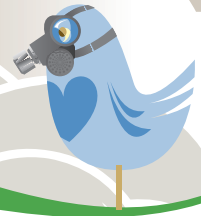


FORT COLLINS
Air Quality REPORT 2009



Air Quality Index
2009 Levels At-A-Glance

- Days that are Good
- Days that are Moderate
- Days Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups

Carbon Monoxide (CO)

CO levels in Fort Collins are well below the national air quality standard, and have been steadily dropping for the last 20 years. CO is emitted mainly by motor vehicles and the improvement is largely due to the federal new car emission standards. Daily readings do not total 365 days due to monitor down time.



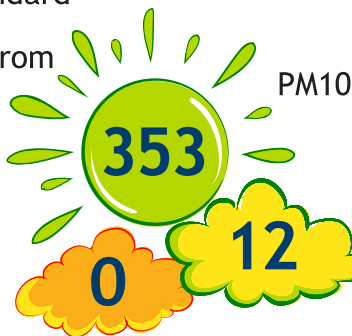
Ozone

The ozone level at the Fort Collins West monitoring site was worse than the national air quality standard on one day in 2009, at 78 ppb (parts per billion) compared with the 75 ppb standard. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has directed that the ozone problem be solved regionally in an area extending to Denver and Greeley. Ozone is formed when hydrocarbons and nitrogen oxides react in sunlight. They're emitted mainly by motor vehicles and industrial sources. Daily readings do not total 365 days due to monitor down time.

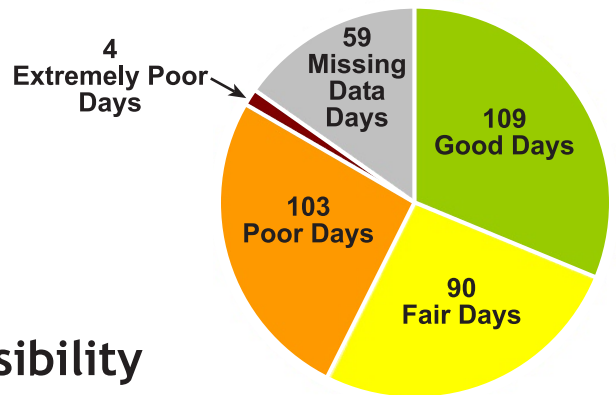
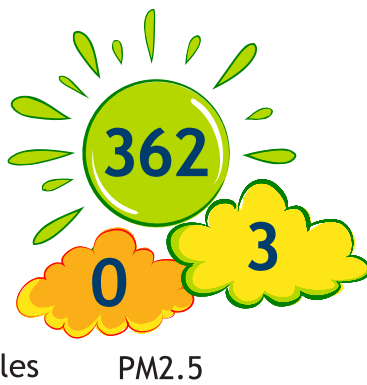


Particulate Matter (PM10 and PM2.5)

PM10 (particulate matter smaller than 10 micrometers in diameter) measured well below the national health standard throughout 2009. These particles come mainly from roads, fields, and construction sites.



Fine particles or PM2.5 (particulate matter smaller than 2.5 micrometers in diameter) measured slightly below the national air quality standard on the highest day. PM2.5 comes from the incomplete combustion of motor vehicle fuels and from reactions that occur between certain pollutants in the atmosphere. Fine particles are small enough to bypass the lungs' natural defenses and can be deposited in the lungs. In addition, PM2.5 is the principle factor in poor visibility.



