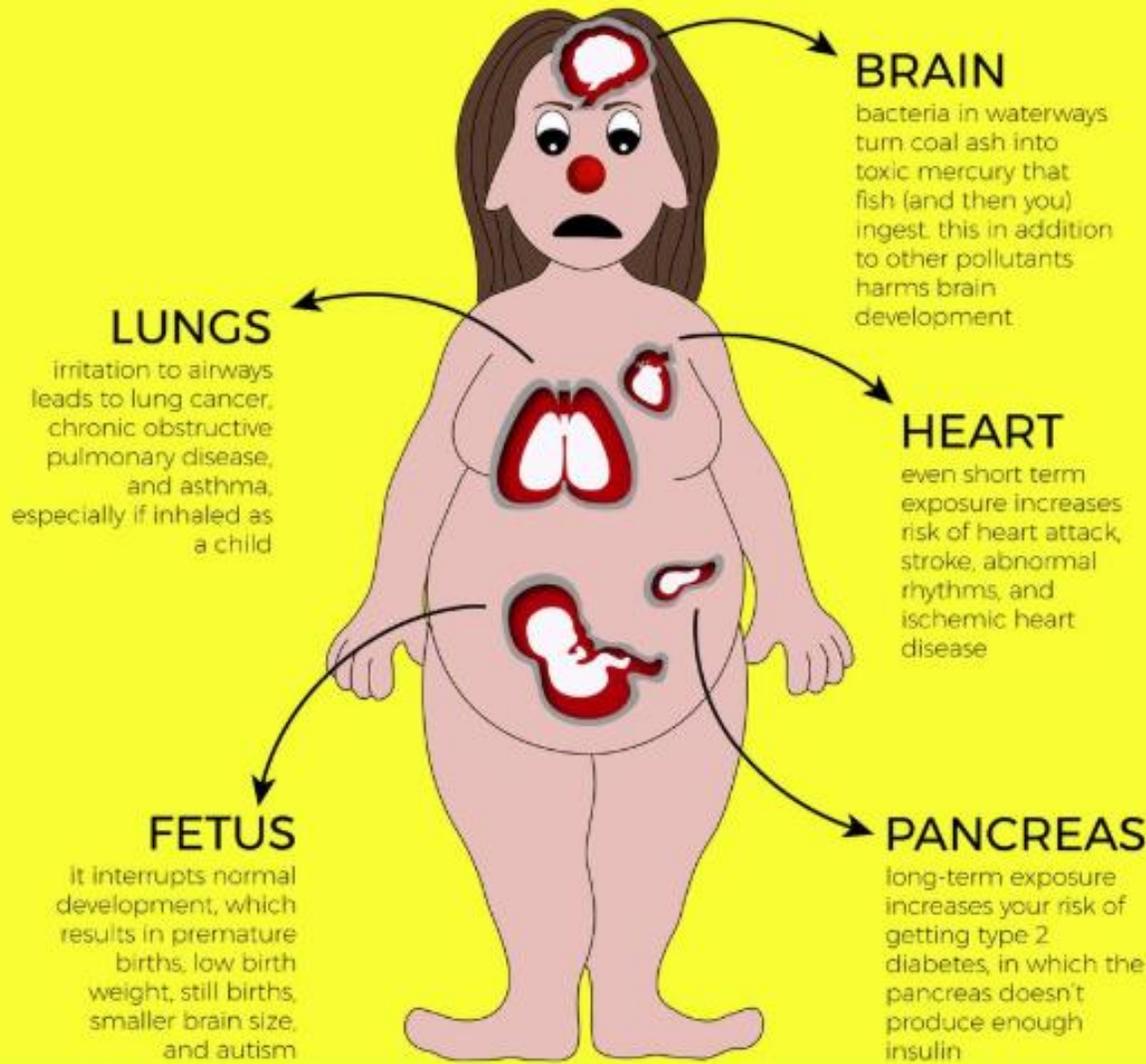
## UK Air Pollution

- The UK have been taken to court 4 times over illegal air by Client Earth and the EU
- WHO data = More than 40 towns and cities in the UK are at or have exceeded air pollution limits set by the World Health Organization, its new report has found
- Air pollution costs the NHS £42.88 million a year! (PHE)

