

**2018-2019 BUDGET QUESTION**  
***Response to Request for Information***

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**DEPARTMENT:** Management Services – Sustainability and Austin Transportation

**REQUEST NO.:** 198

**REQUESTED BY:** Kitchen

**DATE REQUESTED:** 9/6/18

**DATE POSTED:** 9/10/18

**REQUEST:** Has the Austin Transportation Department (ATD) and the Office of Sustainability reviewed any and all potential benefits from combining the Air Quality Program with the Climate Protection Program related to improving air quality and finding efficiencies to reduce their overall budgets?

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**RESPONSE:**

An internal assessment of the Air Quality Program took place last month and recommendations for program improvements are being prepared for review by the City Manager's Office (CMO). Austin Transportation and Office of Sustainability staff have consistently coordinated and collaborated on air quality related policy and programming and will continue to do so in the future. Because any changes to these programs are pending further discussions and review by CMO, we cannot identify efficiencies in funding reductions at this time.

It is important to note that existing air quality initiatives and Federal Air Quality standards focus on ozone and its related respiratory health impacts, while climate initiatives focus on greenhouse gas emissions that cause global warming. While related, there are significant differences between the policies and programs related to each, which would most likely represent challenges in finding budget efficiency reductions.

As we move forward with identifying and implementing program improvements, we will continue to look for opportunities to improve the effectiveness of these important programs.