

Air Quality Commission FY25 Annual Report

Presented by: Peter McGrath, Chair

Staff Support: Leslie Rhodes, AQ Director

2025 Air Quality Commission



Pictured (left to right): Mr. Ron Ross, Rev. Dr. Janet Garner-Mullins, Ms. Ieshishua Pierce (Clerk)
Mr. Gregory Twait, Mr. Richard Matulis, Dr. Brian Magi
Mr. Marcus Hackler (Vice Chair), Mr. Steven Moore
Not pictured: Ms. Lisa Hooker, Mr. Bill Lawrence, Mr. Peter McGrath (Chair), Dr. Karl Welke

Topics

- National Ambient Air Quality Standards- Compliance Status
- Regulatory Air Monitoring Network Activities
- Federal Updates
- Community Outreach
- GRADE (Grants to Replace Aging Diesel Engines)

Evaluating Air Monitoring Compliance

2024 Annual Compliance Values

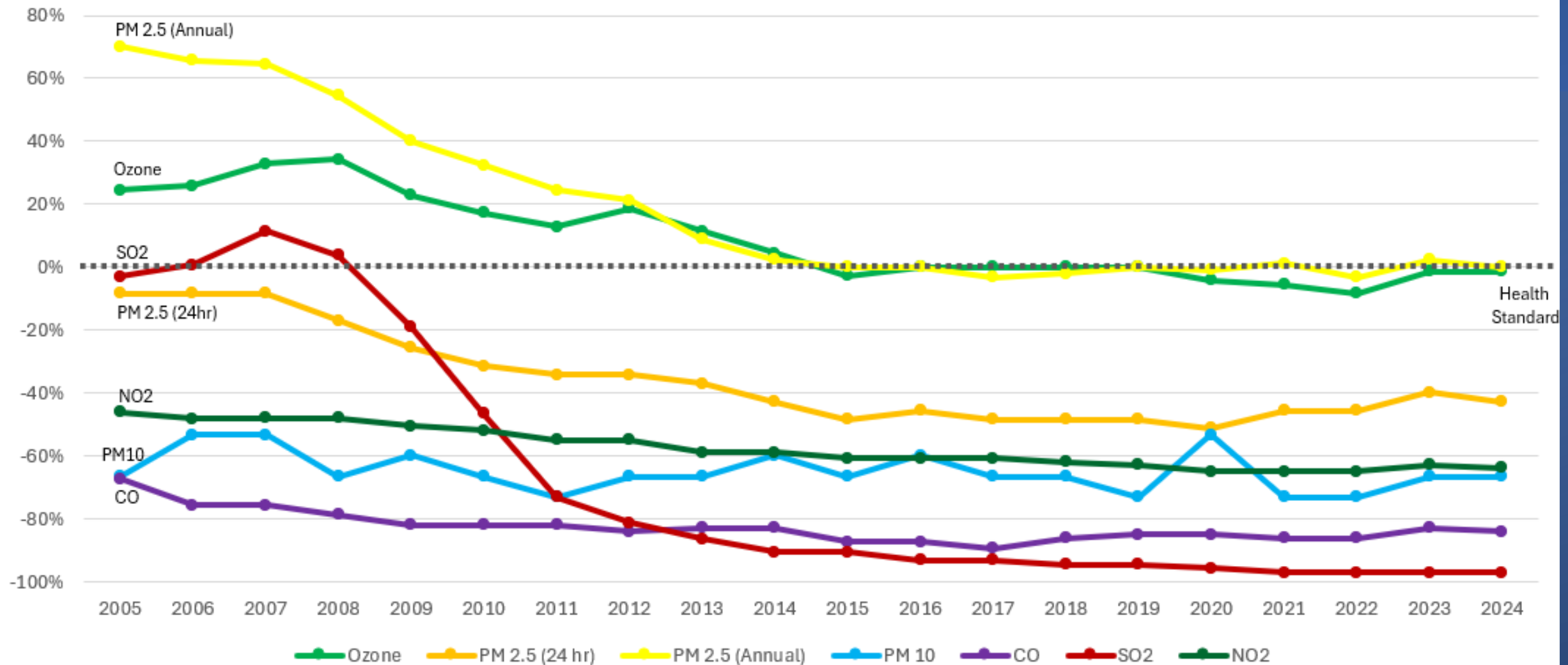
Mecklenburg County currently meets all federal, health-based air quality standards.

Pollutant	Averaging Time	Mecklenburg Compliance Value (2024)	NAAQS	Federal NAAQS Designation
Ozone (O3)	8-hour	69 ppb	70 ppb	Attainment
Particulate Matter (PM2.5)	24-hour	20 µg/m ³	35 µg/m ³	Attainment
	Annual	9.0 µg/m ³ *	9 µg/m ³	
Particulate Matter (PM10)	24-hour	50 µg/m ³	150 µg/m ³	Attainment
Carbon Monoxide (CO)	8-hour	1.6 ppm	9 ppm	Attainment
	1-hour	1.7 ppm	35 ppm	
Sulfur Dioxide (SO2)	1-hour	2 ppb	75 ppb	Attainment
	3-hour	0.002 ppm	0.5 ppm	
Nitrogen Dioxide (NO2)	1-hour	36 ppb	100 ppb	Attainment
	Annual	13 ppb	53 ppb	

* Excludes days impacted by wildfires following EPA's Exceptional Events Rule.

