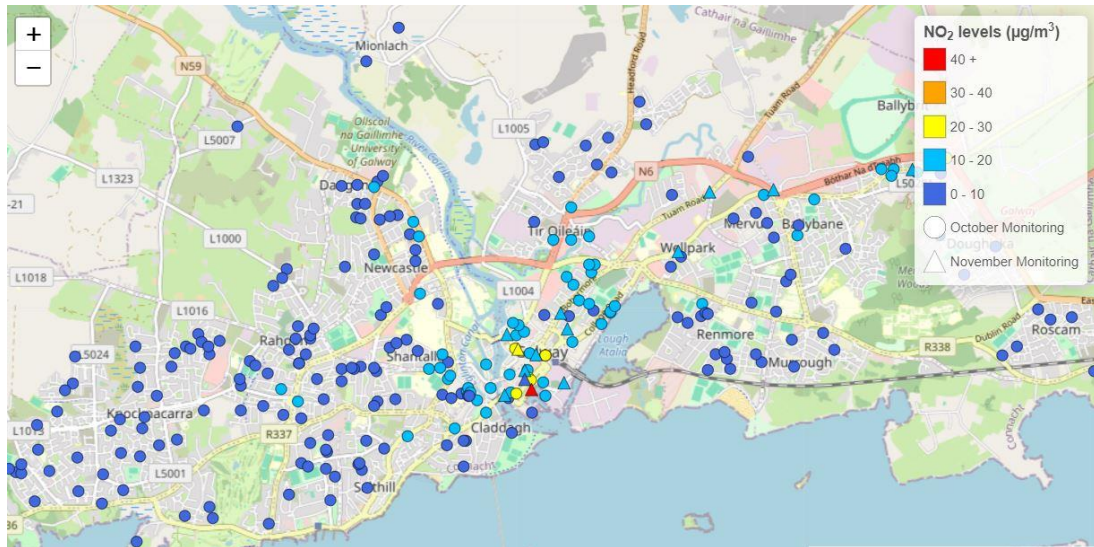




Understanding the Results



Results from Clean Air Together (Galway City) are an indication of the level of NO₂ measured at that location over approximately a 4-week period in October/November 2023. NO₂ levels can vary considerably over the year with changing traffic volumes and weather conditions. Therefore, it is best to view the results as a "snapshot", representative of the NO₂ levels near that location during that specific measurement period.

NO₂ levels (µg/m³)

- 40 +
- 30 - 40
- 20 - 30
- 10 - 20
- 0 - 10

For this reason, the results cannot be compared directly with [the EU Air Quality Directive's](#) NO₂ annual average limit of 40 µg/m³ or the recently updated [World Health Organisation's](#) recommendation that NO₂ levels do not exceed an annual average limit of 10 µg/m³. However, the recommended values in these guidelines can be kept in mind as indicators as to where the results lie.

Let's remember that **the lower the level of NO₂, the better for everyone's health.** Fortunately, there are [many ongoing initiatives](#) in place to improve air quality in Galway City and there are actions you can take to help too!

What can you do to reduce NO₂?

YOU can:

- Think twice before using your car. **One less journey** a day or week can make a big difference!
- Try to **walk or cycle on shorter trips** instead of using your car. This emits zero emissions and is a step towards a healthier lifestyle. Enquire with your company about the Bike to Work Scheme, safe and secure cycle parking and changing facilities at work.
- **Use public transport** if it is an option for you instead of driving for longer journeys.
- Support flexible working arrangements such as **home working** to reduce the number of vehicles on the road
- **Raise any concerns** with your local public representative and get their support for cleaner air and healthier communities
- Could you consider an **electric vehicle** for your next purchase?
- **Consider buying more local goods**. Many items have travelled long distances to get to the supermarkets and each journey your purchased goods have made raises the amount of air pollution for other citizens and animal life on the planet.

What is being done by Galway City Council to reduce NO₂?

At a Galway City Council level – there are a number of strategies and plans, including the recently adopted [Local Authority Climate Action Plan \(LACAP\) 2024-2029](#). The LACAP includes a comprehensive range of measures to mitigate against and adapt to climate change – for example, the pilot Decarbonisation Zone in Westside as part of the European Net Zero Cities project, or the Creative Ireland / Creative Climate Action Fund 'Air We Share' project linking citizen science and creativity in relation to air quality.

Galway City Council's fleet and buildings are also being addressed as part of the LACAP - Galway City Council is in the top three local authorities for electrifying their fleet with 22% of the fleet already electrified. Galway City Council will become the first Local Authority in the country to eliminate road diesel in its larger fleet, by transitioning to Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) as a renewable fuel source.

At a city level, implementation of the Galway Transport Strategy (GTS) will have potentially very significant positive impacts on air quality. Increasing active travel and public transport are core to the GTS – the multimodal Martin Junction Upgrade, and recently opened Salmon Weir Pedestrian and Cycle Bridge are good examples of the GTS on the ground.

Nature-based solutions will also play a key role in addressing environmental problems in our city – for example, the Grattan Beach sand fencing pilot or Buaile Bó Ballyloughane – both biodiversity projects showing the importance of innovation and partnership for positive environmental change.

These are little steps, but together, our actions can have a big impact!

You can learn more about the Clean Air Together results, ongoing efforts to reduce air pollution, and **see the whole city map at www.cleanairtogether.ie**

For more information on other air pollutants see www.airquality.ie.

Thank you for participating in Clean Air Together (Galway City) – it couldn't have been done without you!

Together, we can make a difference.