



October 26, 2018

2018 Status Update  
c/o Laura Bunte, Mail Code C304-01  
109 TW Alexander Drive  
Research Triangle Park, NC 27711

Re: 2018 South Carolina Status Update on Air Quality Strategies and  
Accomplishments, Ozone and Particulate Matter Advance Programs

Dear Ms. Bunte:

The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (Department) wishes to provide the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) this "2018 Update" for both the Ozone and the Particulate Matter (PM) Advance Programs for the 2015/2016 Path Forward Plan. The Department has aggressively worked alongside South Carolina air quality stakeholders in multipollutant programs similar to the Advance Programs since 2001. By participating in the Ozone and PM Advance Programs, in partnership with the EPA and our stakeholders, we are pledging to continue our successful, proactive and voluntary efforts at reducing emissions of pollutants and improving our air quality in South Carolina.

The entire state of South Carolina has been a participant in the EPA's Ozone and Particulate Matter (PM) "Advance Programs" which is a collaborative effort between the Department, the EPA, and local governments since 2012. The program encourages the development and implementation of local voluntary actions to reduce ozone and particulate matter emissions in attainment areas. The program's intent is for local partners to take proactive steps to help areas of our State to continue to meet the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS).

To accomplish this, the Department and the EPA provide assistance for technically sound measures for local partners to implement to reduce emissions. These emission reductions ensure continued health protection, better position these areas to remain in attainment, and efficiently direct available resources toward actions to address ozone and PM problems quickly.

As part of this effort, the Department has assisted in the formation of local area Air Quality Coalitions for facilitating communication, particularly in areas of the State that have issues with air quality or one of the NAAQS. These coalitions are conduits for information between the Department, local communities, their industry partners, and the EPA, concerning both regulatory matters and opportunities such as grant programs. The coalitions can help communities to maintain and enhance quality of life and economic well-being by improving air quality through local action and being engaged in the regulatory process.

The Ozone and PM Advance Programs offer opportunities for state and local governments to work in partnership with the EPA and each other that can help focus participants' efforts to keep their air clean. Participating areas will work with the State to evaluate initiatives that are suitable for their area, select those that are effective and practical, and implement those control measures and programs. The State and the EPA can provide information about available tools and resources that may be used to help the area maintain air quality, and provide technical advice and other support.

To date, air quality in our State continues to improve, and all areas currently meet the 2015 ozone standard and the 2012 PM standard. Participation in Department-sponsored programs has been enthusiastic. Local areas have expanded Department initiatives, such as the B<sup>2</sup> anti-idling program for schools, in new directions. Several areas, such as the Upstate region, determined an Air Quality Advisory Committee was needed, independent of the Department, to expand efforts in their area. The Department is working with the local coalitions to ramp up these efforts across the State through the Ozone and PM Advance Programs. South Carolina air quality coalitions intend to stay ahead of the ever-tightening curve of air quality standards, and the Department will continue to provide tools and support toward that end. It has been, and will continue to be, our goal to protect the public's health by meeting the EPA's air quality standards.

The Department commits to its participation in the EPA's Ozone and PM Advance Programs and will continue to work with our air quality coalitions, industries, schools, local governments, and interested individuals on voluntary multipollutant reducing programs.

2018 South Carolina Advance Update  
October 26, 2018

We look forward to your acknowledgement of receipt of this "Status Update." If you have any questions please contact Adam Christopher Ereth at 803-898-3261 or [erethac@dhec.sc.gov](mailto:erethac@dhec.sc.gov).

Sincerely,



Rhonda Banks Thompson, P.E.  
Chief, Bureau of Air Quality

cc: Trey Glenn, Acting Regional Administrator, U.S. EPA Region 4

enclosure

2018 Update on South Carolina Air Quality  
Strategies and Accomplishments (May 18, 2017 – October 22, 2018)

STRATEGY	STRATEGY DESCRIPTION	IMPLEMENTATION DATE	ADOPTING AREA
B <sup>2</sup> (Breathe Better) program	Anti-idling program aimed at parents and school bus drivers. Now also open to organizations and businesses. Thirty-five schools have enrolled for 2018-2019, and one business. <a href="http://www.scdhec.gov/b2">www.scdhec.gov/b2</a>	Ongoing	Statewide
Team Ecology	Environmental Educational program for all of the public school 3 <sup>rd</sup> graders in Laurens County. DHEC presented information about air quality & the AQI/flag program.	April 16-20, 2018	Laurens County
EEASC Earth Day	Earth Day event at Soda City farmers market in downtown Columbia featuring local school projects, including B <sup>2</sup> .	April 21, 2018	Midlands Region
Richland Recycles Education Day	Educational event for 4 <sup>th</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup> graders prior to large recycling collection day. DHEC presented information about air quality & the AQI/flag program.	May 11, 2018	Richland County
Earth Day Birthday	Annual family event with environmental education exhibits, including air quality	April 28, 2018	York County
BCD COG Air Quality Coalition Meetings	Regional air quality coalition meetings twice per year.	Ongoing	Charleston, Berkeley, Dorchester Counties
Waccamaw Air Quality Coalition meetings	Regional air quality coalition meetings twice per year.	Ongoing	Horry, Georgetown, Williamsburg Counties
Presentation to grades 3, 4 and 5 about transportation planning and air quality	<a href="http://eatsmartmovemoresc.org/yorkcounty/2017/05/21/transportation-planner-at-griggs-road-elementary-school-career-day/">http://eatsmartmovemoresc.org/yorkcounty/2017/05/21/transportation-planner-at-griggs-road-elementary-school-career-day/</a>	May 18, 2017	York County

