

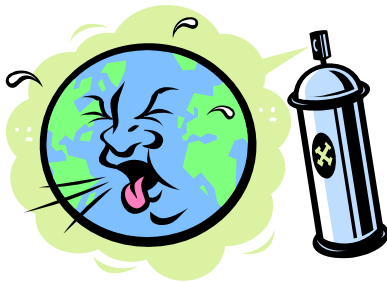
Air Quality

Volume 2, Issue 5

May 2008

Air Quality by N. Cooper

Ozone season starts May 1st for the Dallas-Fort Worth region! The season extends through October.



What is Ozone?

Ground level ozone, a component of smog, forms when emissions sources emit oxides of Nitrogen (NO_x) and Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) which react in the presence of sunlight. Examples of sources which emit NO_x are cars, trucks, marine vessels, construction equipment, power generation, industrial sources, and natural gas sources. Examples of sources which emit VOCs are gasoline stations, motor vehicles, airplanes, trains, and boats as well as petroleum storage tanks and oil refineries.



What are the Health Effects of Ozone?

Health effects from ozone include breathing complications, especially in young children and the elderly, and it exacerbates asthma.

What is the Current Ozone Standard?

The current ozone standard, which is set by the Environmental Protection Agency, is 85 parts per billion (ppb). An area violates the eight hour ozone standard when the 3-year average of each year's 4th highest reading at a monitor equals or exceeds 85 ppb.

Does the Dallas-Fort Worth Area Meet the Ozone Standard?

The Dallas Fort-Worth area currently exceeds the Environmental Protection Agency's 8 hour standard of 85 ppb. The area is classified as a non-attainment area and has until 2010 to meet the ozone standard. Mobile sources such as cars, trucks and airplanes comprise approximately 70 percent of the emissions in the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

If an area fails to meet the ozone standard then the Federal government can choose to impose financial consequences on the region including restrictions on federal highway funding.

What is a State Implementation Plan?

A State Implementation Plan (SIP) is a plan that sets control strategies for reducing emissions. The State environmental agency, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) is required to submit a plan to the Environmental Protection Agency to show how the Dallas-Fort Worth region is going to achieve the ozone standard.

On May 23, 2007, the TCEQ submitted the DFW SIP to the EPA. The EPA has until December 2008 to approve or disapprove the DFW SIP. The currently proposed SIP includes regulatory measures related to the following: reductions from power plants operating within the DFW region, requirements for reductions from cement kilns, reduction

from engines operating in East Texas and a variety of control measures for on-and off-road engines.

New Ozone Standard: On March 12, 2008 EPA proposed to lower the ozone standard to 75 PPB. This decision reflects new scientific evidence about ozone and its health effects. This tighter standard will force Dallas and other surrounding cities in our region to look for additional emissions reductions from our own operations as well as from community-wide sources.

What has the City of Dallas Done to Reduce Emissions?

Alternative Fuels: Convert fleet to run on alternative/cleaner fuels – 41% of the City's fleet is now alternative-fueled or hybrid. This includes natural gas, Bio-diesel and hybrid vehicles. All go a long way in reducing emissions of Nitrogen Oxide (NO_x).

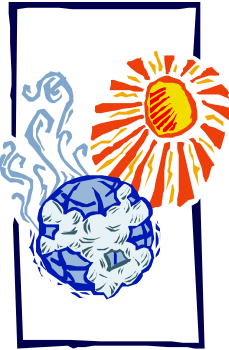


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Top 5 Ways To Clean the Air from www.greendallas.net

Tune-ups and tires. Keep your vehicle in tune, get it inspected, and check the air pressure in your tires. An under inflated tire will cause your vehicle to get poor gas mileage.

The payoff: You'll increase the life of your vehicle, get better gas mileage and clean the air at the same time. Proper tire inflation can reduce your car's emissions by as much as half.



Report smoking vehicles. Call #SMOKE. The North Central Texas Council of Governments will advise vehicle owners of possible emission problems they may not be aware of in order to take corrective action.

Share. Carpool or use public transportation.

The payoff: Fewer vehicles on the roads mean fewer emissions. You'll save a few bucks in gas and not have to search for a parking space.

Don't top off. Topping off the tank releases gas vapors in the air and cancels the benefit of the pump's anti pollution devices.

Wait 'til the P.M. Do not fuel your vehicle or mow your lawn during morning hours. Otherwise, all those emissions bake in the sun all day causing more ozone.



May Training Schedule

Please RSVP!!! If there are not at least 5 attendees the class will be canceled.

[Department of Transport \(DOT\) Requirements \(DOT 101\)](#)

Date: May 1, 2008
 Time: 2-5 pm
 Location: LIFN Conference Room C

[Underground Storage Tank \(UST\) Records \(TK 101B\)](#)

Date: May 8, 2008
 Time: 2-3 pm
 Location: LIFN Conference Room B

[Proper Spill Response \(SPL 103\)](#)

Date: May 8, 2008
 Time: 3-4 pm
 Location: LIFN Conference Room B

[Environmental Management System \(EMS\) Awareness \(EMS 101\)](#)

Date: May 15, 2008
 Time: 2-3 pm
 Location: LIFN Conference Room C

[Right-to-Know \(RTK 101\)](#)

Date: May 15, 2008
 Time: 3-4 pm
 Location: LIFN Conference Room C

[ISO Soft Non-Conformances \(ISO 102\)](#)

Date: May 19, 2008
 Time: 1-5 pm
 Location: Oak Cliff Municipal Center (OCMC) LL04

For more information about training classes or to RSVP please contact Meghna Tare at (214)-670-1200 or at meghna.tare@dallascityhall.com.

