



# AIR QUALITY INITIATIVES

AIKEN – AUGUSTA REGION

1998 – 2007

October 23, 2007, Centerville, GA

## Air Quality Task Force: 1998-2000

- Established by Augusta Metro Chamber of Commerce
- **Purpose:** Work with state / federal officials to ensure that metro area meets air quality standards
- Representatives from industry, government and utilities
- Met periodically to review air quality data, discuss the ramifications of nonattainment designations and review potential control measures
- Funding of the Fall Line Air quality Study resulted in part from the work of the task force

# **FALL LINE AIR QUALITY STUDY: 2000-2004**

- FAQs Coordinating Council
- Implemented by the Center for Urban and Regional Ecology at Georgia Tech under contract with GA EPD
- Purpose:
  1. Assess urban and regional air pollution
  2. Identify the sources of pollutants and pollutant precursors
  3. Recommend solutions to existing and potential pollution
- Components of the Study
  1. Enhanced monitoring of air quality
  2. Development of an emissions inventory
  3. Modeling scenarios of air quality
  4. Analyze and assess the results of modeling and make recommendations regarding potential actions & initiatives

# OZONE EARLY ACTION COMPACT

## 2002-2007

- **Purpose:** Provide an option for areas currently (in 2002) meeting the 1-hour ozone standard, to attain the 8-hour ozone standard by December 31, 2007 and obtain clean air sooner than federally mandated
- December 31, 2002
  - Augusta-Richmond County, GA signed EAC with GA EPD and US EPA. Columbia County, GA signed letter of support.
  - Aiken County, SC signed EAC with SC DHEC and US EPA
- June 16, 2003 – Local Emission Reduction Strategies identified and described
- December 31, 2004 – Early Action Plans submitted to EPA for incorporation into the State Implementation Plans
- December 31, 2007 – Attainment of the 8-hour ozone standard

# **EAC INITIATIVES – AUGUSTA**

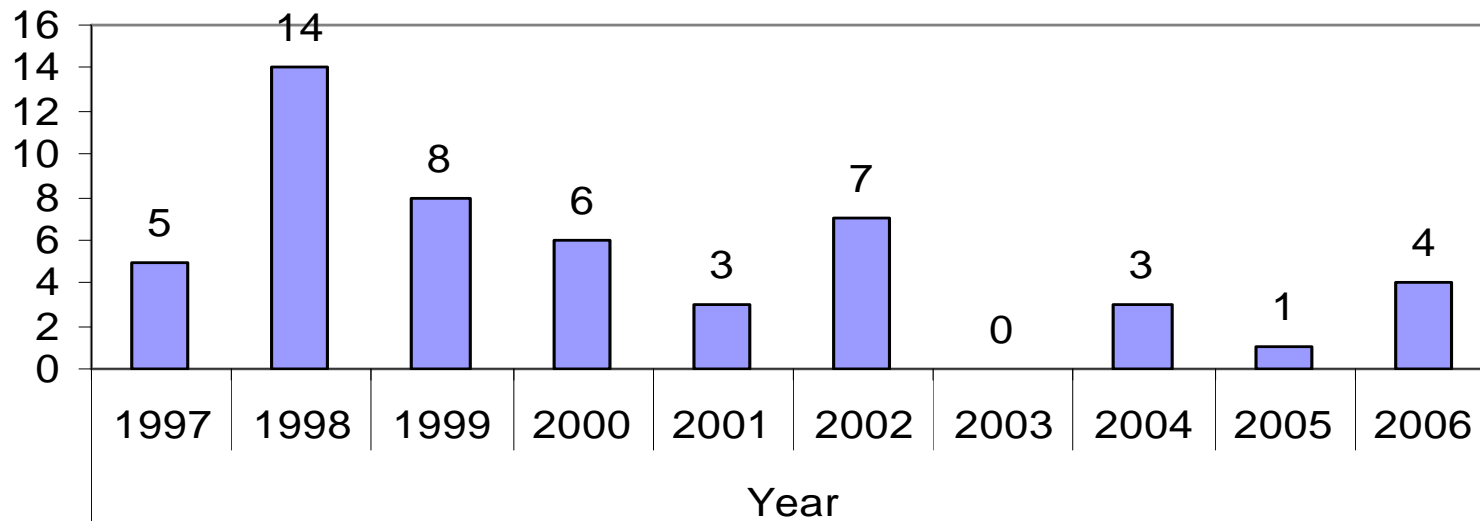
1. Agreed to state-level open burning ban during ozone season beginning in 2005 (Richmond and Columbia Counties)
2. Agreed to state-level Stage I Vapor Recovery Program beginning in 2005 (Richmond and Columbia Counties)
3. Promote the use of alternative modes of transportation by general public and city employees
4. Administer and enforce existing municipal tree ordinance
5. Implement projects in the regional bicycle and pedestrian plan
6. Reinforce existing policies that prohibit the idling of government vehicles when not in use
7. Conduct periodic energy audits of government buildings
8. Promote community awareness / education about air quality issues through the media, distribution of educational materials and public meetings

