



Asheville-Buncombe
Air Quality Agency

Buncombe County
FY 2025 Budget Presentation

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Agenda

- A. Strategic Alignment, Goals, & Accomplishments
- B. High-Level Summary
 - Recent trends
 - Headcount
 - Operating Expenses
- C. What's New?
 - Personnel – Fill vacant position, budget for temp and intern
 - Operating – File Digitization, vehicle replacement
 - Revenues – Increase in grant funds
 - Fee Changes – Title V fees CPI increase
- D. Equity Analysis Tool

Strategic Alignment, Goals, & Accomplishments

Accomplishments in FY24

- Met all EPA requirements for local Air Quality Program
- Upgrading and expanding air pollution monitoring network
- Partnership with UNCA-Community Science Station
- Complaint Module in Accela completed and in use by Agency. Sharing data with Code Enforcement Workgroup.
- Worked with LOS, Sustainability to replace EV charging equipment at Land of Sky.
- Worked with Sustainability on white paper for Clean Heat initiative submitted to NCDEQ for CPRG funds
- Collaborated on Clean School Bus Initiative

Strategic Focus Areas

Operational Excellence

- Improve customer service and service to the community

Environmental and Energy Stewardship

- Participate in county initiatives including Vehicle Evaluation Team and Subcommittee on Energy and Environment.
- Promote energy efficiency programs - permitted facilities and community.
- Utilize EPA's Advance program to increase public engagement and decrease emissions. EE and Mobile Source Reductions
 - Sustainable Brewery Project
 - Clean School Bus Program

Goals for FY25

- Continue to modernize data management systems with IT
 - Add permitted facilities to Accela
 - Take electronic payments from facilities
- File retention policy and digitization project
- Continue Partnerships with UNCA (low-cost air sensors in community- EJ project, Sustainable Brewery Project)
- Apply for EPA IRA funding for emissions reduction projects
- Educational display at Community Science Shelter and Air Quality monitoring site.
- Increase community outreach- radon test kits and working with schools on Community Science Station.
- Replace eligible vehicle with electric vehicle

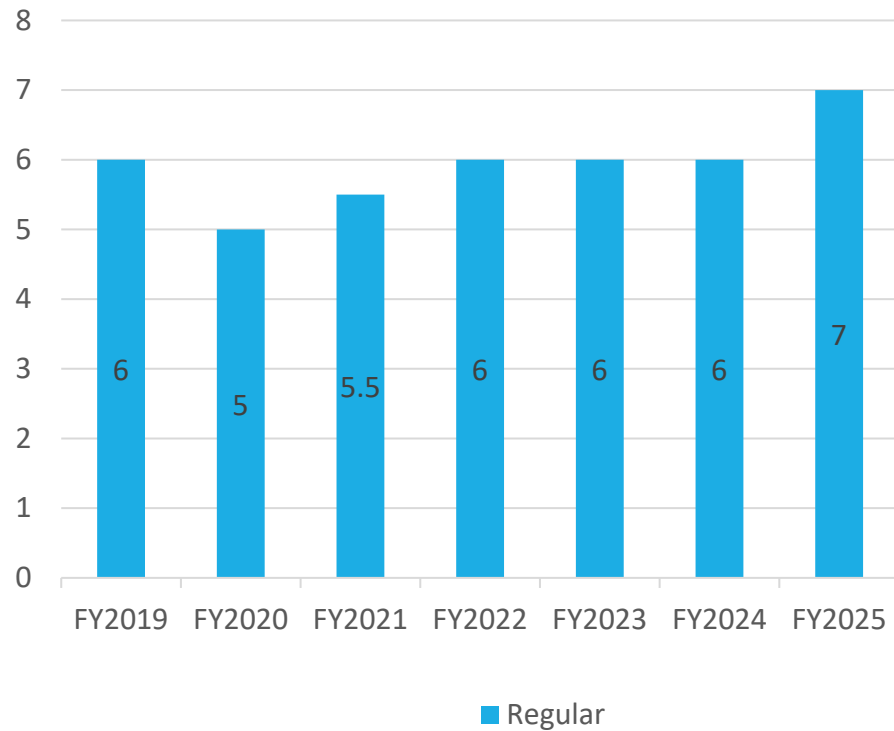
High-Level Summary

- Filling vacant position
 - Succession planning and restructuring
- Funding Digitization Project
- Internship funding
- Community outreach
- The Air Quality fund balance continues to be healthy, but staff expect that to be reduced in current and future budget years.

