



CITY OF CLEVELAND
Mayor Justin M. Bibb

Cleveland's Anti-Idling Campaign

From Policy to Practice

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About CDAQ

- 1 of 4 Divisions in the Cleveland Department of Public Health
- Local air agency serving City of Cleveland and Cuyahoga County
- Comprised of 4 Sections including Monitoring, Enforcement, Permitting and Outreach

Monitoring

- Operates a network of 16 ambient (surrounding) air monitoring stations throughout Cuyahoga County
- Provides the current air quality data that updates the Air Quality Index (AQI) information and forecasting

Enforcement

- Ensures that industrial and commercial air pollution sources regulated by Ohio EPA are in compliance with their applicable regulations
- Inspect regulated sources
- Respond to citizen complaints

Permitting

- Prepares permits for **stationary sources** of air pollution
- Permits provide guidelines to maintain compliance with the Clean Air Act

Outreach

- Engages residents in matters related to air quality and public health
- Enhances services to the city of Cleveland, including addressing indoor air quality complaints and concerns



A closer look at Air Quality Enforcement

Regulated Sources:

- Apartment buildings
- Asphalt plants
- Auto body shops
- Crematories
- Dry cleaners
- Foundries
- Gas stations
- Grain elevators
- Furniture manufacturing
- Metal finishing/plating
- Plastic manufacturing
- Printing/graphics
- Sand and gravel plants



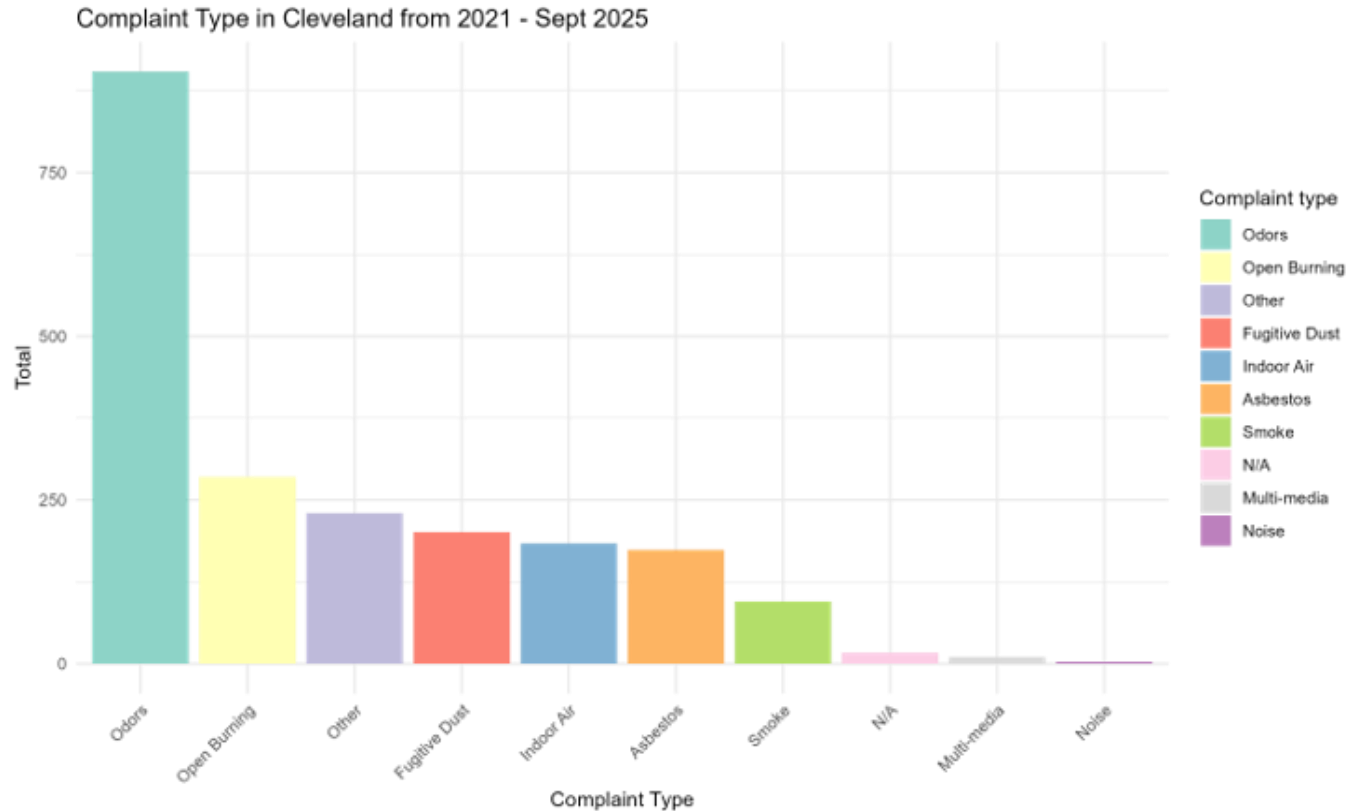
Air Quality Complaints

- Asbestos
- Fugitive Dust
- Indoor Air Quality (Cleveland only)
- Odors
- Open Burning
- Smoke
- Other air related issues

