

Scorecard at a Glance

Virginia Performs

VISION
FOCUS
RESULTS

Economy

Goal: Be a national leader in the preservation and enhancement of our economy.

Indicators:

- Personal Income/Wages and Salaries
- Poverty
- Unemployment
- Employment Growth
- Workforce Quality
- Business Climate
- Business Startups

Education

Goal: Elevate the levels of educational preparedness and attainment of our citizens.

Indicators:

- School Readiness
- Third Grade Reading
- Fourth Grade Reading & Math Achievement
- High School Graduation
- High School Dropout
- College Graduation
- Educational Attainment
- Lifelong Learning

Health & Family

Goal: Inspire and support Virginians toward healthy lives and strong and resilient families.

Indicators:

- Family Adoption
- Foster Care
- Child Abuse & Neglect
- Community Health
- Teen Pregnancy
- Obesity
- Infant Mortality
- Suicide
- Health Insurance
- Immunization
- Cancer
- Cardiovascular Disease
- Smoking
- Life Expectancy

Public Safety

Goal: Protect the public's safety and security, ensuring a fair and effective system of justice and providing a prepared response to emergencies and disasters of all kinds.

Indicators:

- Crime
- Juvenile Intakes
- Recidivism (Adult & Juvenile)
- Traffic Fatalities
- Emergency Preparedness

Natural, Historic & Cultural Resources

Goal: Protect, conserve and wisely develop our natural, historical and cultural resources.

Indicators:

- Air Quality
- Water Quality
- Solid Waste & Recycling
- Land Preservation
- Historic Resources

Transportation

Goal: Ensure that Virginia has a transportation system that is safe, enables easy movement of people and goods, enhances the economy and improves our quality of life.

Indicators:

- Traffic Congestion
- Infrastructure Condition
- Land Use

Government & Citizens

Goal: Be recognized as the best-managed state in the nation.

Indicators:

- Bond Rating
- Taxation
- Voter Registration & Turnout
- Consumer Protection
- Internet Access

Legend

Performance Trend

- Worsening
- Maintaining
- Improving



Natural, Historic & Cultural Resources

Virginia's goal is to protect, conserve and wisely develop our natural, historic and cultural resources.

- Virginia's air quality is within federal limits for all pollutants except ozone, which has significantly decreased since 1997.
- Acres of preserved land have generally increased over time.
- The total amount of solid waste has grown in recent years in line with the growth of economic activity.
- Virginia ranks first in the nation for historic district registrations.

The natural, historic and cultural resources indicators help to assess the progress we are making, understand the key elements that influence the indicators, and clarify the role the Commonwealth is taking to sustain and improve our resources.

Indicators

- [Air Quality](#)
- [Water Quality](#)
- [Solid Waste & Recycling](#)
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- [Historic Resources](#)

Indicators

Air Quality

Performance: Improving

State Influence: Limited

Water Quality

Performance: Improving

State Influence: Significant

Solid Waste & Recycling

Performance: Maintaining

State Influence: Limited

Land Preservation

Performance: Improving

State Influence: Significant

Historic Resources

Performance: Maintaining

State Influence: Significant



Natural, Historic & Cultural Resources

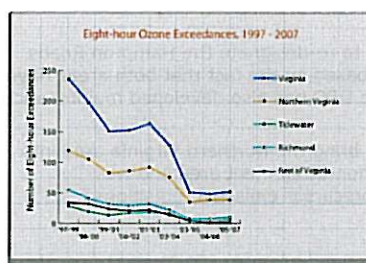
Air Quality

Few things are as important as the air we breathe. Virginians have grown more concerned with emissions and the ozone they produce — but the quality of our air garners mixed reviews.

Why is This Important?

Poor air quality causes increased deaths, especially among the very young and the very old; reduces water quality; and damages forest resources, agriculture and materials. It also makes Virginia a less attractive place to live, do business in or visit — all substantial economic as well as quality-of-life consequences.

How is Virginia Doing?



Virginia is holding levels down, but has not reduced total emissions. While emissions per unit of economic activity in the state continue to fall for many pollutants, strong economic growth at the same time potentially erodes any gains in air quality that tighter emission controls might achieve.

Virginia is within the federal limits on air quality for all pollutants except for ozone in Northern Virginia. Starting in 1998, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency began using a more stringent standard for ozone performance. Since that time, Virginia has significantly reduced the number of days when the ozone standard was exceeded, from 235 days per year on average between 1997 and 1999 to an average 51.7 days between 2005 and 2007. Northern Virginia, with an average of 38.7 days exceeding the ozone standard between 2005 and 2007, had the poorest air quality. In 2006, Virginia had 56 days where the air quality was

considered unhealthy for people with asthma and lung disease, a part of the population that is most sensitive to changes in air quality.

