

How *Early Action Compacts* work:

- ▶ *Early Action Compacts* give certain local areas the flexibility to develop their own approach to meeting the 8-hour ozone standard, provided the communities control emissions from local sources earlier than the Clean Air Act would otherwise require.
- ▶ Only areas that are already meeting the national 1-hour ozone standard are eligible for this program because EPA wants to ensure that the communities participating have a proven record of environmental progress.
- ▶ The *Early Action Compact* requires areas to meet several milestones to be eligible for a deferral of the effective date of the 8-hour ozone designation.
- ▶ In order to qualify for a deferred effective date for nonattainment designation, States, Tribes or local areas must have submitted to EPA a complete compact agreement by December 31, 2002. The area must meet a number of milestones that include a demonstration that the area can attain the 8-hour standard earlier, adoption of local control measures, and showing progress toward attainment.
- ▶ Deferral of the impact of the nonattainment date is predicated upon meeting all subsequent milestones.
- ▶ *Early Action Compacts* were signed by representatives of the local communities, State and Tribal air quality officials, and EPA Regional Administrators.