(216) 664-7442
www.clevelandhealth.org



City of Cleveland – All Complaints



CDAQ Response Time

73% of complaints received a site visit by the next day

93% of complaint received a site visit within 4 days

*For facilities that require a site visit

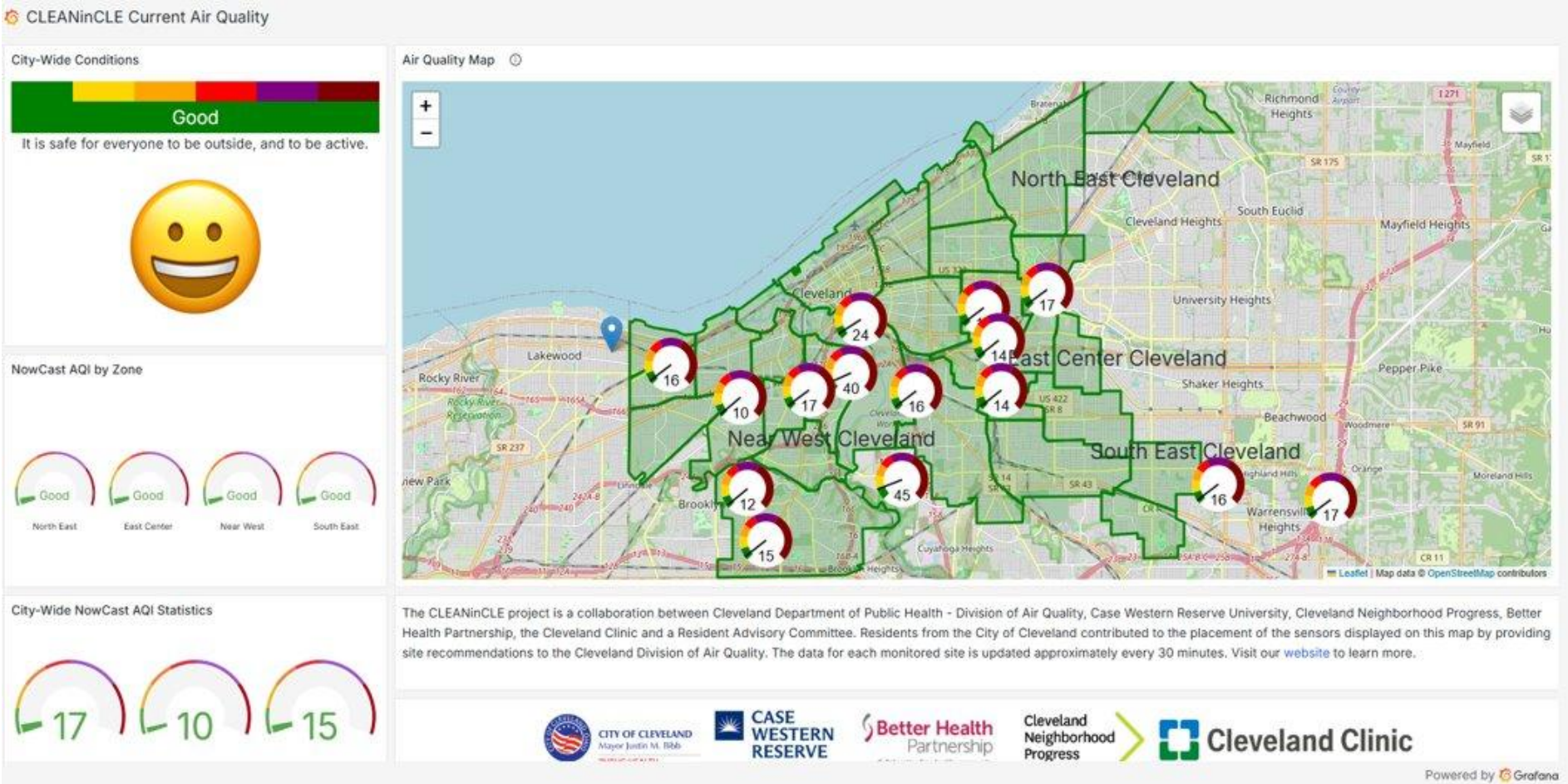




EPA Air Monitoring Network



CLEANinCLE Air Sensor Network



What do we monitor for?

