

Nordic Working Group on Air Quality

A working group is appointed for one year with the aim of collecting and sharing knowledge about air quality.

Work description

Road traffic is one of the largest sources of local air pollution in densely populated areas. This is due to both exhaust emissions and mechanical wear of road surfaces, particularly from studded tyres. High concentrations of nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) and particles (PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}) can cause damage to health and in worst case increased prevalence of premature death. For local air pollution limit values are regularly exceeded in several Nordic cities. In order to limit emissions and health impacts from air pollution, it is necessary to incorporate air pollution into the planning of areas and transport, to study and implement mitigation measures, forecast and monitor air quality in the major cities as well as carry out research and development.

Nordic Road Association wishes to contribute to communicating to the Nordic road and transport industry the knowledge that has developed in various national, Nordic and international fora. This is why a 1-year working group is being formed which is to collect relevant reports and other documents as well as arranging a workshop with the purpose of ensuring that relevant knowledge is communicated and used to the widest possible extent.

Some relevant reports:

- NordFoU: NorDust (road dust emission, modelling and mitigation within Nordic relations) (Nordfou.org/færdige projekter (completed projects))
- PIARC (World Road Association) 2019 R31 DA: Guide to best practice for air quality in relation to road maintenance
- EU directives and other documents, including: EU Action Plan Towards a Zero Pollution Ambition is part of the European green agreement on air pollution in Europe – report 2020.
- The European Environment Agency (eea.europa.eu)
- The National Research and Development reports and other documents

Period of time: One year (The work will take place during 2022, but the company plan is to be submitted 1 November 2021).

Relevant skills profiles: Specialists within air quality, general skills within the environmental field, town planners, road planners, road engineers and more.

Knowledge sharing and communication of best practice: workshop and workshop report

Relevant global goals: Goal 3: Good Health and Well-Being, Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities, Goal 13: Climate Action

Follow-up on global goals: The group itself submits proposals as to how they can follow-up on relevant global goals. In this connection the group can also discuss whether the activities are covering other global goals and whether the group would like to report these.