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It's easy to measure air pollution with diffusion tubes to measure Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) pollution – here's how.

Nitrogen dioxide measurement is easy and cheap. It costs about **£10 per site**, and each site will take 20 minutes of your time spread over 4 weeks.

Getting the kit

I use the following equipment supplied by [Gradko](#). Other manufacturers make similar kit. For each location you will need a diffusion tube, a clip and a strap to attach it to the lamp post.

- [20% TEA diffusion tubes](#)
- [Clips to hold them up](#)
- [Straps to put round the lampposts](#)

How to use the tubes

The tubes come with [detailed instructions](#). You attach them with the clips and/or straps to a location where you want to measure pollution (we put ours above head height using a ladder to avoid tampering) and then remove the lower white end cap, noting down the date and time.

After 4 weeks you can take them down, putting the white end cap back on and noting the date/time again. You then attach sticky bar-codes to them (so you can match the results to the locations) and send them back to the manufacturer to be analysed. You should receive your results within two weeks.

Choosing good locations for locating the tubes

You need a lamppost alongside a road so that the tubes can be installed consistently above head height. It's worth thinking about who will be interested in the results. So putting them near a range of places that people go makes sense.

- School
- Doctor's surgery or health centre
- Local shops
- Place of worship
- Bus stop
- Community centre etc

What to do with your data

[Mapping for Change](#) have a great [data collection website](#) which feeds into their [community-sourced pollution map](#). You can also input data on the go using [their Android app](#).

I am collecting data specifically around the North and South Circular so that we can find out if there is a need for the Mayor's proposed Ultra Low Emission Zone to extend beyond the proposed boundary. Please email your results and I'll include them on my map and use them to assess whether to campaign for a wider ULEZ.