Ozone

- Made up of three oxygen atoms (O_3)
- Occurs in Earth's upper atmosphere (good) and at ground-level (bad)
- Ground-level ozone is a harmful air pollutant and the main ingredient in smog

Particulate Matter

- Mixture of solid particles and liquid droplets found in the air
- Can be harmful due to the small size of the solids or droplets
- Droplets can be inhaled which may cause serious health problems

Carbon Monoxide

- Colorless, odorless gas that can be harmful when inhaled in large quantities
- Released when something is burned
- Cars, trucks and other vehicles, or machinery that burn fossil fuels are the main sources of outdoor CO pollution

Sulphur Dioxide

- Emitted to the air from the burning of fossil fuels by power plants and other industrial facilities
- Can be harmful to the human respiratory system and make it difficult to breathe

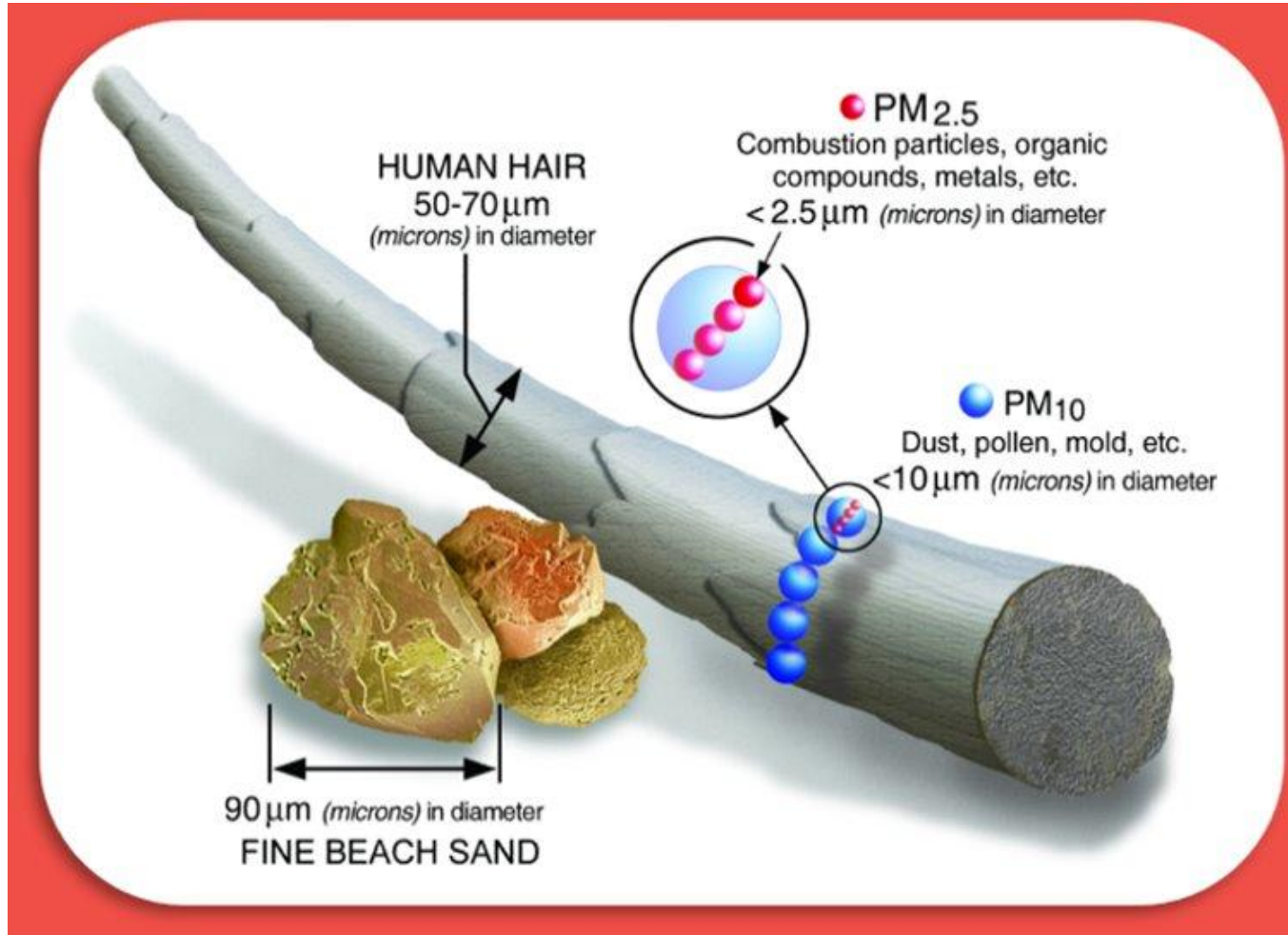
Nitrogen Dioxide

- Part of a group of highly reactive gases known as nitrogen oxides (NO_x)
- Primarily emitted from the burning of fuel and forms from emissions from cars, trucks, buses, off-road equipment, and power plants
- Reacts with other chemicals in the air forming particulate matter, ozone, and acid rain

Lead

- Emitted to the air from ore and metals processing and piston-engine aircraft operating on leaded aviation fuel; highest concentrations found near lead smelters
- Can negatively affect the nervous system, kidney function, immune system, reproductive and development systems, and the cardiovascular system
- Persistent in the environment – can be added to soils and sediments through deposits from sources of lead air pollution or through direct discharge of waste streams to water bodies and mining

