

# City of Austin Environmental Commission

## Air Quality Update

June 5, 2019

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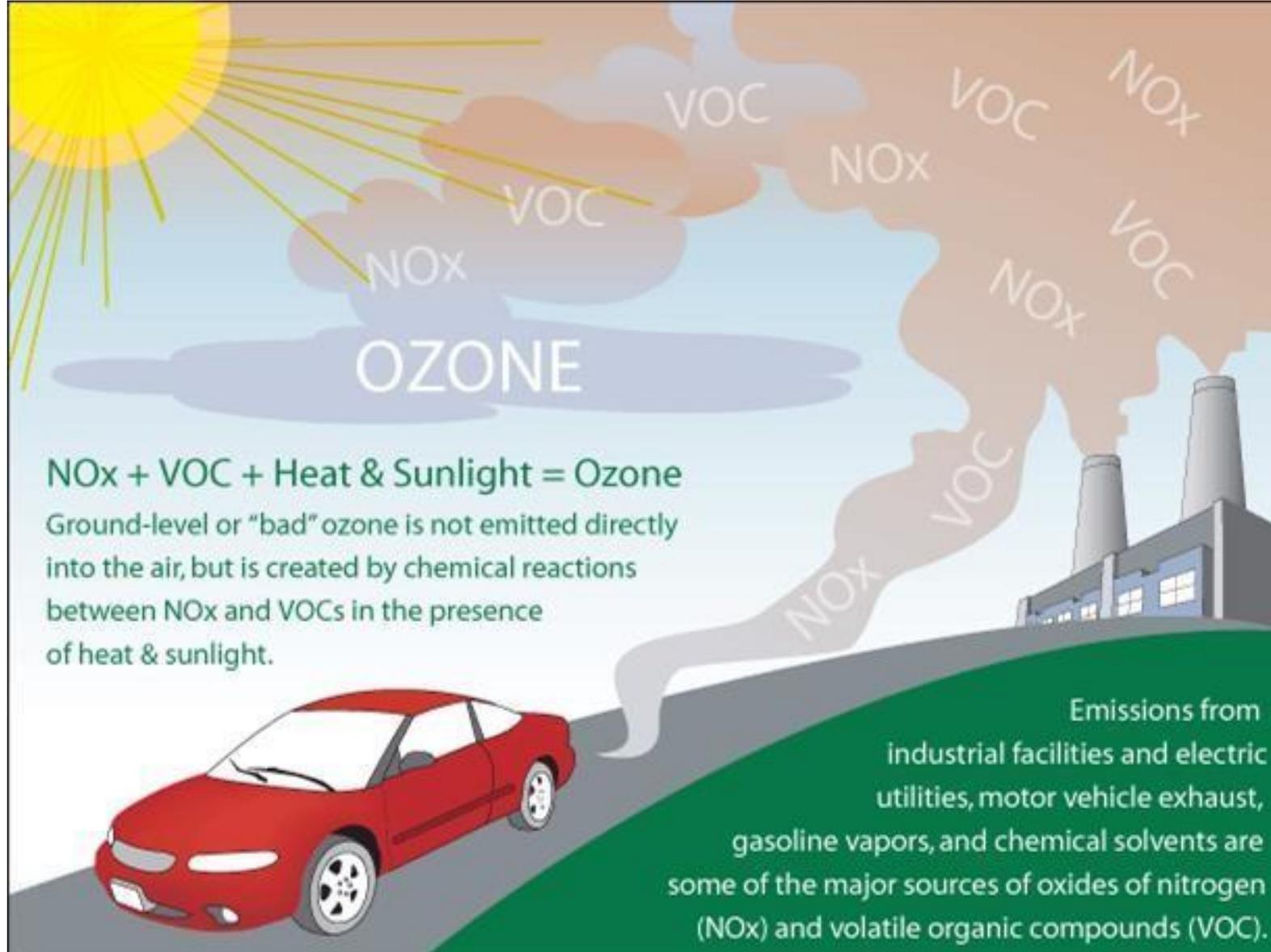


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# What is Ground Level Ozone?



