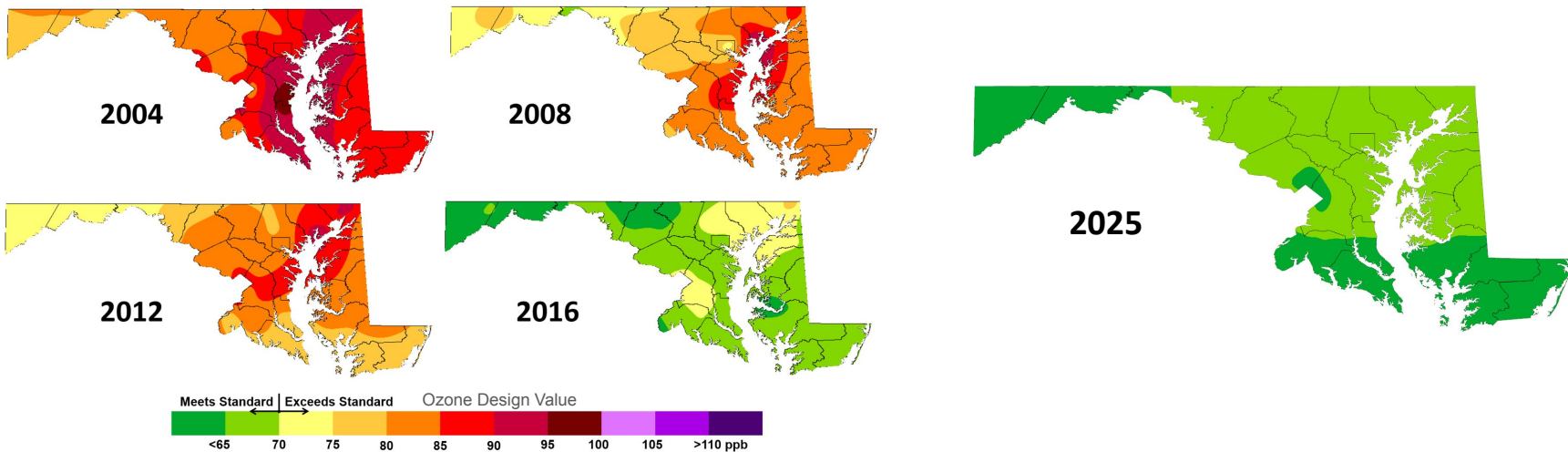




Air Quality Progress in 2025



June 8, 2026 Air Quality Control Advisory Council

Kathryn Seaman and Justin Smith

Natural Resources Planners, Air and Radiation Administration



MDE's Annual Clean Air Progress Report



2026 Clean Air Progress Report

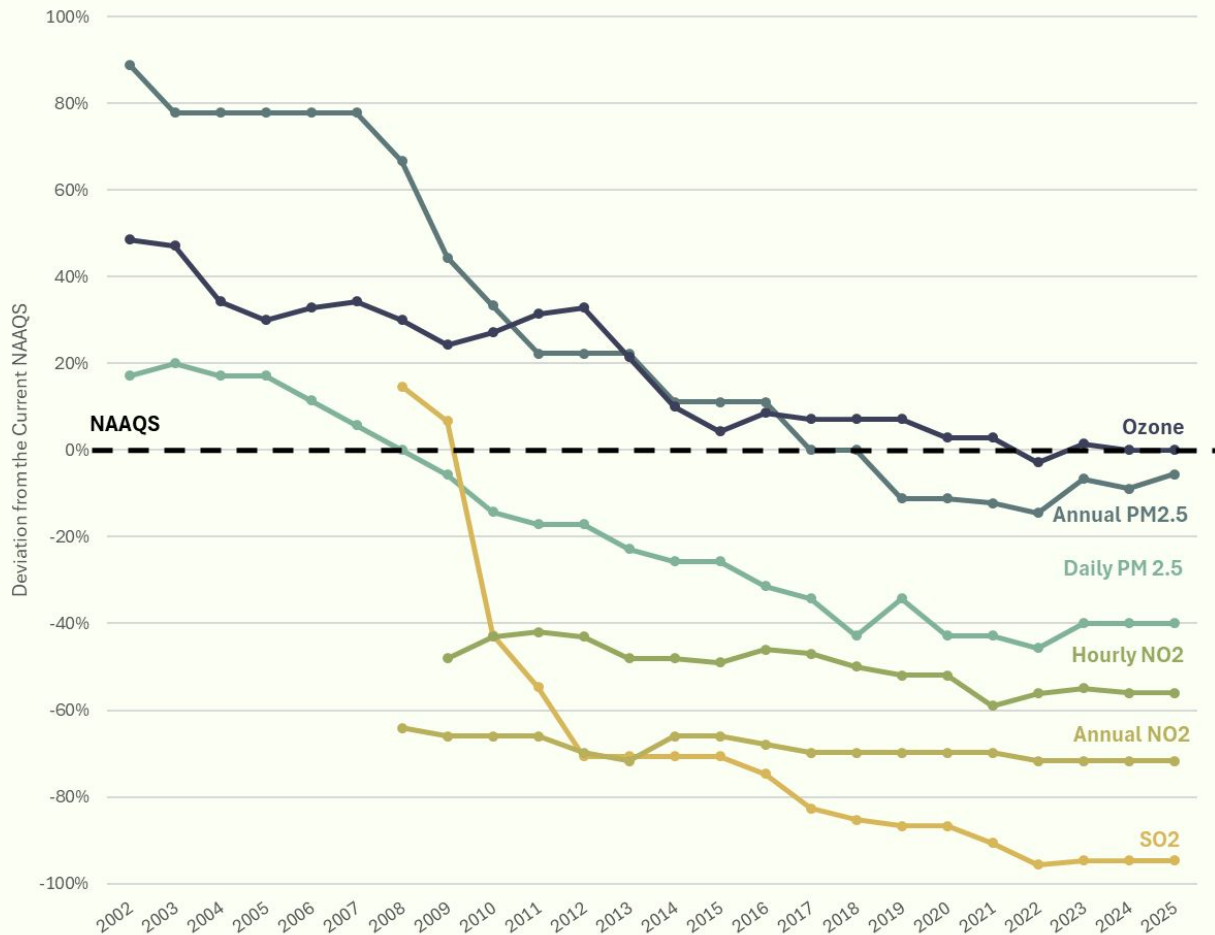
A recap of clean air progress in 2025 in the state of Maryland

