

AIR QUALITY PLANNING, 2023 OZONE SEASON DATA, & OUTREACH EFFORTS

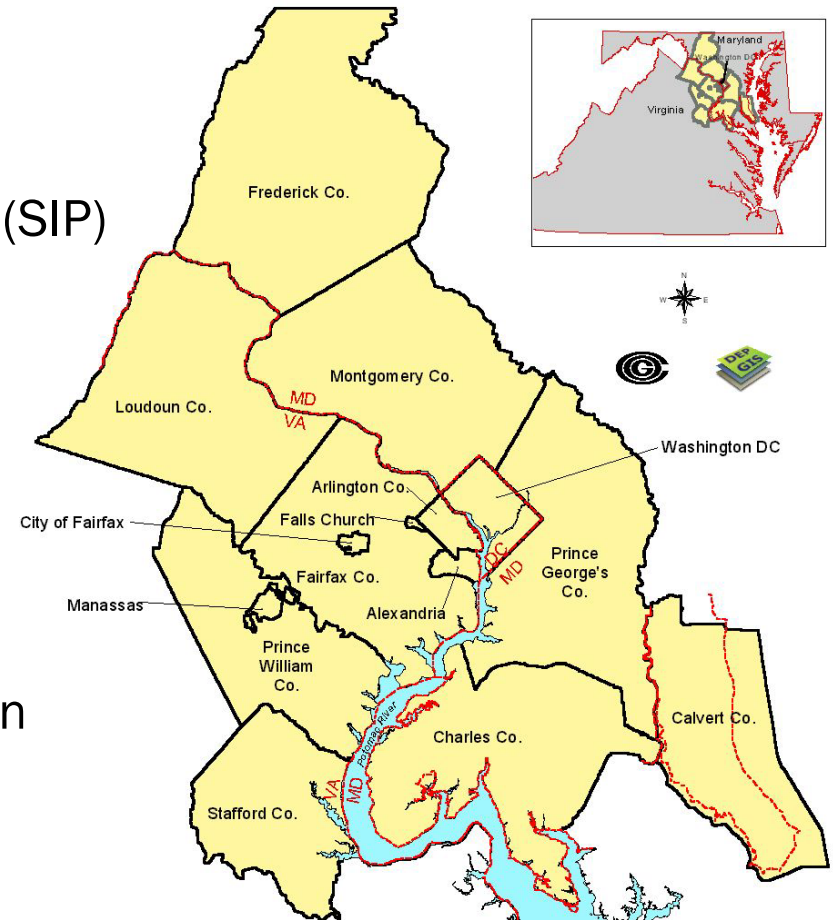
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COG Board of Directors
March 13, 2024

Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC) & Air Quality Planning

- Regional body for air quality planning, created in 1992
 - Certified by the DC Mayor/MD & VA Governors
- Prepare/revise regionwide State Implementation Plans (SIP)
- Perform other functions to improve regional air quality
- Cooperate with other committees
 - TPB, COG Board, policy committees (CEEPC/CBPC)
 - Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland
 - State air & transportation agencies and local governments
- Develop and maintain a public participation & education program
- Coordinate with Clean Air Partners



MWAQC & Planning of Criteria Air Pollutants

- EPA has identified 6 different pollutants and set standards for them. Those are called criteria pollutants.
- MWAQC is responsible for planning for ozone and fine particles (PM2.5).
- The metropolitan Washington region currently is in nonattainment of ozone standard.

