



July 27, 2017

2017 Status Update  
c/o Laura Bunte, Mail Code C304-01  
109 TW Alexander Drive  
Research Triangle Park, NC 27711

Re: 2017 South Carolina Status Update on Air Quality Strategies and  
Accomplishments, Ozone and Particulate Matter Advance Programs

Dear Ms. Bunte:

The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (Department) wishes to provide the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) this "2017 Update" for both the Ozone and the Particulate Matter (PM) Advance Programs for the 2015/2016 Path Forward Plan. The Department has aggressively worked alongside South Carolina air quality stakeholders in multipollutant programs similar to the Advance Programs since 2001. By participating in the Ozone and PM Advance Programs, in partnership with the EPA and our stakeholders, we are pledging to continue our successful, proactive and voluntary efforts at reducing emissions of pollutants and improving our air quality in South Carolina.

The entire state of South Carolina has been a participant in EPA's Ozone and Particulate Matter (PM) "Advance Programs" which is a collaborative effort between the Department, EPA, and local governments since 2012. The program encourages the development and implementation of local voluntary actions to reduce ozone and particulate matter emissions in attainment areas. The program's intent is for local partners to take proactive steps to help areas of our State to continue to meet the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS).

To accomplish this, the Department and EPA provide assistance for technically sound measures for local partners to implement to reduce emissions to ensure continued health protection, better position these areas to remain in attainment, and efficiently direct available resources toward actions to address ozone and PM problems quickly.

As part of this effort, the Department has assisted in the formation of local area Air Quality Coalitions for facilitating communication, particularly in areas of the State that have issues with air quality or one of the NAAQS. These coalitions are conduits for information between the Department, local communities, their industry partners, and EPA, concerning both regulatory matters and opportunities such as grant programs. The coalitions can help communities to maintain and enhance quality of life and economic well-being by improving air quality through local action and being engaged in the regulatory process.

The Ozone and PM Advance Programs offer opportunities for state and local governments to work in partnership with EPA and each other that can help focus participants' efforts to keep their air clean. Participating areas will work with the State to evaluate initiatives that are suitable for their area, select those that are effective and practical, and implement those control measures and programs. The State and EPA can provide information about available tools and resources that may be used to help the area maintain air quality, and provide technical advice and other support.

To date, air quality in our State continues to improve, and all areas currently meet the 2015 ozone standard and the 2012 PM standard. Participation in Department-sponsored programs has been enthusiastic. Local areas have expanded Department initiatives, such as the B<sup>2</sup> anti-idling program for schools, in new directions. Several areas, such as the Upstate region, determined an Air Quality Advisory Committee was needed, independent of the Department, to expand efforts in their area. The Department is working with the local coalitions to ramp up these efforts across the State through the Ozone and PM Advance Programs. South Carolina air quality coalitions intend to stay ahead of the ever-tightening curve of air quality standards, and the Department will continue to provide tools and support toward that end. It has been, and will continue to be, our goal to protect the public's health by meeting EPA's air quality standards.

The Department commits to its participation in the EPA's Ozone and PM Advance Programs and will continue to work with our air quality coalitions, industries, schools, local governments, and interested individuals on voluntary multipollutant reducing programs.

We look forward to your acknowledgement of receipt of this "Status Update." If you have any questions please contact me at 803-898-3829 or [porterje@dhec.sc.gov](mailto:porterje@dhec.sc.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rhonda Banks Thompson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Rhonda" being the most prominent part.

Rhonda Banks Thompson, P.E.  
Chief, Bureau of Air Quality  
S.C. Department of Health & Environmental Control

cc: V. Anne Heard, Acting Regional Administrator, U.S. EPA Region 4

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2017 Update on South Carolina Air Quality

Strategies and Accomplishments

STRATEGY	STRATEGY DESCRIPTION	IMPLEMENTATION DATE	ADOPTING JURISDICTION
B <sup>2</sup> (Breathe Better) program	Anti-idling program aimed at parents and school bus drivers. Now also open to organizations and businesses.  <a href="http://www.scdhec.gov/b2">www.scdhec.gov/b2</a>	Ongoing	54 total schools and 4 businesses/orgs across the state participated in this anti-idling program in 2016-2017.
Air quality table at the "Ride the Routes Weekend" bike event	Information about air quality and DHEC air quality outreach programs was provided, and the air quality forecast was displayed.	April 22, 2017	York County
EEASC Earth Day	Earth Day event at Soda City farmers market in downtown Columbia featuring local school projects, including B <sup>2</sup>	April 22, 2017	Lexington and Richland Counties
Clean Air Midlands meetings (bimonthly)	Regional air quality coalition meeting every two months.	Ongoing, bimonthly	Richland, Lexington and Newberry Counties
Richland Recycles	Educational event for 4 <sup>th</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup> graders	Once a year (May	Richland County

