

The Air You Breathe

Quarterly Newsletter from Akron Regional Air Quality Management District

Volume 39, Issue 3



MowGREENER 2024 Recap

MowerGREENER 2024 is in the books and we have some numbers to share! This year, based on feedback we've received throughout the first four offerings of Mow-GREENER we decided to help households increase their use of cleaner operating lawn care equipment with two new changes.

1. Accessory items (think string trimmer, leaf blowers, etc.) were eligible for a \$25 rebate. Limits 4 items per household, with no scrap requirement.
2. We added the option of corded electric lawn care items in addition to the battery powered options for which we previously offered rebates.

You can find all the information for the MowGREENER program, which we anticipate offering again in 2025, at scph.link/MowGREENER.

in this issue

- Asbestos Rule P.1
- Local Fees P.2
- Chevron Decision P.2
- ALA State of the Air P.3
- AQ by the Numbers P.4



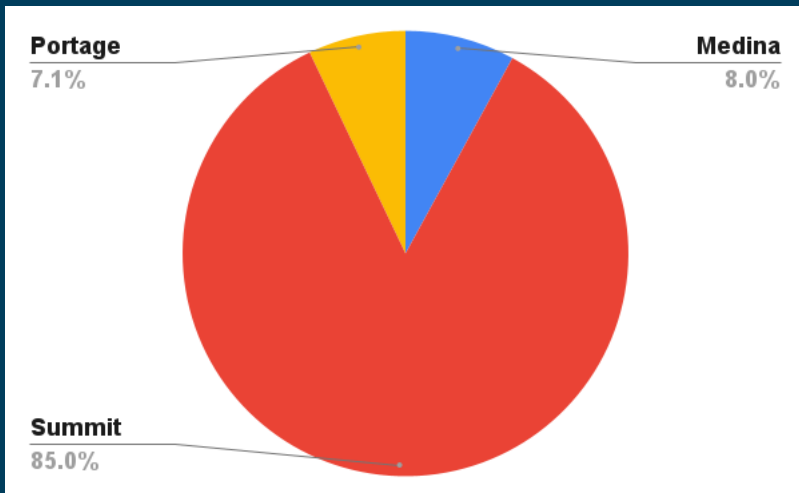
113 Participants



91 Mowers Replaced



59 Accessories Upgraded



County of Residence for Participants



We'll see you again in 2025!

Local Fee Invoices

In 1990, your local Health Department established an annual air pollution control fee that authorized the Akron Regional Air Quality Management District (ARAQMD) to assess fees annually for the review and maintenance of permits and applications, for facility inspections and any other activities related to preserving our ambient air quality. The revenue generated by these fees allow ARAQMD to provide more and better services for the people and industries of the tri-county area.

The local fees are currently calculated based on the facility permitting classification and actual emissions as reported by your organization on Ohio EPA's Fee Emission Reports. Permit by Rule (PBR) facilities, dry cleaners, and gasoline dispensing facilities are charged a flat fee. A copy of the current fee schedule can be found on our website <https://www.scpd.org/air-quality>.

The information on the invoice, such as company name and address, point of contact, was taken from our records. Please review the information carefully; make any necessary changes on the copy of the invoice that you return with your payment. The changes identified will be used to correct and update our files as well as those of Ohio EPA.

The staff of ARAQMD is here to work with you to stay in compliance with the rules and regulations of your air quality permit. If you have questions, please contact our office at 330-375-2480, via email at araqmd@schd.org or contact your permit writer directly.

The Chevron Decision

In June the United States Supreme Court handed down decisions in the cases *Relentless v. Department of Commerce* and *Loper Bright Enterprises v. Raimondo*, that focused on what has commonly been referred to as the "Chevron doctrine."

The Chevron doctrine is derived from another Supreme Court decision from 1984, *Chevron v. Natural Resources Defense Council*. The decision in that case held that if Congress had not directly addressed the question at the center of a dispute, a court was required to uphold the agency's interpretation of the statute as long as it was reasonable.

This doctrine has been in place for 40 years, and has granted that the experts from various federal agencies provide interpretation in an area of ambiguity which would then be given authority by the courts.

In 1984, the decision was used by the Reagan administration to actually loosen emission regulations under the Clean Air Act. In the intervening years, Chevron has, at times, been used to bolster the US EPA's interpretations of the Clean Air Act - which underwent major revisions with the 1990 updates.

