

FAQ : What you need to know about Greater Kansas City's air



Is Kansas City's air clean?

Not always. Our metropolitan area typically experiences 10 to 15 days each year on which air quality does not meet federal

DID YOU KNOW?

Our region will be required to put in place measures to reduce emissions if it continues to violate air quality standards.



standards, primarily due to high concentrations of ground-level ozone, commonly known as smog. Our region risks losing its clean air status if ozone concentrations exceed the EPA's health-based limits.

Why is ozone a problem?

In the upper levels of our atmosphere, ozone is a helpful chemical compound that occurs naturally. But **ground-level ozone** — which forms when emissions from sources such as cars, lawn mowers and industry react with heat and sunlight — irritates the sensitive tissue of the eyes, nose and lungs. This can cause inflammation, chest pain and difficulty breathing. Even low-level ozone exposure has been linked to increased hospital visits.



DID YOU KNOW?

More than 25,000 children in the Kansas City region have asthma.

How can I find out if poor air quality is expected?

The **SkyCast** is the daily ozone season air quality forecast issued by the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC). When poor air quality is expected, MARC issues an **Ozone Alert**. On Ozone Alert days, residents should take action to reduce emissions and to avoid prolonged exposure to outdoor air. The SkyCast is available at www.marc.org, via Twitter at [www.twitter.com/airQKC](https://twitter.com/airQKC), through many local media outlets, or by calling (913) 383-7557.

What can you do?

More than half of all ozone-forming emissions come from common daily activities, so **we can all help reduce ozone pollution**. Here are a few steps you can take:

- Drive less.** Carpool, take the bus, walk or bike whenever possible. Combine short trips.
- Refuel in the evening and don't top off your tank.** Refueling in the evening allows fumes to dissipate overnight. On hot days, don't fuel up in the morning.
- Don't paint in the heat of the day.** Avoid using oil-based paints, solvents and varnishes. Don't use them at all on Ozone Alert days.
- Don't mow on Ozone Alert days.** Lawn mowers and other gas-powered yard equipment don't have emissions controls. They create far more air pollution per gallon of fuel burned than cars.
- Landscape with native plants.** Landscaping reduces the area you have to mow, and native plants require less water and fewer chemicals.
- Spread the word.** Talk to your family, friends and neighbors about air quality. If everyone takes small actions, Greater Kansas City will be on its way to cleaner air!

Check the daily SkyCast at www.marc.org/airQ

GOOD

MODERATE

ORANGE ALERT

RED ALERT



Clear Thinking. Clear Air.