

Monthly CAPCOG Air Quality Newsletter: September 2016

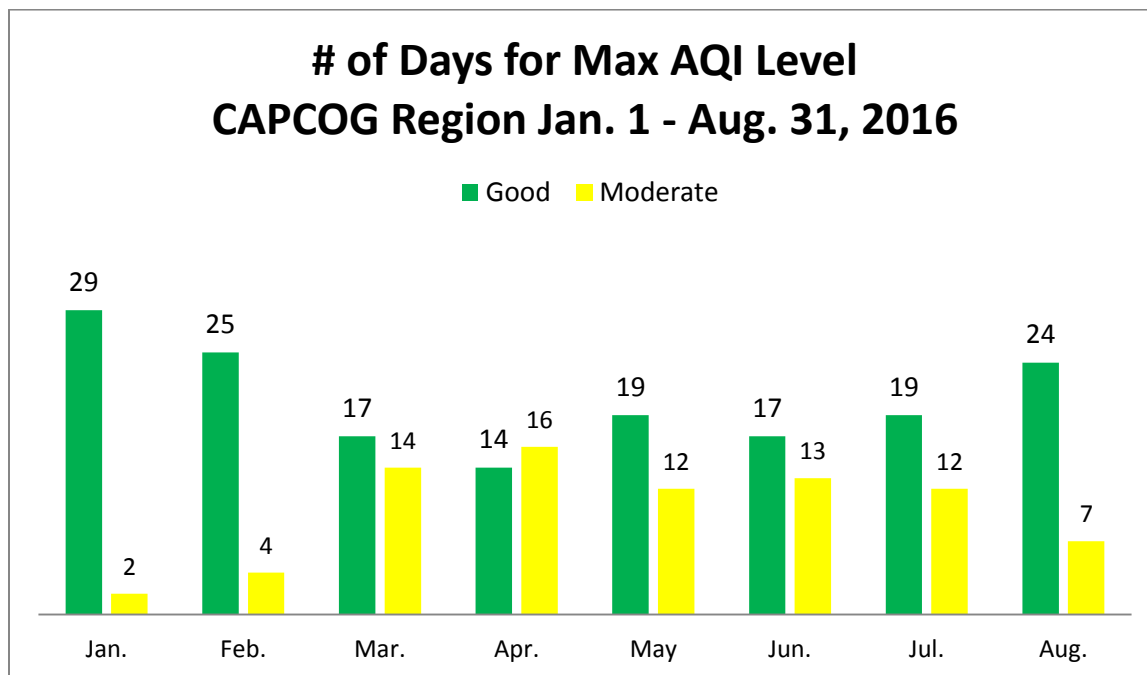
Prepared by the Capital Area Council of Governments

September 2, 2016

Air Monitoring

Austin-Round Rock MSA 2014-2016 "Design Value" through August 31, 2016: 66 ppb

Figure 1. Air Quality Index (AQI) Summary for 2016 Year to Date



- "Moderate" Days in August:
 - Ozone: 1 (8/13)
 - PM_{2.5}: 6 (8/1, 8/2, 8/6, 8/12, 8/23, 8/31)
- May Max 8-hour ozone (O₃) concentration July: 59 ppb (84% of NAAQS)
- May Max 24-hour fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) concentration July: 22.1 µg/m³ (63% of NAAQS)
- May Max 1-hour nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) concentration July: 39 ppb (39% of 1-hr NAAQS)
- May Max 1-hour sulfur dioxide (SO₂) concentration July: 2 ppb (3% of NAAQS)

State & Federal Updates

- **August 3, 2016, TCEQ Agenda Meeting:**
 - Commissioners approved recommendations on 2015 O₃ NAAQS area designation recommendation to the Governor. For more info go to:
<https://www.tceq.texas.gov/airquality/sip/eighthour.html>.
 - Commissioners approved will consider the agency's Legislative Appropriation Request (LAR) for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2018-2019 biennium. For more info go to:
https://www.tceq.texas.gov/agency/agendas/comm/comm_agendas.html
- **TERP Grants**
 - Emission Reduction Incentive Grants (ERIG) Program:
 - Will be opening a new grant round in September 2016.
 - \$51.7 million expected to be available.
 - ***CAPCOG has hired a contractor to assist Clean Air Coalition members with applying for these grants once they become available.**
 - Texas Clean Fleet Program (TCFP):
 - Accepting applications through October 18, 2016.
 - \$5.9 million available.
 - New Technology Implementation Grants:
 - Accepting applications through October 18, 2016.
 - \$3.5 million available.
 - Clean School Bus:
 - Accepting applications through November 1, 2016.
 - \$5.9 million available.
 - Clean Transportation Triangle & Alt. Fueling Facilities Program (alt. fuel infrastructure):
 - Accepting applications through November 8, 2016.
 - \$5.9 million available.
 - Natural Gas Vehicle Grant Program:
 - Accepting applications through May 26, 2017.
 - \$37.8 million available.
 - Rebate Grants (replacement, repower, retrofit, specified cost/ton rebate, 1st come, 1st-served):
 - Next grant round expected to open in February 2017.
 - \$10 million expected to be available.
- **Volkswagen Settlement:**
 - EPA announced a partial settlement of the VW litigation on June 28, 2016, to address the 2.0 liter cars on the road.
 - Settlement doesn't cover pending claims for civil penalties or complaints regarding 3.0 liter diesel vehicles or any potential criminal liability.
 - VW will be required to remove or retrofit at least 85% of the affected vehicles and must offer every owner and lessee an option of a buyback or lease termination.

