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The Birmingham congestion charge is, much like the ULEZ or London Congestion Charge, designed to lessen traffic and emissions in the city centre. The zone targets high polluting vehicles and, outside of London, is one of the UK's most extensive emission zones, covering all vehicle types. Also known as the Birmingham clean air zone, or CAZ, it's Birmingham's equivalent of the congestion zone and ULEZ, and may be referred to by either name. You can check if your car will be required to pay the CAZ charge, as well as other low emission zones in like Bath, on the gov.uk website. You can also pay the charge on this site. The charge itself is £8 for cars and vans, or a higher rate of £50 for buses, coaches, and HGVs. Failing to pay means a penalty charge notice will be issued of £120, halved if you pay within 14 days. You can check the precise location of the Birmingham.gov website. The zone itself extends to cover all roads within the A4540 Middleway Ring Road, though not the road itself. This covers popular areas such as Digbeth, the city centre, and the Jewellery Quarter. The zone is sign posted to show drivers that they are about to enter the zone. The CAZ aims to cut down on inner city traffic and air pollution. In order to be exempt from the Birmingham congestion charge, your car will need to be compliant with certain emission targets, much like ULEZ exempt cars: Petrol cars must meet Euro 4 standards Diesel cars must meet Euro 6 standards Generally, this should mean that diesel cars must meet Euro 6 standards Diesel cars must meet Euro 6 standards Diesel cars made after 2015, or petrol cars must meet Euro 6 standards Diesel cars must meet Eu exemptions made for the following: Locals who live within the CAZ will be exempt for one year The Birmingham CAZ came into effect on 1st June 2021. The zone will operate 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The above exemption periods came into effect when the CAZ first started operating. So, a two year exemption, even if applied for in May 2023, will end in June 2023. The Clean Air Zone is the city's equivalent to London's emission-limiting measures, serving as its congestion zone, ULEZ, and LEZ. There are no other charges operating in Birmingham for emission and congestion control. Read about everything you need to know about how to sell your car with more guides here. There's a lot to learn as Clean Air Zones and emissions standards in the UK change in the run up to 2035. We need cleaner air as soon as possible and have already started to make positive changes, which include the introduction of a Clean Air Zone in the centre of the city. A Clean Air Zone in the centre of the city. A Clean Air Zone is an area where targeted action is taken to improve air quality, in particular by discouraging the most polluting vehicles from entering the zone. No vehicle is banned in the zone, but vehicles that do not meet the emission standards for the zone are subject to a daily fee. Find out if you need to pay the daily fee. Find out if you need to pay th signs in place. The first are informational signs before the boundary of the zone is Page last updated: 24 April 2025 We use some essential cookies to make this website work. We'd like to set additional cookies to understand how you use GOV.UK, remember your settings and improve government services. You have accepted additional cookies set by other sites to help us deliver content from their services. You have rejected additional cookies. You can change your cookie settings at any time. We use some essential cookies to make this website work. We'd like to set additional cookies to understand how you use GOV.UK, remember your settings and improve government services. You have accepted additional cookies set by other sites to help us deliver content from their services. We also use cookies set by other sites to help us deliver content from their services. additional cookies. You can change your cookie settings at any time. We use some essential cookies to make this website work. We'd like to set additional cookies to understand how you use GOV.UK, remember your settings and improve government services. We also use cookies set by other sites to help us deliver content from their services. You have accepted additional cookies. You can change your cookie settings at any time. You have rejected additional cookies. You can change your cookie settings at any time. The Clean Air Zone is the area inside the A4540 Middleway Ring Road. It does not include the Middleway itself. It is operational every day, 24 hours a day. You might have to pay to drive inside it. There are signs around the Clean Air Zone so drivers can see where it is. Instead of driving in the Clean Air Zone, you drive an electric or hybrid vehicle your car meets emission standards Check if you have to pay to drive an electric or hybrid vehicle your car meets emission standards Check if you have to pay to drive an electric or hybrid vehicle your car meets emission standards Check if you have to pay to drive an electric or hybrid vehicle your car meets emission standards Check if you have to pay to drive an electric or hybrid vehicle your car meets emission standards Check if you have to pay to drive an electric or hybrid vehicle your car meets emission standards Check if you have