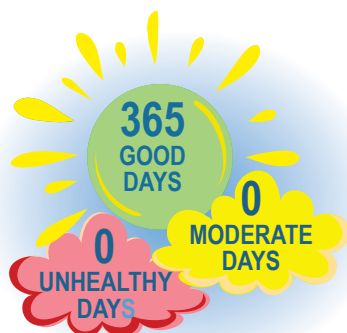


# 2013 FORT COLLINS AIR QUALITY REPORT

## DAILY AIR QUALITY INDEX 2013 Levels At-A-Glance

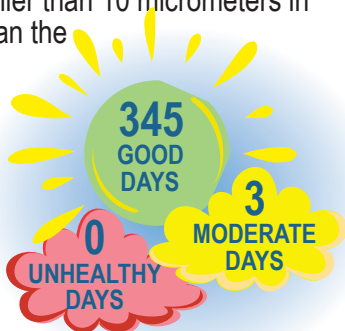
### CARBON MONOXIDE (CO)

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 is largely due to federal emission standards for motor vehicles.



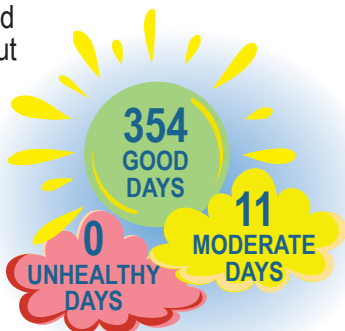
### PARTICULATE MATTER PM10

PM10 (particulate matter smaller than 10 micrometers in diameter) measured better than the national air quality standard throughout 2013. These particles consist mostly of dust and smoke and come mainly from roads, fields, construction sites, and wood smoke. Daily readings do not total 365 due to monitor down time.



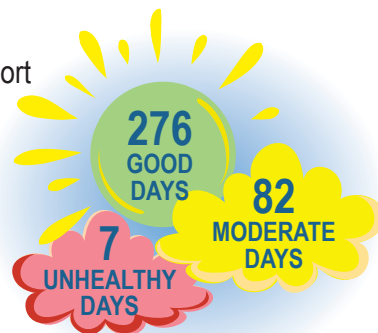
### PM2.5

Fine particles or PM2.5 (particulate matter smaller than 2.5 micrometers in diameter) measured better than the national air quality standard for 2013. Elevated concentrations were measured on 11 different days throughout the year. PM2.5 comes from the incomplete combustion of fossil fuels and from reactions between certain pollutants in the atmosphere. Fine particles are small enough to penetrate the lungs and enter the bloodstream. In addition, PM2.5 is the principle factor in poor visibility (haze).



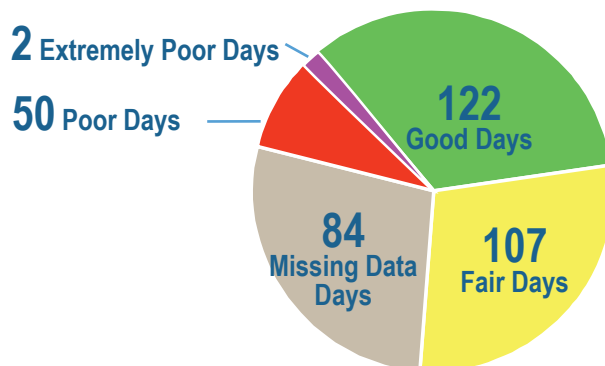
### OZONE

The ozone level at the Fort Collins West monitoring site was worse than the national air quality standard on 7 days in 2013, with the highest reading of 82 (parts per billion) compared with the 75 ppb standard. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has designated Denver and the Front Range including Fort Collins as a non-attainment area for ozone, meaning that the national air quality standard for health is not being met in this region. Ozone can damage lungs and causes smog. Ozone is formed when hydrocarbons and nitrogen oxides react in sunlight. These pollutants are emitted by motor vehicles and industrial sources.