## The Sad Truth (from Defra)

- Poor air quality has been classified as the largest environmental risk to public health in the UK, and was described by the World Health Organization as “a public health emergency”
- The total burden of outdoor air pollution has been estimated to be equal to 40,000 early deaths each
- Air pollution is the second largest cause of avoidable mortality after smoking

# HOW AIR POLLUTION AFFECTS YOUR BODY



## BRAIN

bacteria in waterways turn coal ash into toxic mercury that fish (and then you) ingest. this in addition to other pollutants harms brain development.

## LUNGS

irritation to airways leads to lung cancer, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and asthma, especially if inhaled as a child

## HEART

even short term exposure increases risk of heart attack, stroke, abnormal rhythms, and ischemic heart disease

## FETUS

it interrupts normal development, which results in premature births, low birth weight, still births, smaller brain size, and autism

## PANCREAS

long-term exposure increases your risk of getting type 2 diabetes, in which the pancreas doesn't produce enough insulin

## Main cause

- The principal air-quality pollutant emissions from petrol, diesel, and alternative-fuel engines are carbon monoxide, oxides of nitrogen, unburnt hydrocarbons and particulate matter. – DfT
- “The most immediate air quality challenge is tackling the problem of nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) concentrations around roads” – DEFRA
- WHO classified diesel fumes as carcinogenic in 2012

# National Solutions

- Phase out date
- Supporting local action
- Funding a national clean air network



# City Solutions

- Clean air zones
- Banning diesel and petrol
- Better public transport/ cycling



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## Personal Solutions

- Awareness raising (mums4lungs)
- Action in your school/ community
- Idling, car sharing etc
- Writing to your MP, local council
- Calling on car companies to change



## Thanks to

- Client Earth
- Mums for Lungs
- British Lung Foundation
- Local councils
- Many MPs/ Mayors
- Schools taking action
- Doctors against diesel

... and so many more!

# What Greenpeace are doing



# Exposing air pollution (not just London!)

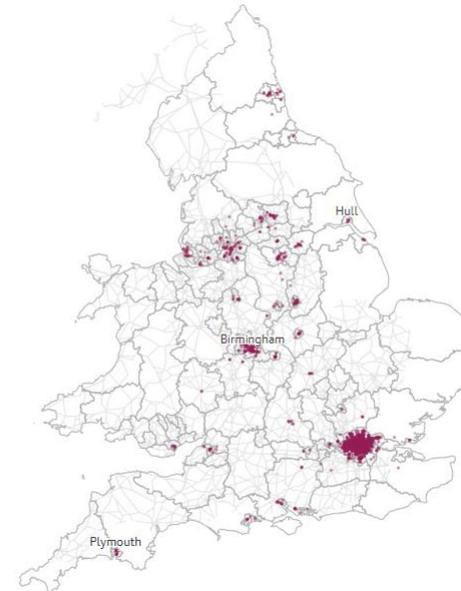
Environment ▶ Climate change | Wildlife | Energy | **Pollution**

## Pollution

### Thousands of British children exposed to illegal levels of air pollution

Exclusive: More than 2,000 schools and nurseries close to roads with damaging levels of diesel fumes, joint investigation by Guardian and Greenpeace reveals

- [Check whether your child's school is affected](#)
- [How have you been affected by air pollution?](#)



## Action in Bath

- Air pollution has no borders – Bristol
- Clean air zone consultation & ambitious action
- Better public transport
- Bath & North East Somerset council was one of 28 identified within the government's July 2017 NO<sub>2</sub> plan as an authority where nitrogen dioxide levels are projected to exceed national air quality objectives beyond 2021.
- Bath was voted the best place in the UK to bring up a family - let's protect their lungs!

Thank you!

To improve air quality, we're looking at options for charging certain vehicles driving into central Bath.

Find out more and have your say.

[www.bathnes.gov.uk/breathe](http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/breathe)