

R1- 2015
DRAFT for May 20, 2015

Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee

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RESOLUTION ON THE METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON AIR QUALITY COMMITTEE'S GOALS FOR REDUCING EMISSIONS IN THE METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON REGION

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC) is charged with developing regional air quality plans for ozone, fine particulate matter and carbon monoxide as well as regulatory and non-regulatory controls and initiatives to improve regional air quality and ensure public health protection; and

WHEREAS, the Region has benefited from federal, state and local actions across sectors that, even while accommodating considerable growth, have achieved significant reductions in levels of air pollutants and has attained the National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for five out of six criteria pollutants; and

WHEREAS, the region has not attained the existing NAAQS for ozone and the Environmental Protection Agency has proposed to further reduce the NAAQS for ozone, with a final regulation scheduled to be published in October, 2015; and

WHEREAS, although the region has made significant progress improving air quality in recent years, monitors within the region show that citizens living in the Washington area continue to breath unhealthy air on high ozone days; and

WHEREAS, unhealthy levels of ozone pollution pose risks to all exposed populations, with sensitive groups such as children, older adults, and people with respiratory conditions being most vulnerable; and

WHEREAS, identifying and implementing additional cost-effective actions through a Regional Action Plan that could further reduce ozone levels will assist in protecting public health; and

WHEREAS, MWAQC has worked with state and local governments to develop the Gold Book containing a menu of state and local emission control measures and best practices for potential implementation as listed in the two attached documents; and

WHEREAS, MWAQC will routinely update the menu of options as new measures and best practices are identified; and

WHEREAS, MWAQC recognizes that its member agencies each have unique circumstances that require a flexible regional approach when evaluating and implementing emissions control strategies

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BY THE METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON AIR QUALITY COMMITTEE THAT IT:

1. Supports implementation of an early Regional Action Plan to address the current and the future ozone NAAQS and to better protect public health; and
2. Is committed to achieving reductions in air pollutant emissions through a broad range of cost-effective control measures across multiple sectors; and
3. Requests COG staff to provide periodic updates on the status of implementation of the Regional Action Plan as well as other mobile and non-mobile air quality emission reduction strategies by state and local governments in the region and new federal emission reduction measures.

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Attachments

1. Regional Action Plan – Potential state-level ozone reduction measures for the MWCOG region
2. Regional Action Plan – Potential local-level ozone reduction measures for the MWCOG region