



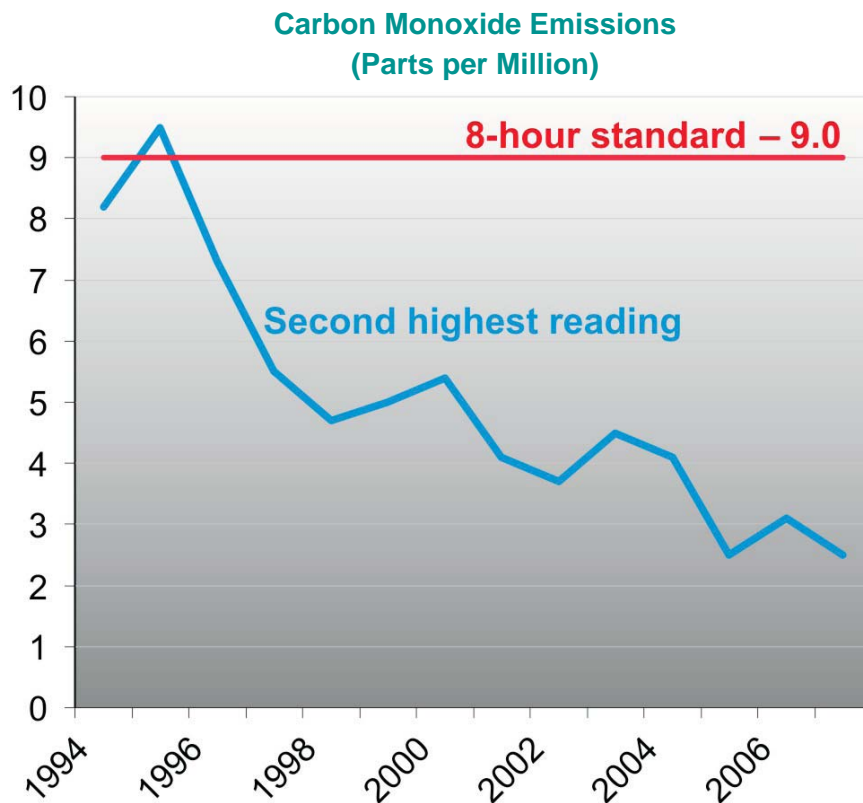
Air Quality

Goal: Protect human health and environmental quality by achieving and maintaining ambient air quality standards.

Policy: Reduce growth in mobile source air pollution emissions by providing travel alternatives, improving the efficiency of the regional transportation network and changing key features of the development pattern. In combination, these will help achieve national, state and regional air quality objectives.

Measure: Trends in three major air pollutants: carbon monoxide, particulate matter and ozone.

Conclusions: During the 1980s, our region regularly violated the federal carbon monoxide (CO) standard. We have not violated the standard since 1995, however, and the trend line shows continued improvement. At 2.5 parts per million in 2007, CO levels were well below the federal standard of nine parts per million.



PM₁₀, or particulate matter less than 10 microns in size (the width of a human hair), also posed a problem for our region in the 1980s. Wood-burning bans on high-pollution days, use of liquid deicers and increased street sweeping of sand after snowstorms resulted in a dramatic reduction in PM₁₀ levels. In 2007, PM₁₀ levels were well below the federal standard of 150 micrograms per cubic meter of air.

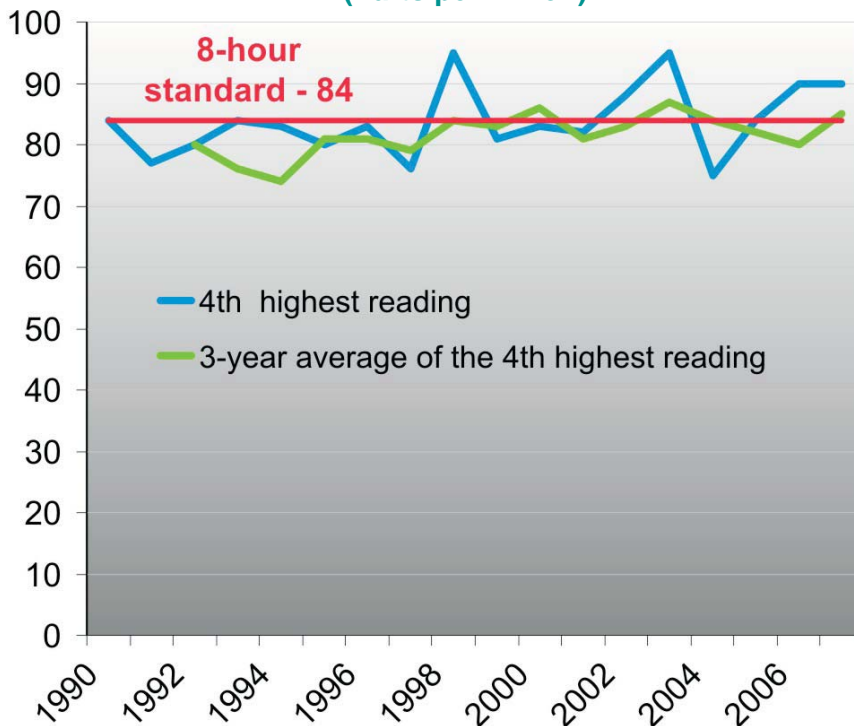
**PM₁₀ Emissions
(Micrograms per Cubic Meter)**



The final figure shows trends in ozone levels, including the fourth-highest values for each year and the three-year averages of the fourth-highest values. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) uses the three-year average to determine compliance with federal standards.

The average value for the three-year period of 2005-2007 marginally exceeded the federal standard of 84 parts per billion. The non-attainment area includes seven counties in the DRCOG region plus parts of two counties to the north. Within the next year, the Regional Air

**Ozone Levels
(Parts per Billion)**



Quality Council (RAQC) must prepare a plan for reducing ozone pollution, called the State Implementation Plan (SIP).

Action Steps: To meet national air quality standards, our region can take the following actions:

- Assist the RAQC in preparing the SIP to assure compliance with the federal standard.
- Follow the Governor's Directive to the RAQC issued in July 2007 and set a goal of reducing or eliminating ozone levels above 80 parts per billion.
- Consider additional elements that would further reduce ozone levels in anticipation of the more stringent federal standard (75 parts per billion) that will come into effect in 2010.
- Continue to implement the maintenance plans for CO and PM₁₀.