Highlight indicates pollutants of local concern.

Percent Difference from Health Standard Mecklenburg County, NC





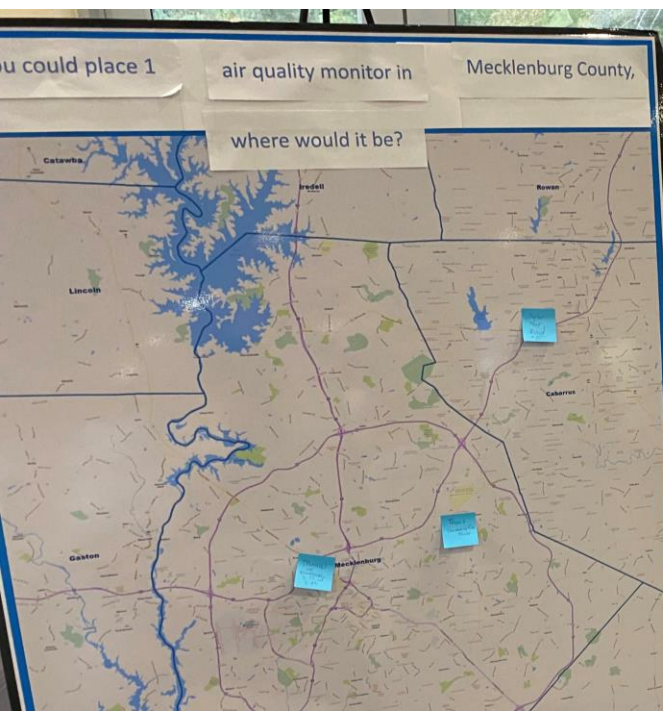
MCAQ air monitoring since the 1960s

- Supports compliance with USEPA standards for cleaner air
- Provides local air quality data to the public
- Supports air pollution research



Proactive Outreach to Data Users

- Goals:
 - Learn how people use the data and if there are any perceived gaps.
 - Start a conversation about air quality!
- Methods for Input:
 - Social Media
 - Webform
 - In-Person Activity
 - Personal Email
- Outcome:
 - Approximately 5,000 impressions on social media.
 - Overall, the Monitoring Network is sited to meet the needs of respondents.



Federal Updates

- USEPA identified 31 federal de-regulatory priorities. The one most likely to impact local air quality in Charlotte is related to mobile sources.
 - Reconsideration of vehicle regulations- The administration's priority appears to be focused on elimination GHG requirements but there are also significant criteria pollution reductions (ozone precursors) in these rules that could also be repealed.
- Federal Funding which MCAQ has received annually since 1974 is at risk in the Federal Fiscal Year 2026 Budget. This funding supports non-discretionary work including:
 - Permitting, inspections, and enforcement at over 500 local regulated facilities;
 - Oversight of asbestos abatement in demolition activities; and,
 - Ambient monitoring.

Community Outreach

- The AQC assisted with three outreach efforts over the last year:
 - Connecting staff with groups who could give input about how they use air quality data.
 - Piloting an electric vehicle access activity.
 - Developing air quality messages that can be amplified by corporate partners.
- During FY25, Air Quality staff reached residents in most of the AQC's priority outreach areas.

Pictured: AQC Members Ron Ross (L) and Janet Garner-Mullins (R) at the November 2024 grand opening of the latest Historic West End electric vehicle charging station.



GRADE: Grants to Replace Aging Diesel Engines

- AQC members participated in the Grants to Replace Aging Diesel Engines (GRADE) 2025 Selection Committee.
 - The Selection Committee sub-awarded \$600,000 in federal funding to 14 projects, 9 of which were diesel-to-electric ground-support equipment (GSE) conversions at the airport.
 - These 14 projects are projected to reduce 83 tons of air pollution over the next 10 years.

Pictured: GSE operator at Charlotte Douglas International Airport gives the electric equipment a thumbs up!



2025 AQC Membership

AQC Member	Sector	BOCC District
Mr. Peter McGrath (Chair)	Attorney	4
Mr. Marcus Hackler (Vice Chair)	Industry	2
Rev. Dr. Janet Garner-Mullins	Public	2
Ms. Lisa Hooker	Public	1
Mr. Bill Lawrence	Public	1
Dr. Brian Magi	Scientist	3
Mr. Richard Matulis	Public	6
Mr. Steven Moore	Transportation	4
Mr. Ron Ross	Environmental	2
Mr. Greg Twait	Engineer	1
Dr. Karl Welke	Public	5
Vacant	Health Professional	