



# 2026 Clean Air Progress Report Summary

Air quality in Maryland has improved significantly over the last 20 years, and 2025 marked a substantial milestone in the state's efforts. In 2025, Maryland achieved attainment of all National Ambient Air Quality Standards. This is not merely a technical achievement; it is a landmark accomplishment that represents significant progress in protecting the health of all Marylanders.

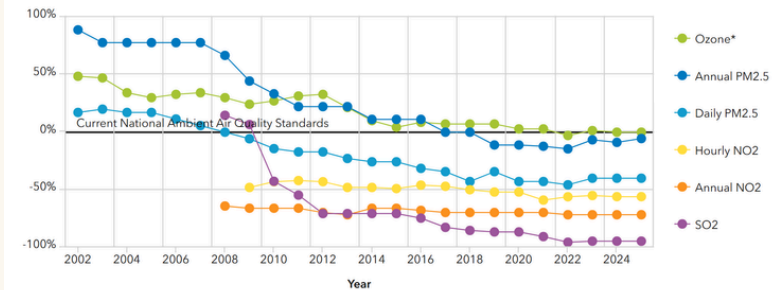
Maryland's bold leadership in state-level air quality regulations has resulted in a rapid reduction of six criteria air pollutants that negatively impact human health and the environment. Additionally, Maryland continues to reduce climate change impacts through the implementation of the Maryland Climate Pollution Reduction Plan to achieve net-zero Greenhouse Gas emissions by 2045. Decreasing the state's Greenhouse Gas emissions will result in additional reductions in air pollutants and improvements to public health.

Attaining all of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards in 2025 is a major success for Maryland; however, it is important that the state continues to strive for more clean air progress. Attaining all of the standards one year does not guarantee attainment the following year. Weather patterns, wildfires, regulations, and other factors can drastically alter air quality outcomes for the year. The combination of higher temperatures and increased fossil fuel usage from a changing federal energy landscape could jeopardize air quality progress. As a result, State-level air quality regulations are increasingly crucial for fighting climate change and protecting public health.

**Through decades of hard work, Maryland has achieved a long sought after goal-attainment of the NAAQS for all six criteria air pollutants. While this is a significant milestone for the state, the commitment to providing clean air for all Maryland residents remains ongoing. Maryland will continue its pursuit of clean air, healthy communities, and reducing climate change impacts in the years to come.**

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Improving Air Quality



In 2025, MDE's [Climate Change Program](#) adopted new regulations to establish a Heating Fuel Provider Reporting Program, which will improve data used to support MDE's triennial Statewide Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory and county-level air quality planning. Additionally, MDE adopted the Building Energy Performance Standards at the end of 2024 which will provide further emissions data and future emissions reductions. In 2025, MDE's [Air Quality Regulations Division](#) proposed and finalized a range of regulations, including amendments to the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, and updates to increase fees for air pollution sources.

MDE further promotes clean air progress through community involvement and tree plantings. In 2025, MDE partnered with local organizations to host two tree planting events in Baltimore City. Each tree planting completed brings the state closer to achieving the [Five Million Trees Initiative](#). In 2025, MDE updated [MDEnviroScreen](#), a mapping tool to engage impacted communities and create solutions for environmental injustice, specifically targeting resource allocation that can be used to reduce air pollution impacts.