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AIR CENTRAL TEXAS

Air Central Texas News and Updates

Air Quality Awareness Week was May 1 - May 5!

Air Central Texas was excited to celebrate National Air Quality Awareness Week 2017, May 1 to May 5. During the week, we created daily themes to shine a spotlight on different aspects of air quality; these themes were Wildfires, Air Quality and Asthma, Air Quality Trends, and Global Air Quality. We want to thank the following local governments for making official proclamations recognizing the week:

Travis County

Caldwell County

City of Round Rock

City of Hutto

City of Lockhart

City of Buda

To view the proclamations visit our [Air Central Texas website](#).

Air Central Texas May Contests



Take the Quiz!

Visit My Commute Solutions

Test your AQ IQ Contest!

Air Central Texas challenges you to test your air quality knowledge. Visit the [ACT Air Quality Awareness Week website](#) to learn some new facts about air quality and take our AQ IQ quiz to be entered in a drawing to win a [Fitbit Charge 2](#) or a [Yeti Rambler](#)!

My Commute Solutions - Air Central Texas Contest

We partnered with the [Commute Solutions](#) program to sponsor a prize for its May Commuter Challenge! Commute Solutions will challenge its users to log their trips using alternatives to driving alone; those who log trip will earn points that can be used to enter a drawing to win a [Fitbit Charge 2](#)!

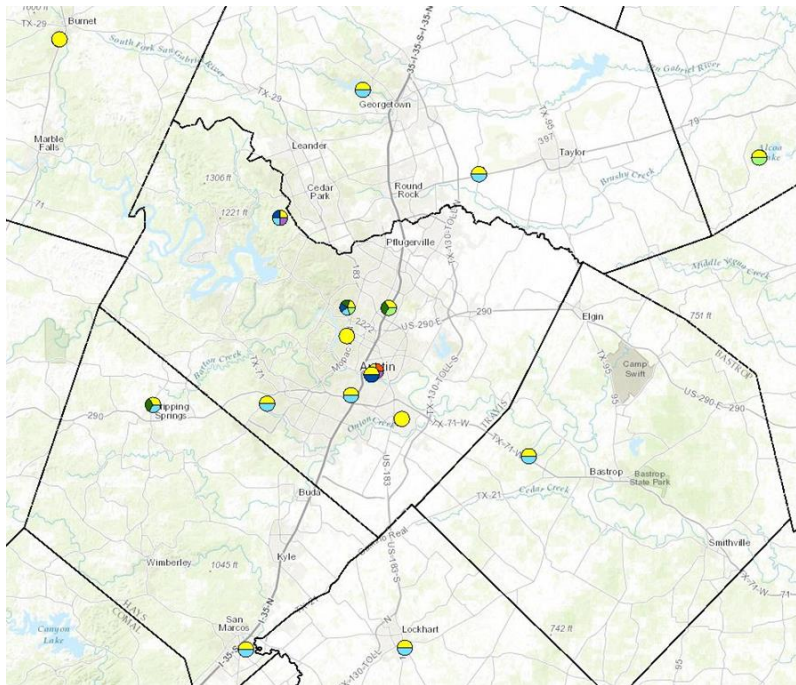
Monthly Air Aware Tip - Go Green, Protect the Air!

The weather is getting warmer, plants are starting to bloom, and we are spending more time outside; all of this makes May the perfect time for us to go green to protect our beautiful environment. Most of us know air pollution comes from industry sources such as power plants, but there are many other activities that can impact air quality.

