

低排放区的益处 The benefits of low emission zones

Hello. This is 6 Minute English from BBC Learning English.

大家好，这里是BBC学习英语栏目的六分钟英语。

I'm Sam.

我是萨姆。

And I'm Neil.

我是内尔。

In this program, we're discussing low emission zones and explaining some useful items of vocabulary along the way.

本期节目我们要讨论低排放区并讨论过程中解释一些有用的词汇。

Well, that's good, Sam.

嗯，很不错，萨姆。

But what exactly is a low emission zone?

不过究竟什么是低排放区呢？

Well, the noun emission is an amount of, usually, gas, that is sent out into the air and harms the environment -it's pollution.

嗯，名词排放通常指的是一定量的被释放到空气中并有害环境的气体——即污染。

And a low emission zone is an area of a city where the amount of pollution is controlled.

而低排放区指的是一个城市中污染量得到控制的某个区域。

Of course, and cities like London have them-most vehicles, including cars and vans, need to meet certain emissions standards or their drivers must pay a daily charge to drive within the zone-or they might even be banned altogether.

没错，而像伦敦这样的城市要求大部分的机动车，包括小汽车，厢式货车满足一定的排放标准，否则它们的车主要想在这个区域里行驶就必须缴纳日常费用——或者它们甚至可能被禁掉。

Exactly.

没错。

It's all about making the air we breathe cleaner.

这一切都是为了让我们的呼吸空气更干净。

And my question today is about one UK city which recently announced it wants to be the country's first 'net zero' city-placing their greenhouse gas emissions at a neutral level.

而我今天的问题就是关于某个最近宣布要成为英国第一个“零净值”城市——让它们的温室气体排放保持在中性水平——的城市。

But which one is it?

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不过是哪个城市呢？

Is it a) Glasgow, b) Manchester or c) Cardiff?

是 A. 格拉斯哥, B.曼彻斯特, 还是 C. 卡迪夫？

Ah yes, I've heard about this and I'm sure it is a) Glasgow.

啊, 好的, 我听说过这个, 我确信是 A. 格拉斯哥。

OK, I'll let you know if that was correct at the end of the program.

好的, 我会在节目结束的时候告诉你是否回答正确。

Now, Neil mentioned that London already has an ultra-low emission zone.

那么内尔提到了伦敦已经有了一个超低排放区了。

But this year, other UK cities, including Bath, Leeds, and Birmingham, are also bringing in Clean Air Zones.

但是今年其它的英国城市, 包括巴斯、利兹和伯明翰也要引进清洁空气区。

And around the world, many other cities, like Beijing, Paris, and Madrid have these zones.

而且在世界范围内, 很多其它城市, 比如北京、巴黎还有马德里也有这种区域。

Although there are many types of emissions, such as from factories, these zones predominantly target exhaust fumes from vehicles-poisonous gases called nitrogen dioxide.

尽管有很多种类的排放, 比如来自工厂的排放, 这些区域多数情况下关注来自机动车的废气——叫做二氧化氮的有毒气体。

Let's hear from an expert on this-Alastair Lewis, who is a Professor of Atmospheric Chemistry at the University of York.

我们来听听约克大学大气化学教授专家阿拉斯德爾·刘易斯对于这个问题的发言。

He spoke to BBC Radio 4's Inside Science program and explained why we should be trying to reduce these pollutants-a word for the substances that cause pollution.

他在BBC电台4频道的节目《Inside Science》中解释了我们为什么应该努力减少这些污染物——这个词指的是引发污染的物质。

Most of the evidence we have now on air pollution is that we continue to see health benefits by reducing pollution, even when you're below the target value.

我们现在拥有的关于空气污染的大部分证据表明通过减少污染, 我们持续看到健康效益, 即使你低于目标值。

So, just because the city meets a particular value, there is still an incentive to continue to improve air quality, because the health benefits continue to build up as you do that.

所以, 就是因为城市符合了某个特定的数值, 所以就刺激了空气质量不断改善, 因为在你做这件事的同时, 健康效益不断增长。

So, targets are very very good at focusing the mind, but they shouldn't be the only thing that we're considering.

所以目标有利于集中思想, 但是它们不应该成为我们考虑的唯一因素。

Alastair Lewis mentions 'targets'.

阿拉斯德尔·刘易斯提到了“目标”。

These are official levels of something that need to be achieved.

它指的是官方要求某物必须达到的水平。

They give us something to aim for—in this case reducing air pollution.

它们让我们有了努力的方向——在这里指的是减少空气污染。

He uses the phrase 'focusing the mind' -that means to concentrate on one idea or thought.

他还用到了短语“集中思想”——它的意思是专注于某个想法。

But, while setting a target to cut air pollution is good—it has health benefits—we shouldn't just focus on meeting the target.

但是尽管设定一个削减空气污染的目标是好的——它有健康效益——我们不应该只专注于达成目标。

Even if the target is met, we shouldn't stop trying to improve.