CO

PM2.5/
PM10

Ozone

Lead

SO₂

NO₂

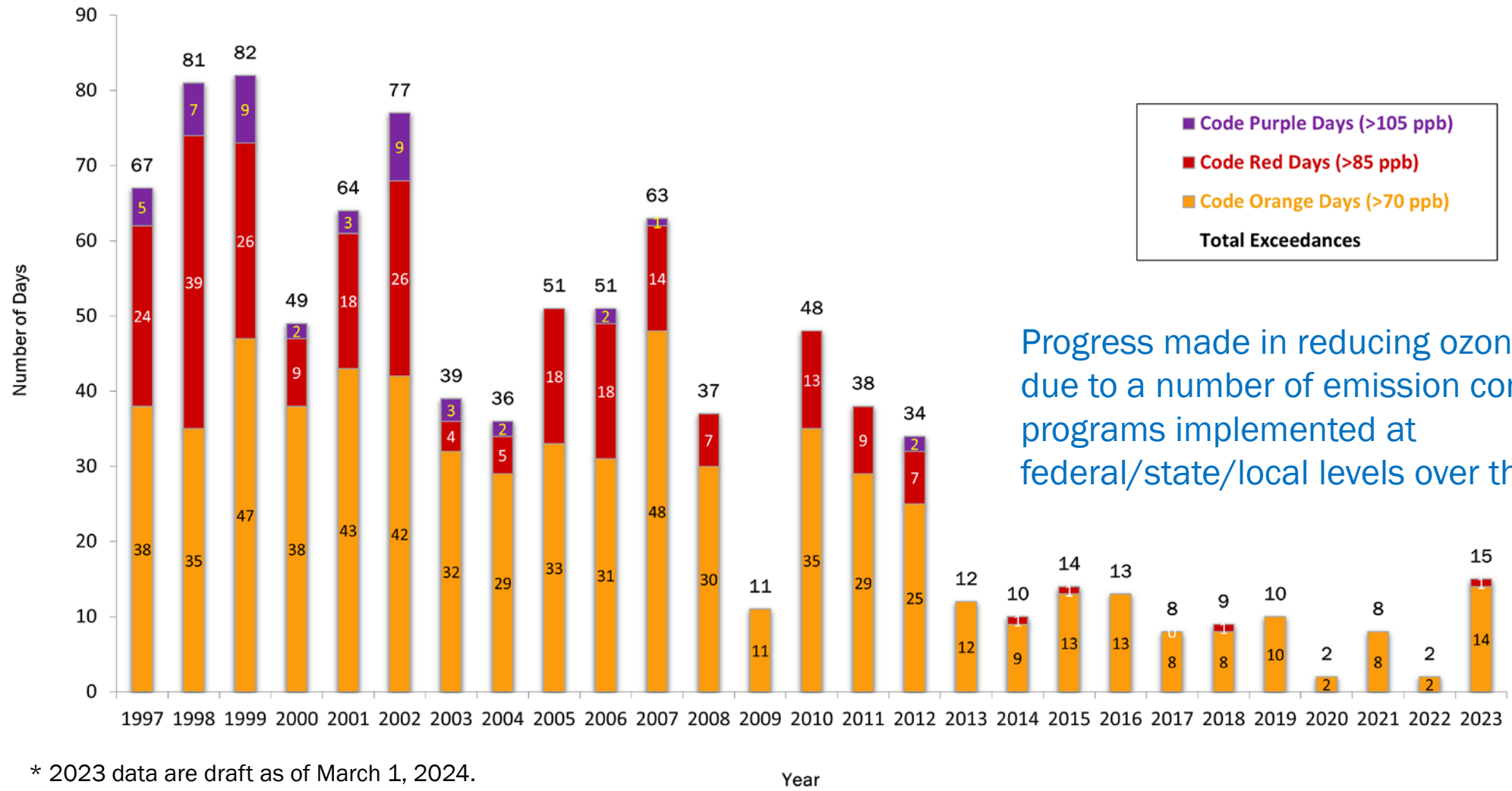
Clean Air Act Amendments 1990

Air Pollution Monitors



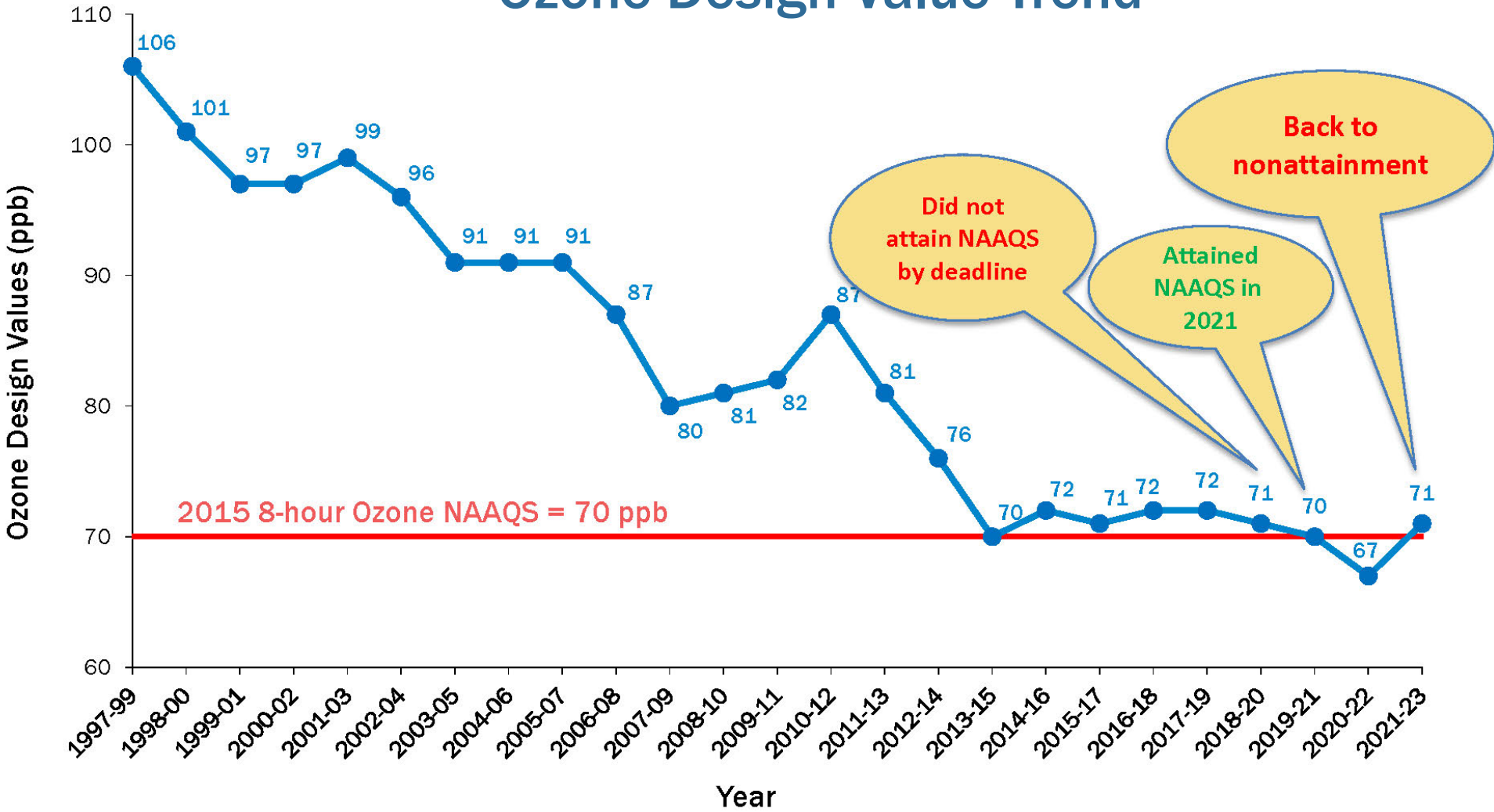
Monitor Name		Pollutants Currently Monitored					
		O ₃	PM _{2.5}	PM ₁₀	CO	NO ₂	SO ₂
1.	Takoma Rec Center	•				•	
2.	McMillan NCore	•	•	•	•	•	•
3.	DC Near Road		•		•	•	
4.	River Terrace	•	•			•	
5.	King Greenleaf		•				
6.	Frederick Airport	•					
7.	Rockville	•	•				
8.	Beltville (Howard University site)	•	•	•	•	•	•
9.	Beltville	•					•
10.	Prince George's Equestrian Center	•					
11.	Calvert	•					
12.	Southern Maryland	•					
13.	James S. Long Park	•				•	
14.	Ashburn	•	•			•	
15.	Springfield Near Road		•		•	•	
16.	Lee District Park	•	•	•			•
17.	Tucker Elementary School			•			
18.	Aurora Hills	•	•		•	•	

Ozone Exceedance Days Under the 2015 Ozone Standard (70 ppb)



