

# Air Quality in Ireland

Report 2025



# Key Messages

## Key Messages

### Air Quality Monitoring

### Clean Air and Health

### Air Quality in Ireland Results & Trends

### The Challenge

### Partnership in Action

### Call to Action

### Citizen Science & Research

### Learn More

### Acknowledgments and Disclaimer

#### 1. Air quality is good overall in Ireland

Ireland met the EU's 2025 legal air quality limits. Air quality has improved, with pollutants decreasing over the last 20 years. Continued progress will allow Ireland achieve stricter 2030 limits under the EU Ambient Air Quality Directive.

#### 2. Air pollution causes significant health impacts

Air pollution remains Europe's greatest environmental health risk (EEA, 2026). In Ireland, despite meeting the air quality limits there are around 1,500 premature deaths a year linked to air pollution.

#### 3. Maintain delivery of national policy actions

Government funding of infrastructure, household supports and enforcement activities which help to deliver clean air and health benefits to communities must be maintained.

#### 4. Local authorities have a key role to play

Local Authorities must continue solid fuel enforcement, promote retrofitting and support active travel infrastructure.

#### 5. Seasonal variabilities exist across communities

Research shows air quality is generally poorer in low-income areas, highlighting the need for targeted measures to reduce solid fuel burning dependency.

What  
can we  
do?

We can all help improve the quality of the air we breathe by:

- Using less solid fuel and cleaner fuels to heat our homes.
- Reducing our use of cars to go to school, work and play.

Support is available to help people make positive changes, including switching to greener options that can reduce air pollution:



Cleaner  
home  
heating



Walking, cycling  
and public  
transport



Warmer,  
more energy  
efficient  
homes



Electric  
vehicles



## Key Messages

## Air Quality Monitoring

## Clean Air and Health

## Air Quality in Ireland Results & Trends

## The Challenge

## Partnership in Action

## Call to Action

## Citizen Science & Research

## Learn More

## Acknowledgments and Disclaimer



## Stay Informed - How we monitor air quality in Ireland

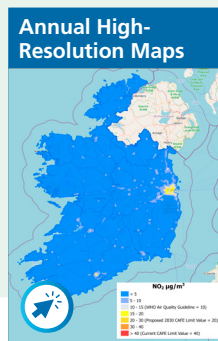
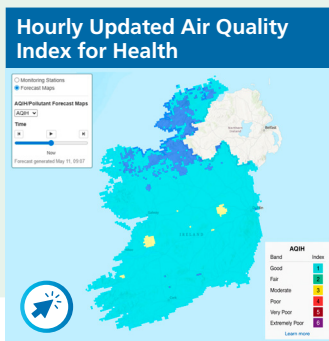
Air quality information from monitoring and mapping help assess air quality across the country and its potential impact on health.

Ireland's air quality is measured by a network of 113 monitoring stations in partnership with local authorities and other organisations.

These stations measure key pollutants such as particulate matter ( $PM_{10}$  and  $PM_{2.5}$ ), nitrogen dioxide ( $NO_2$ ) and ozone ( $O_3$ ).

Real-time information and health advice are available through the Air Quality Index for Health (AQIH). Stay informed about air quality in your area at [www.airquality.ie](http://www.airquality.ie)

Mapping air quality is helping to accurately fill the gaps between monitoring stations and show air pollutant concentrations across Ireland.



## Key Messages

## Air Quality Monitoring

## Clean Air and Health

## Air Quality in Ireland Results & Trends

## The Challenge

## Partnership in Action

## Call to Action

## Citizen Science & Research

## Learn More

## Acknowledgments and Disclaimer

## Healthy Air, Healthy Life

Air pollution is decreasing across Europe, but it remains a risk to our health and the environment.

In Ireland, the main air pollutants of concern are  $PM_{10}$ ,  $PM_{2.5}$  and  $NO_2$ . Even small amounts can affect health.