Particulate Matter 2.5

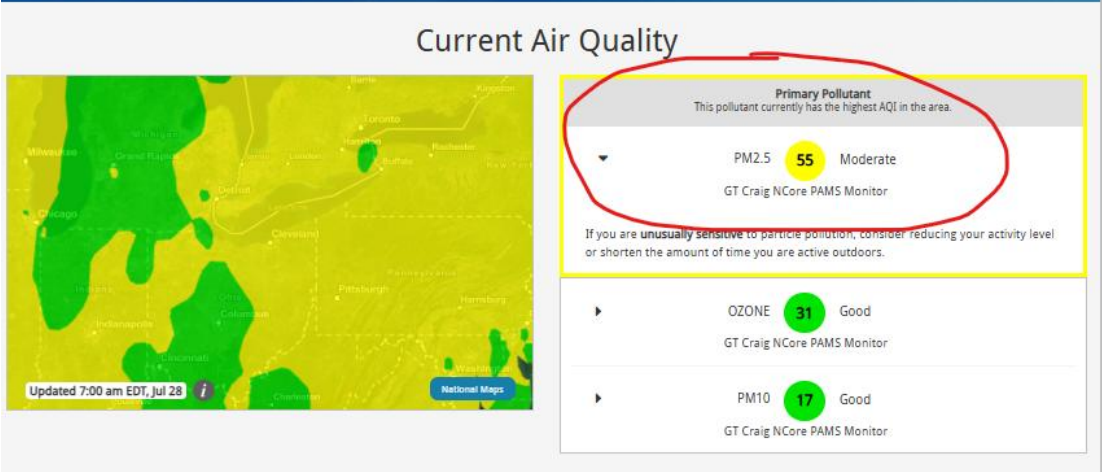


Particulate Matter:

A mixture of solids and liquids found in the air. Health effects range from premature death, cardiovascular and respiratory issues, cancers, etc. Recent research has also started to analyze the associations between PM exposure and dementia.



Air Quality Index – www.airnow.gov

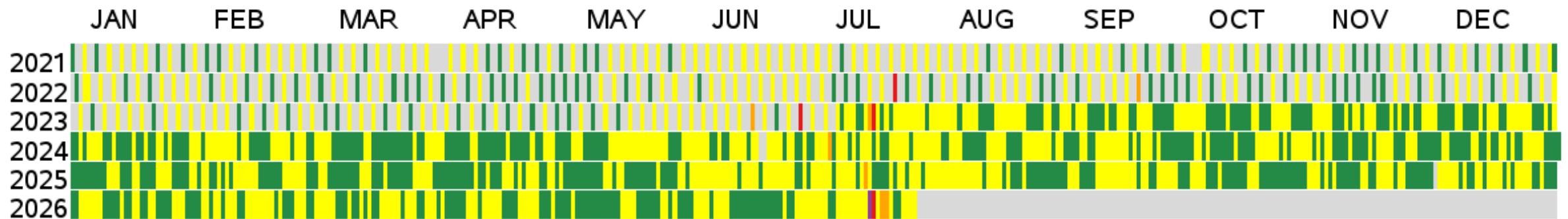


AQI Basics for Ozone and Particle Pollution			
Daily AQI Color	Levels of Concern	Values of Index	Description of Air Quality
Green	Good	0 to 50	Air quality is satisfactory, and air pollution poses little or no risk.
Yellow	Moderate	51 to 100	Air quality is acceptable. However, there may be a risk for some people, particularly those who are unusually sensitive to air pollution.
Orange	Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	101 to 150	Members of sensitive groups may experience health effects. The general public is less likely to be affected.
Red	Unhealthy	151 to 200	Some members of the general public may experience health effects; members of sensitive groups may experience more serious health effects.
Purple	Very Unhealthy	201 to 300	Health alert: The risk of health effects is increased for everyone.
Maroon	Hazardous	301 and higher	Health warning of emergency conditions: everyone is more likely to be affected.



