

Instructions for reporting your hum problem

- If you are **sure** that what you hear is an environmental sound, **do not report it**. This project tries to identify other causes than environmental/external noises, for which there are no common remedies. To locate and remedy your environmental hum, please refer to the instruction “AM I HEARING AN EXTERNAL SOUND, OR THE HUM?”
- If you heard something only once, or a long time ago, **do not report** from memory. The hum problem shall be ongoing and verifiable to be meaningful for the research.

Click the link “SUBMIT YOUR DATA FOR THE MAP”

Fill in your observations **as you have observed them**. Do not copy other people’s wordings!

Don’t forget to indicate your country and town/location and your ZIP code, since we cannot guess your country from a plain ZIP code or town name alone.

Please do the frequency determination according to the instruction “AM I HEARING AN EXTERNAL SOUND, OR THE HUM?” Mobile phones or desktop speakers cannot be used for frequency determination. Get some cheap, or even second-hand, ear-covering big headphones, like the ones teenagers are using for pop music. Low distortion and high sensitivity are not important for this purpose.

Use sine wave, since the other wave forms may easily give false matches with the harmonics, which sound stronger than the fundamental frequency. If, however, you come down towards 30-35Hz and the hum is still lower, and the generator volume is getting very weak in your phones, try triangle wave.

The sine wave will probably sound different from your hum, but the purpose is to find the fundamental (lowest) frequency of the hum. Describe any pulsation or modulation verbally. Do not try to ‘simulate’ what you are hearing by playing with different waveforms, because then the important fundamental frequency information will easily be wrong.

Do not try to frequency-match from memory something you heard some time ago, but no longer hear. The “hum” must be on in real-time when you do the frequency match!

Please compare your frequency result with your own description of the sound. Anything above approx. 150-200 Hz cannot be called “a rumble” or be compared to “a diesel engine”. For example, 440 Hz is the clear tone of a musical tuning fork, and cannot be described as a “low-frequency hum”.

A hum report without a meaningful frequency indication, consistent with the verbal description, has very little value for research purposes.

Please note that the question “Have other people heard the same sound...” refers to **simultaneous observations of the same sound** as you hear, **by another person**. If you answer “yes”, please explain the circumstances in the very last text field at the bottom. A plain “yes” without explanations will be ignored in the data analysis. Since you are not supposed to report environmental sounds, which most people can hear, “yes” answers really need to be carefully explained.

On the question about soft drinks consumption, please reply by “regular” or “light” and a number (standard cans per month).

The rest of the questions should be self-explanatory.