Maryland Department of the Environment

April 22, 2026

- Provides a summary of Maryland's criteria pollutant levels and history
- Highlights departmental actions and priorities
- Makes Air Quality information accessible to the public
- Encourages action to contribute to cleaner air

Improving Air Quality in Maryland

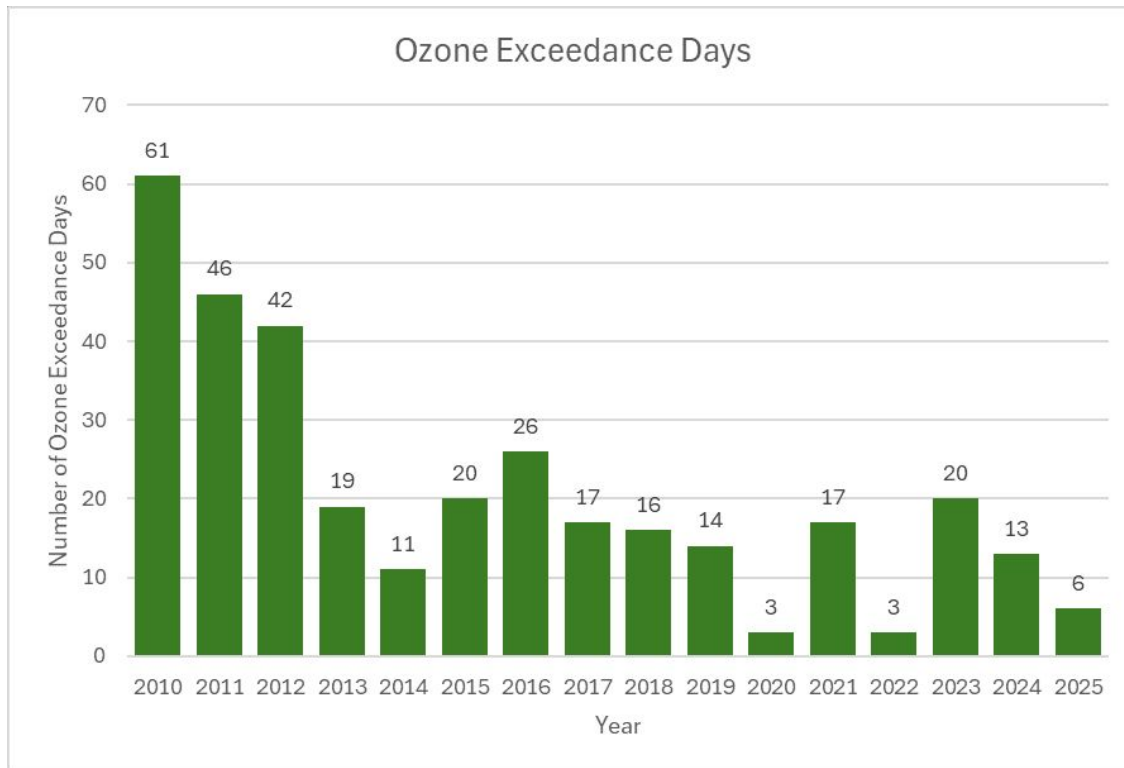




Ozone Attainment

Of the six criteria air pollutants, the Ozone standard has historically been the most challenging to attain in Maryland.

Ozone and its precursors are relatively long-lasting and can travel hundreds of miles. As a result, Ozone levels at Maryland air monitors are impacted by both in-state and out-of-state sources.



