



Preparing for cleaner air in Greater Manchester

October 2021



At a glance

- The ten Greater Manchester local authorities have approved the Greater Manchester Clean Air Plan, which includes a category C charging Clean Air Zone.
- Around 850 ANPR cameras and 2,000 signs are being installed on the highways network in readiness for Greater Manchester-wide Clean Air Zone launch on 30 May 2022.
- Greater Manchester has secured more than £120m from government to help local businesses, people and organisations to upgrade to cleaner vehicles, through grants and finance options, to ensure vehicles will be clean enough to comply with the Clean Air Zone.
- Eligible vehicle owners with a non-compliant vehicle will be to apply for grants and finance options through the Greater Manchester Clean Air Plan Financial Support Scheme, set to set to launch for HGVs on 30 November 2021, and all other vehicle types at end January 2022.
- Prepare for clean air now. Visit cleanairgm.com to check your vehicle(s) compliance, sign up for updates and find out more about when daily charges will apply, discounts, exemptions and eligibility for funding. Further information is also included below.

About the Greater Manchester Clean Air Plan

Air pollution is linked to a range of very serious health conditions and contributes to early deaths. Greater Manchester (GM) is taking action to improve air quality on local roads – now and for future generations.

All ten GM local authorities have worked together to develop a joint Clean Air Plan (CAP) for Greater Manchester. This has now been agreed. It includes:

- A category C charging GM-wide Clean Air Zone, which is required as directed by government to secure compliance with nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) legal limits on local roads in the shortest possible time, and by 2024 at the latest.
- Over £120m support through grants and finance options for GM businesses, people and organisations to upgrade eligible non-compliant vehicles.

The GM CAP is a key component of Greater Manchester's green revolution, helping to tackle the problem of air pollution. The Zone is just one of several being introduced in the UK to tackle harmful NO₂ pollution on local roads, with Zones now live in Bath and Birmingham.

Following feedback from the 2020 consultation, the final plan takes into account the impact of the pandemic on GM businesses who need support to upgrade their vehicles, while making sure that the city-region improves its air quality in the shortest possible time, and by 2024 at the latest.

Government has confirmed that they wish to ensure that the Clean Air Financial Support can be adapted if necessary and that they will continue to work with GM to understand the situation, including the funding position if the impact on business is greater than forecast.

As further financial support to address potential cases of hardship may be needed, the ten GM authorities will be monitoring the situation very closely to ensure that they can take up the government's offer to review the need for further funding if the need can be demonstrated.

Financial support available to help GM prepare for cleaner air

GM has secured government funding to help local businesses, people and organisations to upgrade or retrofit to cleaner compliant vehicles through grants and finance options. Then their vehicles will be clean enough to comply with the Clean Air Zone.

Over £120m financial support is available to help the smallest businesses and organisations, as well as individuals, with the oldest and most polluting vehicles to upgrade to cleaner vehicles. This will include small and micro businesses, sole traders, those who are self-employed, charities and social enterprises and private owners.

In order to receive a grant and/or finance options to upgrade non-compliant vehicles, businesses, people and organisations will have to meet eligibility criteria. The criteria depends on the type of non-compliant vehicle being replaced or retrofitted.

The amount available as a grant or finance to replace or retrofit a non-compliant vehicle depends on the vehicle type and in some cases the weight of that vehicle.

Vehicle type		Financial support for replacement	Financial support for retrofit
	Bus	£16k	£16k
	HGV	Up to £12k	£16k
	Coach	£32k	£16k
	Van	Up to £4.5k	£5k
	Minibus	£5k	£5k
	GM Hackney Carriage	Up to £10k	£5k
	GM PHV	Up to £6k	£5k

Eligibility criteria for financial support

To apply for financial support to replace or retrofit a non-compliant **bus, coach, HGV, van or minibus**, when making an application, applicants will need to be able to provide evidence of:

- The size of business or organisation, or proof that the vehicle is owned by a private individual
- The business, organisation or residential address of the applicant is in Greater Manchester and has been for no less than 12 months
- The applicant is the owner/registered keeper of the non-compliant vehicle
- The non-compliant vehicle has been owned by the applicant for no less than 12 months¹
- The non-compliant vehicle has been registered to an address in GM for no less than 12 months²
- The non-compliant vehicle has a valid MOT, road tax and insurance
- The upgraded vehicle will continue to be located in GM for not less than 12 months from when funding is received

For those applying to upgrade non-compliant **Hackneys and PHVs**, they will need to provide evidence that:

- The applicant is the owner/registered keeper of the non-compliant vehicle
- The non-compliant vehicle is licensed to one of the 10 GM local authorities and has been licensed for not less than 12 months
- The non-compliant vehicle has been owned by the applicant for no less than 12 months
- The non-compliant vehicle has valid road tax and insurance
- The vehicle will remain licensed in GM or licenced with a GM authority for 2 years from when financial support is received

¹ With the exception of retrofit grants for coaches or buses, where the applicant may have owned the vehicle for 6 months.

