

The Air You Breathe

Free Quarterly Newsletter from **Akron Regional Air Quality Management District**

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Do You Use Solar?

If your electricity is supplied by the City of Wadsworth, the answer may be YES! We wanted to take a moment to highlight a community improving air quality by using renewable solar energy!

In 2020, the installation was completed for two solar plants in the City of Wadsworth. The community will use the energy output to increase the amount of electricity from renewable sources and help reduce high transmission and capacity costs. The energy produced by the solar facility will be purchased from American Municipal Power, Inc. (AMP), the nonprofit wholesale power supplier and services provider for 135 members in nine states. AMP worked in conjunction with a subsidiary of NextEra Energy Resources, LLC, which designed, built, operates, and maintains the arrays. Construction of the sites used at least 80 percent in-state labor.

Seville Road Solar Plant

The 6.25 Megawatts photo-voltaic solar power plant is made up of approximately 21,000 panels and is located on 31 acres on Seville Road. These solar panels were constructed on a tracking system, which allows for the arrays to move with the sun during the day. This maximizes the energy production and allows this power plant enough capacity to energize approximately 4,375 households. Construction began in August of 2019 and was put into commercial operation on March 1, 2020. For live information on the amount of energy being produced as well as historical production, please visit the plant's energy dashboard.



Rittman Road Solar Plant

This facility has 2.625 Megawatts of power generation capacity and was built on 10 acres of land between SR 57 and Rittman Road. This site produces enough energy to power approximately 1,837 households. Construction began in February of 2020 and the plant went into commercial operation on June 1, 2020. For live information on the amount of energy being produced as well as historical production, please visit the plant's energy dashboard.



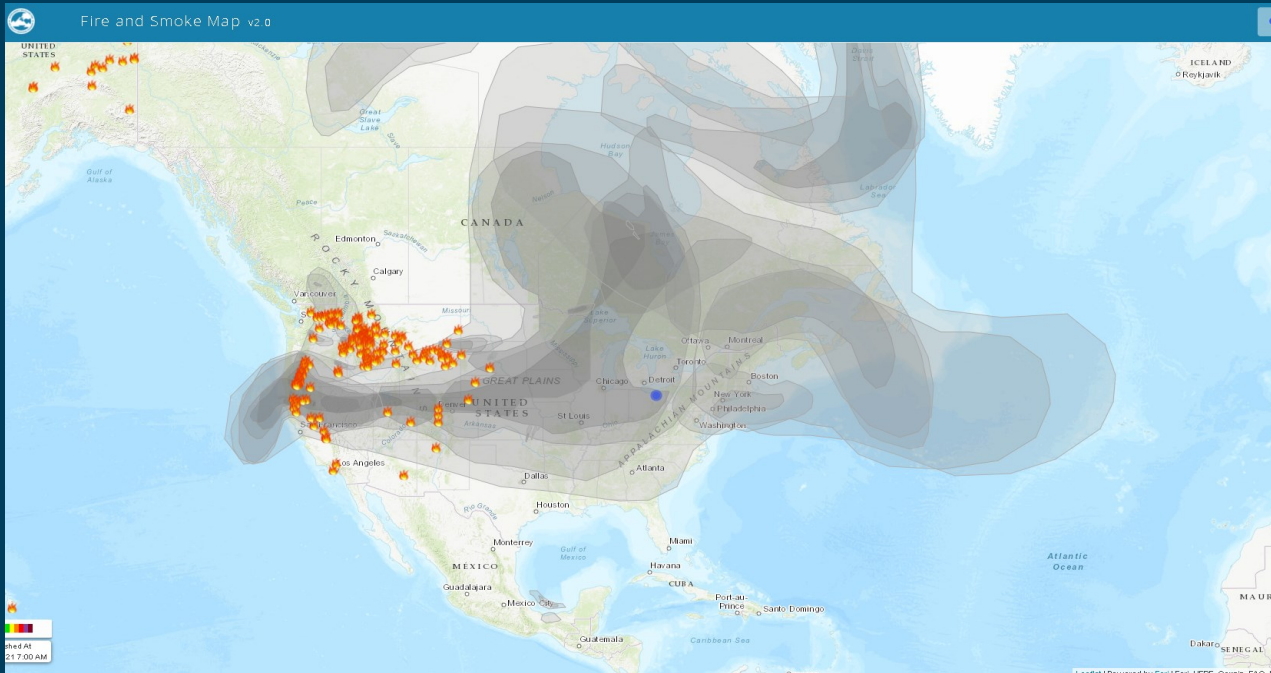
Find this information and the links to the plants' energy dashboards by going to:
<https://www.wadsworthcity.com/871/Solar-Power-Plant>