With the currently ruling, the consideration given to federal experts will no longer be in place. Judges will be solely responsible for interpreting the ambiguous areas that are brought before them in court. The concern amongst those who supported the continuation of the Chevron doctrine is that hard fought for protections for things like the environment, food and medical supply safety, and consumer/financial sector items may be rolled back or attempts to put in place new protections will be thwarted.

Whatever the current climate in the courts, those who work to protect public health by protecting the environment will continue to do so with every tool at their disposal.



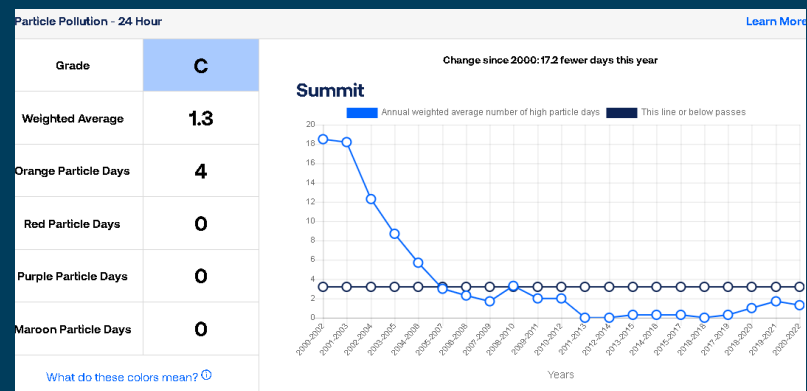
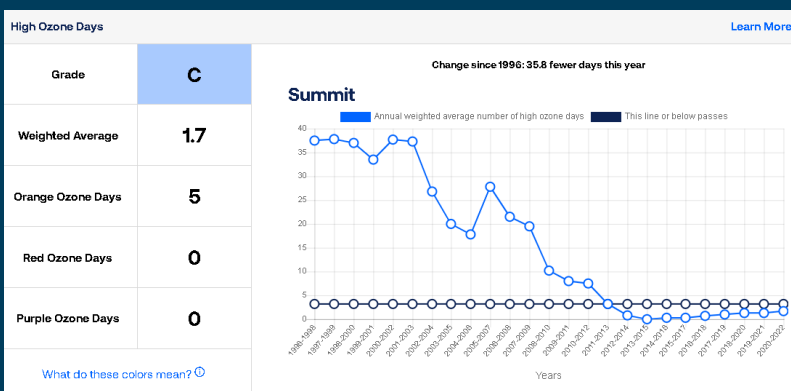
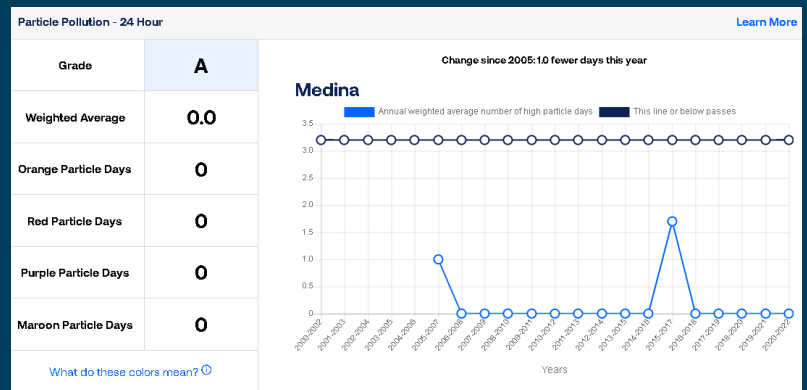
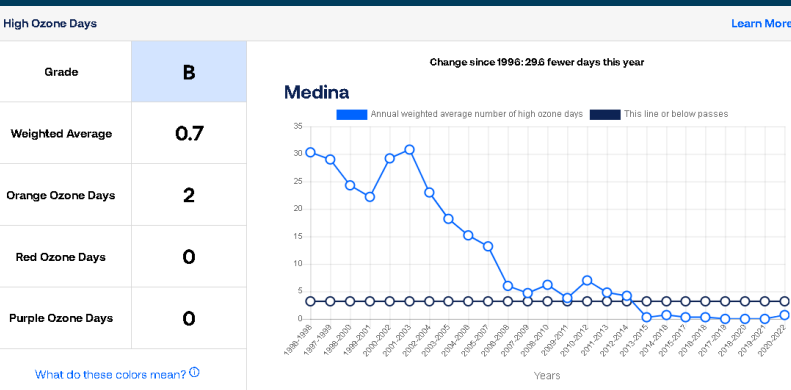
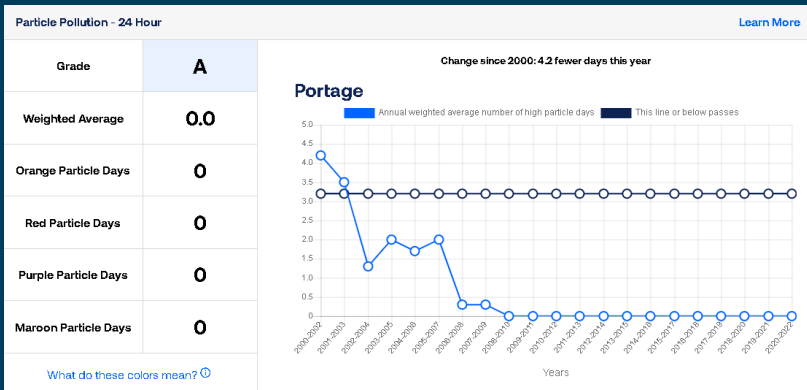
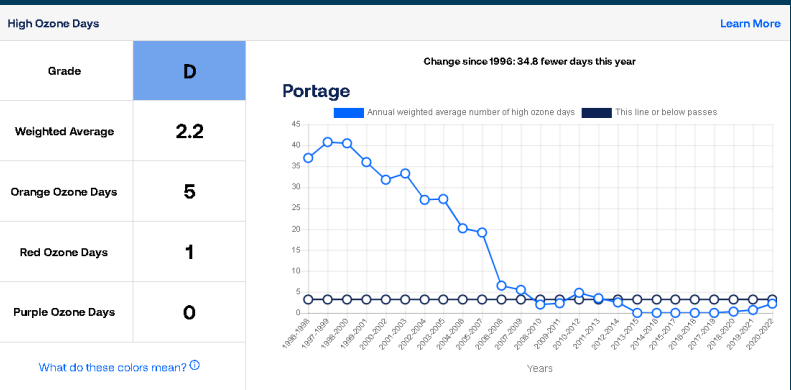
ALA's State of the Air for ARAQMD Region