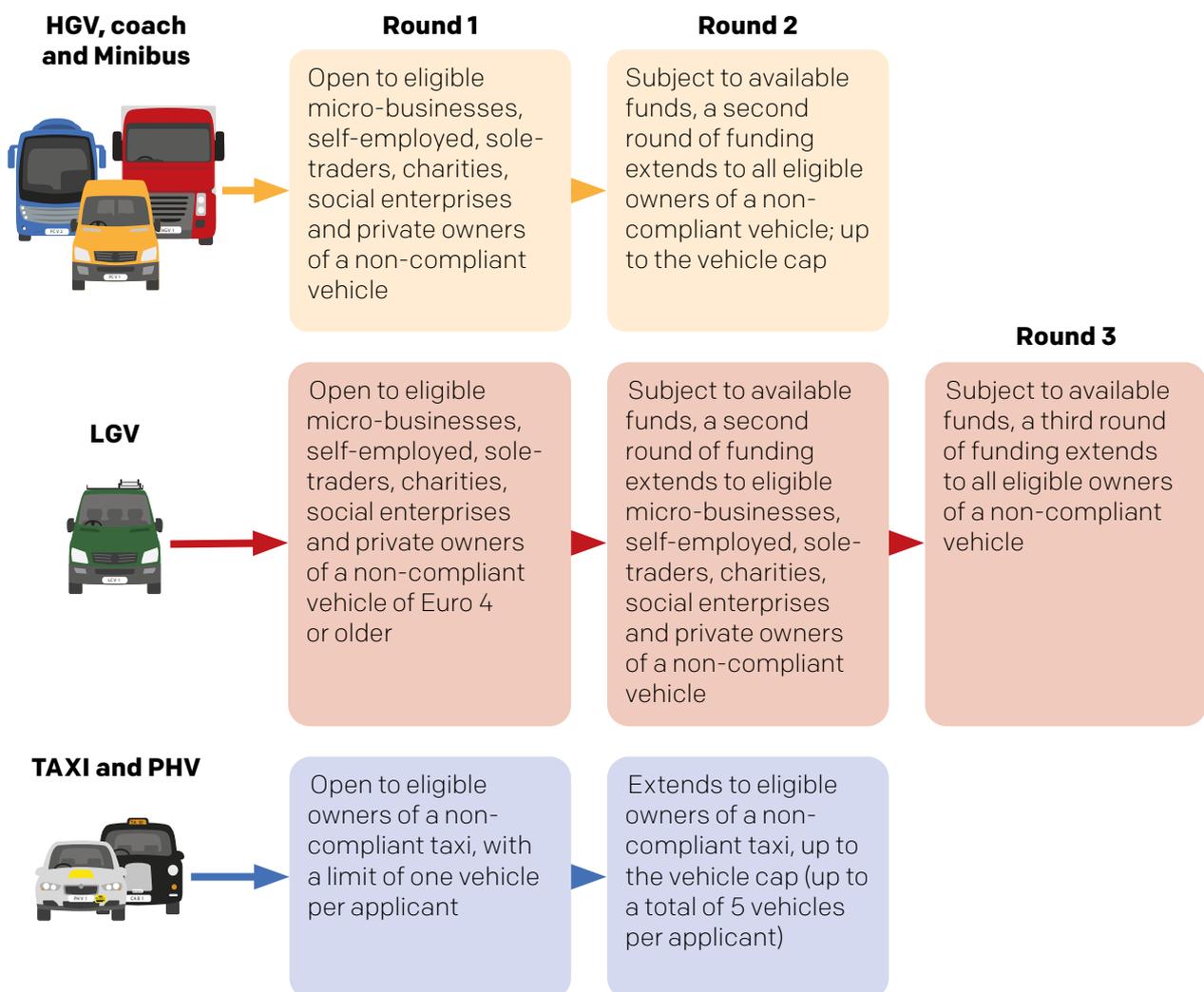
² With the exception of retrofit grants for coaches or buses, where the applicant's vehicle may have been registered in GM for 6 months.

What is retrofit?

- Retrofit solutions use either technology in the exhaust to ensure the vehicle meets Euro 6 equivalent emissions or LPG conversion.
- Retrofitting vehicles has been an available option for buses for a few years and is well-established, however it is an emerging technology for other vehicles.
- All retrofit solutions that are compliant with a CAZ must be government approved, through the Energy Saving Trust's CVRAS accreditation scheme.
- Find out more at:
energysavingtrust.org.uk/service/clean-vehicle-retrofit-accreditation-scheme/

Financial support application rounds

Funding will be available in the rounds set out below, this is to help the smallest businesses and organisations, as well as individuals, with the oldest and most polluting vehicles to upgrade to cleaner vehicles.



Applying for funding

From 30 November 2021, applications will be open for financial support to upgrade or retrofit HGVs. In late January 2022, applications will be open for upgrading and retrofitting all other vehicle types.

Applicants will be able to apply for funding using an online portal, where they'll set up an account to make an application and get email updates on the progress of their application. Further support will be available online and there will be a telephone helpline available too.

Early application is encouraged to ensure applicants are well-placed to access the funding.

Applications will be made using an online account and providing all the information required. This includes providing data about themselves, their vehicle and their business and these details are verified through a series of validation checks.

Following a successful eligibility assessment and acceptance of the Terms and Conditions of funding, the applicant will be provided with a funding award notification, which will set out the funding options available to them. At this stage, the applicant would then be able to explore the funding opportunities available to them.

Overview of the Greater Manchester Clean Air Zone

The 10 GM local authorities have agreed to introduce a Category C Clean Air Zone. The Zone will be introduced in phases:

- **Monday 30 May 2022** for HGVs, buses, hackney carriages and private hire vehicles not licensed in GM.
- **Thursday 1 June 2023** for LGVs, minibuses, coaches* and GM-licensed hackney carriages and private hire vehicles.

Vehicles that do not meet emission standards will pay a daily charge to travel in the Zone. Private cars, motorbikes and mopeds are not included.

The Clean Air Zone is designed to improve air quality by encouraging upgrades to cleaner vehicles. It is not the same as a Congestion Charge Zone, where all or most vehicles are charged to drive.

* Coaches will be able to apply for a temporary exemption from January 2022 until 1st June 2023.

What area will it cover?

All roads within Greater Manchester, apart from roads managed by National Highways (such as motorways and trunk roads), will be included in the Clean Air Zone, with some exceptions. A more detailed map along with details of exceptions can be viewed by visiting

cleanaigm.com/clean-air-zone-map



How will it operate?

The Zone will run seven days a week, 24 hours a day, every day of the year. It will be enforced by a network of Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras to identify non-compliant vehicles travelling in the zone. The first ANPR camera was installed on Vernon Street in Bolton in August 2021, with around 850 more to follow. Clean Air Zone signage is also being introduced on the highways network across the city-region.

Discounts and exemptions will apply to some vehicle types. Some exemptions are temporary, some are permanent. Some will be automatically applied; others will require an application from the vehicle owner. Owners of vehicles that need to apply for an exemption will be able to apply from end January 2022. This includes the temporary exemption for coaches, and the permanent exemptions for specialist HGVs, community minibuses, Showmen's vehicles, LGVs and minibuses adapted for a disabled user, heritage buses. Those with private HGVs will also be able to apply for a discount from the end of January 2022.

The daily charges and when they will be introduced are:

- **Buses** – £60 per day from 30 May 2022
- **Coaches** – £60 per day from 1 June 2023 (subject to applying for an exemption from January 2022 until 1st June 2023)
- **HGVs** - £60 per day from 30 May 2022
- **Vans** - £10 per day from 1 June 2023
- **Minibuses** – £10 per day from 1 June 2023
- **GM Licensed Hackney Carriages*** – £7.50 per day from 1 June 2023
- **GM Licensed Private Hire Vehicles*** – £7.50 per day from 1 June 2023
- **Non-GM Licensed Hackney Carriages** – £7.50 per day from 30 May 2022
- **Non-GM Licensed Private Hire Vehicles** – £7.50 per day from 30 May 2022



Further consultation on specific elements of the GM Clean Air Zone

A public consultation on the GM Clean Air Plan proposals took place in 2020. This identified two issues that were raised in the feedback to the original consultation that now require a further consultation so that the ten GM local authorities can decide if they are to be included in the final plan. A six-week consultation ran from 1 September to 13 October 2021 on two proposed inclusions to the Clean Air Zone:

- Including sections of the A575 and A580 at Worsley in the charging scheme
- Including M1/M1 SP vehicles with a body type of 'motorcaravan' within the charging scheme

Outcomes of the consultation will be determined in January 2022. More details can be found via cleanairgm.com/consultation. It is important to note this consultation was not on the CAP itself, which has already been consulted on and approved by the ten GM local authorities.

Find out more and get in touch

To find out more about the GM Clean Air Plan and to sign up for updates, including further details on financial support, visit cleanairgm.com/#newsletter.

A vehicle eligibility checker will be made available on cleanair.com in the coming weeks to enable vehicle owners to find out if their vehicle is affected by the Clean Air Zone and whether they are eligible for funding. If you have an enquiry please email info@cleanairgm.com.

For media enquiries, call 0161 244 1055 or email mediarelations@tfgm.com.