

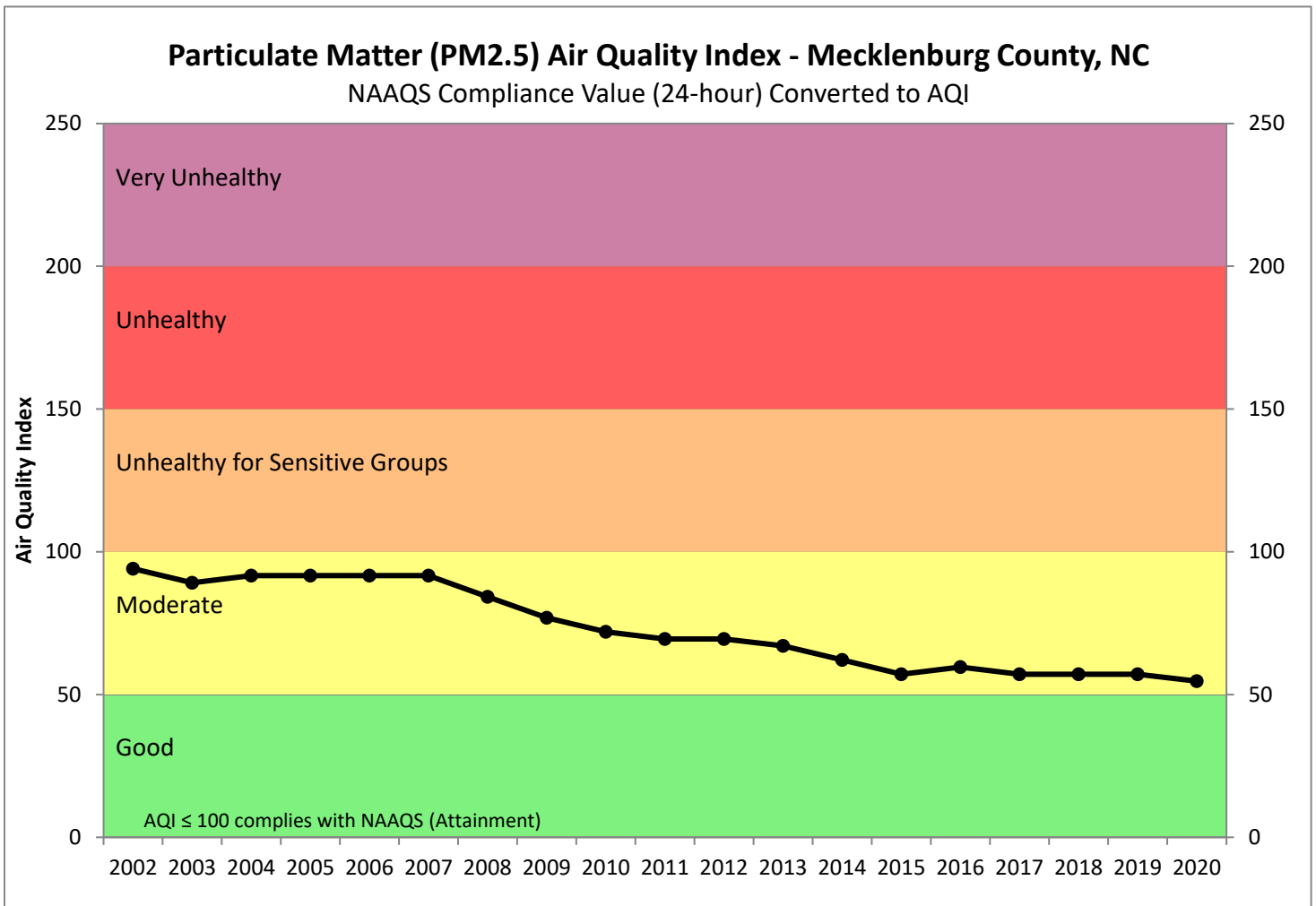


## Mecklenburg County continues to meet federal, health-based standards for Particulate Matter (PM)

Particulate Matter, also known as particle pollution or PM, is a mixture of extremely small particles and liquid droplets. Particles that are 10 micrometers or smaller in diameter are of particular concern because they can pass through the nose and throat and enter the lungs. As the size of particles are directly linked to their potential for causing health problems, the EPA groups particle pollution into two categories:

- **PM<sub>10</sub>** (diameter smaller than 10 micrometers) and
- **PM<sub>2.5</sub>** (diameter smaller than 2.5 micrometers).

Under the Clean Air Act, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has set protective health-based standards called National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for particulate matter in the air we breathe. [Learn more about particulate matter.](#)



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

### Downward trend in particulate matter concentrations continues.

Mecklenburg County continues to demonstrate compliance with the current NAAQS for PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub>.