

**A PROCLAMATION
RECOGNIZING MAY 4 – 8, 2026
AS AIR QUALITY AWARENESS WEEK**

WHEREAS, air quality can threaten our environment, economy, and the health of the residents of St. Edward's University; and

WHEREAS, children, older adults, people with lung disease and people with heart disease are particularly affected by poor air quality, which make up half of all residents in Central Texas; and

WHEREAS, in 2025 air quality in the Austin-Round Rock-San Marcos Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) was moderated or worse according to the Air Quality Index (AQI) for 57% of days; and

WHEREAS, in 2025, the Austin-Round Rock-San Marcos MSA exceeded the federal 8-hour ozone standard which increases the region's risk of being designated nonattainment; and

WHEREAS, in 2025, the Austin-Round Rock-San Marcos MSA exceeded the federal annual fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) standard for a second year, which increases the region's risk of being designated nonattainment; and

WHEREAS, remaining in compliance with the NAAQS is important not only for public health, but also for the region's economy and ability to conduct transportation planning; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has designated May 4 - 8, 2026, as National Air Quality Awareness Week; and

WHEREAS, the goal of the Central Texas Clean Air Coalition (CAC) is to maintain compliance with federal air quality regulations and to reduce the impacts of air pollution on public health and welfare; and

WHEREAS, St. Edward's University is committed to the efforts of the regional Central Texas CAC.

NOW THEREFORE, Paul Walter does hereby proclaim May 4 - 8, 2026 as

"Air Quality Awareness Week"

in St. Edward's University and encourages residents and employees to take action to 'Be Air Aware' and educate themselves about local air quality by visiting CAPCOG's Air Central Texas website at AirCentralTexas.org and by promoting air quality and air quality awareness within our community.