

# Ozone in Sheboygan County



Ozone is made by VOC's (Volatile Organic Compounds) and nitrogen oxides (NOx) reacting in sunlight. It is harmful to breathe and is produced more often in the summer because of increased sunlight and temperatures. **The American Lung Association has given us an "F" rating and we are #20 in the U.S. for most polluted cities.** We are designated by the EPA to be in non-attainment (we do not meet EPA standards for clean air). In 2018 we had 36 days where the ozone was at an unhealthy level. **Breathing ozone irritates your lungs, resulting in something similar to a sunburn within your lungs.** (<https://www.lung.org/>)

**GROUPS AT RISK:** Children and teens, infants, people 65+, people who work or exercise outdoors, people with lung diseases like COPD and asthma & people with cardiovascular disease.

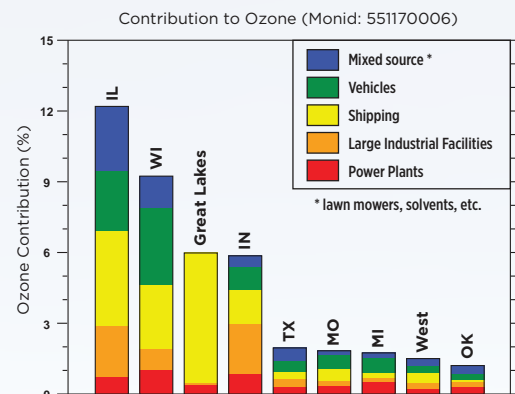


**HARMFUL EFFECTS:** Ozone exposure leads to premature deaths, immediate breathing problems and cardiovascular effects. It may be related to premature birth, cardiac birth defects, low birthweight and stunted lung growth in newborns. Long-term exposure leads to increased death and hospital admissions. (<https://www.lung.org/>)

## CAUSES OF SHEBOYGAN'S POLLUTION (1)

80% of our ozone comes from out of state.

Over time, our air quality will worsen. In addition, climate change will also increase the production of ozone.



## WHAT CAN WE DO?

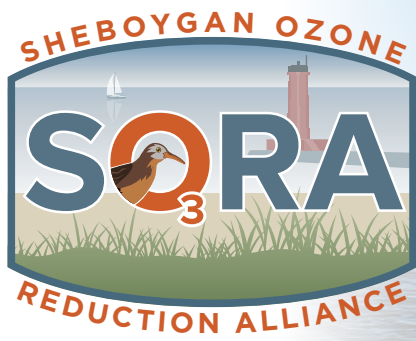
- 1. Use our current laws:** The Clean Air Act (Good Neighbor Provision) and Clean Air Interstate Rule (CAIR) are laws that address pollution that drifts from one state to another.
- 2. Sign our petition:** Tell the DNR, the EPA and our legislators that we do not accept unhealthy air quality and the division of our county into attainment/non-attainment.
- 3. Write a letter or call your legislators:** <https://www.usa.gov/elected-officials>

## WHAT DO WE WANT?

- Local, state, federal leaders who will address the problem at the source
- Multi-source, multi-state participation
- The formation and implementation of an ozone reduction plan along Lake Michigan that exceeds 2015 standards
- Scientific monitoring of local air quality and health impacts that is not subject to political pressure

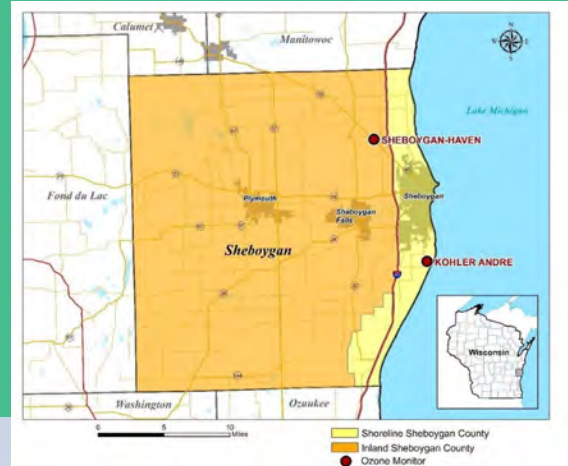
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SOURCES: 1) Good, G. Department of Natural Resources. (2017). Attainment Plan for the Sheboygan County, Wisconsin 2008 8-Hour Ozone Nonattainment Area. Retrieved from <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/AirQuality/documents/SheboyganAttainmentPlan.pdf>



## The Proposed Split

Sheboygan's ozone levels are measured by two monitors; Kohler-Andrae and Sheboygan Haven. In 2017, the DNR proposed splitting Sheboygan County into 2 parts; attainment (meets EPA standards for clean air) and nonattainment (does not meet EPA standards for clean air). **The proposed split would put Inland Sheboygan County in attainment (clean air, orange) and Shoreline Sheboygan County would remain in nonattainment (unhealthy air, yellow).**



### WHY DON'T WE WANT THIS TO HAPPEN?

1. This does not solve the issue that we have unhealthy air, especially by the shoreline. In addition, Sheboygan County will be bumped to "Serious" by the EPA in 2020.
2. Businesses in the new attainment area may be allowed to increase pollution, which may worsen our air quality.

### THIS CHANGE IS BASED ON BAD SCIENCE.

1. There is conflicting information. The Lake Michigan Ozone Study and the State Implementation Plan created by the DNR show conflicting numbers on the amount of ozone from Illinois.
2. There is not enough research to support splitting the county. We need more monitors and research.
  - One study was completed over 3 years with only the two monitors. A longer study with more monitors is needed to support this division.
  - The DNR plan relies on lowering emissions by having an increase in electric cars, however there is little infrastructure to support this and it is not guaranteed electric cars will be adopted in Sheboygan.
3. The New York Times reported that the EPA'S decision to split Sheboygan County did not have the backing of EPA scientists.

### WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- A mandatory public hearing will take place on **Friday, June 7th, at 10:30 a.m. at the Plymouth Public Library (130 Division Street, Plymouth, WI 53073)**. If we can get enough public comments, the DNR may choose to NOT split the county. Please join us!

- Write a letter to the DNR stating your opposition, and reasons why (due June 17th)

- Sign our petition
- Follow us on Facebook (Sheboygan Ozone Reduction Alliance)

- Host an event to create awareness

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