



City of Austin Joint Sustainability Committee

Air Quality Update

June 26, 2019

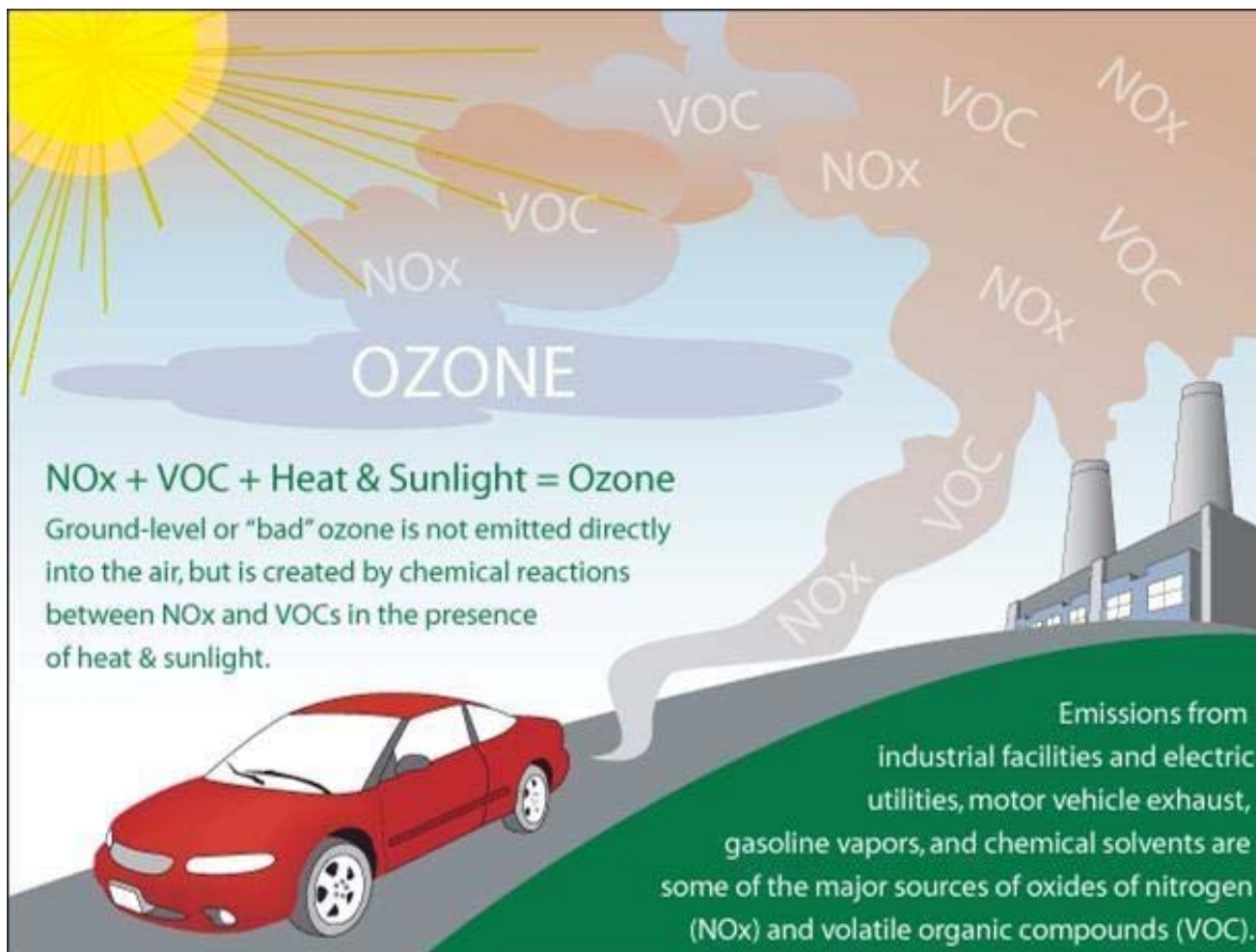
Phoebe Romero – Office of Sustainability

Andrew Hoekzema – Capital Area Council of Governments





What is Ground Level Ozone?



