



NASA Air Quality Applied Sciences Team
Earth Science Serving Air Quality Management Needs



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AQAST Air Quality User's Guide Published in Atmospheric Environment

Guide will help air quality managers take full advantage of satellite data and applications

MADISON – A collaborative effort by several members of NASA's Air Quality Applied Sciences Team (AQAST) has produced a comprehensive guide for air quality managers that has been accepted for publication in the peer-reviewed journal Atmospheric Environment.

The motivation for the guide is that many air quality managers are not taking full advantage of satellite data for their applications nor has the potential of satellite data for air quality applications been fully realized. AQAST recognizes that a key barrier is the inherent difficulties associated with accessing, processing, and properly interpreting data retrieved from satellite instruments. A degree of technical skill is required, which is often problematic for air quality agencies with limited resources.

The AQAST user's guide will support local, state and federal air quality agencies by:

- Reviewing the primary uses of satellite data for air quality applications
- Providing information on satellite capabilities for measuring pollutants
- Discussing the many resources available to the end-user for accessing, processing, and visualizing satellite data
- Providing answers to common questions in plain language

Applications detailed in the guide include, estimating emissions from stationary and mobile sources, tracking plumes of pollution, supporting air quality forecasting activities, providing evidence for "exceptional event" declarations, monitoring regional long-term trends, and evaluating the performance of air quality models.

An electronic version of the AQAST Air Quality User's Guide can be accessed [here](#). AQAST members who contributed to the guide include Bryan Duncan, Arlene Fiore, Jack Fishman, Daven Henze, Pius Lee, Meiyun Lin, Yang Liu, Gabrielle Pfister, Brad Pierce, and David Streets.

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NASA Air Quality Applied Sciences Team, a nationwide collaborative research team, serves the needs of air quality managers in the United States by analyzing a variety of NASA satellite data, models and suborbital platforms on the ground. Created in 2011 by NASA's Applied Sciences Program, AQAST is made up of 19 of the top minds in all fields of air quality science and strives to inform air quality managers and provide high-quality resources for the press and public. Contact Dr. Tracey Holloway in her office at (617)-495-1794 or go to www.aqast.org or www.aqast-media.org.