Pee Dee Coalition Meeting	Meeting held to promote the Pee Dee Coalition and various voluntary measures.	May 24, 2017	Florence and Darlington Counties
Upstate Air Quality Advisory Committee	Meetings held quarterly.	Ongoing	Ten counties in the upstate of SC
Spare the Air Awards	Awards recognizing groups around SC that go "above and beyond" to improve air quality. Two winners in 2018. <a href="http://www.scdhec.gov/sparetheairawards/">www.scdhec.gov/sparetheairawards/</a>	Ongoing	Statewide
Air Quality Flag Program	27 schools participate in the flag program to make students, teachers, and parents aware of the ozone forecast.	Ongoing	Statewide
SC Energy Office Grant	\$5,000 to purchase safety vests and to assist with Breath Better and other voluntary programs.	Sept. 2018	Statewide
Ground Level Ozone Forecasting	Coalitions use social media, SCDOT traffic signs, and the media to spread the ozone forecast. New, more visible sign in front of the Department building on Bull Street and a new sign in the building lobby.	Ongoing Ozone forecast season (April 1-September 30)	Statewide
2016 National DERA Grant	\$1.5 million dollars to replace diesel engines on two ferries with electric motors.	January 2, 2017 - March 31, 2020	Charleston
2017-18 State DERA Allocation	\$500,000 dollars to replace or retrofit diesel equipment. Four concrete mixer trucks and thirteen school buses were replaced.	October 2017- September 2019	Statewide
School Bus Rebate Program	Assist Dept. of Education for applying for up to \$20,000 per bus to replace aging diesel schoolbuses. Thirty-one buses were funded in 2018.	Ongoing	Statewide
Sharing Opportunities	Information about grants, training, and other opportunities shared with our coalition members and stakeholders via email, blog, Facebook, webpages, etc.	Ongoing	Statewide

Lowcountry Go Commuter Services Program	Inform residents of commuting options. <a href="http://www.lowcountrygo.com/">www.lowcountrygo.com/</a>	Ongoing	Berkeley, Charleston, Dorchester Counties
Charleston Bike Share	Encourage bicycle usage on the Charleston peninsula through a sharing program. <a href="https://charlestonbikeshare.com">https://charlestonbikeshare.com</a>	Ongoing	City of Charleston
AQ Presentation	Presentation to Forest Acres Rotary Club on air quality issues.	Jan. 2018	Central Midlands COG
Café Scientifique Aiken EV Show	EV Show for car dealers, vendors, student groups and educators.	Sept. 2018	Aiken County
City of Columbia Bike Share Program	Bike share sponsored by Blue Cross/Blue Shield.	Aug. 2018 - Ongoing	City of Columbia
SC State Fair – Richland Recycles	Public outreach and Information-sharing between Richland Recycles and DHEC BAQ Programs	Oct. 9-20, 2018	Richland County
Catawba AQ Coalition meeting	Don't Waste Food SC SafeRoutes to Schools presentations.	Sept 20, 2017	York, Chester, Lancaster Counties
Ozone Season PSA	30-second PSA intro to ozone and how to help ( <a href="http://scdhec.gov/ozone">http://scdhec.gov/ozone</a> ).	July 27, 2017	Statewide
"Take Action Workshop(s)"	Presentation of the B2 Program and teacher access to sign-up on-site.	June 28, 2018 and September 6, 2018	Statewide/Lexington School District 1
Climate Protection Action Campaign (CPAC) meeting	Round table Information sharing, and participating in STAR Communities update(s)	April 11th, 2018 / Oct. 10 <sup>th</sup> , 2018 / Ongoing	Central Midlands
EEASC meetings	Round table information-sharing and project partnership opportunities	Ongoing (monthly meetings)	Statewide

"DHEC Famous" article per involvement in Aiken Science Education Enrichment Day	Public outreach and education day on Radon and AQ	Oct. 6, 2018	Aiken County / Agency
Low-No Bus Program Project (FTA Grant)	The Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester Council of Governments will receive funds to purchase electric buses. Awarded \$1.5 million.	August 24, 2018	Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester Counties (Council of Governments)
USDOT BUILD grants	Assist COG's for application for funding for modern diesel or electric transit buses.	Ongoing	Statewide