



ARAQMD
Protecting our Air

The Air You Breathe

A free quarterly newsletter from Akron Regional Air Quality Management District.

VOLUME 32, ISSUE 4

NOVEMBER 2017

Air Pollution & Health

By D. Meyers

Why does ARAQMD exist? Why are air pollution regulations so important? Is “cleaner air” really worth the effort and expense involved in the needed changes?

Articles like the one recently published on the MD Magazine website titled, *Air Pollution Deaths Reach New Global Heights*, by Kevin Kunzmann, highlight the growing body of evidence that indicates the quality of the air we breathe has a direct impact on more than just our respiratory health.

We readily accept that the quality of the food we eat can impact our chronic disease risks. We scrutinize our food *containers*, cooking methods, and ingredient sourcing in an attempt to minimize our risks for any number of health concerns.

Additionally, many families diligently police the beverages they consume or that they allow their children to consume in an attempt to support optimal health. (If I had a nickel for every time someone told me how unhealthy the diet soda in my hand is, I'd have enough cash for a tasty burrito bowl at one of my favorite burrito restaurants.) Too much sugar, artificial sweeteners, high-fructose corn syrup...oh my!

And let us not leave out the quality of the non-food products in our lives that may put us at risk for poor health outcomes. The lotions and potions used to smooth our dry skin, the fragrances we apply, the laundry detergent we use (yes, I read an article recently that said my laundry detergent/softener could be making me fat!), and the myriad other items that we're supposed to stay away from to keep us from developing some scary

disease is enough to make a trip to the local retail store a nightmare!

But, what about the quality of the air we breathe 24/7? Turns out, that air has a much bigger impact than many of us may consider. Globally, deaths that can be attributed to poor ambient air quality are actually on the rise. According to the article, this is driven largely by, “uncontrolled city growth, increased energy demands, use of gasoline and diesel and the “globalization of industry...” in developing countries. It states that deaths attributable to ambient air quality rose 20% from 1990-2015 globally. Also, if “aggressive interventions” are not realized, that number may increase to 50%.

Research has implicated air pollution in diseases one would expect like asthma, COPD, heart disease, and several forms of cancer. But, that's not where the list of health impacts ends. Chronic diseases such as diabetes, autism, dementia, and even kidney disease are being linked to air pollution.

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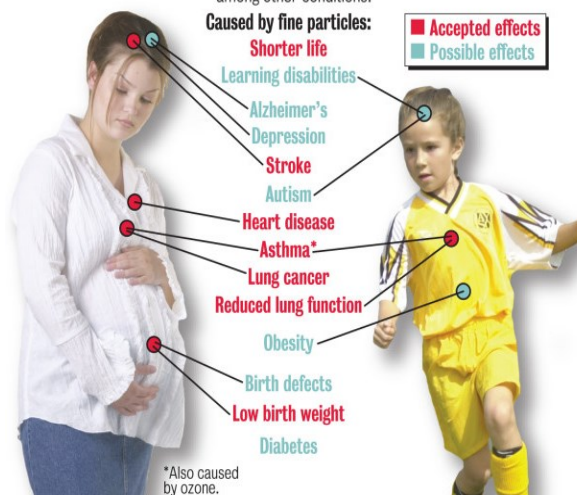
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POLLUTION MATTERS

Thousands of studies have shown how air pollution can harm people, causing heart attacks, lung problems and other ailments, and shortening lives. New research is finding possible links between certain pollutants and autism, birth defects and childhood obesity, among other conditions.



Graphic from airbetter.org

STAFF ARTIST

Golden Flashes gets Silver E3 Award!

From Ohio EPA

Ohio EPA Director Craig W. Butler presented Encouraging Environmental Excellence (E3) Awards October 3, 2017 at the Sustainability Conference in Columbus.

The E3 Program recognizes businesses, nonprofits and government agencies for going above and beyond compliance with requirements while demonstrating environmental excellence. This is the first year awarding our fourth level of recognition, Platinum Level, which recognizes organizations that have expanded their environmental programs beyond their own facility to make a positive impact on the surrounding community.

