



Wake County Recommended Air Quality Control Measures

Endorsed by the Wake County Board of Commissioners February 7, 2005

What everyone can do individually to improve air quality

Getting Around

- Know the air quality codes and have a plan for actions you will take on ozone action days, such as taking public transportation to work.
- If your employer is not a member of the Best Workplaces for Commuters, encourage them to join. The Federal site is <http://www.commuterchoice.gov/>. The Triangle area site is: <http://www.trianglebwc.org>.
- Calculate the cost of commuting by automobile by using the Triangle Transit Authority's calculator at: <http://www.ridetta.org/costcal.html>
- Take the bus.
 - Use Triangle Transit Authority's Regional Transit planner to plan your trip. <http://www.gotriangle.org/>
 - Triangle Transit Authority's website is <http://www.ridetta.org/>
 - Capital Area Transit's website is: http://www.raleighnc.gov/portal/server.pt/gateway/PTARGS_0_0_306_202_0_43/http/pt03/DIG_Web_Content/category/Resident/Transportation/Cat-Index.html.
- Vanpool: <http://www.ridetta.org/vanpool.html>.
- Minimize the number of trips you take by combining trips, walking to lunch or bringing your lunch from home.
- Use Share the Ride NC: www.sharetheridenc.com to quickly and securely find other individuals who share similar commutes and work hours, and are interested in carpooling or vanpooling. In addition, Share the Ride NC allows commuters to find park and ride lots, public transit services bike routes and biking buddies.
- Consider tele-working or flex time to reduce the number of days you commute, if offered and appropriate for your job.
- Keep your car tuned and tires properly inflated. Use cruise control when practical and stay within speed limits.
- Avoid idling; park and walk into restaurants and banks instead of using drive-through lanes. Turn off engine while waiting for family members.
- Refuel after 6 PM on ozone action days, avoid spilling fuel, and don't top off.
- Before purchasing a new car, find out which ones are better for air quality. Log on to <http://www.epa.gov/greenvehicles/> for ratings.
- Report vehicles emitting visible air contaminants for more than five consecutive seconds to <http://daq.state.nc.us/motor/smoking.shtml>. Also, you can call 733-1766 should you have problems or questions.
- Carpool children to school- find other parents in your neighborhood or on your route, and share the ride to school.

At Home

- Consider costs and commuting convenience when choosing where to live. The Federal National Mortgage Association has a program called "Smart Commute" whereby eligible applicants who purchase housing near public transportation can qualify for a loan that exceeds the normal limits.
- Reduce your home's energy consumption. Use the Home Energy Saver website to calculate your energy use and get tips on how to reduce energy consumption. <http://homeenergysaver.lbl.gov/>
- Make use of passive solar techniques, such as planting shade trees, using opaque window shades to reduce solar gain, and other methods.

- Make sure your home is properly insulated. Progress Energy recommends R-30 insulation for ceilings, R-19 for floors and R-16 for outside walls.
- If your furnace or air conditioner is over 10 years old, consider replacing it with an energy-efficient heat pump.
- Purchase ENERGY STAR labeled heating and air-conditioning units and appliances. <http://www.energystar.gov/>
- To increase your heating and cooling system efficiency, replace system filters monthly. Do not block registers and return vents with furniture or drapes.
- During the summer months, set your thermostat at the highest comfortable setting (try 78 degrees) and use ceiling fans to circulate the air.
- Close the fireplace damper when it is not in use.
- Turn off lights and electrical equipment, such as TVs, when not in use.
- Use your microwave for cooking instead of your stove or oven.
- Switch to fluorescent bulbs for areas of constant use, such as the kitchen.
- Maintain live green potted plants in your work area if feasible. In addition to producing oxygen, the following indoor plants can reduce chemical air pollutants that irritate people's eyes, nose & throat, cause headaches and aggravate asthma. Recommended indoor office plants include: Weeping Fig, Peace Lily, Golden Pothos, Kentia Palm, Boston Fern, Anthurium, Dragon Tree and Arrow-leaf philodendron.
- Participate in the NC Green Power Program. Electric power customers can contribute \$4 per month to a fund that supports the development of renewable energy sources in North Carolina. www.ncgreenpower.org
- Go to Division of Air Quality's web page for kids, <http://daq.state.nc.us/cgi-bin/aakids.cgi?actcd=0> and have your children play air quality jeopardy.

