

# Texas Voluntary Air Programs

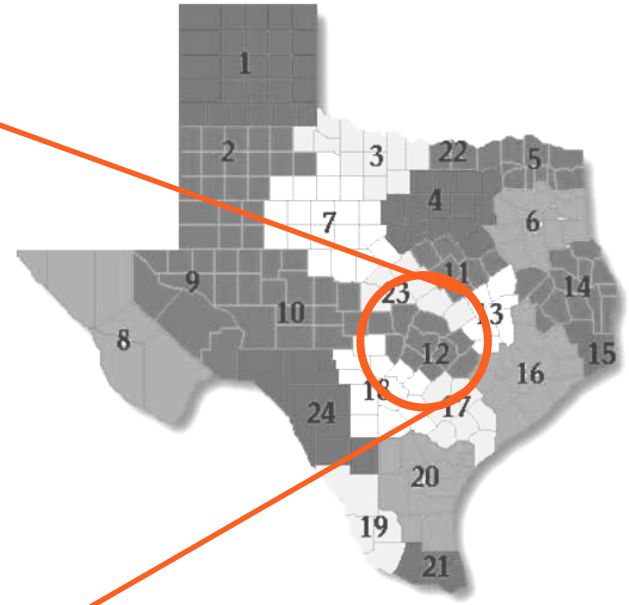
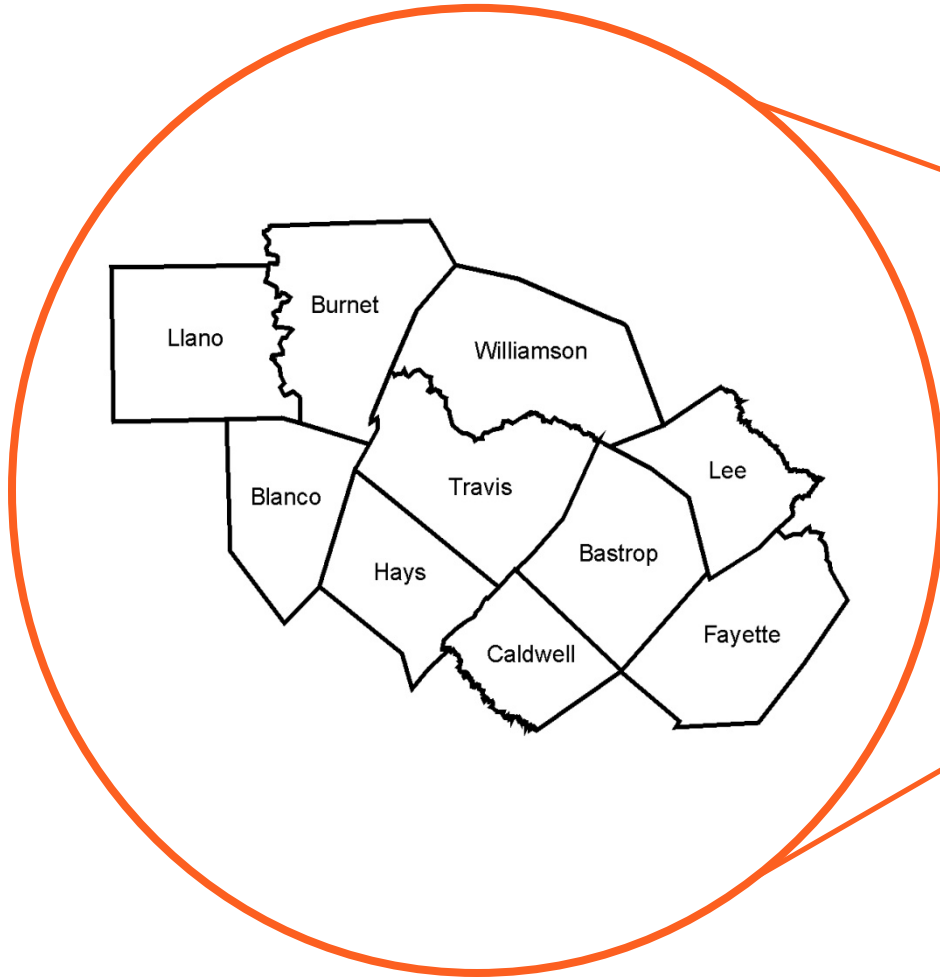


