



AIR CURRENTS

Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee Newsletter (Winter 2008)

MWAQC Elects David Snyder as Board Chair

David Snyder, Council Member, City of Falls Church, was elected as the 2008 Chair of MWAQC at the December 12 meeting.

Mr. Snyder has served as Mayor and Vice Mayor of the City of Falls Church, having been elected to four terms on the City Council, most recently in May 2006. In July 2004, he was elected Chairman of the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority. He has been Vice President of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments.

In December MWAQC also elected two Vice Chairs: Leta Mach, Council Member, City of Greenbelt; and Phil Mendelson, Council Member, District of Columbia.



David Snyder

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Fine Particle Air Quality Plan Released for Public Comment

The Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC) has approved for public comment an air quality plan to reduce fine particle pollution in the region. Fine particle pollution is a mixture of microscopic solids and liquid droplets suspended in air. At 2.5 microns in diameter, the small particles can get deep into lungs and even the bloodstream. People with heart or lung disease, older adults and children are at greater risk from this type of pollution.

Levels of fine particle pollution have been declining in the region since 2005, and under the regional plan released for public comment, fine particle pollution levels are expected to continue to decrease. While levels of fine particles in the region actually meet the current EPA national standard, MWAQC decided to issue a more stringent plan than required because several states, including Maryland and the District of Columbia, have challenged the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on the standard, arguing that it is not protective enough of public health.

"Even though the region has complied with EPA's existing annual fine particle standard, MWAQC has prepared a plan to further reduce levels of fine particle pollution by 2009," said Montgomery County Council Member Nancy Floreen.

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Fine Particle Air Quality Plan

(continued from page 1)

“Through wind purchases and green buildings, improving energy efficiency, and increasing tree canopy in the region, local governments are helping to reduce fine particle pollution even further.”

Measures included in the region’s ozone plan released earlier this year will also reduce levels of fine particles in next three years. States in the region are adopting the Clean Air Interstate Rule (in Maryland, the “Healthy Air Act”) that will reduce pollution from power plants. The state rules will reduce sulfur dioxide, a major component of fine particles, from power plants by 80% starting in 2010. Cleaner car and truck engine technology and low sulfur fuel will also reduce fine particles.

The states announced the 30-day public comment period on December 28; public hearings will be held in the region on January 29, January 30, and February 11, 2008. *(see side bar for details)*

The plan will be available on the COG website at:

<http://sharepoint.mwcog.org/airquality/Shared%20Documents/Forms/AllItems.aspx>

For further information see www.mwcog.org/environment/air

Fine Particle Plan Public Hearing Dates

Virginia

January 29, 2008
7:00 pm
George Mason High School
7124 Leesburg Pike
Falls Church, VA

Maryland

January 30, 2008
6:00 pm
MNCPPC
1st Floor Auditorium
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, MD

District of Columbia

February 11, 2008
6:00 pm
DC Dept of the Environment
51 N Street, NE
6th Floor
Washington, DC

Department of Energy Grant

COG, in collaboration with the Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals, and Energy, and the State Energy and Environment Offices in Maryland and the District, has been awarded a 2-year \$100,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Energy to develop protocols to assist government agencies and others to measure and verify energy savings associated with programs focused on increasing energy efficiency and renewable energy purchases.

The project will involve identifying programs in the region such as Green Buildings and Renewable Portfolio Standards for evaluation. A methodology will be developed to calculate the program benefits in terms of greenhouse gas reductions. Outreach and training materials, including guidelines, will be developed for future use in program evaluation.



Green roofs increase energy efficiency and help to reduce air pollution.

New CAFE Standards Passed



In December, President Bush signed the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007. The bill includes a national vehicle fuel economy standard for cars and light trucks of 35 miles per gallon by 2020.

The new CAFE standards are expected to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) in the Washington area 13.5% by 2020 and 21.8% by 2030.

What is CAFE?

- Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) is the average fuel economy, expressed in miles per gallon (mpg), of a manufacturer's fleet of passenger cars or light trucks.

What is the origin of CAFE?

- The "Energy Policy Conservation Act," enacted into law by Congress in 1975, added Title V, "Improving Automotive Efficiency," to the Motor Vehicle Information and Cost Savings Act and established CAFE standards for passenger cars and light trucks.

