

On May 7, 2025, at 8:30 AM, "Dengel, Robert (ECY)" <rden461@ECY.WA.GOV> wrote:

Hi Jean,

We appreciate you letting us know about your frustration and concerns about air quality management in Yakima Valley. Also thank you for your input and questions regarding ozone in the Yakima area. This is an area we have also been investing more of our attention to as of lately.

In July and August of 2024 Ecology conducted an exploratory study of ozone concentrations at the Yakima-4th Ave monitoring site. The results will be published in the 2025 Ambient Air Monitoring Network Assessment at the end of next month. Briefly, ozone concentrations in Yakima did not reach the same peaks we routinely observe in Kennewick. During the study period, the highest daily 8-hour maximum concentrations at the two sites were 63 ppb in Yakima and 73 ppb in Kennewick.

These results indicate that the area is likely not at risk for nonattainment of the current ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard, and ozone concentrations are unlikely to reach the Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups (>70 ppb) range where AQI information is more urgent for public health protection. However, we are considering further ozone monitoring in Yakima in the future, particularly if there is a strong interest from the community so your feedback is very helpful.

On a somewhat related note, we are currently in the process of scouting out two or three new PM2.5 sites in the Lower Yakima Valley this summer and hope to have those up and running within the coming months. Ecology's efforts in Yakima and the Lower Yakima Valley are occurring simultaneously with the installation of new monitors in other overburdened communities highly impacted by air pollution across the state, as part of the Climate Commitment Act.

Thanks,

Rob