In the yard

- Replace gasoline lawn equipment with electric or hand-powered equipment.
- If you have gasoline equipment, cut grass after 6 PM on ozone action days.
- Reduce mowing by landscaping with natural areas and planted beds.
- Don't burn yard waste, brush, etc. Burning garbage is illegal, and all outdoor burning is illegal in some areas of North Carolina. The Division of Air Quality website on open burning is: <http://daq.state.nc.us/enf/openburn/>

What employers can do to improve air quality.

(Note that not all of these measures may be applicable to small businesses.)

- Support Regional air quality improvement efforts such as the Greater Triangle Regional Council's air quality initiatives. <http://www.triangleregion.org/>

Commuting Tools, Fleet Management and Operations

- Become a "Best Workplace for Commuters." <http://www.commuterchoice.gov/>
- For RTP businesses, join the "Smart Commute" program <http://www.smartcommute.org/>
 - Greater Raleigh Chamber of Commerce to send out coordinated mailings to its members encouraging them to become Best Workplaces for Commuters or join Smart Commute
 - Model the United Way's loaned executives program to promote Best Workplaces for Commuters and Smart Commute. Get big companies to act as ambassadors to others.
- Create or join a Transportation Management Association of employers located close to your workplace.
- Participate in U-Pass program with Triangle Transit Authority and/or Capital Area Transit.
- Provide employees with a packet of information on commuting alternatives available to them. Triangle Transit Authority has a packet for its programs.
- Purchase "green vehicles" <http://www.epa.gov/greenvehicles/> Use alternative fuel vehicles, hybrid vehicles, and other low-emission vehicles in fleets.
- Implement idling restrictions for company vehicles.
- Participate in the Triangle Clean Cities Coalition. <http://www.trianglencleanities.org/>
- Prohibit testing and maintenance of stationary engines during mornings in ozone season

- Accelerate replacement of small gas equipment with electric equipment
- Restrict early morning operation of gas equipment
- Accelerate replacement of on-road and non-road diesel fleets to alternative fuels or cleaner diesel engines.
- Support the creation of high occupancy vehicle and toll lanes
- Support the early introduction of ultra-low sulfur fuels to the region
- Support state incentives for alternative fuel vehicles and refueling infrastructure

In the Workplace

- When locating new places of employment, include proximity to public transit as a criterion.
- When constructing new buildings, use Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design http://www.usgbc.org/LEED/LEED_main.asp principles or Triangle High Performance Guidelines in construction projects <http://www.tjcog.dst.nc.us/hpgtrpf.htm>
- Give priority in awarding contracts to contractors that achieve emission reductions for non-road diesel equipment used during construction projects
- Participate in the NC Air Awareness Program and display Air Awareness information at work sites. <http://daq.state.nc.us/airaware/>
- Provide on-line services to customers
- Enroll marketing companies for pro bono work to promote air quality measures.

What the Wake County Public School System other schools, day care centers and churches can do to improve air quality.

Commuting Tools, Fleet Management and Operations

- Retrofit buses to improve emissions from them and establish idling policies.
- When contracting for bus services, include air quality specifications in requests for proposals.
- Review school bus routing to ensure optimal use.
- Work through PTA's to promote NC Child Advocacy Institute and Wake County League of Women Voters', recommendations in Fuming over School Bus Diesel. <http://www.ncchild.org/health.htm>
- Participate in the Triangle Clean Cities Coalition <http://www.trianglecleancities.org/>
- Use alternate fuels (e.g. biodiesel) in buses and alternative fuel vehicles to transport children.
- Reduce emissions from parents' cars waiting for children, e.g. by encouraging children carpools, etc.
- Encourage participation in the Safe Routes to Schools Program <http://www.saferoutestoschools.org/>.
- Use EPA's Tools for Schools for indoor air quality information. <http://www.epa.gov/iaq/schools/tools4s2.html>
- Promote a "Take your parents on Transit" day.

