

What is currently being done in Europe?

How do we know what the air quality is like?

The European Directive on air quality requires that each Member State measures and reports air quality. Each country and / or region in Northwest Europe has had to set up one (or more) monitoring network. A monitoring network consists of several air quality monitoring stations measuring a range of pollutants. Common pollutants that are measured include particulate matter less than 10 microns in size (PM₁₀) and nitrogen dioxide (NO₂). The data is gathered by DEFRA and sent to the European Environment Agency who collects the air quality data from across Europe and log it in the Airbase database:

<http://www.eea.europa.eu/themes/air/air-quality/map/airbase/air-quality-statistics-atreporting-stations>.

The European Union also requires Member States to ensure that the air quality meet the standards they have set. If a country or region (local authority in the UK) is not meeting those standards, they are required by the European Directive on air quality to draw up and implement a plan to reduce air quality.

Europe also sets standards for the emissions of air pollutants from industry (NEC Directive), lorries (EURO IV) and cars (Euro I-VI). These standards are regularly adjusted and checked via individual monitoring for industry and via MOT's for lorries and cars.

In addition, Europe is also investing in a large number of programs to stimulate research and development in the field of air quality, including INTERREG, FP / 7 and LIFE +.

Events:

[Year of Air](#)

[European mobility week](#)