CITY OF CLEVELAND
Mayor Justin M. Bibb

Proposed Changes and Updates to Cleveland's Air Pollution Control Code

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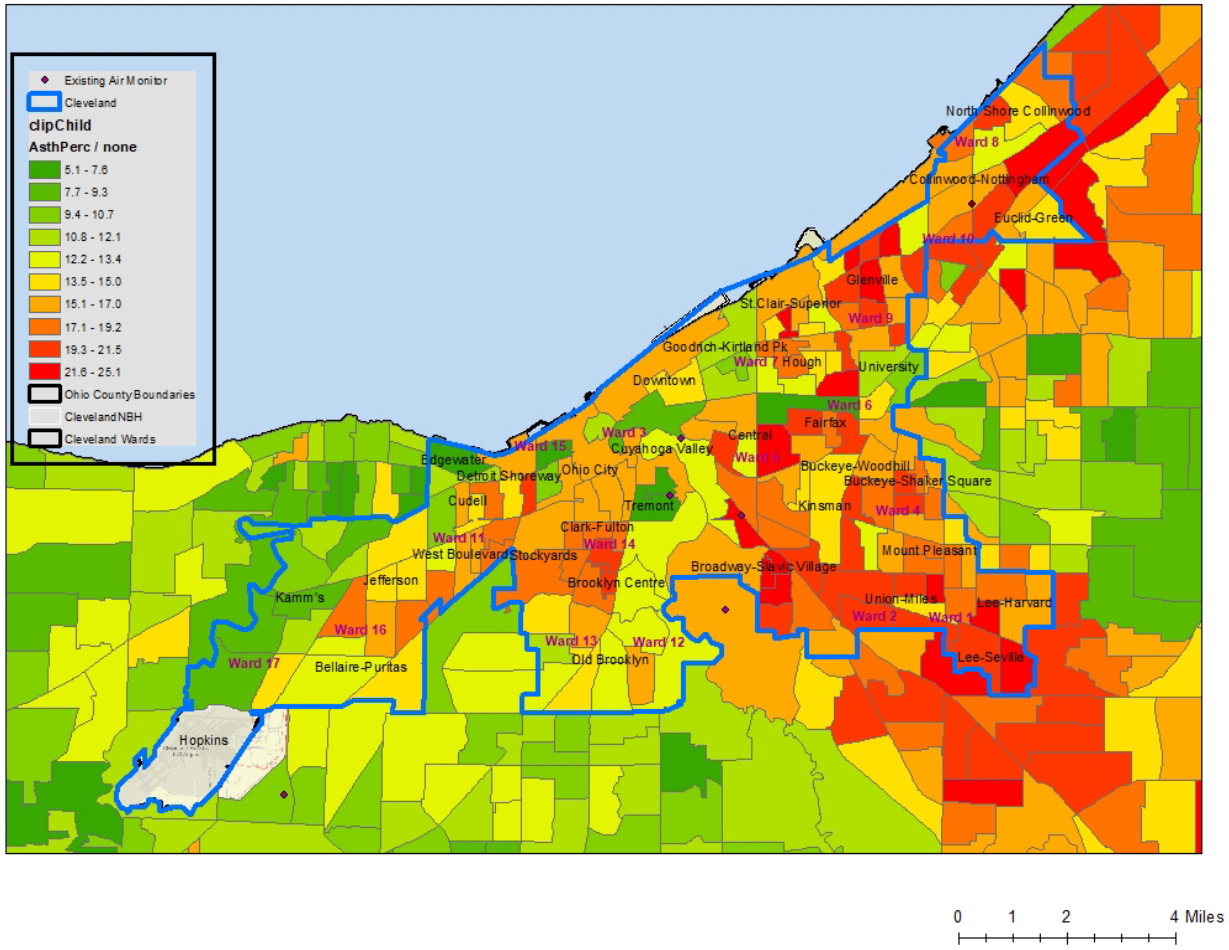
General Air Quality Updates

1. Started implementing Cleveland's anti-idling ordinance through signage, City of Cleveland employee education, a general public education campaign, and refinement of a complaint response procedure
2. Conducted air quality interviews with residents through the CLEANinCLE initiative
3. Initiated an in-home asthma assessment program through the indoor air quality program
4. Administered the 4th year of an electric lawn mower rebate program resulting in cumulative reduction of 154 tons of air pollution!

Air Quality Health Impacts in Cleveland



1. An estimated **15,817 asthma symptoms** are associated with air pollution exposure
2. Between **27 to 49 deaths** each year are associated with PM2.5 and ozone exposure
3. **5,437 school days** are lost managing symptoms related to air pollution exposure; **1,977 lost work days**

Economic Impact of all health conditions affected by air pollution:
$365,759,880 – $642,551,140

Data source:
US EPA Co-Benefits Risk Assessment Health Impacts Screening and Mapping Tool
https://cobra.epa.gov/

Air Code Proposal Development

1. We completed a technical review of the existing code and updated where necessary. (ex: Updated technology used for odor detection)

2. Organizational stakeholder meetings from April 2019 through September 2019 that included both industry and organizations serving community members.

