

The Air You Breathe

Free Quarterly Newsletter from Akron Regional Air Quality Management District

AUG 2022

Volume 37, Issue 3

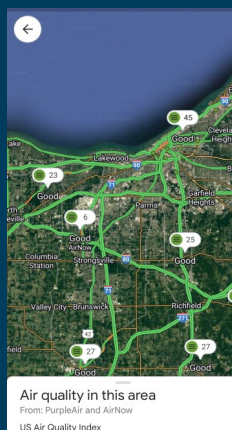
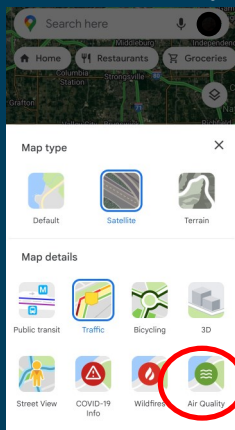
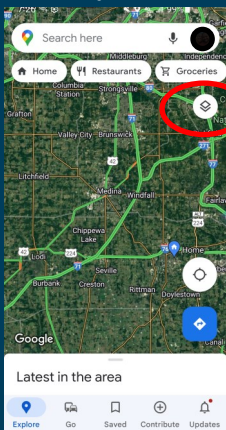
Google Maps Now Have AQI!

Earlier in the summer Google pushed out an update on their Maps app that allows people to open up a layer and view the AQI near them or where they are traveling within the 50 states of the United States.

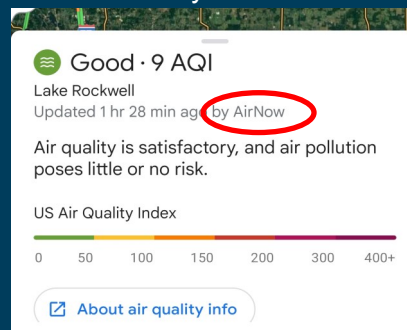
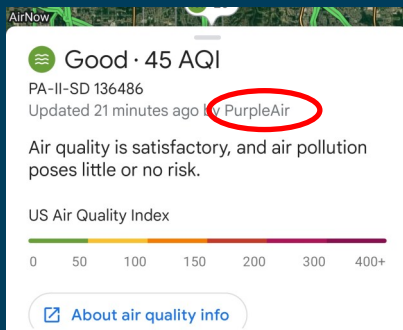
Data from the established air monitoring networks around the country are pulled from Airnow.gov and included on the map (including our air monitoring network data). Additionally, Google has gotten access to Purple Air citizen monitor data and includes that information on the map as well. In order to tell where the information on a particular data point has been originated (formal AQ monitoring network or Purple Air monitor) click on the number you're interested in and an information panel will appear with details on the sample.

Here's how to get that layer on your mobile device:

1. Open Google Map App
2. Click layers icon:
3. Click Air Quality:
4. You'll see something like this:



5. Click the number closest to the region of interest and you see a message like:



Stay up-to-date on air issues wherever you may travel in the US!!
Learn more about Purple Air monitors on page 2.

in this issue

- Google Maps AQI P.1
- New Engineer P.1
- Clean School Bus Funds P.2
- Retirement P.2
- Purple Air Monitors P.2
- AQ by the Numbers P.3
- MowGREENER 2022 P.4

ARAQMD Has a New Engineer!

ARAQMD is excited to welcome Ahmed Hamad to our team of air quality engineers. Ahmed is a graduate of the University of Kentucky.



When asked, Ahmed said that he was quite involved with environmental causes throughout his college years, so he is quite interested on learning the regulatory side.

As a new neighbor, he said the one space he has visited and really enjoys is the Towpath trail.

When asked about his favorite candy bar, Ahmed replied that he doesn't often eat sweets but will occasionally enjoy a Twix.

Welcome to ARAQMD, Ahmed!

Local District Gets \$ Toward Clean School Buses

In March 2022, US EPA announced districts around the country that were awarded Diesel Emissions Reduction Act rebates for working to clean up their school bus fleet. Five school districts across Ohio received funding including Medina County's own **Wadsworth City Schools**! Wadsworth was awarded \$40,000 towards their efforts to replace older, dirtier diesel buses with cleaner...and better for the health of their students...buses.