Explore where these pollutants come from by clicking on the map of Ireland.

The Air Quality Index for Health (AQIH) provides information about the air quality in your area. It also includes health advice to help you understand how air pollution may affect you or your child. The AQIH can help inform decisions about outdoor activities when air pollution levels are high.

Pollutant  
Sources in  
Ireland



How clean is  
the air you are  
breathing?  
Check out the  
AQIH now



Is it  
necessary?



**WILL I LIGHT  
THE FIRE?**

Lighting an open fire or stove causes harmful emissions that linger in the air, harming your health and the health of your family, neighbours, and community.

Before you light that fire, ask yourself the burning question, is it really necessary?



A message from  
Asthma Society  
Ireland



A message  
from Irish Heart  
Foundation



**Irish Heart  
Foundation**

Home heating options:  
change the way you  
heat your home



## Key Messages

## Air Quality Monitoring

## Clean Air and Health

## Air Quality in Ireland Results & Trends

## The Challenge

## Partnership in Action

## Call to Action

## Citizen Science & Research

## Learn More

## Acknowledgments and Disclaimer

## Air quality is good overall in Ireland

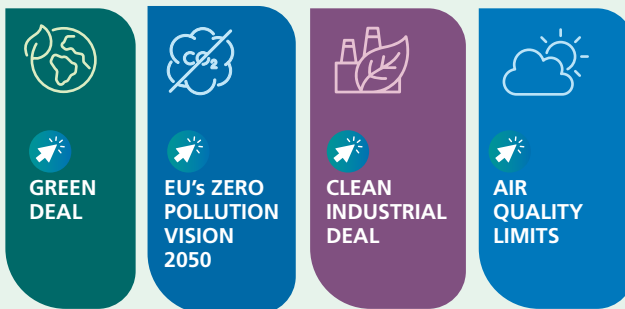
Ireland met all EU air quality limits in 2025.

Air quality is improving, and most pollutants are showing a steady decline. Despite this progress, Ireland remains above recommendations of the World Health Organisation and the legal limits from 2030 in the revised EU Ambient Air Quality Directive.

The revised Directive will take effect in Ireland on 11 December 2026. Once it comes into force, Ireland will face tougher limits for air quality from 2030.

The EU is tightening air quality limits as part of its plan to achieve zero pollution by 2050.

The WHO says there is no completely safe level of air pollution, as even low levels can harm health over time.



## Selected pollutants measured in 2025 and their adherence to EU legal limit values (Current Ambient Air Quality Directive)

| Pollutant                          | Number of stations where parameter monitored 2025 | EU legal limit values |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| PM <sub>10</sub>                   | 108                                               | No exceedances        |
| PM <sub>2.5</sub>                  | 104                                               | No exceedances        |
| NO <sub>2</sub>                    | 37                                                | No exceedances        |
| Ozone (O <sub>3</sub> )            | 23                                                | No exceedances        |
| Sulphur dioxide (SO <sub>2</sub> ) | 15                                                | No exceedances        |
| PAHs                               | 5                                                 | No exceedances        |
| Heavy metals                       | 5                                                 | No exceedances        |
| Dioxins                            | 22                                                | No exceedances        |
| All other pollutants               |                                                   | No exceedances        |

## Air Monitoring Trends

Click on each pollutant to see how air quality in Ireland has been improving over the last number of years.



See the effects of solid fuel burning on the air monitoring network.



## Key Messages

## Air Quality Monitoring

## Clean Air and Health

## Air Quality in Ireland Results & Trends

## The Challenge

## Partnership in Action

## Call to Action

## Citizen Science & Research

## Learn More

## Acknowledgments and Disclaimer

## The Challenge Ahead: Meeting the 2030 Limits

### The Pathway to Meeting the New Ambient Air Quality Directive

Click on each section to explore the key challenges facing Ireland. This includes an assessment of whether the country is on track to meet the 2030 air quality limits, and the actions required to comply with the new legislation.