Source: www.epa.gov/ground-level-ozone-pollution/ground-level-ozone-basics

Why is Ozone a Problem?




Source: 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

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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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



AIR CENTRAL TEXAS

Search website

U.S. English



REGIONAL AIR QUALITY

IMPROVE AIR QUALITY

RESOURCES

ABOUT ACT

Air Quality Resources

- Air Central Texas (aircentraltexas.org)

- Subscribe to newsletter
- Follow on social media

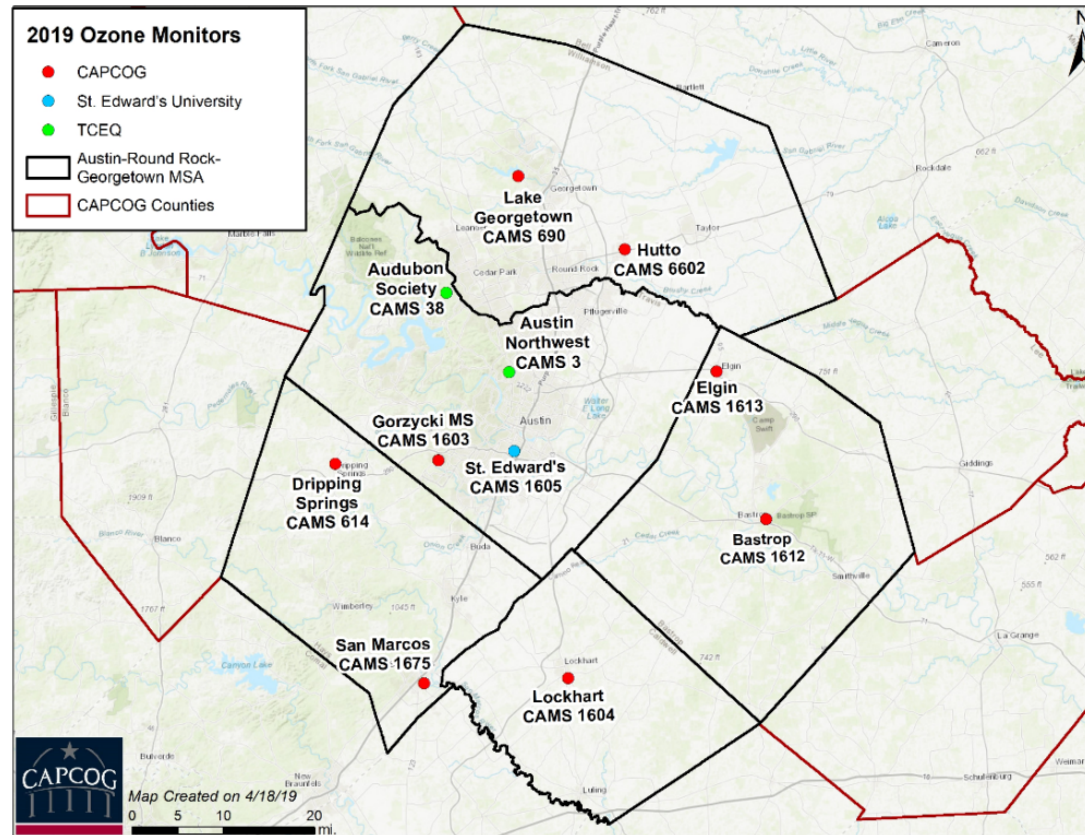
- Sign up for air quality forecasts from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

Air Central Texas (ACT) is an initiative to reduce exposure to air pollution in Bastrop, Caldwell, Hays, Travis, and Williamson Counties through voluntary actions to reduce emissions and tools for the public to avoid exposure to high pollution levels when they occur. Participants include local governments, regional and state government agencies, non-profit groups and institutions, and businesses. ACT works to provide the public with

