# **2017 FORT COLLINS AIR QUALITY REPORT**



Although the general public is

children are at greater risk

not likely to be affected, people with lung disease, older adults and

Unhealthy - Everyone may begin to

experience some adverse health

effects, and members of the sensitive groups may experience

more serious effects

## DAILY AIR QUALITY INDEX 2017 Levels At-A-Glance

#### **CARBON MONOXIDE (CO)**

CO levels in Fort Collins are significantly better than the national air quality standard, and have been steadily improving for the last 20 years. CO is emitted mainly by cars and trucks and the improvement has been largely due



to changes in federal emission standards for motor vehicles. \*12 days missing

#### **PARTICULATE MATTER** PM10

PM10 (particulate matter smaller than 10 micrometers in diameter) measured better than the national air quality standard throughout 2017. These particles can originate from a variety of sources including dust, smoke and



soot. \*Collected every third day

## **PARTICULATE MATTER** PM2.5

Fine particles or PM2.5 (particulate matter smaller than 2.5 micrometers in diameter) measured better than the national air quality standard in 2017, but some PM2.5 measurements were in the "moderate" category. These



particles are small enough to penetrate the lungs and enter the bloodstream, and are the principal cause in poor visibility or haze. PM2.5 can originate from a number of sources, including smoke, motor vehicles and industrial sources. \*9 days missing

#### **AIR QUALITY INDEX (AQI) LEVELS**

Good - Air quality is considered Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups satisfactory, and air pollution poses little or no risk

Moderate - Air quality is acceptable; however, for some pollutants there may be a moderate health concern for unusually sensitive people.

## **OZONE**

Currently, the City of Fort Collins, along with much of the Front Range, does not meet national air quality standards for ozone. Ozone is a respiratory irritant which can cause inflammation of lung tissues and respiratory disease. In 2017, nine days were considered "unhealthy for

GOOD DAYS 1() MODERATE DAYS UNHEALTHY DAYS FOR SENSITIVE GROUPS UNHEALTHY DAY

sensitive groups." Ozone is formed from pollutants emitted mainly by motor vehicles and industrial sources. Values are generally highest on hot, stagnant days during the summer months. \*7 days missing

## VISIBILITY



Visibility is a measure of how clear the air looks, and measurements are compared to a Denver Visibility Standard Index that was developed based on observer preference rather than potential health impacts. Visibility is monitored using an instrument that measures the amount of light able to pass through the atmosphere. Missing data indicates that high humidity or weather interferences contributed to low visibility, rather than smoke or other pollution.

#### **DID YOU KNOW?**

You can sign up for daily air pollution forecasts emailed directly to you! Sign up for Enviroflash at enviroflash.info or call 800-484-3247.

fcgov.com/airquality 970-221-6600



#### VISIBILITY

Visibility in Fort Collins is shown as a percentage of good visibility days (below the standard) versus bad (above the standard) by year.





#### OZONE

The City currently does not attain EPA air quality standards for ozone. Ozone levels at the Downtown site have measured near the standard, and levels at the FC West location measure higher than the standard.

#### CARBON MONOXIDE

CO levels have steadily decreased since the early 90s due to changes in vehicle emission standards and vehicle emission testing requirements.

