

Capital Area Council of Governments Scope of Work for Support of the 2019- 2023 Austin-Round Rock-Georgetown MSA Regional Air Quality Plan

Approved by the Clean Air Coalition on February 13, 2019

This scope of work (SoW) identifies the tasks that the Capital Area Council of Governments (CAPCOG) intends to carry out in support of the 2019-2023 Austin-Round Rock-Georgetown Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) Regional Air Quality Plan adopted by the Central Texas Clean Air Coalition (CAC). Tasks in this SoW relate to specific roles that the Plan anticipates for CAPCOG throughout the term of the Plan, and are described in a general manner in order to broadly describe these activities in any given year. In the fall of each year, after the level of resources that will be available for the fiscal year is confirmed, CAPCOG will prepare a more specific work plan for the following year for approval by the CAC. CAPCOG will provide annual reports to the CAC on the use of local air quality funding by CAPCOG's Air Quality Program.

Task 1: Clean Air Coalition Support

This task involves ongoing CAPCOG support for the CAC and the CAC Advisory Committee (CACAC). The CAC is the region's umbrella organization for regional air quality planning among cities, counties, and other regional stakeholders, including private industry. The CACAC provides technical and policy advice to the CAC on air quality issues. This support includes:

- Preparation of agendas and supporting materials for CAC and CACAC meetings;
- Presenting information at CAC and CACAC meetings;
- Researching issues at the request of the CAC and CACAC;
- Providing periodic updates on air quality issues to the CAC and CACAC through newsletters and other communications;
- Logistical support for CAC and CACAC meetings, including recording meeting minutes and maintaining committee records;
- Coordinating appointments to the CAC and CACAC;
- Briefing new members of the CAC and CACAC on air quality issues;
- Participation in air quality-related work groups on behalf of the region; and
- Preparation and submission of comment letters, resolutions, and other documents related to policy advocacy undertaken by the CAC and CACAC.

Expected outputs include:

- Monthly air quality newsletters;
- At least four regularly scheduled CAC meetings each year;

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- An annual work plan to be approved by the CAC by December 31 of the prior year.

Task 2: Technical Assistance to CAC Members to Implement Emission Reduction Measures

Under this task, CAPCOG will provide technical assistance to CAC members to implement emission reductions identified in the region's 2019-2023 air quality plan. This includes identifying best practices for implementing emission reduction commitments that an organization has made, analyzing operational data provided by an organization, identifying opportunities to maximize emission reductions, and assisting organizations with securing the funding and training needed to implement emission reduction measures.

Expected outputs include, at a minimum:

- Periodic workshops;
- Grant application assistance;
- Coordination of regional grant applications; and
- Templates and other resources for implementation of emission reduction measures.

Task 3: Outreach and Education Activities

This task involves air quality outreach and education activities carried out by CAPCOG. This includes:

- Maintaining the AirCentralTexas.org website;
- Maintaining AirCentralTexas.org social media accounts;
- Staffing at air quality outreach events;
- Institutional outreach and recruitment of new Clean Air Coalition supporting members;
- Outreach to the media and meteorologists;
- Air quality advertising; and
- In-kind support for the Commute Solutions program, if necessary.

CAPCOG staff will provide periodic reports on its outreach activities as requested by the CAC.

Task 4: Annual Air Quality Report

This task involves preparing CAPCOG's annual air quality report, which summarizes the region's air quality data from the previous year, the status of the implementation of the emission reductions within the region, and other information relevant to tracking the region's progress in implementing the regional air quality plan. This report provides an important tool for documenting the region's efforts to EPA and TCEQ, and to provide accountability among CAC members on implementation of commitments.

Expected outputs include:

- Annual air quality reports covering calendar years 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022

Task 5: Ozone Monitoring

Under this task, CAPCOG will conduct ozone and meteorological monitoring at eight continuous air monitoring stations (CAMS) throughout the region in accordance with the 2019-2023 monitoring plan approved by the CAC in May 2018. Activities funded under this task will include:

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- Relocation of any monitoring equipment if recommended in the 2019-2023 monitoring plan;
- Preventative maintenance activities;
- Regular equipment calibrations;
- Equipment rental or replacement;
- Incidental equipment repair costs and supply costs;
- Provision of utilities to each station;
- Licenses to use TCEQ's LEADS data system to host and display monitoring data;
- Reporting data to TCEQ's LEADS system and EPA's AirNow system;
- Data validation activities;
- Monthly reports on from CAPCOG's contractor; and
- An annual report summarizing monitoring activities and comparison of performance to data quality objectives in CAPCOG's Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP).

CAPCOG's primary data objectives are based on EPA's most recent ambient air monitoring guidance for ozone monitoring:

- Collection and validation of at least 75% of all possible hourly ozone, wind speed, wind direction, temperature, and humidity measurements each month from March 1 through November 15 each year;
- Ozone measurements to remain within 7% of reference measurements during monthly calibrations. These performance goals are consistent with EPA's most recent ambient air monitoring guidance for ozone monitoring.

Expected outputs include:

- Hourly, quality-assured ozone, wind speed, wind direction, temperature, and relative humidity data reported to TCEQ's LEADS system and EPA's AirNow system from eight CAPCOG monitoring stations; and
- An annual monitoring report documenting monitoring activities completed that year and a comparison of performance to data quality objectives.

Task 6: Monitoring Data Analysis

Under this task, CAPCOG will perform an annual data analysis of the air pollution and meteorological data collected in the previous year and compare these data to data collected in previous years. This will help identify the conditions that were most likely to lead to high air pollution levels, whether these conditions were more or less likely to occur in 2018 compared to prior years, and whether there were any specific emissions-related or meteorological-related explanations for any deviations from what has been typical for the previous several years. This analysis will help provide a better understanding of the extent to which local emission reduction efforts impacted ambient air pollution concentrations.

Expected outputs include:

- An annual air monitoring data analysis report;
- Accompanying spreadsheets.

Task 7: Emissions, Control Strategy, and Air Quality Modeling Analysis

Under this task, CAPCOG will analyze emissions and air quality modeling data relevant to ongoing regional air quality planning. This includes:

- Reviewing point source emissions inventory data reported by the facilities;
- Review mobile source emissions inventory data prepared by EPA, TCEQ, or others;
- Review studies and technical reports related to emissions and control strategies;
- Review of air quality modeling analyses conducted by EPA, TCEQ, and others;
- Refinement of emissions estimates for key sources, where appropriate;
- Analyzing trends in changes in emissions over time;
- Assessing the level of control current emission reduction measures are achieving;
- Estimating the ambient air quality impact of various emissions control and growth scenarios; and
- Estimation of costs and benefits of implementing various control strategies.

Expected outputs include:

- Memos summarizing emissions, control strategy, and modeling analyses completed;
- Reports documenting any emissions inventory refinement, control strategy assessments, or impact assessments completed.

Task 8: Other Studies and Planning Activities

This task involves other research and planning activities as directed by the CAC. Examples projects in this category include:

- Preparation of an annual work plan for approval by the CAC that provides further definition to activities that will be carried out by CAPCOG in the following year;
- Analysis of the health, environmental, and social impacts of regional air pollution;
- Analysis of the potential economic and regulatory impacts of non-compliance with air quality standards; and
- Development of air quality plans.

Resources

This scope of work is being carried out during FY 2019 with approximately \$437,000, with contributions from 22 different local governments providing the necessary funding. CAPCOG will prepare an updated estimate of the annual funding needed to carry out this scope of work during the first quarter of each year ahead of funding requests submitted to local governments for the following year, based on any changes in costs of goods and services.