# Why is Ozone a Problem?



Source: [www.nps.gov/subjects/air/nature-ozone.htm](http://www.nps.gov/subjects/air/nature-ozone.htm)

## WHAT ARE THE EFFECTS OF GROUND-LEVEL OZONE

### BREATHING OZONE CAN TRIGGER A VARIETY OF HEALTH PROBLEMS

Even at relatively low levels, ground-level ozone can be harmful to human health and the environment. It is especially a problem in urban and suburban communities; however winds can carry ozone precursor-emissions many miles from their original sources, affecting rural areas as well.

Children are at the greatest risk, because of their developing lungs and frequent outdoor activity. Anyone with a compromised respiratory system is especially vulnerable to ozone. Even healthy adults can be affected when working or playing outdoors.

- Coughing  
Difficulty breathing deeply and vigorously
- Sore or scratchy throat  
Inflamed and damaged airways
- Shortness of breathes and pain when taking a deep breath
- Aggravation for lung diseases like asthma, emphysema, and chronic bronchitis
- Increased frequency of asthma attacks
- Greater susceptibility to lung infection
- Continued damage to the lungs even after symptoms have disappeared

Source: [aircentraltexas.org/en/regional-air-quality/what-is-ground-level-ozone](http://aircentraltexas.org/en/regional-air-quality/what-is-ground-level-ozone)



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# What is the City of Austin Doing to Maintain Good Air Quality?

- Joined the new 2019-2023 Regional Air Quality Plan – effective December 21, 2018
- The City of Austin made over 30 commitments to emission reduction measures in the regional plan
- Approved by Council Resolution on November 29, 2018



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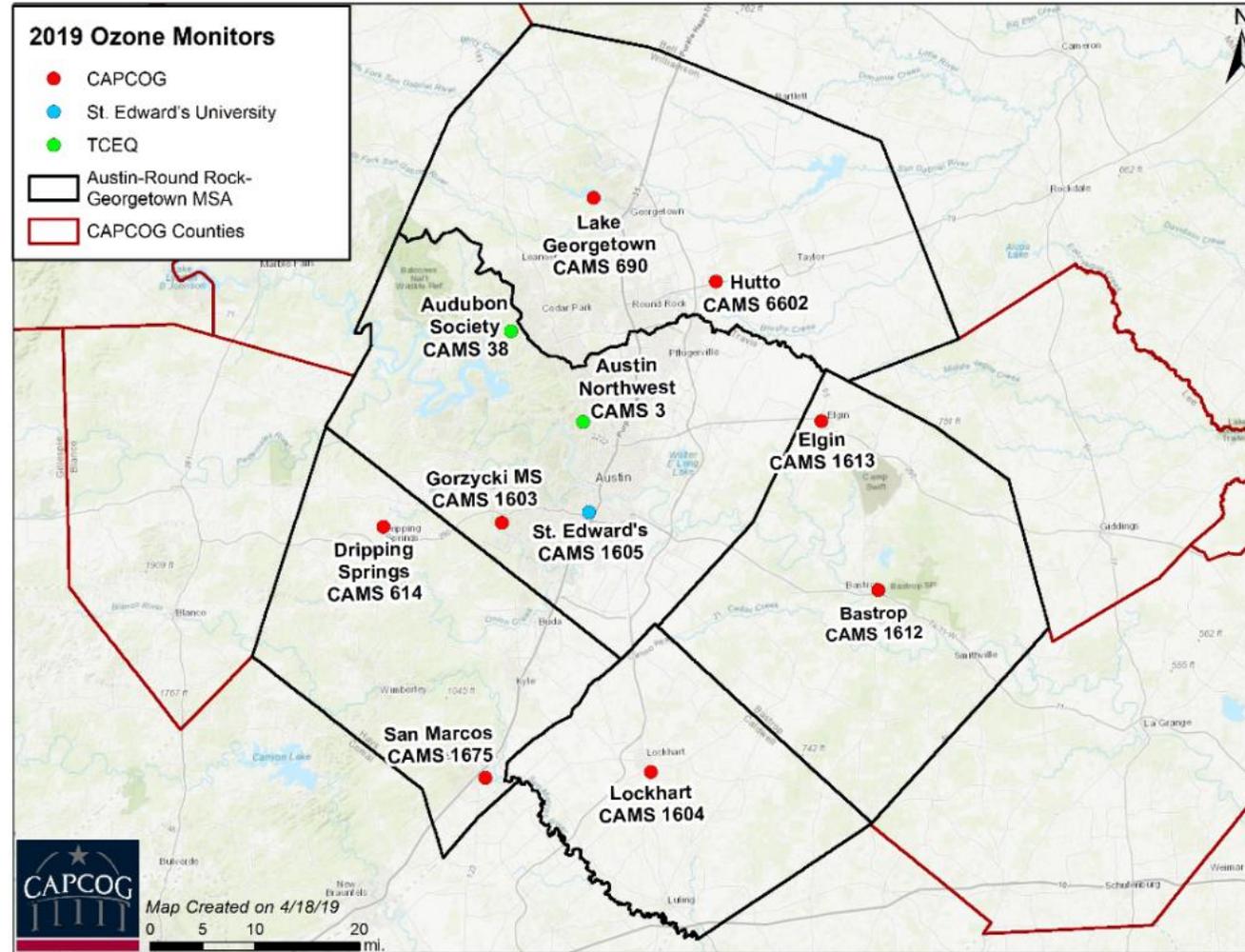
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# What Can the City's Residents Do to Help Maintain Good Air Quality?

