



The Partnership uses the Air Quality Index (AQI), a common color-coded scale, to communicate daily air quality conditions.

GREEN = good air quality

YELLOW = moderate

ORANGE = air quality is unhealthy for sensitive groups; including older adults

RED = air quality is unhealthy for everyone

CONTACTS

Sign up for free air quality daily alerts:

www.airqualitypartnership.org

or **1-800-872-7261** and

www.airnow.gov

Learn more about

Mobility Alternatives Program:

www.dvrpc.org/mobilityalternatives

Learn more about RideECO:

www.rideeco.org

Each year the Air Quality Partnership recognizes a business that promotes air quality protection to their employees. If you think your business should be recognized, please call **215-238-2860**



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YOUR BUSINESS & AIR QUALITY

The Greater Philadelphia Region has

an air pollution problem. Over the years,

the region has not met the health-based air quality standards for ground level ozone and fine particle pollution. The health effects of air pollution impact health care costs in the region, cause missed work and school days, and increase hospital visits. **Know the facts; protect your health, prevent air pollution!**



KNOW THE FACTS



Ozone

Ozone, also known as “smog,” is a harmful pollutant that forms on the hot days of summer when there is bright sunshine and little breeze. Ozone pollution is particularly harmful to children, older adults, and people with existing health problems, such as heart disease, emphysema, or asthma.

Fine Particle Pollution

Fine Particle Pollution (PM 2.5), or soot, is made up of tiny particles of liquids, dust, and even metals that can be breathed deep into the lungs. Particle pollution is especially dangerous because it can cause long-term damage to lungs and contribute to chronic lung and heart diseases.

Air Quality Index

The Partnership uses an automated email alert system to inform members when air quality is forecast to be poor, also known as Air Quality Action Days. Visit www.airqualitypartnership.org to sign-up for free email alerts.

PREVENT AIR POLLUTION

Preventing air pollution rather than treating its impacts is the most effective way to protect the health of the entire community and the environment. Actions taken by businesses and other organizations can have large impacts on air quality in the region, especially on days when air quality is going to be poor. These simple actions can improve employee morale and save a business or organization money.

➔ Transportation

1. Offer pre-tax vanpool or transit incentive programs, such as RideECO
2. Work with your local TMA to promote commuting alternatives

➔ Operations

1. Adopt energy conservation practices at the office
2. Avoid lawn mowing and landscaping activities on Air Quality Action Days
3. Adopt anti-idling policies for your fleet and deliveries

PROTECT YOUR HEALTH

Businesses make ideal Air Quality Partners, because an organization, no matter its size, is able to share the air quality forecast with a larger audience. Our partners receive free email alerts and can post them on a company intranet site, post notices in public areas, or fly an air quality alert flag on Air Quality Action days. Individual employees are also welcome to sign up for air quality alerts and forecasts. Since many jurisdictions have regulations banning diesel emergency generator testing on Air Quality Action Days, the alerts are also an easy way to help compliance officers receive the most up-to-date air quality information.

Work can't stop on Air Quality Action Days. However, by being mindful of when Action Days occur, employees can limit their exposure to air pollution and make sure that children and elderly adults in their care limit strenuous activities on those days.

When they know the AQI, employees can then take steps to limit their exposure to air pollution and that of their families. These actions can prevent emergency medication usage, limit sick days, or reduce lost work hours. Your local Transportation Management Association (TMA) or the Air Quality Partnership can provide you with flags and other materials to help alert your employees to poor air quality.