




Delaware Valley Regional  
Planning Commission

# air quality newsletter

## The AQP Kicks-off the Ozone Season at Clean Air Council's 5K for Clean Air

 The Air Quality Partnership of the Delaware Valley (AQP) held a press conference and kick-off event to announce the beginning of daily ground-level ozone forecasting for 2009. The event was held on Saturday April 18<sup>th</sup> at the Clean Air Council's 5K Run for Clean Air along Martin Luther King Drive. The 5K run was chosen because of the event's history of being well attended and also because it attracts an audience that would be interested in the AQP message. Over 1,700 runners and walkers participated in the event, including a team of 15 from DVRPC.

Clean Air Council Director, Joe Minott, introduced DVRPC Executive Director, Barry Seymour. Barry welcomed the crowd and read the first ozone forecast of the season. The forecasts are provided by Penn State University through grants from Pennsylvania and New Jersey Departments of Environmental Protection and contributions from the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control. The AQP will continue daily ozone forecasting through the end of September.

AQP Board Chairman, John McGee of SEPTA, then presented three Air Quality Excellence awards.

The first award was presented to Upper Dublin Township in Montgomery County. Upper Dublin was recognized for their efforts to become a Clean Energy Community and for their cooperation with the AQP and Greater Valley Forge Transportation Management Association. Upper Dublin Township flies the Air Quality Alert flag on days when air quality is forecast to be poor.

The second award was presented to AI DIA Spanish language newspaper for their contributions to the AQP through donated advertising space as well as the newspaper's efforts to educate the Spanish speaking population of the Delaware Valley about the health effects of ozone pollution.

The third, and very special award, was presented to Richard Kerr, former vice-chair of the AQP Board and retired, longtime employee of NJ Transit. Richard was active in New Jersey's Ozone Action Program and the AQP since the program's inception in 1997. Richard dedicated many volunteer hours spreading the air quality message and bringing his positive professionalism to the program.

Many organizations including PA DEP, NJ DEP, Philadelphia Air Management Services, ZIP car and SEPTA were on hand to distribute information on ways to reduce air pollution and protect public health to runners and people strolling along the MLK Drive.

To receive advisories when air quality is forecast to be unhealthy, contact the AQP at **800.872.7261** or [airquality@dvrpc.org](mailto:airquality@dvrpc.org); to view the daily air quality forecast on the web visit: [www.airqualitypartnership.org](http://www.airqualitypartnership.org)



*AQP Board Chair John McGee and DVRPC Executive Director Barry Seymour present Rich Kerr with an Air Quality Excellence Award for his long-term service to the region.*

The AQP would like to thank the Clean Air Council for hosting the Ozone Season kick-off at their annual 5K for Clean Air.

## Pennsylvania Implements Anti-Idling Regulation for Heavy Duty Diesel Vehicles

On February 6, 2009, Pennsylvania's heavy duty diesel anti-idling law took effect. The law is targeted at reducing air pollutants and saving fuel from diesel powered vehicles over 10,000 pounds, and includes many classes of long-haul trucks and buses.

According to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), idling heavy duty trucks emit 3,200 tons of smog-forming nitrogen oxides; 210,000 tons of carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas; and 65 tons of particle pollution or soot each year in Pennsylvania. Across the nation, idling of these vehicles wastes over one billion gallons of diesel fuel, at a cost of over \$2 billion annually.

Truck and bus drivers often idle their engines during rest periods to heat or cool the vehicles or provide electricity for on-board amenities. In recent years there have been many advances in technology, such as electrified parking spaces or auxiliary units that provide power without running the engine. Pennsylvania's anti-idling law includes an exemption for trucks with sleeper berths until

May, 2010, in order to provide a reasonable amount of time for truckers to adopt these technologies to comply with the regulation.

In March, DEP awarded grants to three regional air quality organizations to help the trucking industry comply with the new regulation. The grants, funded by the US EPA, will be used to educate heavy-duty diesel vehicle operators and local officials on the environmental and economic effects of unnecessary idling and the availability of idling reduction technology.

The grants were awarded to the Clean Air Council for outreach in the eastern part of the state and the Clean Air Board of Central Pennsylvania and the Group Against Smog and Pollution (Pittsburgh) for outreach efforts in the central and western portions of the state, respectively.

DEP is also operating a Small Business Advantage Grant program to assist small trucking operations purchase auxiliary power systems and has partnered with private enterprises to install electrified truck parking spaces at eleven truck stops across the Commonwealth.

If your business utilizes diesel trucks, there are many opportunities and materials available to educate your drivers about the new anti-idling law, and with the price of diesel fuel on the rise again, anti-idling measures can save

your company real money while protecting your drivers' health and improving air quality.

For more information on the Diesel-Powered Motor Vehicle Idling Act, or to learn more about Pennsylvania's efforts to reduce pollution from idling, please visit:

[www.depweb.state.pa.us](http://www.depweb.state.pa.us)

Keyword: Diesel Idling



Public Comment Period Open for DVRPC *Connections* Long-Range Plan

DVRPC will be taking public comment on the agency's Draft *Connections* Long-Range plan from May 22, until June 22, 2009

The Draft Plan is available at [www.dvrpc.org/connections](http://www.dvrpc.org/connections)

Comments can be sent to [Tip-plan-comments@dvrpc.org](mailto:Tip-plan-comments@dvrpc.org)

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE AIR QUALITY PARTNERSHIP, CONTACT: [AIRQUALITY@DVRPC.ORG](mailto:AIRQUALITY@DVRPC.ORG) / 215.238.2860

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