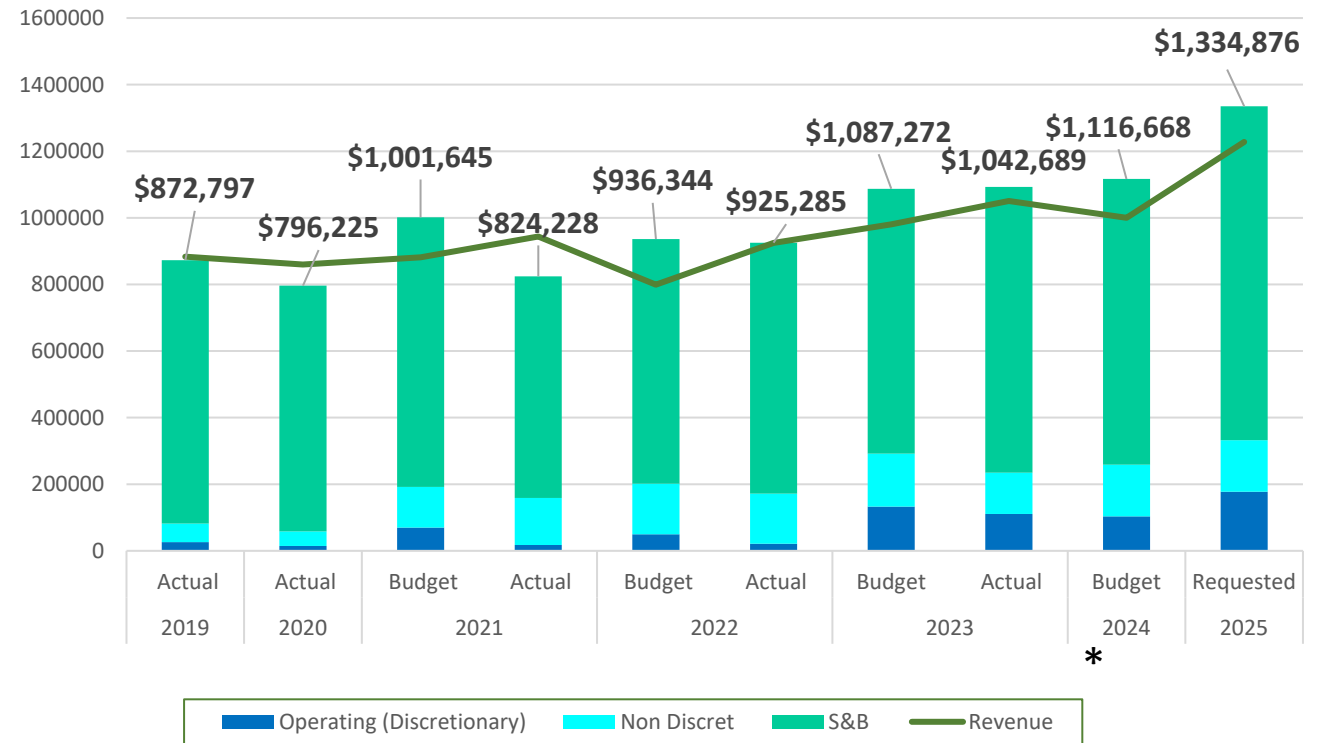
FUND BALANCE

FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23
\$534,474	\$596,736	\$716,382	\$719,071	\$715,689

Headcount



Operating expenses



* Revenue does not include fund balance

What's New? Personnel

Personnel

- New position requests:
 - Budget for open Air Quality Specialist position
 - Temporary part time for digitization project
 - Summer intern for Air Quality project

Cost: FY25 total cost

- Full time open position : \$ 104,387
- Part-time position: \$ 10,000
- Intern: \$3,600

Why? Opportunity to restructure with succession planning and better allocate responsibilities.

