

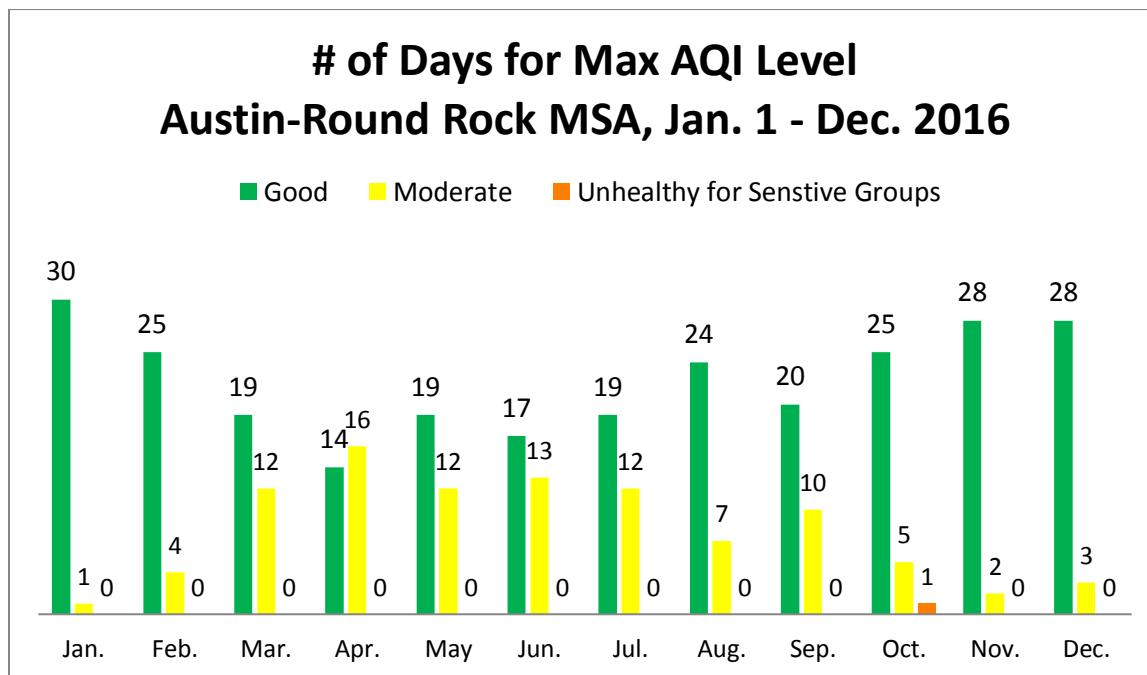
Monthly CAPCOG Air Quality Newsletter for the Clean Air Coalition Advisory Committee: January 2017

Prepared by the Capital Area Council of Governments

January 9, 2017

Air Monitoring

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



For the month of December 2016:

- Three “moderate” PM_{2.5} days, max 24-hour PM_{2.5} concentration: 17.4 µg/m³ (50% of NAAQS)
- Max 8-hour ozone concentration: 42 ppb (60% of NAAQS)
- Max 1-hour nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) concentration: 45.6 ppb (46% of NAAQS)
- Max 1-hour sulfur dioxide (SO₂) concentration: 4.0 ppb (5% of NAAQS)
- Max 8-hour carbon monoxide (CO) concentration: 0.68 (2% of NAAQS) – TCEQ began collecting CO data at CAMS 1068 (near-road monitor) on Dec. 19th

For 2016:

- 268 days with “Good” air quality, based on air quality index
- 97 days with “Moderate” air quality
 - 45 days with “Moderate” ozone levels
 - 61 days with “Moderate” PM_{2.5} levels
 - 1 day with “Moderate” NO₂ levels
 - 9 days with both “Moderate” ozone and PM_{2.5}
 - 1 day with both “Moderate” ozone and NO₂
- 1 day with air quality that was “Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups”
 - 1 day with ozone that was “Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups”
- 27% of all days had “Moderate” or worse air quality

Table below shows a comparison of each NAAQS and the corresponding data for 2016. Note that these do not include multi-year averages that are used for NAAQS compliance determinations.

Table 1. Comparison of Max Austin-Round Rock MSA Pollution Concentrations to NAAQS - 2016

NAAQS	Standard	Max Concentration – 2016
CO-8 hour	9 ppm	0.7 ppm
CO-1 hour	35 ppm	0.9 ppm
NO2-1-hour	100 ppb	53.9 ppb
NO2-annual	53 ppb	13.6 ppb
O3 max 8-hour	0.070 ppm	0.072 ppm
PM2.5-annual	12.0 µg/m ³	8.9 µ/m ³
PM2.5-24-hour	35 µg/m ³	28.3 µ/m ³
SO2-1-hour	75 ppb	4.1 ppb

State & Federal Updates

- **TERP Grants**
 - Emission Reduction Incentive Grants (ERIG) Program:
 - Addendum 1 added to Request for Grant Applications (RFGA)
 - Accepting applications through **January 10, 2017**
 - \$51.6 million available
 - Rebate Grants:
 - Next grant round expected to open in February 2017.
 - \$5 million expected to be available.
 - Natural Gas Vehicle Grant Program:
 - Accepting applications through May 26, 2017, on 1st come, 1st-serve basis
 - \$37.8 million total available, only \$1.9 million awarded to date
 - **Surplus money from this program CANNOT be transferred to other programs**
 - For more info on TERP grants, visit: <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/airquality/terp>
- **VW Settlement**
 - Texas Clean Air Working Group (TCAWG) subcommittee on VW settlement meeting Tue. 1/10/2017 2:00 pm- 3:00 pm