What Influences Air Quality?

Ground level ozone, the main ingredient in smog, is a colorless gas formed by the reaction of sunlight with vehicle emissions, gasoline fumes, solvent vapors, and power plant and industrial emissions. Particle pollution is made up of particles found in soot, dust, smoke and fumes caused by burning coal, oil, diesel and other fuels. Global atmospheric circulation can cause emissions from other states and even other countries to affect Virginia.

Certain emissions are subject to reductions or caps mandated by state, federal and international laws and obligations. Regulations requiring reductions in emission rates per unit of activity will need to be tightened periodically to maintain air quality as economic activity grows. Regulations limiting air pollutant emissions to a certain amount per year can maintain air quality at a given level even as the economy grows.

What is the State's Role?

Air quality standards are established by the federal government. The state Department of Environmental Quality is charged with enforcing the federal standards.

What can Citizens Do?

Individuals and groups are encouraged to be active participants in resource management. To learn more about Virginia's environment, stewardship and public participation opportunities, or partners engaged in conservation, please visit the Office of the Secretary of Natural Resources, www.naturalresources.virginia.gov, or Virginia Naturally, www.vanaturally.com.

Data Definitions and Sources

Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, www.deq.state.va.us/

Definition: 8-Hour Ozone Exceedance: The number of times air quality monitors have recorded ozone concentrations greater than 84 parts per billion over an 8-hour period.

Note: Virginia Department of Environmental Quality regional configurations are used in this section.

EPA AirNow, www.epa.gov/aircompare/compare_by_state.htm

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Recent State Initiatives

Richmond-Hampton Roads Non-attainment Areas: DEQ has successfully petitioned the EPA to re-designate the Hampton Roads and Richmond areas to attainment status for the 8-hour ozone standard in June 2007. This was based on the fact that both areas have ozone monitoring data that shows that these areas are now in compliance with the standard. The DEQ has also developed maintenance plans for both areas that are designed to keep these areas in attainment for at least ten years.

Northern Virginia Ozone Non-attainment Area: DEQ has developed and submitted a plan to bring the Northern Virginia area into compliance for the 8-hour ozone standard by 2009. This plan covers the entire Washington, DC non-attainment area and was developed in coordination with the District of Columbia and Maryland. This plan relies on ozone precursor emission reductions from power plants, motor vehicles, and other sources to bring the area into attainment.

Implementation of the Virginia Clean Smokestacks Legislation: The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and the State Air Pollution Control Board are developing regulations to reduce Nitrogen Oxide, Sulfur Dioxide and Mercury emissions from power plants. These regulations will implement legislation which is commonly referred to as the Clean Smokestacks Legislation. More information on the development of regulations to implement the requirements of CAIR, CAMR and the Virginia Clean Smokestacks Legislation and the federal Clean Air Mercury Rule and Clean Air Interstate Rule can be found at: www.townhall.state.va.us/L/ViewBoard.cfm?BoardID=1

Early Action Compact Agreements: The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency has proposed to formally designate the Northern Shenandoah Valley and Roanoke Early Action Compact areas as attainment areas for the 8-hour ozone standard.

Major State Programs

Air quality permits are issued to industries and facilities that emit regulated pollutants to ensure that these emissions do not harm public health or cause significant deterioration in areas that presently have clean air. The permit also ensures that facilities make adequate provisions to control their emissions for the protection of public health and the precious natural resources of the Commonwealth. www.deq.virginia.gov/air/permitting/homepage.html

The **objective of DEQ's Air Quality Division** is to protect and enhance public health and the environment by controlling present and future sources of air pollution. The division ensures the safety and quality of the air in Virginia by monitoring and analyzing air quality data, regulating sources of air pollution, and working with local, state and federal agencies to plan and implement strategies to protect Virginia's air quality. www.deq.virginia.gov/air/

Vehicle owners in Northern Virginia counties, as well as regular commuters into the area and vehicles operating on federal installations, are subject to the **emissions inspection program**. An inspection must be performed every two years at a permitted emissions inspection station. To address excess vehicle emissions caused by problems that occur before the required inspection, the Commonwealth is implementing the on-road emissions program. The program will ensure that vehicles with excess emissions levels will be repaired on a timely basis instead of waiting until the next scheduled inspection. It will also allow a large number of vehicles to be observed without inconveniencing drivers. www.deq.virginia.gov/mobile/

The **Virginia Small Business Assistance Program** offers small businesses free and confidential technical assistance on air quality and related environmental requirements. Its mission is to help small businesses comply with the Clean Air Act and Virginia's air regulations. The program has three parts: a technical assistance program; an ombudsman to serve as an advocate for small businesses; and a compliance advisory board to evaluate program effectiveness. www.deq.virginia.gov/osba/