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AIR CENTRAL TEXAS

Air Central Texas News and Updates

The graphic features a central circular logo identical to the one above. Below the logo, the text "2017 AIR CENTRAL TEXAS AWARDS" is written in a bold, green, sans-serif font. Underneath that, the phrase "Nominations Now Open!" is written in a white, cursive script font. The background of the graphic is split into green and dark grey sections with white curved lines.

[Submit a Nomination](#)

Air Central Texas is now accepting nominations for the 2017 Air Central Texas Awards! If there is an organization or person that you think deserves recognition for his/her/their efforts to protect air quality in the region, tell us! We will be accepting nominations until 5 pm, Friday, September 22.

Air Central Texas - Digital Poster Contest

Show off your creative side and how Air Aware you are by joining the Air Central Texas Digital Poster Contest! We will be selecting three winners for submitting original digital artwork on Facebook using the hastag #ACTPoster. Each winner will be given a \$50 amazon.com gift card.

[Learn More!](#)



Vehicle idling – it's no idle threat!

(courtesy of the City of Austin - Air Quality Program)

An idling vehicle is not only wasteful but harmful to the environment and those around you. Engine idling contributes to air pollution that negatively affects public health, creates noise pollution, and increases engine maintenance costs.

According to a study funded by the U.S. Department of Energy Clean Cities Program, if each car in the U.S. were to idle just six minutes per day, about 3 billion gallons of fuel would be wasted annually, costing drivers \$10 billion or more. The study also found that idling for more than 10 seconds uses more fuel and produces more carbon dioxide than restarting your vehicle. The bottom line is that idling gets you nowhere!

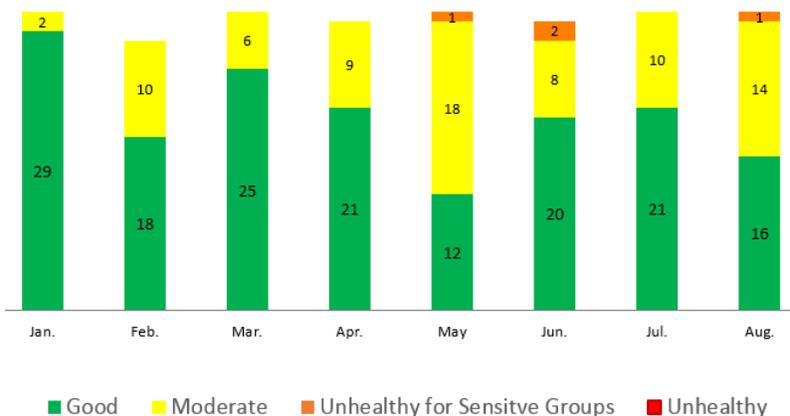
You can take some simple actions to reduce idling, such as:

- Turn your vehicle off when it is stopped and in park, for example while waiting to drop off or pick up children at school.
- Use alternative travel routes or avoid peak travel times where stand-still traffic may occur.
- Choose to eat or purchase food inside of restaurants rather than idling in drive-thru lines.
- Consider driving a hybrid or electric vehicle.

To learn more, read this U.S. Department of Energy article, called "[Idling Reduction for Personal Vehicles.](#)"



2017 Austin-Round Rock MSA Daily Air Quality Index Levels



In July, we had fewer poor air quality days (moderate or worse) than May or June. This follows a trend where Julys in the region have better air quality than other summer months. However, August 2017 also followed trends of having some of the worst air quality in the year. In July there were two days that we moderate due to elevated ozone levels and seven moderate days due to elevated Particulate Matter (PM) levels, while in August, there were five days that were moderate due to elevated ozone levels, fourteen days due to elevated PM levels, and

one day that was unhealthy for sensitive groups due to elevated ozone levels.

So far in September, we have had three days that have reached unhealthy for sensitive groups, which is already the most since October 2015. This also moved the region closer to exceeding the 2015 8-hour ozone standard, the standard is 70 parts per billion (ppb) and the region is currently at 69 ppb in 2017, up from 66 ppb in 2016.

To learn how these pollutants can affect public health and welfare, visit the following links:

- [Particulate Matter](#)
- [Ozone](#)

To learn more about the Air Quality Forecasting, visit [Airnow.gov](#).

We need your help to make sure your friends and family understand the risks of poor air quality and how their actions can affect the air. Forward this newsletter to people you know and make an [air quality commitment](#) to help us improve local air quality.

Commit to Protect Air Quality



Air Central Texas presented by the Capital Area Council of Governments

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