

## Cycle more and plant trees: Tips to reduce air pollution

10 March 2017 | Science &amp; Environment

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From Ghana to Argentina and London, air pollution is a problem that people want to do something about.

As part of the BBC's So I Can Breathe series, a week of stories exploring some of the different ways the world is seeking to reduce air pollution, people have been sharing their tips on how to improve the air around them.

For Phoebe, Joleen and Isobel, from London, the answer is to stop cutting down trees.

Students at 50 London schools breathe air that exceeds legal pollution limits.

"Toxic air audits" have been announced by the mayor of London to combat the problem.

According to the US Forest Service, trees typically reduce urban air pollution by only up to 1%, but even this can have significant health benefits.



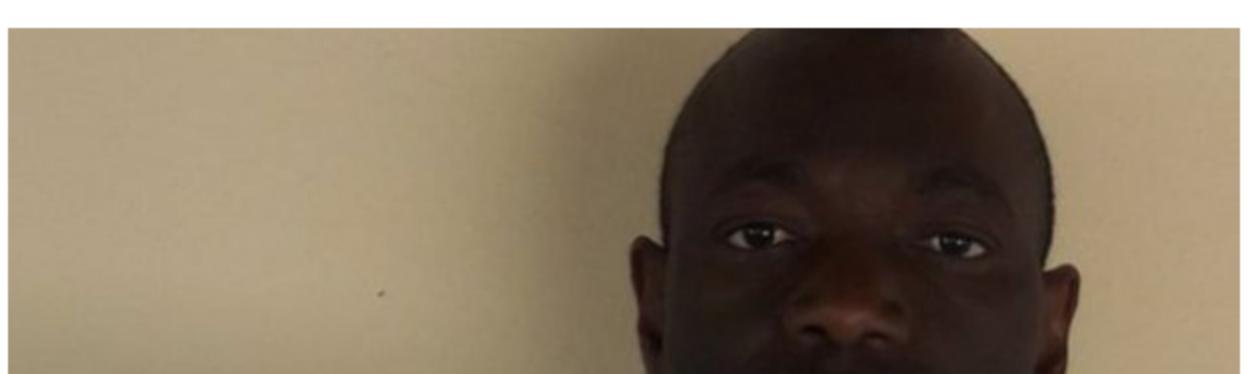
Areej and her mother also want to plant trees in urban areas of Damascus to improve air quality.



Wood-burning stoves are a cause of high indoor air pollution levels which have been linked to four million premature deaths annually, according to the World Health Organization.

Adboulie Sey thinks they should be banned from The Gambia and solar energy promoted instead.

[Africa's new breed of solar energy entrepreneurs](#)



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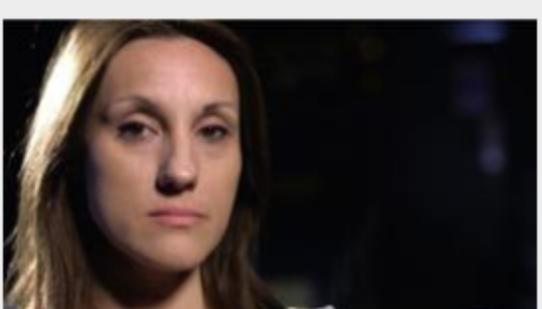
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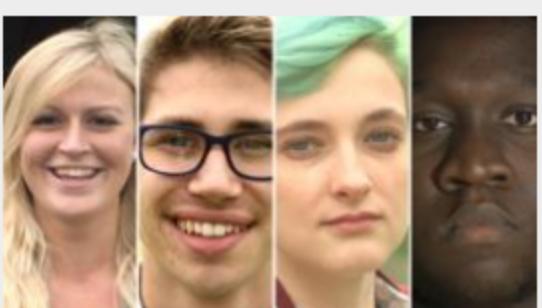
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A tax on **wood stoves** is another solution, suggested by **Karen Baines** on Twitter.

 **Karen Baines**  
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**@BBC\_HaveYourSay** TAX wood stoves and wood fuel in 1st world countries to encourage clean energy sources like air pumps & solar. Ban diesel in cities.

KAREN BAINES

Improving how we travel is a common desire.

Swapping driving for cycling can reduce the number of vehicles on the road emitting pollutants such as nitrogen dioxide.

Clare Rogers tweeted this picture of her and her daughter in Enfield.



