

## STATE OF THE AIR IN ARKANSAS FACT SHEET

Air quality in Arkansas is excellent and continues to improve. The improvements are largely attributable to implementation of state and federal programs developed under the authority of the Clean Air Act (CAA). Despite significant increases in gross domestic product, population, and vehicle miles traveled, emissions of air pollutants nationwide have decreased significantly since 1980.

Every county in Arkansas is currently in attainment with the national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS) for all criteria pollutants. NAAQS are set by the Environmental Protection Agency at levels designed to be protective of human health and the environment. The state has primacy in developing and implementing programs to attain the NAAQS. Arkansas is also on track to exceed other CAA goals for regional haze and carbon dioxide.

### ADEQ Office of Air Quality Achievements

- Significant reduction in permit backlog: ranked 5<sup>th</sup> in the nation for clearing the backlog of Title V permit renewals
- Performed 794 inspections, investigated 409 complaints, and reviewed 620 stack tests during federal fiscal year 2016

### Concentration Trends for Criteria Pollutants: 2005 – 2015

- Ozone concentrations have declined statewide. Crittenden County is now meeting the 1997 and 2008 ozone NAAQS. All areas in the state are on track to meet the 2015 ozone NAAQS.
- Fine particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) concentrations have declined statewide, while coarse particulate matter (PM<sub>10</sub>) concentrations have increased slightly.
- Carbon monoxide concentrations have declined by more than 50% and are well below the NAAQS.
- Nitrogen dioxide levels have decreased slightly statewide and are well below the NAAQS.
- Sulfur dioxide concentrations have declined in Union County and have increased slightly in Pulaski County but are still far below the NAAQS.
- Lead concentrations between 2010 and 2015 were well below the NAAQS.

### Criteria Pollutant and Precursor Emissions Trends for Regulated Sources: 2008 – 2014

- Nitrogen dioxide, volatile organic compounds, carbon monoxide, ammonia, and sulfur dioxide emissions have decreased.
- PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub> emissions increased, largely due to two unregulated nonpoint source sectors: agriculture and unpaved roads.
- Statewide lead emissions from regulated source categories increased by 1 ton.

### Other Clean Air Act Goals

- Carbon dioxide emissions have decreased since 2005 and Arkansas is on track to meet 2030 carbon dioxide emissions reduction goals for the electricity sector.
- Visibility in Arkansas's wilderness areas is improving more rapidly than expected.