

# AGENDA



## Recommendation for Council Action

### AUSTIN CITY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting: November 29, 2018

Item Number: **037**

### Transportation

Approve a resolution authorizing the City to participate in the 2019-2023 regional air quality plan as a member of the Capital Area Council of Governments.

<b>Lead Department</b>	Austin Transportation Department
<b>Fiscal Note</b>	This item has no fiscal impact.
<b>Prior Council Action</b>	<p>Resolution No. 20010322-048 - 2002 Regional 1-hour O3 Flex Agreement</p> <p>Resolution No. 20031204-056 - 2004 Clean Air Action Plan for the Early Action Compact</p> <p>Resolution No. 20080228-054 - 2008 Regional 8-hour O3 Flex Agreement, and</p> <p>Resolution No. 20131024-057 - 2013 Ozone Advance Program Action Plan</p>
<b>For More Information</b>	Robert Spillar, 512-974-2488; Cari Buetow, 512-974-6368; Gilda Powers, 512-974-7092.

### Additional Backup Information:

The City has a long history of participating in regional clean air plans in coordination with the Central Texas Clean Air Coalition, facilitated by the Capital Area Council of Governments (CAPCOG). The region's current Ozone Advance Program Action Plan is set to expire at the end of 2018. A new regional air quality plan for 2019-2023 is being drafted and is expected to be in place by January 1, 2019. Specific City of Austin measures to be incorporated into the new regional air quality plan are listed below. The level of commitment is similar to the City's commitment in the previous Ozone Advance Program Action Plan (2013-2018); there is no additional financial commitment associated with this action, as the City's participation in regional Air Quality efforts is ongoing.

### **Emission Reduction Measures**

The City commits to the following tier 1, tier 2, and additional emission reduction measures in the regional air quality plan for 2019-2023 covering four broad categories:

1. Measures to reduce air pollution from the use of personal vehicles;
2. Measures to reduce air pollution from the use of fleet/commercial vehicles and equipment;
3. Measures to reduce air pollution from power plants and other stationary combustion sources; and
4. Measures to promote awareness of air quality and reduce the public's exposure when air pollution levels are high.

The following departments were included in review and selection of the measures: Austin Transportation Department, Office of Sustainability, Austin Energy, Aviation Department, Human Resources Department, Austin Water, Public Works Department, Purchasing Office, Development Service Department, Planning and Zoning Department, Fleet Services, Communications and Technology Management.

A large majority of the measures below are already documented in existing plans and policies of the City and are ongoing. No new fiscal impacts are anticipated.

#### ***Tier 1***

These measures are recommended by CAPCOG for all Clean Air Coalition members. Staff agree that these are achievable within the five-year term of the regional air quality plan.

- Educating employees about regional air quality and encouraging them to sign up for daily air quality forecasts and Ozone Action Day alerts;
- Where feasible, encourage employees to telecommute at least once a week and on all Ozone Action Days;
- When employees are not telecommuting, encourage them to take low-emission modes of transportation, such as carpooling, vanpooling, transit, biking, and walking;
- Where flexible schedules are allowed, encourage employees to consider work schedules with start times earlier than 8 am rather than later in the morning due to the higher impact of emissions on O<sub>3</sub> levels later in the morning;
- Conserve energy, particularly on Ozone Action Days;

- Establish and enforce idling restriction policies for use of the City's vehicles, equipment, and property;
- Establish fleet management policies that prioritize the use of vehicles and equipment with low NO<sub>x</sub> rates;
- Educate fleet users on driving and equipment operation practices that can reduce NO<sub>x</sub> emissions;
- Reschedule discretionary emission-generating activities, such as, engine testing and refueling to late afternoon rather than the morning, particularly on Ozone Action Days; and
- Seek funding to accelerate replacement of older, higher-emitting vehicles and equipment with newer, cleaner vehicles and equipment, such as Texas Emission Reduction Plan (TERP) grants.

## ***Tier 2***

These measures are recommended by CAPCOG and staff agree that these are achievable within the five-year term of the regional air quality plan.