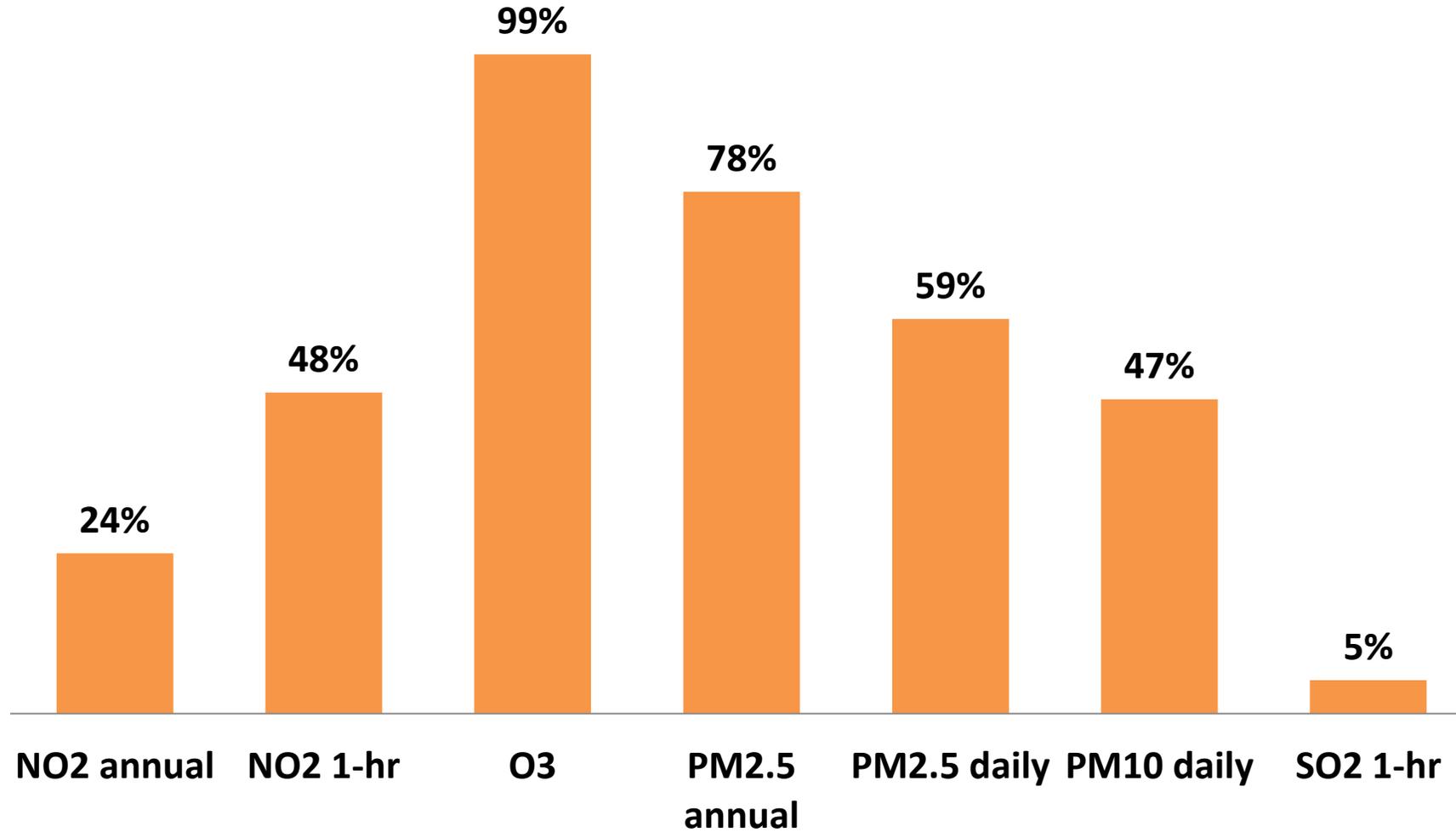


- Drive Less
  - Take Transit
  - Telecommute/Teleconference
- Drive Clean
  - Maintain Your Vehicle
  - Refuel after 6 p.m.
- Conserve
  - Use an Electric or Manual Lawn Mower
  - Plant More Trees

