



SOUTHWEST PENNSYLVANIA
AIR QUALITY
PARTNERSHIP, INC.

Fall 2011



CHAIR'S COMMENTS

By Jayme Graham, Chair

Look Inside!

New poster contest deadline

Natural gas vehicles

June Meeting Highlights

Insulation 101

In January, we celebrated the completion of 15 years with the Southwest Pennsylvania Air Quality Partnership. On February 15, 1995, a meeting was called by Petroleum Retailers and Auto Repair Association's President, Bob Gerenyi.

The group, including Allegheny County Commissioner Larry Dunn, discussed the means that could be used to increase the public's awareness of air quality awareness. Included in the plan was the start of an Ozone Action Day program, new for this area, and just starting in other communities across the country.

Forecasting high ozone days was a new process, and procedures needed to be developed. A local forecasting program began mid-summer, due to the efforts of such persons as Harilal Patel (our immediate Past Chair) and Ron Chleboski of the Allegheny County Health Department and Merlin Zook of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources, now the Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP.)

This program continues with the major efforts resting on PADEP's meteorologist Sean Nolan, with much more advanced modeling tools, and forecasting both ozone and fine particulates.

Outreach efforts over

the years have included the lawnmower exchange, an energy efficiency project at the Rachel Carson Homestead, Great American Woodstove Exchange, thousands of Frisbees, hundreds of demonstration booths, dozens of teacher training sessions, and much more.

Many people have come and gone, and we thank them all for their work for our purpose. Two that need special recognition are Harilal Patel and Betsy Mallison Bialosky, who have been active, contributing participants from day one.

As we start into the next fifteen years, we can look back on the successes in air quality, and look to the future for additional needs for improvement. This will take the efforts of all. Join us, won't you?

Black and Gold City Goes Green

PennFuture's Evan Endres presented a summary of the "Black and Gold City Goes Green" Campaign at the SPAQP spring membership meeting.

This campaign, found at is the action plan of the Pittsburgh Climate Initiative, working across four sectors: municipal operations, higher education, business, and the individuals that make up the Pittsburgh community.

The Initiative seeks to raise awareness and engage Pittsburgh's residents, businesses, government and institutions of higher learning in taking concrete actions that will reduce global warming pollution and its impact on our local economy and human health. With the Black and Gold City Goes Green, area residents can see that small actions add up to make a big difference. They want you to share what you do to make your home, workplace, and community greener. You can see that every action that you do cuts global warming gas pollution in our region. The website

allows everyone to register, and commit to actions that will make a change.

Black and Gold City Goes Green includes a series of neighborhood blitzes, where a group of volunteers and staff canvas a focused community wielding compact fluorescent bulbs, information and other giveaways to reach as many as possible in a short time. They also have a number of community Partner Competitions, where churches, schools, corporations, non-profits, and community groups help their constituents, employees, or members, take these actions, have fun doing it and maybe win some prizes along the way.

Go to <http://theblackandgoldcitygoesgreen.com> to get more information and join up.



Outgoing chair Harilal Patel is honored for his service with a plaque at the Spring meeting.

STUDENT POSTER CONTEST REGISTRATION DUE NOVEMBER 1

In partnership with the Pennsylvania Resources Council (PRC), the Partnership is sponsoring the "Let's Clear the Air Poster Contest" for the 2011-2012 school year.

The goal of the contest is for students in Southwest PA to learn about the effects of air pollution, how to reduce their exposure, and to encourage action through a poster campaign promoting clean air and alternative transportation. Winners will be announced on Earth Day 2012.

The top two winning posters from each category will be displayed in public venues across Southwestern PA. The top two from each category will win a school assembly professional Magic Show! The top winner from each category will receive a bicycle.

The top three winners' teachers receive a \$100 certificate for school supplies. All participating schools will receive copies of the winning posters to display.

Poster Contest Details:

Open to teachers of all disciplines, Three Contest Categories: Upper Elementary (4th & 5th), Middle School (6th-8th), High School (9th-12th) category.

Participating teachers receive a CONTEST KIT - specific to contest category - containing contest guidelines, air quality background info, age-specific lesson plans and hands-on activities, and eco-friendly art supplies.

For questions, please contact Sarah Alessio Shea from PRC at 412.488.7490 ext. 236.

The Southwest Pennsylvania Air Quality Partnership



Participate with your students to win prizes and \$100 in school supplies!

Natural Gas for Vehicles

There are 13 million natural gas vehicles in the world today, as compared to only four million at the end of 2004. However, only 110,000 of those are in the United States.

Natural gas is both cheaper and cleaner per gallon than gasoline or diesel, and the United States has abundant natural gas reserves which, if used, would significantly cut back on the amount of foreign oil that the U.S. purchases.

At today's prices, a natural gas equivalent of gallon of gasoline only costs about \$1.85, as opposed to \$3.58/gallon for gasoline and \$4.23/gallon of diesel. And burning natural gas releases about 25 percent less CO₂ than traditional fuels like diesel and gasoline, and it also significantly decreases the release of harmful pollutants such as NO_x, SO₂, and particulates.