Increase staffing to accommodate continuity of operations.

How does this advance your strategic plan or business plan?

- Improve customer service – operational excellence
- Continue Energy Star program to promote reductions in GHG emissions at local breweries

Risks of not approving:

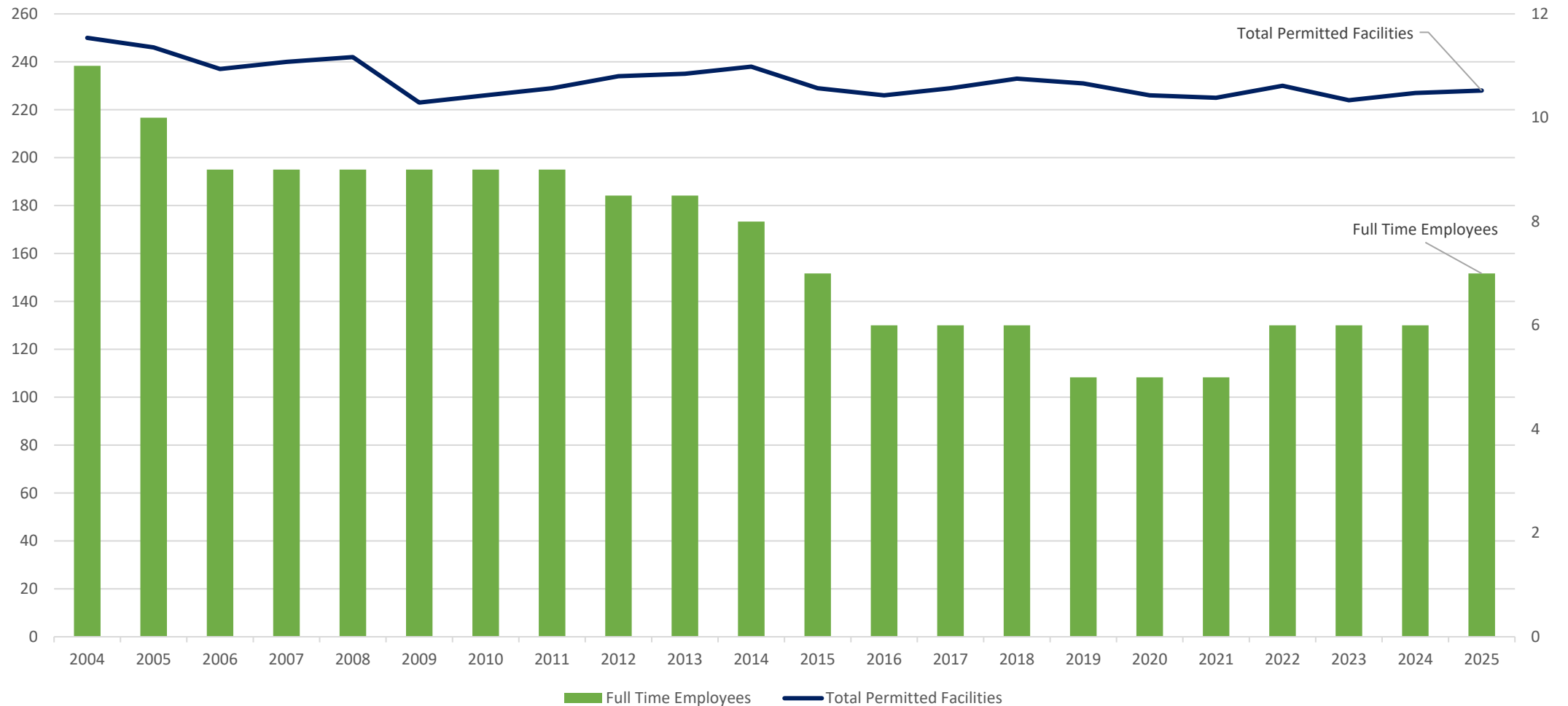
- Unable to maintain continuity of operation (monitoring, permitting, and compliance)
- Unable to start digitalization project
- Unable to carry on Microbrewery Energy Star project

