



Air Quality News

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A Growing Partnership

Recruitment Campaign

The Bi-State Region Air Quality Task Force is continually striving to gain more Clean Air Partners in the effort to improve air quality. As part of the “Make Outdoor Air Quality Visible Strategic Plan” developed by the task force, defining a “brand” for the Clean Air Partnership has been identified as a strategy to increase membership. Displaying the Clean Air Partnership brand will say to everyone: “We care about air quality and related public health issues in our community, and we choose to make voluntary changes improve the condition of our environment”. The hope is that customers and citizens will associate this responsible outlook with every Clean Air Partner.

Current Organizational Partners

- ◆ Muscatine County
- ◆ Rock Island County
- ◆ Scott County
- ◆ City of Bettendorf
- ◆ City of Davenport
- ◆ City of East Moline
- ◆ City of Moline
- ◆ City of Muscatine
- ◆ City of Rock Island
- ◆ Arnold's Body Shop
- ◆ QC TAG
- ◆ Edwards UCC (Davenport)
- ◆ Deere and Company
- ◆ Missman Stanley
- ◆ St. John's Lutheran (Rock Island)
- ◆ Mercer County Health Dept./EMA Office
- ◆ United Neighbors Inc.
- ◆ Greater Metropolitan Area Housing Authority of Rock Island County

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Air Quality News

Design Values

Ozone Design Value is 63 ppb in Iowa QC (2008-2010) and 62 ppb (2007-2009) in Illinois QC (3-year average 4th highest value).

PM2.5 Design Value (2007-2009) is 33 ug/m³ in Iowa QC, 38 ug/m³ in Muscatine and 23.5ug/m³ in IL QC (3-year average of 2007-2009 98th percentile) for the daily 24-hour standard.

Iowa Events

As reported by the Iowa DNR through November 30, 2011, there have been 36 Sulfur Dioxide and 2 P.M. 2.5 NAAQS exceedences in Iowa, all of which were in Muscatine.

Legislative Update

- ◆ *July 7, 2011 – New Rules from the EPA to Reduce Sulfur Dioxide and Nitrogen Dioxide Emissions*

The EPA finalized new rules requiring soot- and smog-forming smoke-stack emissions reductions for power plants in the eastern half of the US. The power plants will need to have reduced sulfur dioxide emissions by 73% and nitrogen oxides by 54% based on 2005 levels by 2014 when the rules go into effect. These regulations are a result of the Cross-State Air Pollution Rule proposed a year and a half ago.

- ◆ *September 9, 2011 – EPA Asked to Withdraw Ozone NAAQS Draft*

President Obama requested that Administrator Jackson withdraw draft

Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards at that time. President Obama noted that he made his decision based on the recognition of the review cycle already in place. Speaking to this, President Obama stated: “Ultimately, I did not support asking state and local governments to begin implementing a new standard that will soon be reconsidered.” President Obama did however reiterate steadfast commitment to protecting public health and the environment.

- ◆ *December 21, 2011 – Tougher Restrictions on Toxics Emissions for Power Plants*

It was announced that power plants will be required to reduce emissions of mercury and other toxic pollutants according to rules set by the EPA. The extent of the reduction amounts to approximately 90% over the next five years. This decision is the culmination of the efforts of hundreds if not thousands of environmentalists and scientists who have worked over the last 20 years to see Mercury and Air Toxics Standards (MATS) federally mandated. According the EPA, “existing sources generally will have up to 4 years if they need it to comply with MATS.” For more information regarding MATS visit <http://www.epa.gov/mats/basic.html>

2011 brings new rules and restrictions on emissions from power plants



Illinois DOT State Planning and Research Grant Results

Development of a Strategic Plan

Throughout the year, Bi-State Regional Commission has been working under an Illinois State Planning and Research grant to continue air quality improvement. One significant component of this effort was the development of the “Make Outdoor Air Quality Visible” Strategic Plan. The purpose of the strategic plan is to identify and prioritize air pollution reduction strategies for implementation over the next 5 years.

