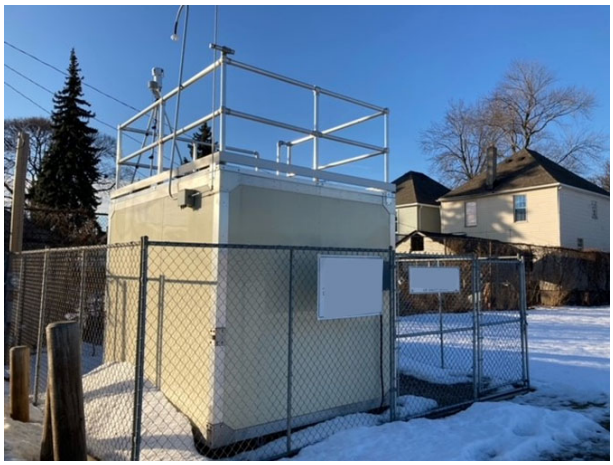
Detroit Air Quality Report: Summary

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy analyzed existing air monitoring data for the greater Detroit area. The agencies released a report on October 29, 2024, that includes:

- where regulatory air monitoring sites operated by EGLE in the greater Detroit area are located;
- summaries of air quality monitoring data measured in the greater Detroit area;
- how air quality has changed over time;
- information about the pollutants being measured;
- potential health effects from exposure to the pollutants; and
- how to find real-time air quality data on the EPA and EGLE websites.

Purpose:

Understanding air pollution and its potential health effects, and having access to air quality data is important. This information can help community members stay informed, make decisions, and focus on actions to improve air quality and reduce exposure to air pollution. Air quality monitoring does have limitations, such as a limited ability to identify local air pollution "hotspots." Hotspots are areas with higher levels air pollution than shown at monitoring sites. Also, air quality monitoring is generally not appropriate for determining whether a specific company is in compliance. Regulatory air monitors are used to look at air quality regionally.



Air Monitoring Station

The available data shows that while there is variability in air pollutant levels across the Detroit area, levels of air pollution have decreased over the past two decades.

While there is still work to be done, concentrations of air pollutants in the Detroit area have decreased over the last 20 years.

Trends:

Since 2000, key trends include:

- Levels of sulfur dioxide, lead, nitrogen dioxide, and carbon monoxide have decreased by over 50%.
- Fine particulate matter concentrations have decreased by over 30%, but wildfire smoke in 2023 affected these concentrations in the Detroit area.
- Even with wildfire smoke impacts on 2023 ozone data, ozone concentrations have decreased by 17 parts per billion from 2000 to 2023.
- Average concentrations of air toxics have decreased over time and are currently below health benchmarks for cancer risk and noncancer health effects.

Conclusion:

While much progress has been made, EPA and EGLE recognize there is still more work to be done. As our agencies pursue our missions to protect human health and the environment, we will continue to engage with community partners to improve air quality.

More Information:

To access the full report, visit:
EPA.gov/mi/epa-work-detroit-and-downriver-communities-mi-air

Michigan's Air Monitoring information:
Michigan.gov/EGLE/about/organization/air-quality/air-monitoring

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