

CLARKSVILLE-MONTGOMERY COUNTY GREEN CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

Air Quality Fact Sheet



LOCAL AIR QUALITY OVERVIEW

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) identifies the following sources as air pollutants:

- Stationary sources such as factories, power plants, and smelters and smaller sources such as dry cleaners and degreasing operations
- Mobile sources such as cars, buses, planes, trucks, and trains
- Naturally occurring sources such as windblown dust and volcanic eruptions

The EPA is responsible for setting the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for pollutants that are considered harmful to people and the environment. The pollutants measured include ground-level ozone, particle pollution, carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide and nitrogen dioxide. If a community meets the standards set by the EPA, they are an attainment area. If a community falls below the standards, they are a non-attainment area and are required to provide a plan to obtain attainment or face EPA penalties. At this time, the Clarksville–Montgomery County area is in attainment; however, if the EPA lowers the acceptable levels within the NAAQS our community could fall to non-attainment. It is best to be proactive and continue to improve our air quality before it becomes a regulated requirement.

HOW IS AIR QUALITY MONITORED

In Montgomery County, the Clarksville Urbanized Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (www.cuampo.com) is responsible for daily air quality monitoring. Air quality monitoring stations within our community collect and analyze air throughout the day and report the findings as an overall Air Quality Index (AQI). The AQI is a numeric value between 0 and 500 that corresponds to a six level chart indicating the health concern associated with the air quality. The lower the value the better the air quality is.

Air Quality Index Levels of Health Concern	Numerical Value	Meaning
Good	0 to 50	Air quality is satisfactory, and air pollution poses little or no risk.
Moderate	51 to 100	Air quality is acceptable; however, for some pollutants there may be a moderate health concern for a very small number of people who are unusually sensitive to air pollution.
Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	101 to 150	Members of sensitive groups may experience health effects. The public is not likely to be affected.
Unhealthy	151 to 200	Everyone may begin to experience health effects; members of sensitive groups may experience more serious health effects.
Very Unhealthy	201 to 300	Health alert: everyone may experience more serious health effects.
Hazardous	301 to 500	Health warnings of emergency conditions. The entire population is more likely to be affected.

You can view the current AQI for our area by visiting <http://airnow.gov> and typing in the zip code. You can also view an interactive map of air quality monitoring stations on the EPA's website (<https://www.epa.gov/outdoor-air-quality-data/interactive-map-air-quality-monitors>).

HOW TO IMPROVE AIR QUALITY

Most industries have strict regulations for air quality. If you are an industry business, please reference your current regulations or contact the TN Department of Environment & Conservation if you are unsure of the requirements.

If you are a non-industrial business, you may not be aware of ways to improve the air quality inside and outside your facility. Below are a few examples of ways you can help improve air quality in our community.

Inside your facility:

- Make sure air vents are clean and unblocked
- Do not allow smoking within the facility
- If sunlight is present, have live office plants instead of artificial
- Dispose of food waste promptly
- Use “green” cleaning and pest control products
- Check the HVAC system to determine if you have areas of stagnant air
- Make sure air filters are changed frequently
- Upgrade old office equipment that may have dangerous emissions
- Have a plan in place for accidental spills of chemicals or toxic materials
- Monitor humidity levels to reduce the chance of mold growth
- Purchase green products that have been manufactured in a way that reduces energy and fuel consumption

Outside your facility:

- Implement a “No Idling” policy on premises
- Encourage employees to take transit, bicycle or walk to work
- Add native trees and plants to your landscaping
- Use alternative fuel fleet vehicles
- Make sure fleet vehicles receive proper maintenance, with special attention to their emissions
- If you have chemicals onsite, ensure they are not leaking vapors
- Mow early in the morning or in the evening to reduce emissions
- Use green power – Coal power produces greenhouse gases and pollutants