

# TMACOG Air Quality Summary

## (December 2008)

### Air Quality Designations

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) has been very busy over the past few years in updating regulations and regional designations. 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 we are in attainment with the current ozone standard. In the August 9<sup>th</sup> 2007 Federal Register, USEPA confirmed that Lucas and Wood 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, a marketing campaign was established 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](http://www.ozoneaction.org)).

### **Gas Cap Replacement Program**

Started in 2001, the Gas cap Replacement Program concluded its eighth 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 (for free) defective gas caps to prevent the release of ozone causing vapors escaping from gas tanks. During the summer of 2008, 761 gas caps were tested at 28 sites. A total of 80 defective or missing gas caps were replaced. In the past eight years, the program has replaced over 1,550 gas caps.

### **Transportation Conformity Status**

In June of 2007, TMACOG completed the 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan. A part of the plan process 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 plan. Modeling demonstrated that our plan was in conformity and TMACOG submitted the report to ODOT in May of 2007.

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.