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Columbus, Ohio



## MORPC's Air Quality Program

Before Oct. 2003	Today
Focus on Ozone Only	Ozone and Particle Pollution
Issued Ozone Alert	Issue Air Quality Alert
Ozone Forecasts May – Sept.	Year-Round Air Quality Forecasts



## Planning for PM2.5

- Issues to Address:
  - What do we call PM2.5?
  - What do we change Ozone Alert to? What do we advise during an Alert day? When do we issue an Alert? What's our coverage area?
  - How do we integrate PM2.5 forecasting?
  - How do we introduce the new pollutant to the public, media and other stakeholders?
  - What new materials do we need?



Source: Ohio EPA THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

## Agency monitoring soot levels in Ohio air

Forecasts designed to find solutions, pre-empt EPA action

By Geoff Dutton  
THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

With both respiratory and economic health on the line for central Ohio, officials have expanded air-pollution monitoring beyond ozone alerts to include measuring soot.

When soot — also called particulate matter — reaches potentially harmful levels, officials will make public announcements and warn people to stay inside and avoid strenuous activity.

Metro Columbus, along with most other urban areas in Ohio, is on track to be branded a problem area next year by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency because of the soot. In other places, high soot levels have led to measures that range from mandatory vehicle tailpipe testing to restricting when homeowners can use their fireplaces.

## What do we call PM2.5?

- Particle Pollution
- Fine Particles
- Soot
- Smog
- Haze



## From Ozone Alert to Air Quality Alert

- Selected new name through our Air Quality Committee (runner-up was Air Quality Advisory)
- Issue an Air Quality Alert when forecast is 101 or higher; went with health standard for PM<sub>2.5</sub> vs. when an exceedance occurs



## From Ozone Alert to Air Quality Alert

- Challenge of what to recommend during an Air Quality Alert due to many “unknowns”
- What’s the Coverage Area? Still don’t know nonattainment area and only have 2 PM<sub>2.5</sub> monitors in one metro county



# COMMUNICATING P M 2.5

**MORPC - Columbus Data - Microsoft Internet Explorer**  
Address: <http://airquality.morpc1.org/realtime/cfm>

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285 East Main St, Columbus OH 43215

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### Columbus Real-time Air Quality

[Forecast](#) | [Real-time Data](#) | [Air Quality Maps](#) | [Monitoring Site Map](#) | [Air Quality This Year](#)

**Real-time Data:** September 23, 2004 5PM (EDT)

Site Name	County	Current Ozone AQI	Max Ozone AQI (EDT)	Current PM2.5 AQI	Max PM2.5 AQI (EDT)
Centerburg	Knox	82	87 at 3PM		
Delaware	Delaware	72	74 at 4PM		
Franklin	Franklin	59	59 at 5PM		
Heath	Licking	79	85 at 3PM		
Koebel-Fairwood Ave.	Franklin	64	64 at 5PM	73	73 at 5PM
London	Madison	54	54 at 5PM		
Maple Canyon Dr	Franklin	69	69 at 5PM		
New Albany	Franklin	69	72 at 3PM	65	65 at 5PM

[Click here for Air Quality Index \(AQI\) chart](#)

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## Combining Ozone and PM2.5 Forecasting

# COMMUNICATING PM 2.5

MORPC - Columbus Data - Microsoft Internet Explorer

Address: <http://ozone.morpc1.org/>

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**Current Ozone AQI**

April 20, 2004 1:00 pm EDT

**Current Particle Pollution AQI**

April 20, 2004 12:00 pm EDT

[Click here for Air Quality Index \(AQI\) chart](#)

- [Today's Ozone Animation](#)
- [Yesterday's Ozone Animation](#)
- [Yesterday's Peak Ozone](#)
- [Ozone Maps for Other Areas in the U.S.](#)
- [Today's Particle Pollution Animation](#)
- [Yesterday's Particle Pollution Animation](#)
- [Yesterday's Maximum Particle Pollution](#)
- [Particle Pollution Maps for Other Areas in the U.S.](#)

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## Columbus Real-time Air Quality

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Forecast will be issued daily by 1:00 PM EDT

A "T" next to a forecast means an Air Quality Alert Day has been declared for that day.

Forecast:	Ozone AQI	PM2.5 AQI	Regional Max AQI
Mon. June 7, 2004:	97	95	97
Tue. June 8, 2004:	114	99	114

Extended Forecast:	Condition	Pollutant
Wed. June 9, 2004:	Moderate	PM2.5
Thu. June 10, 2004:	Moderate	PM2.5
Fri. June 11, 2004:	Good	Ozone
Sat. June 12, 2004:	Moderate	PM2.5

Observed:	Ozone AQI	PM2.5 AQI	Regional Max AQI
Sun. June 6, 2004:	77	104	105

**Discussion:**

Monday, June 7: An upper-level ridge of high pressure will build over Ohio, reducing vertical mixing, strengthening the temperature inversion, and keeping skies mostly clear. In addition, surface high pressure off the East Coast will drive moderate southwesterly winds across the Columbus area, transporting pollutants into the region. These conditions, combined with high particle pollution carryover, will result in Moderate AQI levels.

Tuesday, June 8: An Air Quality Alert Day has been issued. High pressure will dominate the weather pattern, keeping temperatures very warm and skies mostly clear in the Columbus region. In addition, continued southwesterly transport of moisture and pollutants in the Columbus area will lead to Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups AQI levels.

Wednesday, a cold front will approach the region from the north in the evening, enhancing low-level vertical mixing, increasing cloudiness, and producing isolated showers. These conditions will limit ozone formation; however, particle concentrations will remain elevated, keeping AQI levels Moderate. Thursday, the front will move through

Internet



# COMMUNICATING P M 2.5

MORPC - Columbus Data - Microsoft Internet Explorer

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Forecast will be issued daily by 1:00 PM EDT

A "T" next to a forecast means an Air Quality Alert Day has been declared for that day.

Forecast:	Ozone AQI	PM2.5 AQI	Regional Max AQI	
Thu. September 23, 2004:	114	80	114	!
Fri. September 24, 2004:	90	110	110	!

Extended Forecast:	Condition	Pollutant
Sat. September 25, 2004:	Moderate	PM2.5
Sun. September 26, 2004:	Good	PM2.5
Mon. September 27, 2004:	Good	Ozone
Tue. September 28, 2004:	Good	Ozone

Observed:	Ozone AQI	PM2.5 AQI	Regional Max AQI
Wed. September 22, 2004:	56	57	57

**Discussion:**

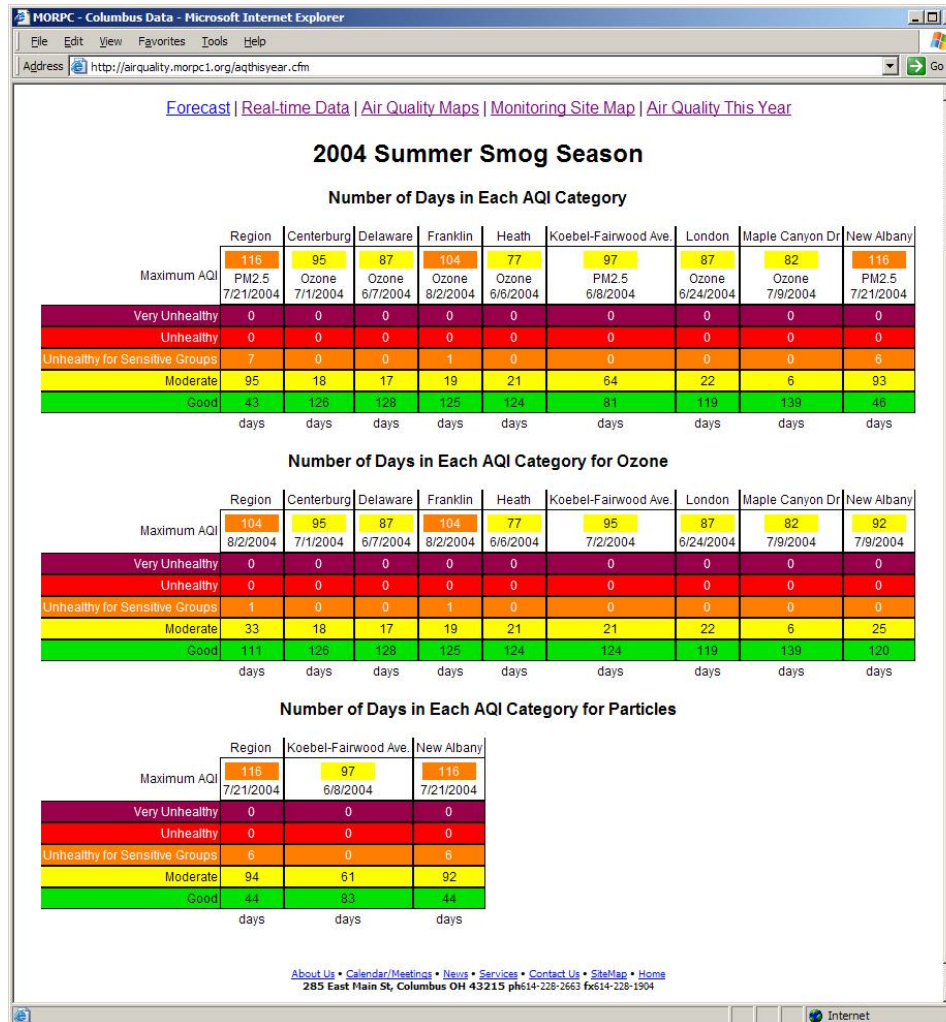
Thursday, September 23: An Air Quality Alert day has been declared. The upper-level ridge of high pressure that has dominated the weather pattern in the Columbus region this week will begin to shift to the east today. However, this ridge will continue to produce very warm temperatures and clear skies in central Ohio, and limit mixing in the atmosphere. In addition, surface high pressure centered over the eastern third of the U.S. will produce light and variable winds, causing the air to stagnate in the Columbus area. These conditions, combined with high ozone carryover from previous days, will produce Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups AQI levels.