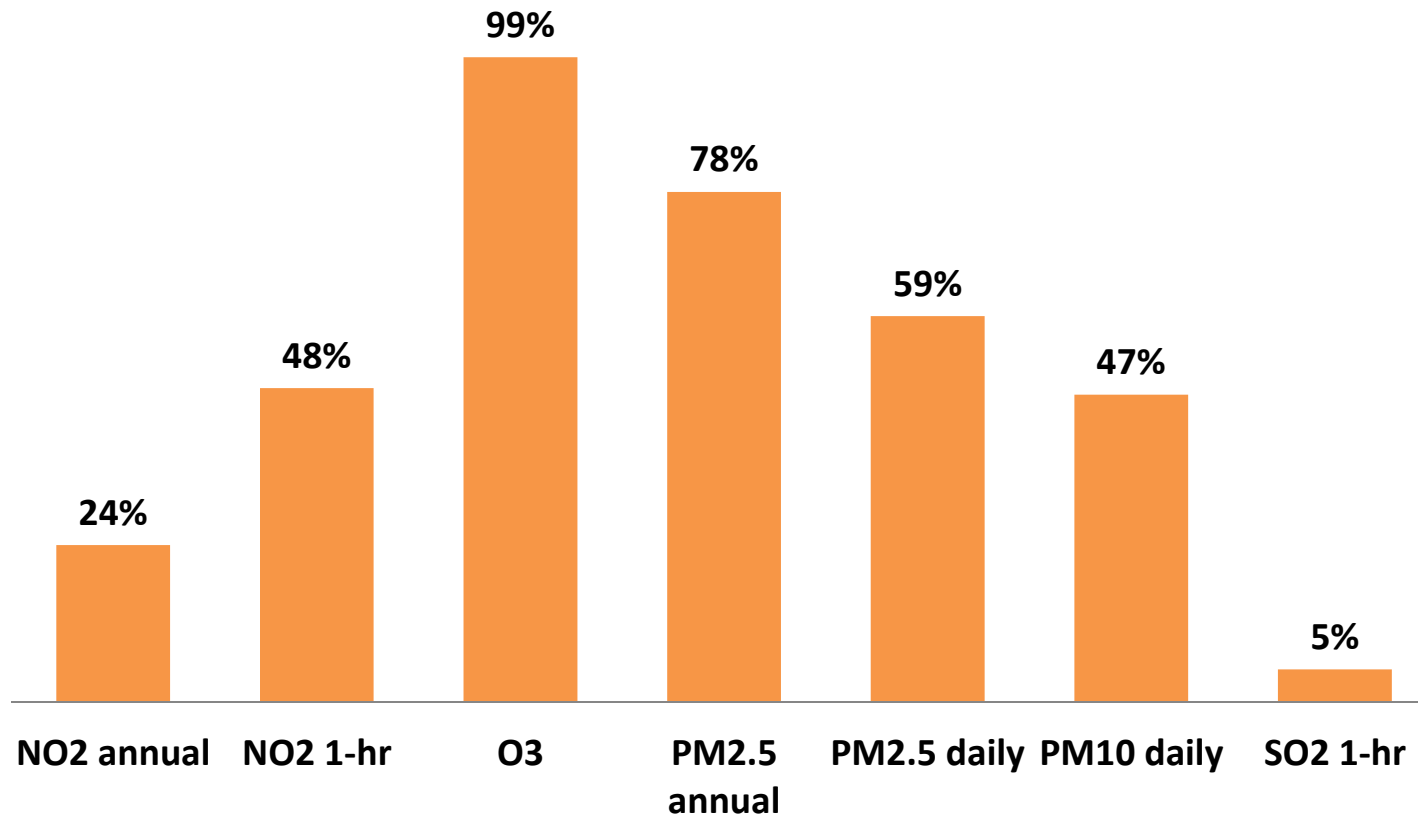
Welcome



