



SOUTHWEST PENNSYLVANIA
AIR QUALITY
PARTNERSHIP, INC.

CHAIR'S COMMENTS

By Harilal Patel, Chair

Summer 2010

Look inside:

What Can Yo Do?

Make Your Business
More Energy Effi-
cient

Photos from May 1

ANNUAL KICKOFF

We held this year's annual ground-level ozone season kickoff at the Carnegie Science Center on May 1.

The event's purpose was to promote of promoting voluntary pollution reduction practices, reaching out to the community, and educating people of all ages on air quality issues.

"Get Green Inside," hosted by the Carnegie Science Center, focused on the many ways families could easily green their homes, their families, and their communities, all while saving some serious green in their wallets.

SPAQP invited a number of partners, both non-profit and for-profit groups, who share goals similar to the SPAQP. Together, the seven partners provided information on how families could change up different aspects of their lives to make them greener and more environmentally friendly.

Conservation Consultants, Inc. greeted the visitors with an outdoor solar display, bringing solar-powered fountains and solar artwork for each eco-conscious artist who stopped by. Home Depot presented materials on home efficiency and home weatherization, a great way to reduce heating and cooling costs while reducing energy consumption and pollution production. Group Against Smog and Pollution (GASP) were present to discuss outdoor air quality issues, such as ways to minimize ozone, and informed the visitors of the many ways they are actively working to reduce pollution from school buses, trucks, and other diesel-engine-powered vehicles. Pennsylvania American Water showed off numerous water conservation techniques that can be used every day, such as efficient shower heads. Healthy Home Resources was present to display their abundant resources on the ways to a cleaner and greener

home, and Duquesne Light brought information on energy conservation and electricity-use reduction. SPAQP lead their own table, focusing on an issue they hope to tackle throughout the remainder of the year: clean wood burning practices, the benefits of smoke reduction and the promotion of cleaner burning fuels.

The event went from 11am until 3pm on Saturday at the Carnegie Science Center in Pittsburgh, showcasing green tips and tricks for parents and providing eco-conscious games and activities for children, including an art table and interactive learning tools, such as Conservation Consultants, Inc.'s bicycle-powered energy meter.

The event was well attended and was another big step SPAQP is taking to reach out to the community and inform and educate people directly. The SPAQP now "officially" enters 2010 with a variety of new issues to tackle, community members to assist and children of all ages to educate. Look for pictures from the event inside.

DO YOUR SHARE

During this hot summer, think cool and be sure to make a plan to do your share for cleaner air, especially on Air Quality Action Days!

Harilal

What Can You Do this Summer?

Individuals can make a difference in our region's air quality. Making small changes in your way of life, can reap big benefits for our regional air quality! Try to make the change on an Air Quality Action Day!

During the summer when ground-level ozone is the primary air pollution problem, leaving your car at home is the most effective way to help prevent unhealthy ground-level ozone. Try other ways to get around.

Transit – take the bus, subway or trolley to work.

Ridesharing – join a carpool or vanpool.

Bicycling or walking – walk or bike to your destination. It's good exercise too.

Telecommuting – work from home.

Spend extra commute hours with your family.

If you must use your car, follow these guidelines on Air Quality Action Days.

Trip chain by doing all your errands in one trip, avoiding unnecessary cold starts.

An engine that's been sitting for an hour or more pollutes five times as much as a warm one.

Refuel at the end of the day. Ozone levels are usually at their highest in the mid-to-late afternoon.

Pumping gasoline emits roughly five tons a day of pollution into the air. So, save your pumping until evening.

Don't top off your tank. This is never a good idea, no matter what time of the day. Spillage adds about two tons of pollution a day to our air.

Turn off your engine when you stop your car for a minute or more.

Keep your car well-tuned. Regular maintenance, changing the oil, and checking tire inflation can improve gas mileage, extend

your car's life and reduce its emissions by more than half.

Here are some other ideas for the summertime reduction of pollutants.

POSTPONE MOWING

Postpone mowing your lawn until later in the day or early in the evening or use a manual or electric mower instead. Remember to refuel mowers and other gasoline-powered tools after dusk too.

Start your barbecue with an electric probe or use a propane gas grill. Charcoal lighter fluid vaporizes quickly and adds to air pollution. Refrain from using household sprays and oil-based paints or wait until evening. These items contain gases which contribute to air pollution.



A young girl learns how much work it is to make energy on a bicycle as her father, left and Ann Gerace, middle, look on.

Small Changes Can Improve the Business Bottom Line

Energy efficiency means delivering the same (or more) services for less energy. Using less energy means power plants generate less, which reduces greenhouse gas emissions and improves air quality.

Energy efficiency is practiced during the use of the energy in your home or office.

Clean energy supply includes renewable energy and clean distributed generation, such as combined heat and power. Many businesses are installing renewable energy and combined heat and power at their buildings to save them money, reduce their environmental impact, and provide greater control of their energy use.

So how can you make a difference through energy efficiency? Just follow these quick steps to reduce energy use in your office or business:

Do an energy audit to determine what is your business eats up the most energy.

Buy Energy Star products, when needed and be sure the “stand-by mode” function is activated.

Change your light bulbs. Office buildings can use commercial lighting designed to reduce energy output by more than 50 percent. Compact fluorescent lights for overhead illumination use one-quarter as much energy as incandescent bulbs and last 10 times longer. Install lighting systems that turn off the lights when someone leaves the room.

Use an ENERGY STAR programmable thermostat that can automatically adjust the temperature of your home or office when you are away. Turn up the air conditioning and turn down the heat when employees are away from the office overnight or on the weekends.

Seal and insulate your home and office to improve comfort and reduce heating and cooling.

costs. to improve your home’s “envelope” or the outer walls, ceiling, windows, and floors.

INSTALL NEW WINDOWS

To improve the envelope of your home, add insulation, seal air-leaks, and choose an ENERGY STAR labeled window if you are in the market for new window. Low-emittance – or Low-E – windows are an increasingly common way to control temperature within the building envelope

Install verified emission control devices and electric idling reduction equipment. Replace older heavy-duty engines with newer and cleaner engines

Put the office computers in sleep mode during the day and turn them off when they aren’t in use.

By making a few small changes, you will see the bottom line improve by reducing your overall energy usage.



A girl with a hula hoop makes her own energy at our May 1 Kickoff at the Carnegie Science Center.