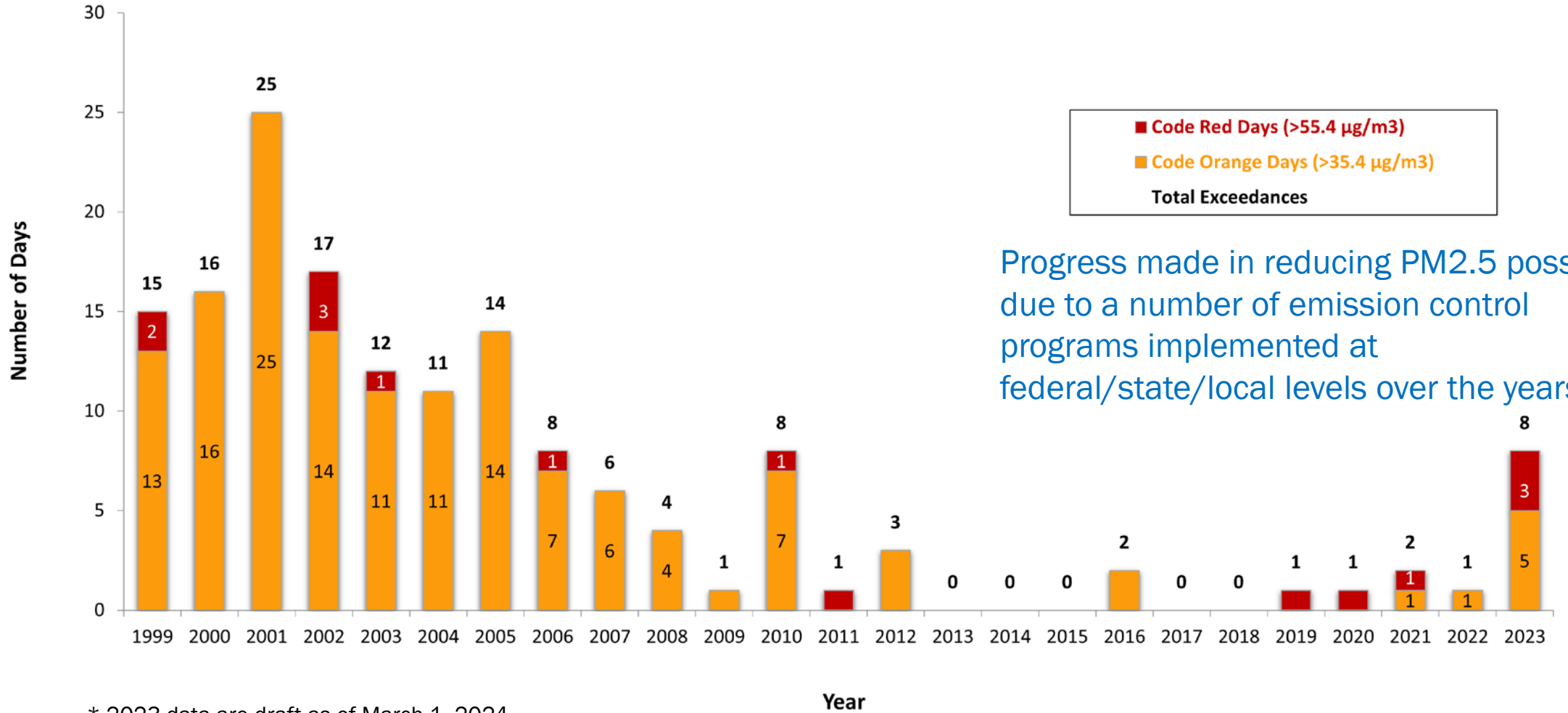
* 2023 data are draft as of March 1, 2024.

Ozone Design Value Trend



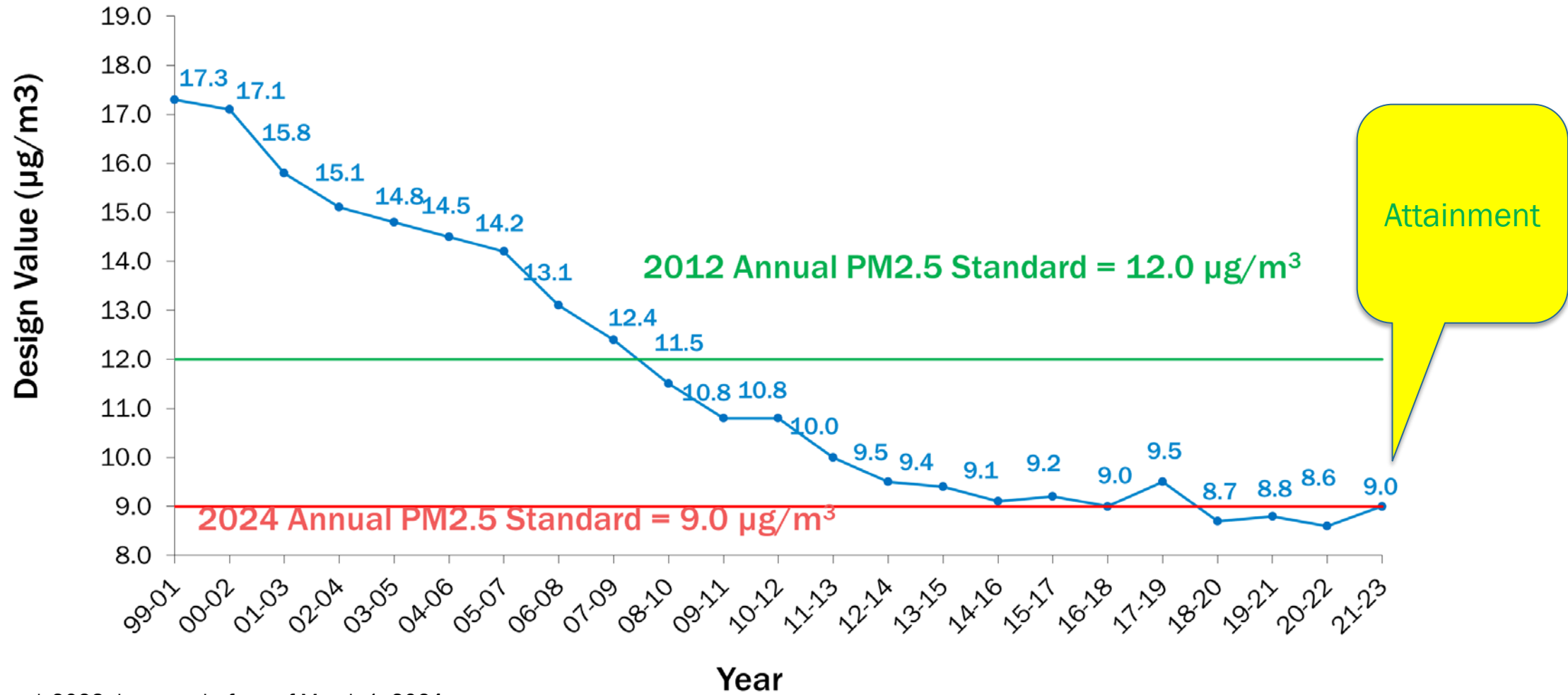
* Design value is a parameter calculated based on three consecutive years' worth of data and is used by EPA to evaluate attainment of a pollutant. 2023 data are draft as of March 1, 2024.

