

The Air You Breathe

Free Quarterly Newsletter from Akron Regional Air Quality Management District
May 2020 Volume 35, Issue 2



Lawnmower Exchange - Still in Progress

We had anticipated using space in this quarter's newsletter to tell you all about the results of our Mow GREENER lawnmower exchange program that was scheduled to wrap up on April 25, 2020. Alas, Covid-19 rolled in like a steamroller and changed everyone's life. Our in-person exchanges were canceled. Most of our scrap facility partners had to shut down due to the Stay at Home order. Also, we didn't want to send people out to the stores to shop for a mower when it could wait for a while.

So, we've changed up the protocol and **EXTENDED the deadline** to participate. Interested parties in Medina, Summit or Portage counties can still register until May 31, 2020 or until we reach our registration cap. Everyone has until June 30th to submit needed documents to our office.

Many of our registered participants have already started enjoying their new mowers and have their \$100 gift card in hand.

You can learn more about the program at our web page:

<https://www.scph.org/air-quality/lawnmower-exchange>

Why Some Have Registered for Mow GREENER

Girlfriend had an asthma attack when she used it (gas mower) last fall.

*To more easily transition
to the electric push
mower and reduce
emissions*

**I WANT TO BE MORE
ENVIRONMENTALLY
FRIENDLY**

**hard to get gas
mower started**

The incentive of \$100 plus it's better for the environment

I have been contemplating buying a battery-powered lawn mower and this event convinces me to do so.

**NEED TO
REPLACE. SON
BOUGHT A
BATTERY
OPERATED
MOWER
& LOVES IT!**

**WANT TO INCREASE
MY BATTERY OPERATED
OUTDOOR TOOLS.
BATTERY MUCH
EASIER FOR ME TO USE
WHILE DOING SOMETHING
GOOD FOR THE
ENVIRONMENT**

**GO
GREEN!**



in this issue

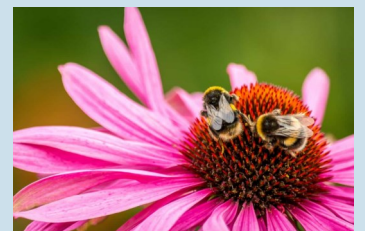
Lawnmower Exchange P.1
Pollen Reporting P.1
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Pollen Reporting

Over the years we have reported pollen counts throughout pollen season (generally mid-March to late September). The sampler we have is in a fixed location and we use historical data to help us determine if the reading is good, moderate or high.

The number we report daily is for the previous day's pollen, and that doesn't always give our community a good understanding of *today's* pollen concerns. Going forward, we are going to begin identifying the count as the previous day's count and include a forecast for the current day.

We hope this change will better serve our friends with seasonal allergies & help them manage their symptoms!



COVID-19 Response and Guidance

COVID-19 caused organizations across the globe to make massive adjustments in a short period of time. We here at ARAQMD are employees of Summit County Public Health *and* contractual agents for Ohio EPA and have had to adjust to the changes required by both agencies. We have staff who are working remotely and limited staff still reporting to the office. Some staff have returned to the office after working from home and some will be returning in the future. This probably sounds similar to the changes that your organizations have gone through and *are going* through.

Ohio EPA posted the following on their website: www.epa.state.oh.us/covid19

With the onset of the coronavirus (COVID 19) and the Governor's declaration of a state of emergency in Ohio, Ohio EPA is aware that regulated entities may be impacted from a reduced workforce necessary to maintain normal operations at some facilities.

All regulated entities remain obligated to take all available actions necessary to ensure compliance with environmental regulations and permit requirements to protect the health and safety of Ohioans and the environment. However, in the instance where regulated entities will have an unavoidable noncompliance situation, directly due to impact from the coronavirus, a form has been created by Ohio EPA to accept requests for the Director of Ohio EPA to consider providing regulatory flexibility, where possible, to assist entities in alternative approaches to maintaining compliance, such as extending reporting deadlines, consideration of waiving late fees and exercising enforcement discretion.

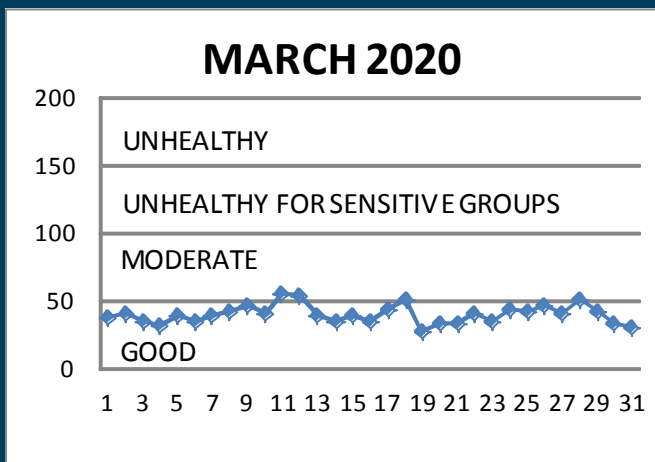
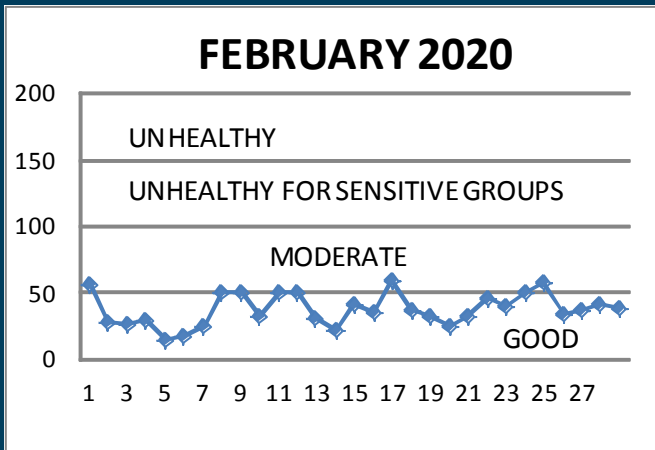
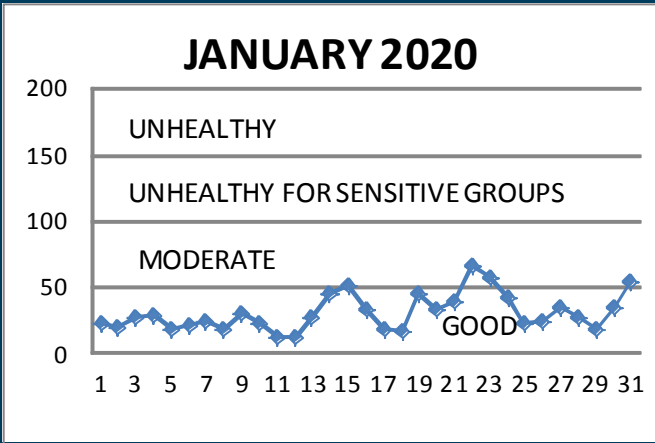
Regulated entities should complete the request form with specific information related to enforcement discretion. Form submittals will be monitored daily and Ohio EPA will work diligently to expeditiously review and respond to incoming requests from regulated entities. The following information is needed to complete the form:

- The specific regulatory or permit requirement which cannot be complied with
- A concise statement describing the circumstances preventing compliance
- The anticipated duration of time that the noncompliance will persist
- The mitigative measures that will be taken to protect public health and the environment during the need for enforcement discretion
- A central point of contact for the regulated entity, including an email address and phone number
- Where alternative compliance options are authorized by Ohio EPA, regulated entities must maintain records adequate to document activities related to the noncompliance and details of the regulated entity's best efforts to comply.

As always, ARAQMD is here to help. Please contact our office if we can be of any help as you move forward. All of our staff, whether working remotely or in the office are available weekdays. If you have a contact, feel free to call them directly. Otherwise, please feel free to call our offices from 8:00-4:00 Monday-Friday.

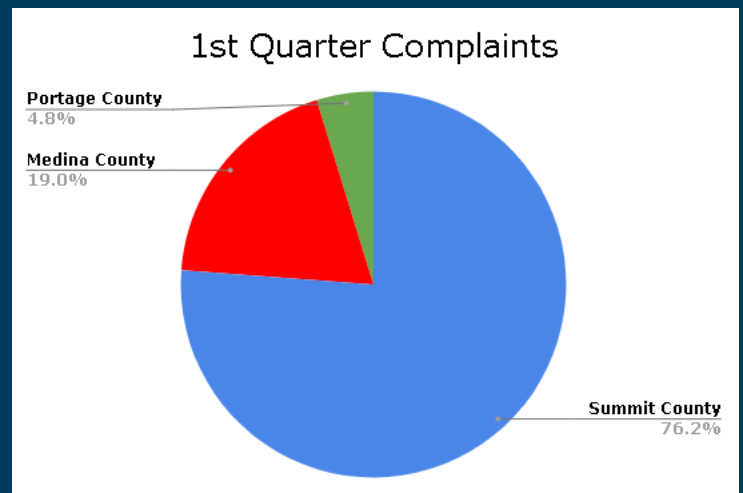
AQ by the Numbers: 1st Quarter 2020

Air Quality Index



Complaints & Inspections

Area/ Health District	Commercial/ Industrial	Residential	Total
Summit County	13	3	16
Medina County	4	0	4
Portage County	1	1	2
Kent	0	0	0



Site Visits	1st Quarter 2020
FEPTIO	5
Title V	4
Non Title V	31
Full Compliance Evaluations	3

Additional Stats

Permits Issued							
1st Quarter 2020	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	0	1	2	27	0	2	6

Asbestos	
1st Q—Notifications	43
1st Q—Inspections	42



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Study Shows Dramatic Carbon Drop Due to COVID-19

NBC News posted a story on 5/19/20 that discusses recent analysis that was published regarding the drop in carbon emissions that have been noticed due to the global restrictions in place due to COVID-19. The study, published in the journal Nature Climate Change noted that there has been a 17 percent decline in daily carbon emissions compared to 2019 averages. That amounts to 18.7million tons per day, levels that haven't been seen since 2006.

Due to the drastic reduction in transportation, including air travel, and industrial activities caused by the global implementation of stay at home orders, the end result could be that there is a 7% annual drop for 2020. The study notes that this is not sustainable and the dramatic lifestyle changes required during the pandemic are not the desired way to achieve carbon pollution reductions.

"...this is not the way to tackle climate change—it's not going to happen by forcing behavior changes on people. We need to tackle it by helping people move to more sustainable ways of living," Corinne Le Quere ,professor of climate change science is quoted as saying.

Of note, the study found that the biggest decline in carbon emissions came from reduced traffic from cars, buses and trucks—to the tune of 43% of the total decrease noted! Rob Jackson, professor of Earth system science at Stanford University, and co-author of the study is quoted as saying, "Air traffic was down two-thirds, but surface transport—cars and trucks—is almost 10 times bigger in terms of emissions." Sustainable transportation is at the top of the list in improving air quality around the globe.

As we emerge from the restrictions placed around the globe, let us look forward with new resolve to finding more sustainable ways of living...and driving...to improve the air we all breathe!

Link to the NBC news article at : <https://www.nbcnews.com/science/environment/carbon-emissions-dropped-17-percent-globally-amid-coronavirus-n1210331>