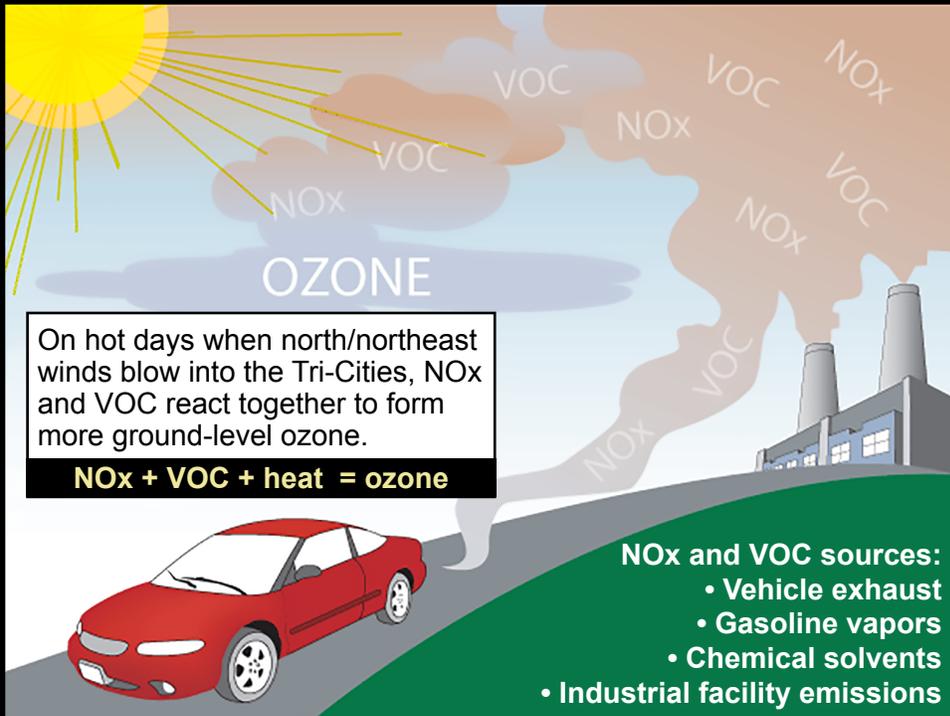


OZONE IN THE TRI-CITIES

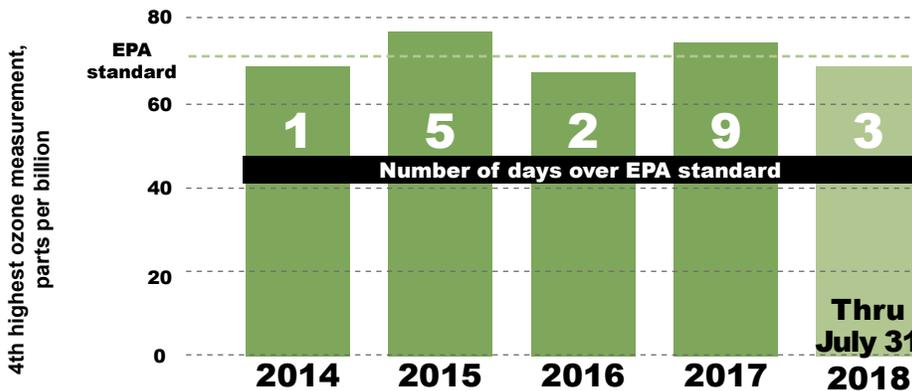


On hot days when north/northeast winds blow into the Tri-Cities, NO_x and VOC react together to form more ground-level ozone.

NO_x + VOC + heat = ozone

NO_x and VOC sources:

- Vehicle exhaust
- Gasoline vapors
- Chemical solvents
- Industrial facility emissions



THERE ARE TWO TYPES OF OZONE:

“Good” ozone forms way above the Earth and protects us from the sun’s harmful rays.

“Bad” ozone, forms at **ground-level**. It takes a while to form so can drift with the wind into rural areas.

STUDYING THE OZONE PROBLEM

The Department of Ecology, Benton Clean Air Agency, and WSU conducted the 2016 Tri-Cities Ozone Precursor Study (TCOPS) to educate the public, and identify and implement ozone reduction measures in the Tri-Cities area.

The EPA sets National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) that must be met. If an area exceeds these standards it is considered to be in non-attainment. The Tri-Cities area is still in attainment, but since ozone levels are high, the area is being closely monitored. TCOPS found that local vehicle emissions are a large contributor to ozone formation in the Tri-Cities.

Visit ecology.wa.gov/AQstudies for more information on this study.

HEALTH EFFECTS OF OZONE

Ground-level ozone can affect everyone, but people with lung disease, children, older adults, and physically active people are especially sensitive. Ground-level ozone can:

- Irritate your throat.
- Cause coughing, wheezing, and painful breathing.
- Inflammate and permanently damage lung tissue.
- Aggravate asthma, emphysema, and chronic bronchitis.
- Increase the likelihood of pneumonia and bronchitis.
- Damage trees and plants.

HOW TO REDUCE OZONE

- Drive less. Carpool, use public transportation, walk, or bike.
- Drive a zero emissions vehicle (ZEV).
- Don’t mow, BBQ, or use aerosols when it’s hot.
- Follow burn bans.
- Don’t let your engine idle.
- Refuel your vehicle in the early mornings.
- Use renewable energy.



bentoncleanair.org

ecology.wa.gov/ozone

For current ozone levels visit: <https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/enviwa/>