

# A Brief History of the Feinstaubalarm

Stuttgart is an attractive and diverse city worth living in. And Stuttgart is an appealing city that always gives its visitors a warm welcome. This is just as true for tourists as it is for those culture enthusiasts, scenesters or visitors from the region that come to shop or attend its numerous events. It is also the case for those many working people who commute within or into the city. They all contribute something to Stuttgart's well-being.

Stuttgart's special topography with its elevation and valleys provides spectacular views in many places, but it also has a flip side. By virtue of its location in a basin, certain weather conditions can lead to relatively little airflow in the inner city, producing conditions conducive to the build-up of air pollutants such as fine dust or nitrogen oxide. The pollution also cannot be compared to that in many megacities around the globe.

As an environmentally conscious city, Stuttgart is setting itself the challenge of controlling air pollution - more actively, aggressively and transparently than many other cities. The aim is to improve the quality of life in the city sustainably. That means less noise, fewer traffic jams, less stress and, above all, fewer air pollutants.

The air in the Stuttgart valley basin has already become noticeably better thanks to various efforts made. These include, among others, investments in public transport, pedestrian and bicycle traffic, measures to increase traffic flow, more green areas to improve the urban climate as well as projects such as air filter columns or road cleaning.

Another instrument was the Feinstaubalarm ("fine particulate matter alarm"), introduced in 2016 and unique in Germany. With the Feinstaubalarm, the city and the state of Baden-Württemberg were appealing to all people in Stuttgart and commuters from the region to use their cars as little as possible in Stuttgart and to give up using comfort fireplaces, that is fireplaces not used as the primary supply of energy. The alarm was triggered when the German Meteorological Service (DWD) forecasts particular limitations in atmospheric airflow on at least two consecutive days between 15 October and 15 April. During Feinstaubalarm several partners offered discount campaigns and promoted the use of environmentally friendly means of transport. The city and the state have also made financial contributions.

In 2018 and 2019 the statutory particulate matter thresholds were met at all measuring stations in the city – also at Neckartor. Due to compliance with the thresholds for two years in a row, the Feinstaubalarm was discontinued in mid-April 2020.



[www.stuttgart.de/feinstaubalarm](http://www.stuttgart.de/feinstaubalarm)

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