

About Clean Air Action Days

Clean Air Action Day

- An Action Day is called when the Air Quality Index (AQI) is forecast to reach unhealthy levels.
- On these days, the public is asked to take voluntary actions to reduce emissions and protect their health.
- Sign up for Enviroflash (www.enviroflash.info) to receive personalized air quality forecasts.

Air Quality Index

- The AQI is an easy way to know how clean the outside air is.
- It provides a color-coded picture of current air pollution levels and health effects.
- Ground-level ozone or particulate matter are the most likely pollutants to reach unhealthy levels.



Ozone

- In the upper atmosphere, it protects us from the sun's harmful rays.
- At ground level, ozone is a powerful gas that can irritate and even damage our lungs.
- In the summer, sunlight and heat "bake" pollutants emitted by motor vehicles, power plants, industry, and other sources to form high levels of ground-level ozone, commonly known as smog.

Particulate Matter

- This pollutant includes small drops of liquid or bits of dust, metals, or other materials in the air.
- It can come from a variety of sources, including incinerators, industry, motor vehicles and even forest fires and construction sites.
- Its levels are usually highest in the summer and winter, making it a year-round problem.

Take **Clean Air Actions** while saving time, money, and gas!

In the Car...

Share a Ride: Carpool or ride the bus.

Telecommute: Work from home.

Trip Chain: Combine errands and avoid cold starts.

Turn it Off: Shut off the engine if stopping for a minute or more to reduce emissions from idling.

Maintenance: Keep vehicle tuned up and tires properly inflated to reduce emissions and improve gas mileage.

At the Pump...

Refuel after 6:00 p.m.: Ozone levels are at their highest in the mid to late afternoon.

Don't Top Off The Tank: This prevents the release of gas fumes into the air.

At Home...

Postpone Mowing: Mow the lawn late in the afternoon (after 6:00 p.m.) or use an electric or push mower.

Use Woodstoves / Fireplaces Sparingly: Burn only untreated wood in a well-maintained stove or fireplace.

Refrain from Burning Trash or Yard Waste: Recycle or compost instead.

Conserve Energy: Unplug unused appliances to reduce pollution from power plants.

For more information and forecasts go to wmcac.org or michigan.gov/deqair or call 1-800-656-0663.



**WEST MICHIGAN
CLEAN AIR
ACTION!**

Brought to you by the West Michigan Clean Air Coalition, a partnership of business, education, government, and non-profit groups working to achieve cleaner air in the region through the education and promotion of voluntary emission reduction activities.