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October Update: Triad Air Quality News

News from the Triad Air Quality Early Action Compact (EAC).

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News Brief: Final Results of DAQ Air Quality Modeling for the Region [Back to top](#)

At the October 6, 2003 EAC meeting, Sheila Holman, Chief of the Planning Section, NC Division of Air Quality, presented the final results of air quality modeling that forecasts probable ozone reductions for the Triad region through December 2007. Four weather related ozone episodes totaling 16 days were used in the model. **Final results show that all but one of the Triad region's nine Ozone Monitors will be attaining by 2007.** The Coolemees monitor in southeast Davie County is the only monitor projected to be in non-attainment in 2007. While air quality at this monitoring site is affected by Charlotte region emissions, the model shows that for at least 6 of the 16 days, emissions sources originated in the Piedmont Triad. Monitors at Hattie Avenue and Union Cross measure just below the threshold for non attainment.

With three monitors so near the threshold for attainment, **additional local efforts are needed** to ensure that all monitoring sites will be in compliance by 2007.

DAQ final modeling results confirm that Triad ozone reduction strategies should focus on mobile source emissions (i.e., on- and off-road vehicles) to bring all air quality monitors into compliance with EPA's 8 hour ozone standard before December, 2007.

Since the 1970's there had been great gains in emissions reductions through vehicular emissions controls, more fuel efficient vehicles and inspection and maintenance programs. However, past gains have been offset by continued population growth, urban sprawl, increased vehicle miles traveled, increased commuting patterns across counties, and the increase of motor vehicles on the road.

North Carolina will experience tremendous reductions in the ozone precursor emission nitrous oxide (NoX) through 2007 that will not likely be experienced again. Our ability to

maintain ozone attainment as the Triad continues to grow and develop will depend on how the region chooses to grow overtime. The Triad must seek to aggressively change its growth patterns and be strategic in planning and development

Click here to view more information on the Triad Air Quality EAC: [PTCOG EAC News](#) and [NWPCOG EAC web page](#)

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Piedmont Triad Region Exceeds EPA’s 8-hour Standard for Ozone Levels

The NC Division of Air Quality has recommended to EPA that the counties of Alamance, Guilford, Forsyth, and Davidson, and portions of Davie, Randolph, Caswell and Rockingham counties be designated as areas exceeding EPA’s eight hour standard for ozone levels. However, EPA guidance is for whole county designations (i.e., any county with a violating ozone monitor and nearby contributing areas need to be designated as non-attainment)

The Triad Early Action Compact represents commitments by local governments in this region, in partnership with the state and EPA, to adopt local air quality strategies to achieve clean air earlier than the schedule imposed by the federal Clean Air Act. EAC resolutions were adopted by county boards of commissioners in Alamance, Caswell, Davidson, Davie, Forsyth, Guilford, Randolph, Rockingham, Stokes, Surry and Yadkin counties and major municipalities in December 2002. Through participation in the EAC the eleven county Piedmont Triad region will defer the effective date of non-attainment designation from December 31, 2004 to December 31, 2007.

Designation as a non-attainment area will have substantial negative impacts on economic development

- Lengthy permitting requirements for industry in non attainment areas could influence their decision whether to locate new operations or expand existing operations in non-attainment areas.
- Industrial recruitment difficult.
- New industries are subject to review and limits on their emissions
- Non attainment means significant loss of federal transportation funding

Upcoming Public Meetings: [Back to top](#)

Below is a list of upcoming briefings and public input sessions sponsored by the Piedmont Triad (North Carolina) Early Action Compact on strategies being developed to help this region attain EPA’s 8-hour ozone standard.

Event	Convener	Time Frame
Joint Meeting of City and County Managers, 2 regions	Piedmont Triad COG and Northwest Piedmont COG	October 14, 2003
Public Meeting	Forsyth County (also including Stokes, Surry, Davie, Yadkin counties)	October 22, 2003
Public Meeting	Randolph County and municipalities	October 27, 2003
Public Meeting	Guilford County (organized	November 13, 2003

	by Guilford County Advisory Board for Environmental Quality)	
Alamance County Commissioners Briefing		November 3, 2003
Greensboro City Council Briefing		October 28, 2003
Guilford County Commissioners Briefing		November 20, 2003
Davidson County Commissioners and City Councils Joint Briefing		To be announced
Burlington City Council Briefing		To be announced

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Kernersville Town Hall, Monday, November 3 @ 2:00 pm