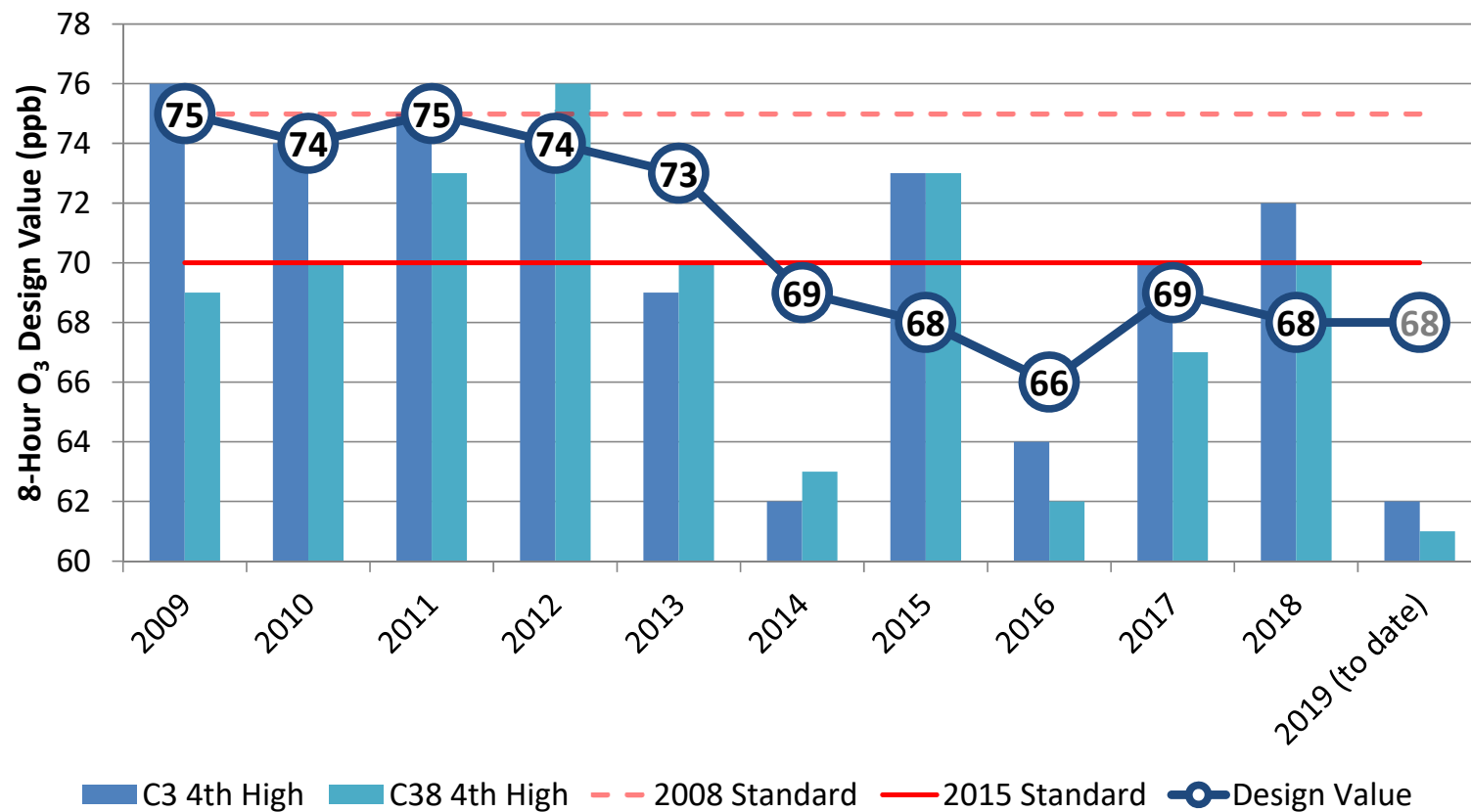
2019 Monitors



