Air quality in the Denver Metro Region has significantly improved over the last 40 years with the number of poor air quality days decreasing by almost 90% from 1980 to 2019. However, the region is not currently meeting EPA Ozone standards.

Source: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Air Quality Data
Ozone is a harmful air pollutant because of its effects on people and the environment. Ozone is formed when nitrogen oxides (NOx) and volatile organic compounds (VOC) react in the presence of sunlight. The EPA has classified the Denver Metro Region as a serious ozone non-attainment area.

In 2017, the transportation sector was responsible for 49% of NOx and 21% of VOC emissions in the Denver Metro Region.