

# ALERT! May 2010

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



## Health and Air Quality

### **DVRPC Region Listed in Top 25 Most Ozone and PM<sub>2.5</sub> Polluted Regions in the Country in the American Lung Association's 2010 State of the Air Report.**

The Philadelphia-Camden-Vineland PA-NJ-DE metropolitan region<sup>1</sup> once again was ranked in the top 25 most polluted regions for ozone and fine particles (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) by the American Lung Association (ALA) in their *State of the Air* report released in May 2010. The region was ranked as the 22<sup>nd</sup> worst region for ozone pollution and 12<sup>th</sup> for short term (24-hour average) PM<sub>2.5</sub>. The region stayed off the ALA's list of most polluted regions for long term (annual average) PM<sub>2.5</sub>. The ALA used quality assured data from the period 2006 to 2008 to develop the 2010 report card on ozone and particle pollution for the nation's cities and counties.

The report also ranks individual counties based on the number of days that air quality reaches unhealthy levels (code orange and above) on the Air Quality Index. Of the eight counties in the DVRPC region that were graded<sup>2</sup>, every county received an "F" grade for ozone pollution.

Three counties (Camden, Mercer and Philadelphia) received failing grades for short term PM<sub>2.5</sub> pollution and none of the eight counties received failing grades for annual PM<sub>2.5</sub> pollution. Some counties did have inconclusive results for annual PM<sub>2.5</sub> based on a lack of quality assured data. The ALA used the PM<sub>2.5</sub> daily standard of 35µg/m<sup>3</sup>, adopted in September 2006, and the ozone standard adopted in March 2008 to determine the unhealthy range for short term particle pollution and ozone.

The 2010 State of the Air report shows some positive trends in the nation's air quality. Fourteen of the 25 regions with the worst ozone pollution showed fewer high ozone days than in the 2009 report, while 18 of the 25 regions with the worst short term PM<sub>2.5</sub> pollution either had fewer or the same number of high PM<sub>2.5</sub> days.

The Philadelphia Region is ranked the 22<sup>nd</sup> worst city for ozone pollution, an improvement from last year's 16<sup>th</sup>, and has remained off the list for annual PM<sub>2.5</sub> pollution. The ALA acknowledges improvements in air quality across the nation and especially in areas with the toughest air quality issues. The report credits tougher regulations on emissions from coal fired power plants and diesel engines with contributing to improvements to the nation's air quality.



**SAVE  
THE  
DATE**

**Tuesday,  
June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010  
Opening of Public Comment  
Period For  
FY 2011 PA TIP  
and Conformity  
Determination for PA and NJ  
TIPS**

Send Comments to:  
Tip- Plan Comments C/O DVRPC  
190 N. Independence Mall West  
Philadelphia, PA 19106  
Or email:  
[Tip-plan-comments@dvrpc.org](mailto:Tip-plan-comments@dvrpc.org)

**Thursday,  
June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2010  
Public Meeting  
For  
FY 2011 PA TIP,  
and Conformity  
Determination for FY 2011PA  
and FY 2010 NJ TIPS  
4:00 – 6:00 pm**

DVRPC Conference Center  
8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
6<sup>th</sup> and Race Streets  
Philadelphia, PA

The State of the Air report calls for enactment of a tougher ozone standard that is currently being reviewed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as well as stricter regulation of power plants and diesel engines.

To view the entire 2010 State of the Air report, including grading methodology and statistical analysis, please visit the American Lung Association at [www.stateoftheair.org](http://www.stateoftheair.org)

<sup>1</sup> The Philadelphia-Camden-Vineland PA-NJ-DE-MD metropolitan region includes Philadelphia, Bucks, Chester, Delaware and Montgomery Counties in PA and Camden, Burlington, Gloucester and Salem Counties in NJ.

<sup>2</sup>Burlington County was not included in the ALA State of the Air Report, presumably due to a lack of data.



## [Air Quality Partnership](#)

### **Air Quality Partnership Hosts the Fourteenth Ozone Season Kick-off**

The Air Quality Partnership of the Delaware Valley (AQP) held the ozone season kick-off to announce the beginning of daily ground-level ozone forecasting for 2010. The event was held on Friday April 23<sup>rd</sup> on the Main Stage at the Temple University EarthFest. EarthFest is an annual environmental fair, held at Temple's Ambler Campus that attracts over 20,000 visitors. Over 100 organizations distributed information to visitors at the festival.

After the reading of the inaugural ozone forecast by DVRPC's Don Shanis, AQP Board Chairperson, Maureen Farrell of Greater Valley Forge Transportation (GVF), and Vice Chair John Hainsworth, of Cross County Connection Transportation Management Association presented the annual Air Quality Excellence awards.

The first award was presented to Valley Forge National Park (VFNP) in Chester County. VFNP was recognized for their efforts to reduce air pollution emissions through various property and fleet management strategies and for their cooperation with the AQP and GVF to fly the Air Quality Action flag on days when air quality is forecast to be poor. The second award was presented to Terracycle Incorporated of Trenton, New Jersey, for their innovative efforts to reduce emissions from plastic processing by "up-cycling" traditionally non-recyclable materials. By manufacturing consumer goods from materials such as juice boxes and candy wrappers, Terracycle helps improve air quality by reducing the demand for virgin plastic while diverting hundreds of tons of plastic from the waste stream.

The AQP also used this opportunity to promote the Partnership's new air quality email alert system called EnviroFlash. EnviroFlash is an email program managed by the US EPA that alerts subscribers to days when levels of ozone or fine particle pollution are forecast to be unhealthy. The forecasts for the Pennsylvania portion of the DVRPC region are provided by Penn State University through a grant from the PA Department of Environmental Protection. Forecasts for the New Jersey portion of the region are provided by the NJ Department of Environmental Protection.

To sign-up for air quality advisories or forecasts, please visit [airquality@dvrpc.org](mailto:airquality@dvrpc.org) and click on the EnviroFlash icon. Assistance is available on the website or by calling Sean Greene at 215-238-2860.

<p>ALERT! is a DVRPC publication.</p>	 <p><b>Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission</b> DVRPC, 8th Floor 190 N. Independence Mall West Philadelphia, PA 19106-1520 Phone 215.592.1800 Fax 215.592.9125 <a href="http://www.dvrpc.org">www.dvrpc.org</a></p>
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