

# OP 2: Outdoor Air Quality

1 point available

## A. Credit Rationale

This credit recognizes institutions that are working to protect ecosystems and human health by minimizing atmospheric pollution and protecting outdoor air quality. Conducting an inventory of air emissions is helpful in determining compliance with international conventions and national regulations, identifying significant emissions, and acting to minimize those emissions.

## B. Criteria

### Part 1

Institution has written policies or guidelines to improve outdoor air quality and minimize air pollutant emissions from [mobile sources](#) on campus. Policies and/or guidelines may include prohibiting vehicle idling, restrictions on the use of powered lawn care equipment, and similar strategies.

Policies and guidelines that support cleaner and more fuel-efficient fleet vehicles and more sustainable commuting options are covered by credits in the Transportation subcategory.

Policies adopted by entities of which the institution is part (e.g., government or university system) may count for Part 1 of this credit as long as the policies apply to and are followed by the institution.

### Part 2

Institution has completed an inventory of [significant air emissions](#) from [stationary sources](#) on campus or else verified that no such emissions are produced. Significant emissions include nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>), sulfur oxides (SO<sub>x</sub>), and other standard categories of air emissions identified in environmental permits held by the institution, international conventions, and/or national laws or regulations.

## C. Applicability

This credit applies to all institutions.

## D. Scoring

Each part is scored independently.

### Part 1

Institutions earn the maximum of 0.5 points available for Part 1 of this credit for having policies or guidelines in place to improve outdoor air quality and minimize air pollutant emissions from mobile sources. Partial points are not available for Part 1 of this credit.

## Part 2

Institutions earn the maximum of 0.5 points available for Part 2 of this credit by having completed an inventory of significant air emissions from stationary campus sources or else verified that no such emissions are produced. Partial points are not available for Part 2 of this credit.

## E. Reporting Fields

### Required

- ☐ Does the institution have policies and/or guidelines in place to improve outdoor air quality and minimize air pollutant emissions from mobile sources on campus (e.g., prohibiting vehicle idling, restrictions on the use of powered lawn care equipment, and similar strategies for minimizing on-site mobile emissions)?

*If yes, provide:*

- ☐ A brief description of the policies and/or guidelines to improve outdoor air quality and minimize air pollutant emissions from on-site mobile sources
- ☐ Has the institution completed an inventory of significant air emissions from stationary campus sources or else verified that no such emissions are produced?

*If yes, provide the following:*

- ☐ Weight of emissions (short tons/tonnes) for:
    - Nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>)
    - Sulfur Oxides (SO<sub>x</sub>)
    - Carbon monoxide (CO)
    - Particulate matter (PM)
    - Ozone (O<sub>3</sub>)
    - Lead (Pb)
    - Hazardous air pollutants (HAPs)
    - Ozone-depleting compounds (ODCs)
    - Other standard categories of air emissions identified in permits and/or regulations
  - ☐ A brief description of the methodology(ies) the institution used to complete its air [emissions inventory](#)

### Optional

- ☐ The website URL where information about the programs or initiatives is available
- ☐ Additional documentation to support the submission (upload)
- ☐ Data source(s) and notes about the submission
- ☐ Contact information for a responsible party (a staff member, faculty member, or administrator who can respond to questions regarding the data once it is submitted and available to the public)

## F. Measurement

### Timeframe

### *Part 1*

Report on current programs, policies and practices at the time of submission.

### *Part 2*

Report inventories of annual emissions completed or updated within the three years prior to the anticipated date of submission.

## Sampling and Data Standards

### *Part 1*

Not applicable

### *Part 2*

To the extent possible, report all significant air emissions generated by stationary sources within the institutional boundary when reporting for this credit. There are a number of methodologies for measuring air emissions, including direct measurement, calculation based on site-specific data and/or published criteria, and estimation (see for example, U.S. EPA document [AP-42](#) and [tools](#)). If data for all sources and/or an entire year are not available, institutions may use representative samples.

## G. Standards and Terms

### **Emissions inventory**

An emissions inventory is a list of emissions sources and estimates of emissions from these sources.

### **Mobile sources**

Mobile sources of air pollutants includes emissions from cars, buses, car, tractor engines, lawn care equipment, and other motor vehicles, engines and equipment that can be moved from one location to another.

### **Significant air emissions**

Significant air emissions include sources that are regulated under international conventions and/or national laws or regulations, including those listed on environmental permits for the institution's operations. For example, according to the [Environmental Resource Center for Higher Education](#), campus operations that are regulated under the various programs of the U.S. Clean Air Act, or that may produce regulated emissions, include:

- Boilers, emergency generators, and other combustion sources
- Bakeries
- Paint booths
- Book preservation operations
- Degreasing operations
- Petroleum storage tanks
- Art studios and other production facilities
- Chillers and HVAC equipment
- Wastewater treatment plants
- Swimming pools disinfected with chlorine gas

- Ammonia refrigeration plants
- Offsite waste and recovery operations (OSWROs)
- Hospital/medical/infectious waste incinerators (HMIWIs)
- Publicly owned treatment works (POTWs)
- Pharmaceuticals production
- Printing/publishing

**Stationary sources**

Stationary sources of air pollutant emissions include boilers, furnaces, generators and other significant, non-moving sources of air emissions. (Generators are considered to be stationary sources, even though they may be portable).