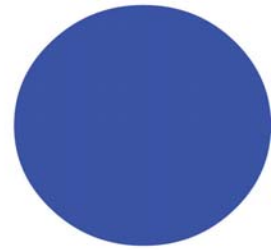


ALERT!

March 2005

ALERT is a monthly update on transportation and air quality planning activities in the Delaware Valley.



CONFORMITY

Ten States and EPA Launch Clean Energy Environment Partnership

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) launched the new Clean Energy-Environment State Partnership Program with 10 states including Pennsylvania. The other states involved in the partnership program include California, Connecticut, Georgia, Minnesota, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Ohio and Texas.

With the demand for energy expected to climb 40 percent by the year 2025 and about 126 million people living in counties where monitored air is unhealthy at times during the year, many states are seeking to integrate their energy and environmental policies to protect public health while addressing concerns with electricity reliability, energy security and economic development. Under the voluntary program, EPA assists states as they develop and implement action plans to improve air quality, decrease energy use, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and enhance economic development.

EPA estimates that if all 50 states implemented cost-effective clean energy-environment policies, the expected growth in demand for electricity could be cut in half by 2025, and more demand could be met through a cleaner energy supply. This would mean annual savings of more than 900 billion kilowatt-hours and \$70 billion in energy costs by 2025, while preventing the need for more than 300 power plants and the greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to those from 80 million of today's vehicles.

Under the new partnership program, states agree to work with EPA to develop and implement a state-specific Clean Energy-Environment State Action Plan that contains one or more clean energy-environment goals. EPA provides partner states with access to a comprehensive technical assistance package of planning, policy, technical, analytical and information resources and helps direct them to other federal programs that support clean energy-environment strategies

Examples of policies and programs that states may choose to pursue as part of their Clean Energy-Environment Action Plan include energy efficiency incentive programs to promote technologies that can lower emissions and save consumers' energy costs and programs to support the adoption of cost-effective green power.

For information on the program and Charter Partners, go to:
<http://www.epa.gov/cleanenergy>.



**Monday,
March 21st, 2005
Philadelphia
Diesel Difference
Working
Group Meeting**

DVRPC
Board Room
111 South Independence
Mall East
Philadelphia
10a.m. to 12 noon



OTHER NEWS

Study Links Mothers' Exposure to Air Pollution to Babies Chromosome Damage

A new study of 60 newborns in New York City reveals that exposure of expectant mothers to combustion-related urban air pollution may alter the structure of babies' chromosomes while in the womb. The air pollutants considered in the study include emissions from cars, trucks, bus engines, residential heating, power generation and tobacco smoking. These pollutants can cross the placenta and reach the fetus.

The National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, part of the National Institutes of Health, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and other private foundations funded the study. Scientists from the Columbia University Center conducted the research for Children's Environmental Health.

Researchers monitored exposure to airborne pollutants, known as polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), among non-smoking African-American and Dominican mothers residing in three low-income neighborhoods of New York City -- Harlem, Washington Heights and the South Bronx. .

The study is part of a broader, multi-year research project, "The Mothers & Children Study in New York City," started in 1998, which examines the health effects of exposure of pregnant women and babies to air pollutants from vehicle exhaust, the commercial burning of fuels, and tobacco smoking, as well as from residential use of pesticides and allergens.

EPA and Partners Building First Full Hydraulic Hybrid Urban Delivery Vehicle

The U.S. EPA and four partners are building the world's first full hydraulic hybrid urban delivery vehicle with significantly improved fuel economy and reduced harmful emissions. EPA said the application of this technology could be especially significant because urban delivery vehicles--including buses, refuse trucks and package delivery vehicles--often operate in stop-and-go traffic. The partners, UPS, Eaton Corp., International Truck and Engine Corp. and U.S Army National Automotive Center, seek to transfer EPA technologies from the laboratory to the marketplace.

The partnership capitalizes on two EPA breakthroughs - full hydraulic hybrid and Clean Diesel Combustion (CDC)- which were invented and patented at EPA's National Vehicle and Fuel Emissions Laboratory in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

ALERT contains news items related to air quality and transportation.

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