In late April the American Lung Association (ALA) released their annual [State of the Air](#) (SOTA) report containing their assessment of the air Americans breathe. The ALA uses measurement criteria that differs from the US EPA, but when followed annually, it can give a very good look at trends in any region you might want to know about. The charts below are a snapshot of the information available at the [ALA SOTA](#) site, and as you can see, demonstrate a decline in air pollution over the past 20-30 years! While the regional grades (A-F or pass/fail) may seem like they aren't great, the trends are where the real good news lies.

Note: screenshots below do not have interactive links got to: www.lung.org/research/sota to learn more.

OZONE:

PARTICLE POLLUTION 24 Hour:

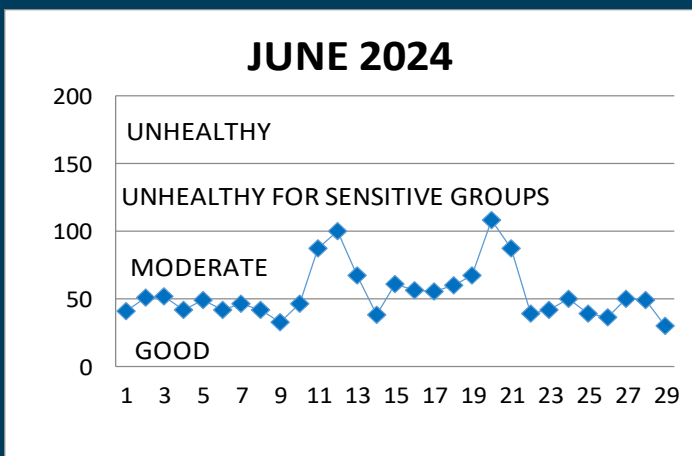
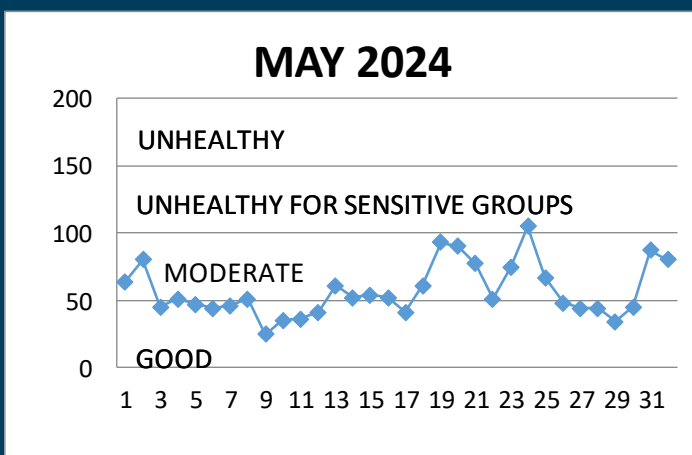
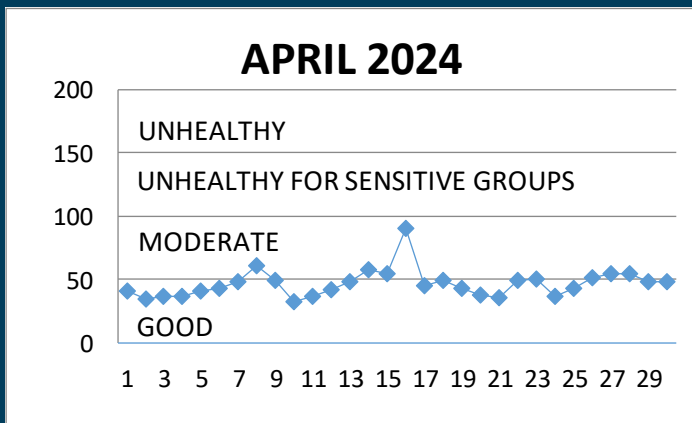


