

Air Quality Forecast and Dispersion Outlook of Allegheny County, Pennsylvania for 3/16/23

Air Quality Forecast: This is the daily forecasted Air Quality Index (AQI) for each area provided by the PA Department of Environmental Protection. The AQI is based on PM2.5 or Ozone, whichever is forecasted to be higher.

Forecast Period	Pittsburgh Area	Liberty-Clairton Area
Today Thursday 3/16/23	PM2.5 Moderate 60 AQI	PM2.5 Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups 104 AQI
Tomorrow Friday 3/17/23	PM2.5 Good 38 AQI	PM2.5 Good 40 AQI




Today's Forecast:

High levels of PM2.5 (over 50 ug/m3) are expected Thursday morning in the Liberty-Clairton Area with a strong inversion as well as light southwest winds. However, this inversion should break during the late morning, and concentrations will decrease during the afternoon as southwest winds as well as mixing heights increase.

See Page 2 for the Air Quality Index guide

[Data provided by the PA Department of Environmental Protection](#)

ACHD Air Dispersion 36-Hour Forecast: This is the dispersion forecast for Allegheny County starting from this morning through tomorrow afternoon. The atmospheric dispersion index is a rating of the atmosphere's ability to transport pollution away from its source and is based on emissions and weather. Better atmospheric dispersion can improve air quality.

Forecast Period		Atmospheric Dispersion Index	Surface Inversion Strength	Wind (dir mph)
Today	 Morning	31 – Fair	Moderate	SW 5-10
	Afternoon	66 – Good	--	SW 5-10
Tonight	 Evening	18 – Generally Poor	Weak	S 5-10
	Overnight	19 – Generally Poor	--	S 10-20
Tomorrow	 Morning	40 – Fair	--	S 15-25 Gusts 30-35
	Afternoon	68 – Good	--	W-SW 15-20 Gusts 30-35

See page 2 for the Atmospheric Dispersion Index guide and the daily Surface Temperature Inversion Report.

ACHD Remarks:

An Air Quality Action Day has been declared for Liberty-Clairton Area on Thursday, March 16, 2023.

Data provided by the National Weather Service (NWS) [Fire Weather Planning Forecast](#) and [PIT NWS Products](#)

Guide to the Air Quality Index (AQI)

Color	Description	Meaning	AQI
Red	Unhealthy	Everyone should limit exertion outdoors.	151 - 200
Orange	Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	Sensitive people should limit exertion outdoors.	101 - 150
Yellow	Moderate	Extremely sensitive people may wish to limit outdoor exertion.	51 - 100
Green	Good	No health impacts are expected in this range.	0 - 50

Guide to the Atmospheric Dispersion Index

Very Poor	Poor	Generally Poor	Fair	Generally Good	Good	Very Good
1 - 6	7 - 12	13 - 20	21 - 40	41 - 60	61 - 100	> 100

ACHD Surface Temperature Inversion Report:

This is the 7 AM surface-based temperature inversion report for Allegheny County.

This morning's inversion of **3.2°C** with a depth of **185 m** is estimated to break at **10:30 AM**.

This inversion can be characterized as: None / Slight / Weak / **Moderate** / Strong.

There is an inversion above ~1000 meters reported.

What does the Surface Temperature Inversion Report mean?

A surface temperature inversion is a weather pattern that stops mixing of the air near the ground, and pollution released into the air tends to remain at higher concentrations.

Surface temperature inversion conditions include how strong the surface inversion is (in °C), how high the inversion is above the surface (in meters), and when the inversion is expected to break (in Eastern Standard Time). Also included is whether an upper-level inversion or inversions exist, starting at about 1,000 meters.

Surface Temperature Inversion Characterization

0-0.9 C°: Slight

1-2.9 C°: Weak

3-4.9 C°: Moderate

≥5 C°: Strong