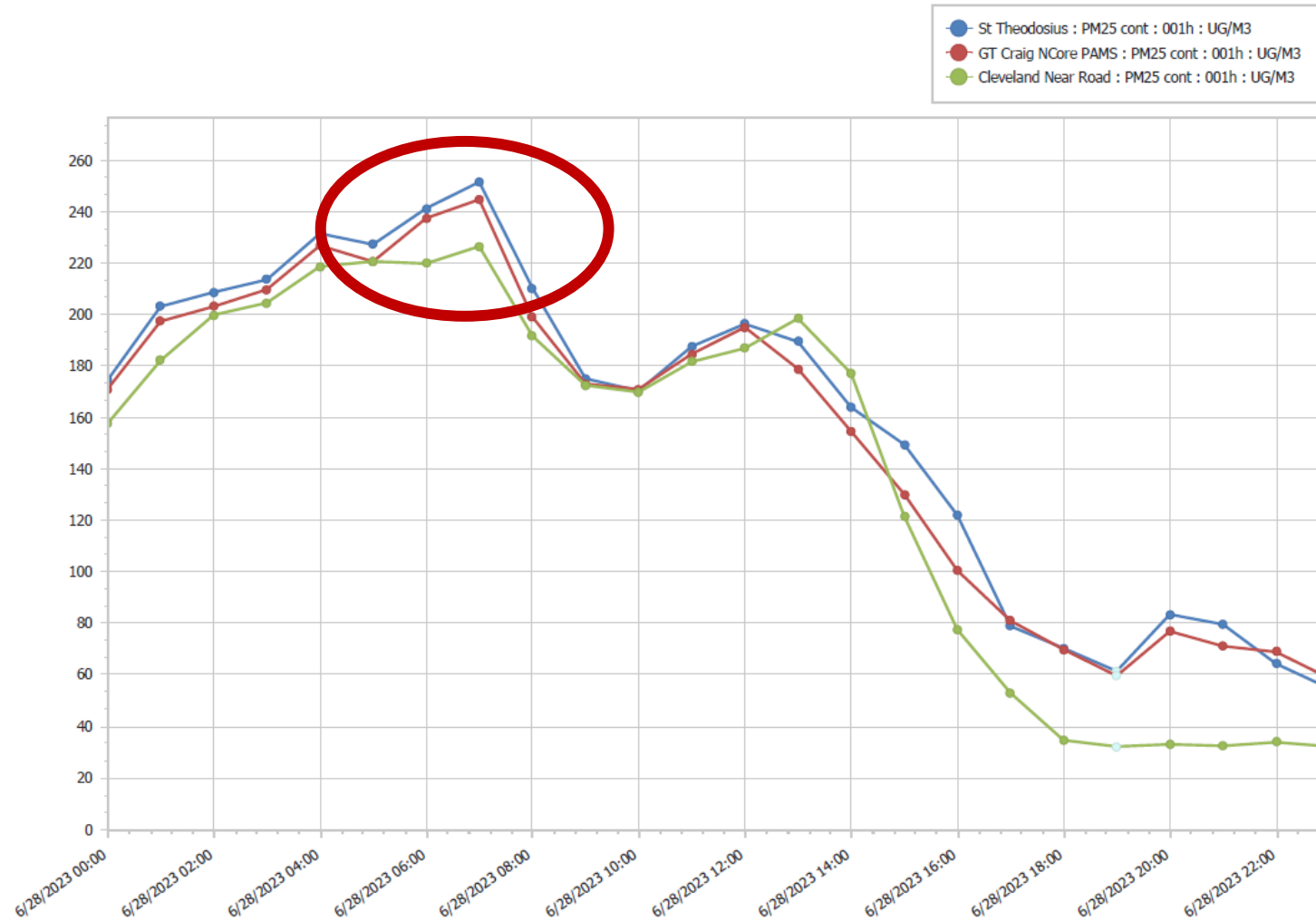
PM2.5 Daily AQI Values, 2021 to 2026

AQS Site ID: 39-035-0065, Local Site Name: Harvard Yards



Source: U.S. EPA AirData <<https://www.epa.gov/air-data>>
Generated: July 28, 2026