Who classifies vehicles for the purpose of CAFE?

- Authority to establish vehicle classifications for the purposes of calculating CAFE was delegated to National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).

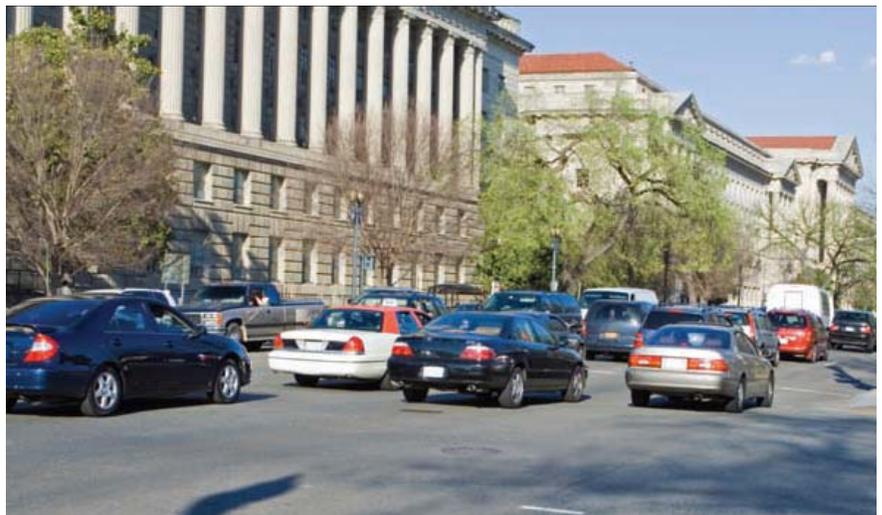
Are any vehicles exempt from CAFE standards?

- Light trucks that exceed 8,500 lbs gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) do not have to comply with CAFE standards. These vehicles include pickup trucks, sport utility vehicles and large vans.

For more information on CAFE standards visit the [NHTSA web site](http://www.nhtsa.gov) (www.nhtsa.gov).

Clean Car Bills in the Region Delayed by EPA Action

Maryland recently joined with 14 other states in California's lawsuit against EPA for denying California's request for a waiver of federal preemption to enforce the state's motor vehicle greenhouse gas emission standards. On December 17, 2007, EPA Administrator Stephen Johnson announced his decision to deny California's request. EPA's decision was at least partly based on the signing of stronger Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) legislation into law, raising the national fuel standard to 35 miles per gallon by 2020, the first significant change in federal CAFE standards since adopted in 1975. In 2004 California adopted legislation, "CAL LEV II," that would require a 43 mile per gallon efficiency for passenger cars and light trucks and 27 miles per gallon for heavy trucks.



Last year the Maryland legislature approved Clean Car legislation which follows the CAL LEV II standards. In January the Council of the District of Columbia is planning to approve similar legislation. The implementation of these standards will be delayed by EPA's action and the ensuing litigation.

California is currently the only state that can set its own air pollution standards; though other states may follow once it has done so. To qualify, California must set standards at least as stringent as federal ones, and receive a waiver from the EPA. The Clean Air Act of 1990 allows other states to adopt the CAL LEV II standards, provided that California gets the waiver. Such widespread adoption strengthens the law's potential to combat climate change. So far, 16 other states representing almost half of the U.S. population have adopted or announced plans to adopt the regulations: Arizona, New Mexico, New York, Colorado, Oregon, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Florida, Rhode Island, Maine, Utah, Maryland, Vermont, Massachusetts, Washington, and New Jersey.

Clean Air Partners Celebrates its Decade Long Commitment to Clean Air

Clean Air Partners commemorated its 10-Year Anniversary by dedicating a cherry tree along the Washington, DC tidal basin. Members from across the Metropolitan Washington-Baltimore region recognized 10-years of commitment to clean air at an event held at the Franklin D. Roosevelt Memorial.

"Clean Air Partners celebrates the achievements we've made to improve our region's air quality," said Tracye Funn, Chair, Clean Air Partners and Manager of Public Affairs for Washington Gas. "As a group, we have been working toward improving air quality in our region for over 10 years. Our year-round public outreach program has successfully educated the public on air pollution and promoted voluntary actions to help clean the air."