Friday, September 24: An Air Quality Alert day has been declared. An upper-level ridge of high pressure centered over the Mid-Atlantic will produce warm temperatures and mostly clear skies in central Ohio, aiding in the production of ozone. At the surface, high pressure gradually moving to the east of the Columbus region will drive light southerly winds late in the day, transporting fine particles into the region. These conditions, along with high ozone and particle carryover, will cause AQI levels to be high-end Moderate for ozone and Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups for particles.

Dec. 1, 2004

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission

# COMMUNICATING PM 2.5



Dec. 1, 2004



## How do you introduce particle pollution?


- Sent out press releases and interviewed for news stories
- Met with local TV meteorologists
- Launched an aggressive community campaign – Clean Air Challenge





## Columbus Clean Air Challenge

Recruit 10,000 individuals over 18 months to pledge one or more voluntary actions that will reduce particle and ozone pollution.




# CHALLENGE CARD

**Yes! I care about clean air and will do my part to reduce pollution by committing to:**  
(Please check one or more of the following Clean Air Actions)

- Carpool, vanpool, bus, bike, walk, or telecommute.  
How often?  Once a week  Twice a week  Four days a week  More: \_\_\_\_\_
- Will not mow my lawn during an Air Quality Alert and will use cleaner electric lawn equipment.
- Fill up my car after 6pm and stopping at the click! Topping off releases unnecessary pollution.
- Reduce or eliminate my fireplace and wood stove use. Use cleaner gas logs instead of wood.
- Conserve energy at home. For example, use energy-efficient light bulbs and appliances.
- Keep my car tuned up. Regular tune-ups reduces pollution and improves fuel efficiency.

First name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Home address: \_\_\_\_\_ City/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Home phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
Employer: \_\_\_\_\_  
Work address: \_\_\_\_\_ City/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Work phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Sign me up to receive E-Alerts - so I know when central Ohio air is unhealthy.  
MORPC respects your privacy and will NOT share your information with any other organizations.

 Incomplete forms will not be eligible for Clean Air Challenge prize drawings. Please print legibly. Thank you!  
Clean Air Challenge is a program of the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC)

Find out more at  
[www.cleanairchallenge.net](http://www.cleanairchallenge.net)

**CLEAN AIR CHALLENGE**  
*It's a Breeze - You Can Make a Difference!*



## Columbus Clean Air Challenge

- Kick-off event during World Asthma Day Celebration at Ohio Statehouse
- Held “Breakfast of Champions” with our Partners
- Launched [www.cleanairchallenge.net](http://www.cleanairchallenge.net)
- Prizes, Community Events, Presentations





## Developed New Outreach Materials

- AQI Card – very, very popular
- New air quality brochure
- Updated website pages
- Ran radio ads, website banner ads and sponsored air quality forecast on local media websites
- Created e-newsletter - *Air Mail*



## What have we learned?

- Not an easy concept to “get”
- Timing of launch in Oct. probably not the best. Launching Clean Air Challenge in May went far better.
- Media still trying to “get it”. Lots of mistakes from them this summer.
- Plan to revise format of website and email forecast – it’s a work in progress