

The Air You Breathe

Free Quarterly Newsletter from Akron Regional Air Quality Management District

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EJScreen

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has updated and redesigned [EJScreen](#), the Agency's publicly available, award-winning environmental justice (EJ) screening and mapping tool. "EJScreen 2.0" makes important improvements to better meet the needs of users and provides expanded insight into potential EJ concerns in overburdened communities. The update features new indicators on environmental burdens, socioeconomic factors, climate change, health, and critical service gaps.

This updated version of the mapping tool coincides with a renewed emphasis on climate change and environmental justice within the Agency. In EPA's recent Fiscal Year 2022-2026 Draft Strategic Plan released in October 2021, the first goal is focused on addressing climate change. EJScreen 2.0 now includes drought and wildfire data, layers that build on the existing climate data featured in the tool. The second goal is focused on advancing environmental justice and compliance with civil rights requirements – goals which will elevate the programmatic use of EJScreen 2.0 throughout EPA.

Go to: <https://www.epa.gov/ejscreen> and see the wealth of data available!

2022 NOx & VOC RACT Revisions

Ohio EPA is amending rules in Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) Chapter 3745-110 and Chapter 3745-21 to update and expand Reasonably Available Control Technology (RACT) requirements for Cincinnati and Cleveland 2015 ozone nonattainment areas (NAAs), which are expected to be 'bumped-up' to moderate nonattainment for the 2015 ozone standard.

Ohio's NOx RACT (OAC Ch 3745-110) and VOC RACT (OAC Ch 3745-21) 2022 Revisions to Adopt Moderate RACT

Summary of Requirements

Pollutant	Requirement	Cleveland (includes ARAQMD)
NOx	Presumptive Limits (Boilers, Turbines, ICE, Reheat Furnaces)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ICE 500-2000 hp newly subject• Revised limits - comply or submit RACT study• Previously exempt - comply or submit RACT study
	RACT Study (PTE > 100 TPY)	Submit updated RACT study
VOC	CTGs (where expanded)	No new requirements
	Categorical non-CTG RACT (where expanded)	No new requirements
	RACT Study (PTE > 100 TPY)	Submit updated RACT study

in this issue

EJ Screen P.1
NOx & VOC RACT P.1
TRI National Analysis P.2
Special Air Sampling P.2
AQ by the Numbers P.3
MowGREENER 2022 P.4

New Staff Spotlight

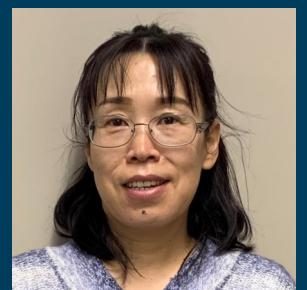
We are excited to welcome our newest air quality staff member, Yanwei Li.

Yanwei will be our Asbestos inspector as well as our open burning and fugitive dust regulator. She earned her Ph.D in Atmospheric Physics & Environment in China.

When asked what interested her in working with Air Quality she replied, "I like breathing fresh air, so I would like to put my effort into it."

Yanwei is new to Northeast Ohio and so far has found the diversity of our communities exciting. She also enjoys the lakes, trees and trails as she enjoys hiking.

Welcome to the team, Yanwei!



Toxics Release Inventory National Analysis

In March, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released its 2020 Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) National Analysis, which shows that companies that manage chemicals continue to make progress in preventing pollution and reducing chemical releases into the environment.

This 2020 Analysis includes enhancements to make data more useful and accessible to communities, including those with environmental justice concerns. EPA has added demographic information to the “Where You Live” mapping tool, making it easy to overlay maps of facility locations with maps of overburdened and vulnerable communities. Community groups, policymakers, and other stakeholders can use this information to identify potential exposures to air and water pollution, better understand which communities are experiencing a disproportionate pollution burden, and take action at the local level.

In addition to the new community mapping tools, the TRI National Analysis also includes a new map in the data visualization dashboard that displays international transfers of chemical waste by facilities in each state. Additionally, the National Analysis includes a new profile of the cement manufacturing sector and the addition of greenhouse gas reporting information in certain sector profiles. Users will be able to track greenhouse gas emissions for electric utilities, chemical manufacturing, cement manufacturing, and other sectors. This section will also include information on the benefits of source reduction in these industries.

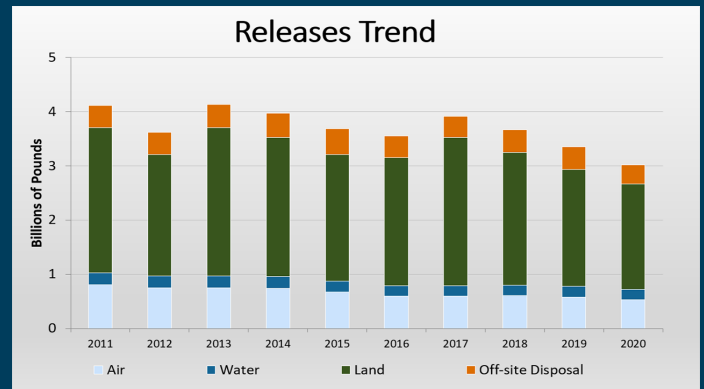
To access the 2020 TRI National Analysis, including local data and analyses, visit:

www.epa.gov/trinationalanalysis.

Information on facility efforts to reduce TRI chemical releases is available at: www.epa.gov/tri/p2.

Background

Thanks to the passage of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act of 1986 (EPCRA), which created EPA’s Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) program, and the Pollution Prevention Act of 1990, which expanded the program, Americans have greater awareness of how chemicals are being managed in their communities. Today, more than 21,000 facilities report annually on over 800 chemicals they release into the environment or otherwise manage as waste. EPA, states, and tribes receive TRI data from facilities in industry sectors, such as manufacturing, mining, electric utilities, and commercial hazardous waste management.