TWG Meeting  
September 4, 2014



- Emergency Communications 9-1-1
- Area Agency on Aging
- Homeland Security Planning & Training
- Regional Law Enforcement Academy
- Air Quality Planning
- Economic Development Analysis & Tech Assist
- Solid Waste Planning

# Ten-county service area; State of Texas planning region 12





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# Voluntary Air Quality Planning Efforts in Texas

- 1995: Near-Nonattainment Grant Program Created
- 1996: Flexible Attainment Region Agreement – (E. Texas)
- 2001: 1-Hour Ozone Flex Program
- 2002: Early Action Compact
- 2006: 8-Hour Ozone Flex Program
- 2012: Ozone Advance Program
- 2013: Particulate Matter Advance Program

- **Funding Level:**
  - \$5 million for the 2014-2015 biennium for 9 areas
  - Peak Level: \$7.1 million for 8 areas (2010-2011)
- **Activities include:**
  - Identifying, Inventorying, and Monitoring of Pollution Levels
  - Modeling Pollution Levels
  - Identification, Quantification, and Implementation of Local Pollution Reduction Measures
- **Areas Include:**
  - Austin, San Antonio, Tyler-Longview-Marshall, Corpus Christi, Victoria, El Paso, Beaumont-Port Arthur, Waco, and Granbury

# An Ounce of Prevention...

- Rider 8 Program Costs (per biennium):
  - Historical Peak: \$370,000 - \$1,109,600 per area
  - Currently: \$350,000 - \$733,011 per area
  
- Planning Costs for New Nonattainment Areas:
  - TCEQ Nonattainment Area Planning Costs:
    - 2010/2011 Exceptional Item Request: \$7,253,575 for 4 areas (\$1,813,393 per area)
  - Conformity Analysis Costs (Per Year):
    - Approximately \$50,000 for smaller areas
    - \$100,000 - \$250,000 for SA and Austin Areas

- Intended to preserve or improve air quality in attainment areas
- Provides a structure for local actions to reduce emissions to help stay in attainment
- Areas participating can receive preference for some federal grants
- Can help areas avoid nonattainment, avoid a higher classification, or receive increased regulatory flexibility or consideration from EPA