即使目标达成了，我们也不应该停止努力改善。

The incentive should be that we are improving people's health.

激励我们的应该是我们要改善人们的健康。

And an incentive is something that encourages someone to do something.

激励指的是鼓励人们做某事的东西。

So, I think it's accepted that creating low emission zones is an incentive because it encourages people to either not drive into cities or to, at least, drive low-polluting vehicles.

所以我认为人们接受创建低排放区是一种激励，因为它鼓励人们要么别把车开进城市，或者如果要的话，至少驾驶低污染的机动车。

And, of course, changing to electric-powered cars is one way to do this.

而且，当然了，改用电动汽车就是达成这一目标的方法之一。

There's more of an incentive to do this now, at least in the UK, because the government has said new diesel and petrol cars and vans will be banned from 2040. But pollution from vehicles is just part of the problem, as Alastair Lewis points out.

现在这样做不仅仅只是一种激励了，至少在英国是这样的，因为政府刚刚宣布从2040年开始要禁止新的柴油和汽油驱动的小汽车和厢式货车。但是正如阿拉斯德尔·刘易斯支出的那样，机动车污染只是问题的一部分。

One has to accept that air pollution is an enormously complex problem with a very very large number of contributing sources, and there will never be any one single action that will cure the problem for us.

人们必须接受空气污染是一个庞杂的问题，成因数量巨大，因此不存在一劳永逸的方法。

So, low emission zones are one way to reduce concentrations, but they are not, in isolation, going to be the solution.

所以低排放区是减少浓度的一种方法，但是单靠它们并不能解决问题。

So, Alastair points out that air pollution is a complex problem—it's complicated, difficult and involves many parts.

所以阿拉斯德尔指出空气污染是一个复杂的问题——它繁琐、困难，并且包含很多部分。

Yes, there are many sources-things that create these emissions.

是的，有很多的成因——导致这些排放的东西。

So, it's not possible to solve, or cure, the problem by doing one thing.

所以仅做一件事情就解决这个问题是不可能的。

Low emission zones are only one part of the solution to the problem.

低排放区只是这个问题解决方案的一部分。

He said it was one way to reduce concentrations-he means amounts of substances, pollutants, found in something, which here is the air.

他说这是减少浓度的一种方式——他指的是某些东西中发现的物质、污染物的量，这里指的是空气。

Well, earlier, Neil, you had to concentrate your mind and answer a question about emissions.

内尔，你之前得集中精力回答一个关于排放的问题。

I asked which UK city recently announced it wants to be the country's first 'net zero' city-placing their greenhouse emissions at a neutral level.

我之前问那个英国城市最近宣布它想成为这个国家的第一个“零净值”城市——把它们的温室气体排放控制在一个中性水平。

Was it a) Glasgow, b) Manchester or c) Cardiff?

是 A. 格拉斯哥，B. 曼彻斯特，还是 C. 卡迪夫？

And, Neil, what did you say?

内尔，你说的是？

I said it's Glasgow.

我说的是格拉斯哥。

And it is Glasgow!

就是格拉斯哥！

Well done, Neil.

干得漂亮，内尔。

It wants to become the UK's first 'net zero' city.

它想要成为英国第一个“零净值”城市。

And later this year it is hosting a major United Nations climate change summit.

今年晚些时候它要举办一个重要的联合国气候变化峰会。

OK, Sam, I think we need a recap of the vocabulary we've discussed, starting with emissions.

好的，萨姆，我想我们需要回顾一下我们今天讨论的词汇，从排放开始。

Emissions are amounts of, usually, gas that is sent out into the air from things like cars.

排放通常指的是从像小汽车这样的东西传送到空气中的气体的量。

They harm the environment.

它们伤害环境。

And pollutants are the actual substances that cause pollution.

污染物指的是引起污染的实物。

To focus the mind means to concentrate on one idea or thought.

集中思想指的是专注于某个想法。

And we mentioned an incentive, which is something that encourages someone to do something.

我们提到了激励，指的是鼓励人们做某事的事物。

Complex describes something that is complicated, difficult and involves many parts.

复杂描述的是繁杂、困难且包含很多部分的东西。

And when talking about pollution, we sometimes talk about concentrations.

当我们谈论污染的时候，我们有时候也会谈论浓度。

These are amounts of substances, or pollutants, within something.

它们指的是某物中物质或污染物的数量。

So, in a polluted city, we might find high concentrations of nitrogen dioxide because of all the traffic—it's not great for our health, Sam.

所以在一个被污染的城市里，我们可能会因为交通而发现高浓度的二氧化氮——这对我们的不利，萨姆。

Indeed, Neil—that's why we need low emission zones!

确实，内尔——这就是为什么我们需要低排放区。

And that brings us to the end of this 6 Minute English program.

我们也要宣布本期六分钟英语节目到此结束了。

See you soon. Bye.

再见。

Goodbye.

再见。

