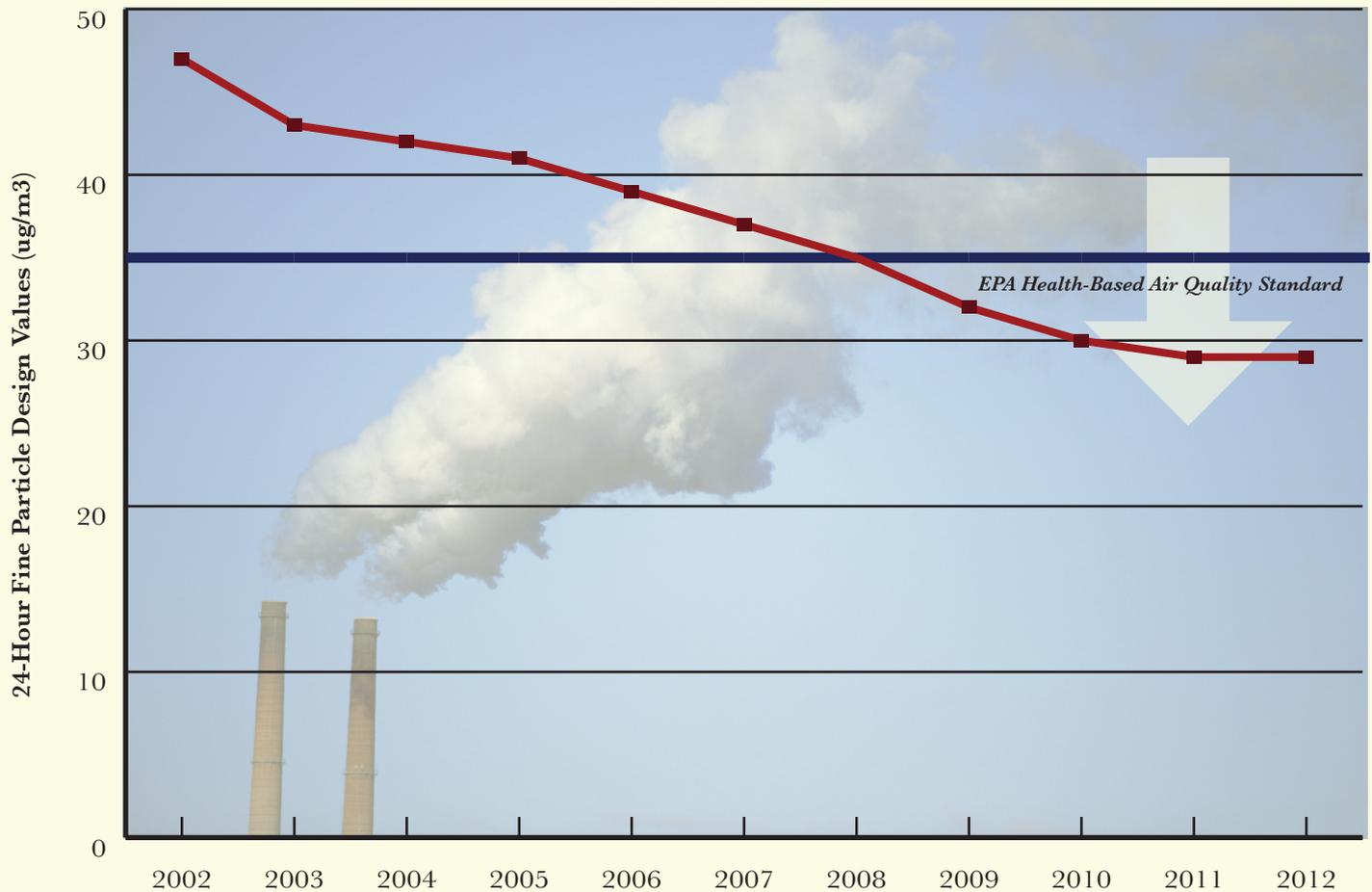


# 24-Hour fine particle levels meet standards



Levels of fine particle pollution in Maryland have since 2008 met the 24-hour standard set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Preliminary results for 2012 show that Maryland again met the standard. Fine particle, or soot, pollution creates haze that decreases visibility and has been linked to premature death and heart and lung problems.