Case Study

Pedestrianising a street in London, Westminster

INTRODUCTION

The estate owner in London Westminster was facing the challenge of improving the air quality in the neighbourhood. To address this, they wanted to pedestrianise a street through the estate. However, convincing the local authorities to do so was a major hurdle. To overcome this, the estate decided to use air quality monitoring sensors to measure the air quality whilst temporarily getting permission to close the street to traffic on a trial basis.

METHODOLOGY

The estate decided to work with AirScape, which has the capability to monitor an array of pollutants at street level, in real time. This enabled the estate to compare the difference between the pedestrianised street and other nearby streets for comparison. The air quality monitoring sensors were able to measure the air quality in real time, allowing the estate to quickly detect changes.

RESULTS

The sensors showed that the street with pedestrianisation demonstrated significantly lower levels of NO2 than other nearby sensors. This provided the estate with evidence to present to the local authorities.

CONCLUSION

The estate presented the findings to the local authorities, which is now undergoing review for permanent pedestrianisation of the road. Using air quality monitoring sensors allowed the estate to gather tangible evidence to demonstrate the positive effects of restricting vehicle access to the street. This case study highlights the potential of air quality monitoring sensors to gather data that can inform urban planning and decision-making.

AT A GLANCE

CHALLENGES

- Convincing local authorities to pedestrianise the street.
- Obtaining permission for a trial period to temporarily close the street to traffic.

BENEFITS

- Concrete evidence of improved air quality through real-time monitoring.
- Positive impact on health and well-being by reducing harmful pollutants.
- Environmental enhancement and community livability .

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