Natural gas is produced in 32 out of the 50 states in the U.S., and has created more than 2.8 million jobs – over 88,000 new natural gas jobs in

gas is the U.S. and our domestic supply has increased dramatically over the last three years.

Numerous types of vehicles can be run on natural gas, including cars, trucks, vans, and buses. In fact, vehicles can even be retrofitted to run on gasoline.

There have been several projects funded in part with money from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's Alternative Fuels Incentive Grant program, including a \$700K grant to EQT to build a Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) fueling station in the Pittsburgh Strip District and to convert its fleet to natural gas. Giant Eagle received \$1.4MM in grants to build a public CNG station and convert their fleet, and Waste Management received \$700K to build a public CNG station and convert several refuse trucks to natural gas. The Endless Mountains Transit Authority received \$750K for a public CNG station built by Dandy Mini Mart and bus conversion to CNG.

Coach AQ Sightings

The SPAQP mascot has been seen around the area, meeting our friends and sharing information about improving our air quality.

The Partnership partnered with KDA radio on an advertising campaign that included a few summer events include KDKA Days at Kennywood and Idlewild Parks and the Car Cruise in Wexford.

The Coach also attended the Venture Outdoors Festival at Point State Park where the partnership gave away kits and Frisbees. Coach AQ also waited out the fierce thunderstorms to attend the Blues Festival at Hartwood Acres in July.

To schedule Coach AQ to make an appearance at your event or to submit an idea for an appearance venue, contact Betsy Mallison at bmallison@consolidated.net.



Top winners in the 2010 "Lets Clear the Air" poster contest From left, poster winners include Alivia Acierno,, Grade 5, Tenth Street School; Melanie Long, Grade 7, St. Sylvester and Tyler Mizak, Grade 9, West Mifflin High School.

June Membership Meeting Highlights

The June membership meeting was held on Tuesday, June 28, 2011 with a 8:30 a.m. breakfast meeting at the Pennsylvania DEP Washington's Landing conference room. We heard about "Black and Gold Goes Green" – an initiative for Pittsburgh businesses in sustainability; work by EQT to increase natural gas use in transportation in Pennsylvania; and solar and renewable energy in PA. Sean Nolan of PADEP gave a summary of forecasting and air quality, with a look of upcoming changes expected in national air quality standards.

At the membership meeting the membership thanked Harilal Patel of Environmental Research and Technology for his two years as SPAQP Chair. Then the membership elected officers and Board members for the next two years. The SPAQP operates on a July to June calendar. The following Officers and Board were elected:

Chair: Jayme Graham, Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD)

Vice Chair: Al Depaoli, AES

Secretary: Andrea Davison, NOVA Chemicals Inc.

Treasurer: Tom Lattner, ACHD

Director : Joy Blaustein, Rachel Carson Homestead

Director: Richard Kelly, Richard Kelly Photography

Director: Greg Chambers, Oberg industries

By means of office, the following also are members of the Board:

Past Chair: Harilal Patel, Unipak

Communications Committee Chair Betsy Mallison, Public Relations Professional

Finance Committee Chair: Rachel Hoza, CPA



Honored at the January Membership meeting for their long-time contributions to the Partnership are from left, Harilal Patel, Harry Klodowski, Jayme Graham, Betsy Mallison and Larry Myers.

Insulation Puts a Blanket Around Your Home for the Winter

Why Do I Need Insulation?

Next to proper air sealing, insulation is arguably the most important feature that contributes to your comfort and your home's overall energy efficiency. Without proper insulation, your home needs larger, more expensive heating and cooling devices to keep you comfortable and those devices need to work harder, consuming more electricity, gas, or oil and costing you money.

Consider this. On a cold winter night, would you rather have a thick, puffy down-filled blanket or a single thin cotton sheet on your bed to keep you warm? Think of insulation as the blanket for your home.

Ideally, insulation surrounds the living area of your home forming a barrier between the living area and outdoor temperature extremes. In the energy efficiency field this is often referred to as the "building envelop". Understanding where these barriers are (and are not) in your home and whether those barriers are sufficient is one of the top jobs of an energy auditor.

R-value is a measure of a material's ability to resist heat flow. The higher the R-value, the more effective that material is at preventing heat loss from your home in the winter and heat gain in the summer. In general, you should have insulation in the following areas of your home. Recommended R-Values are for Western Pennsylvania referenced from [NAIMA](#):

- Attic and Cathedral Ceilings: R38-60
- Exterior Walls: R13-15
- Floors over Garages, Crawlspaces or Unheated Basements: R25-30

An energy auditor can identify additional areas of your home where insulation is appropriate.

What Type Insulation Should I Use?

The type of insulation you use depends on a number of factors including:

- Material Cost
- Labor Cost
- Accessibility of the Area to be Insulated
- Material Characteristics

Fiberglass Batts are typically used in new construction and in areas that are easily accessible, such as an attic.

