

November Air Central Texas  
Newsletter

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# AIR CENTRAL TEXAS

## **Air Central Texas News and Updates**



**Find Out Who Won!**

The 2017 Air Central Texas Awards had a great group of nominees from which to select from. Learn more about each of them and find out which were selected as the winners on our website!

## **2017 Air Central Texas Awards Nominees**

### **Air Central Texas Public Sector Award**

#### **City of Austin - Transportation Department**

Nominated for their Smart Commute program where city employees can earn leave by taking sustainable trips to and from work.

#### **City of Round Rock**

Nominated for incorporating a public transit system to the list of transportation options that are available to its residents.

#### **Travis County Constable Stacy Suits**

Nominated for restarting the Clean Air Task Force which investigates vehicle emission inspection stations and vehicle registrations to ensure that Travis County vehicles are properly passing emission check requirements.

### **Air Central Texas Private/Non-Profit Sector Award**

#### **Endeavor Real Estate Group**

Nominated for its involvement in sustainable real estate in the region such as the Domain Northside which earned nine Austin Energy Green Building ratings, and its enhancement of the company's mobility strategies for its employees.

#### **Movability Austin**

Nominated for working with employers to improve access and mobility by helping employees and visitors find and use viable travel options to reduce driving alone at rush hour.

#### **Silicon Labs**

Nominated for its engagement with the region's environment and sustainability efforts with recognition as a Green Business Leader and an Austin's Energy's Green Choice Champion. Silicon Labs also has created a

strategic mobility program for employees to promote trip reduction.

## **Air Central Texas Media Award**

### **CBS Austin - Weather Team**

Nominated for consistently and reliably providing air quality forecasts during their news broadcast and online on their website.

### **Emmis Austin - Kathy Good**

Nominated for being a key media partner supporting the regional air quality messaging for at least a decade. Her dedication to the cause is evident through her enthusiasm and creative campaign planning.

## **Bill Gill Central Texas Air Quality Leadership Award**

### **David Allen, University of Texas at Austin**

Nominated for a career in which he has led air quality modeling studies that had a substantial impact on air quality policies in the state, served as Director of the Texas Air Quality Research Program, developed environmental education materials for students at the University of Texas at Austin, and served on a variety of governmental advisory panels such as the EPA's Science Advisory Board from 2012 to 2015.

### **Cathy Stephens, Travis County Government**

Nominated for a career in which she has been instrumental in the development and implementation of all four of the Austin region's ozone plans, co-chairing several Clean Air Working Groups, helping to pass legislation to allow designations of near non-attainment areas in Texas, helping pass idling legislation, and being a key staff member in getting Travis and Williamson counties to be the only counties in the country to voluntarily implement a mandatory vehicle inspection & maintenance program.

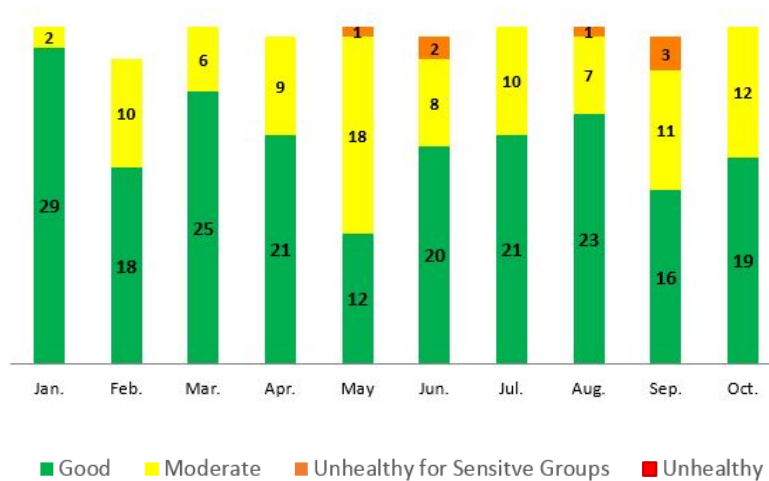
## **2015 Ozone Standard Designations**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) designated the Capital Area as in

attainment/unclassifiable of the 2015 National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) in its initial designations released Monday, Nov. 6, 2017. By maintaining its attainment designations through many regional air quality planning efforts, the region has prevented an estimated \$900 million to \$1.4 billion cost per year on the local economy according to a Capital Area Council of Governments (CAPCOG) study conducted in 2015.

The current ozone design value standard, which is used to determine NAAQS compliance, is 70 parts per billion (ppb). The capital area's design value falls just below the standard at 69 ppb making it the largest region, by population, in Texas designated as attainment/unclassifiable. The capital area includes Bastrop, Caldwell, Hays, Travis, and Williamson counties while the Capital Area also includes Blanco, Burnet, Fayette, Lee and Llano counties.

## 2017 Austin-Round Rock MSA Daily Air Quality Index Levels



After a rough September, where we experienced three days with unhealthy air quality for sensitive groups and nearly half of the month had air quality that was moderate or worse, October was a bit better, in October, there were 11 days that were moderate due to elevated levels of particulate matter, four days that were moderate due to elevated levels of ozone, and three days that were

moderate due to elevated levels of both particulate matter and ozone.

To learn how these pollutants can affect public health and welfare, go to the following

### Learn more about Particulate Matter Pollution

### Learn more about Ozone Pollution

To learn more about the Air Quality Forecasting, go to [Airnow.gov](http://Airnow.gov).

We need your help to make sure your friends and family 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 is presented by the Capital Area Council of Governments

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