Red Skies in the Morning

Many times this summer our morning commutes were accompanied by spectacularly colorful sunrises or even weird gray skies that allowed us to see the full circle of the sun. It may seem hard to believe, but those odd sunrises were the direct result of smoke from Western wildfires!

The brightly colored sunrises usually indicated the smoke was at upper levels in the atmosphere, and didn't necessarily mean we would have elevated fine particle pollution levels at the ground level. Some of those gray, smoky mornings were more likely to provide higher levels of ground level pollution.

Airnow.gov has a powerful mapping tool that shows the location of wild fires and the path the smoke takes. The image below was captured in mid-August.



Weather patterns will affect which way the smoke travels and disperses. As wildfire seasons continue to be intense, we will continue to see the impacts here, literally over 1,000 miles or more away.

For weekday updates on our local air quality, you can check our AQI web page at scph.org/air-quality/air-quality-index, follow us on Facebook, or call our info line at 330-375-2545.

Remembering

On August 20, 2020, our colleague and friend, Colonel Duane LaClair passed away. On the one year anniversary of his passing we dedicated the flagpole at our offices in his memory. Through the generous contributions of our coworkers here at ARAQMD and Summit County Public Health, we were able to create this memorial.

Duane honorably served his country in the armed forces for over 35 years. His love of his country was only eclipsed by his love for his family.

We reminisced about the dedicated public servant he was, and our fond memories of our friendships with him. We are grateful for the life he lived and that we got to be his "work family."

