

Case Study (MARYLAND)

Air Pollution Facts:

- 15 counties in Maryland are not in attainment of the national 8-hour ozone standards http://www.mde.state.md.us/Programs/AirPrograms/air_planning/aqStandards.asp.
- The American Lung Association ranks Baltimore 12th of the 25 cities most polluted by ozone http://lungaction.org/reports/SOTA06_stateozone.html?geo_area_id=24.
- Color coded ozone alerts are issued when air quality reaches unhealthy levels, usually during the hot, summer months http://www.mde.state.md.us/air/air_information/healthfacts.asp.
- For information about current conditions see <http://www.air-watch.net/airwatch.php?>.

History:

The state has worked aggressively to improve air quality. Controls placed on emitting sources, such as power plants, gas stations, body shops and cars, have reduced ozone-forming pollutants by approximately 40% from 1990 levels. The new Clean Air Act rule, the strongest in Maryland's history, tackles the remaining pollution sources http://www.mde.state.md.us/Air/MD_CPR.asp. However, because pollution is being transported from Ohio and points to the south, these controls will not reduce ground-level ozone enough to meet Clean Air Act standards.

Air Quality Improvement Planning:

The Department of the Environment <http://www.mde.state.md.us/index.asp> is the state agency charged with preparing air quality improvement plans describing measures to be implemented to meet Clean Air Act standards. These standards must be attained by 2010 or the state could face loss of federal funding. Maryland has incorporated innovative strategies, including a bundle of voluntary measures, into previous State Implementation Plans (SIPs) http://www.mde.state.md.us/Programs/AirPrograms/air_planning/index.asp#SIP.

The new ozone SIP must be submitted to EPA by June 2007. There will be opportunities for public comment on this SIP see <http://www.mde.state.md.us/calendar/>.

For more information contact the Center for Chesapeake Communities.

<http://www.chesapeakecommunities.org>

