

Air Quality Improving Activities at the Regional Air Quality Council

February 19, 2025

Mike Silverstein, Executive Director



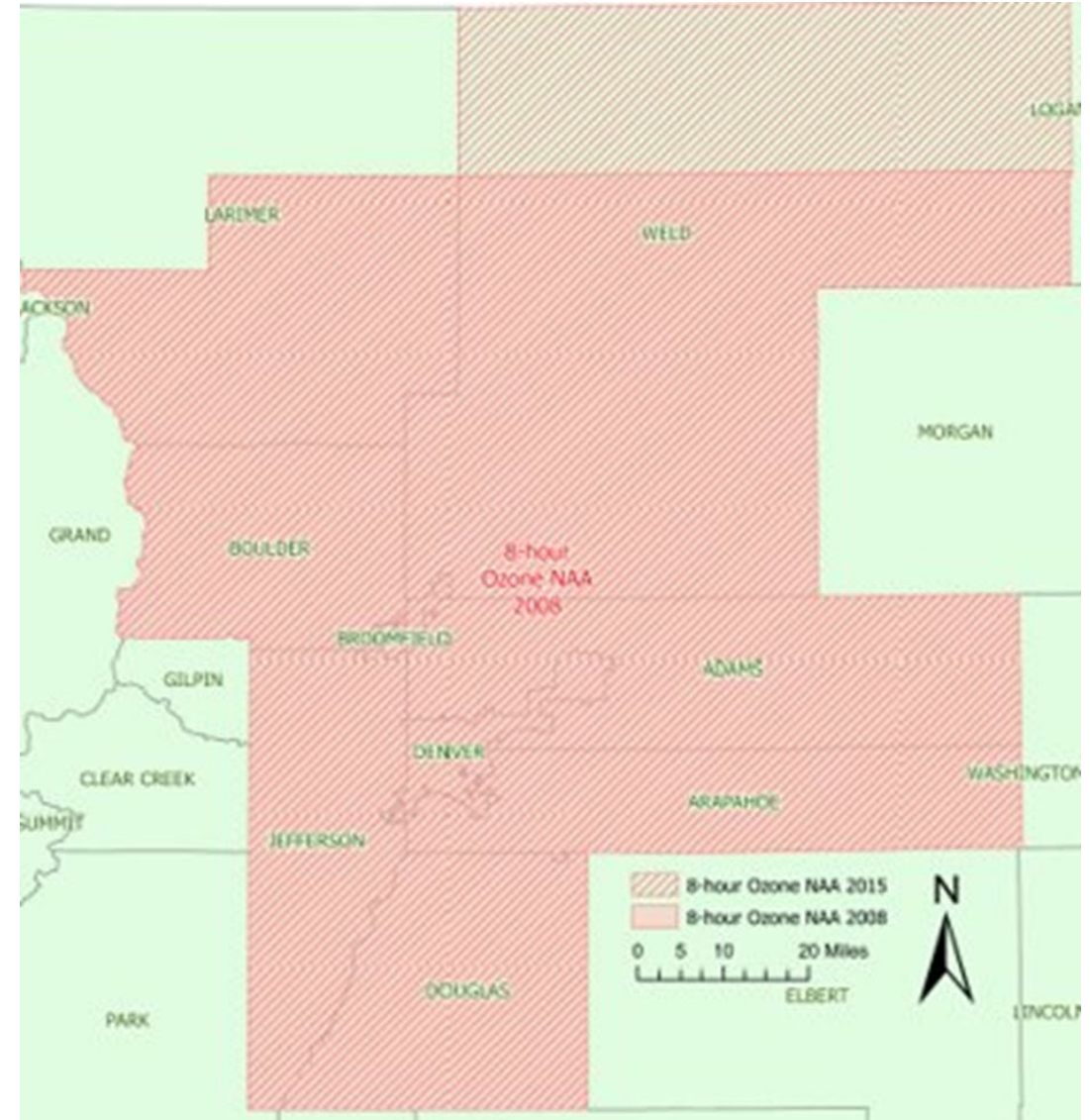
...is the region's "Lead Air Quality Planning Agency" for more than 30 years