### VISIBILITY

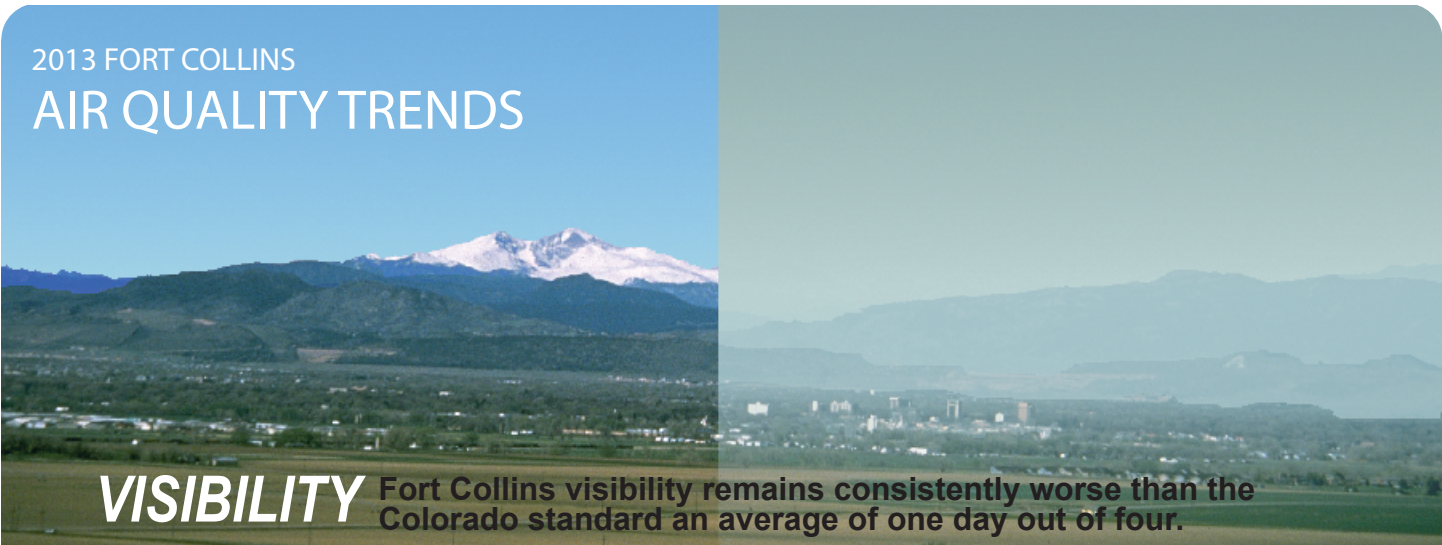
Visibility is a measure of how clear the air looks. The Colorado visibility standard is based on observer preference or aesthetics rather than health impact. Visibility is measured using an instrument that measures the amount of light that is able to pass through the atmosphere on an hourly basis. The data is compared to the Visibility Standard Index with categories good, fair, poor, extremely poor, and "missing." Missing data occur on days when high humidity interferes with visibility measurements. In 2013, over half of the days measured were rated fair or worse for visibility. Poor visibility can be due to smoke, haze, and the brown cloud.



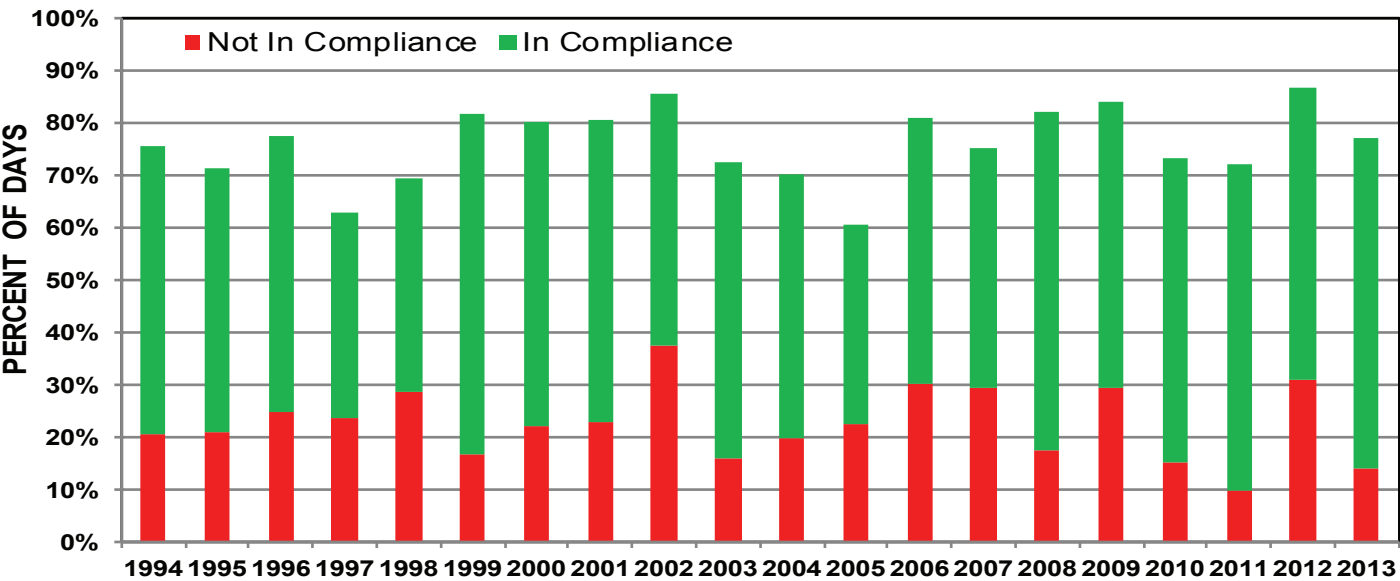
### DID YOU KNOW?