to pay to drive an electric or hybrid vehicle your car meets emission standards Check if you have to pay to drive an electric or hybrid vehicle your car meets emission standards Check if you have to pay to drive an electric or hybrid vehicle your car meets emission standards Check if you have to pay to drive an electric or hybrid vehicle your car meets emission standards Check if you have to pay to drive an electric or hybrid vehicle your car meets emission standards Check if you have to pay to drive an electric or hybrid vehicle your car meets emission standards Check if you have to pay to drive an electric or hybrid vehicle your car meets emission standards and the pay to drive an electric or hybrid vehicle your car meets emission and the pay to drive an electric or hybrid vehicle your car meets emission and the pay to drive an electric or hybrid vehicle your car meets emission and the pay to drive an electric or hybrid vehicle your car meets emission and the pay to drive an electric or hybrid vehicle your car meets emission and the pay to drive an electric or hybrid vehicle your car meets emission and the pay to drive an electric or hybrid vehicle your car meets emission and the pay to drive an electric or hybrid vehicle your car meets emission and the pay to drive an electric or hybrid vehicle your car meets emi your vehicle online to see if you'll need to pay to drive in the Clean Air Zone. You will not have to pay if you're travelling to: Birmingham Children's Hospital Badger Medical Bath Row Me have to pay for your vehicle, you could get financial help to scrap it. If you're eligible, you could scrap your bank account £1,500 credit added to one Swift account £1,000 paid directly into your bank account and £1,500 credit added to two Swift accounts You can find out more about vehicle scrapping on the Brum Breathes website. How much it costs and how to pay If your vehicle does not meet emissions standards, you'll have to pay: £8 per day for cars, taxis and LGVs (large goods vehicles) £50 per day for coaches and HGVs (heavy goods vehicles) You can pay 6 days before your visit or 6 days after your visit. You can either: pay online pay by calling 0300 029 8888 - lines are open Monday to Friday, 8am to 4.30pm You'll get a £120 penalty charge if you do not manage the Clean Air Zone. If you have a question, contact the Clean Air Zone support team. Clean Air Zone support team. Clean Air Zone support team cleanair@birmingham.gov.uk Monday to Friday, 8am to 2pmClosed Sundays and Bank Holidays • Roadside cover from £5.49 a month*• We get to most breakdowns in 60 mins or less • Our patrols fix 4/5 breakdowns on the spot*At least 10% of new customers pay this for single-vehicle Roadside (Basic). ^Find the same cover cheaper on theaa.com within 7 days & we'll beat it by 20%. T&Cs here. Buying Selling Messages Notifications Log in Menu If you drive a vehicle that doesn't meet the emission standards into the Zone you will need to pay. You can check if your vehicle meets the emission standards by using our CAZ checker tool. Just enter the reg. It will also check every other charging zone in the UK for free. All of the roads leading into the Clean Air Zone are signposted with Clean Air Zone notifications. The Zone begins when you reach the signs with "Charges apply. Pay Online" on them. If you drive past one of these signs and your vehicle doesn't meet the emission standards, you will need to pay. Share — copy and redistribute the material in any purpose, even commercially. Adapt — remix, transform, and build upon the material for any purpose, even commercially. Adapt — remix, transform, and build upon the material for any purpose, even commercially. Attribution — You must give appropriate credit, provide a link to the license, and indicate if changes were made. You may do so in any reasonable manner, but not in any way that suggests the licensor endorses you or your use. ShareAlike — If you remix, transform, or build upon the material, you must distribute your contributions under the same license as the original. No additional restrictions — You may not apply legal terms or technological measures that legally restrict others from doing anything the license permits. You do not have to comply with the license for elements of the material in the public domain or where your use is permitted by an applicable exception or limitation. No warranties are given. The license may not give you all of the permissions necessary for your intended use. For example, other rights such as publicity, privacy, or moral rights may limit how you use the material. Image caption, Birmingham's Clean Air Zone comes into effect in JulyAn online checking service has been set up to help motorists prepare for Birmingham's Clean Air Zone (CAZ).It allows drivers to check whether a vehicle will be charged for driving into the city centre when the zone comes into effect in July.Older vehicles may face fees within the city's ring road, due to their release of higher toxic emissions. The service went live on the Department for Transport's (DfT) website on Wednesday. The DfT said the checker will allow drivers to see if they will be affected by the change and "will charge the most polluting vehicles to drive in the cities". Image source, Birmingham City CouncilImage caption, The chargeable area is within the A4540 ring road, but