



ASSOCIATION OF
CENTRAL OKLAHOMA
GOVERNMENTS

BREATHING CLEAN AIR

A Guide to Safeguarding Public
Health and Driving Economic Growth

THIS GUIDE IS BASED ON FINDINGS FROM THE
2025 REGIONAL AIR QUALITY STUDY CONDUCTED BY ACOG

PRESENTED BY



Why Air Quality Matters to Central Oklahoma

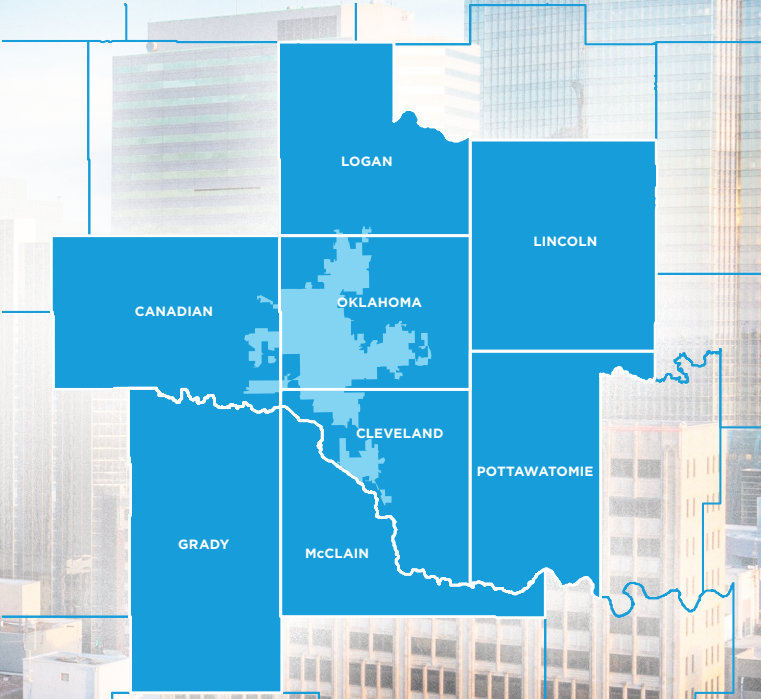
Air quality is more than a measure of pollution; it reflects how well we protect our most vulnerable populations and ensure a sustainable future. In Central Oklahoma, marginalized communities and historically underinvested areas face disproportionate exposure to pollutants such as ground-level ozone and Particulate Matter (PM2.5). These pollutants contribute to tangible health consequences like higher asthma rates, and economic ones like missed work days.

The Oklahoma City Metropolitan Area remains committed to maintaining attainment of the EPA's National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for ozone and PM while supporting regional approaches to greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction strategies.

Everyone has a role to play in protecting air quality. Governments can adopt policies that focus on reducing emissions, businesses can implement sustainable practices and individuals can take actions to lower environmental impacts. Together, these efforts ensure cleaner air, healthier communities and a brighter future for all Central Oklahomans.

STRATEGIC GOALS

1. Maintain and improve outdoor air quality within the Oklahoma City Metro Statistical Area (MSA) and Oklahoma City-Shawnee Combined Statistical Area (CSA).
2. Reduce the impact of emissions from within the region on air quality issues in nearby areas and elsewhere.
3. Mitigate the health, environmental, economic and social impacts of the remaining regional air pollution.



Exposure to ground-level ozone can lead to major health issues such as respiratory symptoms, cardiovascular diseases, and even premature death.

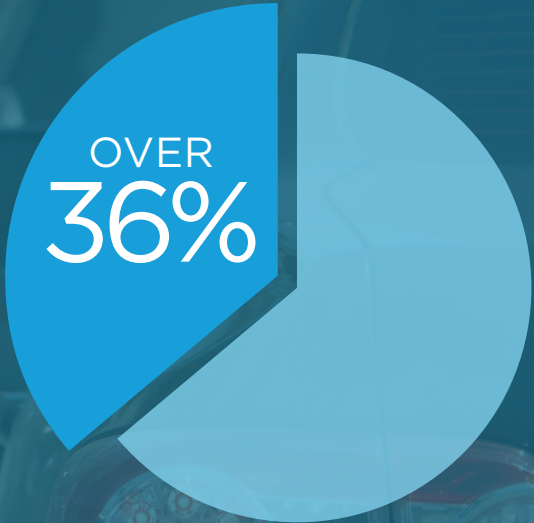
Responding to a Growing Air Quality Crisis

THE PROBLEM

Rising ozone violations in the Oklahoma City metro threaten its long-standing compliance with EPA standards. A Nonattainment designation would impose significant economic and transportation costs, as outlined in the ACOG Cost of Nonattainment Study.

THE SOLUTION

To address this challenge, ACOG secured \$1 million and DEQ secured \$3 million through EPA's Climate Pollution Reduction Grants. These funds will support initiatives to reduce pollution, promote environmental justice, and accelerate Central Oklahoma's transition to a cleaner, more sustainable energy future.



For the 2020 national inventory year, mobile emissions accounted for 36.49% of the total NO_x emissions across the study area counties.