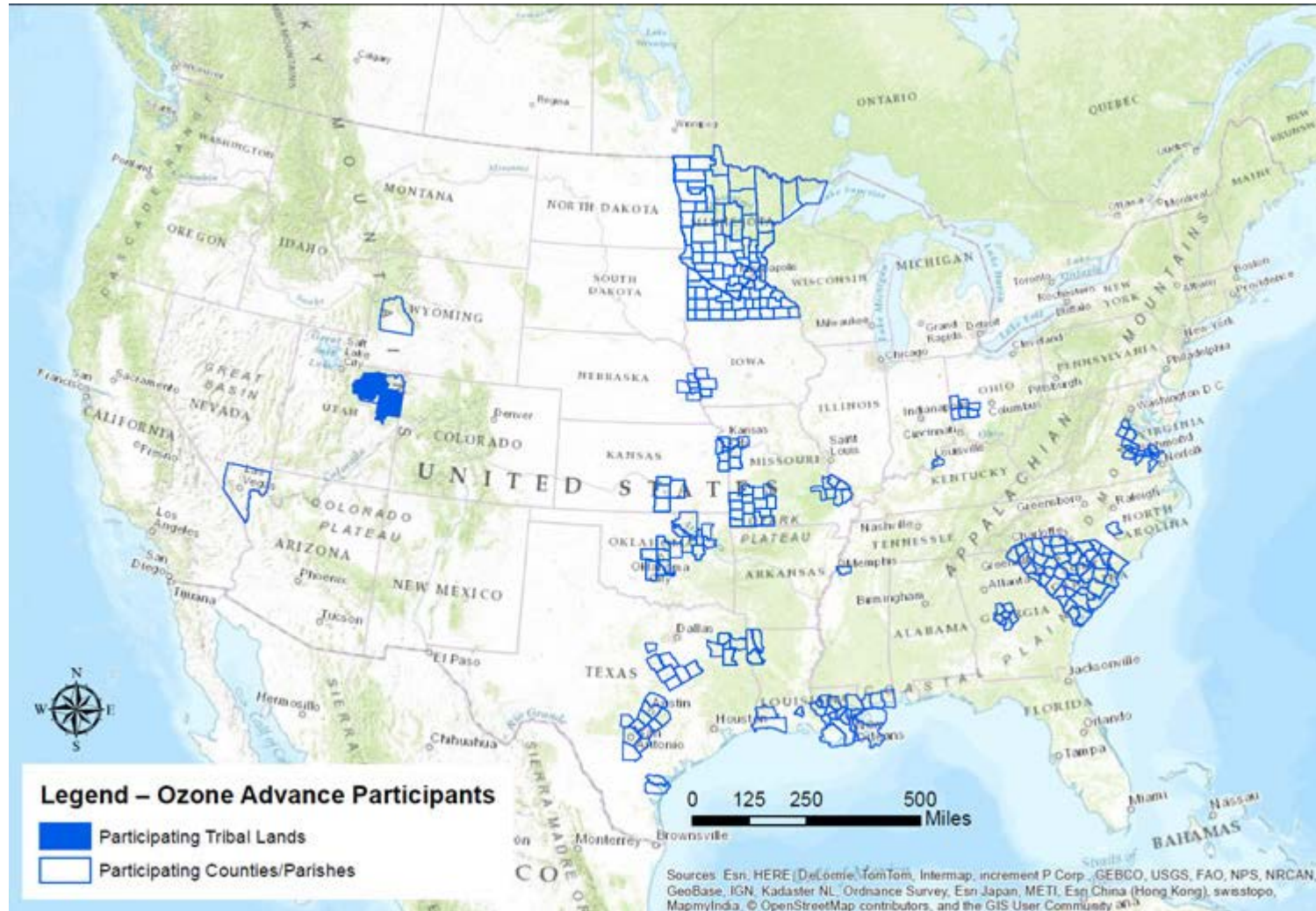


# Ozone and Particulate Matter Advance Programs

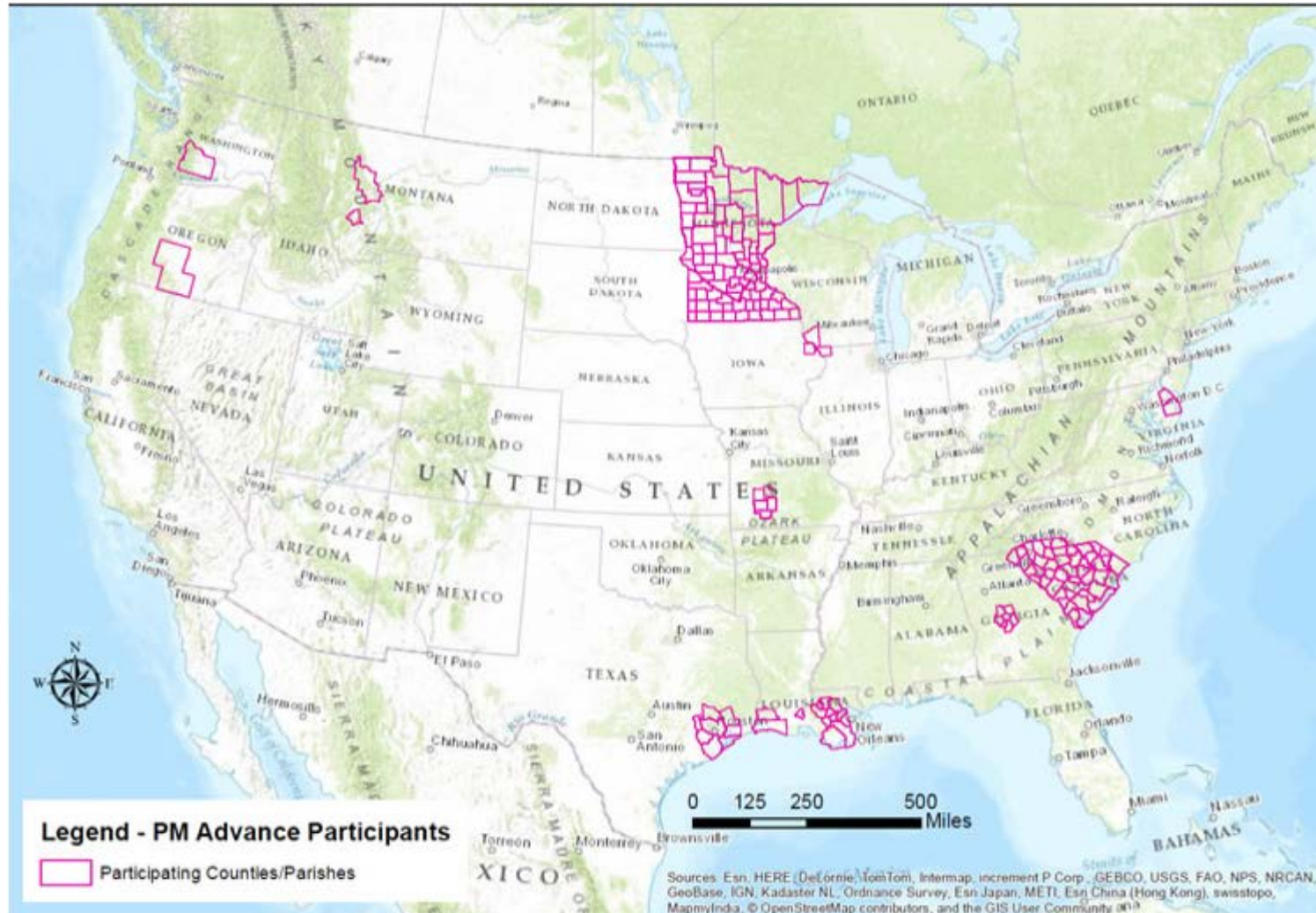


- April 4, 2012: Ozone Advance Program begins
  - April 4, 2012: Hood County
  - May 16, 2012: Austin-Round Rock area
  - July 25, 2012: San Antonio area
  - August 6, 2012: Waco area
  - December 21, 2012: Corpus Christi area
  - October 23, 2013: Tyler-Longview Marshall area
- January 17, 2013: PM Advance Program begins
  - July 16, 2013: Houston area

# Ozone and Particulate Matter Advance Programs



# Ozone and Particulate Matter Advance Programs

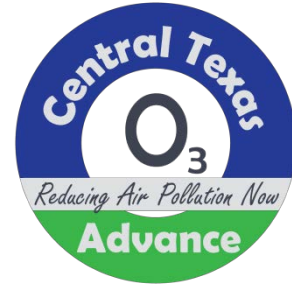


# Texas Counties Participating in Ozone or PM Advance



- 44% of Texans live in a county participating in Ozone or PM Advance
- 33 Counties Total Across 7 Areas:
  - Austin-Round Rock Area: Bastrop, Caldwell, Hays, Travis, and Williamson Counties
  - Corpus Christi Area: Nueces and San Patricio Counties
  - Granbury Area: Hood County
  - Houston-Galveston-Brazoria Area: Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery, and Waller Counties
  - San Antonio Area: Atascosa, Bexar, Comal, Guadalupe, Kendall, and Wilson Counties
  - Tyler-Longview Marshall Area: Gregg, Harrison, Rusk, Smith, and Upshur Counties
  - Waco Area: Bosque, Falls, Freestone, Hill, Limestone, and McLennan Counties

