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Colorado oil and gas producers slashing ozone-causing emissions

*Industry innovation, new rules, credited with reduction;
COGA launches multimedia campaign at factsonceo.org*

DENVER — JUNE 27, 2017 — The oil and gas industry in Colorado is reducing emissions and mitigating the effects of ground-level ozone as part of its commitment to being good stewards of natural resources and protecting the environment.

“We’ve seen significant reductions of ozone-causing emissions from Colorado’s oil and gas industry in recent years. That’s due to technological innovation, regulatory initiatives, and leadership from our industry. We need to keep this momentum going. It’s good for our health, our environment, and our state,” said Dan Haley, president and CEO of the Colorado Oil & Gas Association (COGA).

“To make good decisions as a state and as society, we have to start with the facts. That’s why today we are launching *Clear the Air: the Facts on CEO*,” said Haley. The campaign will focus on three key areas, climate, emissions, and ozone, or “CEO,” and will start by concentrating on ozone over the coming weeks.

Resources are available at <http://www.factsonceo.org/> to give the public and policymakers a deeper look at the ozone issue in Colorado. COGA is also promoting the efforts of *Simple Steps. Better Air*, the public education initiative by the Regional Air Quality Council (RAQC).

Over the past six years, the state’s oil and gas industry nearly halved its emissions of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) in the Metro Denver and North Front Range Ozone Nonattainment Area, while oil production quadrupled statewide. Oil and gas emissions of VOCs decreased from 280 to 154 tons-per-day between 2011 and 2017.

Ozone “is a secondary pollutant formed when VOCs and nitrogen oxides (NOx) combine in the presence of sunlight and heat,” according to the RAQC. “Weather plays a key role in ozone formation. The highest ozone levels are usually recorded in summer months when temperatures approach the high 80s and 90s and the wind is stagnant or light.”

Emissions can come from a variety of sources, including cars, boats, planes, and tractors, and well as industrial plants, lawn and garden equipment, and even household products like paints and solvents.

“Despite the air pollution challenges associated with increasing population, our ozone levels have improved over time,” according to the [Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment \(CDPHE\)](#).

According to monitoring data from the Colorado Air Pollution Control Division, part of the CDPHE, there were more than 60 ozone-exceedance days in 2012 in the Denver Metro and Northern Front Range area (i.e. days with ozone levels exceeding 70 parts per billion over an 8-hour average). In the past three years, the number of ozone-exceedance days has drastically decreased with less than 30 each year and only a dozen days in 2016 exceeded the less stringent 2008 ozone standard of 75 ppb. This means that not only are the number of days over the standard going down, the magnitude of the exceedances is also decreasing, which can be attributed in part to regional efforts made to reduce emissions of NOx and VOCs.

“There’s a lot Coloradans can do to mitigate ground-level ozone and continue to reduce the number of ozone-exceedance days,” said Haley. “COGA looks forward to sharing the facts and working with members of industry and the state to continue reducing emissions in the nonattainment area and statewide.”

Follow [@factsonCEO](#) on Twitter and Facebook for the latest updates on industry efforts and to find resources on air quality in Colorado.

Links:

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/factsonCEO>

Facebook: [@FactsonCEO](#)

Website: www.factsonceo.org

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About COGA

Founded in 1984, the Colorado Oil & Gas Association’s (COGA) mission is to foster and promote the beneficial, efficient, responsible and environmentally sound development, production and use of Colorado oil and natural gas. COGA is a nationally recognized trade association that aggressively promotes the expansion of Rocky Mountain natural gas markets, supply, and transportation infrastructure through its growing and diverse membership.