



Clean Air Coalition (CAC) | Agenda

11:30 am, or upon adjournment of CAPCOG Executive Committee (whichever is later)
Wednesday, May 08, 2024
CAPCOG Lantana Room
6800 Burleson Road, Building 310, Suite 155
Austin, TX 78744

Council Member Robert Rizo, **Chair**, City of Kyle
Council Member Heather Jefts, **1st Vice Chair**, City of Cedar Park
Council Member Kevin Hight, **2nd Vice Chair**, City of Bee Cave
Commissioner Mel Hamner, Bastrop County
Commissioner B.J. Westmoreland, Caldwell County
Council Member Paige Ellis, City of Austin
Mayor Lyle Nelson, City of Bastrop
Council Member Evan Ture, City of Buda
Commissioner Michelle Cohen, Hays County

VACANT, City of Hutto
VACANT, City of Georgetown
Council Member Kelly Brynteson, City of Lakeway
Council Member Esme Mattke Longoria, City of Leander
Mayor Lew White, City of Lockhart
VACANT, City of Luling
Council Member Ceasar Ruiz, City of Pflugerville
Council Member Hilda Montgomery, City of Round Rock
Mayor Jane Hughson, City of San Marcos
Commissioner Ann Howard, Travis County
Commissioner Terry Cook, Williamson County

- 1. Welcome and Introductions**
- 2. Public Comments (3 minutes per speaker)**
- 3. ACTION ITEM: Consider Approval of February 14, 2024, Meeting Minutes**
City of Kyle Council Member Robert Riza, Chair
- 4. Presentation on Recent NAAQS Action and Next Steps**
Alison Stokes, SIP Team Leader, TCEQ
Mitchell Moreno, Data Analyst, TCEQ
- 5. Presentation on Travis County's Clean Air Task Force**
Joe Escribano, Sergeant Travis County pct. 3
- 6. Presentation on the Regional Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Program**
Mali Calvo, Regional Climate Coordinator, City of Austin
- 7. Review of Particulate Matter Science used in 2019-2026 Regional Air Quality Plan**
Andrew Hoekzema, CAPCOG Deputy Executive Director
- 8. Other Business and Adjournment**



Clean Air Coalition (CAC) | Minutes

11:30 am, or upon adjournment of CAPCOG Executive Committee (whichever is later) Wednesday,
February 14, 2024
CAPCOG Lantana Room
6800 Burleson Road, Building 310, Suite 155
Austin, TX 78744

PRESENT (14):

Commissioner Mel Hamner, *Bastrop County*
Commissioner B.J. Westmoreland, *Caldwell County*
Mayor Lyle Nelson, *City of Bastrop*
Council Member Kevin Hight, *City of Bee Cave*
Council Member Evan Ture, *City of Buda*
Council Member Heather Jefts, *City of Cedar Park*
Council Member Robert Rizo, *City of Kyle*
Council Member Kelly Brynteson, *City of Lakeway*
Mayor Lew White, *City of Lockhart*
Council Member Ceasar Ruiz, *City of Pflugerville*
Council Member Hilda Montgomery, *City of Round Rock*

Mayor Jane Hughson, *City of San Marcos*
Commissioner Ann Howard, *Travis County*
Commissioner Terry Cook, *Williamson County*

ABSENT (3):

Council Member Paige Ellis, *City of Austin*
Commissioner Walt Smith, *Hays County*
Council Member Esme Mattke Longoria, *City of Leander*
VACANT, *City of Hutto*
VACANT, *City of Georgetown*
VACANT, *City of Luling*

1. Welcome and Introductions

Meeting began at 11:39 a.m.

2. Public Comments (3 minutes per speaker)

None

3. ACTION ITEM: Officer Elections

City of Round Rock Council Member Matt Baker

Council Member Baker began with officer elections. Chair nominations requested. Motion to nominate Council Member Rizo to be chair, Council Member Jefts as 1st Vice Chair and Council Member Hight as 2nd Vice Chair by Council Member Ture, seconded by Mayor Hughson. Motion carried unanimously.