Visibility

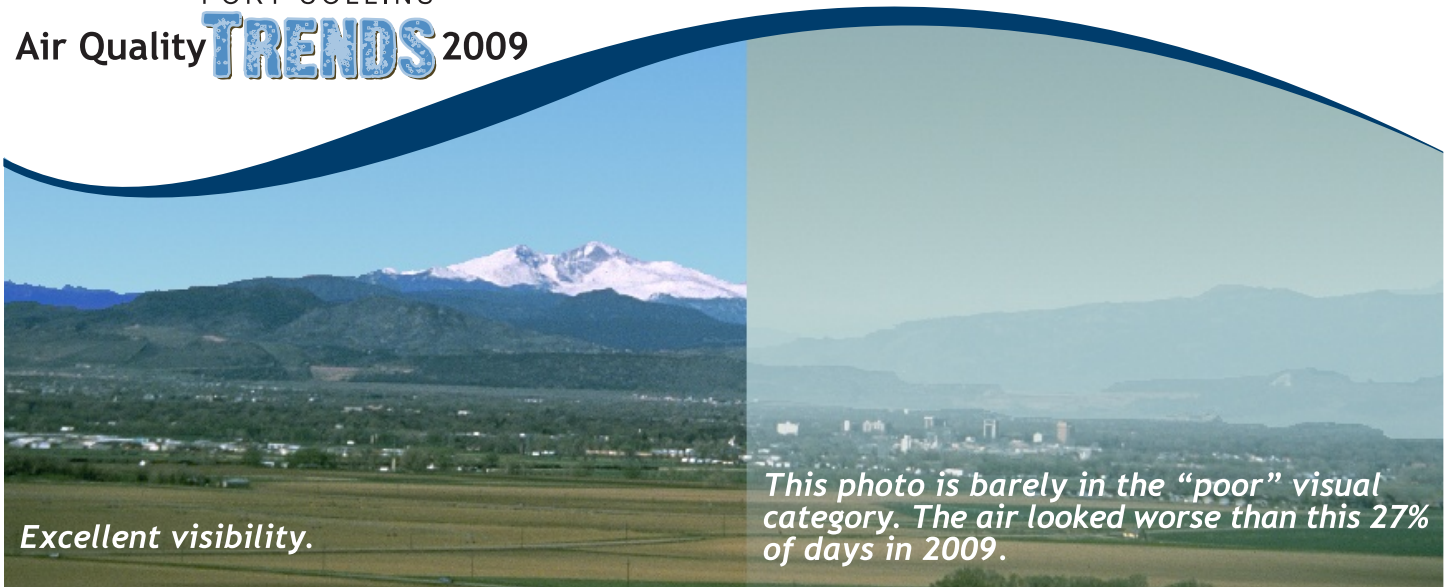
Visibility is a measure of how clear the air looks. Note that the Colorado visibility standard is based on observer preference or aesthetics rather than health impact. Although visibility on the highest day in 2009 was nearly three times its preference limit, the fine particles mostly responsible for the brown cloud consistently measured better than the PM2.5 limit based on health. To distinguish visibility from the health-related pollutants, it is reported on a separate Visibility Standard Index with categories good, fair, poor, extremely poor, and "missing." Missing data occur on days when high humidity interferes with visibility measurements.

Did You Know?

You can sign up for daily air pollution forecasts emailed directly to you! Sign up for Enviroflash at fcgov.com/airquality, or call 800-484-3247.

