

Monthly CAPCOG Air Quality Newsletter: October 2016

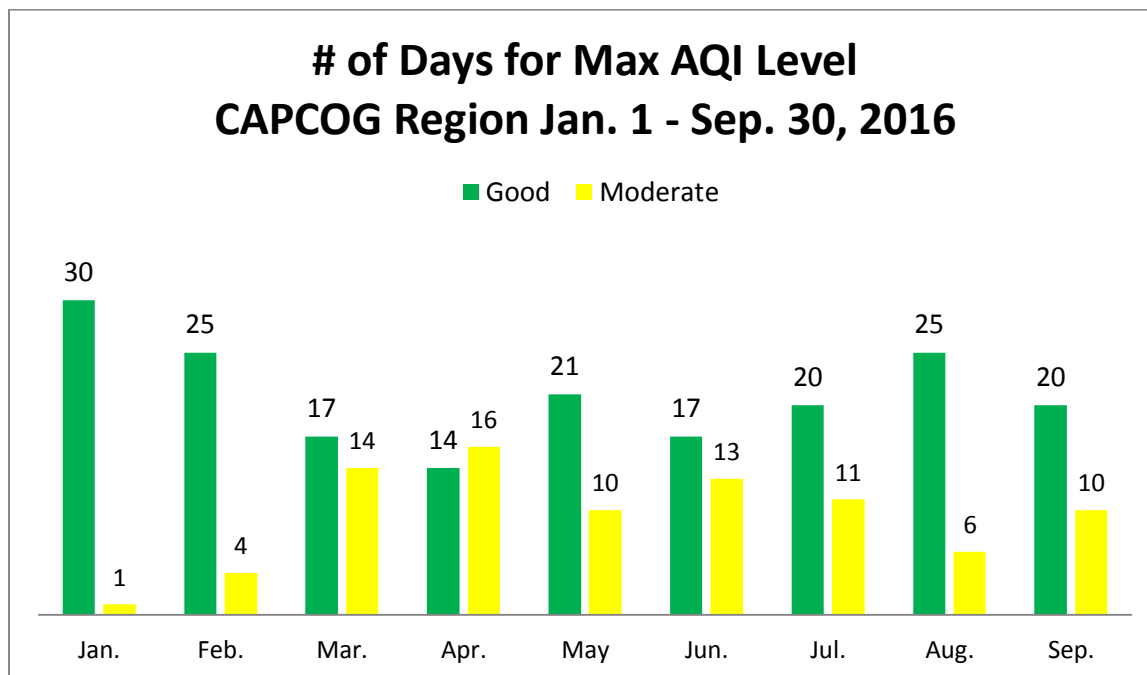
Prepared by the Capital Area Council of Governments

October 3, 2016

Air Monitoring

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

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



- "Moderate" Days in September:
 - Ozone: 6 (9/1, 9/2, 9/16, 9/20, 9/21, 9/28)
 - Fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}): 6 (9/1, 9/2, 9/3, 9/7, 9/8, 9/9)
- May Max 8-hour ozone concentration September: 62 ppb (88.57% of NAAQS)
- May Max 24-hour PM_{2.5} concentration September: 20.5 µg/m³ (58.57% of NAAQS)
- May Max 1-hour nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) concentration September: 39.1 ppb (39.1% of 1-hr NAAQS)
- May Max 1-hour sulfur dioxide (SO₂) concentration September: 0.6 ppb (0.08% of NAAQS)

State & Federal Updates

- **Drive a Clean Machine (DACM) Updates**
 - For state fiscal year 2016 (9/1/2015 – 8/31/2016) \$1,482,953 allocated to Travis and Williamson Counties
 - Travis County:
 - \$959,513.10 allocation for FY 16 for repair and replacement
 - \$389,299 spent on repairs in FY 16 (41% of allocation)
 - \$69,298.72 spent on 125 repairs
 - \$320,000 on 106 vehicle replacements
 - Total of \$1,923,734.99 in unexpended funds available for assistance as of the end of the FY
 - Williamson County:
 - \$381,144.60 allocation for FY 16 for repair and replacement
 - \$945,206.18 in unexpended funds available for assistance as of the end of the FY
- **TERP Grants**
 - Emission Reduction Incentive Grants (ERIG) Program:
 - \$51.7 million expected to be available, with announcement expected in 1st half of October.
 - ***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.
 - Rebate Grants:
 - Next grant round expected to open in February 2017.
 - \$10 million expected to be available.
 - Natural Gas Vehicle Grant Program:
 - Accepting applications through May 26, 2017.
 - \$37.8 million available.
 - For more info on TERP grants, visit: <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/airquality/terp>

