

Monthly CAPCOG Air Quality Newsletter for the Clean Air Coalition Advisory Committee: November 2016

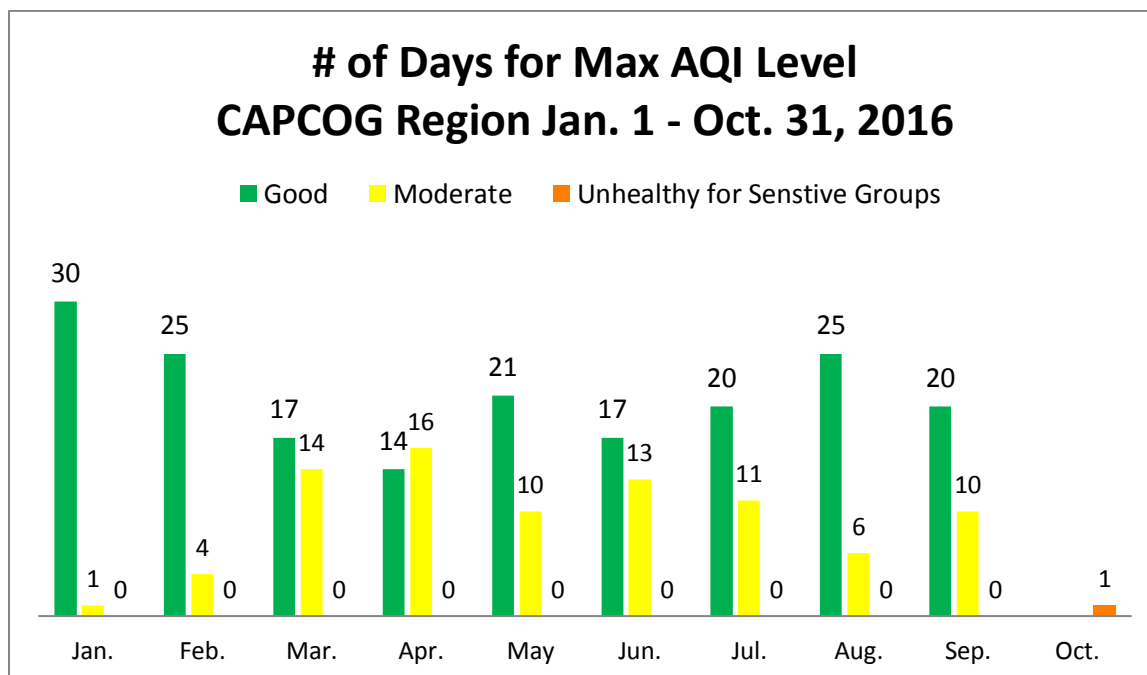
Prepared by the Capital Area Council of Governments

November 1, 2016

Air Monitoring

Austin-Round Rock MSA 2014-2016 “Design Value” through October 31, 2016: 66 ppb

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



- “Unhealthy for Sensitive Group” Days in October:
- “Moderate” Days in October:
 - Ozone:
 - Fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}):
- May Max 8-hour ozone concentration October: X ppb (X% of NAAQS)
- May Max 24-hour PM_{2.5} concentration October: X µg/m³ (X% of NAAQS)
- May Max 1-hour nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) concentration October: X ppb (X% of 1-hr NAAQS)
- May Max 1-hour sulfur dioxide (SO₂) concentration September: X ppb (X% of NAAQS)

State & Federal Updates

- **TERP Grants**
 - Emission Reduction Incentive Grants (ERIG) Program:
 - Accepting applications through **January 10, 2017**
 - \$51.7 million available
 - ***CAPCOG has hired a contractor to assist Clean Air Coalition members with applying for these grants once they become available.**
 - Clean Transportation Triangle & Alt. Fueling Facilities Program (alt. fuel infrastructure):
 - Accepting applications through **November 8, 2016.**
 - \$5.9 million available.
 - Clean School Bus:
 - Accepting applications through **November 1, 2016.**
 - \$5.9 million available.
 - Texas Clean Fleet Program (TCFP):
 - Application period closed **October 18, 2016.**
 - New Technology Implementation Grants:
 - Application period closed **October 18, 2016.**
 - 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
 - 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:**
 - Federal Register Notice for final rule published on 10/26/2016
 - Citation: 81 FR 74504
 - Link: <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-10-26/pdf/2016-22240.pdf>
- **VW Settlement**
 - Federal judge approved settlement on October 25, 2016;
 - Claims can be filed online
 - \$192 million in mitigation funds will be made available to Texas for vehicle replacement/repower projects
 - More info: <https://www.vwcourtsettlement.com/en/>
- **State Implementation Plan (SIP) Updates**

- Houston area attainment demonstration for the 2008 Ozone NAAQS due by January 1, 2017, showing attainment of the standard by the end of the year;
- TCEQ's proposed SIP revision available at:
<https://www.tceq.texas.gov/airquality/sip/hgb/hgb-latest-ozone>
- **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.

Other Updates

- Air Central Texas Website, Social Media, and Electronic Outreach:
 - CAPCOG launched the Spanish-language version of the ACT website on October 24, 2016
 - www.AirCentralTexas.org
 - Since website launch on 9/7/16 there have been X unique visitors visited the site
- Air Central Texas Awards:
 - Winner of the Public Sector Award: Fmr. Williamson County Pct. 4 Commissioner Ron Morrison
 - Winner of the Private/Non-Profit Sector Award: Lone Star Clean Fuels Alliance
 - Winner of the Bill Gill Leadership Award: Tom "Smitty" Smith from Public Citizen
 - Awards ceremony will be on Nov. 4th
- Regional Air Quality Phone Survey:
 - CAPCOG's annual regional air quality phone survey is currently underway
- Technical projects:
 - 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 November
 - 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