Special Air Sampling



In response to numerous odor complaints, canister air sampling was conducted on April 4, 2022 in the Timber Run development in Ravenna, Ohio. The canister collected ambient air and was then sent to the Ohio EPA for testing/analysis and reporting. These tests indicate what, if any Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) are present in the air at the time the sampling is conducted.

Ohio EPA provided us with a 4 page analysis and that report can be accessed from: www.scph.org/air-quality/special-monitoring.

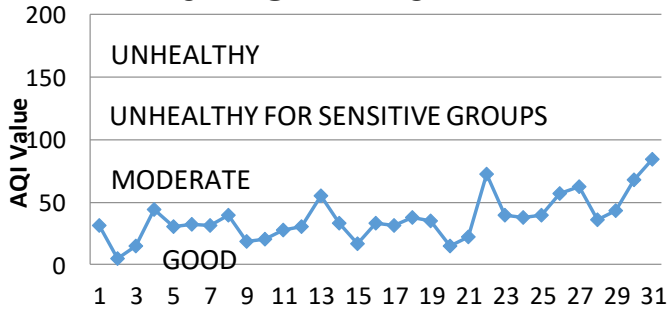
Our sample canister wrap in a safety vest from our parent organization SCPH .

AQ by the Numbers: 1st Quarter 2022

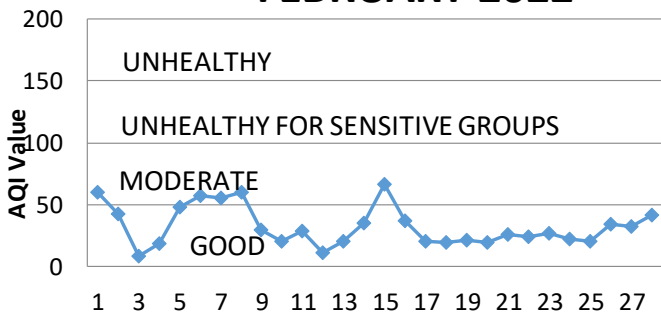
Air Quality Index

Complaints & Inspections

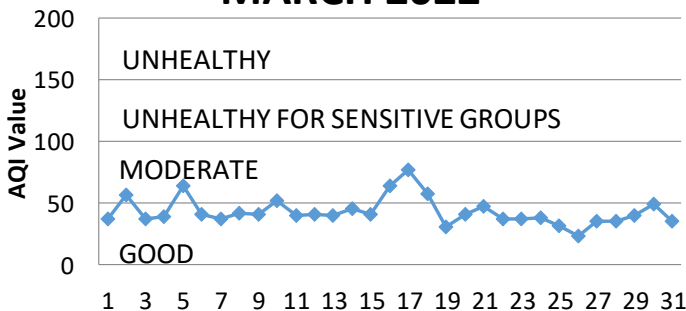
JANUARY 2022



FEBRUARY 2022

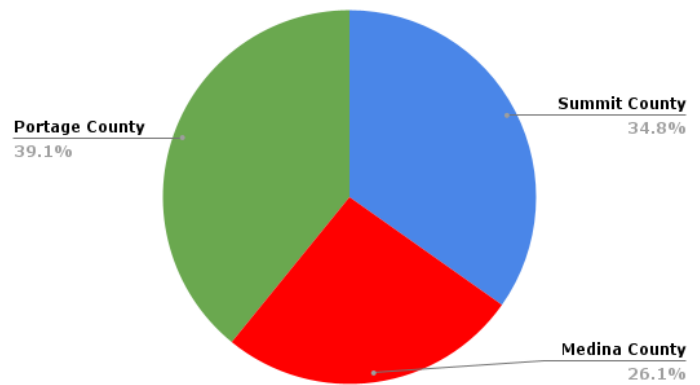


MARCH 2022



Area/ Health District	Commercial/ Industrial	Residential	Total
Summit County	5	3	8
Medina County	3	3	6
Portage County	4	5	9
Kent	0	0	0

1st Quarter Complaints



Site Visits	1st Quarter 2022
FEPTIO	4
Title V	8
Non Title V	15
Full Compliance Evaluations	13

Additional Stats

Permits Issued

1st Quarter 2022	Permit to Install		Permit to Install & Operate		Title V		Permit by Rule
	Draft	Final	Draft	Final	Draft**	Final	Total
**Includes - Preliminary Proposed Permits & Proposed Permits	2	2	5	25	4	2	21

Asbestos

1st Q- Notifications	52
1st Q- Inspections	76



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MowGREENER 2022 Update

For our third annual MowGREENER project, we doubled the number of available spots to 200 to accommodate the demand we noticed from the first two years. Any concerns we had about being able to fill the spots were wiped out after the first day's registration count of 66. Within 2 weeks of opening registration, all 200 spots were claimed. We currently have a waitlist of 11 individuals! As of the writing of this article 58 receipts have been received and 50 gift cards distributed. More gift cards will be distributed in the coming days. It's been fantastic!

By participating in the program, these individuals are making a positive impact on air quality. Based on the numbers from our first two years we are hopeful that this year's project will remove up to 20 TONS of air pollutants annually from our 3 county region.

We are also excited that both Cleveland DAQ and Hamilton County Environmental Services are offering a version of this program for their communities.

Our leadership is having preliminary conversations with Ohio EPA on ways we can work to expand the program here at ARAQMD. MowGREENER *may* get even bigger and better in 2023! Stay tuned.