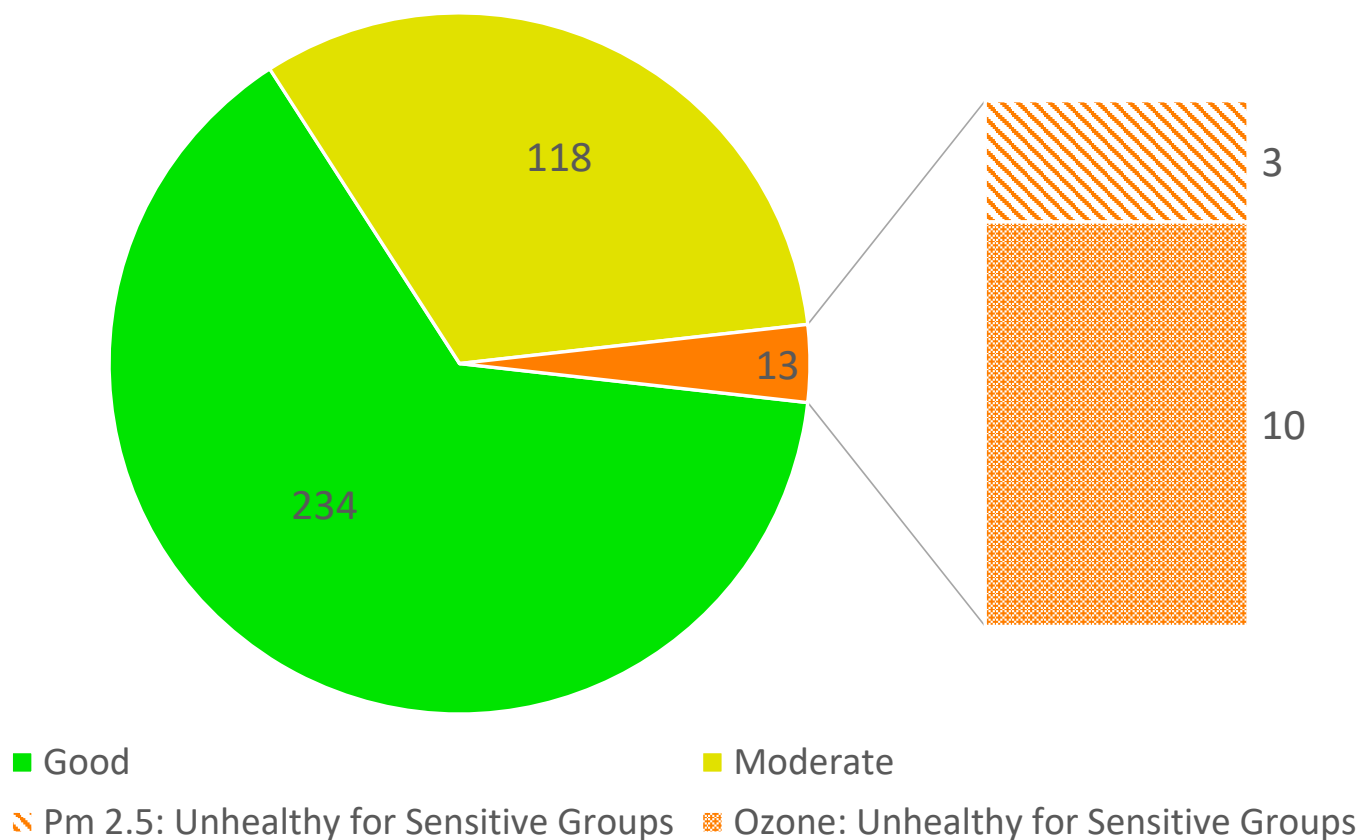
2017 Metro Air Quality Compared to NAAQS



