



11th Floor A Block
Metropolitan Centre
158 Civic Boulevard
Braamfontein

PO Box 1049
Johannesburg
South Africa
2000

Tel +27(0) 11 407 7354

www.joburg.org.za

a world class African city

Media Advisory

For Immediate Release

Date: 24 February 2026

City of Johannesburg and Breathe Cities announce February 2026 Clean Air Youth Conference and Convening

The City of Johannesburg in partnership with Breathe Cities, Process, Energy and Environmental Technology Station (UJ PEETS) and key partners, will host a series of clean air engagements in Johannesburg in February 2026. These engagements are designed to reinforce evidence-based air quality management and fast-track clean air action throughout the city. They are part of the Breathe Cities efforts in Johannesburg—a city-wide program focused on improving air quality and protecting public health.

Boitemogelo Kwakwa, UJ PEETS Project Leader, says:

"We are proud to collaborate with Breathe Cities and the City of Johannesburg to translate research into action. By bringing together technical experts and stakeholders, these events provide a platform to strengthen policy, inform targeted interventions and build sustainable solutions for cleaner air in Johannesburg".

Air Aware Youth-Led Conference to Amplify Youth Voices on Air Pollution and Clean Air Policy in Johannesburg

Date: Thursday, 26 February 2026

Venue: Wanderers Club, Illovo, Johannesburg

Time: 09h00

Forming part of the series of engagements is a youth focused conference that will take place on 26 February 2026 and that is organized by Breathe Cities partner South African Institute of International Affairs. This conference will pull together 200 people including 130 young people between the ages of 13-25 years, to engage on air quality & health issues in Johannesburg.

Stakeholder & Grantee convening session: From Projects to Progress

Date: Friday, 27 February 2026

Time: 09:00

Venue: The Kerzner at UJ, 57 Bunting Rd, Cottesloe, Johannesburg

The convening will bring together Breathe Cities partners in Johannesburg, including the national, provincial and local government stakeholders. Under the theme: “From Projects to Progress: Knowledge Sharing for Action on Clean Air,” the event will highlight progress made under the initiative and explore pathways to mainstream clean air interventions. Participants will also examine policy recommendations aimed at strengthening cross-sector collaboration and reinforcing commitments to advance clean air action in Johannesburg.

CoJ Musa Mahlatji, Deputy Director: Air Quality Management said “Clean air action in Johannesburg requires coordinated implementation, innovation and accountability. This gathering not only strengthens our shared commitment to deliver measurable improvements in air quality for all residents but also reflects the value of focused engagement with our partners across government, civil society, academia and the private sector. Together with stakeholders in the Breathe Cities initiative, we celebrate the meaningful progress already achieved, while recommitting ourselves to deepen collaboration and accelerate practical solutions that protect public health and advance sustainable urban development.”

Breathe Cities’ Nokuthula Dubazane states: “Breathe Cities’ work in Johannesburg started over two years ago, so these events are an opportunity to share the early wins and challenges, while bringing together various partners to reflect on the actions that still need to be taken to improve air quality in the city.”

Breathe Cities is a global initiative supporting cities to clean our air and enhance public health. The initiative is delivered by Bloomberg Philanthropies, Clean Air Fund and C40 Cities, giving 14 cities globally the tools to take ambitious clean air action by expanding access to data and raising public awareness. Working across five continents, Breathe Cities is accelerating action to improve the air 77 million people breathe.

Ends

Issued by the City of Johannesburg

For all media queries, send an email to mediaqueries@joburg.org.za