- Establish low-NO<sub>x</sub> purchasing policies for new on-road vehicles, non-road equipment, and stationary equipment;
- Provide incentives to employees to avoid single-occupancy vehicle commuting, particularly on Ozone Action Days;
- Enforce vehicle idling restrictions included in City ordinance; and
- Educating the public about regional air quality and encouraging them to sign up for daily air quality forecasts and Ozone Action Day alerts.

## ***Additional Measures***

Staff have identified the additional measures below and agree that they are achievable within the five-year term of the regional air quality plan.

- Continue to offer a commute trip reduction program to City employees (Commute Connections) and encourage use of private sector commute trip reduction programs;
- Where compressed work week schedules are allowed, encourage employees to consider work schedules that allow them to work fewer but longer days, such as, four 10-hour days each week (4/40), or 9-hour days with one day off every two weeks (9/80);
- Explore and implement ways for City of Austin employees to reduce or alter travel for mid-day trips;
- Continue to increase fleet fuel efficiency per existing fleet plans;
- Where appropriate continue to increase the purchase of alternative fuels (E85 flex fuel, B20, propane, CNG, hybrid, electric) for fleet vehicles;
- Continue to maintain all city fleet vehicles by manufacturer specifications;
- Encourage event organizers to identify emission reductions opportunities before and during

their event;

- Continue to support the vision of the Urban Forest Program as trees benefit air pollution removal; and
- Remain committed to creating transit-supportive densities by optimizing land use adjacent to the Transit-Priority Network corridors.

Austin-Bergstrom International Airport (ABIA) measures include:

- o Where practicable continue to provide terminal infrastructure to reduce the use of auxiliary power units during passenger boarding and aircraft serving;
- o Provide alternative fuel opportunities for off-site parking companies at ABIA, including, installation of public charging stations to support electric vehicles and a public fast charging station;
- o Continue providing fast-charge electric stations on airport terminal ramp to support airline ground service equipment;
- o Where practicable continue to partner with airlines to convert ground support equipment fleet to electric;
- o Continue using dedicated propane mowers to maintain the non-secure part of the airport; and
- o Continue maintaining publicly accessible alternative fuel infrastructure.

Austin Energy measures include:

- o Austin Energy Resource and Generation Plan goals, including, retirement of large fossil-fired electricity generating units;
- o Green Building Program;
- o Residential energy efficiency incentives, including for appliances, weatherization, and thermostats;
- o Increase the usage of electric vehicles and electric fueling stations; and
- o Increased renewable energy generation
  - Green Choice
  - Community Solar
  - Rooftop solar performance-based incentives.

### **Status of Air Quality in Central Texas**

The current National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) design value threshold, also called the standard, for ozone is 70 parts-per-billion (ppb). Through the end of 2017, the regional ozone levels were only 1% below the maximum allowable under federal standards. The ozone levels recorded in 2018 suggest that we still have a significant risk of violating federal standards if we do not remain

attentive. A non-attainment designation requires the region to take additional measures as prescribed by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and EPA which would be documented in the State Implementation Plan.

### **Background**

Historically the regional air quality plans have encouraged expeditious emission reductions and helped Central Texas continue to meet the NAAQS. The City has been a key participant in the following efforts:

- 2002 Regional 1-hour O<sub>3</sub> Flex Agreement (Council Resolution 010322-48),
- 2004 Clean Air Action Plan for the Early Action Compact (Council Resolution 031204-56),
- 2008 Regional 8-hour O<sub>3</sub> Flex Agreement (Council Resolution 20080228-054), and
- 2013 Ozone Advance Program Action Plan (Council Resolution 20131024-057).

The previous emission reduction plans have contributed to lower ozone levels, thus maintaining regional compliance with the EPA NAAQS for ozone. The success of these planning efforts can largely be attributed to the regional collaborative efforts of the Central Texas Clean Air Coalition which is comprised of elected officials from the region and facilitated by CAPCOG.