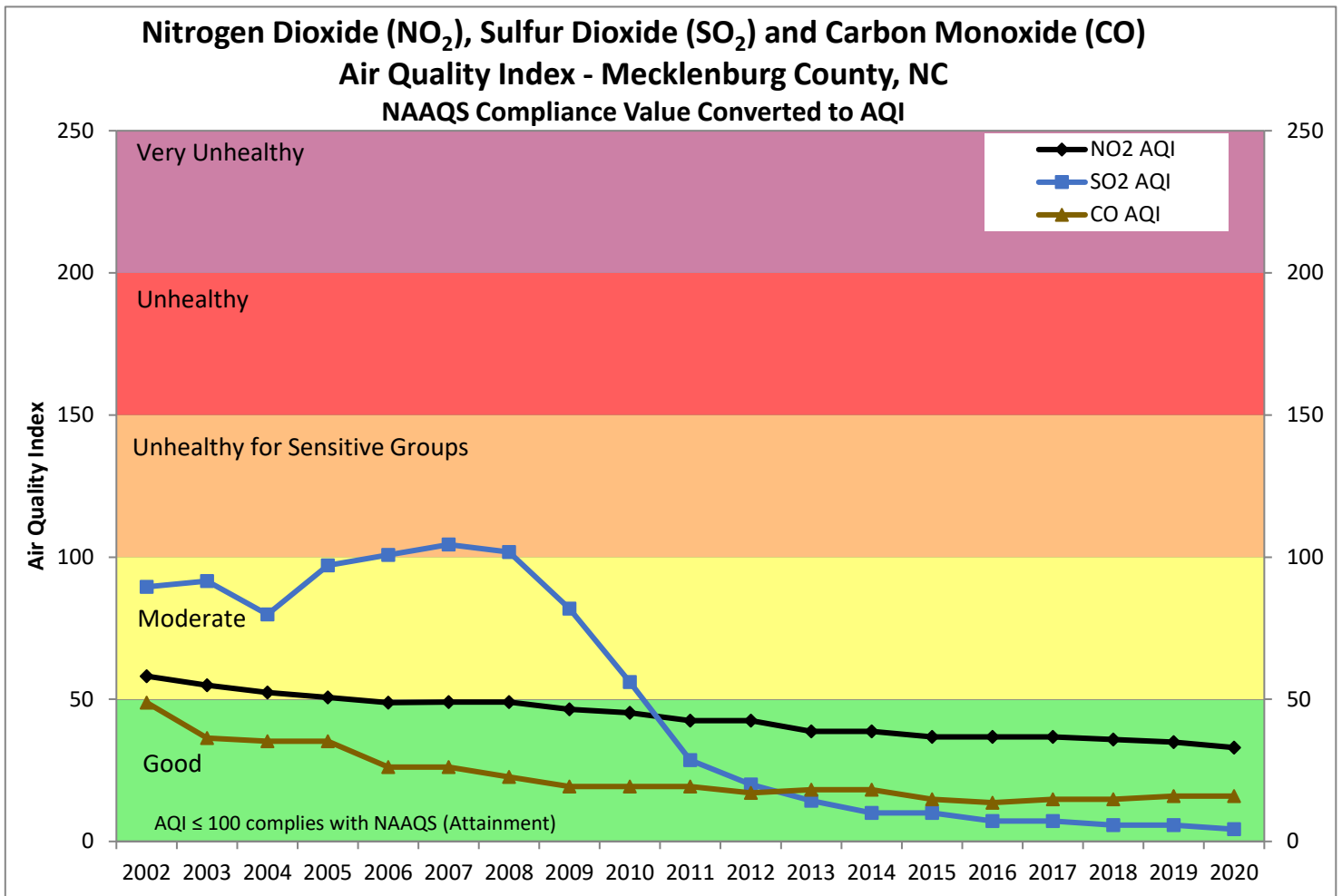




Mecklenburg County continues to meet federal, health-based standards for Nitrogen Dioxide, Sulfur Dioxide, and Carbon Monoxide.

Under the Clean Air Act, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has set National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) to protect human health from common outdoor pollutants. Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) is a highly reactive gas that forms from emissions from cars, trucks, power plants, and off-road equipment. Sulfur Dioxide (SO₂) is another highly reactive gas that forms from power plants, industrial sources, and non-road equipment that combust fossil fuels with high sulfur content. Acid rain is primarily caused by NO₂ and SO₂. Carbon Monoxide (CO) is a colorless, odorless gas that comes from mobile sources like cars and trucks. [Learn more about these pollutants.](#)



[Find out more about the color-coded Air Quality Index used in this graph.](#)

Downward trend in concentrations of NO₂ and SO₂ continues. Concentrations of CO have plateaued.

Mecklenburg County continues to demonstrate compliance with the NAAQS for NO₂, SO₂, and CO. Decreases in the concentration of these pollutants are due to federal regulation on vehicles and fuels and state regulations like the Clean Smokestacks Act, which drove the sharp decrease in SO₂ emissions shown in the graph above.