

# Paris bans half of cars to tackle new peak of pollution

December 6 2016

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The Eiffel Tower is seen from a hot air balloon as Paris suffers a pollution spike, Monday Dec. 5, 2016. Paris authorities have adopted measures to limit traffic speed after high levels of pollution in the French capital. (AP Photo/Christophe Ena)

Paris has temporarily barred half of all cars from traveling on city streets and made public transportation free for the day as it battles a peak in pollution.

Facing red-alert levels of [pollution](#) since Nov. 30, Paris City Hall said the situation poses a significant risk to residents' health. Authorities say pollution is due to weather conditions and a heavy dependence on [diesel fuel](#).

To tackle what City Hall describes as an "exceptionally serious" crisis, Paris's Velib bike-share and Autolib electric cars were made free Tuesday, as well as the Paris metro and bus services. In addition, only cars with even-numbered plates were allowed to drive Tuesday in the French capital and its close suburbs.

City officials say it's the ninth time this year that Paris is facing a pollution peak.



The Montparnasse Tower is seen from a hot air balloon as Paris suffers a pollution spike, Monday Dec. 5, 2016. Paris authorities have adopted measures to limit traffic speed after high levels of pollution in the French capital. (AP

Photo/Christophe Ena)



The Invalides dome is seen from a hot air balloon as Paris suffers a pollution spike, Monday Dec. 5, 2016. Paris authorities have adopted measures to limit traffic speed after high levels of pollution in the French capital. (AP Photo/Christophe Ena)

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Citation: Paris bans half of cars to tackle new peak of pollution (2016, December 6) retrieved 10 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2016-12-paris-cars-tackle-peak-pollution.html>

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