- RAQC's primary focus is developing the region's air quality plans, recommending emission reduction approaches, and implementing programs that directly reduce pollution.
- Each Governor appoints the Board, 32 Members at present, and provides direction.
 - 8 members from local government, 5 from state government; 1 each from DRCOG, RTD, NFRMPO; the rest from the public, business & industry, academia, and transportation.
- RAQC is not the State! We are a private nonprofit business reliant on grants and contracts with the State and contributions from local governments.
 - DRCOG is our most generous partner, providing \$\$\$millions to RAQC through the CMAQ program. **THANK YOU!**
 - Local governments, primarily from the DRCOG region, now contribute about \$350K each year, Again, **THANK YOU!**

WHERE WE SOMETIMES ARE, AND WHERE WE NEED TO BE

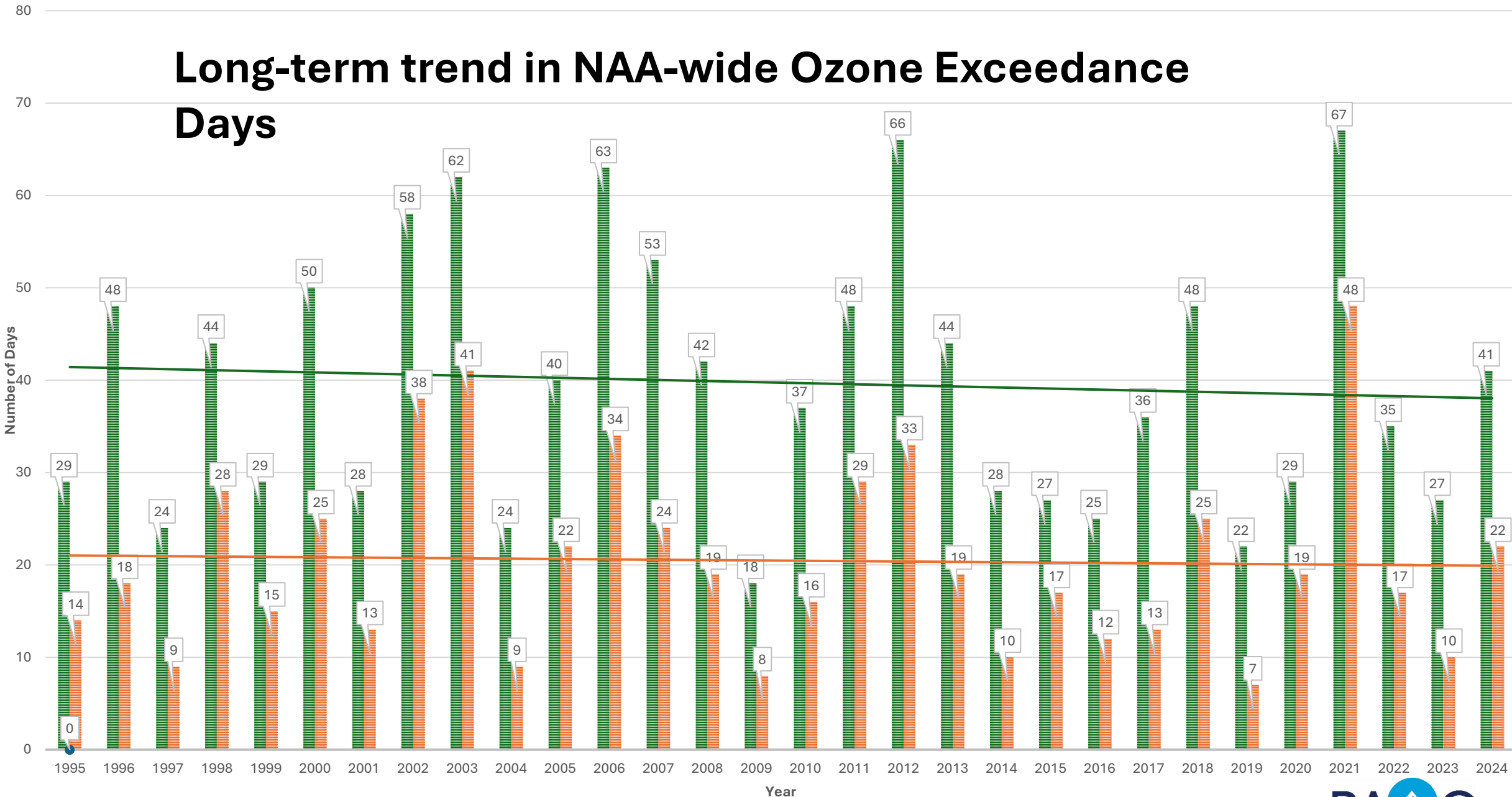


- Brings together ideas for analysis and strategies to include in specific programs, regulations, and plans to address the **regional ozone nonattainment problem**.
- Requires defining the problem(s) to address and analyzing solutions.
- Develops solutions to **improve regional air quality** for the greater Denver Metro and North Front Range region everyday.