2026 New  
Ambient AQ  
Directive



Local  
Authority  
Engagement



2030  
Compliance



What's  
New



Information  
and  
Communication



Ireland's goal is to  
achieve full compliance  
with the EU air quality  
limits from 2030

Now is  
the time  
to take  
action!



## Key Messages

## Air Quality Monitoring

## Clean Air and Health

## Air Quality in Ireland Results & Trends

## The Challenge

## Partnership in Action

## Call to Action

## Citizen Science & Research

## Learn More

## Acknowledgments and Disclaimer



## Delivering Clean Air: Co-ordinated Action Across the Public Sector

### Local Authorities



Develop Roadmaps for areas with exceedances by 2028.



Inform the public when thresholds are exceeded.



Continued enforcement and inspection of solid fuels.



Promote retrofitting houses and cleaner transport options.



Improve local awareness and support active travel infrastructure.



### Policy Challenges



Support the development and delivery of roadmaps.



Increase awareness and uptake of low-smoke fuels.



Implement Clean Air Strategy.



Expand investment in public transport.



Continue support for active travel policies.



### Role of the EPA



Establish new supersites and monitoring hotspots.



Notify local authorities of threshold exceedances.



Support roadmap development and implementation.



Maintain monitoring, validation and reporting of air quality.



Work with the Department and local authorities on enforcement and monitoring.



TFI Smarter Travel – National Transport



National retrofitting scheme SEAI grants

## Key Messages

## Air Quality Monitoring

## Clean Air and Health

## Air Quality in Ireland Results & Trends

## The Challenge

## Partnership in Action

## Call to Action

## Citizen Science & Research

## Learn More

## Acknowledgments and Disclaimer



## What can I do?

Together, small changes in individual and community behaviour can significantly improve air quality. Click on the bubbles to discover simple actions you can take.

The EPA conducted a national survey on behavioural change, which assessed awareness and attitudes to air quality. [Click here to read the full report](#)

### Key Findings

- **Awareness of air quality risks has declined**, particularly regarding the health impacts of solid-fuel. Despite this, **positive behavioural changes are being observed**.
- Overall, the findings suggest that **behavioural changes are contributing to improved air quality**.
- **Public transport use has increased**, helping to reduce emissions.
- More people are **choosing cleaner, less smoky fuels** for home heating.
- **Home energy upgrades and retrofits** remain among the most popular actions being considered for future adoption.

**Awareness may be declining, but growing adoption of cleaner transport, heating, and home energy measures is supporting better air quality.**

### Promoting healthy air outside schools



Clean Air in  
Ireland

WATCH  
ABC for  
cleaner Air

Home  
Energy  
Grants

Reduce  
pollution  
from cars  
and home  
heating



Stop idling



Active travel

## Key Messages

## Air Quality Monitoring

## Clean Air and Health

## Air Quality in Ireland Results & Trends

## The Challenge

## Partnership in Action

## Call to Action

## Citizen Science & Research

## Learn More

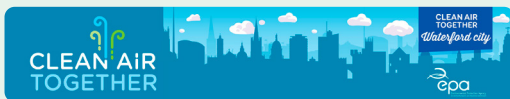
## Acknowledgments and Disclaimer



Explore the air quality research activities and projects the EPA are involved in.  
For more information and links to related research, visit the [Learn More](#) page.

### Clean Air Together

Clean Air Together concluded its  
Waterford monitoring campaign in 2025.



