

# AIR



Air pollution alert in Steubenville.



Air monitoring devices are installed on industrial facilities throughout the state.



Air pollution concerns begin to shift from industrial sources to mobile sources of air pollution.



E-Check program begins in the Cincinnati, Cleveland, Akron, and Dayton municipal areas to help reduce vehicle emissions.



Ohio EPA began to set aside a portion of air permit penalties to be used for tree-planting efforts throughout the state.



Ohio EPA's air lab analyzes samples to determine air quality.



Compliance with air permit requirements at major facilities increased to 95% in 2000.

## 1970s

The Clean Air Act establishes national air quality standards.

Ohio is the first state to use emergency powers to temporarily close factories during a severe air pollution incident in Steubenville. Steubenville has 32 air pollution alerts in 1975 alone.

Public hearings on proposed federal sulfur dioxide regulations cause widespread concern in the coal industry, due to the high sulfur content of Ohio coal.

In the last half of the decade, Ohio industries spend more than \$1 billion to install air pollution controls.

## 1980s

More stringent regulations for soot and dust are adopted in Ohio.

New vehicles must use unleaded gas, significantly reducing lead in the environment. Ohio EPA begins enforcing rules prohibiting motorists from tampering with their cars' emission controls.

Ohio EPA installs a computerized system of air monitors. (Today, Ohio's air monitoring network is among the most extensive in the nation.)

Ohio EPA begins limiting toxic air pollutants from new and expanding facilities.

Federal and state laws are adopted requiring reporting of hazardous materials storage and releases of toxic chemicals to the environment.

Significant improvements in air quality are reported in an Ohio EPA trends analysis. From 1980 to 1990, particulate emissions (soot) dropped 75%, and volatile organic compounds, which contribute to ground-level ozone, dropped 52%.

## 1990s

A comprehensive new permitting program is created in an update of the Clean Air Act.

Enhanced vehicle emissions testing begins in 14 Ohio counties where ground-level ozone is a problem.

Ohio EPA establishes a small business assistance program, to help small businesses understand and comply with air regulations.

Ohio EPA begins monitoring toxic air pollutants in outdoor air in select urban areas. Results are typical of air quality in urban areas nationally.

By the end of the decade, all counties in Ohio meet the national air quality standards.

## 2000s

Stricter air quality standards for small particles (soot) and ground-level ozone will require additional actions to limit emissions and improve air quality.

Ohio's coal-burning utilities will complete installation of new pollution controls to reduce nitrogen oxide emissions, a contributor to ground-level ozone formation.



Air alerts continue in major urban areas in the 1970s.



Emissions from one of Ohio's coal-burning power plants.



Automobile inspection and maintenance program begins checking vehicles for properly connected emissions systems.



Ohio EPA staff respond to complaints about open burning.



Portable meteorological stations and air sampling containers are used by Ohio EPA to determine air quality throughout Ohio.



Ohio's air monitoring network is one of the largest in the nation.



Ohio's air quality has improved significantly over the past 30 years.