Nonattainment Area Encyclopedia Article

Nonattainment Area

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Nonattainment Area

Any locality found to be in violation of one or more National Ambient Air Quality Standards set by the **Environmental Protection Agency** (EPA) under the provisions of the **Clean Air Act**. However, a nonattainment area for one standard may be an **attainment area** for a different standard. The seven criteria pollutants for which standards were established in 1970 under the Clean Air Act are **carbon monoxide**, **lead**, **nitrogen** dioxide, **ozone** (a key ingredient in **smog**), **particulate** matter, **sulfur dioxide**, and **hydrocarbons**. Violation of National Ambient Air Quality Standards for one of the seven criteria pollutants can have a variety of consequences for an area, including restrictions on permits for new stationary sources of **pollution** (or significant modifications to existing ones), mandatory institution of vehicle emissions inspection programs, or loss of federal funding (including funding unrelated to pollution problems).

See Also

Automobile Emissions