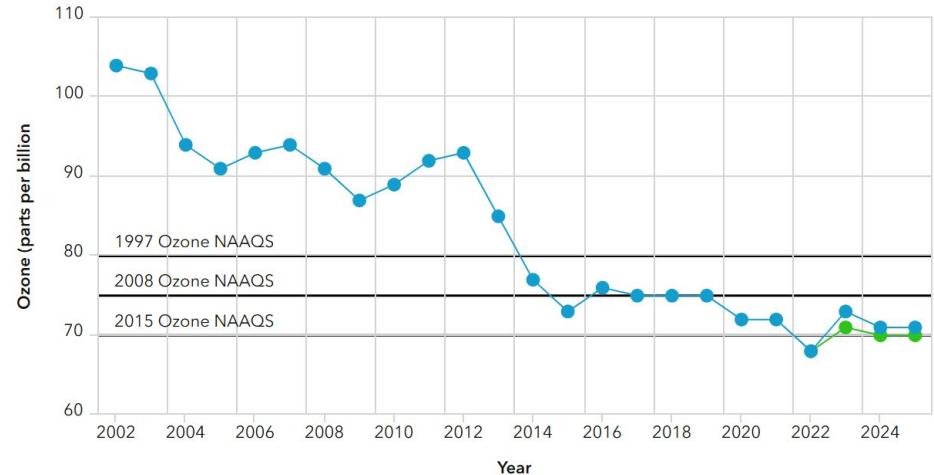


Exceptional Events

Unusual or naturally occurring events that can affect air quality but are not reasonably controllable by policies and regulations that state air agencies may implement to attain and maintain the NAAQS.

To show that there is a causal relationship between an event and measured exceedances of the NAAQS, states can submit exceptional event demonstrations to the EPA.

8-Hour Ozone





Staying in Attainment

- Maryland came into Ozone attainment during the worst fire period in history across Canada. Attaining all of the NAAQS 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 NAAQS one year does not guarantee attainment the following year. Weather patterns, wildfires, regulations, and other factors including new emissions sources can drastically alter air quality outcomes for the year.
- Differing priorities between Maryland's state government and the federal government create challenges for continued air quality progress.



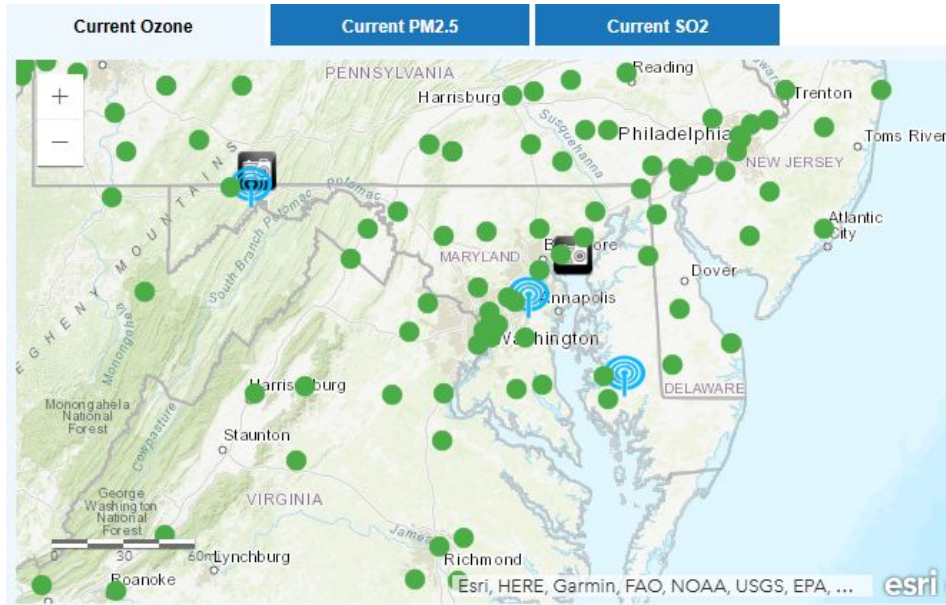
Community Involvement

- In 2025, MDE partnered with local organizations to host two tree planting events.
- Each tree planting completed brings the state closer to achieving the Five Million Trees Initiative.
- In July 2025, Governor Wes Moore signed the "Valuing Opportunity, Inclusion, and Community Equity" (VOICE) executive order, unifying Maryland's environmental justice approach.





What Can Individuals do?



<https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/air/AirQualityMonitoring/Pages/index.aspx>

- There are plenty of day-to-day ways for individuals to reduce emissions that contribute to poor air quality.
- A great way to start is by checking the daily Air Quality Forecast.
- Some everyday actions include limiting engine idling, setting an air conditioning unit to a higher temperature during summer months, and using environmentally friendly paints and cleaning products.



Conclusion

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.

Questions?



Scan to view the full interactive report here: