

NARSTO

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Summary

The NARSTO mission is to plan, coordinate, and facilitate comprehensive, long-term, policy-relevant scientific research and assessment of ozone and fine particulate behavior in the troposphere over the North American continent. To accomplish this mission, NARSTO provides a cross-organization planning process that determines the most effective strategies for scientific investigation, and establishes and maintains effective communication channels with the policy, control technology, and health and ecological effects communities.

NARSTO membership spans both the public and private sectors through out North America. Canadian and Mexican air quality researchers work side by side with USA scientist, sharing the common goal of understanding and controlling excessive air pollution in all three countries. Air pollution knows no boundaries and international cooperation is essential.

The central programmatic goal of NARSTO is to provide good scientific data and information for use in the determination of workable, efficient, and effective strategies for local and regional ozone and fine particulate management. Quality assurance and data management assistance and guidelines are available to all NARSTO research planners, project managers, and principal investigators through the NARSTO Quality Systems Science Center located at Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

In October 2000 the NARSTO State-of-Science Ozone Assessment report was issued and addresses specific science and policy questions. The NARSTO Assessment Synthesis Team has based its writings on 18 critical review papers commissioned from recognized experts in the related fields. The science and policy questions and the critical review topics were developed out of workshops facilitated by the NARSTO Analysis and Assessment Team.

The NARSTO Executive Steering Committee has recently endorsed a plan for the preparation of a Particulate Matter Science Assessment report to be completed in 2002. It is envisaged to focus on exploring the state of science relevant to air quality management issues for reduction in ambient fine particulate concentrations.