[Sustainable Landscaping Brown Bag Luncheon](#)

Date: May 20, 2008
 Time: 12:00-1:30 pm
 Location: LIFN Conference Room C

[Clean Water Act \(CWA 101\)](#)

Date: May 22, 2008
 Time: 10-11 am
 Location: LIFN Conference Room B

[Aboveground Storage Tank \(AST\) \(TK 102\)](#)

Date: May 22, 2008
 Time: 11 am-12 noon
 Location: LIFN Conference Room B

[Herbicide and Pesticide \(SPL 102\)](#)

Date: May 27, 2008
 Time: 10-11 am
 Location: LIFN Conference Room C

[Stage I and II Gasoline Vapor Recovery \(TK 103\)](#)

Date: May 22, 2008
 Time: 11 am-12 noon
 Location: LIFN Conference Room C

[Fire Code \(TK 202\)](#)

Date: May 28, 2008
 Time: 2-5 pm
 Location: LIFN Auditorium at City Hall

Class descriptions are also located on the OEQ Intranet site.



What Can City Employees do to Improve Air Quality?

1. Recycle
2. Replace Regular light bulbs with compact fluorescent light bulbs
3. Drive Less/Carpool
4. Buy energy efficient appliances with the “energy star” label
5. Make sure the dishwasher and washing machine are full before running them to save energy and money
6. Turn off electric equipment when not in use
7. Weatherize your home



For more information visit www.greendallas.net

Air Quality cont.

Idling Ordinance – In May 2007, the City Council passed a City Ordinance prohibiting vehicle operators with a gross weight over 14,000 pounds to idle for more than 5 minutes. The City is now working with the TCEQ to enforce the ordinance.



Renewable Energy - In September 2007, the City Council authorized the largest procurement of renewable energy in the City's history. As of January 1, 2008, 40 % of the City's power will come from renewable energy, primarily from wind power.

Provide Incentives for Mass Transit and Encourage Trip Reduction Program –

The City of Dallas implements a City Wide Ozone Plan each year that includes offering DART passes at a discounted rate. The City also just initiated a carpool matching program for employees. For more information visit www.cod and choose Green Ride.

Green Buildings - In 2003, The City Council passed an ordinance that all facilities over 10,000 square feet must be designed and built to meet the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) silver standards. Of the 38 LEED buildings in the Dallas area, 16 of them are at City of Dallas facilities.



In April 2008 City Council passed an ordinance with standards for “green” construction for new residential and commercial buildings.



Cement Purchasing Strategy - The City Council adopted a purchasing policy in May of 2007 in an attempt to encourage kilns to reduce their contribution on the Dallas-Fort Worth ozone problem. The policy included a base bid for dry kiln cement only, an alternative bid from cement from any source, and a preference from dry kilns with a NOx emission level less than 1.7 tons of NOx per clinker produced.

Texas Emission Reduction Program (TERP) - This is a statewide program which provides financial assistance to businesses for projects to improve air quality by replacing old vehicles or pieces of heavy-duty equipment with newer vehicles or pieces of equipment. For more information, please contact Kim Affat in the City of Dallas Office of Environmental Quality at 214-670-6971.

Air Check Texas Repair and Replacement Program - Financial assistance program for residents whose cars fail the emissions inspection or are older than ten years. The program is intended to improve air quality by getting old, dirty engines off the road by replacing them with new clean engines. For more information please contact Kim Affat at 214-670-6971.





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OEQ NEWS

Earth Day Every Day

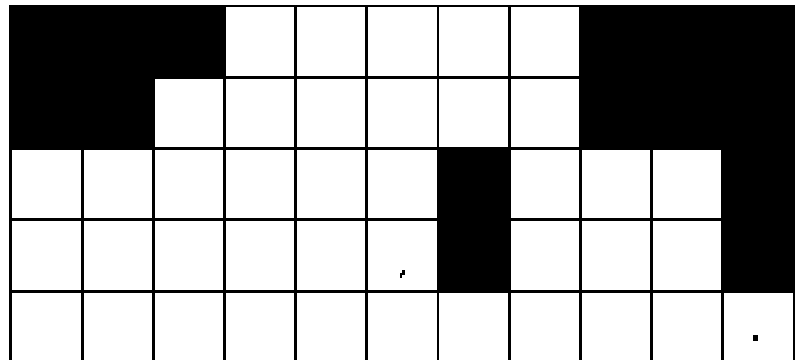
OEQ

The Office of Environmental Quality (OEQ) was formed by the City Council in February 2004 to serve as an internal resource to City of Dallas staff on environmental issues. These issues range from compliance with regulatory requirements to conducting public outreach events and raising awareness related to our environment.

OEQ currently supports the Key Focus Areas of "E3 Government" (Efficient, Effective, Economical) and "Economic Vibrancy" in the City of Dallas structure with three services: Environmental Management System, Inspections and Spills, and Outreach and Training.

The first employee to email a completed and correct puzzle will win a prize from OEQ! Email will now be used due to the massive response last month.

Air Quality



Directions

Fill in each box with one of the letters below the corresponding column. Each letter will be used only once.

		O	A				E			
		R	E	Z	S		I			
C	T	R	P	T	O	L	N	R	G	
F	A	S	R	T	O	O	M	N	Y	
S	I	A	S	O	S	N	T	A	Y	