

ALERT! *October 2009*

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



Conformity

US EPA Plans to Reconsider the 2008 Ground-level Ozone Standard

On September 19, 2009, US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Lisa Jackson announced that EPA will reconsider the 2008 Ground-level Ozone Standard to ensure that the newly adopted standards are scientifically sound and sufficiently protective of public health.

The EPA will conduct a review of scientific studies and the findings of EPA's independent Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC) as well as public comments from the rulemaking process. When the 2008 standard was being proposed, the CASAC recommended an ozone standard that was more protective of public health than the one that was adopted. Many public health and environmental advocates criticized the EPA for not following the CASAC's recommendations.

The EPA will propose any changes to the 2008 Ozone Standard by December 2009 and will issue a final decision by August 2010. In order to reduce confusion and administrative costs for states and Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) in regions that do not meet the ground-level ozone standards (non-attainment areas), the EPA is proposing to stay designation of 2008 Ozone Non-attainment Areas until the review is completed. This stay will allow states and MPO's to respond to the latest ozone standard when developing clean air implementation plans and ozone emissions budgets.

The proposed stay in implementation of the 2008 Ozone Standard will also give states and MPOs more time to settle issues related to the 1997 Ozone Standards. The DVRPC region is currently designated as a non-attainment area for the 1997 standard and may not have attained the 1997 standard before the region was also designated as being in non-attainment of the 2008 standard. These overlapping non-attainment designations complicate air quality planning and conformity demonstrations and the proposed stay will remove some administrative hurdles.

For more information on the EPA's proposed review of the 2008 Ozone Standard please visit: www.epa.gov/groundlevelozone.




**SAVE
THE
DATE**

**Tuesday,
October 13th, 2009
Idle Free Philly
Press Conference
11:00 am**

NW Corner of City Hall
Broad and Market Streets
Philadelphia, PA

**Monday,
October 19th, 2009
Philadelphia Diesel
Difference
Working Group
10:00 am**

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



Air Quality

Clean Air Council Launches IdleFreePhilly.org Website

The Clean Air Council will hold a press conference on Tuesday, October 13, 2009 at City Hall in Center City Philadelphia. The council will be announcing the launch of the IdleFreePhilly.org website. IdleFreePhilly.org uses the free online mapping software, SeeClickFix, to allow members of the community to identify problems in their neighborhood and offer solutions. The purpose of IdleFreePhilly is to allow citizens to report incidences of idling trucks or buses so that the city can step up anti-idling education or enforcement in areas where idling is identified as a problem.

Idling diesel trucks and buses for more than five minutes is a violation of both city and state regulations. The city anti-idling regulations can result in fines of up to \$100 from either the Philadelphia Parking Authority (PPA) or the City's Air Management Services (AMS). The purpose of the regulations is to reduce toxic air pollution from diesel vehicles, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and protect public health in areas where diesel vehicles operate. Reducing idling also benefits the vehicle's owner by saving fuel and reducing wear and tear on the engine.

The IdleFreePhilly.org website will essentially allow citizens in the city to help the PPA and AMS identify idling hotspots. Each time someone uses the mapping application to report idling vehicles; that complaint is emailed to AMS. Once idling hotspots are identified, AMS can post educational signage or increase enforcement in the area. The goal of the program is not to hand out tickets but to ultimately reduce vehicle idling in the city.

The Clean Air Council developed the IdleFreePhilly.org website with funding from the Sustainable Skylines Initiative (SSI), through a grant provided to DVRPC by US EPA Region III. The Council provided matching funds for the project. The SSI is a locally-led, EPA-supported, public-private partnership to reduce air emissions and promote sustainability with the goal of healthier air and a cleaner environment for local citizens, government and business. Participating communities work cooperatively with EPA and other partners to increase community participation and leverage resources.

IdleFreePhilly.org is currently live and collecting reports of idling incidents in the city. For questions about the website and the Clean Air Council's anti-idling efforts, contact Kate Zaidan at kzaidan@cleanair.org. To learn more about the Greater Philadelphia SSI please visit: www.dvrpc.org/ssi.

ALERT! is a DVRPC publication.



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