



# Air Quality News

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## Inside this issue:

Efficient Holiday Lighting	2
Snow Blower Efficiency	3
Eco Driving & Alternative Fuels	4
ICAAP Activities	5



## Clean Air Partnership One-Year Anniversary

At the one-year anniversary of the Partnership, a few new partners have signed up to work towards cleaner air in the Bi-State Region. Regional leaders joining the Partnership are:

- ◆ Arnolds Body Shop
- ◆ Bi-State Regional Commission
- ◆ City of East Moline, Illinois
- ◆ County of Rock Island, Illinois
- ◆ Missman Stanley Consultants

To date, the Clean Air Partnership has fifteen (15) members, and we hope to at least double this number by next quarter. So please spread the word that “it all adds up to cleaner air.”

### Partner Stats and Recognitions

- ◆ 95% of Partners already offer direct deposit and implement e-commerce or e-government.
- ◆ 60% of Partners actively or plan to encourage biking or walking to work by providing showers and secure bike racks.
- ◆ 67% of Partners currently or plan to conduct energy/lighting audits and implement energy management programs.

- ◆ 86% of Partners purchase cleaning products with non-toxic, natural and biodegradable ingredients.

### Highlighting Partners

In this edition of the Clean Air Newsletter, Scott County, Iowa’s “Green Team” is being highlighted for their dedication to cleaner air and other sustainable practices. Consisting of county and state representatives, the Green Team offers tools “for use in broadening awareness of sustainability issues facing all of us.” The toolkit, tailored for homes, business or communities can be found at the Scott County Green Team’s website, [www.scottcountyiowa.com/green.php](http://www.scottcountyiowa.com/green.php).

Already making great strides, the Green Team has initiated their “Green Office Pledge” which lists goals such as:

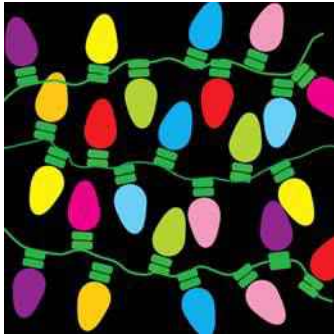
- ◆ Reduce the amount of paper
- ◆ Reduce the amount of energy
- ◆ Re-use office supplies
- ◆ Reduce waste

Keep up the great work, and be sure to join their effort today!



## Season's Greetings with Safe and Efficient Holiday Lighting

Holiday season brings good tidings, snowy weather, and ample amounts of energy consumption. However, LED lighting can save consumer dollars.



Traditional incandescent lights waste energy, which is felt as a heat from the bulb. Each year this heat causes fires, resulting in property damage and loss of life. Although the initial investment will be slightly higher for modern LED (Light Emitting Diode) lights, they provide longer life expectancies than their incandescent counterparts, allowing them to pay for themselves. Consumerreports.org compared two strings of decorative LED lights to incandescent lights for 300 hours. They found LED operation costs of only 30 cents compared to \$1.30 for incandes-

cent lights. More efficient bulbs consume less power, which translates into cleaner air. Benefits of purchasing LED lights are:

- ◆ Much longer lifetime, 50,000 hours vs. 750 hours
- ◆ Less energy consumption, .08 watts per LED bulb vs. .48 watts per incandescent bulb
- ◆ Much lower operating costs
- ◆ Sturdy bulbs are much less breakable than incandescent bulbs
- ◆ LEDs are a great public investment. Their long life expectancy and low power usage can save tax payer dollars as well as households and business.

## Making Wood Burning Stoves More Efficient

The EPA issued standards in 1988 regulating the manufacturing and sale of wood burning stoves with the goal of reducing air pollution. EPA-certified stoves reduce smoke emissions by 90% and increase heating efficiency.

In order to improve air quality and save money on heating fuel, it is recommending that homeowners with a woodstove manufactured before 1988 replace their current unit with an EPA-certified woodstove or with an alternative heating source. A list of certi-

fied stoves can be found at [www.epa.gov/woodstoves](http://www.epa.gov/woodstoves). Tax credits of 30% of the purchase value can be claimed for stoves bought between January 1, 2009 and December 31, 2010.

As an alternative to replacing an entire existing unit, older stoves may be able to be retrofitted with a catalytic combustor (aka catalytic converter or catalytic damper). You can find combustors by brand of stove at [www.woodstovecombustors.com](http://www.woodstovecombustors.com).

EPA-certified stoves reduce smoke emissions by 90%.

## Snow-Thrower or Money-Blower?

Snowblowers make removing heaps of snow much more convenient. Consumers have many choices when it comes to snow removal products, but should more horse power outweigh cleaner air if it doesn't have to?

Consumers have two categories to choose from: single-stage or two-stage snowblowers. Electric snowblowers are only available in single-stage models; gas snowblowers are available in both. Single-stage electric and gas models can have very little difference in face price tag value (in comparing Toro brand models, gas blowers have the higher tag, with the cheapest being nearly \$200 more expensive than electrics). Two-stage gas models can be priced at over \$2,000, and are much more powerful and much bulk-

ier. Convenience-minded consumers must also make the distinction between a low and high-end two stage gas snowblower.

Consumer Search compared a \$1,000 Craftsman machine to a \$1,500 Toro. Based on performance, the report concludes that the cheaper was well worth the money saved. Electrics throw snow just as far as their petroleum counterparts and work in up to 12" inches of snow. Just as gasoline models, electrics are not created equal. Some are light-duty, made specifically for the patio or parking pads, others work well in snow up to 12 inches deep. Just remember, the price tag only gets higher when adding the cost of fuel.