not the road itselfIn order to check whether they will need to pay, drivers should enter the registration number of their vehicle on the website, external. They also must say whether the vehicle is registered within the A4540 ring road, but not the road itself. The proposed charges for high-polluting vehicles are £8 for cars and £50 for buses and HGVs driving in central Birmingham. However, there will be some exemptions where charges will not be applied. The BBC is not responsible for the content of external sites. We use GOV.UK, remember your settings and improve government services. You can change your cookies set by other sites to help us deliver content from their services. You have rejected additional cookies. You can change your cookie settings at any time. We use some essential cookies to make this website work. We'd like to set additional cookies to understand how you use GOV.UK, remember your settings and improve government services. You have accepted additional cookies set by other sites to help us deliver content from their services. We also use cookies set by other sites to help us deliver content from their services. We also use cookies set by other sites to help us deliver content from their services. cookies. You can change your cookie settings at any time. Birmingham's Clean Air Zone will mean around 25 per cent of the vehicles on the city's roads face a daily charge are:£8 per day for cars, taxis and LGVs (vans)£50 a day for coaches, buses and HGVs (lorries) Charges run from midnight to midnigh then becomes chargeable on the section where it goes inside the ring road at Dartmouth Circus. Areas of Birmingham covered by the Clean Air Zone include the city centre, Southside (which contains the Chinese Quarter, Gay Village and Hippodrome), Eastside (which contains Millennium Point, Thinktank and part of Birmingham City University), Gas Street Basin (includes Mailbox), Westside (including Broad Street), Ladywood, the Jewellery Quarter, Newtown, Digbeth and Highgate. Check our map below to see the large swathe of central Birmingham covered by the new Clean Air Zone. Open the key using the button on the top left of the map to see the list of some of the main locations members of the public will be thinking about. We have shown places within the zone in green. Locations inside the zone in green. Locations in green. L House and next to Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery. Also inside the zone are all the theatres including Birmingham Hippodrome, The Alexandra, The Old Rep and Brindleyplace fall within the CAZ too, along with the National Sea Life Centre and LEGOLAND Discovery Centre.READ MORE: All the Birmingham Clean Air Zone: 'Most of my customers will choose another place to go' - businesses braced for CAZ impactNotably, the Utilita Arena - previously the Barclaycard Arena and before that the National Indoor Arena - is inside the charging zone, along with all the nearby car parks people use to attend all the big-name concerts there. Arena music gigs tend to finish around 10.45pm and the CAZ is going to give added urgency to thousands of concert-goers frantically trying to get out of the congested car parks and beyond the ring road before another daily charge begins at midnight.READ MORE: Birmingham Clean Air Zone exemptions - ways to avoid charge if you need to driveThe O2 Academy on Bristol Street - a music venue on the site of former nightclub The Dome - is also inside the charging area. Places outside the Clean Air Zone include Birmingham City Football Club's St Andrew's ground, Warwickshire County Cricket Club's ground at Edgbaston Stadium, and Oueen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham. Also outside the charging zone is Small Heath Park, where Europe's biggest Eid celebrations usually take place, not far from the Green Lane Masjid and Community Centre. The city council explained: "Up to 1,000 deaths a year in Birmingham are caused by air pollution, mostly caused by road transport and the increased use of diesel vehicles." By contrast, there are, on average, fewer than 30 deaths resulting from collisions on Birmingham's roads each year. "The Clean Air Zone will reduce air pollution and improve the health of Birmingham's citizens. "This is not a charge to visit the city centre or a congestion charge. This is a charge for the most polluting vehicles entering the CAZ will not be charged, so it is essential for users to check their compliance in advance of using the zone or making applications for exemptions/incentives, as they may already be compliant and face no charge/further action. "Many addresses with the following postcodes are in the Clean Air Zone: B1, B10, B12, B15, B16, B18, B19, B2, B3, B4, B5, B6, B7 and B9. Almost half of Birmingham motorists agree with the concept behind the city's new Clean Air Zone, saying they are in favour of drivers being charged for using petrol or diesel vehicles in densely populated areas. Commuters working in the CAZ and residents who live within it can get a temporary exemption for one or two years respectively if their car does not meet emissions standards. Those coming into the city centre late at night for pubs, restaurants, clubs, concerts or shows are being urged to check their vehicle's status in the Clean Air Zone - or they could face unexpected double charges and even a big fine.