

TMACOG Air Quality Summary

(December 2011)

Air Quality Designations

Currently, Lucas and Wood Counties are in attainment with all six of the criteria pollutants which are ozone, particulate matter, nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide, carbon monoxide, and lead. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) began their required 5-year review of the ozone standard but, for a variety of reasons, any future decision on an updated standard have been delayed until 2013.

In 2004, Lucas and Wood Counties received a *Basic Nonattainment* designation for ozone, meaning that we did not meet the pollution standard. Based on monitoring results from five stations in Toledo air quality region, in 2006, TMACOG and Ohio EPA began the process of drafting a redesignation report showing that Lucas and Wood Counties are in attainment with the current ozone standard. In the August 9th 2007 Federal Register, USEPA confirmed that the two counties are in ozone attainment. Also, in December of 2008, the USEPA confirmed that Lucas and Wood Counties are in attainment with particulate matter standards. The following are the current Lucas and Wood County designations.

Ozone – Attainment

Particulate Matter – Attainment

Nitrogen Oxides - Attainment

Sulfur Dioxide – Attainment

Carbon Monoxide – Attainment

Lead – Attainment

Ozone Action Day Program

In 1993, Lucas and Wood Counties adopted the Ozone Action Day Program as a means to lowering emissions from “area” sources of pollution. These include lawnmowers, grills, and vapors from gasoline pumps, among other general sources. When an Ozone Action Day was called, all media outlets were contacted to alert the public to protect themselves if they are at high-risk for ozone related health issues and take action to help lower ozone levels.

In the spring of 2008, the USEPA lowered the pollution standard for ozone from 85 parts per billion (ppb) to 75 ppb. This change necessitated that we revise the way we implement the local ozone program. Instead of calling ozone action days, the Toledo Division of Environmental Services issued Ozone Forecasts during the Ozone Season, between the months of May through September. Forecasts are provided using the following categories:

- Good
- Satisfactory
- Precautionary measures should be taken by sensitive groups
- Caution

In addition, TMACOG implemented a marketing campaign to encourage area residents to make changes in their daily routines that would lower emission levels throughout the ozone season, not just on an ozone action day. Billboards and radio spots are used to promote the ozone season. Also, a new website was created to disseminate ozone related information (www.ozoneaction.org). The site also reports the daily ozone alert status and is updated 2-3 times per week.

Gas Cap Replacement Program

Started in 2001, the Gas cap Replacement Program concluded its tenth consecutive year of testing for leaking gas caps at area gas stations, convenience marts, businesses and local events in Lucas, Wood and Monroe Counties. An intern from the City of Toledo Division of Environmental Services conducted the program with the objective of testing vehicles and replacing defective gas caps free of charge to prevent the release of ozone causing vapors escaping from gas tanks. During the summer of 2011, 709 gas caps were tested at 29 sites. A total of 70 defective or missing gas caps were replaced. In the past nine years, the program has replaced nearly 1,600 gas caps.

Transportation Conformity Status

In June of 2011, TMACOG completed the 2035 Transportation Plan – Update 2011 and the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) 2012-2015. A part of both planning processes is an air quality conformity document showing that modeled emissions from transportation sources will be within the allowable emission budgets throughout the life of the plans. Modeling demonstrated that both plans were in conformity and TMACOG submitted the report to ODOT in May of 2011.

The TMACOG Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) conform to the requirements for total allowable emissions from motor vehicles as proscribed in the State Implementation Plan (SIP) for Air Quality. TMACOG received confirmation that the regional plans do conform to the State of Ohio plan.