Determination of the strategies was made based on the EPA’s “Community Action for Renewed Environment (CARE) Model. Health and census data was analyzed to identify vulnerable populations. Through the Bi-State Regional Air Quality Task Force, a SWOT analysis was conducted to determine strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats regarding the community’s air quality situation. Information was assembled on stressors, concerns, and gaps related to air quality in the form of spatial analysis of major point, area, and transportation emission sources in the region. From this information, emission reduction solutions were identified, prioritized, and developed into an action plan.

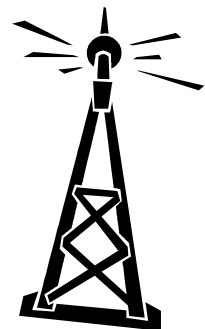
Public Education and Outreach

In an effort to continue public education and outreach and “Make Outdoor Air Quality Visible,” a newspaper tab was produced featuring information on fine particulates, ground-level ozone, transportation-related emission reduction, and recognition of current Bi-State Clean Air Partners. The four-page, color

newspaper tab ran on December 10, 2011 in the Argus-Dispatch, Quad City Times and Muscatine Journal reaching 101,000 subscribers. Additional print ads were subsequently published that focused on the Bi-State Clean Air Partnership. These ads were designed increase awareness of the group and to lay the groundwork for future efforts to create a desirable brand to entice potential partners.

Two newspaper ads were also placed in the Argus-Dispatch with a River Action Riverfront Revival Map of proposed future projects along the Mississippi River. These ads emphasized transit and simple tips for improving air quality. The Riverfront Revival map featured additions to the multi-purpose trail system, redevelopment of the riverfront and improvements to natural areas, all which aid improving air quality.

Additionally, a radio ad was produced from a USEPA/FHWA “It all adds up to cleaner air” template on trip chaining with a holiday message. This ad was played on the four most listened to radio stations in the Bi-State Region. The ad was run approximately 50 times on each station over a three-week period. For two of the stations, it was estimated that the ad was heard by 115,800 people five times each. The other two stations have a total listener base of 119,100. The December 2011 campaign was a concentrated effort to raise awareness during the holiday season when additional travel choices are made and a time when energy use and fuel consumption is increased.



EcoDriving™ Practices

Believe You Can Reduce Fuel Use and Emissions

Typically, practicing moderate levels of EcoDriving can reduce fuel use by an average of 15%.

Avoid Rapid Starts and Stops

Rapid acceleration and braking, often called “jack rabbit” starts and stops, use fuel and cost money at the gas pump.

Keep on Rolling in Traffic

Maintaining a constant speed in your commute increases fuel economy, because it takes much more energy to move a stopped vehicle than to keep a vehicle moving.

Ride the “Green Wave”

A steady speed often can help drivers avoid red lights and keep the car moving more efficiently.

Use Air Conditioning at Higher Speeds

When driving at slower speeds (less than 40 mph), such as driving in urban areas, open windows are better. At higher speeds (over 40 mph), open windows use more fuel than the air conditioner.

Maintain an Optimum Highway Speed for Good Mileage

Observing the speed limit and not exceeding 60 mph (where legally allowed) can improve mileage by 7-23%.

Use Cruise Control

According to a test conducted by Edmunds.com, cruise control can pro-

vide a 7% average fuel savings, compared to driving without the device operating.

Avoid Idling

Idling uses gas and because the car is going nowhere, it translates into 0 mpg.

Buy an Automated Pass for Toll Roads

By purchasing an “EZ Pass” for a toll road or bridge, a driver avoids stopping and starting the vehicle and idling in lines.

Use the Highest Gear Possible

By using overdrive gearing where possible, such as on the highway, your vehicle’s engine speed goes down, saving fuel and engine wear while reducing CO2 emissions.

Drive Your Vehicle to Warm It Up

Your vehicle will reach its optimum operating temperature much faster when you are driving, rather than idling.

Keep Your Cool

Always roll down the windows when getting into a hot car to blow out the hot air. Try to park in the shade, and consider investing in a heat reflector or window shades.

Obey Your Check Engine Light

When the onboard diagnostics alert light comes on, there is the possibility that your emissions are increased and your fuel economy is going down.



Follow these tips to save money and the environment!

Vehicle Maintenance Practices

Today's automobile is a complex machine with more than 3,000 interactive parts. Regular maintenance can help your vehicle run longer, as well as reduce carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions.