# **EAC INITIATIVES – AIKEN COUNTY**

1. Local government revised ordinances to promote bicycle and pedestrian facilities and establish min. tree planting requirements
2. Banned open burning within the cities of Aiken and North Augusta
3. Converted Aiken County Transit fleet to bio-diesel fuel
4. SCE&G converted power plant from coal to gas-burning turbine generators
5. Industries encourage employees to carpool to lunch
6. Industries install workspace sensors to reduce energy consumption
7. Industries paint exposed surfaces of buildings with reflective paint to reduce energy consumption
8. Government and industry purchase Energy Star products
9. Promote Early Action Plan / Air Pollution Reduction at public meetings and through area media outlets

# OZONE STANDARD EXCEEDENCES

**Days Exceeding 8-Hour Ozone Standard  
Augusta-Richmond County**

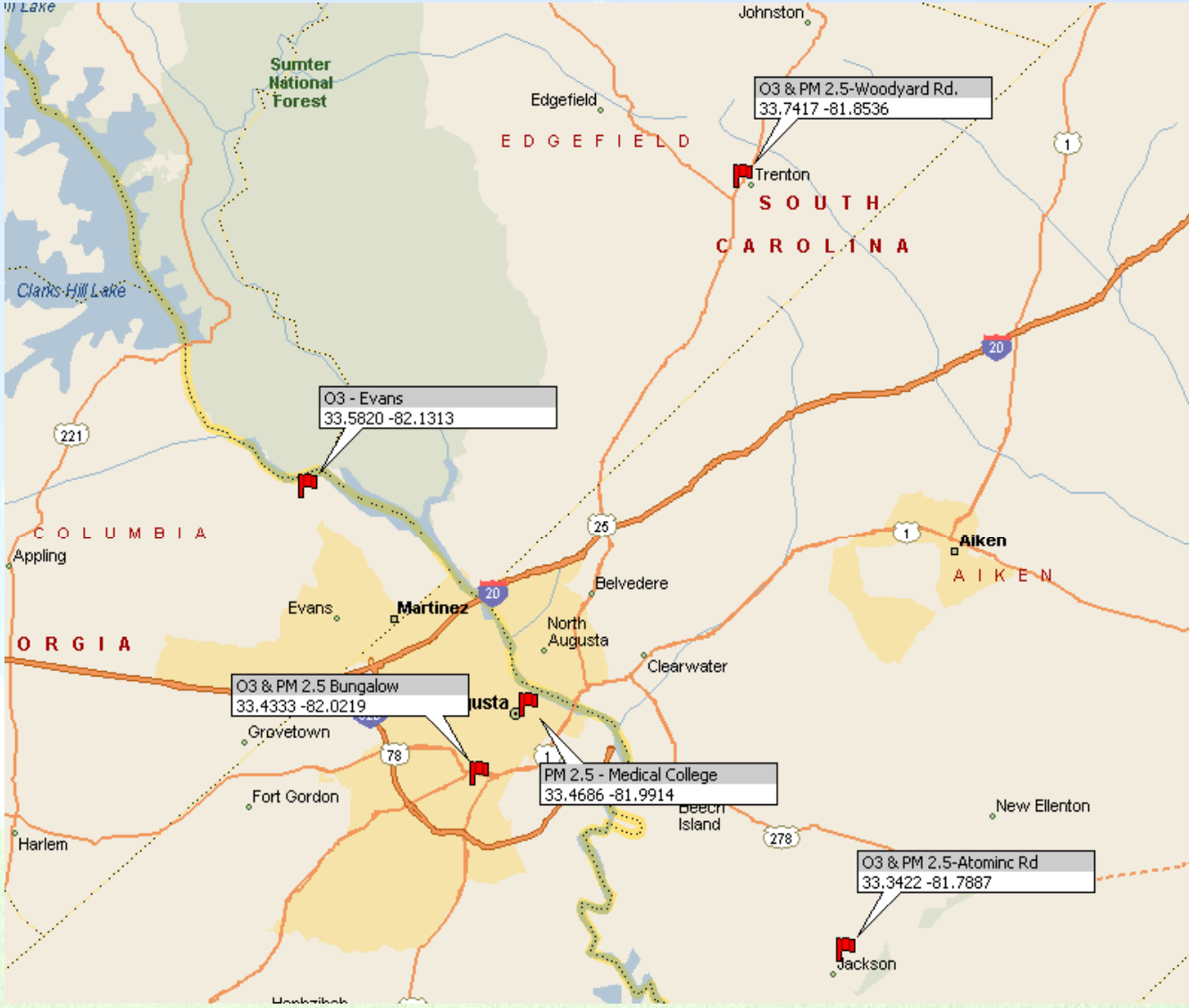


# REGIONAL AIR QUALITY INITIATIVE

## 2007-2008

- **Purpose:** Implement local initiatives to improve air quality in a cooperative, proactive manner
- Partners include EPA, GA EPD, SC DHEC, GDOT and Augusta MPO
- Stakeholders include government, industry, utilities, military, school systems, forestry, agriculture, homebuilders
- Prompted by recent changes to the PM2.5 standards and the proposed amendments to the ozone standards.

