



How can data, technology, and information increase awareness about the health effects of noise from ventilation- and cooling systems, in citizens areas – and what can we do with that knowledge?

Sponsor: Miljøpunkt Indre By & Christianshavn (MP)

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Background – We often talk about the many sources of noise in a capital city characterized by urban life, tourism, housing, businesses, restaurants, and nightlife. The traffic noise has for many years been a focus area for research and policy, as well as noise from nightlife.

We talk much less about noise and vibration from ventilation and cooling systems. These installations ensure ventilation from kitchens, cafés, and restaurants, and are often located connected to exhaust outlets from kitchens and restaurants – established in courtyards, on walls and exhaust outlets on rooftops.

In 2025, the Municipality of Copenhagen adopted a by-law for ventilation and cooling systems, which set the framework for the operation and maintenance for such systems (see:

<https://www.kk.dk/dagsordener-og-referater/Teknik-%20og%20Milj%C3%B8udvalget/m%C3%B8de-01122025/referat/punkt-16>).

Simultaneously, noise and vibrations, including low-frequency noise, can affect our health, and our general well-being.

(see: <https://www.sst.dk/vidensbase/forebyggelse/forurening-og-miljoe/stoejforurening>).

For more than 10 years, Miljøpunkt Indre By & Christianshavn has worked to reduce the amount of noise, which neighborhoods in the the Inner City and at Christianshavn are exposed to, including noise from nightlife and cooling systems.

Some questions which arise from this issue are:

What are the expectations of the new city by-law:

- From the owners or other responsible parties for the installations,
- From those who live as neighbors to the installations
- From those who maintain the installations
- Others

Defining the problem

1. How do we collect necessary data which can be used to increase the focus on noise and the health risks associated with the noise?
2. How can we identify the installations and the citizens, which live/work close to noise nuisances from the ventilation- and cooling systems?
3. How do we gain access to installations to measure noise and vibrations from them?
4. How does the Municipality of Copenhagen investigate and control that the new by-law is complied with?



5. What are the opportunities to give information about the pollution – especially in the areas in the Inner City with many restaurants?
6. Which data is present for the health-related significance of being exposed to noise and vibrations where we spend our daily lives?

It is our belief that new information can make people aware of any problems with any system, which can start a local citizen and a political debate and action.

It presupposes that we, early in the process, involve key stakeholders, including the municipality, the local citizens in the area, local committees etc. These actors and stakeholders have knowledge and experience which can be used when we need to find "new ways" and solutions.

The results will be presented and discussed in the environmental working group for local citizens, by the official local council meetings, and a citizen's assembly on noise and health – preferably in the company of external experts.

Resultater præsenteres og drøftes på miljøgruppen og lokaludvalgsmøde og eventuelt et borger- og debatmøde om støj og sundhed, gerne sammen med eksterne fageksperter.