4. ACTION ITEM: Approve November 8, 2023, Meeting Minutes

2024 Clean Air Coalition Chair

Mayor Hughson motioned to approve and seconded by Commissioner Hamner. Motion carried unanimously.

5. ACTION ITEM: Approve CAPCOG Air Quality Program Scope of Work Revision

Anton Cox, CAPCOG Air Quality Program Manager

Mr. Cox details recommended changes to the Air Quality Scope of Work. Council Member motioned to approve, and Commissioner Howard seconded. Program Scope of Work Revision approved.

6. ACTION ITEM: Approve Local Air Quality Funding Calculation Revision

Anton Cox, CAPCOG Air Quality Program Manager

Mr. Cox provided an overview of the recommended changes to local air quality funding calculations. Chair Rizo asked what was being done about entities that have pulled back from the funding of Air Quality programs. Mr. Cox stated that a continued effort to build better connections and engagements of those entities would be boosted. Mayor Hughson motioned to approve the funding calculation revision. Council Member Jefts seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

7. Discussion of 2024 Fine Particulate Matter National Ambient Air Quality Standard Revision

Anton Cox, CAPCOG Air Quality Program Manager

Mayor Hughson asked if the heavy-duty vehicles would be of the same standard as others. Mr. Cox responded that he was not sure but would check into it. He also mentioned that San Antonio is now not in nonattainment and was hoping to find out why and what were they doing differently now.

8. Presentation on Mobile Air Quality Monitoring Project

Jimmy Floyd, University of Houston Research Associate Professor

Mr. Floyd presented on resent mobile monitoring project carried out last year.

9. Other Business and Adjournment

Mr. Cox informed the committee that an Air Quality Newsletter was included in the packet and would be issued from now on. He also mentioned that Air Quality Week was to be started at the end of April or beginning of May and would be sending an email to members as a reminder. Mr. Cox also informed the committee that TCEQ would be scheduled to present at the next meeting.

Chair Rizo adjourned the meeting at 1:02 p.m.

DRAFT

CLEAN AIR COALITION - PROGRAM UPDATES

April 18, 2024



HOT TOPICS

1. [REQUEST FOR PARTNERS: Fleet Telematic Study](#) – partner to study fleet vehicle emissions.
2. [Air Quality Awareness Week 2024](#) - join CAPCOG in celebrating the annual event to promote clean air!
3. [Clean Air Coalition and Advisory Committee Meeting upcoming](#) – please save the dates for our next CAC and CACAC meetings.
4. [Earth Day 2024](#) – Earth Day 2024 is next week. Use our air quality comms kit to help spread the word.

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WELCOME

In this issue of the Clean Air Coalition (CAC) Newsletter, we are highlighting the start of spring environmental campaigns like Earth Day and Air Quality Awareness week, as well as our upcoming Clean Air Coalition Meetings.

- Every spring we celebrate several environmental awareness events including Earth Day on April 22, 2024, and Air Quality Awareness Week (AQAW) from May 6 -10, 2024. We have prepared tools for CAC members to use for these events including a [communications kit for Earth Day](#) and a [template proclamation for AWAQ](#).
- At our May 8, 2024, CAC meeting we will have TCEQ present about the region's compliance with federal air quality standards, particularly the recent fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) standards which Travis County is exceeding. If you have any questions or concerns you would like them to address, please let me know so that I can pass that along to them (acox@capcog.org).

CAPCOG AIR QUALITY PROGRAM UPDATES

TCEQ Rider 7 Grant

CAPCOG recently executed an agreement with TCEQ to support PM_{2.5} planning in the region. CAPCOG staff will work with the Clean Air Coalition Advisory Committee to prioritize projects under this grant at our upcoming meeting on Friday April 26, 2024. Funding support amounts to \$229,902 covering FY 2024-2025. Note that this funding source is not able to cover CAPCOG's outreach efforts or support of the CAC.

