



# State of North Carolina

**ROY COOPER**  
GOVERNOR

**AIR QUALITY AWARENESS WEEK**

**2019**

**BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA**

## **A PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS**, poor outdoor air quality is a threat to North Carolinians' health and prosperity; and

**WHEREAS**, children and older adults are at higher risk of experiencing problems from ground-level ozone; the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) actively monitors this issue as a contributor to poor air quality; and

**WHEREAS**, air quality continues to improve in North Carolina, with all areas of the state now complying with federal health-based standards, including the most stringent ozone standard; and

**WHEREAS**, since 2001 the amount of toxic air emissions in our state has decreased by 100 million pounds; and

**WHEREAS**, since 2005 the amount of greenhouse gas emissions in our state has decreased by 24 percent overall, and under the directives of Executive Order No. 80, the state is working toward a 40 percent reduction from 2005 levels of greenhouse gas emissions; and

**WHEREAS**, improved visibility is important to our environment and economy in Western North Carolina, and we have improved average visibility measures since the 1990s on our 20 percent haziest days, from approximately 9 miles to approximately 40 miles; and

**WHEREAS**, daily air quality forecast(s) for ozone and particulate matter is provided by DEQ online and through local media to help people make informed choices about their outdoor activities; and

**WHEREAS**, DEQ and the United States Environmental Protection Agency are supporting education and outreach efforts to encourage all residents to access and understand the Air Quality Index as a tool to protect their health; and

**WHEREAS**, DEQ has wide-ranging education programs to support North Carolina's students and teachers in understanding air quality, environmental health, energy, and general science, preparing our youth for future employment; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of North Carolina is committed to continued efforts to protect our air and improve air quality for North Carolinians, and to help them understand why air quality is so important to the quality of life in our state;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim April 29 – May 3, 2019, as “**AIR QUALITY AWARENESS WEEK**” in North Carolina, and commend its observance to all citizens.



Roy Cooper  
Governor

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this second day of April in the year of our Lord two thousand and nineteen and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-second.