PM2.5 Exceedance Trend



Progress made in reducing PM2.5 possible due to a number of emission control programs implemented at federal/state/local levels over the years.

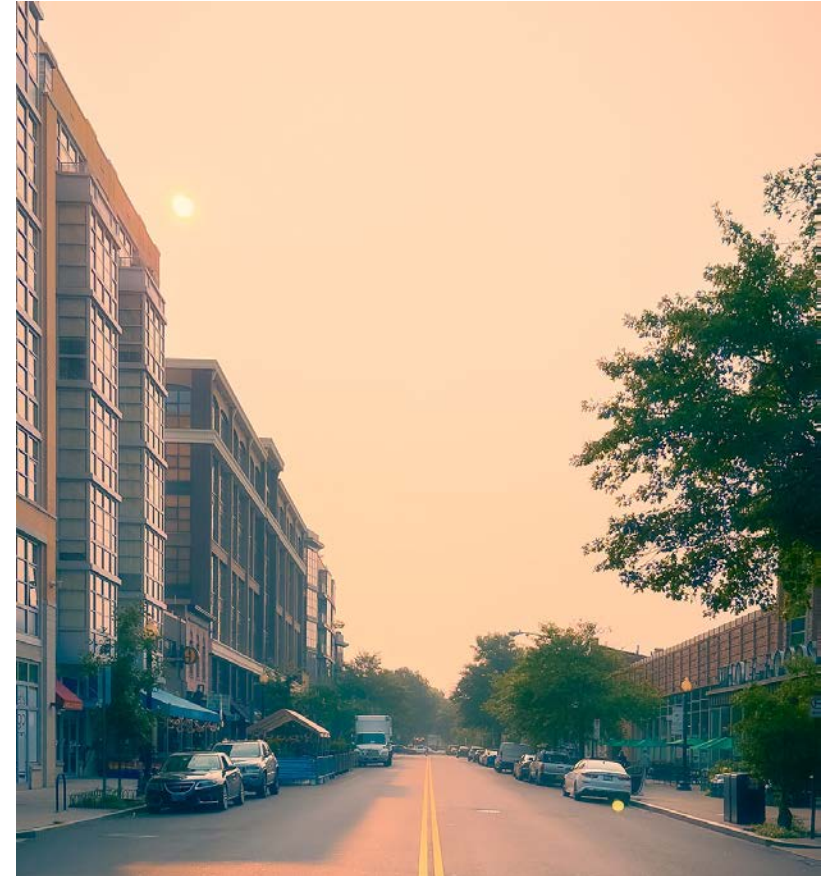
Annual PM2.5 Design Values – Metropolitan Washington



* 2023 data are draft as of March 1, 2024.