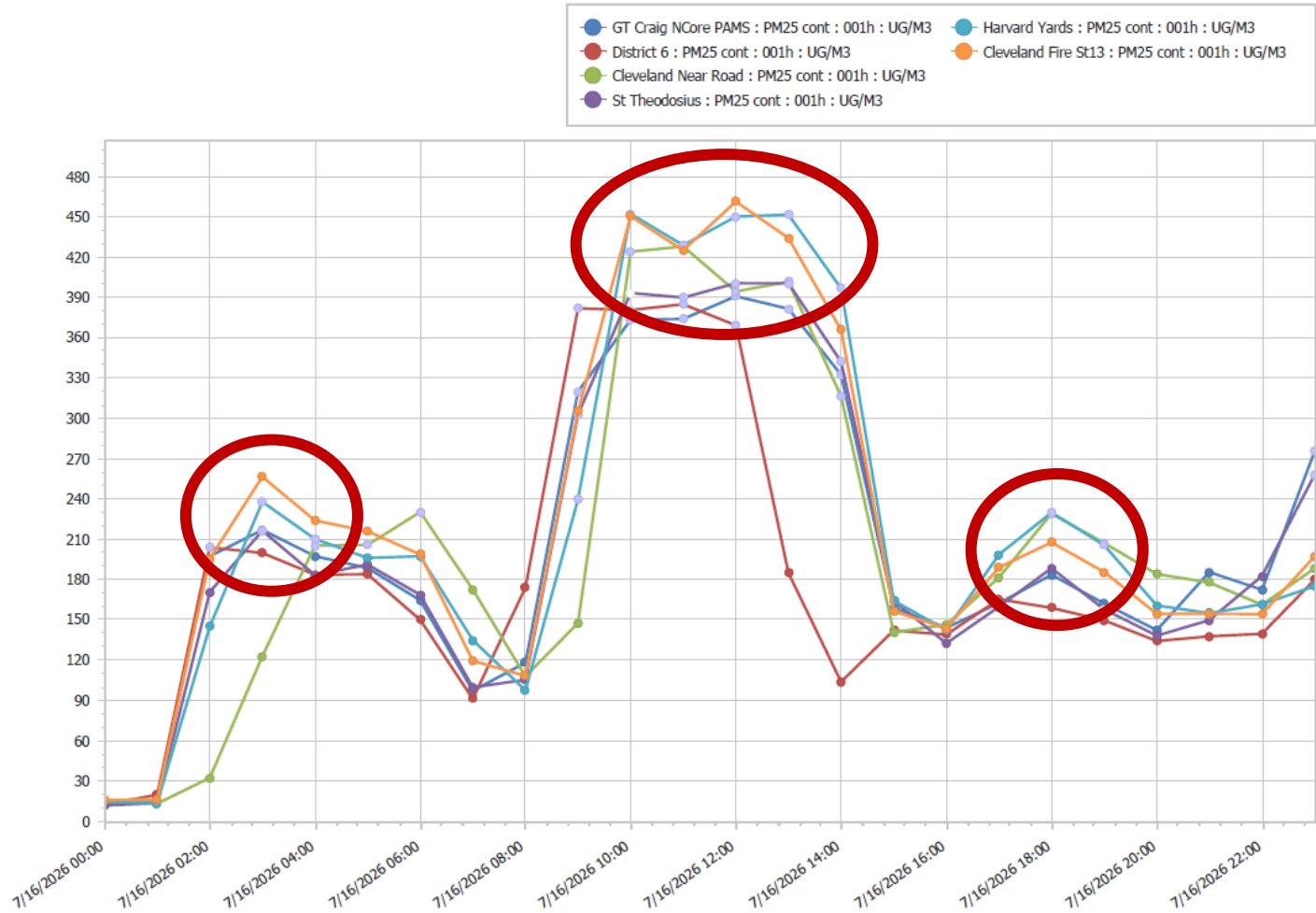
Wildfire Local Impacts on PM2.5: 2023

Peak Concentration of PM2.5:
About 250 ug/m3

AQI Equivalent: 350,
Hazardous Air Quality



Average Data Trend Report



Wildfire Local Impacts on PM2.5: 2026

Peak Concentration of PM2.5:
About 450 ug/m3

AQI Equivalent: 748,
Hazardous Air Quality



Cleveland's Anti-Idling Ordinance: Addressing Everyday Air Pollution Issues



Vehicle Idling: Why does it Matter?



- Vehicle idling unnecessarily produces pollutants that are harmful to human health. Types of pollutants produced includes greenhouse gas (CO₂), nitrogen dioxide (a precursor to ozone), and particulate matter.
- For both fleet and personal use applications, idling is wasteful of fuel and money.
 - Gallons per hour varies based on vehicle size but ranges from .16 gallons per hour up to 1.5 gallons per hour+
- Transportation Related Air Pollution (TRAP) is a major contributor to regional air quality issues, which has future regulatory implications



Alignment with City of Cleveland Climate Action Goals

Climate Action Plan by Sustainable Cleveland

Action 91

"Enforce Cleveland's existing idle reduction policy and expand outreach and education to fleet managers."

Success Stories

"The City of Cleveland installed mini-roundabouts along Franklin Boulevard, lowering the speed limit to 25 miles per hour and eliminating traffic lights that led to idling along the corridor. Franklin is now a low traffic stress route for people riding bikes."

Municipal Action Plan by City of Cleveland

Goal 3

"Decarbonize the City's vehicle fleet by 2045; with interim target of 50% by 2030."