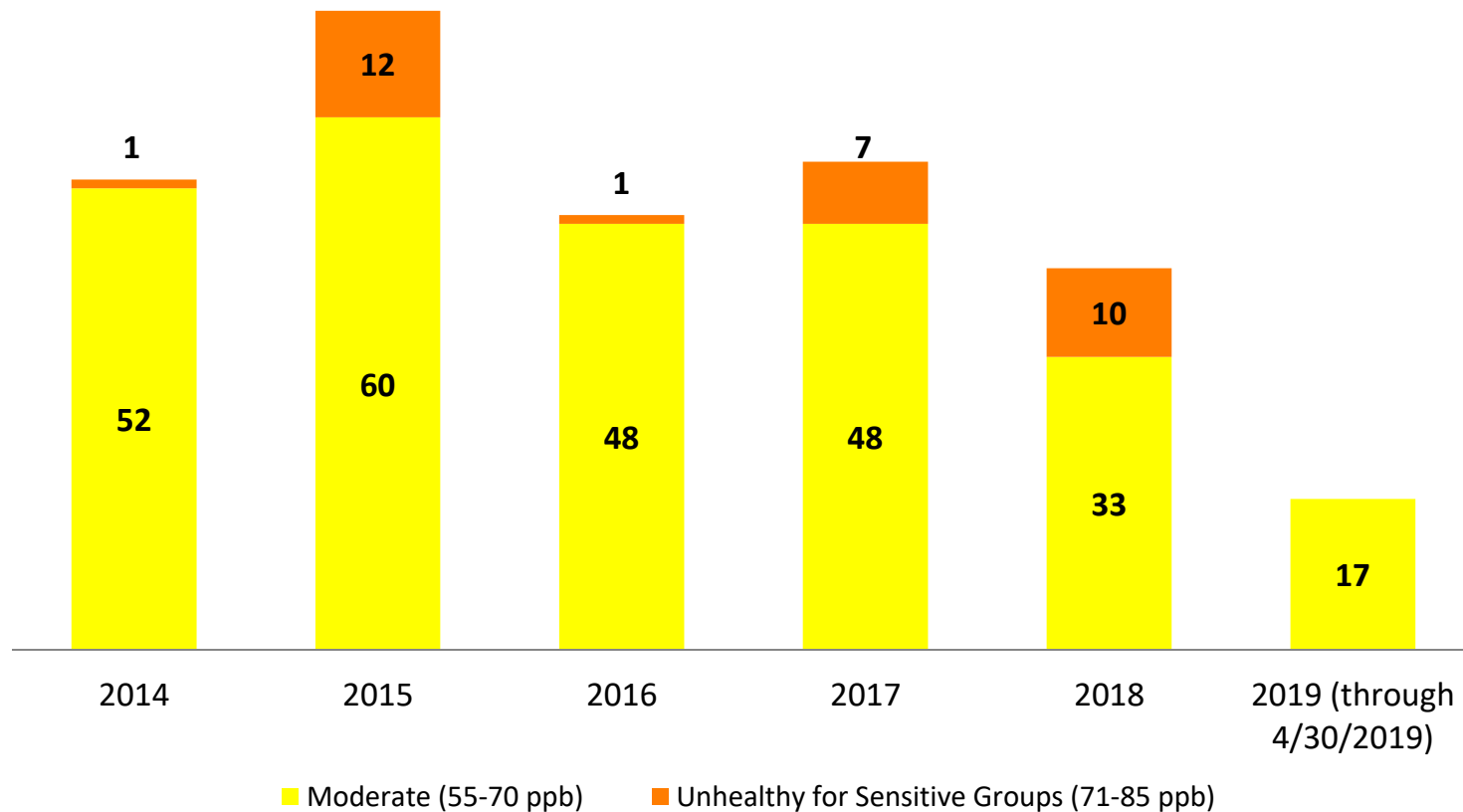
Ozone Season Design Value Trend



Air Quality Index (AQI) Days, 2018



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. signed on June 16
 - Unclear how TCEQ will interpret certain provisions if it remains in budget
- Federal Funding for Commute Solutions Program
 - CAMPO Policy Board decided 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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