REQUEST FOR PARTNERS: Fleet Telematic Study

CAPCOG would like to partner with fleet managers to study fleet vehicle emissions using fleet telematic devices. Information from these devices will be used to provide us with greater detail of how fleet vehicles contribute to air pollution in the region and could allow us strategize measures to reduce fleet emissions.

During the study period, CAPOG will pay for the service fees for maintaining the diagnostic devices and if the participating partner does not already have these devices on their vehicles this study can also pay for the devices and the installation. In return partners would provide CAPCOG with data that can be used to calculate emissions rates from the vehicles:

- Fleet vehicle data (including VIN, model year, and type of use),
- Daily vehicle movement and activity data, and
- Engine data extracted from monitoring loggers (with a 1-sec frequency minimum).

Figure 1. Fleet Telematic Graphic



In addition to providing use with information to better understand fleet emissions, these devices could also provide your organization with the following data points:

- Fleet distance,
- Fleet utilization,
- Aggressive driving,
- Seatbelt violations,
- Speeding and speed profiles,
- Max speeds,
- Idling and Idling cost,
- Engine faults,
- Average MPG,
- Geofencing,
- Fuel consumption,
- Runtime,
- GHG Emissions,
- Location mapping, and
- Trip mapping.

We would like to launch this study this summer and allow it to run for at least 12 months. If your organization is interested in participating in this study, please contact us for more information. (Anton Cox – CAPCOG Air Quality Program Manager: acox@capcog.org).

MONITORING UPDATES

2024 AQI Days by Month

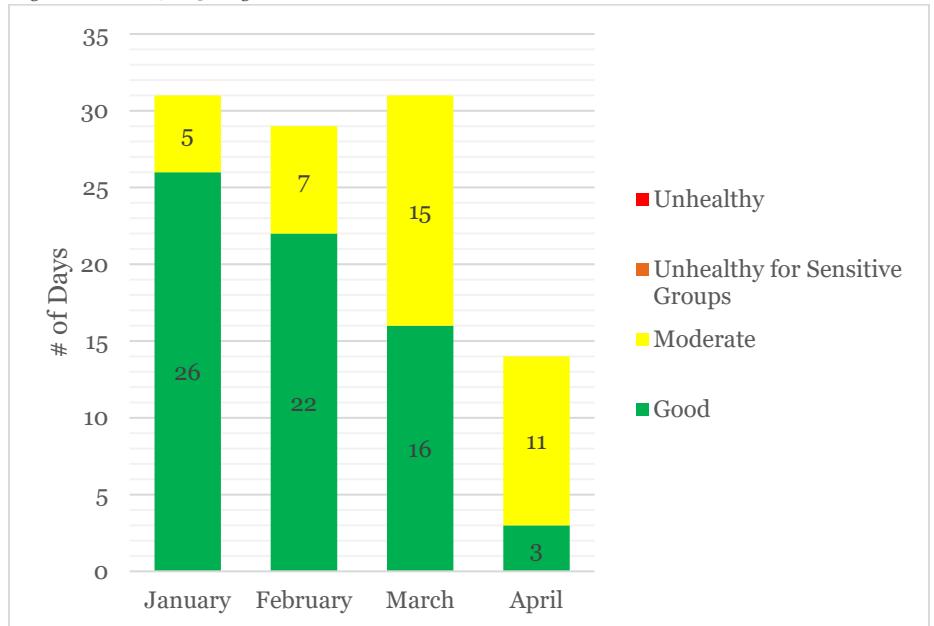
The following graph shows 2024 Air Quality Index (AQI) data by month through April 14, 2024. In March there were 16 good days and 15 moderate days, with 14 days due to PM_{2.5} levels and one day due to ozone levels. Through April 14, we have had three good days and 11 moderate days, with four due to PM_{2.5} levels and seven due to ozone levels.