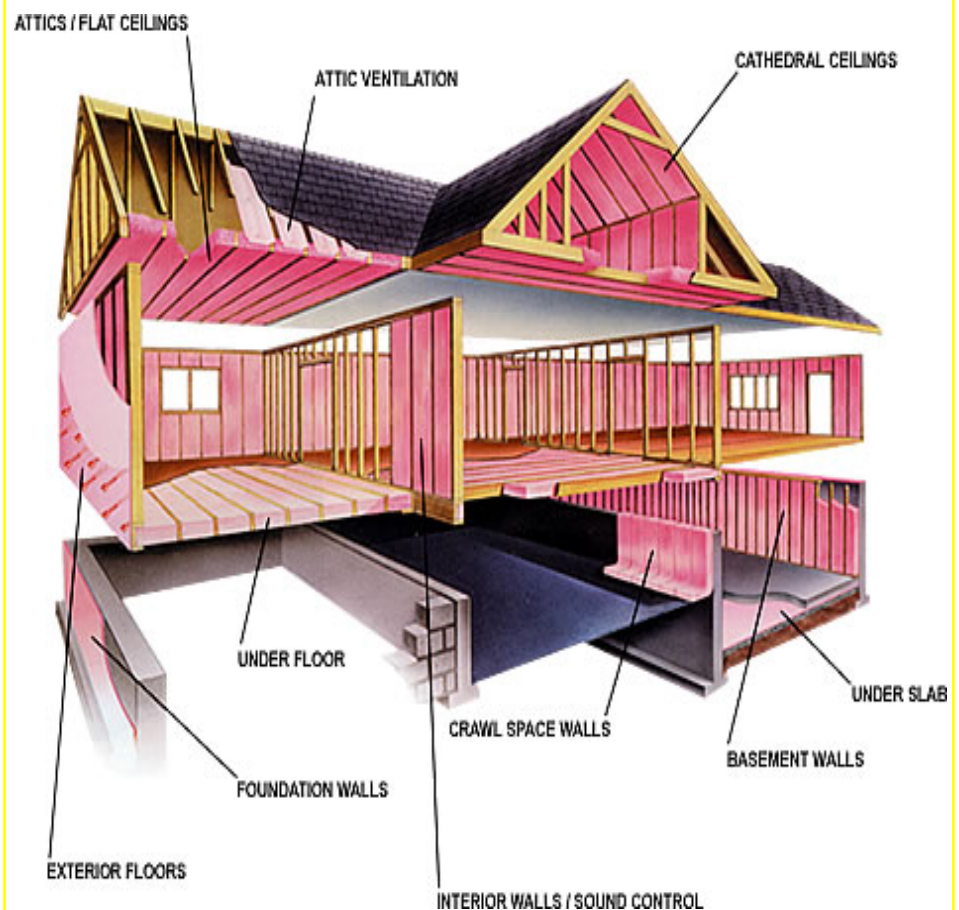
Blown-in Cellulose (recycled/treated paper) is ideal for closed wall cavities and atop existing attic insulation.

Foam Panels are ideal as exterior building sheathing and within the band joists of your basement.

Spray or Injected Foam is ideal to fill around plumbing and electrical penetrations and band joists. Spray Foam is doubly effective as an air-sealer in these applications.

About CCI

Conservation Consultants, Inc. (CCI) is a Pittsburgh based non-profit that has since 1978 helped western PA families [and businesses](#) to [GetEnergySmarter](#) by providing home energy audit and assessment services that show our customers how to save money and energy [all while improving comfort and safety](#). Contact CCI at (412) 431-4449, ext 225 or info@ccicenter.org.



Getting the Word Out Through Radio

The Southwest Air Quality Partnership is active in advertising to spread the word about our activities and encouraging residents to take action on Air Quality Action Days.

This summer, the Partnership advertised around weather forecasts on a number of regional radio stations including KDKA and KQV in Pittsburgh, Allegheny County; WBUT in Butler, Butler County, WJPA in Washington, Washington County; WYTM in Kittanning, Armstrong County and WBVP, Beaver Falls, Beaver County. The advertising ran from July through September and focused on car care messages.

Currently, we are partnering with KQV radio to sponsor Penn State football games on fall Saturdays.

You still have an opportunity to hear our messaging on KQV, 1410 AM this fall. The rest of the Penn State schedule is as follows:

- 10/22/11 at Northwestern * Evanston, Ill. 7:00 p.m. ET
- 10/29/11 vs. Illinois University Park, Pa. TBA
- 11/12/11 vs. Nebraska * University Park, Pa. TBA
- 11/19/11 at Ohio State * Columbus, Ohio TBA
- 11/26/11 at Wisconsin * Madison, Wis. TBA
- 12/03/11 Big Ten Championship Game Lucas Oil Stadium - Indianapolis, Ind. TBA

A publication of the Southwest Air Quality Partnership, Inc. It's not just Ozone anymore! www.spaqp.org



Coach AQ visits Idlewild Park near Latrobe, Westmoreland County this summer in a partnership with KDKA radio.

Website is Valuable Tool

Be sure to check out our website, www.spaqp.org for background information about air quality issues, handouts and the latest Partnership news!

