



Mid-Atlantic Regional Air Management Association

*Collaboration for Better Air Quality
in the Mid-Atlantic Region*

The Challenge

The Mid-Atlantic Region faces some of the most difficult and severe air quality problems in the nation. Most of our metropolitan areas experience unhealthy levels of ozone every summer, adding to the stress heat and humidity cause for sensitive populations. High concentrations of fine particles in the air contribute to heart disease, lung problems, and early mortality. The toxic nature of some pollutants requires special attention.

These problems cannot be solved through local action alone. Metropolitan areas spread across many states. Rural and suburban areas downwind of cities are subject to some of the highest pollution. Coal burning power plants and other large pollution sources send pollution across state lines hundreds of miles downwind.

Regional collaboration results in a shared understanding of the causes of air pollution and builds a consensus on the best approach for resolving problems. Without regional collaboration, local controls are not enough.



Leadership

MARAMA is governed by an Executive Board consisting of the ten Air Directors from MARAMA member jurisdictions. The Board hires an Executive Director to manage operations and serve as the non-voting Board Secretary.

The Board is responsible for the financial health and policy direction of the Association. Board members review training plans quarterly and conduct an annual evaluation and strategic planning process to guide operations. The Board approves budgets, allocates funds for special projects, and seeks consensus on policy issues.

Vision

Our vision is that a common understanding of air pollution problems and controls, and improved public education and information will create a sound foundation for policies and regulations. Well-trained members will provide fair and consistent permits, enforcement, and compliance assistance. MARAMA Board members will create a clear and informed regional policy consensus.

Achievements

MARAMA has an outstanding training program that improves the skills of air quality inspectors and permit writers. MARAMA organizes short courses in various aspects of air pollution control using nationally recognized instructors to present course material developed by the US Environmental Protection Agency's Air Pollution Training Institute, the California Air Resources Board, various universities, including Rutgers University, the University of Cincinnati, and the University of Chicago, and other experts.

In addition, MARAMA organizes workshops, conferences, and meetings that bring together leading experts from state, local, and federal agencies, universities, and others. MARAMA members share ideas and successful approaches, learn from national experts, and engage in productive dialogues with EPA.

MARAMA also supports members' technical work. Working with a team from Delaware and West Virginia, MARAMA saved time and resources by developing software needed by all members to process air quality measurements. Under Pennsylvania's leadership, a MARAMA committee improved calculations of emissions



of air pollutants. In cooperation with the Northeast States for Coordinated Air Use Management (NESCAUM) MARAMA co-funded the development of a system for calculating ammonia emissions and taught members how to use it.

Future Issues

State and local agencies are facing a very severe budget crisis, but MARAMA members must meet many deadlines for implementing the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Ozone and Particulate Matter. A new "one atmosphere" approach to coordinate control strategies for ozone, particulate matter, and regional haze will increase demands on technical resources. Integrated information concerning air quality episodes must be presented to the public.

State and local agencies are being asked to do more monitoring of air toxics, and it is expected that new air monitoring methods for coarse particles will be phased in over the next few years.

In addition, developing and implementing emissions controls for air toxics will be increasingly important. Federal requirements for new major sources are changing, requiring state and local responses. States and local agencies must develop better emissions inventories.

Given this broad scope of new demands, the MARAMA Directors will focus regional resources to help members. MARAMA will emphasize training, data analysis, emissions inventory development, and public education, as well as helping members coordinate policies, plans, and regulations.

Funding

MARAMA's annual expenditures are approximately \$800,000.

Our members set aside resources from their federal Clean Air Act grants to support training, collaboration and workshops. In addition, our training program receives added support from a national program for state and local agencies under the Clean Air Act.

MARAMA's regional haze activities are supported by the Mid-Atlantic /Northeast Visibility Union (MANE-VU). MARAMA collaborates with OTC and NESCAUM to help states and tribes improve visibility.

MARAMA also receives funding from New York and New Jersey for regional emissions inventory improvements and funding from most members for fine particle forecasting and analysis.

An independent auditor reviews MARAMA's financial statements annually.

Current projects

The Board has initiated several projects:

- Improving information about emissions from refineries in the Philadelphia region,
- Developing methods and providing training for forecasting fine particulate air pollution in Baltimore, Bristol, Charlotte, Elizabeth/Newark, Philadelphia, Roanoke, Richmond, Washington, and Wilmington,
- Conducting a survey of wood burning activity throughout the Northeast and northern Mid-Atlantic Region,
- Preparing information to be used in modeling impacts on the Brigantine Wilderness in New Jersey,
- Summarizing recent results in air quality research, and
- Analyzing data from Shenandoah National Park, VA; Lye Brook Wilderness, VT; the Boundary Waters Canoe Area, MN; and Washington, DC to identify sources contributing to regional haze.

Our web site provides a weekly regional summary of summertime ozone pollution, and information will be added on particulates.



MARAMA Staff members

Susan Wierman has been MARAMA's Executive Director since 1996. Previously she was Deputy Director of Maryland's air quality program. She has Bachelors and Masters degrees in Urban Planning from the University of Washington and a Certificate in Continuing Engineering Studies from the Johns Hopkins University.

Bill Gillespie joined MARAMA in December 2002 as a Sr. Environmental Scientist, having previously worked for the Ozone Transport Commission, the Manufacturers of Emission Control Equipment, and the US Department of Energy, among others. Bill has a BS in Chemistry from the College of William and Mary and graduate work in business at George Washington.

Serpil Kayin has been a Sr. Environmental Scientist with MARAMA since 1999. Serpil received a PhD from Imperial College in London for her work in dispersion modeling. Her BS is in Environmental Engineering. She taught and did consulting work in Turkey before coming to the US to do post doctoral research at Washington University in St. Louis.

Maria (Mia) Lueth has been an Administrative Assistant at MARAMA since December 2002. She has a BS in Animal Behavior and Psychology from Towson University.

Alice Lutrey, MARAMA's Training Coordinator and Office Manager, has been with the staff since 1998. Alice has a BS in Elementary Education from Salisbury State University and received a Certificate in Meeting Planning from Goucher College.

Susan Stephenson is an Air Quality Planner and MARAMA's Public Outreach Coordinator. She came to MARAMA in 2003, having previous experience with the Baltimore Metropolitan Council, the Center for Clean Air Policy, and others. She has a Bachelors of History from UMBC and an MA in Political Management from George Washington.



About MARAMA

The Mid-Atlantic Regional Air Management Association is a voluntary, non-profit association of ten state and local air pollution control agencies. MARAMA's mission is to strengthen the skills and capabilities of member agencies and to help them work together to prevent and reduce air pollution in the Mid-Atlantic Region.

MARAMA's ten members are New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia, the District of Columbia, Virginia, North Carolina, Philadelphia, and Allegheny County, Pennsylvania.

MARAMA provides cost-effective approaches to regional collaboration by pooling resources to develop and analyze data, share ideas, and train staff to implement common requirements.

MARAMA was formed in 1990 to help improve coordination on shared air quality problems.

Current Board Officers and Members ~ 2003

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Susan S.G. Wierman, Executive Director, Secretary (non-voting)



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