

ALERT! *October 2007*

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



CONFORMITY

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Reports Significant Reductions in NO_x Emissions in Eastern United States

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently released the *2006 NO_x Budget Trading Program Annual Report* for the twenty states participating in the program. The NO_x Budget Trading Program (NBTP) is an emissions cap and trade program developed by the EPA to assist states to meet a 1998 rule regulating NO_x emissions, known as the NO_x SIP Call. The NO_x SIP Call requires states, whose NO_x emissions contribute to ozone non-attainment in other states, to reduce those emissions during the ozone season. The Rule does not specify what sources must reduce emissions but rather sets state emission budgets and gives states flexibility to set control strategies to meet those budgets.

Twenty states participate in the NBTP, nine of which (CT, DE, MD, MA, NJ, NY, PA, RI and DC) met the rule requirements in May 2003. The additional eleven states (AL, IL, IN, KY, MI, NC, OH, SC, TN, VA and WV) met the rule's requirements in May 2004.

The report indicates that NO_x emissions have been reduced by 74% from 1990 levels (before the Clean Air Act Amendments), by 60% from 2000 levels (before implementation of the NO_x SIP Call), and 7% from 2005. The report goes on to credit these NO_x reductions with a corresponding 5-8% decrease in ground level ozone concentrations in the NBTP region. NO_x is a necessary component in the formation of ground level ozone. Furthermore, the report states that there is a strong association in the data between areas with the greatest NO_x emission reductions and nearby downwind states exhibiting the greatest improvements in ground level ozone air quality. NO_x emissions in the NBTP region have dropped from 593,000 tons in the 2004 ozone season (May through September) to 491,000 tons in the 2006 ozone season. These reductions are credited with helping 83 non-attainment areas to meet the federal ozone standard.

The entire 2006 NO_x Budget Report is available online at:

<http://epa.gov/airmarkets/progress/nbp06.html>




**SAVE
THE
DATE**

**Monday,
October 15th, 2007
Philadelphia Diesel
Difference
Working Group
10:00 am**

DVRPC Conference Center
8th Floor
6th and Race Streets
Philadelphia, PA

**Thursday,
October 18th, 2007
Greater Philadelphia
Clean Cities
Working Group
10:00 am**

DVRPC Conference Center
8th Floor
6th and Race Streets
Philadelphia, PA



TRANSPORTATION – AIR QUALITY

New Report Shows Increase in Fuel Efficiency for 2007

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) annual report *Light-Duty Automotive Technology and Fuel Economy Trends: 1975 through 2007*, fuel efficiency averaged over all automobiles and light duty trucks improved by almost one mile per gallon from 2004 to 2006 and is projected to be unchanged between model years 2006 and 2007. The improvement in average fuel efficiency marks the first year of improved fuel efficiency since its peak in 1987.

EPA credits most of the increase to improvements in fuel economy in light duty trucks. Standards for light truck fuel economy have risen each year since 2005. EPA also attributes some of the gains to a lower light truck market share. In 2004, light trucks reached a peak 52% market share. In 2007, light trucks are projected to constitute 49% of the market.

This report is the first time that EPA has used new fuel efficiency test methods which are expected to more accurately project fuel economy and real world driving conditions. As a result of the new testing methods, fuel economy projections are expected to be up to 6% lower than past estimates and year-to-year fuel economy comparisons should only be made between data listed in this year's report.

The entire report, *Light-Duty Automotive Technology and Fuel Economy Trends: 1975 through 2007*, can be downloaded at: <http://epa.gov/otaq/fetrends.htm>



OTHER NEWS

Montgomery County Commits to Clean Energy

The Montgomery County Commissioners have announced that the County will purchase wind energy credits to power the County's nine government facilities beginning in October 2007. The County entered into a two-year contract to purchase wind energy from Community Energy Inc. and will purchase additional wind energy from PECO on a month-to-month basis.

The County facilities, including the courthouse and corrections facility, use as much power as 2,700 average houses. The County's switch to a clean power source is expected to offset emissions from approximately 3,700 cars. Wind power will cost the County an additional \$184,000 dollars per year in energy costs over the \$3.2 million it already spends on power but the commissioners feel that the additional cost is worth the benefit to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to promote similar initiatives elsewhere.

ALERT! is a DVRPC publication.



Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission

DVRPC, 8th Floor
190 N. Independence Mall West
Philadelphia, PA 19106-1520

Phone 215.592.1800 Fax 215.592.9125 www.dvrpc.org