

OHIO AIR QUALITY MUCH IMPROVED

The Ohio EPA reported that in 1978, 75 of Ohio's 88 counties did not comply with Federal Air Quality Standards for ozone, sulfur dioxide, carbon monoxide or particulate matter. There are now only four counties left in Ohio that do not meet a Federal Air Quality Standard and the number is continuing to shrink.

The Foundation For Clean Air Progress recently released a national study showing significant gains to reducing air pollutants. Two Ohio cities made the "top ten clean air success stories" based on their reduction of days when ozone levels exceeded federal standards. Cleveland was first and Cincinnati ninth out of the nation's 50 largest metro areas.

Other improvement in Ohio's air quality include:

- All six key pollutants measured in the outdoor air have decreased from 1977 to 1997 (lead down 95 percent since 1978; carbon monoxide down 55 percent; sulfur dioxide down 61 percent, for example).
- Toxic air emissions have dropped 57 percent since 1987.
- Emissions of all six key pollutants from factories decreased from 1980 to 1990 (particulates decreased 75 percent; volatile organic compounds decreased 52 percent, for example).

We always hear how bad things are, but every once in a while it's good to look at how far we have come in making them better.

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