

## Lake Michigan Air Directors Consortium

# FACT SHEET

This Q&A fact sheet provides information about the Lake Michigan Air Directors Consortium (LADCO).

### Who is LADCO?

The Lake Michigan Air Directors Consortium (LADCO) is a non-profit organization established in 1989 by the States of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, and Wisconsin. The State of Ohio joined LADCO in 2004.

### What is LADCO's mission?

The main purposes of LADCO are to provide technical assessments for and assistance to its member states on regional air quality problems, including ozone, fine particles, regional haze, and air toxics; and to provide a forum for its member states to discuss regional air quality issues.

Pursuant to a series of Memorandums of Agreement (MOAs), the organization's roles and responsibilities took shape:

1989 MOA: Established a cooperative interstate and federal effort for the purpose of conducting an air quality study to address ozone formation in the Lake Michigan area.

1991 MOA: Continued the cooperative interstate and federal effort to include identifying and evaluating various control strategies, and demonstrating attainment and maintenance of the ozone standard in the Lake Michigan area.

2000 MOA (LADCO): Reaffirmed the States' intent to reach consensus agreement on a regional control strategy to attain the 1-hour ozone standard in the Lake Michigan area. In addition, it called for the States to begin to evaluate the impact of other air quality regulations in their state, including regulations for 8-hour ozone, fine particles, air toxics, and regional haze.

2000 MOA (MRPO): This document (between the four LADCO States and the State of Ohio) established the Midwest Regional Planning Organization (MRPO) to address the issues related to the federal regional haze program, and pollutants such as fine particles that contribute to regional haze.<sup>1</sup>

2004 MOA: Reaffirmed cooperative effort by the States (including Ohio) and the EPA to: (1) achieve sufficient emission reductions to provide for attainment of the 1-hour ozone standard in the Lake Michigan area, (2) identify, evaluate, and implement sufficient emission reductions to provide for attainment of the standards for 8-hour ozone and PM<sub>2.5</sub> and achieve the reasonable progress goals for regional haze throughout the five-state region; and (3) address other regional air pollution issues, including air toxics.

### What are LADCO's specific responsibilities?

LADCO's current responsibilities include five main program tasks:

1. Support development of ozone, PM<sub>2.5</sub>, and regional haze SIPs,
2. Address other regional air quality issues (e.g., assist state air monitoring, support multi-pollutant planning, and conduct work related to energy and air quality),
3. Provide a forum for its member state to discuss air quality issues,
4. Support outreach efforts, and
5. Organize and coordinate training for member states

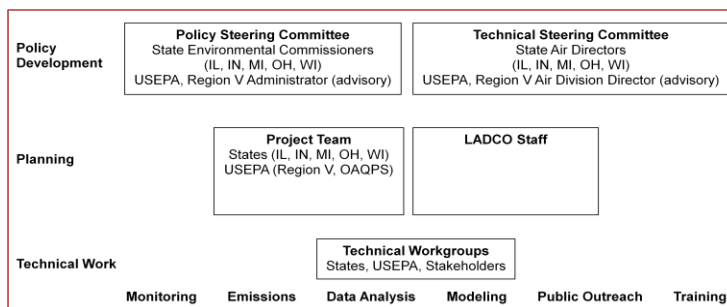
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<sup>1</sup> USEPA funded operation of five RPOs around the country from 2000-2009. When funding ended in 2009, the Midwest RPO was discontinued as a separate entity.

These tasks are a vital and necessary component to meeting a key objective in EPA’s strategic plan (“2006-2011 EPA Strategic Plan”, September 30, 2006). Specifically, Objective 1.1: Healthier Outdoor Air calls for EPA, “working with partners, (to) protect human health and the environment by attaining and maintaining health-based air-quality standards...”

**How is LADCO (and the Midwest) organized?**

LADCO consists of a Board of Directors (i.e., the State Air Directors), a Project Team, LADCO staff, and various workgroups (i.e., monitoring, emissions, data analysis, modeling, public outreach, and training).



**How is LADCO funded?**

LADCO receives most of its funding from EPA and its member States. During FY2010, LADCO received \$1.1M in federal funds and \$0.75M in state funds. Funding was also provided by private organizations to support special projects. In addition, the LADCO member states contribute considerable in-kind resources through their participation on the technical workgroups.

**What has LADCO accomplished?**

Significant accomplishments of LADCO include:

1. **Air Quality Improvements:** Since the late 1980’s, ozone levels have improved dramatically. Currently, all monitors in the region are in attainment of the previous 1-hour standard, as well as the 1997 version of the 8-hour standard. In addition, since monitoring for PM<sub>2.5</sub> started in the late 1990s, measured concentrations have generally declined with most monitors now being in attainment of the 1997 version of the annual standard and the 2006 version of the daily standard.

2. **Regional Cooperation:** The LADCO States have established a framework for working together on regional air pollution problems. Effective and frequent communication among state and federal agencies is especially critical in the eastern U.S. given the importance of regional transport of air pollutants. LADCO has long been an advocate and leader in inter-regional planning efforts, including the Ozone Transport Assessment Group (1995-1997) in which more than 30 states worked together to address ozone transport in the eastern U.S.; the RPO process (2000-2009) in which five main regional groups cooperated on activities to address regional haze; and the State Collaborative process (2005-present) in which Northeast, Midwest, and Southeast states coordinated regional planning efforts.

3. **Technical Capabilities:** The LADCO staff, in conjunction with its member States, have developed the technical expertise to collect and analyze air quality data; develop multi-state emissions inventories; and apply regional air quality models. With these technical resources, the States have taken a weight-of-evidence approach based on a variety of analyses to establish a sound basis for control strategy planning.

**What are LADCO’s future challenges?**

Looking ahead over the next several years, the States of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, and Wisconsin believe that multi-state, multi-pollutant planning is necessary to support the development of effective control plans to address regional pollution problems, such as ozone, fine particles, regional haze, and air toxics. To this end, the States commit to a continued partnership with each other through LADCO to ensure expeditious compliance with federal public health and welfare air quality standards.

For additional information about LADCO, see [www.ladco.org](http://www.ladco.org) or contact Michael Koerber, Executive Director, [koerber@ladco.org](mailto:koerber@ladco.org), 847-720-7880.