Fine particle pollution (PM_{2.5}) is a major component of diesel engine exhaust and a known health risk for people, especially children. Studies have shown the elevated levels of PM_{2.5} near school buses presents a short, but impactful exposure to children and school staff. On board buses, PM_{2.5} has been measured at troubling levels given the amount of time many children and the driver will spend on the bus.

From the US EPA web page on reducing diesel emissions from school buses, "School buses travel about four billion miles each year, providing the safest transportation to and from school for more than 25 million American children every day. However, diesel exhaust from these buses has a negative impact on human health, especially for children who have a faster breathing rate than adults and whose lungs are not yet fully developed.



While new buses must meet EPA's tougher emission standards, many older school buses continue to emit harmful diesel exhaust. EPA's *Clean School Bus* is a national program designed to help communities reduce emissions from older diesel school buses. School districts, fleet owners and operators, bus drivers, parents and students all have a role in helping to reduce diesel emissions from school buses."

Additional actions school districts can take to reduce exposure to diesel exhaust is to reduce bus idling to the absolute minimum needed. Every step we can take to make the air our school kids breathe a little cleaner, helps keep them healthier and ready to learn!

Happy Retirement to Debbie Wallen!

Many of you know our inspector Debbie Wallen. After 20 illustrious years, both with the City of Akron and with Summit County, including 11 years with ARAQMD, Debbie has left us for the greener pastures of retirement on July 29!

Prior to her work with public health, Debbie was a National Park Ranger. She brought her skills from many jobs to her duties here. We will miss her willingness to tackle each challenge head-on. We would like to thank Debbie for everything she brought to ARAQMD and for her years of service to the community.

For ARAQMD questions that would normally go to Debbie, please contact Yanwei Li at 330-812-3958 or yli@schd.org.



Purple Air Monitors - What are They?

Purple Air monitors have taken up residence in cities, neighborhoods and homes around the globe! These air monitors look for what we call "particulate matter" (PM) or soot. According to their website, they measure for a variety of particle sizes. The units are approachably priced and can give you a decent idea how much PM is in the immediate area of the monitor.

Their map uses a slightly different color coding system to describe air quality conditions than AirNow.gov. Also unlike the US EPA established monitoring network (of which our fixed monitors are a part), Purple Air monitors are not routinely quality controlled or calibrated—once they leave the production facility. So, we like to consider Purple Air monitor results much the same as the drug store blood pressure readings. They give us a pretty good idea of what is happening at that moment in time, but to measure compliance with federal air quality standards, it's best to rely on the established monitoring network.

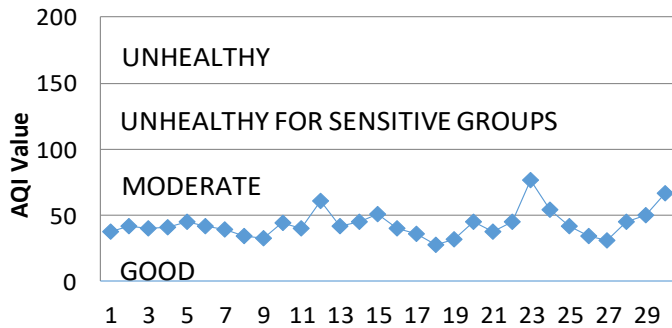
To learn more about these monitors, go to: www2.purpleair.com.