It can be hard to see the positive changes that have taken place unless you have the historical data to review. The air we breathe has been improved by technology, regulation, and individual behaviors that all add up to cleaner air. As we look at the 2023 wildfires in Canada and how the smoke was able to make its way all the way to our area (and beyond!) it shows us how truly universal air pollution is, and that even if we generate it in one area, it doesn't stay there and can negatively impact people much farther away than we would imagine. If a hotter, drier climate is ahead, increases in particle pollution may be unavoidable.

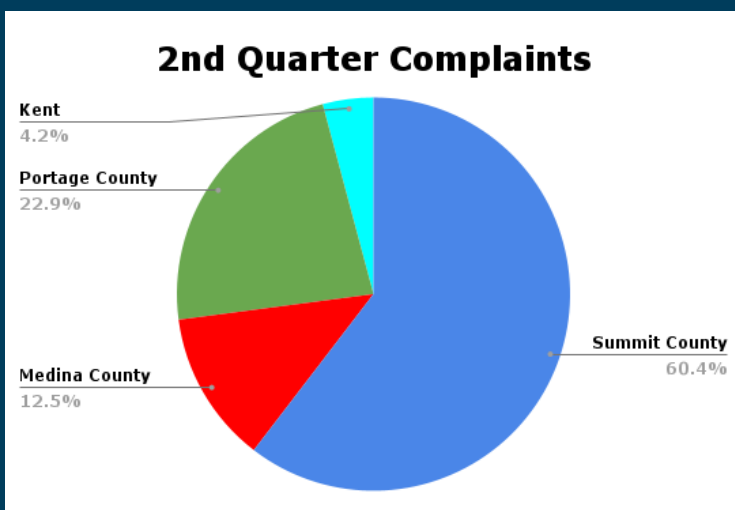
AQ by the Numbers: 2nd Quarter 2024

Air Quality Index

Complaints & Inspections



| Area/ Health District | Commercial/ Industrial | Residential | Total |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|-------------|-------|
| Summit County | 12 | 17 | 29 |
| Medina County | 2 | 4 | 6 |
| Portage County | 2 | 9 | 11 |
| Kent | 0 | 2 | 2 |



| Site Visits | 2nd Quarter 2024 |
|-----------------------------|------------------|
| FEPTIO | 4 |
| Title V | 3 |
| Non Title V | 41 |
| Full Compliance Evaluations | 38 |

Additional Stats

| Permits Issued | | | | | | | |
|--|-------------------|-------|-----------------------------|-------|---------|-------|----------------|
| 2nd Quarter 2024 | Permit to Install | | Permit to Install & Operate | | Title V | | Permit by Rule |
| | Draft | Final | Draft | Final | Draft** | Final | |
| **Includes - Preliminary Proposed Permits & Proposed Permits | 0 | 0 | 2 | 10 | 0 | 1 | 17 |

| Asbestos | |
|----------------------|----|
| 2nd Q- Notifications | 45 |
| 2nd Q- Inspections | 72 |