

Monthly CAPCOG Air Quality Newsletter: August 2016

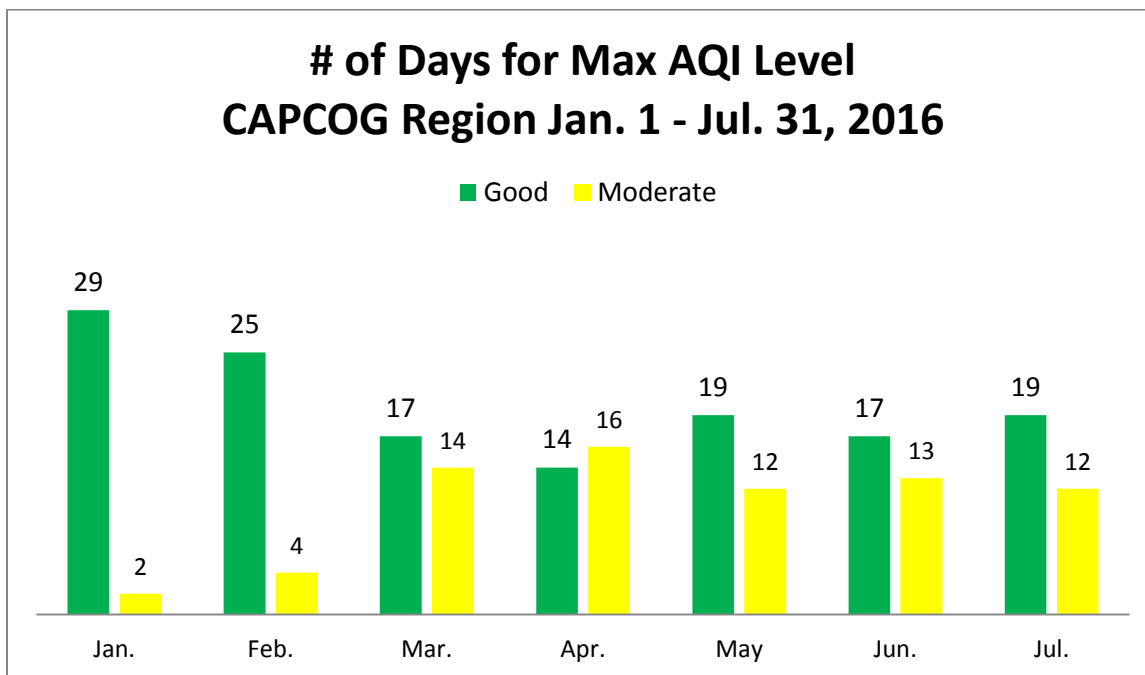
Prepared by the Capital Area Council of Governments

August 1, 2016

Air Monitoring

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

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



- "Moderate" Days in July:
 - Ozone: 1 (7/1)
 - PM_{2.5}: 11 (7/2, 7/3, 7/4, 7/8, 7/9, 7/10, 7/11, 7/12, 7/13, 7/15, 7/16)
- 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: 28.3 µg/m³ (81% of NAAQS)
- May Max 1-hour nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) concentration July: 30.2 ppb (30% of 1-hr NAAQS)
- May Max 1-hour sulfur dioxide (SO₂) concentration July: 0.9 ppb (1% of NAAQS)

State & Federal Updates

- **August 3, 2016, TCEQ Agenda Meeting:**
 - Commissioners will consider staff 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 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**
 - Natural Gas Vehicle Grant Program:
 - Accepting applications through May 26, 2017.
 - \$37.8 million available.
 - Clean School Bus:
 - Accepting applications through November 1, 2016.
 - \$5.9 million available.
 - New Technology Implementation Grants:
 - Accepting applications through October 18, 2016.
 - \$3.5 million available.
 - Clean Transportation Triangle & Alt. Fueling Facilities Program (alt. fuel infrastructure):
 - Next grant round opening August 2016.
 - \$5.9 million available.
 - Emission Reduction Incentive Grant Program (competitive replacement/repower/retrofit/infrastructure grant):
 - Next grant round opening in September 2016.
 - \$51.7 million expected to be available.
 - Rebate Grants (replacement, repower, retrofit, specified cost/ton rebate, 1st come, 1st-served):
 - Next grant round opening in February 2017.
 - \$10 million expected to be available.
- **Drive a Clean Machine (DACM) Program**
 - Travis and Williamson Counties only.
 - Provided approximately \$170,000 in assistance March 1, 2016 – May 31, 2016.
 - Funding paid for 57 vehicle emissions repairs and 46 vehicle retirements/replacements.
- **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.
- ***Comment period on consent decree ends August 5, 2016.***
- For more info, go to: <https://www.epa.gov/enforcement/volkswagen-clean-air-act-partial-settlement>.
- **State Implementation Plan (SIP) Updates**
 - TCEQ adopted SIP revisions for the Dallas-Fort Worth 2008 O₃ Nonattainment Area at its July 6, 2016 meeting. For more information, go to: <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/airquality/sip/dfw/dfw-latest-ozone>.
 - EPA expects to propose reclassifying the Houston nonattainment area for the 2008 O₃ NAAQS from “Marginal” to “Moderate,” which would mean that TCEQ would need to submit a new set of SIP revisions for the area, including an attainment demonstration showing that the area will attain the 2008 O₃ NAAQS by the end of the 2017 O₃ Season.
- **New TCEQ Photochemical Modeling Data**
 - TCEQ has posted new photochemical modeling data for a May – September 2012 that will be used as the basis for future photochemical modeling efforts for the state.
 - Data and information can be found at: <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/airquality/airmod/data/tx2012>
- **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).
 - ***Comments period ends 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/>.
- **PM NAAQS Review**
 - EPA’s Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee meeting scheduled for August 9, 2016, to discuss draft review of the EPA’s Draft Integrated Review Plan (IRP). For more information, visit: www.epa.gov/casac
- **Upcoming Federal Regulatory Actions to Keep Track Of**
 - Summer 2016: Finalization of exceptional events rule and guidance.
 - Summer 2016: Finalization of revised PSD permit modeling rules and guidance.
 - Sept. 2016: EPA proposal for nonattainment area SIP requirements for 2015 O₃ NAAQS.
 - Fall 2016: EPA expected to publish interstate O₃ transport modeling for 2015 NAAQS.

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 dates in August:

- 8/6/2016:
 - Round Rock Market Days
 - Wimberley Market Days
- 8/13/2016: Kyle Market Days
- 8/14/2016: Hope Famer's Market (Austin)
- 8/20/2016: Austin Bat Festival
- Texas Famers Market – Lakeline (Saturdays)
- Texas Farmers Markets - Mueller (Sundays)
- Barton Creek Farmers Market (Saturdays)
- Lone Star Farmers Market (Saturdays)

Other Updates

- CAPCOG Regional Air Quality Grants Program
 - Request for Applications posted July 8, 2016.
 - Guidance on estimating benefits of proposed projects anticipated to be available by August 5, 2016;
 - Applications are due August 19, 2016.
 - For more information, go to: <http://www.capcog.org/divisions/regional-services/capcog-air-quality-grants>.
- Next Clean Air Coalition (CAC) meeting: August 10, 11:30 am, or upon adjournment of CAPCOG Executive Committee meeting.
- CAPCOG is hosting a workshop on August 19, 2016, from 9:30 am – 12:00 pm: “Boosting Energy Efficiency Through Building Codes: How Municipalities Can Impact America’s Building Code”
 - Workshop is a partnership between CAPCOG, the National Association of Regional Councils (NARC), the Energy Efficient Codes Coalition (EECC), and ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI USA).
 - Intended audience: local elected officials, ICC Government Member Voting Representatives, building energy managers, and those with a shared interest in linking stronger building energy codes with reduced carbon emissions.
 - Registration: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdKV7Hw40fF4J3nlk-XKsTM_hw0CWfQ5k6YOYc14B-G8NNOtg/viewform.