Wildfires & Air Quality Planning Efforts

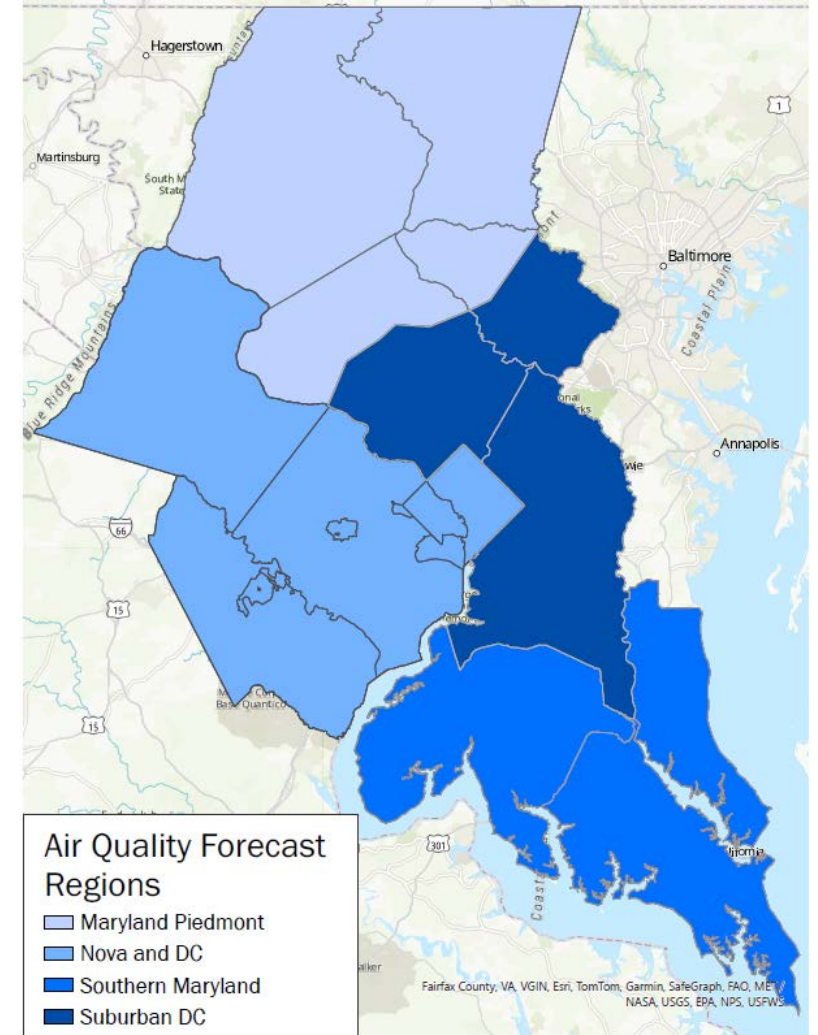
- The 2023 Ozone Season involved serious exceedances of the ozone NAAQS, in part due to smoke traveling to the region generated by Canadian Wildfires. Unusually high PM2.5 levels were also recorded during those wildfire events.
- State air agencies recently requested EPA to exempt high ozone data in 2023 caused by the Canadian wildfires.
 - If approved, the metropolitan Washington region would continue to attain the ozone standard
 - If not, the region will prepare a plan to attain the standard