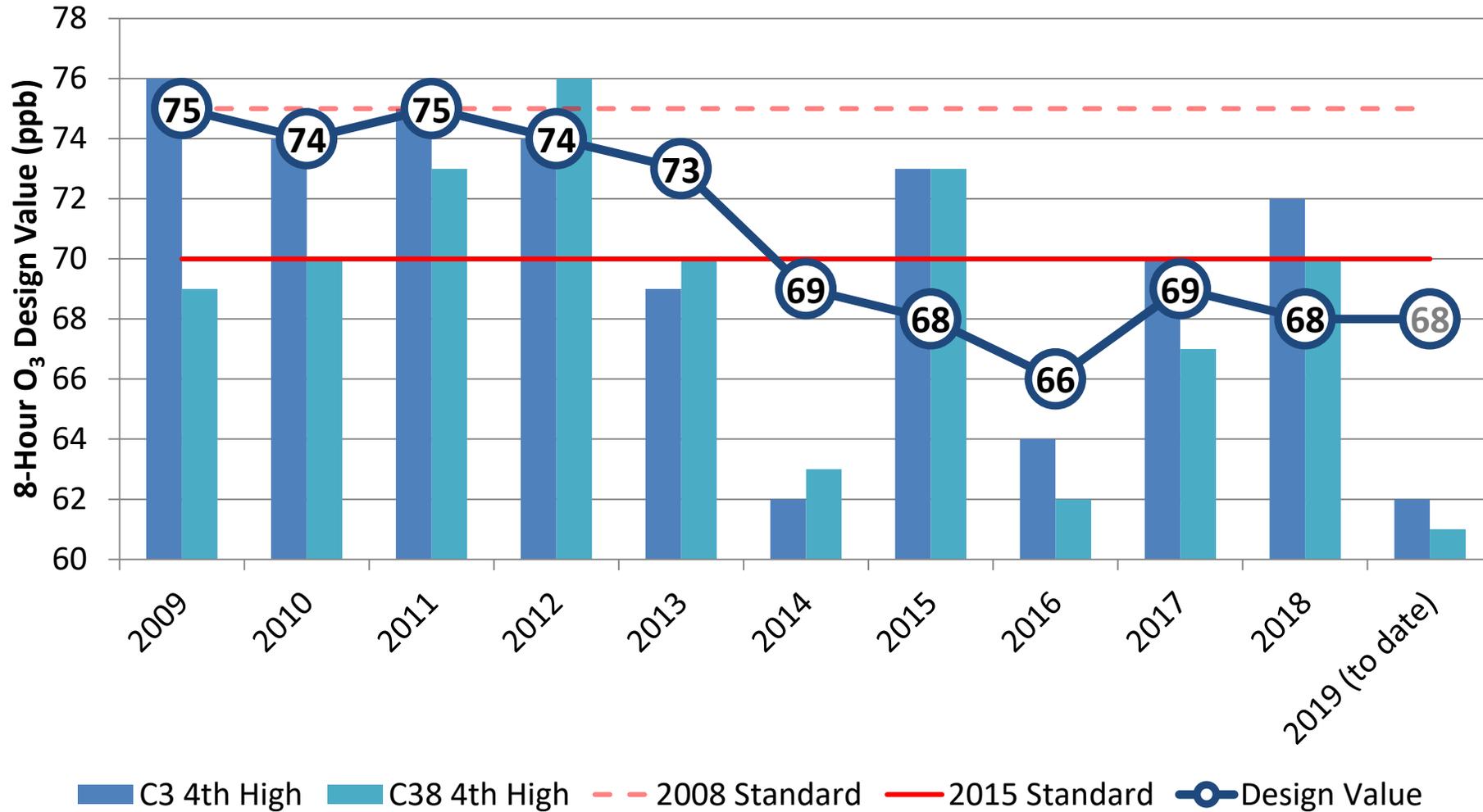
# 2019 Monitors



