

Dear London City Councillors et Al,

I hope this email finds you in good health and high spirits. I am writing to you today to request your urgent attention and proactive consideration regarding an issue that deeply concerns me and many other residents of our beloved city. Specifically, I would like to discuss the environmental impact of fireworks and the need for thoughtful action to mitigate their negative consequences.

As we are all well aware, our planet is facing an unprecedented climate crisis. The recent forest fires that have devastated regions both locally and overseas serve as painful reminders of the urgent need to reduce our carbon footprint and protect our environment. This is a call to action that cannot be ignored.

It is with this backdrop in mind that I want to draw your attention to the negative effects fireworks have on our atmosphere and air quality, especially during times when the air is already compromised due to climate change-induced factors. The high levels of PM2.5 particle matter released during fireworks displays have detrimental consequences for our respiratory health, as indicated by increasing numbers of patients in hospital emergency rooms reporting respiratory issues, including collapsed lungs.

I strongly believe that it is the responsibility of our elected representatives to prioritize the health and well-being of our citizens and the preservation of our environment. Therefore, I kindly request that you consider putting forward a member's motion that would make this matter an agenda item for discussion and necessary action before the next fireworks event takes place in our city.

By engaging in an open and constructive dialogue, we can explore alternative methods to celebrate and mark special occasions without compromising the air we breathe or exacerbating our already fragile ecosystem. It is crucial that we seek innovative solutions and promote sustainable approaches that align with our commitment to tackling climate change head-on.

I implore you to be proactive in this matter and stand as leaders in the efforts to protect our planet and future generations. By taking immediate steps to address the environmental impact of fireworks, we can make a meaningful and positive difference.

I would also like to bring to your attention that Michael Luce post on "Nextdoor", shedding light on such an important issue such as the harmful effects of fireworks to the environment.

My response: It's truly alarming to see the negative effects fireworks can have on our atmosphere, especially when we're already experiencing drastic air quality deterioration due to climate change-induced forest fires.

It is disheartening that while we received assistance from firefighters coming all the way from Africa, we often overlook the need to reduce our own carbon footprint. The increase in respiratory patients and cases of collapsed lungs, as reported by hospital emergency rooms, is a clear sign that we need to take action.

Dr. David Kaiser's, medical director of Montreal point about fireworks contributing to PM2.5 of 300 particle matter per cubic meter further exemplifies the need for us to reevaluate our choices and priorities. Perhaps it's time to ask ourselves some difficult questions in order to protect our planet and preserve the wellbeing of our fellow human beings.

Let's come together and explore alternative methods to celebrate occasions without compromising the already fragile air we breathe such as drone and laser light show and use that as an opportunity to educate people of their collaborative effort to change. Our planet's health and the health of future generations depend on it.

#ProtectOurPlanet #ReducingOurCarbonFootprint #ReconsiderFireworks

Sharon Deebrah (She/Her), MPA