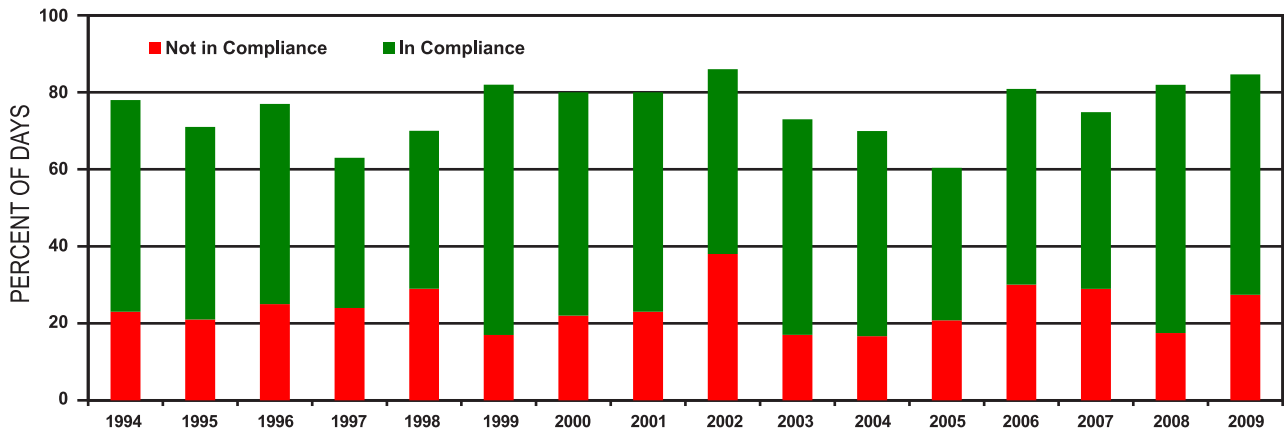


Air Quality
fcgov.com/airquality
 970-221-6600



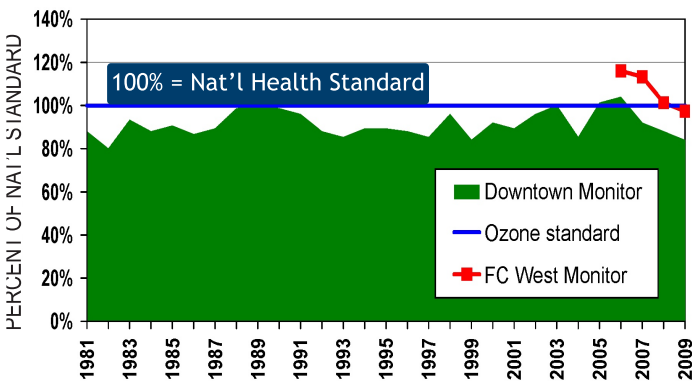
Visibility

Fort Collins visibility remains consistently worse than the Colorado standard an average of one day out of four.



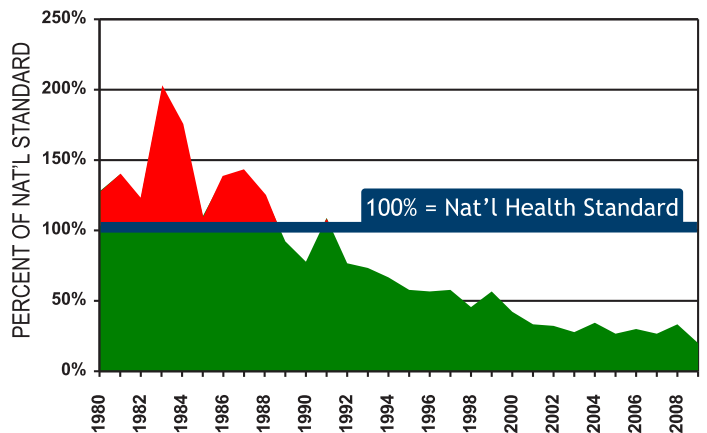
Ozone

For 30 years, ozone levels at the Downtown site have been essentially flat. However, levels violate the health standard at our second site, Fort Collins West, which has operated for four years.



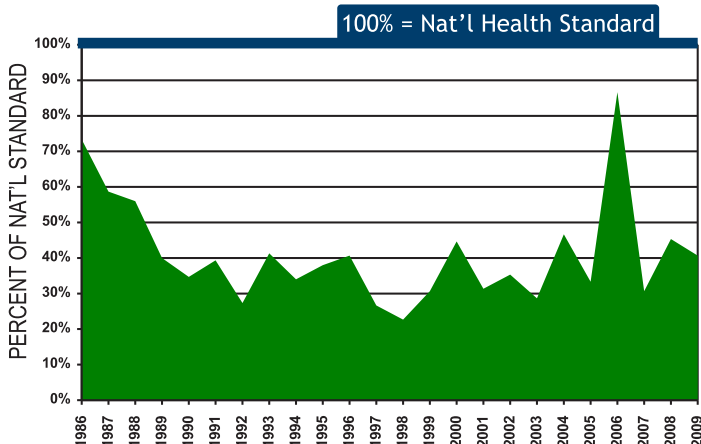
Carbon Monoxide

The CO level steadily has decreased due to vehicle emission standards and vehicle emission testing.



PM10

For 20 years, PM10 has remained at roughly half the health standard with no upward or downward trend.



PM2.5

For 10 years, PM2.5 has consistently measured around 80% of the current health standard.