AQ by the Numbers: 2nd Quarter 2022

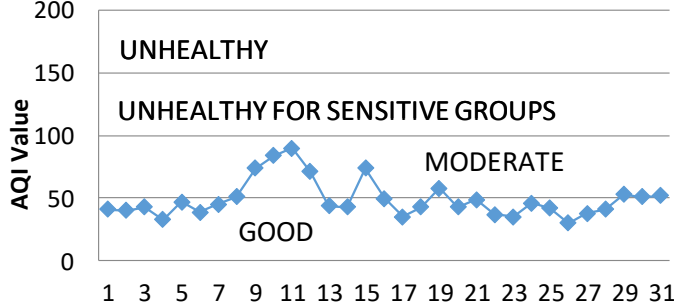
Air Quality Index

Complaints & Inspections

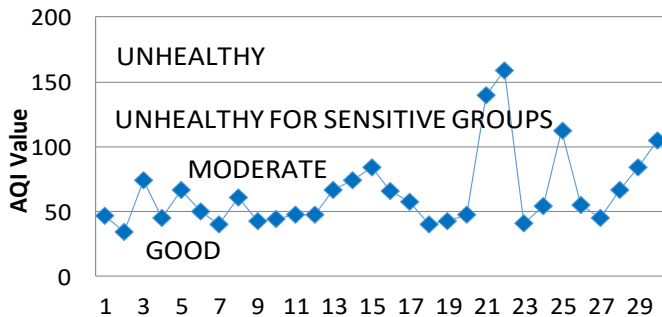
APRIL 2022



MAY 2022

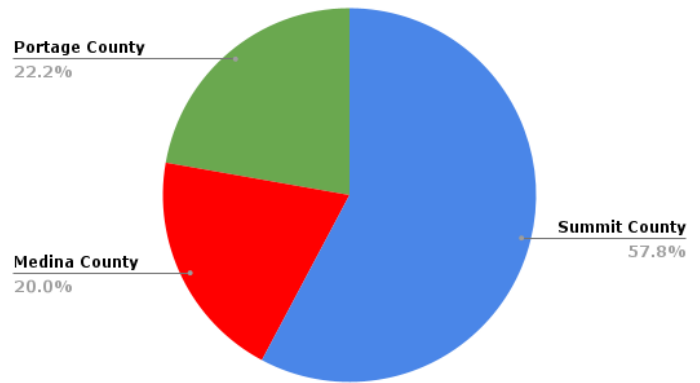


JUNE 2022



Area/ Health District	Commercial/ Industrial	Residential	Total
Summit County	9	17	26
Medina County	0	9	9
Portage County	7	3	10
Kent	0	0	0

2nd Quarter Complaints



Site Visits	2nd Quarter 2022
FEPTIO	15
Title V	3
Non Title V	23
Full Compliance Evaluations	1

Additional Stats

Permits Issued

2nd Quarter 2022	Permit to Install		Permit to Install & Operate		Title V		Permit by Rule
	Draft	Final	Draft	Final	Draft**	Final	Total
**Includes - Preliminary Proposed Permits & Proposed Permits	0	1	1	24	5	1	17

Asbestos

2nd Q- Notifications	48
2nd Q- Inspections	42



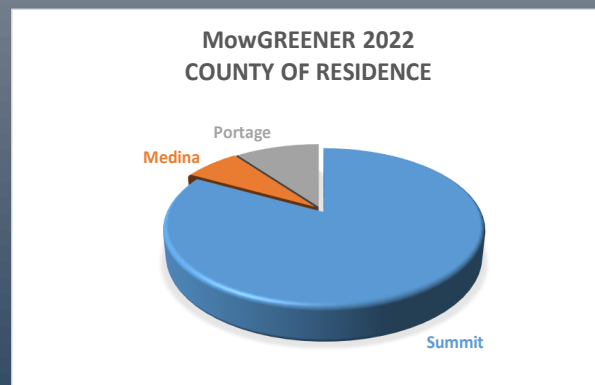
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A service of Summit County Public Health

MowGREENER '22 Wrap Up

2022 brought an increase in the available registrations and we had a robust sign-up period! We filled our registration cap and had over 50 people on the waiting list! As with any endeavor like this, completion rates don't always reflect the initial enthusiasm. 146 individuals completed the necessary steps to receive their \$100 gift card. As of 7/14/22, all gift cards had been distributed. Here are some fun facts to sum up MowGREENER 2022.

- ⇒ **Tons (of air pollution) Per Year Saved: 7.37**
 - ⇒ **Program Cost per Ton: \$2,083.74**
- ⇒ **Average Investment per Participant on New Mower: \$404.77**
- ⇒ **Average Age of Mower Replaced: 11.35**



2022 was a great year for MowGREENER, and 2023 is looking to be even bigger and better! We have secured some additional funding and are considering how to make a bigger clean air impact in '23! Stay tuned!