Long-term trend in NAA-wide Ozone Exceedance Days



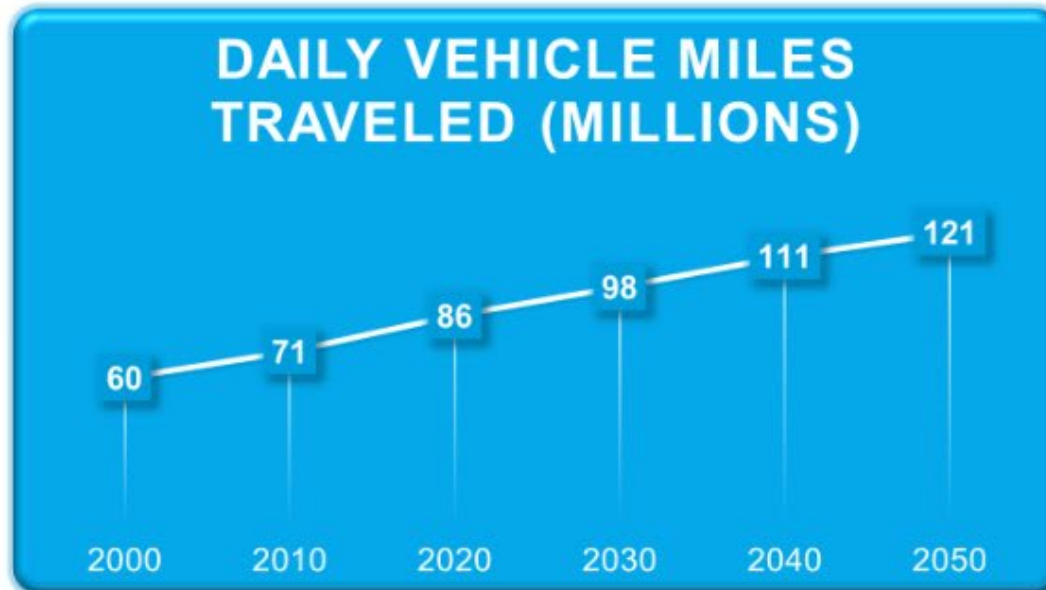
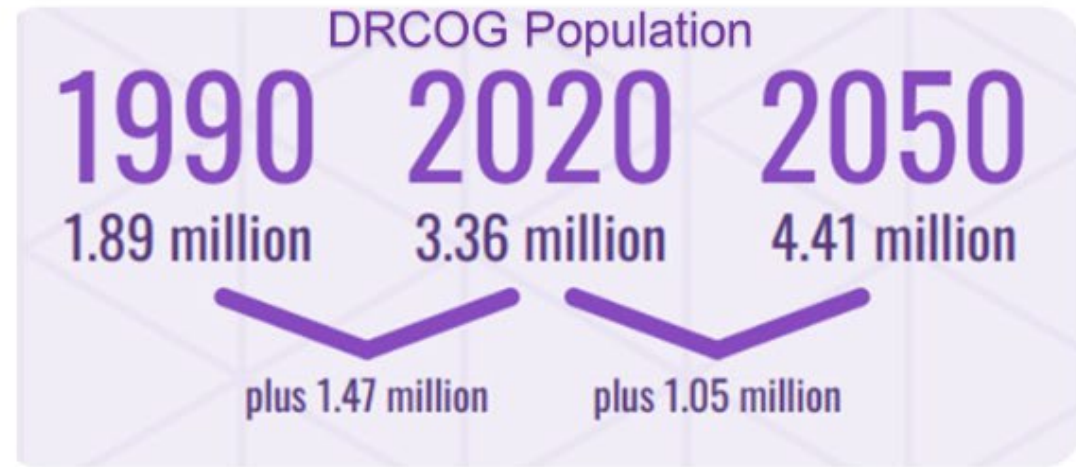
General Contribution to Front Range Summertime Ozone Concentrations



