

## POPLAR DETOX: THE LAUNCH

This Friday Workshop will bring together community groups, researchers and activists addressing London's poor air quality.

The day will be divided into three sessions: a workshop on-site, a pollution walk around the local area and a discursive dinner.

These three sessions will explore how different groups work to improve London's air quality, ranging from: political lobbying, academic research, community gardening, technological hacking, and citizen science. These workshops will launch R-urban's air quality citizen science project.

The workshop is part of 'Test Sites: Assembly', a three year-long action research project by Arts Catalyst into toxicity. The event will create a bridge between Poplar and King's Cross, where Arts Catalyst is based, which represent two of the most most polluted areas in London.

## 4.00 - 6.00 PM - CITIZEN SCIENCE WORKSHOP

The workshop will explore what is meant by citizen science and provide training in how setting up diffusion tubes and monitoring lichen can indicate pollution levels in the local area.

LONDON SUSTAINABILITY EXCHANGE is a 'think and do tank' providing organisations and networks of individuals with the motivation, knowledge and connections they need to put sustainability into practice. We are currently working on a project to empower groups to take action against air pollution and take part in the political discussion through citizen science. Our previous studies in the Tower Hamlets area found that several sites exceeded EU legal limits of pollutant concentration and in some locations appeared higher than modelled data.

## FRIDAY WORKSHOPS

The Friday Workshops are a series of bi-weekly events, which explore how poor air quality affects the R-urban site and wider Poplar community.

By collecting citizen science data and building green infrastructures, the workshops question how air quality can be improved through direct action.

The current series of Friday Workshops are supported by GLA Greener Cities, Veolia Environmental Trust and Actors of Urban Change.

## R-URBAN

R-Urban is a bottom-up strategy that explores the possibilities of enhancing the capacity of urban resilience by introducing a network of resident-run facilities. It initiates locally closed ecological cycles that will support the emergence of alternative models of living, producing and consuming. R-urban is supported by the EU Life+ Programme of environmental governance. The project partners are AAA, Paris (coordinator), the City of Colombes and public works, London. [www.r-urban.net](http://www.r-urban.net).

## WHERE

### R-URBAN POPLAR

by the garages in Brion Place  
Poplar, London, UK, E14 0SP

## WHEN

20th April 2018 16.00 – 20.00

## HOW MUCH

Friday Sessions are free and open to anyone who wants to take part

## RSVP

Places are free but we need to know how many people will take part in the discursive dinner

[hester@publicworksgroup.net](mailto:hester@publicworksgroup.net)

## 6.00 - 8.00 PM - DISCURSIVE DINNER

The late afternoon workshop will culminate with a conversation and a meal with members of the local community and guests. There will be three courses, with a discussion between each course. Each talk will be designed to develop a conversation between local campaigners and London-wide activists.

## POLITICAL CHANGE

RECLAIMING STREETS aims to re-prioritise road space in favour of people - for walking, cycling and communal activity - ultimately moving towards greater pedestrianisation and healthier streets. Led by Friends of the Earth Hackney and Tower Hamlets, Poplar HARCA, Our Air Our Health and Better Streets for Tower Hamlets, we are currently working with the community in and around St Paul's Way to bring a clean air theme to the St Paul's Way Festival in June. Reclaiming Streets was the winning idea from our 2017 'Clean Air Café', where we asked residents to vote on a campaign to tackle local air pollution.

DEE SEARLE, who lives in the Grafton Road area, is well-known as a leading light of the Camden Air Action group fighting deadly air pollution. She was the Green Party candidate for Tottenham at the 2015 General Election, quadrupling the Green vote, and was a Green candidate during the 2016 London Assembly elections. Co-chair of Camden Green Party, she is a former journalist and has also worked for the United Nations, Amnesty and Oxfam.

## TOXICITY AND REMEDIATION

MEGAN CLINCH is a social anthropologist and lecturer at the Centre for Primary Care and Public Health at Barts and the London School of Medicine and Dentistry, QMUL. Her research explores how different forms of investigation, experimentality, evidence, and evaluation are understood (or not) and managed in the development of public health interventions.

FRAN GALLARDO is one half of artist-research duo FRAUD (with Audrey Samson). Their backgrounds include computational culture, critical technical practices, post-colonial and critical feminism, performance, design and space system engineering. They develop forms of art-led inquiry into the multiples scales of power, governability that flow through physical and cultural landscapes. Their practice is currently focused on exploring forms of slow violence and death embedded in, for instance, the entanglement between archiving practices and technical objects, the diminishing negantropism of global trade, systems of production after erasure, and alluring myths of ecological cosmopolitanism.

# RURBAN