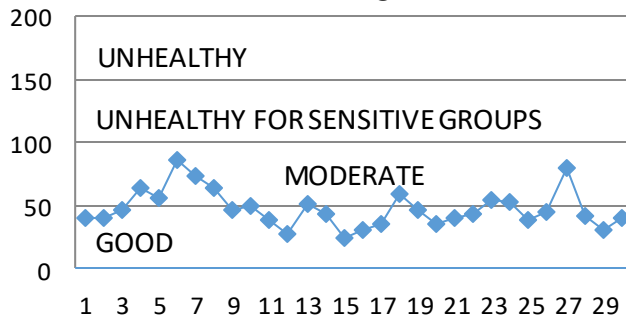


AQ by the Numbers: 2nd Quarter 2021

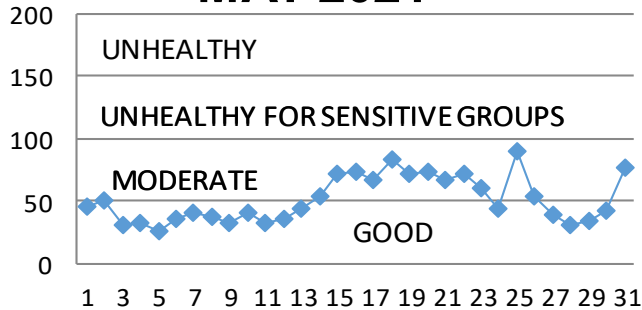
Air Quality Index

Complaints & Inspections

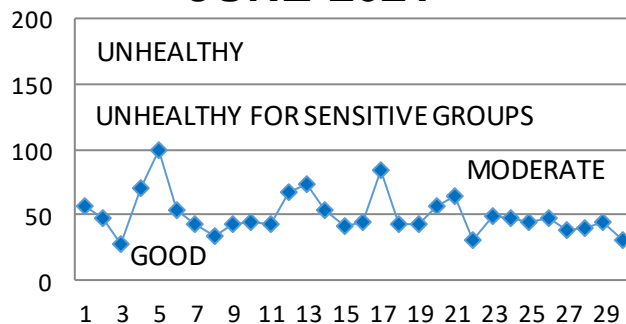
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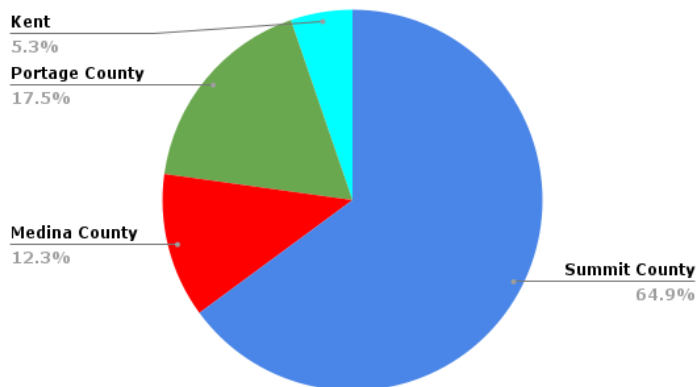


JUNE 2021



Area/ Health District	Commercial/ Industrial	Residential	Total
Summit County	11	16	37
Medina County	4	3	7
Portage County	6	4	10
Kent	1	2	3

2nd Quarter Complaints



Site Visits*	2nd Quarter 2021
FEPTIO	16
Title V	3
Non Title V	16
Full Compliance Evaluations	10

*virtual or limited in person visits per OEPA

Additional Stats

Permits Issued

2ndQuarter 2021	Permit to Install		Permit to Install & Operate		Title V		Permit by Rule
	Draft	Final	Draft	Final	Draft**	Final	
**Includes - Preliminary Proposed Permits & Proposed Permits	1	1	2	26	4	3	5

Asbestos

2nd Q—Notifications	47
2nd Q—Inspections	4*

*limited due to restrictions from OEPA

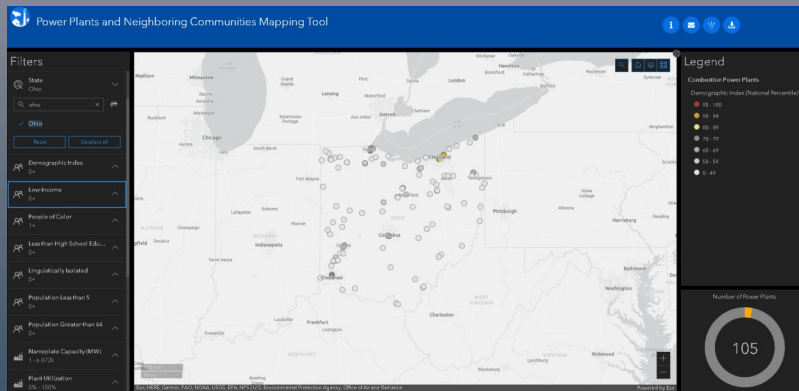


1867 W. Market St.
Akron, OH 44313
330.375.2480 ph.
330.752.7792 fax
www.araqmd.org
araqmd@schd.org

A service of Summit County Public Health

EPA Interactive Web-Based Tool

EPA released an interactive web-based resource intended to “empower” the public and policymakers by giving them information and tools to better understand the disproportionate impacts of air pollution from power plants on overburdened communities. This mapping tool, made available through EPA’s Power Plants and Neighboring Communities initiative, improves access to power plant emissions data and highlights the demographics that might be affected and how. Six key population groups of communities within three miles of a power plant are tracked and compared to the rest of the nation: low-income, people of color, those with less than high school education, those who are linguistically isolated, children under five years of age and adults over the age of 65. In addition to providing explanatory text, supplemental graphs and maps and data sets, the resource advises state and local policymakers on how to use the information to protect their most vulnerable populations. Data from more than 3,400 fossil fuel-fired power plants are included in the resource. EPA Administrator Michael S. Regan said of this new tool, “We know air pollution affects some people worse than others. Achieving environmental justice starts with improving our understanding of the impacts of air pollution, especially in overburdened and historically underserved communities. This web resource equips users with actionable, science-based data on air quality in communities near power plants, many of whom are suffering the worst from pollution.”



Find the new tool at: <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/2e3610d731cb4cfcbcec9e2dcb83fc94>