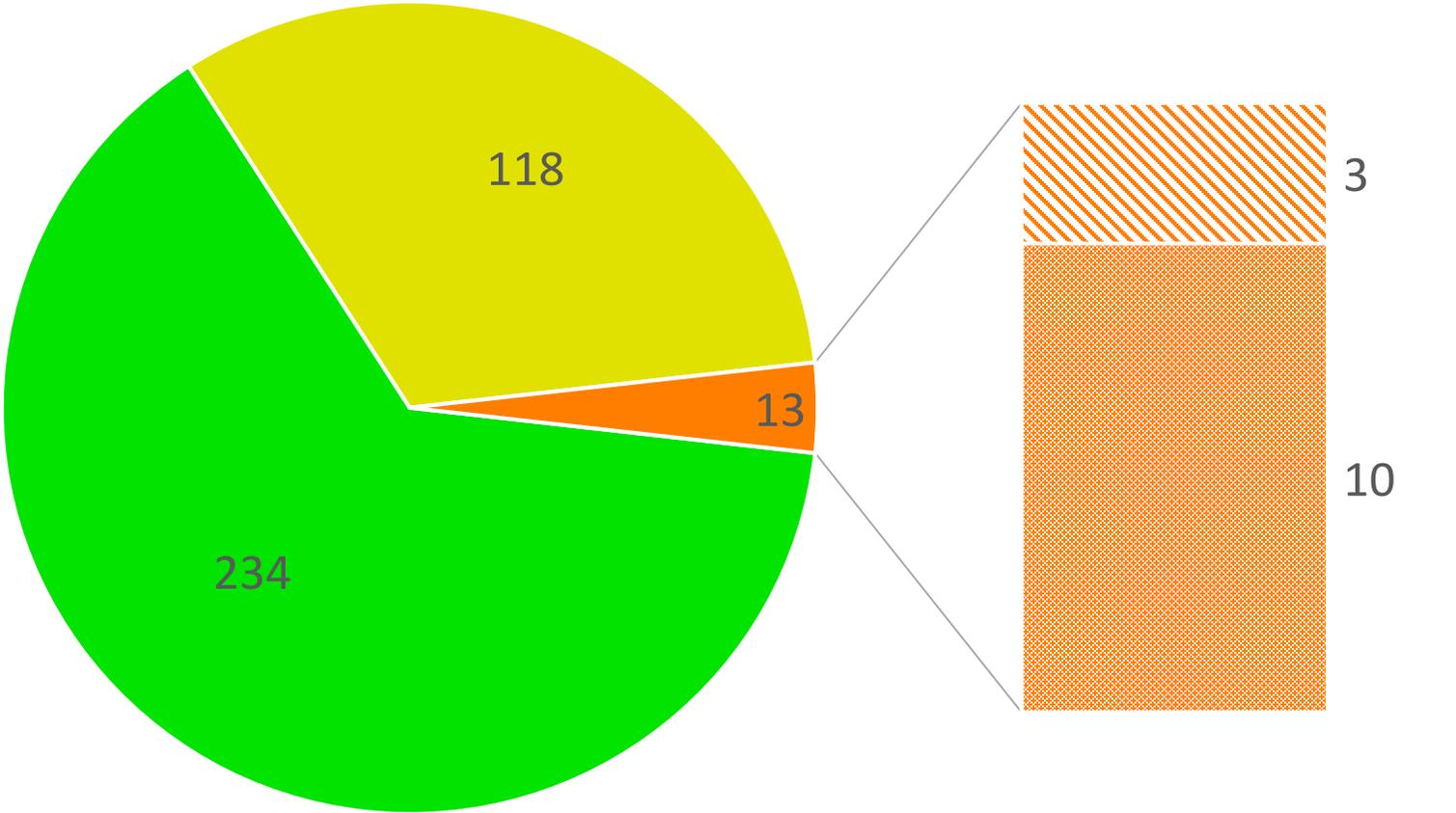
# 2017 Metro Air Quality Compared to NAAQS



