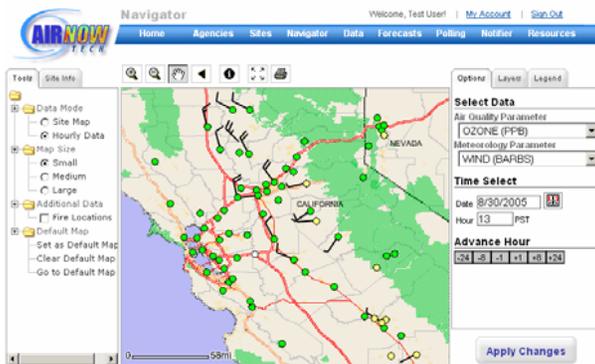


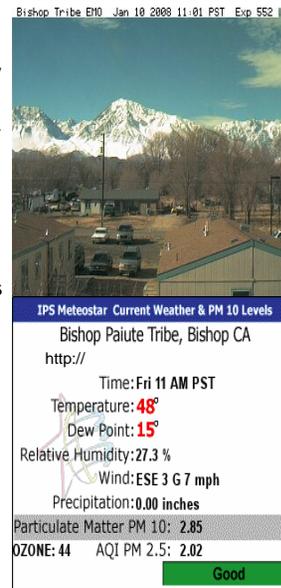
## About The Data

The air quality data used in these maps and to generate forecasts are collected using either federal reference or equivalent monitoring techniques or techniques approved by the state, local or tribal monitoring agencies. Since the information needed to make maps must be as "real-time" as possible, the data are displayed as soon as practical after the end of each hour. Although some preliminary data quality assessments are performed, the data as such are not fully verified and validated through the quality assurance procedures monitoring organizations use to officially submit and certify data on the EPA AQS (Air Quality System). Therefore, data are used on the AIRNow Web site only for the purpose of reporting the AQI. Information on the AIRNow web site is not used to formulate or support regulation, guidance or any other Agency decision or position.

The AQI values are calculated in AIRNow so all that is necessary is the upfront work of ensuring that monitors are operating within appropriate quality assurance parameters. Participation in AIRNow also provide you access to AIRNowTech which provides many resources and automated programs (including forecasting tools) to help monitoring organizations evaluate data. In addition, the data "owner" maintains control of whether the data is available to the public (a dot on the map) or only to the tribal community. See the following web <http://www.airnowtech.org/Resources/NewAIRNowFactSheet-Overview.pdf> for a fact sheet on AIRNowTech. The tribes can also get an AIRNowTech account, prior to submitting data to AIRNow, to check out the various evaluation tools available on the site. Many monitoring organizations, like the Bishop Paiute Tribe, report the AQI on their local website.



It also operates a webcam where pictures are taken hourly and automatically transferred to the web site and archived for future use in assessing the changing visibility conditions. In other cases, tribal, state or local websites link directly to the AIRNow websites for access to current AQI values. Visit the "Partners" area on the AIRNow website to view different examples of how AQI Data is presented on local websites. In either case, involvement in this AIRNow reporting provides a valuable air quality decision tool to the community and visibility on the important air monitoring activities performed by the tribes. Some information management software products, such as the TrEX software that some tribes are using, provide AQI capabilities. The Data Toolbox, developed by ITEP, will also have these capabilities in the future. There are possibilities that the Environmental Information Exchange Network and Grant Program could provide support to tribes wanting to participate in AIRNow <http://www.epa.gov/neeengprg/>.



## How to Get Involved

The AIRNow website includes a publication titled: *Guidelines for the Reporting of Daily Air Quality – the Air Quality Index (AQI)*. This document provides a good explanation of the AQI process, how the AQI is calculated, and examples of how the AQI data can be reported and distributed to local communities (newspapers, radio and television). This document is a good starting point for any tribe interested in this process. For monitoring organizations wanting more information on the requirements and process necessary to report to AIRNow, send a message to the AIRNow Data Management Center at : [airnowdmc@sonomatech.com](mailto:airnowdmc@sonomatech.com).

