



# Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG) FY 2025 Air Quality Summary

## **Air Quality Designations**

Currently, Lucas and Wood Counties are in attainment with all six of the criteria pollutants which are ozone, particulate matter, nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide, carbon monoxide, and lead.

In 2004, Lucas and Wood Counties received a *Basic Nonattainment* designation for ozone, meaning that we did not meet the pollution standard. In 2006, based on monitoring results from five stations in Toledo air quality region, TMACOG and Ohio EPA began the process of drafting a redesignation report showing that Lucas and Wood Counties are in attainment with the current ozone standard. In the August 9<sup>th</sup> 2007 Federal Register, USEPA confirmed that the two counties are in ozone attainment. However, Lucas and Wood Counties were still identified as a “Maintenance Area” based on the 1997 ozone standard. In December 2014, the DC District Court of Appeals fully revoked the 1997 ozone standard thus we became an attainment area for ozone again. Also, in December of 2008, the USEPA confirmed that Lucas and Wood Counties are in attainment with particulate matter standards. The following are the current Lucas and Wood County designations.

**Ozone** – Attainment/Orphan Area under 1997 Ozone Standard

**PM<sub>2.5</sub>** – Attainment

**Nitrogen Oxides** – Attainment

**Sulfur Dioxide** – Attainment

**Carbon Monoxide** – Attainment

**Lead** – Attainment

## **Revised Ozone Standards**

On October 1, 2015, the U.S. EPA strengthened the nation’s air quality standard for ozone to 70 parts per billion (ppb). The updated health standard lowers the requirement from the 2008 mark of 75 ppb. EPA designated areas in late 2017, based on data from 2014 to 2016. An area will meet the standard of the 4<sup>th</sup> highest maximum daily 8-hour ozone concentration each year, averaged over three years, is 70 ppb or below. This methodology is unchanged from the previous standard.

## **Ozone Action Season Program**

In 1993, Lucas and Wood Counties adopted the Ozone Action Day Program as a means to lowering emissions from “area” sources of pollution. These include lawnmowers, grills, and vapors from gasoline pumps, among other general sources. When an Ozone Action Day was called, all media outlets were contacted to alert the public to protect themselves if they are at high-risk for ozone related health issues and take action to help lower ozone levels.

In the spring of 2008, the USEPA lowered the pollution standard for ozone from 85 parts per billion (ppb) to 75 ppb. This change necessitated that we revise the way we implement the local ozone program. Instead of calling ozone action days, the Toledo Division of Environmental Services issues Ozone

Forecasts during the Ozone Season, between the months of May through September. Forecasts are provided using the following categories:

- Good
- Satisfactory
- Precautionary measures should be taken by sensitive groups
- Caution

In addition, TMACOG implemented a marketing campaign to encourage area residents to make changes in their daily routines that would lower emission levels throughout the ozone season, not just on an ozone action day. Billboards, radio and television spots, print ads and other marketing avenues are used to promote the ozone season. TMACOG maintains a website to disseminate ozone related information (<https://tmacog.org/events/ozone-action-season>). The site also reports the daily ozone alert status and is updated 2-3 times per week.

### **Gas Cap Replacement Program**

Started in 2001, the Gas Cap Replacement Program concluded its twenty-third consecutive year of testing for leaking gas caps. The program has held to three 3-hours events, two in Lucas County and two in Wood County. TMACOG staff conducted the program with the objective of testing vehicles and replacing defective gas caps free of charge to prevent the release of ozone causing vapors escaping from gas tanks. During the summer of 2024, 198 gas caps were tested at 4 sites. A total of 21 defective or missing gas caps were replaced. Since its inception, the program has replaced over 2,200 gas caps.

### **Share A Ride Program**

The NW Ohio Share A Ride program features an online registration and matching website to allow residents the flexibility of locating and establishing carpool with other willing participants. In 2016 TMACOG together with many other MPO's joined the Gohio Commute Program that allows riders to find matches to share a ride, identify transit services, and locate pedestrian and bicycle facilities on our website (<https://tmacog.org/news/gohio-commute>) as well as a smartphone app.

### **Transportation Conformity Status**

In June of 2015, the TMACOG Board of Trustees approved the "On the Move: 2015-2045 Transportation Plan" and the FY 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Due to the revocation of the 1997 ozone standard, Lucas and Wood Counties were an attainment area for all six criteria pollutants and TMACOG was not required to submit a conformity determination with either plan. Subsequently, TMACOG was identified as an orphan area following court challenges to the revocation of the 1997 ozone standard and TMACOG's TIP's and long range plans have included a qualitative conformity determination.

### **About TMACOG**

The Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG) is a non-partisan, voluntary, planning partnership made up of members in northwest Ohio and southeast Michigan. TMACOG is the primary clearing house for transportation and environmental planning in our region. Our members are cities, counties, villages, and townships, as well as schools and colleges, park districts, and other groups including non-governmental organizations.