**Robert Singleton** suggests a ban on diesel powered vehicles would go some way to reducing pollution.

 **Robert Singleton**  
@RobertS15975341 [Follow](#)

**@BBC\_HaveYourSay @BBCNews** Ban Diesel powered taxis buses cars & vans in cities. Use electric/hybrids. Install solar panels on ALL roofs.

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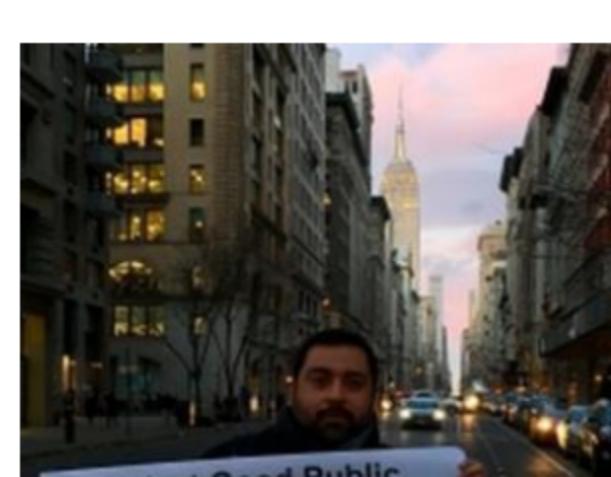
**Girl guides helping to clean Ghana's air pollution problem**

Improved public transport is also proposed by Maria Innes in Buenos Aires, and echoed by Oscar Soria, in New York.



**Mike Hall** thinks government schemes to support people buying hybrid or electric cars is one way to encourage more environmentally friendly transport.

And Pablo Nieto Gonzalez in San Sebastian, Spain, wants emissions from ships to be cut.



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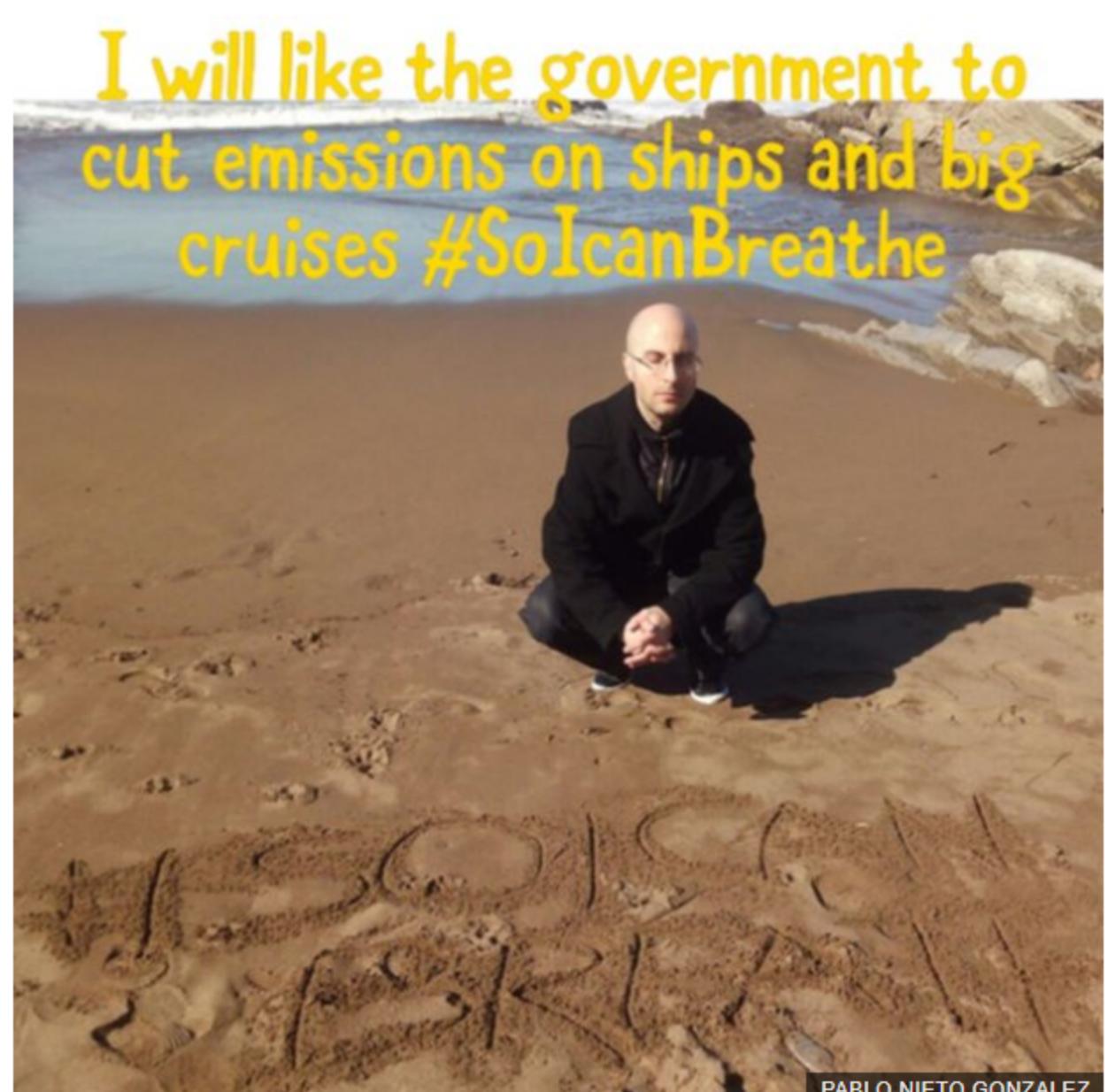
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So I Can Breathe