Green Tips to protect Air Quality

1. Drive Less - personal vehicles are one of the largest sources of air pollution in the region.
 - Look at ways you can spend less time in your vehicle. The [Commuter Solutions](#) program may be able to help you out with this.
 - Maintain your vehicle. Vehicles that are not properly tuned can generate additional emissions and waste fuel.
2. Conserve Water - water use can affect air quality because a lot of energy is used to produce and treat portable water.
 - Use local plants. These plants typically require less water and maintenance than plants from other areas.
 - Use low-flow showerheads and sink faucets.
 - Water outdoor plants before or after the sun is out. Water is more likely to evaporate during daylight.
3. Reduce Waste - make an effort to limit the amount of waste you generate. This will not only reduce the need for you to buy new goods, which are likely created at a factory that generates pollution, but also reduce waste sent to landfills which generate air pollution via the landfill themselves and from equipment used at landfills like garbage trucks. [Learn more about landfill pollution.](#)

Air Quality Monitoring in Central Texas



The image above shows the network of air quality monitors in central Texas. These monitors take samples of the air and test it to identify the amount of pollution. The [Texas Commission on Environmental Quality \(TCEQ\)](#) operates many of these monitors and is now making plans on how to update the monitoring network; this includes adding and removing monitors, moving monitors, and testing for more/fewer pollutants. The TCEQ is soliciting comments on their 2017 Monitoring Network Plan, so if you have any thoughts on where our local monitors are located or which pollutants the monitors' sample please provide them to the TCEQ.

[View Monitoring Network](#)

[Submit Comment](#)

Upcoming Events

City of Georgetown Safety Expo 2017

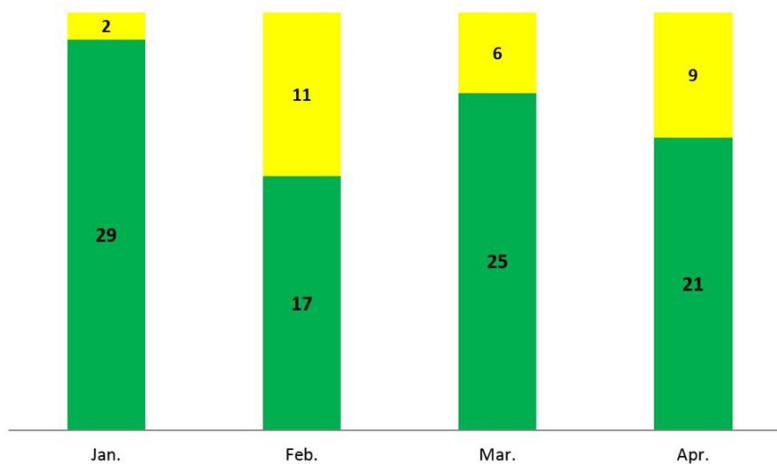
What: The Georgetown Safety Expo is an event to provide educational safety info for city employees; this year's theme: Safety at Work, Home, and Play

When: 11 am to 2 pm, Thursday, June 15, 2017,

Where: San Gabriel Community Center AKA Georgetown Community Center - 445 E. Morrow Street, Georgetown, Texas 78626



2017 Austin-Round Rock MSA Daily Air Quality Index Levels



■ Good ■ Moderate ■ Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups ■ Unhealthy

In March and April, we had 15 days of moderate air quality; five days were moderate due to fine particulate matter (PM2.5) pollution, nine days due to ozone pollution, and one day was moderate for PM2.5 and ozone pollution. To learn how these pollutants can affect public health and welfare, visit the following links:

- [Particulate Matter](#)
- [Ozone](#)

Comparing the number of moderate Air Quality Index (AQI) days in March and April 2016 to March and April 2017, we experienced a decrease in moderate days from 31 to 15 days, which is about a 50 percent decrease in the number of moderate days. However, on May 6, we saw our first day of air quality that was unhealthy for sensitive groups, and May has experienced three of our four highest ozone concentrations measured this year.

To learn more about the Air Quality Forecasting visit [Airnow.gov](#).

We need your help and your friends and family's help to make sure people understand the risks of poor air quality and how their actions can affect the air. Forward this newsletter to people you know and make an [air quality commitment](#) to help us improve local air quality.

Commit to Protect Air Quality



Air Central Texas presented by the Capital Area Council of Governments

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