For more detail about this year's monitoring data or previous year data visit the [Air Central Texas website](#) or access specific pollutant information by [Ozone](#), [Fine Particulate](#), or [Overall AQI](#).

CAPCOG staff is providing data via the website broken down by monitoring site, pollutant, and year.

Also, you can view a map of all of the 2024 monitoring sites at the end of this document or online via an [interactive map](#).

Figure 2. 2024 AQI, by month



LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

EPA Announced Strengthened Pollution Standards for light and medium-duty Vehicles

On March 20, 2024, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced final national pollution standards for passenger cars, light-duty trucks, and medium-duty vehicles for model years 2027 through 2032 and beyond. EPA finds that these standards will avoid more than 7 billion tons of carbon emissions and provide nearly \$100 billion of annual net benefits to society, including \$13 billion of annual public health benefits due to improved air quality, and \$62 billion in reduced annual fuel costs, and maintenance and repair costs for drivers. You can read the [full press release here](#).

Figure 3. Image of Vehicles Idling



EPA Announced New Fine Particulate Matter (PM_{2.5}) Annual Standard



The EPA announced a new Fine Particulate Matter (PM_{2.5}) standard that strengthens the annual health-based standard for PM_{2.5} from a level of 12 micrograms per cubic meter to 9 micrograms per cubic meter. Travis County, the only county in the Austin-Round Rock-San Marcos Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) with PM_{2.5} monitoring data, is currently not in compliance with the revised standard. This makes the Travis County and potentially the entire MSA at high risk for a nonattainment designation.

You can review the EPA's full statement here:

<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-finalizes-stronger-standards-harmful-soot-pollution-significantly-increasing>

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

US Department of Energy Communities Taking Charge Accelerator funding opportunity

- **What:** \$54 Million Available to Expand Access to e-Mobility Solutions. Project goals include: Solving for No-Home Charging, Expanding E-Mobility Solutions through Electrified Micro, Light and Medium-Duty Fleets, and Managed Charging for Clean Reliable Energy.
 - Between \$250,000 and \$4,000,000 per awards
- **Who:** Institutions of higher education; For-profit entities; Non-profit entities; and State and local governmental entities.
- **When:** Competitive Grant, Concepts due May 20, 2024, full applications due July 16, 2024.

TCEQ Texas Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Plan (TxVEMP) Program

- **What:** \$87 million for repowering or replacing eligible vehicles and equipment with all-electric models, along with supporting infrastructure.
 - Individual grants up to 100% of the incremental cost for governmental entities and 75% of the incremental cost for non-governmental entities.
- **Who:** Individuals, corporations, organizations, governments, or governmental subdivisions or agencies, business trusts, partnerships, or any other legal entity.
- **When:** Open now on a first-come, first-served basis.

TCEQ Texas Clean School Bus Program

- **What:** Grants to encourage the replacement or retrofit of per-2007 school buses to reduce exposure of school children to diesel exhaust.
 - Up to 100% of retrofit costs and 80% of replacement costs.
- **Who:** Texas's public-school districts and charter schools.
- **When:** Open until October 14, 2024, on a first-come, first-served basis.

Tesla: Wall Connector EV Charger Donation Program

- **What:** Donation of Level-2 AC [Generation 3 Wall Connector](#) or a [Universal Wall Connector](#) common for home, workplace, and public charging and get an average of 32 miles of driving range per hour of charge.
- **Who:** Ideal organizations include non-profits, churches, and in some cases, small businesses depending on their proximity to disadvantaged communities.
- **When:** Currently open for requests. Reach out to Olivia Richert at orichert@tesla.com for more information.

Coming Soon: TCEQ Rebate Grants Program

- **What:** Grants to encourage the replacement or repower of older on-road heavy-duty diesel vehicles and select non-road heavy-duty diesel equipment.
 - up to 80% of the incremental cost or max amount determined by the rebate grant table available online.
- **Who:** Eligible applicants are individuals, state and local governments, corporations, or any other legal entity.
- **When:** Opening in May on a first-come, first-served basis.