Transportation and Emissions

The transportation sector is one of Central Oklahoma's largest contributors to air pollution. Innovations like electric vehicles (EVs), public transit expansion and bike-friendly infrastructure reduce harmful emissions. However, continued investment is crucial.

Oklahoma City's public transit system is already making strides with the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project and plans to expand streetcar routes in downtown Oklahoma City. These initiatives reduce vehicle miles traveled and improve air quality. Embracing EV adoption and increasing charging infrastructure can further amplify these benefits.



The Role of Businesses in Reducing Emissions

Central Oklahoma businesses are stepping up to protect air quality through sustainability practices and innovative technologies. Companies like Devon Energy and Dolese are reducing emissions by adopting cleaner operations and investing in energy-efficient systems, such as LED lighting and upgraded equipment.

Private-sector initiatives don't just benefit the environment — they bolster local economies by creating jobs and fostering innovation. From reducing methane leaks from natural gas operations to improving recycling practices, businesses in the Oklahoma City metro and beyond are proving that sustainability and economic growth go hand-in-hand.



NO_x

NITROGEN OXIDES

- Increased inflammation of airways, worsened cough and wheezing, reduced lung function and increased asthma attacks
- Increased risk of heart attacks and strokes
- Can cause chronic lung disease and affect the senses, such as reducing the ability to smell odors
- High exposure can lead to acute pulmonary edema, causing fluid buildup in the lungs and difficulty breathing

SO₂

SULFUR DIOXIDE

- Wheezing, chest tightness and breathing difficulties
- Associated with increased risk of heart and lung harm
- Can affect pregnancy and birth outcomes

O₃

OZONE

- Wheezing, coughing and shortness of breath
- Can cause or worsen asthma and other lung diseases

PM_{2.5 & 10}

PARTICULATE MATTER

- Wheezing, chest tightness and breathing difficulties
- Associated with increased risk of heart and lung harm
- Can affect pregnancy and birth outcomes

Ground-level ozone causes coughing, reduced lung function and increased infection risks, particularly for individuals with chronic lung diseases.

Environmental Justice and Improved Equitable Health Outcomes

Environmental justice ensures that no community bears an unequal share of pollution's burden. In Central Oklahoma, addressing the health impacts of pollutants like nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide and particulate matter is essential for creating a safe environment for all.

These pollutants have been linked to asthma, heart disease and premature death, disproportionately affecting low-income and minority populations. By targeting emission reductions in these areas, we can advance health equity and improve the quality of life for all residents.

Economic Impacts of Clean Air Policies

Clean air is good for business and the community. Improved air quality reduces asthma cases, lowers healthcare costs for families and frees up resources for businesses to reinvest in their workforce. These benefits, combined with policies that promote cleaner and more efficient energy use, attract investments, boost worker productivity and create jobs in emerging industries.

For example, the Oklahoma Emission Reduction Technology Rebate Program incentivizes businesses to adopt cleaner technologies, supporting economic development while cutting emissions.

Nonattainment designation could cost Central Oklahoma economy

AS MUCH AS
\$15.2
BILLION

4,100

Approximate number of Oklahoma clean energy jobs

2024 American Clean Power

Did you know? The Oklahoma Emission Reduction Technology Rebate Program offers a 25% rebate for projects reducing emissions in the oil and gas industry.

How to Get Involved

Government, businesses and individuals all play vital roles in protecting air quality. Here's how each group can make a difference:



Governments

- Adopt air quality action plans focusing on emission lowering goals.
- Fund active and public transportation projects.
- Implement energy efficiency improvements and install renewables.
- Enforce anti-idling policies and deploy clean fleets.



Businesses

- Transition fleets to electric or low-emission vehicles.
- Improve supply chain sustainability.
- Implement workplace policies or action on Ozone Alert Days.
- Proactive policies to reduce NO_x and VOC emissions from operated sources.



Individuals

- Switch to energy-efficient appliances and vehicles using tax incentives.
- Walk, bike or use public transit whenever possible.
- Participate in community air quality programs like Enviroflash and Ozone Alert Days.

Action Steps

Corporate Recognition Program

Establish a program to recognize businesses implementing Ozone Day responses and emission reduction efforts.

Corporate Working Group

Organize and facilitate a working group, led by ACOG, to develop and promote the recognition program.

Public Awareness Campaign

Launch a media campaign to educate the public on the benefits of preventing non-attainment designation.

Programs & Resources

There are numerous resources to help stakeholders reduce emissions and improve air quality:

- **EPA Voluntary Partnership Programs**
Collaborate with businesses and communities to lower emissions.
- **Oklahoma Emission Reduction Technology Rebate Program**
Offers rebates for adopting cleaner technologies.
- **Renew America's Schools Program**
Funds energy-efficient upgrades for schools.

Visit www.acogok.org for more funding opportunities to support emission reduction efforts and sustainability initiatives.

VISIT OUR
RESOURCE
LIBRARY



Imagine an Oklahoma where every community breathes clean air, businesses thrive through sustainable practices and future generations inherit a healthier, more resilient environment and economy. The Regional Air Quality Plan, led by ACOG, is more than a policy — it's a vision for change.

By working together to tackle emissions and drive sustainable economic growth, we can protect our communities, spark innovation and build a future we can all be proud of.

Together, we're shaping a healthier, more vibrant Central Oklahoma.



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