During the event, Clean Air Partners recognized the many accomplishments of the organization including the introduction of the color-coded air quality maps, successful radio campaigns that educated the public on poor air quality, increasing membership to more than 1000 individuals and businesses receiving daily AirAlerts, and launching a school-based air quality curriculum.

"This tree confirms our commitment to continue that work," said Gary Allen, Executive Director, Center for Chesapeake Communities and Clean Air Partners Board Member. "As it

matures it will be a reminder to all who pass by that an organization exists and is working to alert citizens to their personal responsibility to make healthy choices for their own quality of life."



Clean Air Partners dedicates a cherry tree in honor of 10 years of achievements.

From left to right: Stuart Freudberg, Justin Vick, Harriet West, Tracye Funn, Russ Ulrich, Gary Allen, and Peggy O'Dell

The National Park Service established the Cherry Tree Replacement Fund to provide for the replacement and maintenance of the cherry trees. Donations are accepted for cherry trees, in the name of individuals or organizations, for the Greater Washington National Parks.

Visit the [Cherry Tree Replacement Fund](http://www.nps.gov/nama/planyourvisit/cherry-tree-replacement-fund.htm) web site to find out how you can become a donor. (www.nps.gov/nama/planyourvisit/cherry-tree-replacement-fund.htm)

For further information about Clean Air Partners, check the web site at cleanairpartners.net or call Jen Desimone, at 202-962-3360.

MWAQC Appoints New Stakeholders

Diane Franks, Chair, MWAQC Technical Advisory Committee, has made appointments to fill four "stakeholder" positions on the committee. Stakeholders are nonvoting members of the Technical Advisory Committee and serve until the end of the calendar year.

2008 Stakeholders

Flint Webb,
Member, Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Association Stakeholder, 2005, 2006, and 2007. Mr. Webb is also a consultant with SAIC. Mr. Webb has over 25 years of experience in engineering, including 10 years managing environmental projects with interdisciplinary teams of professionals.

John Kinsman,
Director of Air Quality Programs, Edison Electric Institute
Mr. Kinsman has been staff to EEI's member company Clean Air committee for ten years. He addresses the issues of multi-emission policy, acid rain, ozone, particulate matter, visibility, mercury and greenhouse gases.

Candice Gay,
DOD Region III Regional Environmental Coordinator's Office
As a new member, Ms. Gay is an environmental engineer who has worked in the environmental field since 2000. She is the legislative and regulatory analyst for Region 3 Dept. of Defense Regional Environmental Coordinator's Office.

Walter N. Seedlock,
Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority
Mr. Seedlock is the building code and environmental manager for the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority and as such develops policies for compliance with a variety of environmental regulations, both state and federal.

AQPAC Updates

The Air Quality Public Advisory Committee had a productive year in 2007. Highlights include:

February-April: AQPAC reviewed the proposed 8-hour ozone SIP and provided input to MWAQC.

March: AQPAC submitted a letter to COG strongly recommending that MWAQC actively engage itself in the issues of climate change and greenhouse gas emissions. COG has since initiated a Climate Change Steering Committee.

Sept-Oct: AQPAC edited a new brochure about fine particles: "Improving Air Quality: Particles."

October : Representatives from the Urban Protectors League discussed problems with the Benning Road Pepco station in the River Terrace Community; AQPAC requested MWAQC's support of the issue.

November: AQPAC hosted its second Town Meeting, "Particle Pollution and Climate Change: Integrated Strategies". Experts discussed ways to reduce greenhouse gases and particle pollution. A student from Thomas Jefferson High School in Alexandria, reported on environmental initiatives at his school, including installing solar panels.

AQPAC has several membership openings to represent the residents of rural Virginia, urban Virginia, rural Maryland, and the District of Columbia, as well as openings to represent a business/industry and an environmental/health organization.

If you're interested in local air quality issues and want to have a voice in the local policy process, we would be interested in hearing from you.

To apply please contact the AQPAC Chair, Jill Engel-Cox, at jengelc1@umbc.edu.

2007 Ozone Season: Progress is Being Made

A great deal of progress has been made in improving the air quality in the Washington area. Code red days are quickly becoming a thing of the past, and recent trends are showing steady improvement toward meeting the 8-hour ozone standard.