Read Your Owner's Manual

Typically your owner's manual will provide a recommended service schedule to keep your vehicle operating efficiently.

Use the Recommended Motor Oil

According to the U.S. EPA, you can improve your fuel economy by 1-2% by using the manufacturer's recommended grade of motor oil.

Schedule Periodic Engine Tune-ups

Typically, a tune-up can improve gas mileage by an average of 4%.

Replace Air Filters Regularly

According to the U.S. Department of Energy, replacing a clogged air filter can increase your mileage by 10%.

Check Your Tire Pressure Monthly

The Department of Energy estimates that 1.2 billion gallons of fuel were wasted in 2005 as a result of driving on under-inflated tires.

Check the Weather, then Check Your Tires

Tire pressure changes an average of 1 PSI (pounds per square inch) for every 10 degrees Fahrenheit change in air temperature.

Invest in a Tire Pressure Gauge

Tire pressure monitoring systems will indicate when your tires are under-inflated by 25%, but it is always advisable to check your tires with a tire pressure gauge before you see the warning light.

Reduce Aerodynamic Drag

Wind resistance can reduce mileage, so you can maximize your mileage by removing luggage racks, roof-top carriers, and ski racks when they are not needed.

Tighten Your Gas Cap

As much as 30 gallons of gasoline could be lost annually to evaporation when the fuel cap is not fully tightened.

Remove Excess Weight from Your Vehicle

An extra 100 pounds in the trunk typically reduces mileage by about 2%.

Maintain Your Air Conditioning System – Professionally

Insist on professional service with recovery and recycling so that refrigerant can be reused and not released to the atmosphere.

Consider Purchasing Fuel-Efficient Tires

Your tires can make a difference. "Lower rolling resistance" tires are now available, and these tires can improve mileage. Learn more at: www.ecodrivingusa.com. *Source: Auto Alliance EcoDriving™ Manual

Right-Size Vehicle

Another strategy to reduce your travel related emissions is to use the right-size vehicle. If you have a single occupant commute every day, it would be better to drive a low-emission vehicle (LEV) rather than an oversized SUV. Think LEV vs. SUV and you can save fuel and improve the air.

Trip Chaining

Plan your stops ahead of time to reduce the miles you drive and to maximize your engine's performance. Good trip planning by combining your stops helps us all breathe easier.

Carpooling

The Census data indicates that 98% of trips are made by single occupant vehicles. For every additional person in the car, the emissions generated per person are nearly halved. By rotating drivers, you will have a hands free commute for part of the week allowing you time to catch up on some work, reading, or even sleep. Try to organize carpool with coworkers that live nearby to help improve air quality and save you money.

Transit, Biking, and Walking

"Car-Lite" includes giving alternative transportation a try. Think of 30 less cars on the road if a city bus is full with riders. Bike or walk and your "Green" factor is off the charts.



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It all adds up to cleaner air

We're on the web!

www.bistateonline.org

"Car Lite" Pledge

Make a promise to yourself to do your part to improve air quality.

- I will practice as many eco-driving habits as possible.
- I will use the right-size vehicle for my travel needs.
- I will chain my trips to reduce the miles I drive.
- I will organize a carpool with coworkers.
- I will use transit when traveling within the region.
- I will bike or walk for as many trips as I can.

Clean Air Partnership Pledge

The Bi-State Region Clean Air Partnership supports and promotes cleaner air by seeking out and implementing cost effective solutions that benefit cleaner air-fuel efficiency, cleaner fuels/vehicles, alternative transportation, trip reduction, environmentally friendly purchasing, alternative energy, and energy efficiency and conservation. Each commitment reduces ground level ozone and particulate matter regionally and contributes to cleaner air globally.

Resources on the Web

Don't forget that there are resources on the web to help partners meet their pledge goals. Here are just a few helpful tools:

[Energy Star for Local Governments](http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=government.bus_government_local)- This website offers tools for local governments to become more energy efficient (http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=government.bus_government_local)

[Best Workplaces for Commuters](http://www.bestworkplaces.org/)- This website for employers and employees offers tools and recognition for implementation of alternative transportation advocacy. (<http://www.bestworkplaces.org/>)

Check out http://www.bistateonline.org/ser/env/bis_res.shtml for more resources.