**Hands-Free Commuting . . .**  
**Take the Bus**



Saves money, the air and gives you some time to yourself.  
Keep it up because -

*It all adds up to cleaner air*

**[www.qctransit.com](http://www.qctransit.com)**

 U.S. Department of Transportation 

## EcoDriving and Alternative Fuels

Since Mr. Ransom Olds' automobile production line created the first affordable American passenger vehicle in 1902, the automobile has altered the urban geography of regions and placed new demands on energy consumption and consumers' pocket books.

Ecodrivingusa.com offers many practical driving tips and educational tools in an attempt to lower carbon emissions, save consumer dollars and decrease fuel consumption by increasing vehicles gas mileage. The website states that if everyone nationwide practiced EcoDriving, (tips listed below ), it would be equivalent to heating and powering nearly 8 cities the size of Los Angeles. A typical EcoDriver can increase their fuel efficiency by 15% or more.

The Midwest's access to corn products and rising cost of fossil fuels has, in Iowa, spurred 38 ethanol refineries with a production capacity of over 3 billion gallons, and 14 biodiesel refineries with capacity

to produce 317 million gallons annually (US Department of Energy). To steer Iowa's goal of decreasing petroleum use, the Iowa Clean Cities Coalition focuses on alternative fuels and alternative fuel vehicles, hybrid electric vehicles, fuel blends, heavy-truck idle reduction and general fuel economy improvements (Iowa Office of Energy Independence). In Illinois, the Green Fleets program administered by the Illinois EPA offers rebates for use of alternative fuels and vehicles. Burning cleaner fuels and using less petroleum adds up to cleaner air!

Local government's fleet of diesel fueled service vehicles offer a great opportunity to positively impact area emissions. According to the US Department of Energy, the use of B100 (100% biodiesel), compared to petroleum diesel, resulted in more than a 75% reduction in carbon dioxide emissions. Using B20 (20% biodiesel) reduces carbon dioxide emissions by 15%.

### EcoDriving Quick Tips

- **Avoid Idling.** It translates into 0 mpg
- **Avoid Rapid Starts and Stops.** Quick starts and stops use fuel and cost money
- **Use Cruise Control.** Edmonds.com states it can provide 7% average fuel savings
- **Tighten Your Gas Cap.** As much as 30 gallons of gasoline could be lost annually to evaporation
- **Check Your Tire Pressure Monthly.** Driving on under-inflated tires wastes fuel
- **Remove Excess Weight from Your Vehicle.** An extra 100 pounds in the trunk typically reduces mileage by about 2%
- **Consider Purchasing Fuel-Efficient Tires.** "Lower rolling resistance" tires are now available and can improve mileage
- **Replace Air Filters Regularly.** Clogged air filters require more fuel to pump air through the filter
- **Get on the Bus.** It saves vehicle wear and tear and personal fuel consumption

Follow these tips to save money and the environment!



## ICAAP Activities

### Transportation Alternatives

QC in Motion “Think Outside The Car” is a weeklong challenge each year to use alternative transportation (walking, bicycling or riding the bus) as part of your daily activities – going to work, shopping, visiting friends, etc. Between May 15th and 22nd, a coalition was formed to en-

courage healthy living. Activate Quad Cities, QCTAG, local YMCAs and Bi-State Regional Commission are working together to get the Quad Cities moving. Keep an eye out for 2011 QC in Motion Week events returning next spring!



### Commuter Challenge

Bi-State Regional Commission, in cooperation with QC transit systems and the QC Transportation Alternatives Group (TAG), hosted four “Commuter Challenge” workshops in October 2010. The evening workshops were held at Hy-Vee stores and encouraged the public to utilize transit, cycling, and walking as modes of transportation. Attendees

were educated on the air quality benefits of alternative transportation and were provided one-on-one assistance on topics such as planning transit and bicycle routes, taking appropriate safety measures, and learning how to utilize bike and bus. For more information on transit, go to [www.qctransit.org](http://www.qctransit.org).

Check out these activities in the Bi-State Region

### Muscatine Transit Training

On July 14, 2010, Bi-State Regional Commission, in cooperation with MuscaBus and River Bend Transit, hosted a “Transit Training Workshop” to educate human service agencies and employers in Muscatine and rural Scott Counties on how to use public transportation. Attendees received a comprehensive training on local transit options and their impact on improving air qual-

ity in the region. At the conclusion of the workshop, attendees utilized their new transit skills by taking a ride on a MuscaBus route. Agencies and employers interested in future training opportunities in the Bi-State Region can contact Chelsey Waterman by phone at (309)793-6300 or via e-mail at [cwaterman@bistateonline.org](mailto:cwaterman@bistateonline.org) for more information.





**Bi-State Region  
Clean Air Partnership**

1504 Third Avenue  
PO Box 3368  
Rock Island, Illinois 61204-3368  
Phone: (309) 793-6300  
Fax: (309) 793-6305  
E-mail: [bsrc@bistateonline.org](mailto:bsrc@bistateonline.org)

*It all adds up to cleaner air*

**We're on the web!**

[www.bistateonline.org](http://www.bistateonline.org)

### Clean Air Partners

- ◇ Arnold's Body Shop
- ◇ Bi-State Regional Commission
- ◇ City of Bettendorf
- ◇ City of East Moline
- ◇ City of Moline
- ◇ City of Muscatine
- ◇ Edwards Congregational United Church of Christ
- ◇ Citizens (1)
- ◇ John Deere
- ◇ Missman Stanley Consultants
- ◇ Muscatine County
- ◇ QC TAG
- ◇ Rock Island County
- ◇ Scott County
- ◇ St. John's Lutheran Church

### 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***

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](#)- This website offers tools for local governments to become more energy efficient

For more great home energy saving tips, tax credits, and products visit <http://hes.lbl.gov/consumer>

Check out [www.bistateonline.org](http://www.bistateonline.org) for more resources, just click on the "Links" tab for emission and spending reduction tips.

