What are you breathing?

The Ambient Monitoring Program wants you to know -

we monitor the ambient air to protect you from pollutants that can impact your health.

Become "Air - Aware"

- → Learn about ambient monitoring and air quality in Georgia by visiting amp.georgiaair.org.
- → Visit amp.georgiaair.org to access the annual Ambient Monitoring Plans.
- → Find air quality outreach materials at epd.georgia.gov/air/ga-air-protection-branch-outreach.
- → Sign up to receive "smog alerts" at gacommuteoptions.com/Be-the-Solution/Smog-Alerts or cleanaircampaign.org/air-quality/smog-alert-sign-up/.

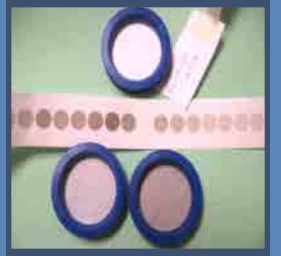
Air Monitors in Georgia

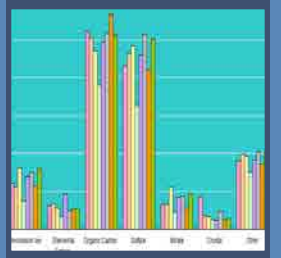
For more information about the Ambient Monitoring Program, please contact DeAnna Oser at 404-363-7000 or DeAnna.Oser@dnr.ga.gov.

Visit the AMP website at amp.georgiaair.org/

GEORGIA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION

Ambient Monitoring Program





The Ambient Monitoring Program (AMP) of The Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) wants you to know what is in the air that you breathe. You can access our online air monitor readings and understand the health effects caused by air pollution. By becoming "*air-aware,*" you can take steps to better protect your health.

COLLECTING AIR SAMPLES AND DATA

Over 100 air samplers (called monitors) are located throughout Georgia that measure for nearly 200 air pollutants. These pollutants can be gaseous such as ground-level ozone, or can be very fine particles such as particulate matter 2.5 (PM2.5), also known as particle pollution.

AMP staff use special equipment to carefully collect and test the air samples, determining the concentration of pollutants in these air samples.

AMP staff collect air samples in air tight containers or by using air filters.

Pollutants such as ozone or PM2.5 can cause adverse health effects. These pollutants are regulated by a US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) health standard. This means that for air to be considered healthy, air pollutant concentrations collected in the air samples must be lower than the federal standard. If samples are higher, an air quality "exceedance" is recorded for that area. If an area has more exceedances than EPA allows, the area will come into "non-attainment" and will be subject to federal and state air quality rules. You can view exceedences in your area at amp.georgiaair.org/

The Ambient Monitoring Program - collecting, analyzing, forecasting, validating, and researching the air that you breathe

ASSURING THAT THE DATA IS ACCURATE

The AMP takes measurements under very strict protocols, using highly technical equipment, to ensure that the data we produce is accurate.

The field equipment also undergoes rigorous testing, calibration and maintenance.

Field audit equipment

To ensure precise and exact data, a Quality Assurance group validates the data by conducting field tests (or audits) on the sampling equipment. The test must meet certain established criteria. If it fails, the instrument is repaired or replaced before the next sample is taken.

AMP's objective is precise and accurate air pollution measurements on a routine basis.

Why are we taking all these measurements?

AMP provides the measurement information via our website, amp.georgiaair.org/, where hourly monitoring data is posted for gaseous pollution and PM2.5. You can check air quality in your area by accessing this site.

We also submit our data to EPA's national database for use by EPA, researchers, and heath professionals. This data is available upon request. In addition, the data is included in the AMP Annual Report which is also posted on at amp.georgiaair.org/.

What do the measurements tell us?

From the data obtained for specific pollutants, we are able to see chemical concentrations in the air samples. The data also helps us to understand atmospheric chemistry, and use this chemistry to develop plans that will help bring areas back into "attainment."

WEATHER AFFECTS AIR QUALITY

Weather affects air pollution. Sunlight and heat can promote ozone formation. Temperature inversions and wind can keep pollution from dispersing. Wind can also bring in more pollution - sometimes from hundreds of miles away. Conversely, wind and rain can improve air quality.

For this reason, the AMP team also employs a staff of meteorologists, and manages a network of over 15 meteorological stations located throughout Georgia.

"SMOG ALERTS"

Using weather information as well as the pollution data collected from the monitors, a forecast team produces a daily ozone and PM2.5 pollution forecast – or "smog alert" - for metro Atlanta, Macon and Columbus. With the use of the air quality index or AQI, this forecast allows citizens who are sensitive to air pollution to plan their days and limit their exposure. You can sign up to receive an email smog alert at the Georgia Commute Options or The Clean Air Campaign website.

Find out the air quality conditions in your area.

amp.georgiaair.org