

The Nairobi City County Air Quality Action Plan (2025–2029)

Towards Cleaner Air, Healthier Communities, and a More Sustainable City

Where we are

Nairobi City County has taken a bold and strategic step towards ensuring cleaner, healthier air for all its residents. The Nairobi City County Air Quality Action Plan (2025–2029) provides a comprehensive and actionable framework for improving air quality, strengthening environmental governance, and protecting public health.

Air pollution remains one of the most pressing environmental and public health challenges facing Nairobi. Rapid urbanization, industrial growth, increased motorization, and waste mismanagement have contributed to rising emissions and declining air quality. Recognizing this, the County Government has renewed its commitment to clean air through a plan that goes beyond compliance — one that integrates science, policy, and citizen engagement into a coherent roadmap for transformative change.

The new Air Quality Action Plan (2025–2029) builds on lessons and achievements from the 2019–2023 plan, while introducing new strategies that emphasize capacity building, multi-sectoral coordination, and evidence-based implementation. It aligns Nairobi's actions with national priorities and international air quality and climate standards, reinforcing the city's vision to be a model of sustainable urban development in Africa.

About the Air Quality Action Plan (2025–2029)

The Action Plan provides a clear, practical, and forward-looking framework for air quality management. It identifies priority areas for action, institutional responsibilities, and mechanisms for monitoring progress, ensuring that air quality improvement becomes a sustained part of Nairobi's governance and development agenda.

The plan introduces a comprehensive policy and operational framework to guide how the County addresses air pollution across key sectors; including transport, industry, waste management, energy, housing, and health. It also strengthens the role of the recently established Climate Change and Air Quality Unit in coordinating these efforts.

Key objectives of the Action Plan



- Strengthen enforcement of Nairobi City County Air Quality (Ambient) Regulations and ensure compliance across all sectors.
- Integrate air quality considerations into development planning, budgeting, and service delivery.
- Build the capacity of county officers to monitor, manage, and report on air quality indicators.
- Enhance public awareness, education, and community engagement on air pollution and health impacts.
- Establish partnerships with research institutions, civil society, and the private sector to co-develop solutions.
- Improve data collection, analysis, and transparency to guide decision-making.

Why this matters

The first Nairobi City County Air Quality Action Plan (2019–2023) laid a solid foundation for progress. It demonstrated that with political will, partnerships, and technical capacity, air pollution can be managed more effectively.

Key Achievements of the 2019–2023 Plan

Strengthened air quality monitoring, including expansion of real-time air quality monitoring network and data-sharing mechanisms.

Increased public awareness through campaigns, community engagement, and educational initiatives.

Deployment of environmental and climate officers across all 85 wards, ensuring ward-level monitoring and enforcement



Creation of multi-stakeholder partnerships involving government, academia, civil society, and development partners to advance collective action

These achievements positioned Nairobi as one of the few African cities with a structured approach to urban air quality management. However, the expiry of the plan in 2023 created a coordination and policy gap, risking the loss of momentum and fragmentation of efforts.

The new 2025–2029 Action Plan therefore serves as a renewed commitment and continuity strategy, ensuring that air quality governance remains anchored in evidence, collaboration, and accountability.

What we seek to achieve

The Action Plan seeks to consolidate past progress while scaling up interventions to achieve measurable results.

Key goals

1.

Adoption of the Action Plan; ensuring official endorsement and operationalization across County departments.

2.

Enhanced capacity of County officials to implement and integrate air quality measures into daily operations, policies, and urban management processes.

3.

Institutionalized air quality management, supported by sustained financing, coordination mechanisms, and stakeholder engagement.

4.

Improved data and reporting systems to support evidence-based decision-making and transparent performance tracking.

5.

Healthier and more resilient communities through reduced exposure to air pollutants and improved public awareness.

The Action Plan also strengthens the interface between climate change and public health, positioning air quality as a central pillar of Nairobi's sustainability agenda.

Sustaining the momentum

A major focus of the new Action Plan is institutional sustainability; ensuring that air quality management becomes a permanent feature of County governance.

This will be achieved through:

- Establishing cross-departmental working groups to coordinate implementation.
- Embedding air quality indicators within County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs) and performance monitoring frameworks.
- Strengthening community-level environmental governance through ward officers and local committees.
- Enhancing technical expertise via training, partnerships, and knowledge exchange.
- Regular evaluation and reporting to track progress, share lessons, and adjust interventions as needed.

A Vision for the future

The Action Plan represents more than a policy document; it is a commitment to the health, dignity, and sustainability of Nairobi's residents. By reducing emissions, promoting cleaner technologies, and building institutional capacity, the County envisions a city where:

- Every resident breathes cleaner, safer air;
- Public health outcomes improve across all communities;
- Economic growth is decoupled from environmental harm;
- Data and transparency guide every policy decision.

Partnership building and collaboration

The success of the Action Plan depends on strong partnerships and shared ownership, and this shared commitment is demonstrated through the sustained support of key partners who contribute expertise, resources, and collaboration across essential areas, including:

- Technical capacity and data systems for air quality monitoring.
- Research and innovation for pollution control technologies.
- Public education and community engagement on clean air and health.
- Policy dialogue and resource mobilization to sustain implementation.



For more information:

Nairobi City County Government –
Green Nairobi Sector
Email: info@nairobi.go.ke
Website: <https://nairobi.go.ke/>

About Breathe Cities Initiative

Development of Nairobi city-owned air quality data management system and public portal was developed with the support of the Breathe Cities initiative. Breathe Cities is a first-of-its-kind initiative from Clean Air Fund, C40 Cities, and Bloomberg Philanthropies to clean our air, cut carbon emissions, and enhance public health in cities around the world. Launched in June 2023 by Michael R. Bloomberg, the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy on Climate Ambition and Solutions and founder of Bloomberg Philanthropies, and London Mayor and C40 Cities Co-Chair Sadiq Khan, it aims to break down barriers to action and ensure communities around the world have access to clean air.

Breathe Cities brings together air quality data, communities, and city leaders to reduce air pollution and planet-warming emissions by 30% across participating cities by 2030 compared to 2019 levels, which would prevent 55,000 premature deaths and around 111,000 new cases of asthma in children, save \$147 billion in avoided hospitalizations and deaths and avoid up to 394 megatonnes of CO₂e emissions. To learn more, visit our website or follow us on X, Instagram and Facebook.

In Nairobi, Breathe Cities supports ambitious clean air action by expanding access to data, raising public awareness, bolstering technical expertise, and connecting Nairobi with other cities around the world to share, adapt and replicate solutions.

