

Austin-Round Rock Metropolitan Statistical Area Annual Air Quality Report January 1, 2013 – December 31, 2013

Prepared by the Capital Area Council of Governments Air Quality Program

Approved by the Central Texas Clean Air Coalition on June 25, 2014

1 Executive Summary

The Central Texas Clean Air Coalition (CAC) signed up to participate in the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Ozone Advance Program on May 16, 2012. In its letter to EPA, the CAC indicated that the emission reduction measures that were included in the region's 8-Hour Ozone Flex Plan (8-O3 Flex Plan) would remain in effect through December 31, 2013, and would then be replaced by a new action plan. As part of its ongoing planning efforts, and in accordance with the requirements of both the 8-O3 Flex Program and the Ozone Advance Program, the CAC submitted annual air quality reports in June 2012 and June 2013. These reports included information covering May 1 – April 30, based on when the 8-O3 Flex Plan was originally adopted. This year's report shifts the coverage period to the previous calendar year (January 1 – December 31) in order to align the report with emissions inventory and air monitoring data, and in order to simplify data collection, since stakeholders often only had data available on a calendar year or fiscal year (October 1 – September 1) basis.

This report provides:

- an update on the region's compliance with the ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) and analysis of ambient air quality data collected in 2013;
- a review of emission reduction measures implemented in 2013, including a comparison of what was implemented compared to each participant's commitments;
- a review of ozone planning and outreach and education activities completed in 2013;
- a review of ozone-related technical research completed in 2013; and
- a look forward to developments that could have impacts on regional air quality planning.

This report is intended to both fulfill EPA's program requirements for reporting under the Ozone Advance Program and to provide the region's stakeholders with regular review of the extent to which the region is meeting its air quality goals. As expressed in the Ozone Advance Program Action Plan adopted by the CAC in December 2013, the region's goals are to:

1. Stay in attainment of the 2008 eight-hour ozone NAAQS of 75 parts per billion (ppb);
2. Continue reducing the region's 8-hour ozone design value to avoid being designated nonattainment;
3. Put the region in the best possible position to bring the area into attainment of an ozone standard expeditiously if it does violate an ozone standard or gets designated nonattainment;
4. Reduce the ozone exposure of vulnerable populations on high ozone days, and
5. Minimize the costs to the region of any potential future nonattainment designation.

The Action Plan describes the steps that participants plan to take to achieve these goals and to track performance over the period covered by the plan, January 1, 2014 – December 31, 2018. This year's report will provide the starting point for discussions about action plan updates scheduled for the end of this year. As part of the annual report, the Capital Area Council of Governments (CAPCOG) collected data from each plan participant on some key indicators that can be used to independently monitor performance of measures and to compare performance across entities. Plan participants were asked to submit data on their vehicle and equipment fleets, fuel consumption, electricity consumption, resource consumption, and contracted services that can result in emissions. These data will enable quantification of the emission reduction benefits of activities described in this plan.