3. CDAQ Outreach team tabling events

4. CLEANinCLE Proposal: Received 80 site recommendations from Cleveland residents. What concerns were expressed?

5. Technical support form US EPA

6. Air Quality Complaints from 2021 – 2024

7. Review and Incorporate Stakeholder Comments Received after 2025 Introduction

Air Code Revisions File #387-2025: A High Level Overview

1. Cumulative Impacts and Installation Permits
2. Installation and Modification Permits
3. Health Impact Assessments
4. Installation and Operation Fees
5. Emission Reduction and Mitigation Activities
6. Formally establish Indoor Air Quality program
7. Vehicle Idling
8. Emergency Episodes

This presentation is not inclusive of all the proposed changes. This is a high-level overview.
Review file #387-2025 introduced on 3/21/2025 for all proposed revisions.

Cumulative Impacts

251.24 "*Cumulative Impact “Cumulative Impact” means the adverse health impact or effect, risk, or nuisance from multiple pathways and multiple sources and also refers to the totality of exposures from combinations of pollutant source stressors from air pollution and non-pollutant source stressors that affect human health..."*

What this means:
We are looking at how multiple sources and stressors in an environment impact human health

How will this information be used:
Industries located in high cumulative impact areas may have additional requirements

" I know this is air quality, but it's like everything all at once. And it's like, woo, I got to deal with this. And it's like almost overwhelming" ~ Ward 6 Resident, Interview

Cumulative Impacts and Installation Permits

"Respiratory conditions aren't the only thing that people can face when they're faced with poor air quality" ~ Ward 10 Resident, Interview

Proposed Rule

- Every 5-years CDAQ will produce a health impact report documenting areas in Cleveland with the highest cumulative impact scores and relative health information
- The cumulative impact score will be a relative system from 2 to 10 (10 has the heaviest impacts)
- Facilities located in neighborhoods with the highest CI scores will be required to submit additional information with their permit applications. The additional information will include vehicle traffic.

Why it matters

- Increased reporting requirement of CDAQ which also documents health concerns in Cleveland
- Identifies census tracts that have additional requirements for facilities
- This information helps to craft neighborhood specific pollution reduction strategies

Health Impact Assessments: Proposed Amendment

Proposed Rule

- Facilities located in neighborhoods with the highest CI scores will be required to conduct a Health Impact Assessment for any new or modified sources.

HIA Amendment – NEW 2026

- Following the passage of the Air Code legislation, CDAQ "*shall conduct a stakeholder engagement process that includes, at minimum, consultation with affected communities, environmental justice organizations, public health experts, regulated entities, and other interested stakeholders*".
- CDAQ will submit the develop HIA requirements based on this feedback and submit it to Council

Why it matters

- A robust stakeholder engagement process for Health Impact Assessment requirements will ensure affected communities can will have their interests represented
- The HIA process ensures that community members are considered when new emissions sources may impact their health or quality of life.

Air Permit Fees and Emissions Reduction Fund

Proposed Rules

- Annual air permit fees will be increased (last increase was in 2007)
- Collected fees may be used for grants to facilities to upgrade their equipment
- Collected fees may be used as grants for local businesses and community groups demonstrating a project that reduces emissions and/or mitigates the impact of air pollution

Why it matters

- Will assist facilities managing the financial cost in upgrading their equipment
- Funds communities that are impacted by air pollution and provides an opportunity for community members to identify solutions that are unique to their neighborhoods

"We need to be thinking of it as how do we do it rather than, Oh, it's too expensive" ~ Ward 10 Resident, Interview

Indoor Air Quality Program

From left to right: ***Yvette Mitchell (Cleveland DPH)****, Mayor Nathaniel Booker (Village of Maywood), Amanda Reddy (NCHH), Joel Ervice (RAMP), and Meridith Mueller (Wisconsin DHS) at the National Lead and Healthy Housing Conference in New Orleans, April 2026.*

Proposed Rule

- Formally authorizes CDAQ's ability to enter a home with invitations by resident and provides recommendations on how to improve indoor air quality conditions

Why it matters

- The indoor environment can have 2-5x more pollutants than outdoor air
- Indoor air quality complaints are among the top concerns expressed by residents
- Expands CDAQ's ability to provide resources for community members

"And I actually had a suggestion from a friend about getting one of those like air purifiers for inside the house. So I've kind of been looking into those, but they are a little bit on the pricier end if you want a good one." ~ Ward 2 Resident, Interview

Vehicle Idling

Proposed Rule

- Industry and businesses must ensure vehicles on their property follow the existing City of Cleveland Anti-Idling Ordinance

Why it matters

- Vehicle emissions are harmful to health, impact quality of life, and contribution to Cleveland-Cuyahoga County not meeting federal rules.
- Common concern/complaint submitted by residents

"A lot of what I smell on a regular basis is just fumes. Big diesel trucks might sometimes go up and down the street. It's a lot of noise pollution." ~ Ward 3 Resident

"They trucks were idling all day yesterday and they are today. With the hot days it makes the air rough to breathe" ~ *Ward 11 Resident, complaint*

Emergency Episodes

Proposed Rule

- Requires all City Departments to develop action plans for when air quality levels exceed certain thresholds
- Plans will include employee training and communication plans

Why it matters

- Ensures that City operations do their part in reducing impact during poor air quality days

"City street sweeper operating dry without water sprayers turned on during Code Maroon wildfire smoke alert, creating immediate hazardous dust clouds." ~ Resident complaint, received 7/17/26