Results from the Waterford  
campaign are available here

### Irish Perspectives on School Ambient Air Quality

- ▶ Low awareness of school air pollution
- ▶ Backs education and awareness
- ▶ Encourages community action
- ▶ Protects children's health and local air quality
- ▶ Supported by the EU Horizon 2020



PHOTONICS2 PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP



Read more about  
this study here

### Peace-Air

Cross-border air quality initiative  
between Ireland and Northern  
Ireland:

- ▶ Supported by PEACEPLUS
- ▶ Supports community action to protect health and the environment



Read more about  
this project here

### TownAir

TownAir is a project that studies:

- ▶ where harmful fine particles ( $PM_{2.5}$ ) in the air come from and
- ▶ how they affect air quality in towns across Ireland



Read more about  
this project here

# Learn More

Key Messages

Air Quality Monitoring

Clean Air and Health

Air Quality in Ireland  
Results & Trends

The Challenge

Partnership in Action

Call to Action

Citizen Science & Research

Learn More

Acknowledgments  
and Disclaimer



If you want more information go to the EPA  
Air Quality Frequently Asked Questions



For health advice related  
to air quality and wildfires  
please contact the HSE



## USEFUL LINKS

-  Real Time Air Quality Data for Ireland
-  EPA's Monthly Bulletins
-  Clean Air Strategy
-  Climate Action Plan 2025
-  National Transport Authority Strategy
-  Healthier Environment for All

## AIR QUALITY RESEARCH

-  EPA funded research in Air Quality
-  PEACEPLUS Project
-  ESRI funded research in Air Quality

## GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

-  GHG Emissions Report 2026

## EU & WHO

-  New Ambient Air Quality Directive (EU) 2024/2881
-  EEA: Air Quality Status Report 2026
-  WHO Air Quality Guidelines
-  WHO: Breathe Life - How air pollution impacts your body
-  EU Air Quality Index for Health
-  Zero Pollution Monitoring and Outlook 2025
-  EU Health Atlas
-  Exceedance of Air Quality Limits in Europe
-  Air Pollution and Children's Health
-  Air Quality Statistics
-  European City Air Quality Viewer
-  EU Reporting on Airports
-  EU Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy

## Acknowledgments and Disclaimer

**Acknowledgments:** The Principal authors, Lin Delaney, Emilia Hanley and Niamh Connolly wish to acknowledge the contributions of their colleagues, Daithí Kelleghan, Paul Buckley, Cathal Ruane, Patrick Malone, Ken Murphy, Kevin Harte, Jason Barry, Warren Phelan and Director Pat Byrne, in the National Ambient Air Quality Unit.

EPA contractors, Dylan Halpin, and Peter Mooney, Emily Williamson, Communications Team, Aisling O'Connor, Louise Barry, EPA Clean Air Together.

Additional support in monitoring, analysis and input was provided by EPA staff in Dublin, Kilkenny, Wexford, Castlebar, Monaghan, Cork and Limerick with support in data collection and reporting from colleagues in the EPA Research, Emissions, Air Cross Office, Ecosystem Services, Enforcement, Catchments, IT and Geographic Information System teams. The authors also acknowledge the input of personnel from local authorities, DCEE, the Health Service Executive, Met Éireann, UCC, MTU, TCD, UoG amongst others who provided data for this report. The authors wish to also acknowledge all the site personnel who assisted in gaining access to our monitoring sites and enabling us to carry out our routine work, which in turn assisted us greatly in the development of this report.

Clever Cats Graphic Design

**Disclaimer:** Although we in the Environmental Protection Agency have tried our best to make sure this publication is accurate, we cannot guarantee complete accuracy. Neither we nor the authors are in any way responsible for any loss or damage caused by, or claimed to have been caused by, anyone doing anything or failing to do anything based on information in this publication. You may reproduce all or part of this publication without further permission, provided you acknowledge the source.

Published by the Environmental Protection Agency, Ireland October 2026

ISBN: 978-1-80009-394-2

### Headquarters

PO Box 3000,  
Johnstown Castle Estate,  
County Wexford, Ireland

T: +353 53 916 0600

F: +353 53 916 0699

E: [info@epa.ie](mailto:info@epa.ie)

W: [www.epa.ie](http://www.epa.ie)

LoCall: 0818 335599

