

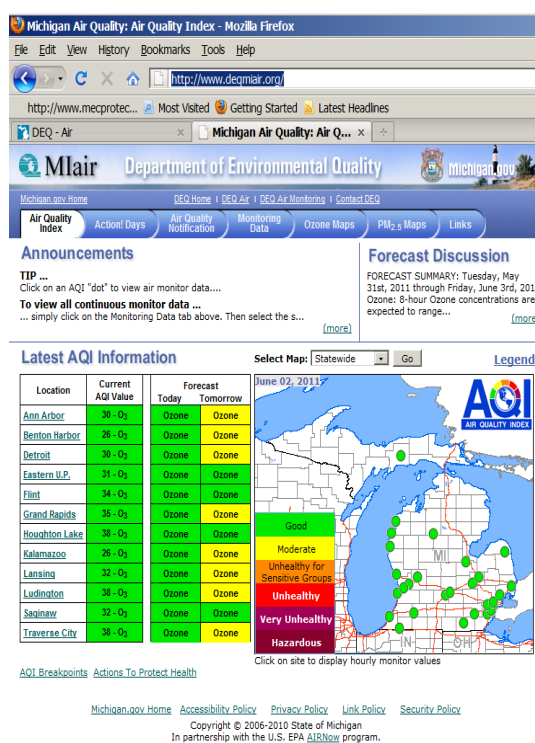


Accessing Air Quality Data from MDEQ and U.S. EPA

The two most useful web sites for finding out about air quality in Michigan are:
www.michigan.gov/deq and EPA's AIRNow at www.airnow.gov. Both provide “real-time” and historical data.
Here are some tips for using these sites.

Michigan Department of Environmental Quality

1. Go to www.michigan.gov/deq/ and click on “Air” in the left column.
2. This brings you to the MDEQ Air Quality Home page. There you will find links to all sorts of materials that relate to the MEECS Air Quality Unit. This is the place to look for air quality reports, air monitoring networks, updates to air quality standards, and DEQ publications.
3. Click on the MIAir icon that takes you to <http://www.deqmiar.org/>. You will see the latest AQI values and maps.



4. You can select a monitoring site and see what happens to the level of pollutants throughout the day. During ozone season, students can see the daily patterns of ozone formation and dissipation. They can compare them to particles (PM_{2.5}), which may remain at a constant level throughout the day.
5. This website periodically undergoes changes so make sure to visit it before doing online exercises with your students.



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

6. Go to www.airnow.gov/. As with the Michigan DEQ's air website, make sure that you check it before student use in case there have been any major changes in format. The U.S. EPA, NOAA, NPS, tribal, state, and local agencies developed the AIRNow Web site to provide the public with easy access to national air quality information. The Web site offers daily AQI forecasts as well as real-time AQI conditions for over 300 cities across the US, and provides links to more detailed State and local air quality Web sites.
7. You will see the national air quality forecast map. Clicking on "Today's Forecast" will provide more details. Click on "Current AQI" for a map of the actual AQI, which is also presented as an animation in another tab. "Current PM2.5" for a map of actual AQIs for particles and "Current Ozone" for current ozone information, if available. More specific information about a location can be found through a search by zip code or state.
8. The Quick Links section has links to general information about the AQI, the AQI student site, an AQI calculator, and many other resources.
9. There are links to visibility cameras where students can observe air quality conditions throughout the country.

Other U.S. EPA Sites

10. Go to <http://www.epa.gov/air/data/> to download maps of levels of air pollutants. Under "Reports and maps," you can select Michigan and find maps and files of where facilities and air emissions are. Search Your Community (<http://www.epa.gov/epahome/commsearch.htm>) has information on facilities with air permits.
11. To find the UV index for your area, go to www.epa.gov/sunwise/uvindex.html.
12. Note that U.S. EPA has global warming (<http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/>) and acid rain sites (<http://www.epa.gov/acidrain/>) especially for students. A basic site provides an overview of air quality (<http://www.epa.gov/air/urbanair/>).