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2013 FORT COLLINS  
AIR QUALITY TRENDS

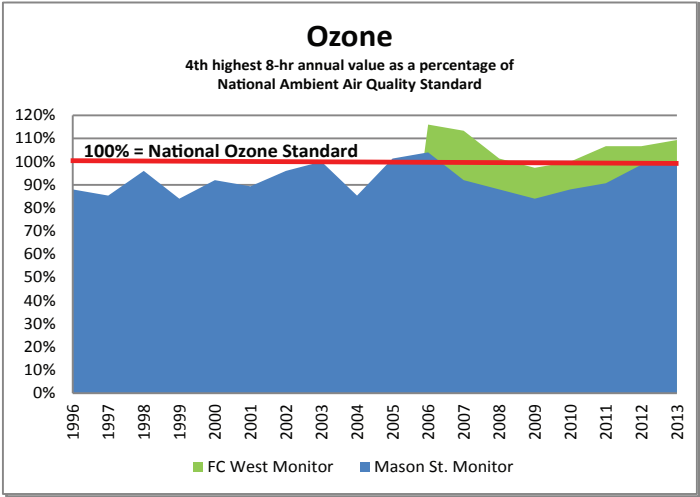


**VISIBILITY** Fort Collins visibility remains consistently worse than the Colorado standard an average of one day out of four.



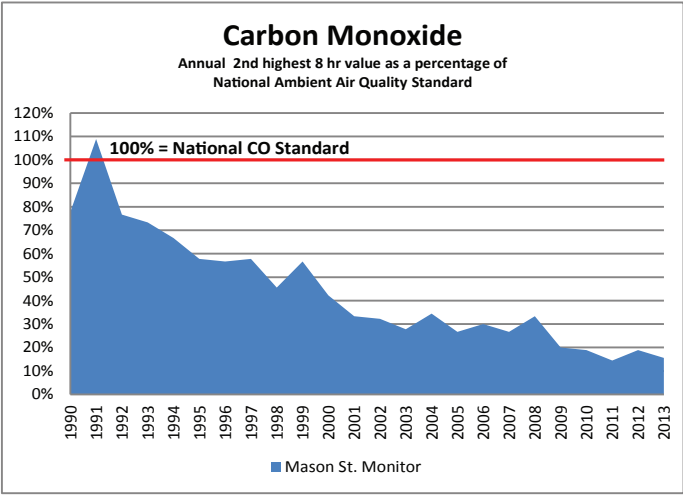
OZONE

For the last several years, ozone levels at the downtown site have been near the health standard. Levels at the Fort Collins West site violate the health standard.



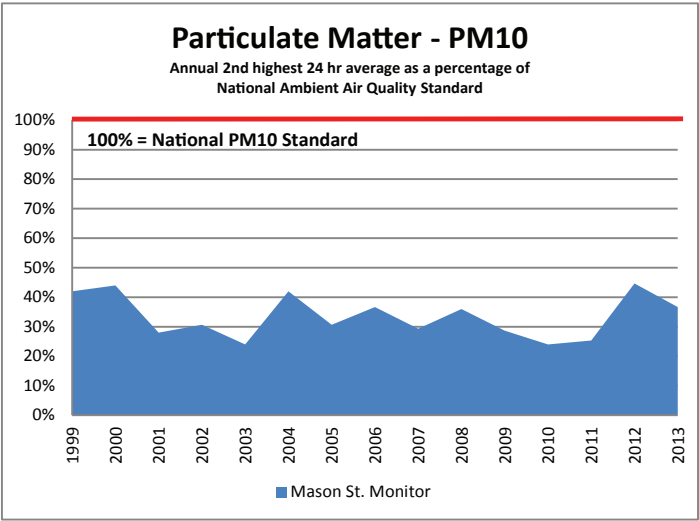
CARBON MONOXIDE

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



PM10

For the past 15 years, PM10 levels have remained low and at less than half of the health standard.



PM2.5

For the past decade, PM2.5 levels have consistently measured below 70% of the current health standard.

