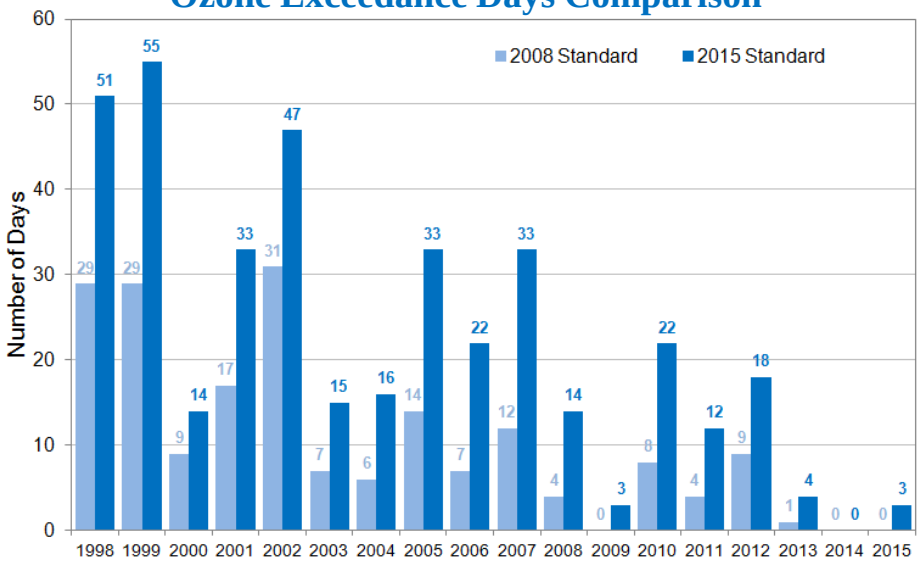
Version: *February 14, 2016*

Air Quality Facts

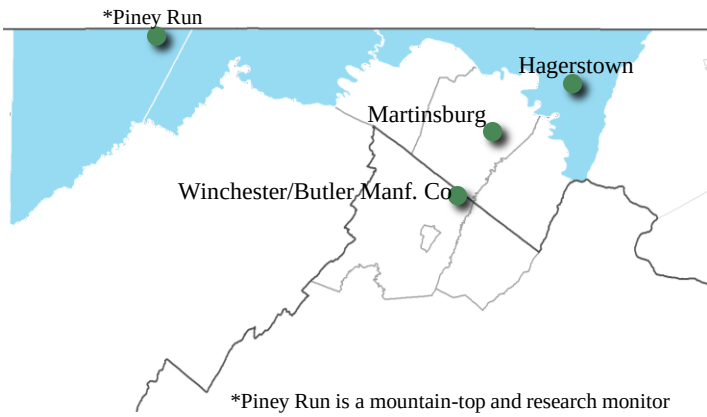
New Ozone Standard and Revised Air Quality Index

IMPACTS OBSERVED IN THE WESTERN MARYLAND FORECAST REGION

Ozone Exceedance Days Comparison

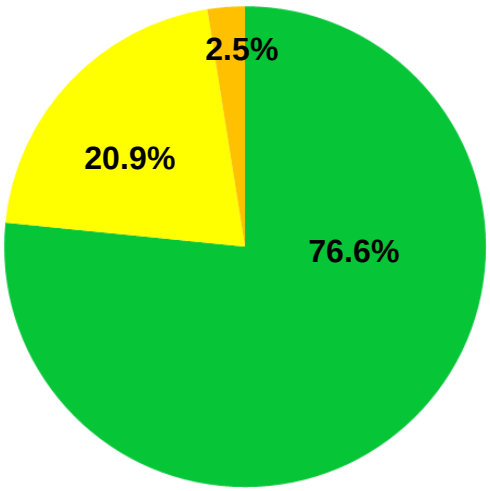


Western Maryland Forecast Region and Active Ozone Monitors



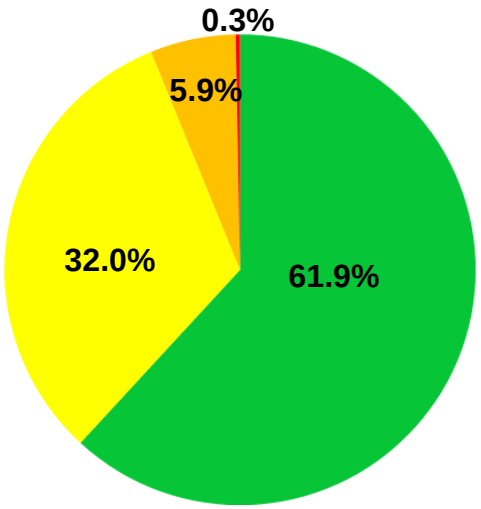
*Piney Run is a mountain-top and research monitor

8-Hour Ozone AQI Distribution Comparison (April 1-Oct 31, 2005-2015)



Average Number of Days

Old	AQI Category	Revised
164	Good	132
45	Moderate	68
5	USG[1]	13
0	Unhealthy	<1*
0	Very Unhealthy	0



*Due to averaging, a value of less than 1 "<1" indicates that during the 11-year (2005-2015) period at least 1 year had a Very Unhealthy AQI.

[1]Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups

New Ozone Standard and Revised AQI Summary

On October 1, 2015, the EPA strengthened the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for ground-level ozone from 75 parts per billion (ppb) to 70 ppb (http://www3.epa.gov/ozonepollution/actions.html). The new standard was adopted based on extensive scientific evidence about ozone's effects on public health and welfare. The updated standards will improve public health protection, particularly for at-risk groups including children, older adults, people of all ages who have lung diseases such as asthma, and people who are active outdoors, especially outdoor workers. The new standard will also improve the health of trees, plants and ecosystems. The color-coded Air Quality Index (AQI) for 8-hour ozone (which is used for air quality reporting and forecasting) was also revised. For the Western Maryland forecast region, which includes small parts of West Virginia and Virginia, the number of bad air days (USG and greater) are expected to more than double. Visit either http://mde.maryland.gov/air or www.cleanairpartners.net for current air quality conditions and forecasts.

Air Quality Index (AQI)

0-50 Good	51-100 Moderate	101-150 USG	151-200 Unhealthy	201-300 Very Unhealthy	301-500 Hazardous

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