# Ozone Season Design Value Trend

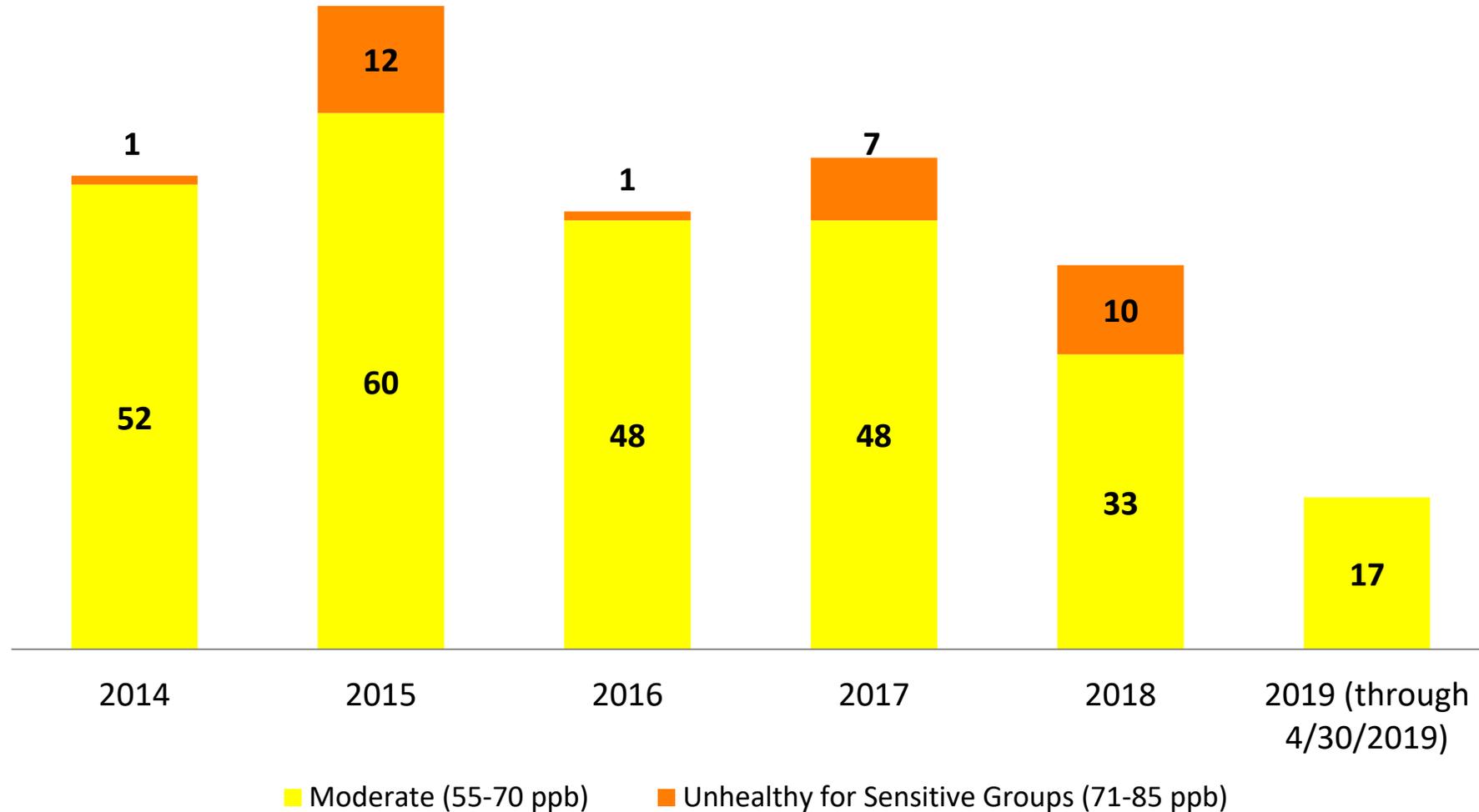


# Air Quality Index (AQI) Days, 2018



- Good
- Moderate
- ▨ Pm 2.5: Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups
- ▨ Ozone: Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups

# MSA Moderate or Worse Ozone Days Compared to Prior Years



# Regional Air Quality Program Funding Updates



- Local Funding for Air Quality Program:
  - CAPCOG is planning for \$380,000 - \$430,000 for FY 2020
- State Funding for Air Quality Program
  - TCEQ’s budget adopted by legislature for 2020-2021 reinstates “near-nonattainment” planning funding vetoed by Governor Abbott for 2018-2019 biennium
  - Funding would be restricted to only monitoring and emissions inventory work, with each “area” getting a minimum of about \$280K for the biennium
  - Gov. has until June 16 to sign or veto legislation
  - Unclear how TCEQ will interpret certain provisions if it remains in budget
- Federal Funding for Commute Solutions Program
  - CAMPO Policy Board will decide on 2020-2022 funding on June 10

# Legislative Updates



- Texas Emission Reduction Plan (TERP)
  - Provides grants to replace older vehicles and build alternative fueling infrastructure
  - HB 3745: extended all TERP revenues (>\$550M per biennium) and establishes a new TERP “fund” starting in 2021 to enable full use of revenue
  - HB 1346: loosens eligibility requirements to allow for more potential grant recipients to apply based on % of use in nonattainment and near-nonattainment areas (reduces to 50% from 75%)
- Drive a Clean Machine (DACM)/Low-Income Vehicle Repair and Replacement Assistance Program (LIRAP)/Local Initiatives Projects (LIP)
  - DACM/LIRAP provided funding assistance to moderate- and low-income individuals to repair or replace older personal vehicles (10+ years old) and newer vehicles that fail an emissions test in Travis and Williamson Counties
  - The LIP program provided counties that had inspection and maintenance programs with funding to conduct various emission reduction activities such as targeted “sticker” enforcement
  - The House version of the budget reinstated LIRAP and LIP funding vetoed by the Governor in 2017, but it did not make it into the final version
  - SB 1070 (Watson) and HB 2253 (Israel) were intended to provide a way to reinstate DACM by reforming the LIP program and making DACM one of multiple options available under LIP – SB 1070 made it out of Committee but didn’t make it beyond that and HB 2253 never came up for a hearing

# Thank You



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