Action 32

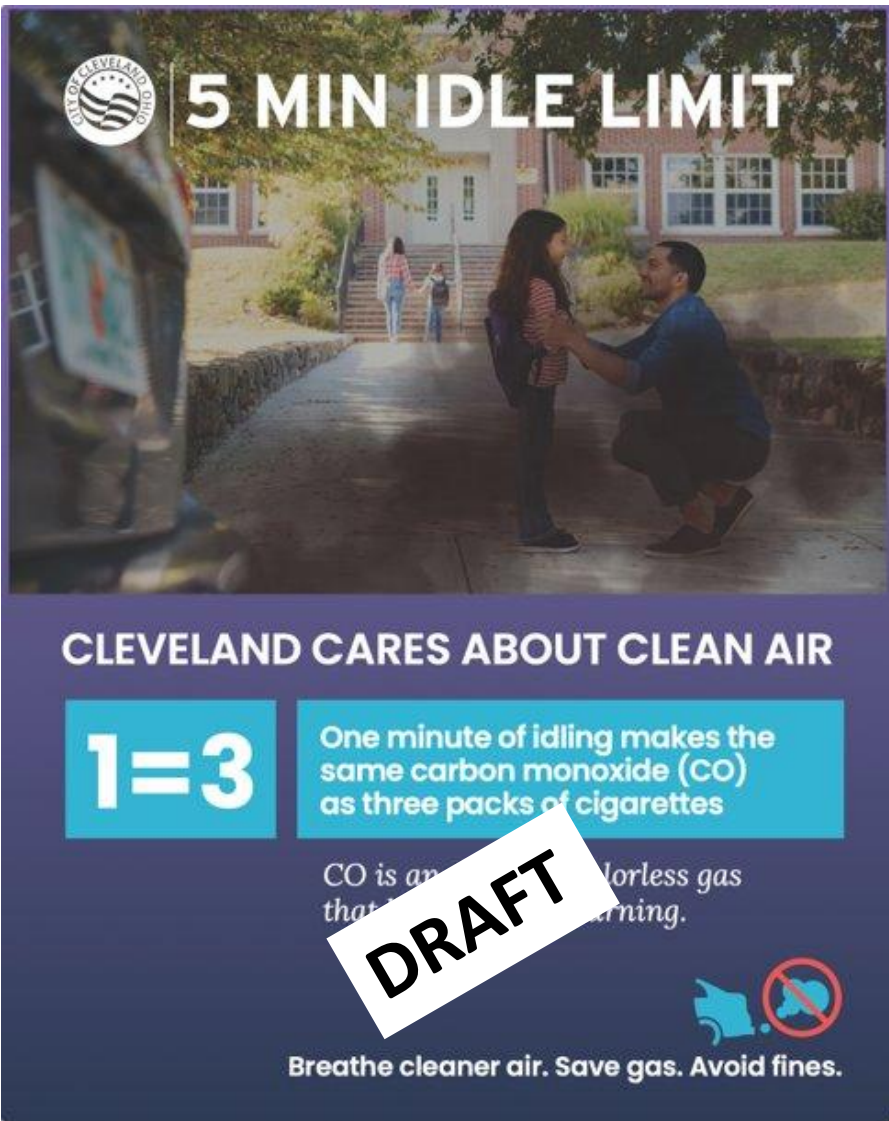
"Increase education, monitoring, and enforcement of the City's existing anti-idling policy for employees. Review and update the policy if appropriate."



Where does idling occur?

Areas with High Frequency of Vehicle Idling

- Schools by both parents and school bus operators (specifically around pick up times and elementary to middle schools students).
- High tourist and event areas (in Cleveland, this includes areas such as MLK Boulevard around the Cultural Gardens, sport and concert venues, and script signs).
- Areas with frequent commercial traffic (truckers that are waiting to load/unload equipment)
- Hospitals with pick up zones
- Construction areas that require on-board vehicle power to operate equipment



The poster features a photograph of a man kneeling to greet a young girl on a sidewalk, with a school building in the background. The City of Cleveland logo is in the top left corner. The text '5 MIN IDLE LIMIT' is prominently displayed at the top. Below the photo, it says 'CLEVELAND CARES ABOUT CLEAN AIR'. A blue box contains the text '1=3' and 'One minute of idling makes the same carbon monoxide (CO) as three packs of cigarettes'. Below this, a white diagonal banner reads 'DRAFT'. At the bottom, it says 'Breathe cleaner air. Save gas. Avoid fines.' and includes an icon of a car with a red prohibition sign over its exhaust pipe.

5 MIN IDLE LIMIT

CLEVELAND CARES ABOUT CLEAN AIR

1=3 One minute of idling makes the same carbon monoxide (CO) as three packs of cigarettes

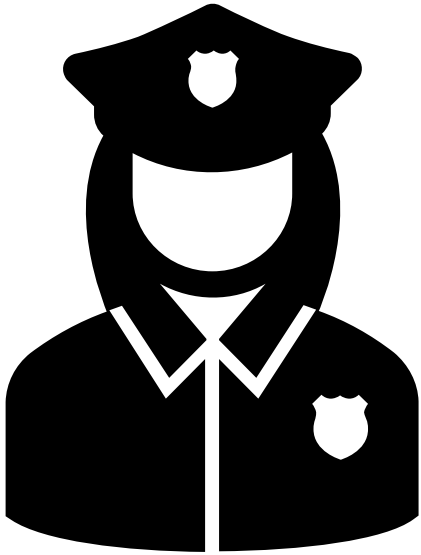
DRAFT

CO is an odorless gas that is harmful to your health and the environment.

Breathe cleaner air. Save gas. Avoid fines.



Anti-Idling Legislation



Originally adopted in 2007

"The owner or operator of a vehicle shall not cause or allow a vehicle to idle for more than five (5) minutes in any sixty (60) minute period"

Exemptions for weather and certain types of operations

Amended July 2025

- CDPH now has enforcement authority
- We must install signage
- Progressive enforcement policy



Anti-Idling Policy for City of Cleveland Employees

City of Cleveland Human Resources Policies and Procedures Manual

Section C - Workplace Policies and Procedures

"Effective immediately, unless exempted in the following section, no City vehicle or piece of equipment is to be idled in a non-emergency situation. The operator of the vehicle/equipment is to turn-off the unit and the keys are to be removed from the ignition."

Exemptions

1. Emergency Vehicles
2. Division of Police vehicles working traffic enforcement details
3. Vehicles at job sites requiring the use of emergency lights
4. Inclement weather situations



Overall goal: Educate residents and employees of Cleveland and incentivize behavioral change.

