



# Air Quality Trends

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What is measured?

Air pollution can be in the form of gas or particles in the atmosphere, many of which come from human activities. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has set the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for six criteria pollutants to safeguard human health and the environment: carbon monoxide, lead, nitrogen dioxide, ozone, particulate matter and sulfur dioxide. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection and its local program partners monitor the sources and concentrations of each of these six pollutants throughout the state.

### What are the air quality trends in Florida?

Florida's air quality has been improving for decades. Both the total emissions of pollutants to the atmosphere and the monitored levels of these pollutants in the air have continued to decline since at least 2000, and are the lowest on state record. The graphic below illustrates that emissions of criteria pollutants in Florida have decreased as our population and economy have continued to grow. More information is available at [FloridaDEP.gov/air](http://FloridaDEP.gov/air).