- Federal judge approved settlement on October 25, 2016
- Claims can be filed online
- Two sets of funds being established:
 - \$2.7 billion mitigation trust fund, of which \$192 million in mitigation funds will be made available to Texas for vehicle replacement/repower projects
 - \$2 billion to support zero-emissions vehicles
- Replacement of government-owned heavy duty vehicles and certain non-road equipment can be funded at 100% of replacement cost
- “Trust Effective Date” expected to be in January
- State has 60 days after “Trust Effective Date” to certify that it wishes to take advantage of the money
- State has 90 days after that to submit a mitigation plan for approval
- Earliest that funding might be available for disbursement would be June
- One-third of the money should be available right away
- More info: <https://www.vwcourtsettlement.com/en/> and <https://www.electrifyamerica.com/our-plan>
- Comments due on VW electrify America plan by January 13, 2017
- **Proposal for nonattainment area SIP requirements for 2015 O₃ NAAQS**
 - EPA proposed the rulemaking on November 2, 2016, and it was published in the Federal Register on November 17, 2016
 - The proposal sets State Implementation Plan (SIP) requirements for areas that will be designated nonattainment for the 2015 Ozone NAAQS
 - EPA proposed to use the same basic approach it relied on for the 1997 8-hour standard and the 2008 8-hour standard
 - Public hearing in Washington D.C. January 12, 2017
 - **Comment deadline moved back to February 13, 2017**
 - CAPCOG staff are working with AACOG staff to develop comments
 - More info: <https://www.epa.gov/ozone-pollution/implementation-2015-national-ambient-air-quality-standards-naaqs-ozone-state>
- **Update to Air Permit Modeling Guidelines**
 - Dec. 20, 2016: EPA finalized changes to its *Guideline on Air Quality Models*, which is used to prepare and review permits for new sources of air pollution
 - Updates include new approach to modeling single source modeling of secondary O₃ and PM_{2.5} formation, such as evaluating the impact of a new power plant on O₃ compliance
 - New guidelines should provide more useful information for understanding how adding a new source of emissions fits into the overall picture of ambient air quality in a region, particularly since the new guidelines will involve some level of analysis of photochemical modeling data, which was not previously required
 - More info: https://www3.epa.gov/ttn/scram/appendix_w-2016.htm
- **State Implementation Plan (SIP) Updates**

- December 8, 2016: effective date of EPA action to approve redesignation substitutes for the DFW and Houston areas for the 1-hour standard and 1997 8-hour standard
 - Permitting requirements for reverted to the “Moderate” classification for Dallas-Fort Worth and “Marginal” classification for Houston, consistent with the area’s 2008 Ozone NAAQS nonattainment area classifications
- On December 15, 2016, TCEQ adopted State Implementation Plan (SIP) revisions for the Houston area for the 2008 Ozone NAAQS for attainment of the NAAQS by the end of 2017;
 - SIP is required due to the Houston area’s failure to attain the 2008 Ozone NAAQS by the end of 2014 as is required for “Marginal” areas
 - TCEQ’s proposed SIP revision available at:
<https://www.tceq.texas.gov/airquality/sip/hgb/hgb-latest-ozone>
- **Other Periodic NAAQS Reviews**
 - PM planning document finalized December 6, 2016
 - Available at: <https://www3.epa.gov/ttn/naaqs/standards/pm/data/201612-final-integrated-review-plan.pdf>
 - Plans to propose rulemaking in 2021 and finalize rulemaking in 2022
 - If this schedule is followed, it will be 10 years between the last PM NAAQS review, completed in 2012, and the next PM NAAQS review, despite Clean Air Act requirement that NAAQS be reviewed every 5 years
 - No updates on other NAAQS reviews
- **State Legislative Issues**
 - State Legislative Session begins 1/10/2017
 - Biennial revenue estimate for FY 2018-2019 released Jan. 9, 2017:
 - \$104.87 billion in General Revenue funds
 - \$1.5 billion in balances from FY 2016-2017 included
 - \$3.1 billion from oil and gas taxes sent to Economic Stabilization Fund
 - 2.6% reduction in General Revenue available for budget certification
 - More info: <https://www.comptroller.texas.gov/transparency/reports/biennial-revenue-estimate/2018-19/docs/96-402.pdf>
 - Texas Clean Air Working Group (TCAWG) Meeting Scheduled for 10 am – 11:45 am, Jan. 19, at the Conference of Urban Counties
- **Interstate 2015 Ozone NAAQS Transport Modeling**
 - December 29, 2016: EPA posts new modeling data showing interstate transport O3 impacts in 2023
 - Austin-Round Rock MSA not included as receptor
 - Dallas-Fort Worth and Houston areas are modeled to have 2023 design values > 70 ppb without further controls
 - More info: <https://www.epa.gov/airmarkets/notice-data-availability-preliminary-interstate-ozone-transport-modeling-data-2015-ozone>

Other Updates

- Regional Air Quality Phone Survey:
 - Results will be posted online at www.capcog.org/airquality under “Technical Reports”
 - Analysis & report should be completed by the end of January
- CAPCOG staff are developing a draft near-nonattainment grant work plan for FY 2018-2019
- CAPCOG staff are also developing a work plan for a 2017 contract with the City of Austin