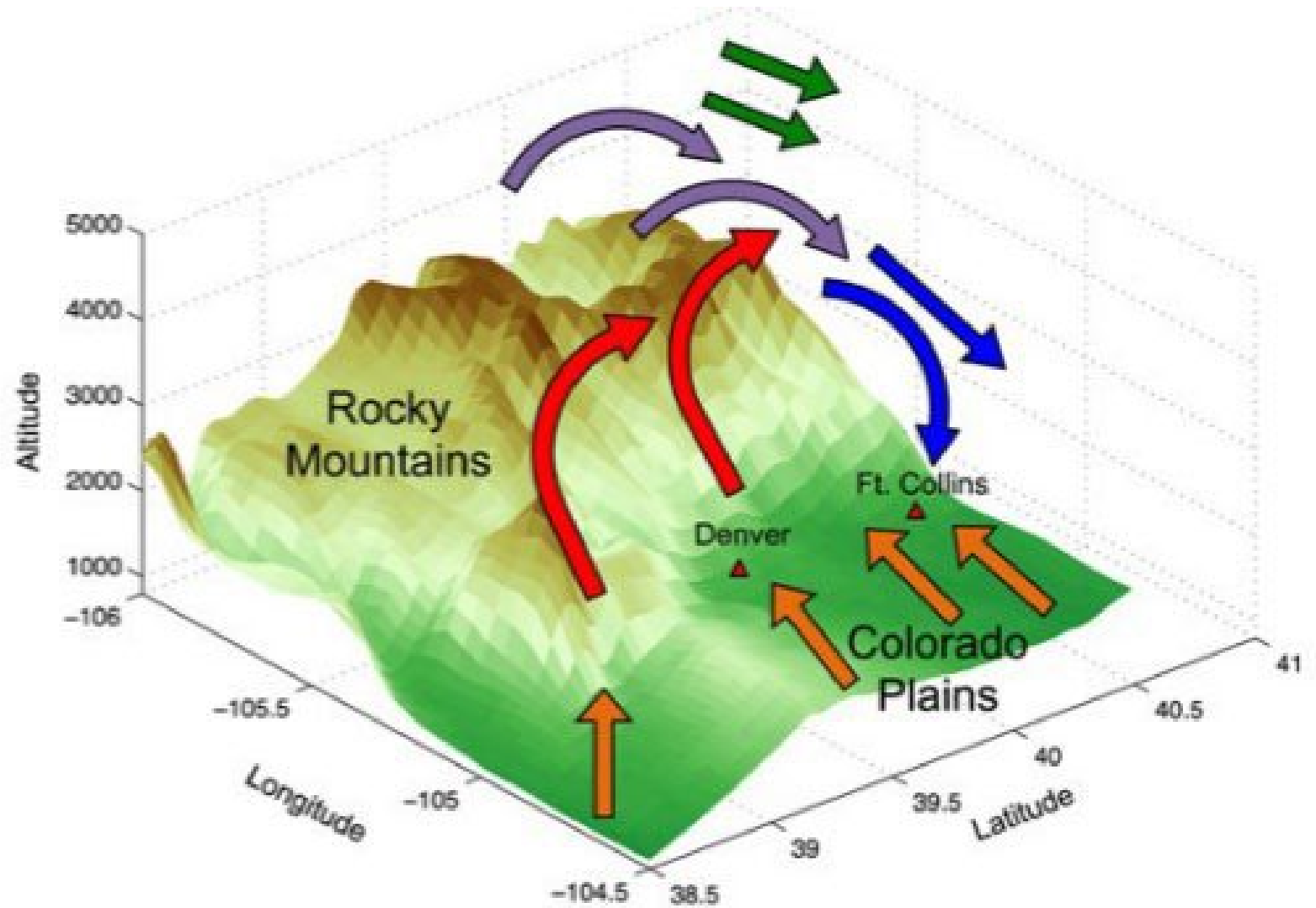
Contributions taken from 2023 modeling efforts. Do not represent

Presentation to DRCOG - 2/19/2025. Do not represent contribution at any singular monitor. Additional information available in 7

[2021 Modeling Forum Presentations](#)

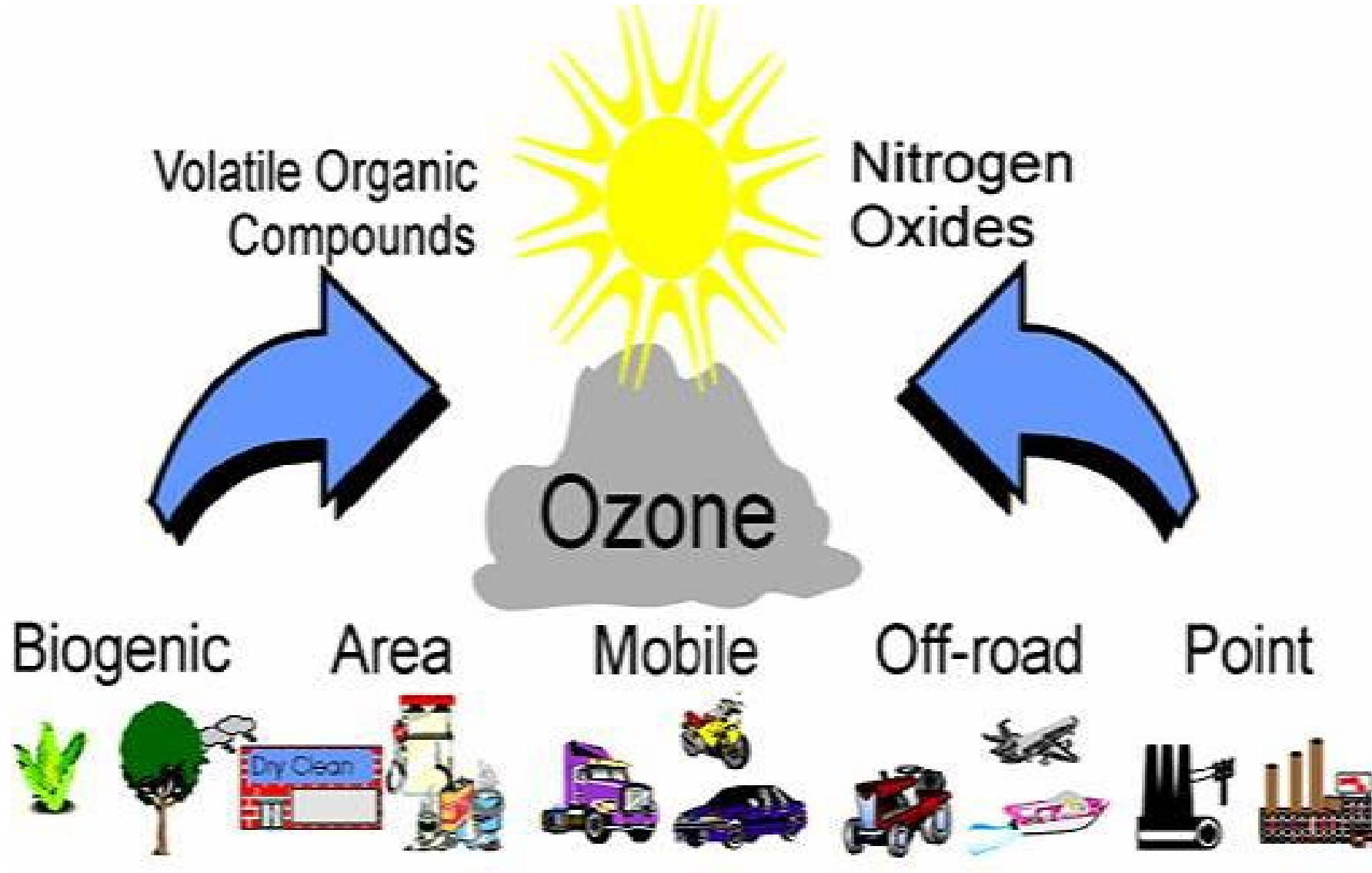


Our complex meteorology is natural and conducive to the buildup of pollutants.



Source: Sullivan et al., (2016)

How Ozone is Formed

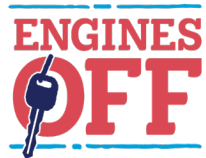


Source: www.montgomerycountymd.gov/DEP/Resources/Images/outreach/air/ozoneformation.jpg

Focus of the Regional Air Quality Council:



- **The Board recognizes that there is much more work ahead for the region to achieve full compliance with both federal ozone standards as rapidly as possible.**
- **The RAQC shares the urgency for better air quality expressed by many residents within the region and understands more action must be taken to achieve that goal.**
- **The RAQC hopes to fully develop and advance appropriate measures brought forward by staff, state agency partners, and stakeholders for consideration during 2023-25 and recommend direct implementation throughout this period.**

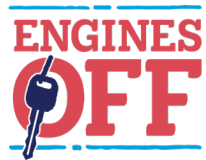


Planning, Research, Outreach & Incentive Programs

- **Ozone Planning – Modeling, Control Strategy and other Technical Assessments**
- **Education, Marketing and Outreach**
- **Localized Community-Based Social Marketing**
- **Micro-Mobility Programs**
- **Anti-Idling Programs – Food Truck Grants, Education & Outreach, Schools**
- **Auto Maintenance & Vehicle Repair Programs – Incentives & Outreach**
- **Emission Source Data Tracking**
- **Public Sector, Commercial & Residential Lawn and Garden Equipment Electrification Incentives**

Fund raising and further program development a continuous process!

Program Implementation is Tenuous



- Federal priorities are rapidly changing; federal funding situation is chaotic.
- RAQC is cautiously proceeding:
 - Program offerings are under assessment, on hold, or are being slow-rolled.
 - Planning and control strategy development proceeding.
- The next ozone plan is due this summer;
 - Technical assessments are underway.
 - Emission reduction evaluations at RAQC are proceeding for:
 - Consumer products, oil and gas, transportation, landscape maintenance equipment.
 - One important assessment: those sources/activities that generate or attract a lot of vehicle trips, termed **INDIRECT SOURCES**.

What are Indirect Sources?

Indirect Sources of Pollution - Facilities or installations that, by nature of their operations, cause substantial mobile emissions



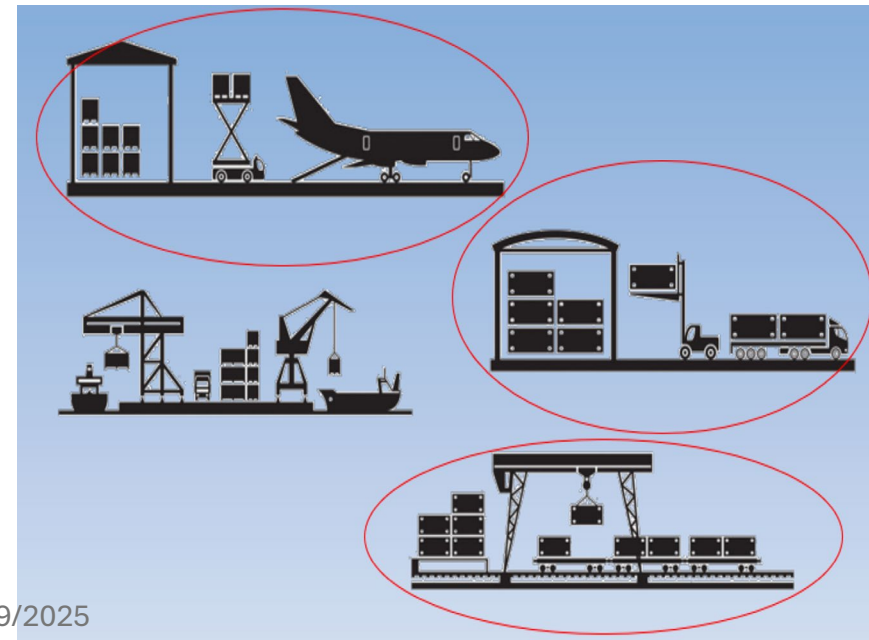
Common Examples:

- Warehouses/Distribution Centers
- Industrial or commercial developments
- Recreation venues
- Airports
- Higher Education Campuses

Emission Reducing Actions:

- Trip Reduction Strategies
- Vehicle Emission Reduction Strategies
- Construction Emission Control Strategies
- Permitting Requirements
- Efficiency Strategies

Freight-related Emission Sources in the Denver Metro / North Front Range Ozone planning region



**Mike
Silverstein
Executive
Director
(303) 629-
5450 x 250
msilverstein
@raqc.org
raqc.org**

THE WAY TO MY HEART IS A BIKE LANE
LOVE COLORADO

QUESTIONS?

PACK A LUNCH TO SAVE A TRIP.
#BetterAir

MOWING AFTER 5 PM IS BETTER FOR COLORADO AIR

Sunlight
+ Nitrogen Oxides (NO_x)
+ Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs)
= Ground-Level Ozone

KNOW WHEN SUMMER AIR IS SAFE FOR YOUR FAMILY

SimpleStepsBetterAir.org