- Settlement includes a \$2.7 billion mitigation trust fund and a requirement to invest an additional \$2 billion to promote the use of zero-emission vehicles and technology.
- For more info, go to: <https://www.epa.gov/enforcement/volkswagen-clean-air-act-partial-settlement>.
- **State Implementation Plan (SIP) Updates**
 - Rule #2016-031-114-AI is scheduled to be considered for proposal by the TCEQ at its September 7th agenda.
 - Would amend definitions in 30 TAC Chapter 114 and incorporate tier 3 emission standards as an eligibility component for replacement vehicles and determinant for replacement compensation amount.
 - Would clarify that no more than \$600 may be used fore emissions-related repairs per year.
- **2017 Texas Environmental Excellence Awards**
 - TCEQ is accepting applications for the 2017 Texas Environmental Excellence Awards.
 - Deadline is September 30, 2016.
 - For more info, go to <http://www.teea.org/apply/>.
- **Greenhouse Gas Emissions Standards for Heavy Duty Vehicles**
 - In August, EPA and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) jointly adopted a 2nd round of greenhouse gas emissions standards for medium-duty and heavy-duty vehicles beginning with model year 2021.
 - These standards are expected to further reduce NO_x and PM_{2.5} emissions by 2% in 2025.
 - Increased use of auxiliary power units (APUs) as an alternative to extended idling is expected to also reduce emissions of other pollutants, including NO_x and PM_{2.5}.
 - Increased engine efficiency, aerodynamics, and tire rolling resistance are also expected to decrease NO_x and PM_{2.5} emissions.
 - Upstream emissions are also expected to decrease.
- **Upcoming Federal Regulatory Actions to Keep Track Of**
 - Currently at Office of Management and Budget:
 - Finalization of exceptional events rule and guidance (received 6/22)
 - Finalization of Transport Rule for the 2008 O₃ NAAQS (received 7/12)
 - Proposal for nonattainment area SIP requirements for 2015 O₃ NAAQS (received 8/2)
 - Fall 2016: EPA expected to publish interstate O₃ transport modeling for 2015 NAAQS.
 - Summer/Fall 2016: Finalization of revised PSD permit modeling rules and guidance.
 - End of 2016: NO₂ near-road monitoring rule revision finalization.

Upcoming Air Quality Outreach and Education Opportunities

Please contact Anton Cox at acox@capcog.org or (512) 916-6036 if you would like to volunteer to conduct air quality outreach at any of the following upcoming dates:

- Sunday, September 4: Cedar Park Splash Fest;
- Saturday, September 17: San Marcos Mermaid Splash
- Saturday, September 24 – Sunday, September 25: Austin Pecan Street Festival
- Sunday, September 25: Bastrop River Rally Environmental Expo
- Saturday, October 14 – Sunday, October 15: Hutto Olde Tyme Days Festival
- Saturday, October 22: Elgin Hogeye Festival

Other Updates

- Air Central Texas Awards
 - Nominations for CAPCOG's first regional air quality awards will be accepted through September 30, 2016
 - For more information, contact Anton Cox at acox@capcog.org
- Air Central Texas Website, Social Media, and Electronic Outreach
 - CAPCOG expects to launch a new "ACT" website, ACT social media accounts, and an electronic advertising campaign on Friday, September 7, 2016
- CAPCOG Regional Air Quality Grants Program
 - Grant agreement with ACC for solar panels was executed in August
 - Six applications were received for next grant round
 - Scoring meeting is scheduled for 9/12
 - CAPCOG Executive Committee expected to consider approval in October
- Conference Call Scheduled for 2 pm on Tuesday, 9/6 on EPA Smart Air City Challenge
- EPA Webinar on "Global Green Freight Action" September 14, 2016, 1-2pm:
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7521860574414320132>
- EPA Webinar on Heat Island effect scheduled for Thursday, September 15 from 1-2pm
(<https://www.epa.gov/advance/webinars-and-training>).
- EPA Diesel Emission Reduction Act School Bus Rebate Program expected to open in October 2016: