

OAR SENIOR MANAGEMENT PERSPECTIVE

AMBIENT AIR MONITORING ISSUES AND PRIORITIES

NATIONAL AMBIENT AIR MONITORING CONFERENCE



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Today's Presentation

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- Update on Air Office Actions
 - ▣ Climate Action Plan, NAAQS, Air Toxics
- Key Ambient Monitoring Issues
- Encouraging Public Involvement
- E-Enterprise
- Maintaining our Strong Partnership

EPA's Themes-

Meeting the Challenge Ahead

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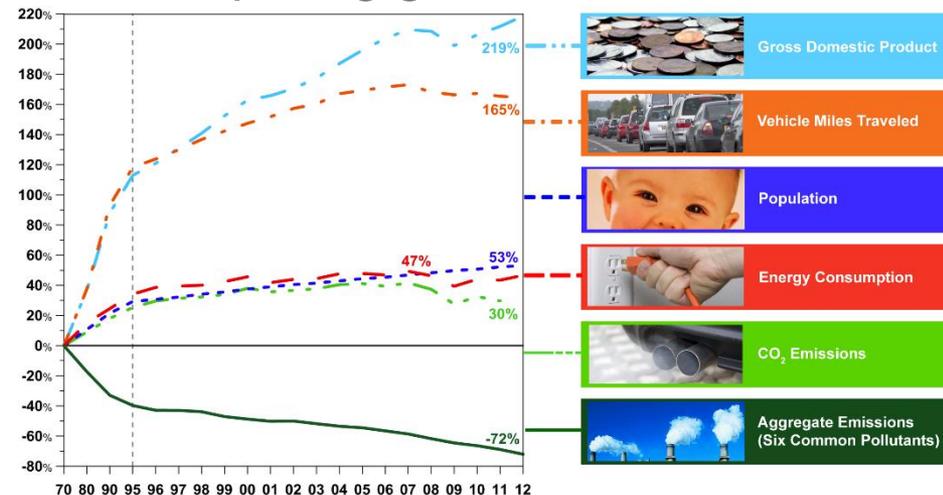
- Making a Visible Difference in Communities Across the Country
- Addressing Climate Change and Improving Air Quality
- Taking Action on Toxics and Chemical Safety
- Protecting Water: A Precious, Limited Resource
- Launching a New Era of State, Tribal and Local Partnerships
- Embracing EPA as a High Performing Organization
- Working Toward a Sustainable Future

Clean Air Act Progress

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- The Clean Air Act protects American families from harmful pollution
- Over the past four and a half decades we have cut harmful pollution by more than 70 percent, while the U.S. economy has more than tripled.
- This progress has been achieved through partnerships with agencies, states, businesses, labor groups, nongovernmental organizations, and the public.
- There's still work to be done. In 2012, about 140 million people lived in counties with pollution levels above one of our national health-based air quality standards.
- And climate change threatens our communities, families and economy in a way that demands we take action now.

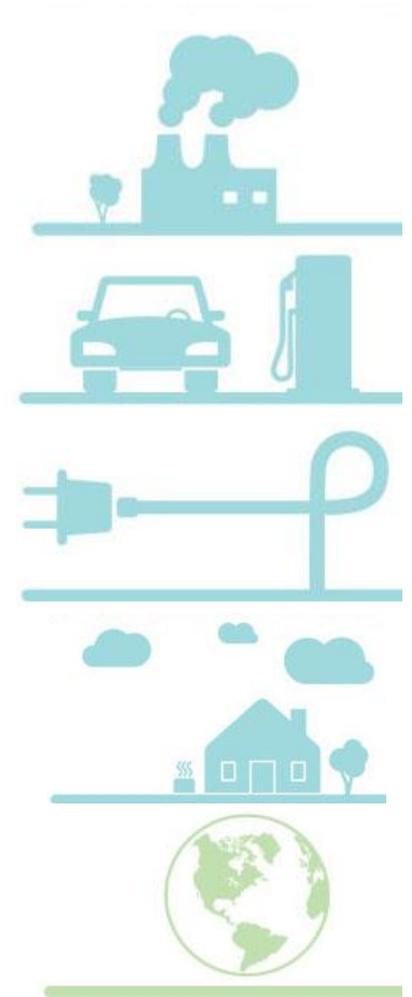
Comparing growth and emissions



Climate Action Plan

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- ❑ Reducing carbon emissions from power plants
- ❑ Building a 21st century transportation sector
- ❑ Cutting energy waste in homes, businesses, and factories
- ❑ Reducing methane and HFCs
- ❑ Leading international efforts to address global climate change