Coming Soon: TCEQ Emission Reduction Incentive Grants Program (ERIG)

- **What:** Grants to encourage the replacement or repower of older locomotives, marine vessels, stationary equipment, or select non-road equipment.
 - up to 80% of the incremental cost (total eligible cost) associated with the purchase or lease of the replacement equipment.
- **Who:** Eligible applicants are individuals, state and local governments, corporations, or any other legal entity.
- **When:** Competitive Grant opening in May

OUTREACH UPDATES

Clean Air Coalition Outreach & Education Subcommittee

CAPCOG's CAC Outreach & Education subcommittee will meet the first Thursday of the month at 1:00 pm to discuss air quality monitoring messaging in 2024. The subcommittee's purpose is to guide CAPCOG's air quality outreach initiatives and foster collaboration with CAC and CACAC members. If you are interested in participating, please contact Ramon Zarate (rzarate@capcog.org).

Earth Day 2024

April 22nd is Earth Day, an annual event to demonstrate support for environmental protection.



You can take ACTION and be an Earth Day Hero this year by helping to improve our region's air quality. Making simple changes to your driving habits can reduce your vehicle's emissions and cut down on ozone and PM_{2.5} pollution levels, which are bad for your health and the environment. Some changes you can make include:

- **Avoiding High-Emission Driving Practices** by obeying the speed limit, accelerating and braking gently and gradually, and driving slower on unpaved roads to avoid creating excess dust;
- **Limiting Vehicle Idling.** Running your engine when you're not driving it reduces your vehicle's fuel economy, costs you money, and creates pollution;
- **Maintaining Your Vehicle.** Keep your tires properly inflated, change your oil regularly, and have your engine tuned up regularly;

- **Buying Cleaner Gasoline.** During peak ozone season, you can help reduce your vehicle’s emissions by purchasing higher grades of gasoline (medium or premium);
- **Buying and Using Cleaner Vehicles.** When you’re purchasing, renting, or using a vehicle, consider using the cleanest vehicle available.

We’ve prepared a **communications kit** which includes email, newsletter, and social media post templates.

Air Quality Awareness Week 2024



This year’s Air Quality Awareness Week (AQAW) will be May 6 – 10 and the theme is “Knowing Your Air”. AQAW highlights resources that increase air quality awareness and encourages people to take action and incorporate air quality knowledge into their daily living.

The topics for AQAW 2024 are:

- Monday, May 6 – Wildland Fires and Smoke
- Tuesday, May 7 – Asthma and Your Health
- Wednesday, May 8 – Air Quality and Climate
- Thursday, May 9 – Air Quality and Environmental Justice
- Friday, May 10 – Air, Animals, and Plants

CAPCOG will post on all social media with information for each topic and will send a communications packet to CAC and CACAC members with social media and email templates for messaging regarding AQAW.

CAPCOG would like all CAC members to proclaim May 6 – 10 as Air Quality Awareness Week and have prepared a [proclamation template](#) for your convenience. All signed proclamations will be highlighted on the Air Central Texas website. You can view last year’s AQAW proclamations [here](#).

Travis County is taking things even further by asking Travis County employees to send in a video of them explaining why air quality is important to them. The videos will be review and favorited videos will win prizes like tickets to Hamilton Pool! We encourage all CAC members to take action to promote the week.

National Bike Month

May is National Bike Month and Bike to Work Day is Friday, May 17, 2024. Biking is a zero-emissions source of transportation that helps to keep you healthy, and National Bike Month is a time to encourage people to try biking.

CAPCOG will be tabling [Ghisallo's Bike To Work Day](#) event at Austin City Hall on Friday, May 17, 2024 from 7:00 am – 11:00 am. There will be over 40 fueling stations around Austin on May 17 from 7:00 am – 9:00 am and the morning will conclude with a celebration at Austin City Hall featuring bike friendly vendors and special guest speakers.