Implementation plans for 4 sectors

City of Cleveland Employees	Corporations and Businesses	General Public	Students
• Operation of city vehicles	• Medium and heavy duty vehicle focus	• Advertising and enforcement	• K-12 and college-level programming



Challenges to Encouraging Behavioral Change

Individual Beliefs

- "Idling is not a big deal – it does not harm the environment or my health"
- "I need to warm up my car when it is cold outside"
- "It wastes more fuel to turn my car off and turn it back on"
- "I am just running into the store really quickly"

Institutional Operations

- Field employees (writing reports while in the car, taking a lunch break, reviewing next assignment)
- Lack of employee knowledge of personnel related policies

Rules and Ordinances

- Overall lack of awareness of the existing anti-idling ordinances
- Difficult to enforce



1. City of Cleveland Employees

Why? Compliance with city policy, lead by example for the public

Current Work

- Employee policy has not been updated since it was implemented in 2008
- Internal online training module for city of Cleveland Employees
- Ordinance signage has been designed and installed in city-owned parking lots
- Field data collection of idling activity at city-owned parking lots where signs are posted

Partners

- Office of Urban AI
- Human Resources (Employee Incentives and Training)
- Office of Sustainability
- CWRU Department of Public Health (2 Student Interns)

Next Steps

- Training module to be deployed via BizLibrary for all employees, with tracked completion for those who operate a city-owned vehicle
- Collaborate with HR on employee incentivization and pledge program





Official Ordinance Signage

Currently installed in 4 city-owned parking lots (additional signs will be installed at Recreation Centers)

- Number of signs per parking lot were determined by size and usage of lot

Data collection of current idling activity is impacted by weather conditions



DRAFT

Our anti-idling ordinance is in effect.

City vehicles set the standard.



5 MIN IDLE LIMIT

—turn it off, every time.

view fleet compliance guidelines



Cleveland Traffic Ordinance § 431.44 Idle Reduction, Exemptions, Penalty



2. Corporate Fleet Vehicles

Why? Compliance with city policy, cost-savings, health impact on surrounding community

Current Work

- An Industry toolkit is under development:
 - Materials Request Form for industry to complete and return affirming understanding the anti-idling ordinance. Responsible official reports facility information, contact information, delivery details, etc
 - FAQ resources for industry from IdleBox and USDE (savings calculator, emission reduction technology grants, etc)
 - Sample memo of anti-idling ordinance for supervisors to distribute to employees

Next Steps

- Outreach to facility representatives with toolkit and available resources



3. General Public

Why? Cost-savings, health impacts, environmental impacts

Billboards deployed around Cleveland for 4 weeks in May 2026

- Designed with Urban AI, funded by Minority Health, installed in 20 locations
- No recorded change in public awareness or behavior
- For next time: revised text size and coloring for readability



CLEVELAND CARES ABOUT CLEAN AIR 5 MIN IDLE LIMIT

These small choices can add up to big savings and cut pollution.



STOP AND GO TRAFFIC: wastes gas
FIND THE BEST ROUTE BEFORE
YOU LEAVE THE HOUSE



IDLING AT THE DRIVE THRU: wastes gas
PARK AND WALK IN



DRAFT



IDLING BREAKS THE LAW: costs money
TURN OFF YOUR CAR



CITY OF CLEVELAND
Mayor Justin M. Bibb
PUBLIC HEALTH



Breathe cleaner air. Save gas. Avoid fines.

General Public

Current Work

- Designing digital messaging for Ikes, social media, Community Dashboard displays
- Designing print flyers and promotional items for distribution
- NOACA designing a brochure with updated idling guidelines
- Utilize TV20, radio spots, and additional forms of digital media to distribute
- Outreach team spreading the word at block clubs, council meetings, etc

Partners

- Office of Urban AI
- Office of Minority Health
- NOACA

Next Steps

- Order print and physical items for distribution
- Publish digital advertising
- Collect complaint data
- Collaborate with NOACA on broad distribution of signage



4. Students

Why? Health impacts for youth, environmental impacts

Current Work

- Referencing existing toolkits for student-led anti-idling initiatives
- Outreach team will work with CMSD schools
- NOACA will work with non-CMSD schools

Partners

- NOACA

Next Steps

- Pilot program with a few schools with a focus on dropoff and pickup lines to determine viability and scale
- Engage college student groups to advocate for anti-idling measures on campus



Metrics of Success

How will we evaluate program success?

Employees

- Compliance with policy based on field observations
- Number of employees trained on the policy
- Employee and/or department pledge forms

Corporations

- Number of business engaged
- Number of business requesting materials through the toolkit

General Public

- Number of complaints received and resolved
- Inquiries to our office for outreach/presentations
- Evaluating potential use of satellite air pollution data/vehicle emissions modeling

Schools

- Number of schools participating in the idle reduction campaign
- Students observations of pre-and post campaign



Breathe Cleaner Air. Save Gas. Avoid Fines.



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