Alternatives:

- What could you do without to get this expansion?
- Is there an existing position that could be altered to support this need? No

Permitted Sources and Full Time Employees

Facility Count and Full Time Employees



Revenues

Grants

EPA 105 Grant

- Local air quality program
- FY2022 Revenue: \$210,642
- FY2023 Revenue: \$214,517
- FY2024 Revenue: \$280,000
- *FY2025 Revenue: \$280,000

**(dependent on budget approved by Congress-FY 2024- first significant increase since 2004)*

EPA 103 PM 2.5 Grant

- PM2.5 Monitoring program
- FY2022 Revenue: \$60,000
- FY2023 Revenue: \$60,000
- FY2023 ARP Revenue: \$75,700**
- FY2024 CAA Revenue: \$42,214**

*** (one time funding for monitor and other replacement equipment)*

- FY2024 Revenue: \$84,000
- FY2025 Revenue: \$84,000
- *FY2025 IRA Revenue: \$166,000

(\$50k vehicle+\$56k equipment+\$60k for ½ of a position)

**(dependent on budget approved by Congress-FY 2025- first significant increase since 2004)*

Other Revenues

Gas tax reimbursement

- FY2022 Revenue: \$153,344
- FY2023 Revenue: \$152,670
- FY2024 Revenue: \$150,000
- FY2025 Revenue: \$150,000

(holding steady despite move to electric vehicles)

Permitting Fees

- FY2022: \$502,005
- FY2023: \$524,898
- FY2024: \$512,500
- FY2025: \$527,700

(2022 increased fees for first time in 11 years. Included CPI increase for Title V fees- helps to offset lost income from DEP moving from coal to gas)

Total Revenues (budget):

- FY2024: \$ 999,965 *(includes fund balance draw \$116.7k)*
- FY2025: \$1,227,700 *(\$107k fund balance draw-includes vehicle, additional staff, and CPI increase)*

Fee Changes

Fee	Description	Existing rate	Proposed rate	Why?	Estimated Impact
Title V permit fees	This annual CPI increase was adopted into our rules with our fee increases in September 2021.	See final slide for details	Increase of 5.43149%	The Title V fees are required to be sufficient to fully support the program.	Increase in annual revenues by ~\$5,740 for TV permitting fees.
Title V tonnage fee	The tonnage fee increase for Title V (TV) facilities may be considered as part of the Agency's budget process each year and requires Air Quality Board approval.		Increase of \$3 per ton of emissions		Increase in annual revenues by ~\$3,924 if the TV tonnage fee increase is approved.

Total increase = approximately \$9,664 in FY25

FY25 Budget Equity Questions

Alignment with Equity Goals	Equity Considerations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• We are moving forward with our digitalization plans. This will make facility and emissions data more accessible to all Buncombe County residents.<li>• Our recently upgraded and expanded air quality monitoring site is in an EJ area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Marginalized or underserved communities have historically experienced poorer air quality partly due to the proximity of air pollution sources to those communities.<li>• We are working with Dr. Evan Couzo (UNCA) with a community sensor project mapping PM emissions in historically redlined districts. Low-cost air quality sensors are now located at Asheville City Schools.

AB Air Quality Permitting Program

- 7 Title V Facilities
- 10 Synthetic Minor Facilities
- 56 Small Facilities
- 150 Stage I Vapor Recovery Facilities
- Annual Full Compliance Evaluations of all Title V and Synthetic Minor Facilities
- Biennial Inspections of Small Facilities
- Annual Inspections of Stage I Vapor Recovery Facilities

Pratt and Whitney-2023



AB Air Quality Compliance and Enforcement

- Asbestos and Demolition Permitting and Inspection Program
 - 300+ Permits issued a year
- Open Burning
 - 70-100 Complaints Annually
 - Same Day Response