Education Day	prior to large recycling collection day. DHEC presented information about air quality & the AQI/flag program.	12, 2017)	
City of Columbia Mayor's Bike & Walk Summit	Two day conference highlighting achievements and obstacles in pedestrian- and bike-accessible planning across South Carolina	May 4 & 5, 2017	Statewide
Educational Outreach	Week long focus on Air Quality Awareness including seminars and a free transit day	May 1 – 5, 2017	Anderson County
Earth Day Birthday	Annual family event with environmental education exhibits, including air quality	April 29, 2017	York County
BCD COG Air Quality Coalition Meetings	Regional air quality coalition meetings twice per year.	Ongoing	Charleston, Berkeley, Dorchester Counties
Waccamaw Air Quality Coalition meetings	Regional air quality coalition meetings twice per year.	Ongoing	Horry, Georgetown, Williamsburg Counties

SC SPA Truck Efficiency/Emissions Reductions	New gate system installed with a goal of reducing truck entrance time from 6 minutes to 1 minute	2016	Port of Charleston
Presentation to grades 3, 4 and 5 about transportation planning and air quality	<a href="http://eatsmartmove.moresc.org/yorkcounty/2017/05/21/transportation-planner-at-griggs-road-elementary-school-career-day/">http://eatsmartmove.moresc.org/yorkcounty/2017/05/21/transportation-planner-at-griggs-road-elementary-school-career-day/</a>	May 18, 2017	York County
Rock Hill is awarded a TD Green Streets grant	Funds will be used to plant trees at the urban neighborhood Confederate Park.	March 16, 2017	York County
Earth Day	Provided material, resources, and information to the Public about air quality.	April 22, 2017	Aiken County
"Coalition Summit"	Meeting held with our Coalition Partners, EPA and other State Agencies.	March 22, 2016	Statewide
Aiken/Augusta Coalition meetings	Regional air quality coalition meetings held with interested stakeholders.	Ongoing	Aiken, Edgefield, Barnwell Counties
Pee Dee Coalition	Meeting held to	May 24, 2017	Florence and

Meeting	promote the Pee Dee Coalition and various voluntary measures.		Darlington Counties
Upstate Air Quality Advisory Committee	Meetings held quarterly	Ongoing	Ten counties in the upstate of SC
J. Dan Powell Electric Vehicle Charging Station Matching Grant Program	\$15,000 available for five matching grants of up to \$3,000 each.	Ongoing	Ten counties in the upstate of SC
Spare the Air Awards	Awards recognizing groups around SC that go "above and beyond" to improve air-quality. <a href="http://www.scdhec.gov/sparetheairawards/">www.scdhec.gov/sparetheairawards/</a>	Ongoing	Statewide
Air Quality Flag Program	27 schools participate in the flag program to make students, teachers, and parents aware of the ozone forecast.	Ongoing	Statewide
EPHT Grant (South Carolina Environmental Public Health Tracking)	\$6,000 to purchase promotional materials to assist with Breath Better and other voluntary programs. <a href="http://www.scdhec.gov/epht/">http://www.scdhec.gov/epht/</a>	Ongoing	Statewide
Ground Level Ozone Forecasting	Coalitions use social media, SCDOT traffic signs, and the media to spread the ozone forecast. New, more visible sign in front	Ozone forecast season (April 1-September 30)	Statewide

	of the Department building on Bull Street and a new sign in the building lobby.		
"Ride and Drive" event for Air Quality Awareness Week	Promoting the use of alternative fueled vehicles.  <a href="http://energy.sc.gov/events?id=2476">http://energy.sc.gov/events?id=2476</a>	May 3, 2016	Columbia, SC
Walk and Bike BCD	A study to improve walking and biking in the BCD COG.  <a href="http://walkbikebcd.weebly.com/documents.html">http://walkbikebcd.weebly.com/documents.html</a>	Ongoing	Berkeley, Charleston, and Dorchester counties
2016 National DERA grant	1.5 million dollars to replace diesel engines on two ferries with electric motors.	January 2, 2017	Charleston
Sharing Opportunities	Information about grants, training, and other opportunities shared with our coalition members via email, blog, Facebook, webpages, etc.	Ongoing	Statewide