EPA-OAQPS  
Information Transfer Group  
C404-07  
RTP, NC 27711



Phil Dickerson, AIRNow  
Program Director  
Phone: 919-541-4814



US EPA

Constant Strive for Quality



**Tribal Monitoring  
Organizations  
Participation in Real-  
Time Air Quality  
Data Reporting**

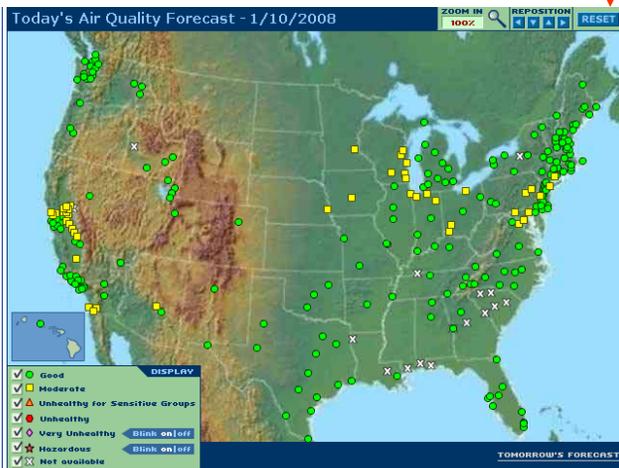


# Quality of Air Means Quality of Life

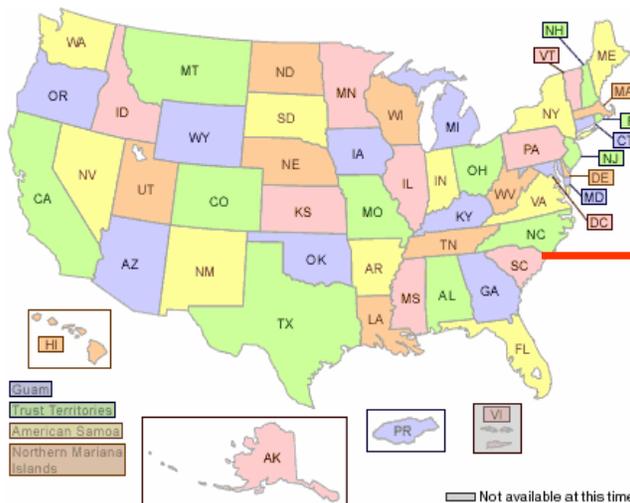
Local air quality affects how you live and breathe. Like the weather, it can change from day to day or even hour to hour. The U.S. EPA, NOAA, NPS, tribal, state, and local agencies developed the AIRNow Web site to provide the public with easy access to national air quality information. The Web site offers daily **Air Quality Index (AQI)** :

**Conditions**- Nationwide and regional real-time ozone and PM<sub>2.5</sub> air quality maps covering 46 US States and parts of Canada. These maps are updated daily every hour. A click of a mouse brings up the U.S. map and a second click can bring up the AQI details of a region, state or local area within a state.

**Forecasts** - Nationwide daily air quality forecasts provided by Tribal, State and local Air Agencies for over 300 major U.S. cities.



Federal requirements state that Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) with a population of more than 350,000 are required to report the AQI daily to the general public. The U.S. Office of Management and Budget defines MSAs according to the 2000 census. However, many other tribal, state and local monitoring organizations participate in AIRNow.

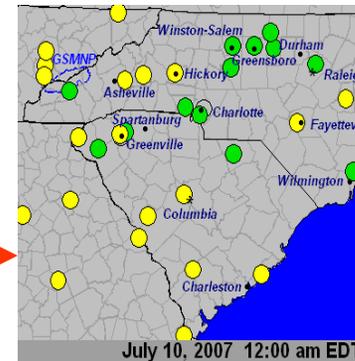


Presently, there are 17 tribal monitoring organizations participating in AIRNow; submitting gaseous and particulate matter pollutant data. See the AIRNow website for a listing of AIRNow partners. However, a recent report identified about 79 tribes performing ambient air monitoring. Although it is not expected that all 79 tribes have the type of monitors that can report to AQI, more tribes could participate in and take advantage of AIRNow and the evaluation and forecasting tools available to participants.



## The Air Quality Index

The AQI is an index for reporting daily air quality. The AQI is a fast and effective way to let you know what today's air pollution levels will be in your community; who is at risk from that pollution; and simple steps you can take to protect yourself. The AQI focuses on health effects you may experience within a few hours or days after breathing polluted air. The American Lung Association, American Thoracic Society, and the National Council on the Aging encourage people to plan outdoor activities using Air Quality Index (AQI) forecasts.



1 - 50	Good
51 - 100	Moderate
101 - 150	Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups
151 - 200	Unhealthy
201 - 250	Very Unhealthy

Think of the AQI as a yardstick that runs from 0 to 500. The higher the AQI value, the greater the level of air pollution and the greater the health concern. For example, an AQI value of 50 represents good air quality with little potential to affect public health, while an AQI value over 300 represents hazardous air quality.

An AQI value of 100 generally corresponds to the national air quality standard for the pollutant, which is the level EPA has set to protect public health. AQI values below 100 are generally thought of as satisfactory. When AQI values are above 100, air quality is considered to be unhealthy-at first for certain sensitive groups of people, then for everyone as AQI values get higher.

EPA calculates the AQI for five major air pollutants regulated by the Clean Air Act: ground-level ozone, particle pollution (also known as particulate matter), carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, and nitrogen dioxide. For each of these pollutants, EPA has established national air quality standards to protect public health. Ground-level ozone and airborne particles are the two pollutants that pose the greatest threat to human health in this country.