Monitoring Network

- Unlike other local programs, Asheville-Buncombe Air Quality Agency operates a joint PQAO with North Carolina DEQ
- PM 2.5 – Board of Education Building
 - BAM 1022
 - ThermoFisher 2025i
 - TeleDyne T640X
- Ozone – Bent Creek
 - ThermoFisher Model 49i
- Air Toxics – AB Tech
 - Xonteck 911 Volatile Organic Compound Sampler



American Rescue Plan Grant (ARP)

Awarded \$75,700 for the purchase of the following:

TeleDyne T640X (PM10)



Thermo Scientific 49iQ Analyzer and
Primary Standard



Inflation Reduction Act Grant (IRA)

Awarded \$46,200 for the purchase of the following:

Alicat FP-25



Thermo Scientific 49iQ
Analyzer and Primary Standard

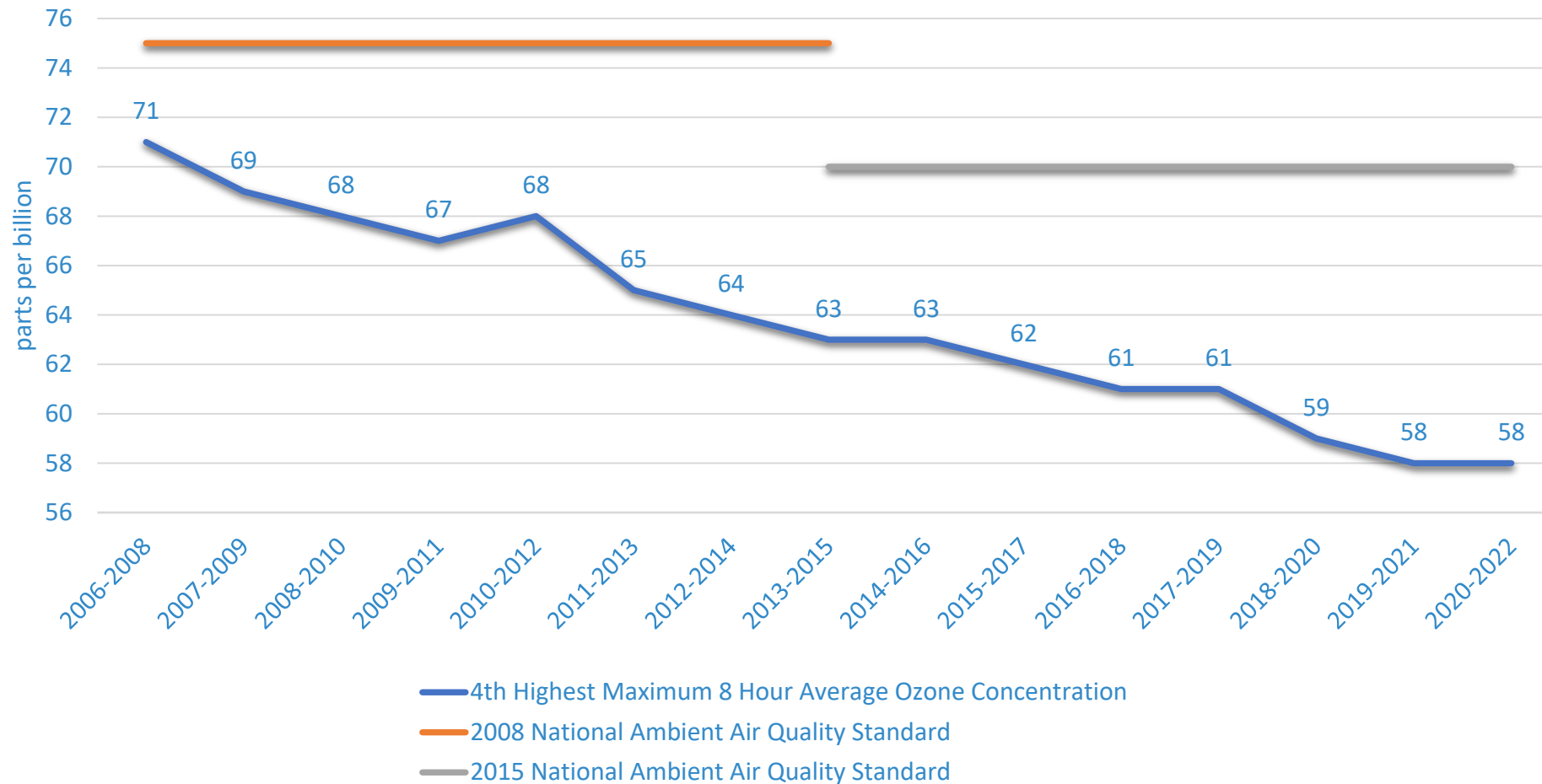


Nasal Ranger



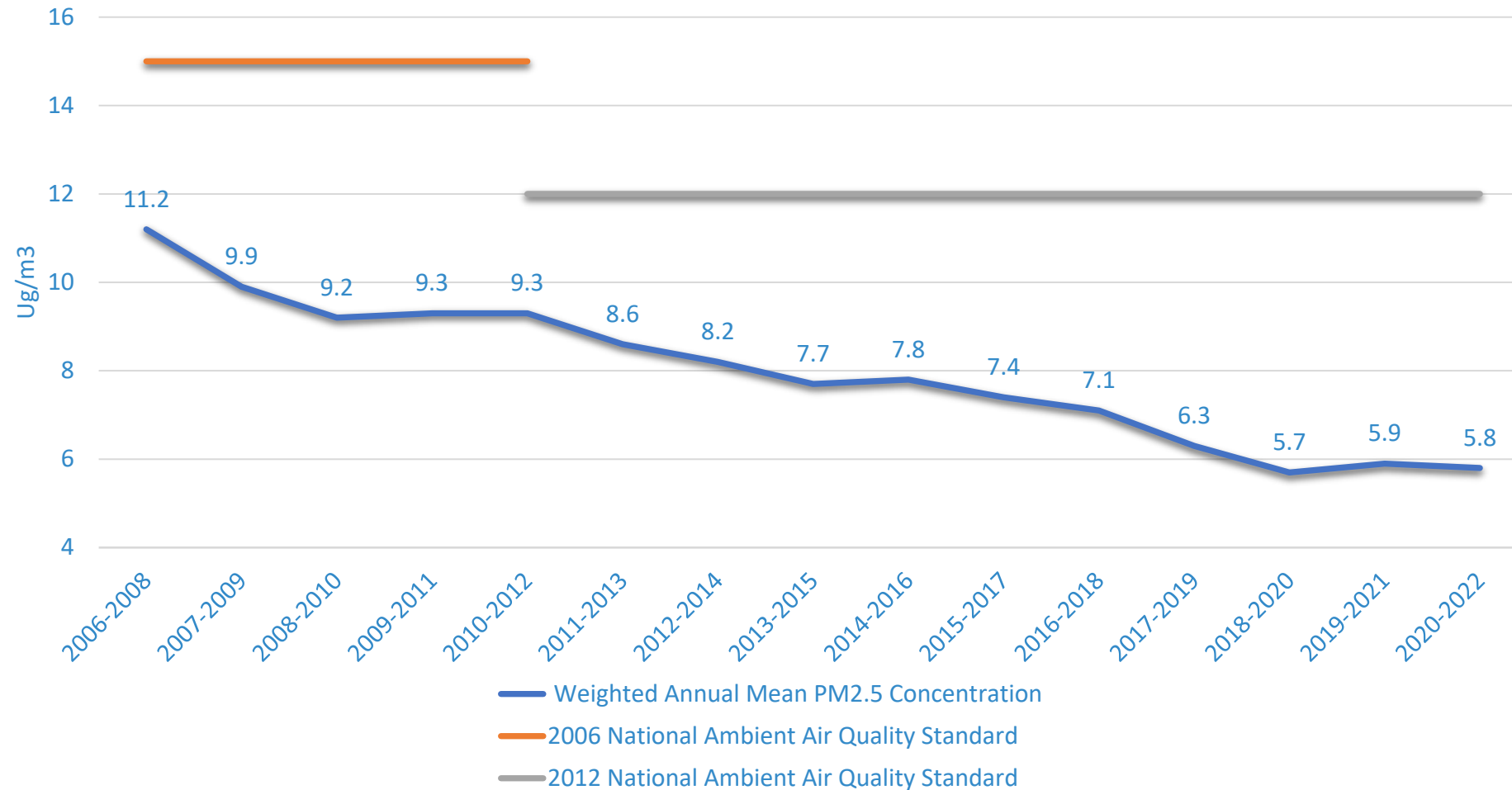
Ozone Levels in Buncombe County