Air awareness

- Get air awareness posters into schools.
- Establish an art project around air quality and art. Triangle Transit Authority's project with Jeffrey's Grove elementary to create a calendar as an example.
- Create targeted education programs for schools on air quality.

School Facilities

- Ensure that walking to school is a consideration in locating and designing schools.
- Include provisions for emission reductions in contract documents with contractors for non-road diesel equipment used during construction projects.
- Actively pursue grant opportunities to improve air quality.

What local governments can do:

- Join TJCOC's Triangle Air Quality Partnership and work with other local governments to foster regional cooperation on air quality issues.

Commuting Tools, Fleet Management and Operations

- Become a “Best Workplace for Commuters.” <http://www.commuterchoice.gov/> For RTP businesses, join the “Smart Commute” program: <http://www.smartcommute.org/>
- Create or join a Transportation Management Association of employers located close to your workplace.
- Participate in U-Pass program with Triangle Transit Authority and/or Capital Area Transit.
- Provide employees with a packet of information on commuting alternatives available to them. Triangle Transit Authority has a packet for its programs.
- Provide employees with a packet of information on commuting alternatives available to them.
- Purchase “green vehicles” <http://www.epa.gov/greenvehicles/>
- Use alternative fuel vehicles, hybrid vehicles, and other low-emission vehicles in fleets.
- Implement idling restrictions for government vehicles.
- Participate in the Triangle Clean Cities Coalition <http://www.trianglecleancities.org/>
- Prohibit testing and maintenance of stationary engines during mornings in ozone season
- Accelerate replacement of small gas equipment with electric equipment
- Restrict early morning operation of gas equipment
- Accelerate replacement of on-road and non-road diesel fleets to alternative fuels or cleaner diesel engines.

Governmental Facilities

- Give credits in awarding contracts to contractors that achieve emission reductions for non-road diesel equipment used during construction projects.
- When locating new places of employment, include proximity to public transit as a criterion.
- When constructing new buildings, use Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design http://www.usgbc.org/LEED/LEED_main.asp principles or Triangle High Performance Guidelines in construction projects <http://www.ncgreenbuilding.org/site/ncg//index.cfm?>
- Participate in the NC Air Awareness Program and display Air Awareness information at work sites.
- Provide on-line services to customers
- Expand air quality education to employees and the general public

Planning, Capital Improvements and Legislation

- Support the creation of high occupancy vehicle and toll lanes
- Support the early introduction of ultra-low sulfur fuels to the region
- Support state incentives for alternative fuel vehicles and refueling infrastructure
- Include air quality and energy conservation in transportation and land use planning processes
- Implement policies, incentives and standards for development to occur in areas with public infrastructure
- Implement policies, incentives and standards for neighborhood designs that promote walking, biking and transit use.
- Expand bike and pedestrian facilities in accordance with locally adopted plans.
- Require bike and pedestrian facilities on collector streets and thoroughfares as a condition of development approval and as streets are widened or constructed.
- Require an energy conservation plan for construction projects
- Implement urban heat island initiatives and “green” infrastructure.
- Expand public transportation alternatives, improve transit amenities, multimodal transit infrastructure and connectivity
- Implement traffic signal and intersection improvements designed to mitigate congestion and improve air quality.
- Enforce “smoking vehicle” legislation. <http://daq.state.nc.us/motor/smoking.shtml>
- Provide free bus rides on ozone action days
- Implement a “stop at the click” program at gas stations
- Work with freight operators and delivery services to identify appropriate control measures.
- Secure grants for truck stop electrification.
- Ensure that State regulations on open burning are enforced. <http://daq.state.nc.us/enf/openburn/>