Air Quality – NAAQS

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- 2008 Ozone Review
 - Proposal: December 2014
 - Final: October 2015
- 2012 PM NAAQS Designations
 - States/Tribes submitted recommendations for area designations to EPA in December 2013
 - EPA will consider state and tribal input before responding with its intended designations in August 2014, with final designations in December 2014
- SO₂ Designations and Implementation
 - In July 2013, EPA issued the first round of designations for the 2010 health standard
 - EPA has been working closely with our state and tribal partners to address the designations for other areas.
 - The agency has also been sued for not meeting the statutory deadlines for the areas.
 - As part of a proposed consent decree, EPA will complete three rounds of designations by December 31, 2020
 - States can use monitoring and/or modeling to determine SO₂ statuses

Air Quality – Other Programs

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- Implementing the Mercury and Air Toxics Standards
 - MATS has put in motion planning and investment that is leading to the installation of pollution control technologies and adoption of emissions reduction measures across the existing fleet of power plants.
 - 3-year compliance date: April 16, 2015
 - 4-year compliance date: April 16, 2016
- Regional Haze
 - EPA is nearing completion of our actions on state regional haze plans for the first 10-year implementation period, which ends in 2018.
- Air Toxics
 - EPA is updating 20 air toxics rules, including rules that cover municipal solid waste landfills, petroleum refineries, and Brick and Structural Clay and Clay Ceramics.
 - Fenceline monitoring proposed for petroleum refineries.
- Interstate Transport
 - The US Supreme Court upheld CSAPR.
 - At this time, CAIR remains in place and CSAPR remains stayed. EPA continues to work with states to plan for and meet transport obligations.

E-Enterprise for the Environment

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- In September 2013, EPA and the Environmental Council of the States (ECOS) signed a joint initiative to improve environmental protection while reducing the burden of our programs:
 - Modernize programs to simplify reporting and processing time, saving all parties time and effort
 - Use advanced monitoring and information technologies to find and reduce air pollution
 - Support communities in collection of air quality data to identify local AQ concerns in their areas

Key Ambient Air Monitoring Issues

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- **Quality Assurance is a top priority**
 - ▣ Overall data quality has been an area of historic strength for the air program
 - ▣ We are experiencing some recent challenges in certain areas with regard to PM_{2.5} data quality and completeness
 - ▣ Management and staff-level engagement remains key, with a continued focus on training, resources, audits, and timely corrective action where needed

Key Ambient Air Monitoring Issues

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- Programs continue to evolve over time
 - We are focusing on assessments of key programs such as CSN, PAMS, and NATTS.
 - These assessments will be mindful of current pollution trends, new technology, updated health research, changing financial resources, and evolving program needs.
 - This focus will help us prepare to make network investments and divestments that reflect national and monitoring agency objectives that can change over time
 - E.g., Investment in multi-pollutant near-road monitoring

Encouraging Public Involvement

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- Community groups want to play a role in monitoring
 - ▣ We plan to continue to support such efforts with improved sensor technology, appropriately written guidance materials, and enhanced data tools
 - ▣ We also hope to enhance collaborations among community groups, sensor developers, state, local, tribal and federal officials, researchers, private industry and non-profit organizations
- Community Scale Air Toxics Grant program in FY 15
 - ▣ RFP in Sep/Oct 2014
 - ▣ Awards anticipated spring 2015



Village Green Project
Durham County Library South Regional
Branch in Durham, North Carolina

Keeping the Partnership Strong

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- ▣ Great appreciation for the efforts of the State, local, and Tribal monitoring community.
- ▣ Commitment to engaging stakeholders as early as possible on a wide range of issues

Thank you!

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