- Goals of Austin-RR OAP Action Plan:
  - Stay in attainment of 2008 standard
  - Continue reducing O<sub>3</sub> to avoid nonattainment designation for a new ozone standard
  - Position area to come into attainment as quickly as possible if designated nonattainment
  - Reduce ozone exposure when high ozone does occur for sensitive populations
  - Minimize the costs to the region of any potential future nonattainment designation



- Accountability to EPA and participating organizations
- Documentation of efforts underway
- Quantification of emission reduction measures that could be accounted for as SIP credit

- Economic Incentive Programs
- Voluntary Mobile Emission Reduction Programs
- Voluntary Stationary Source Emission Reduction Programs
- Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Measures
- Land Use Planning Measures
- “Bundling” Measures for Credit

- Voluntary Measures
  - Rely on voluntary actions of individuals or other parties for achieving emission reductions
- Seasonal Measures
  - Only in effect during the season in which an area experiences high pollutant concentrations
- Episodic Measures
  - Implemented during periods of high pollutant concentrations, such as Ozone Action Days



- In order to receive SIP credit, emission reduction measures must be:
  - Surplus (not already accounted for)
  - Quantifiable (tons per day reduction)
  - Enforceable (some degree of accountability)
  - Permanent (for period analyzed)
  - Adequately Supported (money, personnel)

- Voluntary Mobile Emission Reduction Programs (VMEP)
  - Based on measures listed in CAA Sec. 110
  - Limited to 3% of required emission reductions by EPA guidance (attainment or RFP)
  - Must account for compliance uncertainty (how likely responsible parties will fully implement the program)
  - Must account for programmatic uncertainty (extent to which voluntary responses actually occur and/or inherent uncertainties of program design)

- Voluntary Stationary Source Programs
  - Limited to 3% of required emission reductions by EPA guidance (attainment or RFP)
  - Program evaluation and remediation
  - Example for point source: Texas Lehigh Cement Company's voluntary Ozone Action Day NO<sub>x</sub> reduction program
  - Example for area sources: Avoiding engine testing for backup generators on Ozone Action Days

- High Background Ozone Levels
- Limited Authority Over Local Sources
- Reducing Emissions Activities v. Rates
- Difficulty in Quantifying Local Measures
- Concern Over Being Penalized for Being Proactive

- Collaboration Can Help Take Advantage of Each Organization's Relative Strengths
- Certain Measures Can Only be Effectively Undertaken on a Voluntary Basis
- Voluntary Regional Efforts Have Proven Successful at Achieving Buy-In From All Major Stakeholders
- Regular Tracking and Reporting Provides Accountability & Opportunities to Adjust

# Looking Ahead: New Ozone Standard

- Likely Timeline
  - December 1, 2014: Ozone Standards Proposed
  - October 1, 2015: Ozone Standards Finalized
  - October 1, 2016: Designation Recommendations Due
  - May 2017: EPA Proposes Nonattainment Designations
  - October 1, 2017: Nonattainment Designations Finalized
  - October 1, 2018: Transportation Conformity Due, Infrastructure and Transport SIPs Due, Latest Date for Designations
  - December 31, 2020: Attainment Date for Marginal Areas
  - December 31, 2022: Attainment Date for Subpart 1 Areas
  - December 31, 2023: Attainment Date for Moderate Areas

# Key Policy Questions for Voluntary Programs

- How will EPA ensure that areas are not penalized for taking voluntary action?
- What flexibility exists within the Clean Air Act to accommodate the transition from voluntary programs into SIPs?
- How can the state help ensure that voluntary programs are successful?

# Implementation Flexibility for “Advance” Areas

- Provide areas with 1 extra year for nonattainment designations or avoid designations entirely until 2020
- Allow states to use subpart 1 implementation
- Allow areas to “model out” voluntary emission reductions from baselines
- Remove caps on credit from voluntary measures



# State Support for Voluntary Programs

- Planning & research assistance
  - Rider 8 grant program
- Economic incentive programs
  - TERP
  - LIRAP
- Consult with local programs on decisions that could affect their air quality plans
- Ensure non-interference (i.e. permitting)
- Targeted rule-making

Thank You!



Capital Area Council of Governments

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