- **EPA Diesel Emission Reduction Act Funding**
 - Clean School Bus:
 - About \$7 million available nationwide to replace or retrofit older school buses
 - **Webinar: October 7, 2016**
 - Deadline for Questions: October 24, 2016
 - Application period: September 29, 2016 - **November 1, 2016**
 - Funding decision: December 2016
 - More info: <https://www.epa.gov/cleandiesel/clean-diesel-rebates>
- **Cross-State Air Pollution Rule Update for the 2008 Ozone NAAQS:**
 - On September 7, 2016, EPA finalized an update to the Cross-State Air Pollution Rule (CSAPR) to address the 2008 Ozone NAAQS.
 - The rule requires reductions in NO_x emissions from power plants in 22 states, including Texas, by May 1, 2017.
 - Should reduce ozone-season NO_x emissions from power plants in these states by 21% compared to 2015 emissions (6% in Texas).
 - EPA considers the rule “necessary” but not “sufficient” to address states’ obligations to avoid contributing significantly to nonattainment or interfering with maintenance of the NAAQS in a downwind state.
 - Some recent modeling performed by TCEQ suggests that out-of-state power plant NO_x emissions are expected to contribute about 2 ppb to peak ozone levels in the Austin-Round Rock MSA, and in-state power plants contribute about 3-4 ppb, so this rule should have some significant impacts on local ozone levels.
 - For more info, go to: <https://www.epa.gov/airmarkets/final-cross-state-air-pollution-rule-update>
- **State Implementation Plan (SIP) Updates**
 - Houston area: On September 27, 2016, the EPA published a notice in the Federal Register proposing that the Houston-Galveston-Brazoria nonattainment area for the 2008 Ozone NAAQS be reclassified from “Marginal” to “Moderate.”
 - Requires that the area attain the 2008 Ozone NAAQS by the end of the 2017 ozone season.
 - SIP revisions are due by January 1, 2017.
 - TCEQ has proposed a new attainment demonstration SIP revision for the Houston-Galveston-Brazoria nonattainment area for the 2008 ozone NAAQS with a 2017 attainment date.
- **Exceptional Events Rulemaking**
 - On September 16, 2016, EPA finalized a rulemaking on the treatment of air quality data influenced by “exceptional events” and guidance for addressing data influenced by wildfires.
 - The rule allows for data influenced by exceptional events to be excluded from consideration from being used for certain regulatory decisions, such as nonattainment designations.

- The rule revision removes the specific dates/timelines for submitting an exceptional events demonstration to EPA.
- For more info, visit: <https://www.epa.gov/air-quality-analysis/treatment-data-influenced-exceptional-events>
- **Upcoming Federal Regulatory Actions to Keep Track Of**
 - Final rulemaking for modeling guidelines for PM_{2.5} and ozone (received by OMB 9/2)
 - Proposal for nonattainment area SIP requirements for 2015 O₃ NAAQS (out of OMB review)
 - Fall 2016: EPA expected to publish interstate O₃ transport modeling for 2015 NAAQS.
 - 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:

- Saturday, October 8 – Keep Lockhart Beautiful Environmental Fair
- Saturday, October 14 – Sunday, October 15: Hutto Olde Tyme Days Festival
- Saturday, October 22: Elgin Hogeye Festival

Other Updates

- Air Central Texas Website, Social Media, and Electronic Outreach
 - CAPCOG launched a new “ACT” website, ACT social media accounts, and an electronic advertising campaign on Friday, September 7, 2016
 - www.AirCentralTexas.org
 - Between 9/7 and 9/27, 809 unique visitors visited the site
- Air Central Texas Awards
 - Review committee meeting 10/12
 - Awards will be announced in mid- to late-October
 - Winners and finalists will be invited to the awards luncheon in San Marcos on Friday, Nov. 4
- CAPCOG Regional Air Quality Grants Program
 - Executive Committee to consider approval of \$210,500 in grants to City of Austin, Travis County, and Austin White Lime Company at its October 12th meeting
- Regional Air Quality Phone Survey
 - CAPCOG’s annual regional air quality phone survey will be conducted in October with results available by the end of the month
- Technical projects:
 - New Ozone Conceptual Model for the CAPCOG has been finalized and posted on CAPCOG website
 - CAPCOG’s review of the 2014 National Emissions Inventory for the region and updates for selected categories is underway and expected to be completed by the end of October

- St. Edwards University is continuing to conduct balloon launches to measure ozone concentrations above-ground, with data available at: <http://ir.stedwards.edu/ozone/>.
- CAPCOG's ozone monitoring stations will be collecting data through mid-November
- TCEQ Advanced Permitting Seminar:
 - TCEQ is hosting an Advanced Permitting Seminar October 10-11 at the Palmer Events Center in Austin
 - More info at: <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/p2/events/air-permitting.html>
- 2017 Texas Environmental Excellence Awards
 - TCEQ is accepting applications for the 2017 Texas Environmental Excellence Awards.
 - Deadline has been extended through October 14, 2016.
 - For more info, go to <http://www.teea.org/apply/>.