2023.06.29 Logan Circle (Ted Eytan/[Flickr](#))

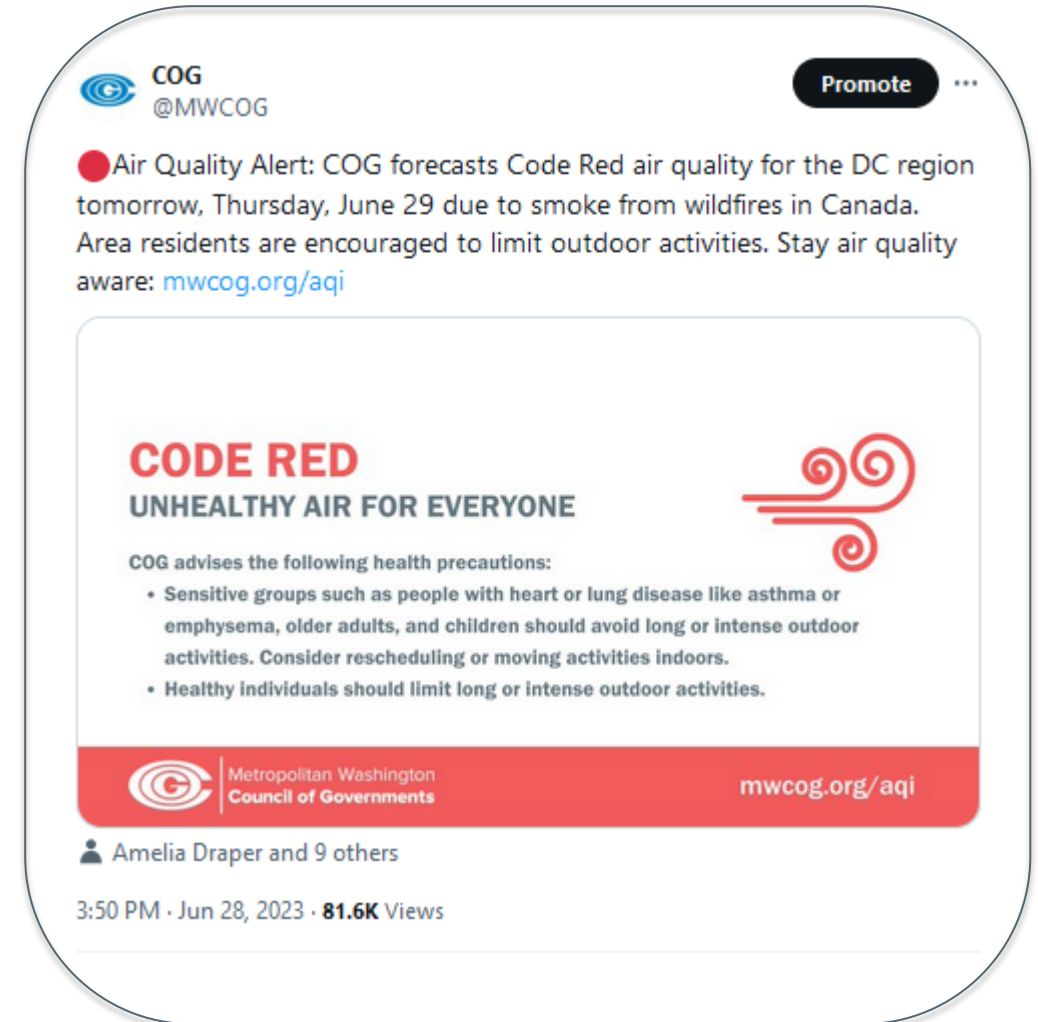
Air Quality Forecasting

- Daily forecasts for ozone (during summer) and fine particles (through year) to the public.
- Real-time alerts to the public on high ozone and fine particle days (Code Orange and worse days).
- Starting this summer, COG will be issuing forecasts for four sub-regions instead of just one forecast for the entire metro area.
 - Maryland Piedmont
 - Suburban DC
 - Northern Virginia/District of Columbia
 - Southern Maryland



Communications and Outreach

- COG issues health notifications/alerts when the forecast or current air quality is Code Orange, Red, or Purple.
- Outreach to:
 - Local media/meteorologists
 - Public information officers
 - Emergency managers
 - Public through social media and website
- COG partners with State Air Agencies, National Weather Service, and Clean Air Partners



Air Quality Materials and Tools

COG offers a variety of materials to communicate air quality information:

- COG website
- Social media platforms
- Air Quality Dashboard
- Air quality social graphics (English and Spanish)
- New wildfire messaging
- Clean Air Partners



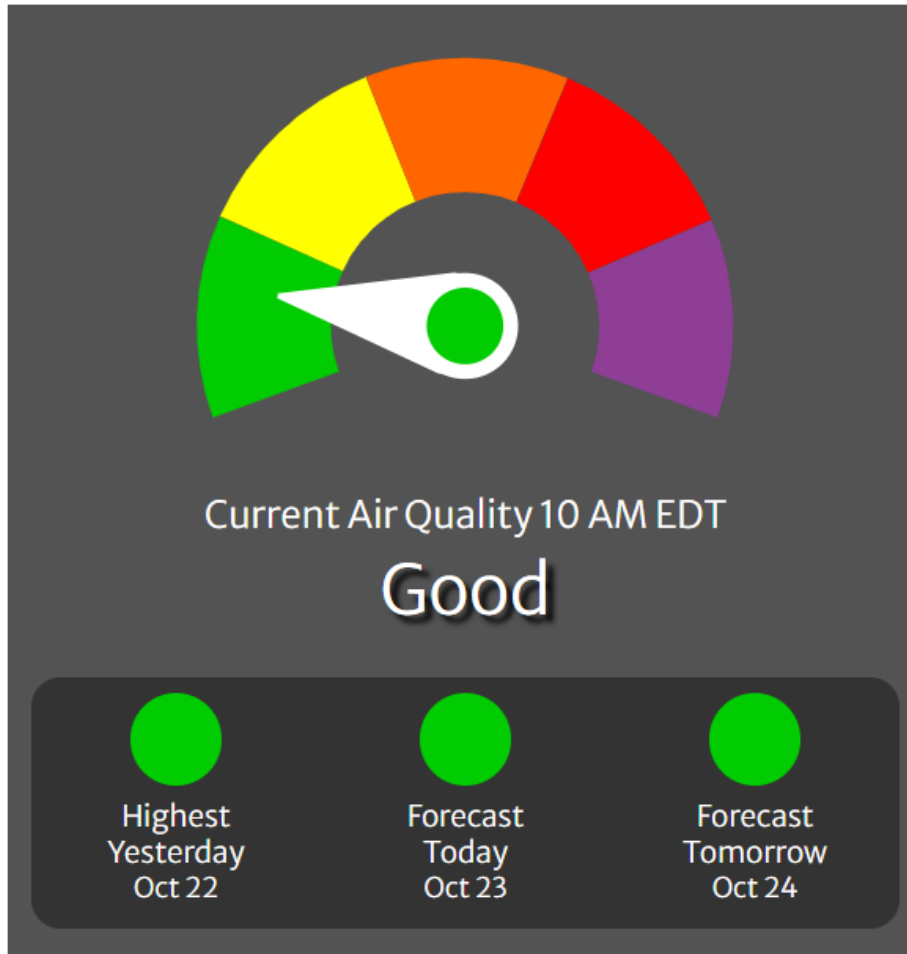
CÓDIGO NARANJA
INSALUBRE PARA GRUPOS SENSIBLES

En estos días de aire insalubre, COG recomienda:

- Usar el transporte público, comparta el vehículo o trabaje desde casa.
- Apagar las luces y los aparatos electrónicos cuando no estén en uso para usar menos electricidad.
- Llenar su tanque de gasolina después de la caída del sol.

 Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments mwkog.org/aqi

Air Quality Forecast



Air Quality Index	Who Needs to be Concerned?	What Should I Do?
Good (0-50)		It's a great day to be active outside.
Moderate (51-100)	Some people who may be unusually sensitive to particle pollution.	Unusually sensitive people: Consider making outdoor activities shorter and less intense. Watch for symptoms such as coughing or shortness of breath. These are signs to take it easier. Everyone else: It's a good day to be active outside.
Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups (101-150)	Sensitive groups include people with heart or lung disease, older adults, children and teenagers, minority populations, and outdoor workers.	Sensitive groups: Make outdoor activities shorter and less intense. It's OK to be active outdoors, but take more breaks. Watch for symptoms such as coughing or shortness of breath. People with asthma: Follow your asthma action plan and keep quick relief medicine handy. People with heart disease: Symptoms such as palpitations, shortness of breath, or unusual fatigue may indicate a serious problem. If you have any of these, contact your health care provider.
Unhealthy (151-200)	Everyone	Sensitive groups: Avoid long or intense outdoor activities. Consider rescheduling or moving activities indoors.* Everyone else: Reduce long or intense activities. Take more breaks during outdoor activities.
Very Unhealthy (201-300)	Everyone	Sensitive groups: Avoid all physical activity outdoors. Reschedule to a time when air quality is better or move activities indoors.* Everyone else: Avoid long or intense activities. Consider rescheduling or moving activities indoors.*

Clean Air Partners

- Public-private partnership founded in 1995 by COG and Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC)
- Comprised of 30 organizations from:
 - Local governments (DC, MD, and VA)
 - State transportation and environmental agencies
 - Businesses and major employers
 - Advocacy groups (health, environmental, education, and transportation)
- Founded to improve the Baltimore-Washington region's air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions through voluntary actions AND increase public awareness about the health effects of air quality.



Clean Air Partners Goals

Educate residents in the DC and Baltimore metropolitan area about air quality – what it is, how to measure it, and how to respond to it.

Provide residents with tips for small changes that they can make in their day-to-day lives to positively impact air quality in the DC and Baltimore metropolitan communities.

Ultimately, turn this education into action, increasing residents' positive contributions to the air quality in their communities.

Clean Air Partners Education and Outreach Activities

Ramping up for the Summer and Ozone Season

- Digital & Social Media
- Partner Engagement
- Meteorologist Engagement
- Media Relations
- Outreach Events
- Cornerstone Activations

Air Quality Awareness Week - First Week of May

- Kick off summer campaign
- Partner outreach, digital toolkit
- Media relations
- Ace Hardware store chain partnership
- Announce gas-powered tool exchange/electric-tool giveaway later in the month

Lawn and Garden Exchange – Late May to Early June

- Gas-powered tool exchange/ electric-tool giveaway
- Backyard Bubble event to drive attention and participation
- Sponsorships and partnerships to amplify efforts



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