Below is the season calendar that shows the ozone color code for each day of last summer. Orange, red and purple colors indicate that the health standard has been exceeded. Despite 15 code orange days and 1 code red day, the season compared favorably with past ozone seasons. The summer of 2007 was hotter than 2006, yet the region experienced fewer unhealthy days for ozone as the previous year, 2006.

MAY

| Sun | Mon | Tues | Wed | Thurs | Fri | Sat |
|-----|-----|------|-----|-------|-----|-----|
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| | | 68 | 66 | 46 | 56 | 57 |
| 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 53 | 51 | 62 | 51 | 48 | 72 | 75 |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 54 | 59 | 73 | 63 | 49 | 35 | 59 |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 66 | 54 | 78 | 71 | 72 | 80 | 91 |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | |
| 73 | 70 | 82 | 89 | 86 | | |

JUNE

| Sun | Mon | Tues | Wed | Thurs | Fri | Sat |
|-----|-----|------|-----|-------|-----|-----|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| | | | | | 80 | 75 |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 34 | 51 | 53 | 50 | 83 | 81 | 68 |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 60 | 71 | 56 | 54 | 37 | 48 | 57 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 69 | 100 | 88 | 59 | 75 | 52 | 57 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 72 | 74 | 83 | 81 | 67 | 43 | 69 |

JULY

| Sun | Mon | Tues | Wed | Thurs | Fri | Sat |
|-----|-----|------|-----|-------|-----|-----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 50 | 54 | 62 | 60 | 50 | 66 | 78 |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 71 | 89 | 70 | 57 | 59 | 63 | 65 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 63 | 80 | 95 | 66 | 56 | 61 | 47 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 50 | 59 | 68 | 68 | 82 | 67 | 88 |
| 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | |
| 60 | 65 | 78 | | | | |

AUGUST

| Sun | Mon | Tues | Wed | Thurs | Fri | Sat |
|-----|-----|------|-----|-------|-----|-----|
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| | | | 85 | 91 | 83 | 110 |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 82 | 72 | 91 | 73 | 71 | 68 | 60 |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 74 | 76 | 77 | 85 | 76 | 81 | 51 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 50 | 41 | 27 | 24 | 34 | 70 | 88 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | |
| 62 | 60 | 73 | 66 | 78 | 65 | |

SEPTEMBER

| Sun | Mon | Tues | Wed | Thurs | Fri | Sat |
|-----|-----|------|-----|-------|-----|-----|
| | | | | | | 1 |
| | | | | | | 51 |
| 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 66 | 67 | 79 | 88 | 79 | 82 | 75 |
| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 50 | 73 | 37 | 57 | 65 | 56 | 34 |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 36 | 44 | 51 | 45 | 57 | 53 | 46 |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 62 | 60 | 86 | 84 | 75 | 50 | 43 |
| 30 | | | | | | |
| 57 | | | | | | |

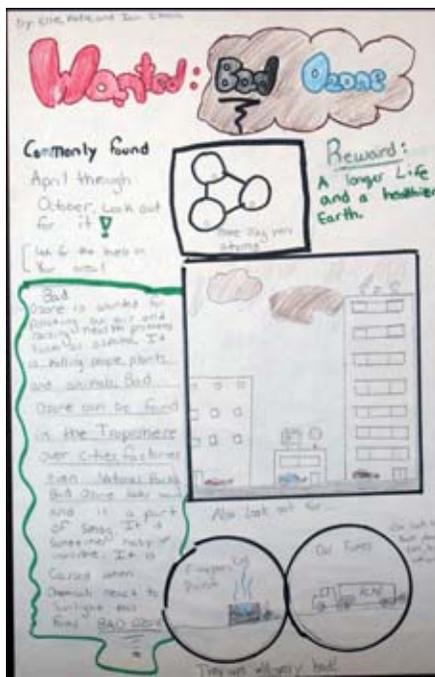


"On the Air" Education Curriculum and Outreach

Clean Air Partners is proud to announce the completion of *"On the Air: Exploring Air Pollution Source and Solutions,"* an interactive curriculum developed for use by sixth-grade science teachers and their students.

On the Air engages students in the exploration of their environment as they study important air pollution topics such as criteria air pollutants, the Air Quality Index, particulate matter and ozone, the health effects of air pollution, community sources of air pollution and solutions, and climate change.