Ozone 3-Year Design Values for Buncombe County



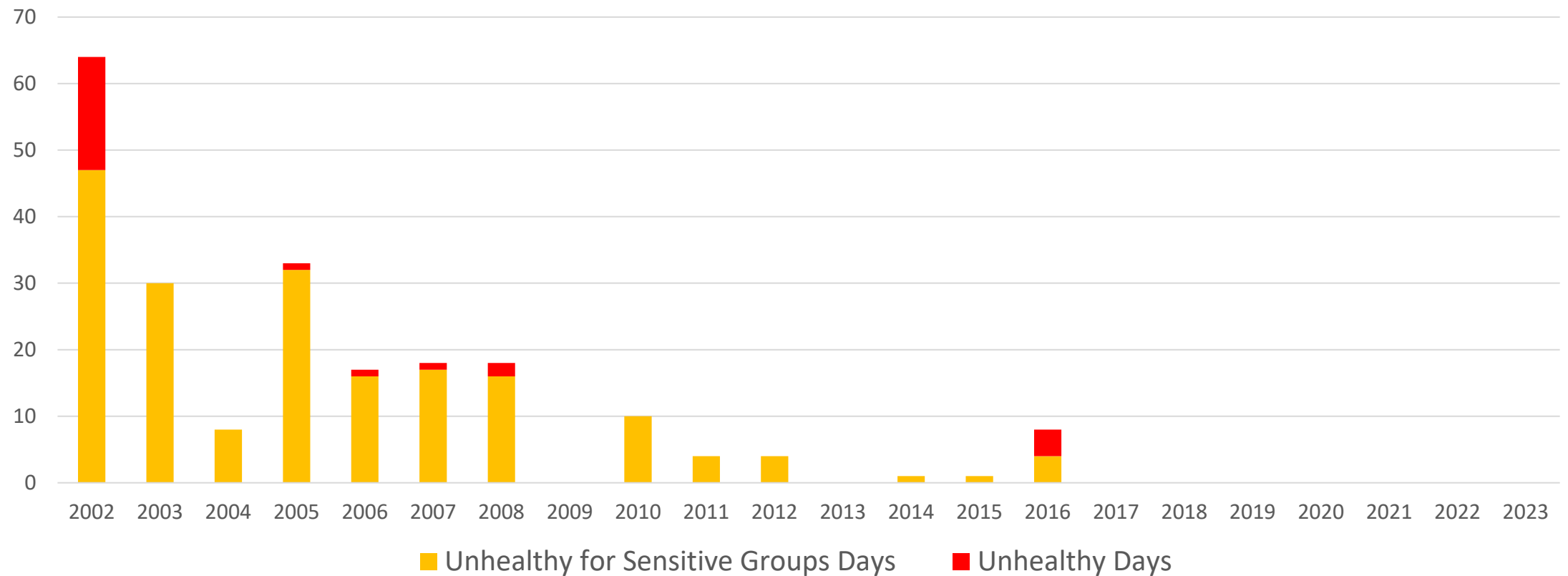
PM2.5 Levels in Buncombe County

PM2.5 3-Year Design Values for Buncombe County



Air Quality Unhealthy Days

Number of PM2.5 / O3 Unhealthy Days Per Year in Asheville CBSA



Asheville Board of Education PM Monitoring Site

Previous roof top site



New ground level site



Official Site Mascot

