

Air Quality Planning: Ozone and Control Strategies



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What is Air Quality Planning?

- Focuses on ways to control air pollution, meet Federal and State requirements, improve air quality, and work with stakeholders.
- Sometimes called Control Strategies...but includes more.
- Part of a larger Air Program administered at the state or local level (jurisdictions vary).



Air Quality Planning Practice

- Planning Efforts- ex. Maintenance Plans, Regional Haze, mitigation plans, Advance plans
- Control strategies- research and development
- Rulemakings- ex. amendments and updates
- Coordinate with other Air Program Divisions: monitoring/QA, enforcement/field, permitting
- Work with stakeholders and the public to understand concerns
- **SIP-State Implementation Plan for Air Quality**



The Advance Program

- Established in 2012 by US EPA as a voluntary, collaborative effort
- Helps jurisdictions (state, tribal, and local governments) take proactive measures to improve air quality
- For developing strategies to address Ozone (O₃) and PM_{2.5}
- Jurisdiction must in attainment for the O₃ or PM_{2.5} National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) to participate



Advance Program Goals

- Help attainment areas continue to improve air quality by taking actions to reduce emissions of ozone and particulate matter.
- Better position areas to remain in attainment status; and
- Efficiently direct available resources toward actions to address ozone (O₃) or particulate matter (PM) challenges quickly, should a jurisdiction go into non-attainment status.



Local Participation

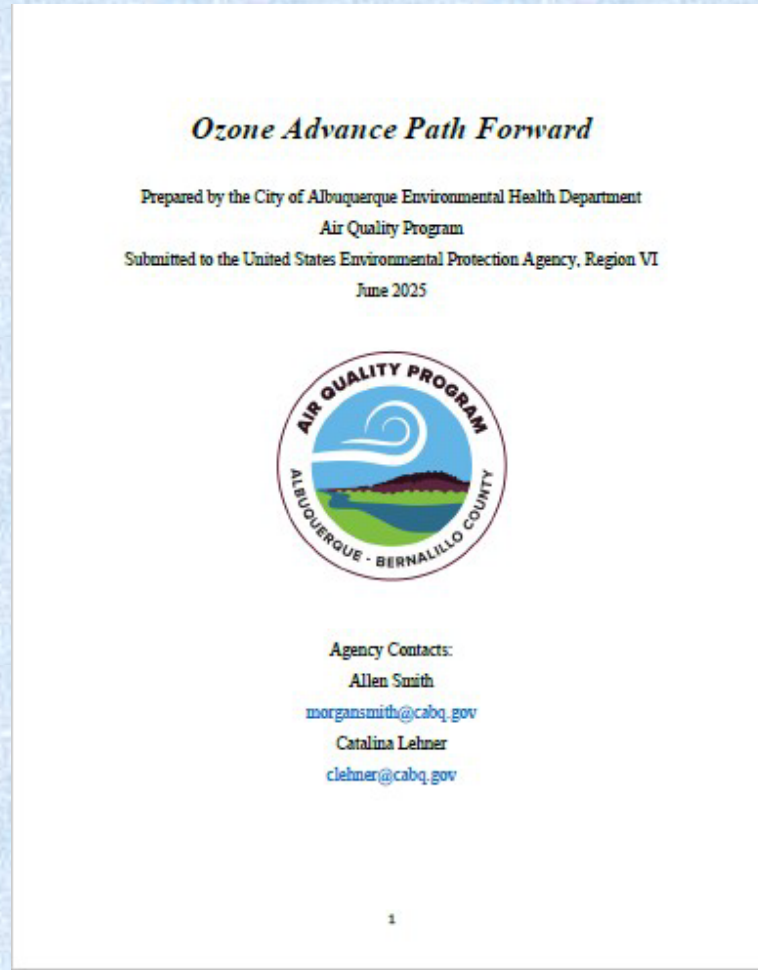
- The AQP joined the Ozone Advance Program in 2021 by submitting a letter to US EPA Region VI.
- AQP updated US EPA one year later regarding work efforts:
 - Noting ozone reduction measures already implemented locally
 - Review of ozone reduction measures used by other jurisdictions
 - Rulemaking to adopt California's motor vehicle emissions standards (Clean Cars)



Ozone Path Forward Plans

- Required as part of the Ozone Advance Program.
- Include design values, analysis of ozone events, efforts to help reduce ozone precursors, and actions to help keep ozone precursors down.
- *Important: controlling ground-level Ozone means controlling the precursors that form Ozone- Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) and Nitrogen Oxides (NOx)*
- Albuquerque-Bernalillo County's Ozone Path Forward Plan was completed in June 2025

Ozone Path Forward Plan



Available online at:

<https://www.cabq.gov/airquality/regulation-development/ozone-planning>

contains a menu of control strategies to address O₃ precursors- VOCs and NO_x



Ozone Path Forward Plan

Control Strategies for O₃ already being implemented:

- cleaner buses and fleet vehicles
- supporting active transportation (ex. bike lanes)
- low emission or zero emission vehicles
- I&M program
- adoption of the International Energy Conservation Code
- energy efficiency
- Climate Action Plan
- stationary source controls



Ozone Path Forward Plan

Potential Control Strategies and Projects to Address O₃-

- cleaner lawn and garden equipment
- idling reduction
- less volatile solvent use
- urban greening
- renewable energy
- energy efficiency
- educational campaigns



Conclusion

- EPA paused the Advance Program indefinitely in 2025.
- However, the Albuquerque-Bernalillo County Ozone Advance Path Forward Plan remains a useful tool to inform AQ planning efforts locally.
- The AQ Planning/Control Strategies Division continues to work on developing strategies to address pollutants of concern.

Questions?