# Augusta Area PM2.5 and Ozone Monitors



# TIMELINE FOR INITIATIVE

September 2006	EPA Adopts New PM 2.5 Standard
Fall 2006	EPA Requests Plan to Bring Augusta Back into Attainment
February 22, 2007	Project Kickoff Meeting
March 29, 2007	Second Stakeholder Meeting
May 3, 2007	Third Stakeholder Meeting
June – July 2007	Technical Group Meetings #1
August 8, 2007	Fourth Stakeholder Meeting – Report from Technical Groups. Identify “Easy to Implement” Control Measures

# TIMELINE FOR INITIATIVE

Sept. – October 2007	Technical Group Meetings #2 – Refine List of Potential Control Measures and Develop Implementation Strategy
Nov. – December 2007	Implement “Easy to Implement” Control Measures
January 2008	Fifth Stakeholder Meeting
2009	Attainment Deadline for existing PM 2.5 standard
December 2009	Non-attainment Designations for New PM2.5 Standards
April 2013	New PM2.5 SIPs Due to EPA

# GENERAL GUIDANCE TECHNICAL GROUPS

- Sign-up for One of the Three Technical Groups
  1. Heavy-Duty Diesel
  2. Regulatory and Policy
  3. Education and Outreach
- Recruit additional stakeholders
  1. Affected by a control measure, policy or initiative
  2. Provide expertise / experience
  3. Resource in implementing an initiative
- Hold a Series of Three (3) Meetings  
(August – November 1, 2007)
- Report Progress to Large Stakeholder Group

# HEAVY-DUTY DIESEL GROUP

- Easy to Implement Control Measures
  1. Anti-idling Policies
  2. Fleet turnover on regular schedule
  3. Increase use of biodiesel fuel
- Harder to Implement Control Measures
  1. Retrofit to existing engines (catalyst, filters)
  2. Legislative incentives for PM reduction

# **REGULATORY AND POLICY GROUP**

- Easy to Implement Control Measures
  1. Alert public on high ozone days
  2. Impose burn ban on high ozone days
  3. Seasonal burn ban in unincorporated Aiken County
  4. Issue daily burn permits instead of annual burn permits in Richmond and Columbia Counties
  5. Establish telecommute day as an option for office workers
  6. Offer incentives to carpool
- Harder to Implement Control Measures:
  1. Year-round open burn ban
  2. Establish centrally-located dump sites in Aiken County for yard-waste recycling
  3. Emission checks on personal vehicles

# **EDUCATION AND OUTREACH GROUP**

1. Establish name for regional initiative
  - Central Savannah River Area (CSRA) Clean Air Alliance
2. Tag Line – “Working Hard to Breathe Easy”
3. Logo – Design developed subject to stakeholder acceptance
4. Brochures
  - General Public
  - Schools
5. Website
6. Coordinate with other technical groups

# TECHNICAL GROUP CONTACTS

- Heavy-Duty Diesel
  - Brent Allen  
Three Rivers Solid Waste Authority  
(803) 827-2808  
[ballen@trswa.org](mailto:ballen@trswa.org)
- Regulatory and Policy
  - Mindy Carney  
McDuffie Co. Planning Commission  
(706) 595-5355  
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- Education and Outreach
  - Scott MacGregor  
Augusta Metro Chamber of Commerce  
(706) 821-1314  
[smacgregor@augustagausa.com](mailto:smacgregor@augustagausa.com)

# STATE COORDINATORS PROJECT WEBSITE

- South Carolina DHEC
  - Brandy Armstrong  
(803) 898-3822  
[armstrbg@dhec.sc.gov](mailto:armstrbg@dhec.sc.gov)
- Georgia EPD
  - Jimmy Johnston  
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[jimmy\\_johnston@mail.dnr.state.ga.us](mailto:jimmy_johnston@mail.dnr.state.ga.us)
- Project Website
  - <http://www.scdhec.net/environment/baq/pm.aspx>

# AIKEN – AUGUSTA CONTACTS

- Scott MacGregor, Augusta Metro Chamber of Commerce (706) 821-1314.  
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- Stephen Strohming, Aiken County Planning and Development Department, (803) 652-1520.  
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- Paul DeCamp, Augusta-Richmond County Planning Commission, (706) 821-1796. [pdecamp@augustaga.gov](mailto:pdecamp@augustaga.gov)