

Delaware CEDS

a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy
for the State of Delaware



Delaware CEDS – a program of the Delaware Economic Development Office
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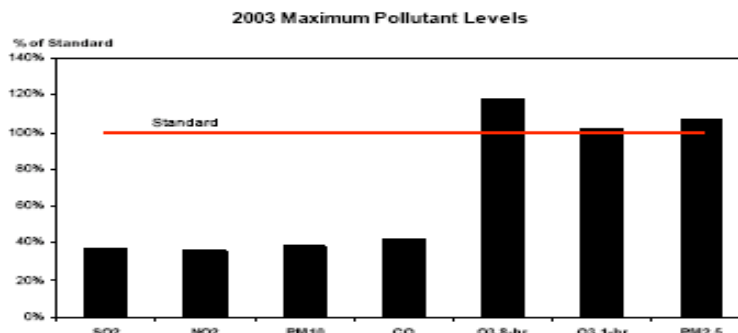
AIR QUALITY Facts

I. Relationship of Air Quality to Economic Development

- Delaware's air quality is a key factor in protecting public health, especially for sensitive populations such as children, the elderly, and asthmatics.
- Proper air-quality levels are needed to protect the public against decreased visibility, damage to crops, vegetation, and buildings.
- Delaware must develop and implement adequate plans to meet air-quality standards, or else millions of dollars in federal transportation funding will be unavailable to fund certain types of projects.

II. Existing Trends & Conditions

- In 1970 Congress passed the Clean Air Act that authorized the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to launch National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for pollutants shown to threaten human health and welfare.
- Delaware fails to meet federal standards for PM_{2.5} and ground-level ozone, which occurs when sunlight mixes with nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds.



Source: DNREC: Delaware Air Quality Report 2003

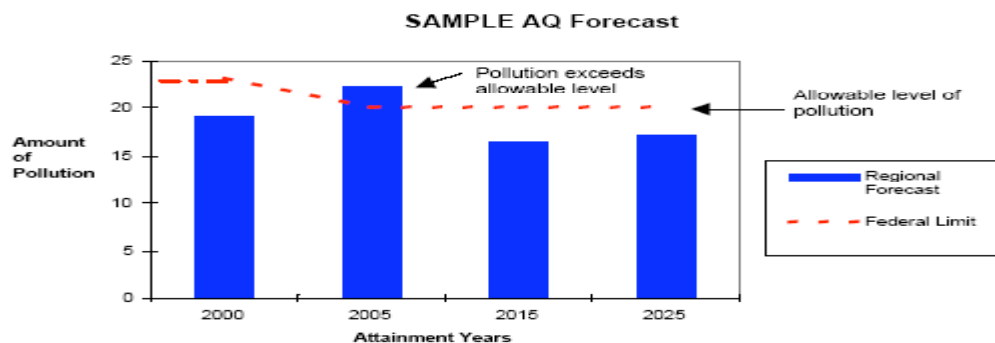
- Currently, New Castle and Kent County are classified by the EPA as in “severe non-attainment” for meeting the one-hour NAAQS for ozone.
- New Castle County exceeds the annual average standard for PM_{2.5}, while Kent and Sussex counties meet the standard.

III. Projections & Plans

- The State of Delaware has established an air-monitoring network to determine the ambient levels of pollutants for which NAAQS have been established. Currently, monitoring takes place statewide at the following locations:

- Brandywine
- Bellefonte
- Wilmington - MLK Blvd.
- Ommelanden
- Newark
- Delaware City
- Summit Bridge
- Dover
- Felton
- Seaford
- Lewes

- The Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 required EPA, states, and cities to implement a series of programs that would further reduce emissions of VOCs and NOx from cars, fuels, industrial and chemical facilities, power plants, and consumer and commercial products, among other sources.
- The EPA has required DNREC to submit “Rate-of-Progress Plans” every three years to show that the region is making progress towards achieving the standard.
- A great deal of improvement in our air quality as been achieved through addressing “point sources,” such as power plants, solid-waste landfills, refineries, and emissions from automobiles.
- Below is a chart that forecasts the region’s air quality.



Source: WILMAPCO Regional Transportation Plan 2025 (RTP 2025)

IV. Identified Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunities

- The main goal is to *conserve energy and use alternative forms of transportation.*
- Air Pollution can be reduced in the following manner:
 - Limit single passenger trips and form a carpool
 - Increase use and availability of public transportation
 - Enforce stricter air-quality standards
 - Promote growth in less sprawled land use patterns

Constraints

- Air pollutants spread rapidly, almost instantaneously, for that reason polluters rarely feel affected by their decision to pollute.
- Trends in ozone concentrations are difficult to discern due to the effect of meteorology.
- Standardized monitoring methods are relatively new, especially for one of Delaware’s criteria pollutants PM_{2.5}, therefore more data still needs to be collected before accurate comparisons can be made.