The E3 program also provides Gold, Silver and Achievement levels of recognition. An organization can work through levels of recognition including Achievement at the base level; Silver Level recognizing outstanding accomplishments in environmental stewardship; and Gold Level recognizing comprehensive environmental stewardship programs. All levels require a commitment to meet or exceed environmental regulatory requirements.

Read more for our local winner's efforts.

Kent State University – The University's Office of Sustainability manages and

plans sustainability efforts with the strategic goal of meeting present needs without compromising future generations.

University energy efficiency retrofits include energy controls, electronic metering and lighting and HVAC improvements, resulting in \$1.8 million savings. Kent States' Field House solar panels generate 500,000 kilowatt hours of energy per year. Storm water management includes green roofs, constructed wetlands, permeable pavers, conservation easements, retention/detention ponds, rain gardens, and vernal and ephemeral pools. KSU is recognized for its focus on environmentally friendly transportation with a free bus system and Flashfleet bike sharing system.

The KSU Airport was one of 20 airports nationwide selected by the FAA for funding sustainability projects. New building construction must meet LEED standards and realize an average of 40 percent water savings and 40 percent energy savings. Kent's landfill diversion rate has increased to 36 percent in 2016 in four years.

To see other winners from around the state click [here](#).



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Cool articles
AQI/Pollen
And more!

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Air Pollution & Health cont'd

Gratefully, the US has some robust air pollution regulations in place and agencies like ARAQMD working to make sure they are being implemented. We have significantly better air quality than many places in the world, but we can do better. We can be leaders in *how* to do better for our global community.

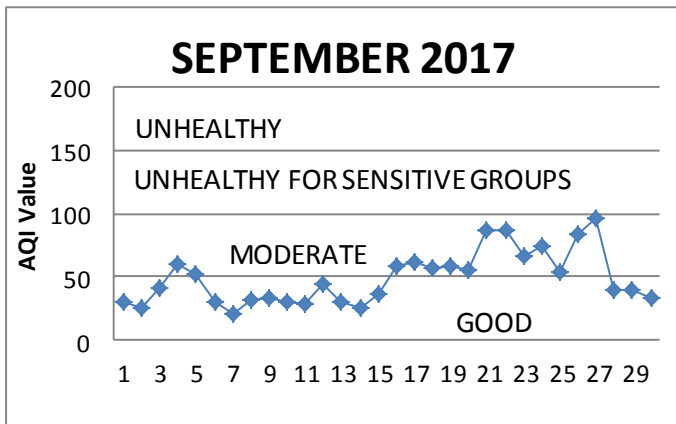
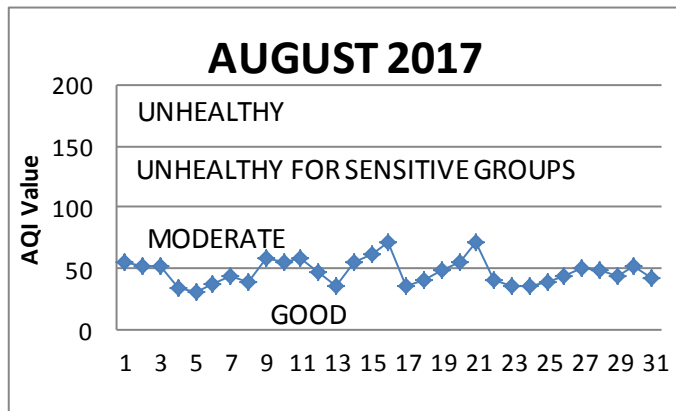
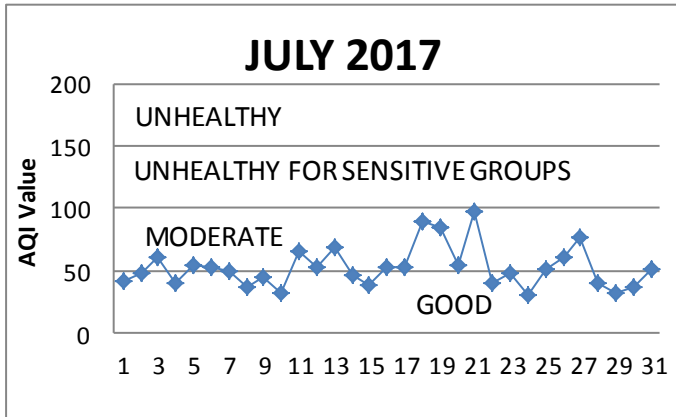
Imagine if we scrutinized the type of vehicles we drive or even our chosen modes of transportation in light of air pollution and it's impact on health conditions? Would we be as inclined to buy less fuel efficient vehicles? Would we be enthusiastic in embracing hybrid or all

