

AIR QUALITY DEPARTMENT
STRATEGIC BUSINESS PLAN
FY 2015/2016 FINAL

I. COUNTY VISION

Pinal County Government leads through innovation and collaboration which results in vibrant, safe, sustainable communities.

II. COUNTY MISSION

Pinal County Government protects and enhances its citizens' quality of life by driving economic development and providing efficient, effective, needed services through talented, motivated employees.

III. DEPARTMENT MISSION

The Mission of the Air Quality Department is to provide assessment, permitting, education, planning and enforcement services to residents, businesses and leaders of Pinal County so they can breathe and enjoy clean air.

IV. SUMMARY OF MAJOR SERVICES PROVIDED:

- **Citizen-oriented services**
 - Air quality monitoring
 - Air quality forecasting and reporting (AQI Index)
 - Complaint response

- **Source-oriented services**
 - Permitting of industrial sources
 - Permitting of dust and open burning sources
 - Source-compliance inspections

- **Other services**
 - Enforcement
 - State Implementation Plan (SIP) development
 - Emissions inventory development
 - Mandatory Travel Reduction Program Administration
 - Planning & internal/external rule development
 - Public outreach and education
 - Assistance to the Board of Supervisors for air quality matters

V. CHALLENGES:

A. Issue 1: Poor Air Quality; Health Impacts, Public Safety Impacts and Regulatory Impacts

Prevailing PM-10 (dust) levels in the County consistently violate the health-based ambient standards and interfere with visibility, which, if not addressed, will result in:

- Inordinate public health risks for at least sensitive portions of the population
- Continuing hazards to transportation and public welfare
- Increasing and potentially un-balanced, regulatory burdens for dust sources
- Imposition of federal sanctions on businesses and governments.

B. Issue 2 Emissions Attributed to Ongoing PM10 Exceedances

Portions of Pinal County are afflicted by elevated dust levels under both low-wind and high-wind conditions. Activities cause elevated dust levels during low-wind conditions. Disturbed areas constitute the dominant source of dust during high-wind conditions. The principal activity-related sources of PM-10 (dust) levels in the County include traffic on paved and dirt roads, agricultural operations and construction activity. Those sources have been documented as significant source categories in the base year (2008) PM10 Emissions Inventory for the West Pinal Moderate PM10 Nonattainment Area. Those documented activities and sources of PM10 need to be controlled by Reasonably Available Control Measures (RACM) in order to comply with the Clean Air Act requirements of a moderate PM10 nonattainment area. The RACM requirement is accomplished through development and implementation of effective local air quality rules that are also approved into the State Implementation Plan (SIP). If the issue is not addressed it will result in:

- Continued PM10 exceedances and reclassification of moderate PM10 nonattainment area designation to Serious PM10 Nonattainment Area

C. Issue 3: E-Permitting Development for Over-the-Counter Permits

Air Quality issues open burning permits to citizens of the county and dust permits to individuals and companies conducting earth moving operations in the county. These transactions are typically conducted in an over-the-counter fashion at the Florence office or on scheduled dates at county satellite offices. Less commonly, these transactions are completed through mail, email, or by phone. The latter can be time-consuming for both the customer and Air Quality staff. Implementing recent county acquired software technology will allow for improvement in efficiency when conducting these transactions. If not adequately addressed may well result in:

- A continued burden on customers and county staff processing permit applications.

VI. ALIGNMENT TO COUNTY PRIORITIES

None.

VII. DEPARTMENT STRATEGIC GOALS:

A. Timely Turn-around for Permitting Transactions

On a continuing basis, permit applicants will receive prompt analysis and action on air quality permits, as evidenced by:

- 100% of permit turn-around times will meet and/or beat turn-around benchmarks required by the Arizona Legislature and adopted by the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality.

B. Timely Response to Citizen Complaints Transactions

On a continuing basis, citizens who complain will receive a prompt investigation and response regarding the issue of the complaint, as evidenced by:

- Complaint investigation and response turn-around times that meet or exceed the benchmark times for similar actions by other Arizona jurisdictions.

C. Effective Monitoring Network

On a continuing basis, the residents of Pinal County will have access to timely, quality assured air quality monitoring data as evidenced by:

- Operation of a comprehensive air pollution monitoring network in accordance with established EPA standards.

D. Reduction of PM10 Exceednaces

Residents and visitors of Pinal County will experience reduced risk of PM10 exceedances due to a reduction in windblown dust and activity generated dust, as evidenced by:

- By 2016, adoption of RACM level construction fugitive dust and a general fugitive dust rules for the West Pinal Moderate PM10 Nonattainment Area
- By 2018, achieve a 3-year, ongoing average of 99.7% healthy days for PM-10 (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency standard for PM-10).

E. E-Permitting Evaluation and Implementation (Dust and Burn Permits)

Residents of Pinal County will experience reduced delay in obtaining open burning and dust permits issued in the county:

- By the end of 2017, implementation of E-Permitting for open burning permits
- By the end of 2016 implementation of E-Permitting for dust permits.

VIII. ANNUAL PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

Annual Performance Measures:

1. Monitoring operations will conform to the annual standards in the EPA's rules pertaining to monitoring network operations as measured by an average data collection rate of 97%.
2. 100% of complaint response times will meet the Department's standard of a 3-day response.
3. 100% of permit turn-around times will meet and/or beat turn-around benchmarks as set forth in the Arizona Administrative Code.
4. 100% of RACM level construction fugitive dust and general fugitive dust rules under the authority of Pinal County Air Quality for the West Pinal Moderate PM10 Nonattainment Area will be adopted by the Pinal County Board of Supervisors
5. By the end of 2017 evaluate and implement an E-Permitting process for open burning permits issued in the County.
6. By the end of 2016 evaluate and implement an E-Permitting process for dust permits issued in the County.
7. By 2018, achieve a 3-year, ongoing average of 99.7% healthy days for PM-10 (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency standard for PM-10).

REVENUE BY FUND

Program/Activities	Cost Center	Total Budget
General Fund	3140332	\$112,473
General Fund Total		\$112,473
Fund 86		
Industrial Permits	3140180	\$1,468,970
Dust Control Permits	3140260	\$246,507
Fund 86 Total		\$1,715,477
Fund 87		
Travel Alternatives-State- Travel Reduction	3140230	\$87,000
Primary Quality Assurance	3140331	\$146,140
105 Program Grant	3140333	\$175,000
Fund 87 Total		\$408,140

EXPENDITURES BY FUND

Programs/Activities	# of Full Time Employees	# of Part Time Employees	Total Budget
General Fund	0	0	\$112,473
General Fund Total			\$112,473
Fund 86, Cost Center 3140180			
Industrial Permit	10.75	0	\$1,468,970
Total Cost Center 3140180			\$1,468,970
Fund 86, Cost Center 3140260			
Dust Control Permits	3	0	\$246,507
Total Cost Center 3140260			\$246,507
Fund 87, Cost Center 3140230			
Travel Alternatives-State-Travel Reduction	1.25	0	\$87,000
Total Cost Center 3140230			\$87,000
Fund 87, Cost Center 3140331			
Primary Quality Assurance			\$146,140
Total Cost Center 3140331			\$146,140
Fund 87, Cost Center 3140333			
105 Program Grant	0	0	\$175,000
Total Cost Center 3140333			\$175,000