**CAZ FAQs**

**What is a Clean Air Zone?**

A Clean Air Zone is a specific location that aims to reduce public exposure to nitrogen dioxide through:

* restrictions on the highest polluting vehicles
* encouraging the use of cleaner vehicles
* encouraging people to walk, cycle or use public transport

Find more about the [four different types of zones](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/driving-in-a-clean-air-zone#types-of-clean-air-zones)

No vehicles are banned from entering a Clean Air Zone but older and more polluting vehicles have to [pay a daily charge](https://www.bristol.gov.uk/residents/streets-travel/bristols-caz/charges-and-vehicle-checker) for travelling within the zone.

80% of vehicles are compliant and will not be charged for entering the Clean Air Zone.

The charge does not apply to:

* Euro 4, 5 and 6 petrol vehicles, roughly to vehicles made from 2006 onwards
* Euro 6 diesel vehicles, roughly vehicles from 2015 onwards

Check the [Clean Air Zone charges and vehicle checker](https://www.bristol.gov.uk/streets-travel/bristol-caz/charges-and-checker) page to see if your current vehicle would be charged.

**When**

Bristol’s Clean Air Zone will commence on Monday 28 November 2022

**Permanent Exemptions**

As a guide, charges will not apply to:

* Euro 4, 5 and 6 petrol vehicles, roughly 2006 upwards
* Euro 6 diesel vehicles, roughly end of 2015 onwards
* fully electric vehicles and hydrogen fuel cell vehicles
* modified or retrofitted vehicles registered with the Energy Saving Trust’s Clean Vehicle Retrofit Accreditation Scheme (CVRAS)
* motorbikes
* a disabled passenger tax class vehicle
* a disabled tax class vehicle

**Temporary Exceptions Until March 31 2023**

[Hospital Patient Exemption (bristol.gov.uk)](https://www.bristol.gov.uk/residents/streets-travel/bristols-caz/exemptions/hospital-patient-exemption)

If you're attending an appointment at the BRI complex and your vehicle does not meet the zone's emission standards, you can register your vehicle for an exemption for the day of the appointment.

[Hospital Visitor Exemption (bristol.gov.uk)](https://www.bristol.gov.uk/residents/streets-travel/bristols-caz/exemptions/hospital-visitor-exemption)

Some visitors to the BRI complex will be eligible for a 7 day exemption from the zone charge.

Specified visitors of inpatients may be granted an exemption if their vehicle does not meet the zone's emissions standards.

[Low Income Worker Exemption (bristol.gov.uk)](https://www.bristol.gov.uk/residents/streets-travel/bristols-caz/exemptions/low-income-worker-exemption)

You can apply for a low income worker exemption for one vehicle if you:

* live outside the Clean Air Zone
* work more than 18 hours per week at a business premises located within the zone
* earn less than £26,000 a year before deductions
* earn no more than £13.51 per hour

You must meet all 4 criteria to apply.

[Specialist Vehicle Exemption (bristol.gov.uk)](https://www.bristol.gov.uk/residents/streets-travel/bristols-caz/exemptions/specialist-vehicle-exemption)

[Registered Community Transport Vehicle Exemption (bristol.gov.uk)](https://www.bristol.gov.uk/residents/streets-travel/bristols-caz/exemptions/registered-community-transport-vehicle-exemption)

[Commercial vehicle with finance agreement exemption (bristol.gov.uk)](https://www.bristol.gov.uk/residents/streets-travel/bristols-caz/exemptions/commercial-vehicle-with-finance-agreement-exemption)

[Home to school transport (PSV) exemption (bristol.gov.uk)](https://www.bristol.gov.uk/residents/streets-travel/bristols-caz/exemptions/home-to-school-transport-psv-exemption)

[Home to school transport (personal travel budget) exemption (bristol.gov.uk)](https://www.bristol.gov.uk/residents/streets-travel/bristols-caz/exemptions/home-to-school-transport-personal-travel-budget-exemption)

[Financial assistance scheme exemption (bristol.gov.uk)](https://www.bristol.gov.uk/residents/streets-travel/bristols-caz/exemptions/financial-assistance-scheme-exemption)

**Funding for residents**

If you work in the Clean Air Zone and earn less than £26,000, you’ll be prioritised in the first round of funding. This will increase to £27,000 in the Spring 2023.

Funding will consist of grants or a contribution to interest on a loan to upgrade your vehicle.

Funding is only available to switch to a like for like vehicle, at present you can not use it to purchase a bike or for bus/train credits.

Free support is available for you to loan a bike, take cycle training and get taster bus or train tickets and Voi Scooter Credit.
[Get free active travel support - bristol.gov.uk](https://www.bristol.gov.uk/streets-travel/get-free-active-travel-support)

**Funding for businesses**

Small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) and self-employed people based or working in the zone will be prioritised for business grants.

To be an SME you must meet at least two of the following conditions:

* the annual turnover must be no more than £36 million
* the balance sheet total must be no more than £18 million
* the average number of employees must be no more than 250

Check the [Clean Air Zone charges and vehicle checker](https://www.bristol.gov.uk/streets-travel/bristol-caz/charges-and-checker) page to see if your current vehicle would be charged.

If your vehicle would be charged, you can [register your interest](https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/CAZFinancialSupport/) for financial support.

**Alternative Travel**

**Travel by bus**

Many bus routes travel into the city centre, to find out more please see the below timetable. A fare cap has recently been introduced meaning a single trip will cost no more than £2 and a day’s travel costing no more than £6.

[Bus - Travelwest](https://travelwest.info/bus)

[Tap On, Tap Off | First Bus](https://www.firstbus.co.uk/bristol-bath-and-west/tickets/simple-tickets/tap-tap)

[New “Fairer Fares” launching 25 September 2022 | First Bus](https://www.firstbus.co.uk/bristol-bath-and-west/news-and-service-updates/news/new-fairer-fares-launching-25-september-2022)

Businesses can also register to be part of the free First Bus Commuter Club which gives discounts to employees when purchased through the app.

[Commuter Travel Club | First Bus](https://www.firstbus.co.uk/buy-ticket/corporate-travel/commuter-travel-club)

**Travel by train**

Bristol is accessible by train from Severn Beach, Avonmouth, Filton, Bath and many other regional towns and cities.

The Severn Beach - Temple Meads line now runs every 30 minutes with Clifton Down, Montpelier and Stapleton Road stops all very close to the City Centre.

**Contact Bristol City Council**

If you need more information or help to prepare for the Clean Air Zone email CAZSupport@bristol.gov.uk.