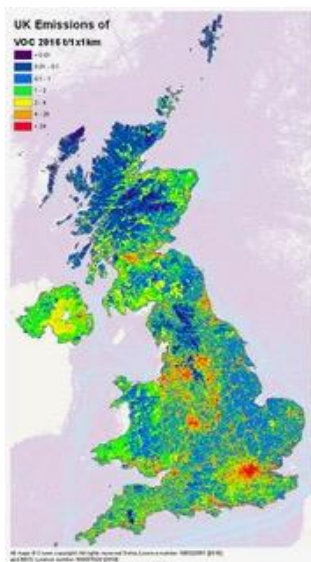


Café Scientifique Headingley

Monday 11 September 2022

Is air pollution a problem worth fixing?

By Alastair Lewis



Outline: Public health in the UK has been impacted by air pollution for hundreds of years. Despite significant progress in reducing national emissions over the last 70 years the health burden is still estimated to cost the UK economy in the region £7-12 billion per year. Improving air quality further is however getting more and more challenging and cannot be solely delivered just using technological fixes. Are we prepared to invest further, and change how we live, in order to improve air quality? How might net zero affect air pollution, and is our exposure to air pollution still an environmental problem that is worth fixing?

UK Emissions of Volatile Organic Compounds 2016

Alastair Lewis is professor of atmospheric chemistry at the *University of York* and a Science Director at the *National Centre for Atmospheric Science*. He is currently Chair of the *Defra Air Quality Expert Group (AQEG)* and the *Department for Transport Science Advisory Council*. Alastair is an experimental scientist who has studied the impacts of pollution from polar regions to megacities, and open oceans to tropical forests. He recently led a major bilateral UK-China research and policy collaboration on improving air quality in Beijing and provided advice to Parliament on new post-Brexit air quality standards in the Environment Act (2021). He has been awarded the John Jeyes prize for Environment, Energy and Sustainability, and the Royal Society of Chemistry award for science policy.

Venue: *The New Headingley Club, 56 St Michaels Road, LS6 3BG*

Time: *Room opens 7:30pm, the presentation begins promptly at 7:45pm*

Entry: *Donation please, for room hire and expenses: £4 at the door*



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