

What's at Stake for **Oklahoma** with New Ozone Regulations?

Manufacturers Face Billions in Costs for Ozone Regulation. The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) new ozone regulation is one of the most expensive regulations in U.S. history. We have made incredible progress over the past 35 years, cutting ozone levels by one-third nationwide. This progress will continue without the new ozone rule.

No-Growth Zones Expand in Oklahoma, Growth Stifled. Despite decades of air quality improvements, the administration decided to throw hundreds of counties into nonattainment, stifling growth in many parts of the country. Up to 62 counties in Oklahoma exceed the EPA's new standards, counties that are home to 118,817 manufacturing jobs. The barriers created by nonattainment are impacting manufacturers today.

Local Voices Disregarded. Ignoring pleas from leaders in Oklahoma, the administration chose to set new targets before communities across the country could come into compliance with the 2008 ozone standards.

Outdated Law Ignores Current State of the Environment, Lacks Flexibility. The administration set ozone standards so strict that many communities find themselves in nonattainment despite the fact that the majority of their ozone comes from natural sources or sources in foreign countries.

Rigid and Unrealistic Deadlines Rarely Met, Make Little Sense. Unrealistically short five-year "review cycles" for ozone and other air quality standards lead to overlapping regulations. The EPA regularly exceeds these five-year deadlines, opening the door to lawsuits and creating an uncertain regulatory landscape for manufacturers.

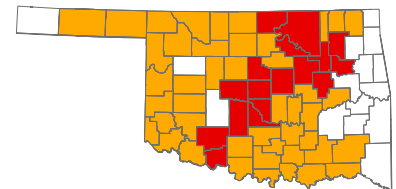
Time for Congress to Restore Balance. Manufacturers need Congress to step up, provide much-needed implementation relief and revise this decades-old policy to give states more flexibility and adopt a policy that better reflects manufacturing and the 21st-century economy.

"EPA's own analysis has shown that, absent a lower ozone standard, by implementing the suite of existing and proposed federal measures, the vast majority of marginal areas created under a new O₃ standard would attain a standard as low as 0.65 parts per billion by 2025. This would seem to argue that leaving the standard at the current value (75 ppb), continuing implementation of these federal measures and then evaluating national progress in five years would be a prudent course of action."

— Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality,
Air Quality Division, Comments on the EPA's
Proposed National Ambient Air Quality Standards for
Ozone (March 16, 2015)

Figure 1: Areas Exceeding the EPA's 2015 Ozone Standards (70 ppb)

- Areas with Monitors
- Unmonitored but Likely to Exceed 70 ppb



Based on a three-year period, 2012–2014.
Sources: URS, August 3, 2015; ESRI

Counties in **Oklahoma** Exceeding the EPA's Ozone Standards at Risk to Be No-Grow Zones

County	Ozone Level (ppb)
Love	77
Marshall	77
Bryan	77
Jefferson	75
Carter	75
Johnston	74
Choctaw	74
Comanche	74
Cotton	74
Canadian	74
Cleveland	74
Grady	74
Lincoln	74
Logan	74
McClain	74
Oklahoma	74
Creek	74
Okmulgee	74
Osage	74
Pawnee	74
Rogers	74
Tulsa	74
Wagoner	74
Atoka	74
Stephens	74
Murray	73
Tillman	73
Garvin	73
Kay	73
Coal	73
Pontotoc	73
Grant	73
Noble	73
Pushmataha	72
Kiowa	72
Garfield	72
Payne	72
Washita	72
Alfalfa	72
Jackson	72

County	Ozone Level (ppb)
Harmon	72
Okfuskee	72
Woods	72
Greer	72
Harper	72
Seminole	72
Washington	72
Woodward	71
Ellis	71
Kingfisher	71
Major	71
Hughes	71
Blaine	71
Nowata	71
Beckham	71
Pottawatomie	71
Custer	71
Roger Mills	71
Beaver	71
Texas	71
McIntosh	71
Craig	71

Based on a three-year period, 2012–2014; modeled and interpolated data.
Sources: URS, August 3, 2015; ESRI