

CAMPAIGN FOR CLEAN AIR IN LONDON

“The cross-party campaign to achieve urgently and sustainably at least World Health Organisation recommended standards of air quality throughout London”

Campaign website: www.cleanairinlondon.org

President Rogge
The International Olympic Committee
Chateau de Vidy
Case postale 356
1001 Lausanne
Switzerland

By registered post and email

19 October 2009

Dear President Rogge

‘Clean Air in London’ asks the International Olympic Committee to investigate ‘green claims’ made by the Olympic Delivery Authority

I am writing to you on behalf of the cross-party Campaign for Clean Air in London (CCAL) to ask the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to investigate one or more ‘green claims’ made by the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA). Details of CCAL’s Mission and Supporters can be seen at www.cleanairinlondon.org.

It seems to CCAL that the ODA is claiming on the London 2012 website that *“All our construction activities are carried out in accordance with our Code of Construction Practice and the Greater London Authority (GLA) Best Practice Guidance [on the control of dust and emissions from construction and demolition], which sets out measures to reduce dust”*. Please see:

<http://www.london2012.com/plans/olympic-park/getting-ready/dust.php>

While the relevant website page is about ‘Dust’ there is no mention, for example, that the adoption of the GLA Best Practice Guidance by the ODA may relate only to dust and not emissions. A copy of the relevant webpage is attached to this letter.

You may be aware that the GLA Best Practice Guidance on the control of dust and emissions from construction and demolition (BPG) covers many aspects of construction and demolition, not just dust. The Mayor of London’s website introduction to the BPG highlights:

“One specific recommendation is to seek lower exhaust emissions from off-road construction vehicles and plant used on major sites wherever possible. The Guidance states that:

- *ultra low sulphur diesel equivalent fuel should be used at all sites whenever possible*
- *at major construction sites, all plant should comply with either the current or immediately previous [European Union] Directive Staged Emission Standards. In addition, plant over 37kW*

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should be fitted with suitable exhaust after treatment stated on the approved list managed by the Energy Saving Trust”

The Energy Saving Trust provides further details at:

<http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/business/Business/Transport-in-business/Other-services/City-schemes/Construction-equipment>

CCAL’s understanding is that the ODA has not adopted fully the BPG for all its construction activities. In particular, CCAL’s understanding is that the ODA has not required and still does not require the use of abatement devices on plant over 37kW as required by the BPG.

CCAL believes the ODA held a workshop on this matter in 22 July 2009 where it presented a ‘study plan’ and was, or is, subsequently making ‘one or two changes’ to the plan before sending it out for further consultation. CCAL believes this study relates to further testing of measures required by the BPG.

CCAL is concerned for several reasons that the ODA seems not to have adopted fully the BPG including:

1. as one of the largest and most iconic construction projects, the ODA and the London 2012 Olympics appear to be missing a wonderful opportunity to demonstrate their ‘green credentials’. Further, the ODA’s full adoption of the BPG would set a strategic precedent for the use of those guidelines for all major construction projects in a city (i.e. London) where air quality laws for dangerous airborne particles (PM₁₀) have been broken every year since 2005 (and are likely to continue to be broken for PM₁₀ and/or nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) in every year up to and including 2012). Conversely, the failure to adopt the BPG undermines their credibility;
2. Lord Coe set out an inspiring ‘air quality’ vision for London 2012 in his letter to CCAL dated 20 March 2008 (attached) which included the statement “This includes ensuring works are carried out in accordance with the GLA’s best practice guidance: *The Control of Dust and Emissions from Construction & Demolition*”. In CCAL’s view, the ODA does not seem to have delivered on Lord Coe’s inspiring vision even 18 months later; and
3. the ODA may have made and/or be making misleading ‘green claims’ on the London 2012 website. In CCAL’s view, such an ‘error’ would be particularly unacceptable after claims that the London 2012 Olympics would be the ‘greenest ever’ (see letter to Tessa Jowell dated 17 January 2008 which is attached).

The matters raised in this letter are very important. You may be aware that a study for the European Union estimated that off-road machinery accounted for approximately one third of [particulate matter] emissions from mobile sources in 2000; proportionally equivalent to that from passenger cars. The report forecasts this proportion to rise to 40% by 2020. You may also be aware that CCAL wrote recently to Mayor Johnson urging him to tackle, through his Air Quality Strategy, a problem whereby dangerous airborne particles alone are estimated to have caused between 6,300 and 7,900 premature deaths in London in 2005.

Please will the IOC investigate fully this complaint.

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CCAL hopes that the subject of this letter will be raised also at the London Assembly Plenary meeting on Wednesday 21 October when Assembly Members will put questions to guests – including John Armitt (Chairman of the ODA), David Higgins (Chief Executive of the ODA), Lord Coe (Chair of the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG)) and Paul Deighton (Chief Executive of LOCOG) – about the preparations for the 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games.

For your information, CCAL expects to write to you further in coming weeks about concerns it has about construction traffic travelling to and/or from the Olympic Park along major London roads (e.g. the A12 and A13) and perhaps contributing therefore to breaches of European Union limit values for dangerous airborne particles in London.

CCAL is a keen supporter of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games and is campaigning to see air quality laws complied with throughout London by that time.

I look forward to hearing from you at the email address provided separately.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely

Simon Birkett
Founder and Principal Contact
Campaign for Clean Air in London

Enc:

Copies also of the relevant pages of the London 2012 website
Letters

CC:

The Lord Coe, LOCOG
Paul Deighton, LOCOG
John Armitt, ODA
David Higgins, ODA
The Rt. Hon. Tessa Jowell MP
Mayor Johnson
Darren Johnson AM, Chair of the London Assembly
Murad Qureshi AM, Chair of the Environment Committee, London Assembly
Gareth Bacon AM, Conservative spokesman on the Environment
Mike Tuffrey AM, Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group in the London Assembly
The Lord Berkeley, Chairman of Rail Freight Group
Danny Stevens, Environmental Industries Commission