

Monthly CAPCOG Air Quality Newsletter: July 2016

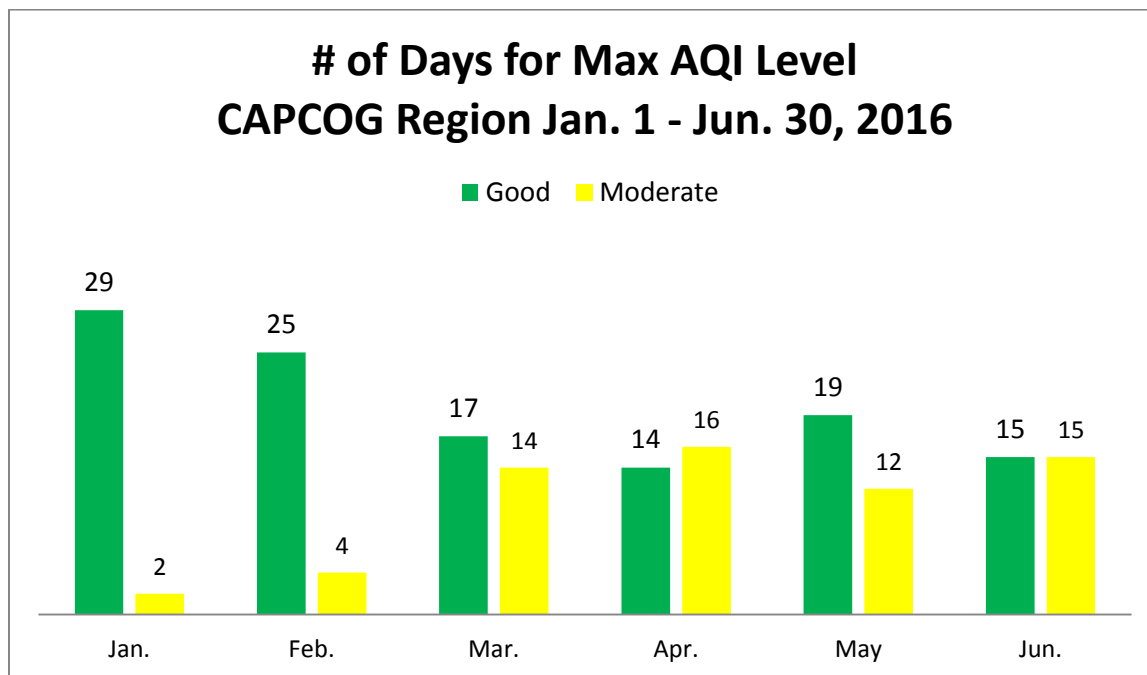
Prepared by the Capital Area Council of Governments

July 5, 2016

Air Monitoring

Austin-Round Rock MSA 2014-2016 "Design Value" through June 30, 2016: 66 ppb

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



- "Moderate" Days in June:
 - Ozone: 7 (6/5, 6/6, 6/7, 6/8, 6/9, 6/29, 6/30)
 - PM_{2.5}: 10 (6/8, 6/9, 6/11, 6/14, 6/15, 6/16, 6/18, 6/21, 6/26, 6/27)
- May Max 8-hour ozone (O₃) concentration: 66 ppb (94% of NAAQS)
- May Max 24-hour fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) concentration: 24.1 µg/m³ (69% of NAAQS)
- May Max 1-hour nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) concentration: 34.4 ppb (47% of 1-hr NAAQS)
- May Max 1-hour sulfur dioxide (SO₂) concentration: 0.8 ppb (1% of NAAQS)

State & Federal Updates

- **Volkswagen Settlement:**
 - EPA announced a partial settlement of the VW litigation on June 28, 2016.
 - 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.
 - ***There will be a 30-day comment period for the consent decree.***
 - For more info, go to: <https://www.epa.gov/enforcement/volkswagen-clean-air-act-partial-settlement>.
- **Proposed Clean Energy Incentive Program Design Details**
 - On June 30, 2016, EPA published proposed rules for the Clean Energy Incentive Program (CEIP), which is one of the components of the agency's Clean Power Plan (CPP).
 - While the CPP is currently stayed as a result of litigation, EPA is proceeding with this rulemaking in order to enable the program to move forward based on the assumption that the CPP will be upheld by the DC Circuit Court of Appeals.
 - Comments will be accepted through August 29, 2016.
 - For more info, go to: <https://www.epa.gov/cleanpowerplan/clean-energy-incentive-program>.
- **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/>.
- **TERP Grants**
 - Two New Technology Implementation Grants (NTIG) projects have been announced; neither are located in the Austin-Round Rock MSA.
 - Four Texas Clean Fleet Program projects have been announced. One project is located in the Austin-Round Rock MSA: a project to replace 20 school buses for \$1,070,220. This project is anticipated to reduce 11.03 tons of NO_x emissions at a rate of \$97,045.70 per ton.
- **State Implementation Plan Updates**
 - TCEQ will consider adoption of a SIP revision for the Dallas-Fort Worth 2008 Ozone Nonattainment Area at its July 6, 2016 meeting.
 - This SIP revision includes new air quality modeling for 2017.
 - For more information, go to: <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/airquality/sip/dfw/dfw-latest-ozone>.
- **SO₂ Designations**
 - On June 30, 2016, EPA completed its 2nd round of designations for the 2010 SO₂ NAAQS.
 - EPA has not yet taken action on some of its proposed designations in Texas.
 - An additional two rounds of designations are planned over the next few years.

- For more info, visit: <https://www.epa.gov/sulfur-dioxide-designations/sulfur-dioxide-designations-regulatory-actions>.
- **Upcoming Federal Regulatory Actions to Keep Track Of**
 - Finalization of Exceptional Events Rule expected summer 2016.
 - Finalization of revisions to PSD permit modeling rules and guidance expected summer 2016.
 - Proposal for nonattainment area SIP requirements for 2015 Ozone NAAQS expected in September 2016.
 - EPA expected to publish interstate ozone transport modeling for 2015 NAAQS in fall 2016.

Upcoming Air Quality Outreach and Education Opportunities

- No outreach/education events scheduled for July.

Other Updates

- CAPCOG expects to post a new request for applications for air quality grants in the near future.
- TCEQ scheduled to consider staff recommendations on area designations for 2015 Ozone NAAQS at the TCEQ's August 3, 2016, meeting.
- Next Clean Air Coalition (CAC) meeting: August 10, 11:15 am, or upon adjournment of CAPCOG Executive Committee meeting;