electric vehicles? What about public or mass transportation? Since taking the bus would reduce air pollution would we make that change to help our community and their chronic health concerns? And, would I be allowed to criticize people's choice of a more polluting vehicle the way they freely criticize my choice in diet soda consumption? (I jest....a little.)

Ultimately, the air we breathe is foundational to good health. We can, and *should* take a robust interest in ways we can know better so we can do better in regards to the air we breathe!

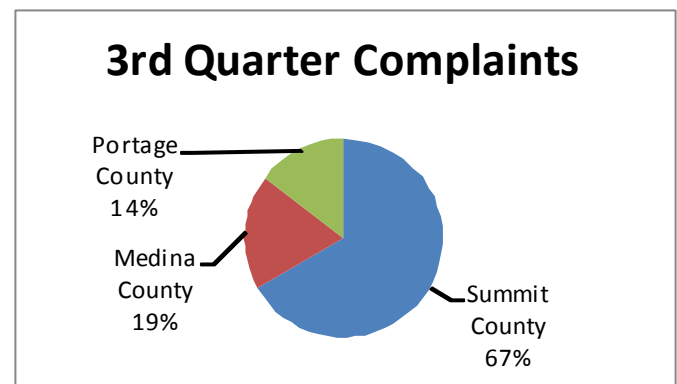
Statistic Snap Shot

3rd Quarter 2017



3rd Quarter 2017 Complaints

Area	Commercial/ Industrial	Residential	Total
Summit County	8	24	32
Medina County	5	4	9
Portage County	1	6	7
Kent	0	0	0



Site Visits	3rd Quarter 2017
FEPTIO	6
Title V	12
Non Title V	23
GDF	3
Full Compliance Evaluations	10

Permits Issued

Quarter	PTI		PTIO		TV		PBR
	Draft	Final	Draft	Final	Draft**	Final	Total
3rd Q 2017	1	0	6	20	4	5	6

Asbestos		Indoor Air Quality Inquiries	
3rd Q—Notifications	104	3rd Q—	4
3rd Q—Inspections	27		



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On the National Scene

By D.LaClair

Sam Rubens, Summit County Public Health Assistant Director of Environmental Health and the Administrator of the Akron Regional Air Quality Management District (ARAQMD), is adding the title of Co-President of the National Association of Clean Air Agencies (NACAA) to his name.

NACAA is the national, non-partisan, non-profit association of air pollution control agencies. The association serves to encourage the exchange of information, to enhance communication and cooperation among federal, state, and local regulatory agencies, and to promote good management of our air resources.

As a national association of air pollution control professionals, NACAA establishes committees to focus on a wide range of issues related to providing clean air and promoting public health. In addition to providing training and information exchange between air agencies, NACAA forms positions and communicates regularly with elected officials and the public on issues related to the Clean Air Act through resolutions, public comments, letters and testimony.

Since ARAQMD's membership in NACAA, Sam has served in many capacities such as Committee Chairman, Treasurer, Co-Vice President and on September 26, 2017, Sam became Co-President representing local air agencies (the other Co-President represents state air agencies). As Co-President, Sam will oversee the actions of the Board of Directors, preside over board meetings and ensure actions of the Board of Directors are carried into effect through the actions of the Executive Director and staff. One of Sam's recent accomplishments was participating in the national search for the new NACAA Executive Director.



Please join SCPH and ARAQMD in congratulating Sam on his new position!