A week of coverage by BBC News examining possible solutions to the problems caused by air pollution.

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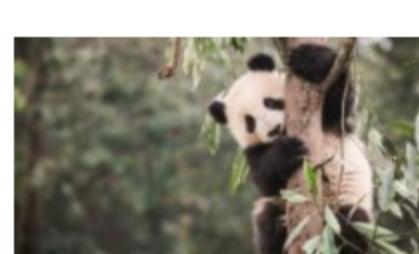
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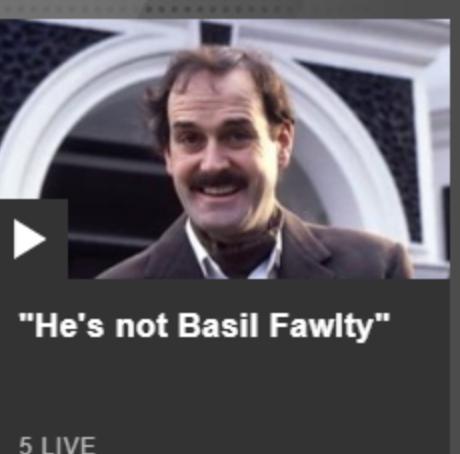
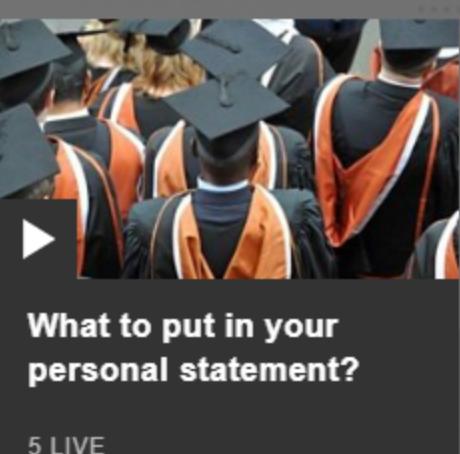
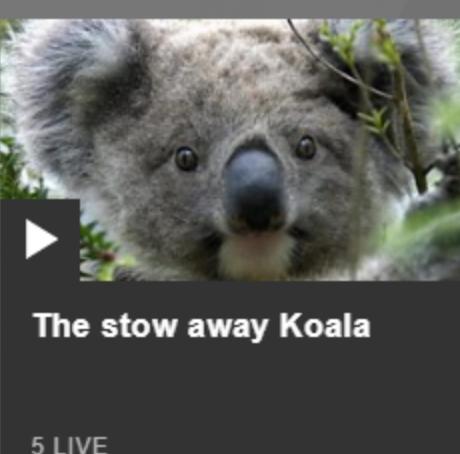
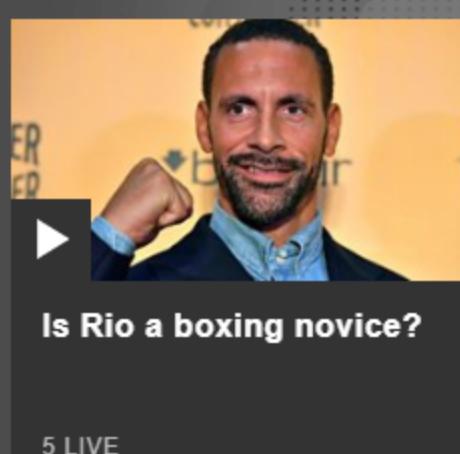
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