

# Attainment Area Encyclopedia Article

## Attainment Area

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# Attainment Area

An attainment area is a politically or geographically defined region that is in compliance with the National Ambient Air Quality Standards, as set by the **Environmental Protection Agency** (EPA). A region is considered to be an attainment area if it does not exceed the specified thresholds for air pollutants that may be a threat to public health. The standards are set for a variety of ambient air pollutants, including particulates, **ozone**, **carbon monoxide**, sulfur oxides, and **nitrogen oxides**. A region can be an attainment area for one pollutant and a **nonattainment area** for another.