



Why we monitor air quality

There is a national requirement for councils to monitor particulate matter less than 10 microns (PM₁₀) in designated airsheds. Blenheim is the only designated airshed in Marlborough.

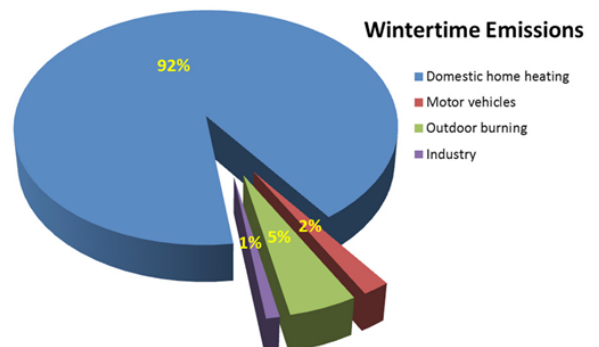
PM₁₀ is considered a public health risk. Monitoring shows that PM₁₀ levels in Blenheim exceed health standards. Exposure to excessive amounts of PM₁₀ can lead to serious health problems, such as respiratory problems and heart disease, particularly in the young and elderly and in those with pre-existing medical conditions. Currently other air contaminants such as SO_x and NO_x are not at levels which are a public health concern.

Where and how we monitor air quality

PM₁₀ is measured at two sites in Blenheim. Measurements are taken every hour in Redwoodtown and a daily average is recorded. Monitoring occurs 1 in every 3 days in Springlands throughout the year.

What is the source of emissions?

The main source of daily wintertime PM₁₀ emissions in Blenheim are from domestic home heating (around 92%). Motor vehicles contributed to 2% of PM₁₀ emissions, outdoor burning contributed to 5% and industry contributed to 1% of total wintertime emissions.



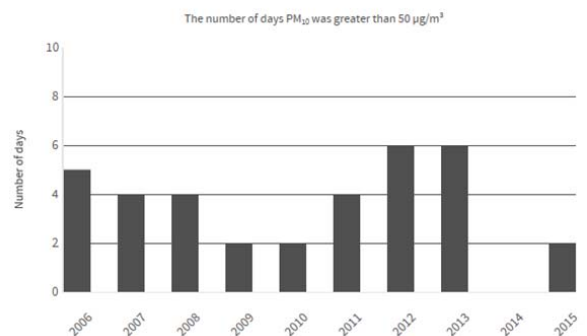
Compliance with the National Environmental Standards (NES)

The National Environmental Standards require no more than one day per year in Blenheim when PM₁₀ is greater than 50ug/m³, from 1 September 2016.

Concentration of PM₁₀ in Blenheim have exceeded 50ug/m³ every year for more than one day for all years except 2014. Currently in 2016 we have had four days when the levels have been exceeded.

Overall the median PM₁₀ concentration have remained at similar levels over the past five years.

The Council is required to implement measures to improve air quality in the Blenheim the urban area (refer to 'Moves to Improve Blenheim Air Quality are Underway').



What can you do to help clean up our air?

- Only burn dry seasoned wood. Get your supplier to check the moisture content, they will be happy to do so. It should have less than 25% moisture content.
- Don't burn rubbish, plastics, treated or painted wood, or glossy paper, as these release harmful toxic emissions to the atmosphere.
- Ensure your chimney stack is cleaned regularly.
- When changing heating methods consider alternatives to wood burners.
- Do not stoke up your wood burner to operate overnight.
- If you have a new burner do not allow the installer or anybody to tamper with the air controls.

Need more information

Land, Air, Water Aotearoa (LAWA) has been established by like-minded organisations with a view to help local communities find the balance between using natural resources and maintaining their quality and availability. LAWA presents information on air quality from the Redwoodtown site.

Further information can also be found on these web pages:

<http://www.marlborough.govt.nz/Environment/Air-Quality.aspx>

<https://www.lawa.org.nz/explore-data/marlborough-region/air-quality/blenheim/blenheim-bowling-club>

http://www.stats.govt.nz/browse_for_stats/environment/environmental-reporting-series/environmental-indicators/home/air/health-effects.aspx