HELP WANTED: Distributing PM Sensors

When it comes to air pollutants in Central Texas, particulate matter (PM) pollution levels have largely remained the same; compare this to ozone concentrations, which have generally gone down over the past 20 years. To better understand PM_{2.5} in the region, CAPCOG's Air Quality Program is working to distribute 20 new [PurpleAir sensors](#) that can provide real-time air quality information at a given location using the [PurpleAir map](#).

We need your help targeting locations for the air quality sensors. Connect us with potential host sites that have a secure outdoor location with reliable Wi-Fi and a stable power source. Potential sites include community centers, government buildings, and city parks. You can suggest a location by filling out our [interest form](#)! We're also continuing to provide free air quality sensors to local youth education programs in Central Texas through our [Be Air Smart](#) program. Our ideal partners for this initiative are schools, libraries, children's hospitals, clinics, and daycares/after school-programs.

If you have questions, you can email Ramon Zarate, CAPCOG Air Quality Program specialist at rzarate@capcog.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

[Earth Day ATX Event](#) (April 27, 2024, at 12:00 pm – 5:00 pm)

- Earth Day ATX is a free educational festival to learn about conservation and sustainable solutions through several exhibitions, activities, and programs.
- Huston-Tillotson University (900 Chicon St, Austin, TX 78702)

[Movability Earth Day Event](#) (April 21, 2024, at 1:00 pm – 3:30 pm)

- Movability will be hosting a public Earth Day event at Ballet Austin to spread awareness about carpooling to reduce vehicle commuters on the road.
- Ballet Austin (501 W 3rd St, Austin, TX 78701)

[Clean Air Coalition Advisory Committee Meeting](#) (April 26, 2024, at 10:30 am – 12:00 pm)

- 2nd Quarterly CACAC meeting to discuss air quality planning initiatives in the region.
- Microsoft Teams meeting (click title for Teams link)

Clean Air Coalition Meeting (May 8, 2024, at 11:30 am – 1:00 pm)

- 2nd Quarterly CAC meeting to discuss air quality planning initiatives in the region.
- CAPCOG Offices (6800 Burlleson Rd. Bldg. 310 Ste 155, Austin, TX 78744)

2024 Environmental Trade Fair and Conference (May 14-15, 2024, All-Day Event)

- TCEQ staff will lead over 100 courses and discussions. Topics include air and water permitting, oil and gas, industrial and solid waste management, compliance and enforcement, and remediation programs.
- Attendee and exhibitor registration is now open. For more information, please visit the [Environmental Trade Fair and Conference](#) webpage.

Bike to Work Day (May 17, 2024, at 7:00 am – 11:00 am)

- CAPCOG will be tabling [Ghisallo's Bike To Work Day](#) event at Austin City Hall on Friday, May 17, 2024 from 7:00 am – 11:00 am. There will be over 40 fueling stations around Austin on May 17 from 7:00 am – 9:00 am and the morning will conclude with a celebration at Austin City Hall featuring bike friendly vendors and special guest speakers.
- Austin City Hall (301 W 2nd St, Austin, TX 78701)

Oncor EVolution: Learning Session (May 29, 2024, at 10:30 am – 3:00 pm)

- EVolution is an education program that provides Oncor fleet customers with information on electric vehicles and the role of the electric utility. Oncor's Energy Efficiency group is sponsoring an EV charging study with incentives for enrollment up to \$10,000, with a maximum incentive of \$25,000.
- Hutto Service Center (3487 County Road 100, Hutto, TX 78634)
- In person event, [register here](#).

THANKS FOR READING – CONTACT US

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please reach out to CAPCOG's Air Quality Program:

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Nelsvic Mondragon

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512-916-6008

Appendix – Map of 2024 Air Quality Monitoring Sites

Figure 4. Map of 2024 CAMS Locations