The lesson plans present basic science concepts as well as math, technology, social studies, language arts, and health education standards. *On the Air* is unique in that the examples used to teach these concepts include local data, examples, and issues specifically relevant to the Baltimore-Washington metropolitan region. The curriculum is tied to and cross-referenced with each state's education standards and, most importantly, it is relevant, fun, and engaging for students!



The curriculum, which was developed by the [Environmental Education Exchange](http://eeexchange.org) (eeexchange.org), was piloted earlier this year with 15 teachers at 7 schools in the District of Columbia, Maryland, and northern Virginia. The 90-minute outreach component (a condensed version of the full curriculum) was also developed and will be used at camps, summer schools, and other student groups.

Rebecca Davis joined Clean Air Partners as its new education outreach coordinator. "We are delighted to have Rebecca Davis on board to help us disseminate *On the Air* throughout the region and conduct our outreach program," said Harriet West, Managing Director of Clean Air Partners. "Rebecca brings a wealth of education and experience to this program that will take *On the Air* to the next level," she added.

To schedule the use of the *On the Air* curriculum or outreach presentation, contact Rebecca Davis rdavis@cleanairpartners.net or 703-340-6875.

Climate Change Steering Committee

On April 11, 2007, the [COG Board of Directors](#) created the interdisciplinary "Climate Change Steering Committee" to advise the Board on the development of a regional climate change program.

Elements of the regional climate change program to be considered by the steering committee include:

- Preparing a catalogue of greenhouse gas reduction activities already underway in the region.
- Preparing an inventory of greenhouse gas emissions in the region and the establishment of a regional greenhouse gas reduction goal or target based on an appropriate baseline.
- Identification of specific activities and best practices to achieve greenhouse gas reduction and a method for measuring progress in meeting reduction targets.
- Examination of local impacts of climate change on the Washington region.
- Examination of the feasibility of establishing a carbon offset fund, or other appropriate carbon reduction funding mechanism, for the Washington region.
- Recommendations on regional climate change policy and potential advocacy positions on federal, state and local climate change actions and proposals.

A draft greenhouse gas inventory for the region indicates that without new actions emissions by 2050 are expected to increase from 74 to more than 100 million metric tons. The largest sources of emissions in the region are electricity production and on-road transportation sources.

The CCSC will consider best practices to reduce emissions and possible regional reduction targets at its meetings in January and February. A report on the regional climate action plan is expected to be completed in April.



MWAQC Role

The Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC) is the entity certified by the mayor of the District of Columbia and the governors of Maryland and Virginia to prepare air quality plans for the DC-MD-VA Metropolitan Statistical Area under Section 174 of the federal Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990.

In executing its responsibilities, MWAQC coordinates air quality planning activities with the states and the Interstate Air Quality Council (IAQC), COG member local governments, other external committees, and the Transportation Planning Board; reviews policies; resolves policy differences; and adopts an air quality plan for transmittal to the IAQC and District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia for submittal to EPA.

2008 MWAQC Meeting Schedule

COG Board Room, 3rd Floor
12 p.m.— 2 p.m.

| | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|--|
| January 23, 2008 (CCSC*) | April 23, 2008 (CCSC*) | December 10, 2008 |
| February 27, 2008 (CCSC*) | May 28, 2008 | <i>*CCSC - Climate Change Steering Committee</i> |
| March 6, 2008 | July 23, 2008 | |
| March 26, 2008 (CCSC*) | October 22, 2008 | |

Air Quality Links

<http://www.mwcog.org/environment/air>

<http://www.cleanairpartners.net>

<http://www.epa.gov>

<http://www.airnow.gov>

<http://www.airquality.dc.gov>

<http://www.mde.state.md.us/air>

<http://www.deq.state.va.us/ozone>

COG's Air Quality Staff

Joan Rohlfs,
Chief, Air Quality Planning
jrohlfs@mwcog.org
202-962-3358

Sunil Kumar,
Senior Engineer, Modeling/Forecasting
skumar@mwcog.org
202-962-3244

Jeff King,
Air Quality Planner
jking@mwcog.org
202-962-3238

Jennifer Desimone,
Clean Air Partners Coordinator
jdesimone@mwcog.org
202-962-3360

Wyetha Lipford,
Administrative Assistant
wlipford@mwcog.org
202-962-3239

