

# The Breeze



## Newsletter to Focus on Air Quality

The Breeze is a new publication produced by the Hamilton County Department of Environmental Services' Air Quality Management Division (AQMD) for the residents, businesses and organizations of Butler, Clermont, Hamilton, and Warren counties.

The publication seeks to keep people up-to-date on local and national issues that impact air quality. The Monitoring and Analysis (M&A) Section of the AQMD provides you with information regarding the air quality over the last quarter, and articles relating to the air you breathe. The Permits and Enforcement (P&E) Section will provide

information regarding the complaint program, open burning, permits, and many other topics.

Also, look for health tips, an education and outreach update, general air quality articles, and a calendar of events. Watch for the newsletter quarterly, in March, June, September, and December.

If you would like to receive a copy, remove your name from the mailing list, or receive the newsletter by e-mail, please contact Lynn White at 513-946-7754 or at [lynn.white@hamilton-co.org](mailto:lynn.white@hamilton-co.org).

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## What's all the fuss about Green Vehicles?

By: Lynn White, Public Affairs Specialist

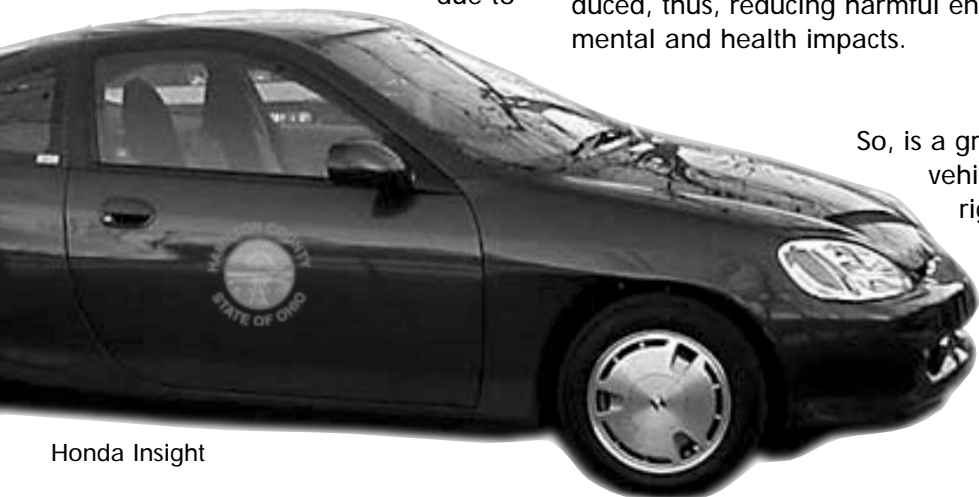
Trends show that we are driving more miles than ever, nearly 150% more than we did in 1970. Yet, the entire population of western Europe could fit in the empty seats in our cars! We have known for decades that cars pollute the air, yet we keep on driving. Fortunately, due to

emission checks and new technologies, cars now emit far less pollution than ever before. However, regular gasoline and diesel vehicles still cause much more pollution than the many styles of green vehicles. Green vehicles, or alternatively fueled vehicles (AFVs), can reduce the amount, or eliminate all, of the harmful pollutants from being produced, thus, reducing harmful environmental and health impacts.

There are many different kinds of AFVs, including: natural gas vehicles, electric hybrids, and many more. Would you like a sporty 2-seater, a family-sized car, a truck, or a SUV? The options are greater than you think. You may have already seen many AFVs and thought they were regular gasoline vehicles. Interested in learning more or buying an AFV?

Do a little homework before you go to the car lot. This will help you decide what type of alternative fuel is right for you and allow you to see exactly what kinds of vehicles are available. Don't let the cost of an AFV hold you back from making a purchase.

So, is a green vehicle right for you?



Honda Insight

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# Permits and Enforcement

## Contributors:

Alberta Mellon, Environmental Compliance Specialist; Kurt Smith, Environmental Compliance Specialist; Tom Wittekind, Environmental Compliance Specialist

The Permits and Enforcement (P&E) Section of the Hamilton County Department of Environmental Services, Air Quality Management Division (AQMD) operates as a local air agency under the authority of the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The P&E section is responsible for enforcing the air pollution regulations that apply to industries located in Butler, Clermont, Hamilton, and Warren counties.

The P&E personnel are known as Environmental Compliance Specialists

(ECSs) and they prepare permits outlining the applicable air pollution regulations for many types of industries. Businesses may be required to apply for and obtain a final Permit To Install (PTI) prior to installing a new emissions unit.

Businesses may then be required to apply for or renew a Permit To Operate (PTO) in order to continue operating an existing emissions unit. The ECS then makes the permit recommendations to the OEPA who issue the permit.

The P&E Section also monitors the compliance status of facilities covered by federal air pollution programs such as National Emissions Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAPs).

The ECSs conduct facility inspections and review operational and emissions reports to ensure that businesses comply with regulations. Inspections and reviewing of reports are the primary methods of identifying violations of these regulations.

The ECSs issue a Notice Of Violation (NOV) letter to facilities in violation of regulations. The NOV identifies the air quality rule breached and requires the company to end the violation and submit a plan to resolve the problem. The ECSs prepare an Enforcement Action Recommendation (EAR) and submit it to the OEPA for final resolution if there is a substantial violation or if the facility cannot achieve compliance within a short period of time. Violations of permit requirements can result in fines or additional emissions control requirements.

## What's That Smell?

Air Quality complaint program dispels odors.

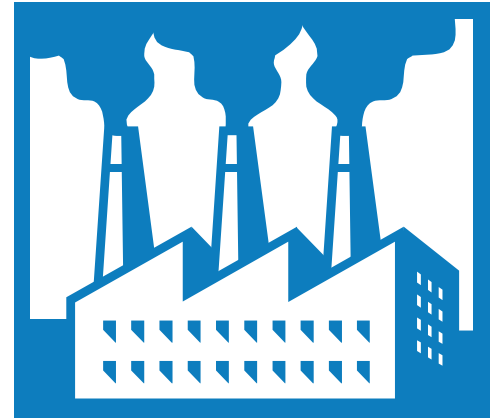
By: Kerri Kahlenberg, Permit and Enforcement Supervisor and Michael Fair, Environmental Compliance Specialist

We hear this a lot in the field: "I didn't know who to call about this". The Hamilton County Department of Environmental Services, Air Quality Management Division (AQMD) responds to air quality complaints in Butler, Clermont, Hamilton and Warren counties, through the complaint hotline. The air quality complaint hotline is available 24-hours a day, 7-days a week, except major holidays. We respond to complaints regarding odors, dust, open burning, smoke from factories, asbestos concerns and freon releases.

When you call the hotline, an Environmental Compliance Specialist (ECS) will contact you. The ECS will gather some basic information from you on the phone and begin an investigation to try to determine the source

of the problem. For odor complaints, the ECS will want to meet with the complainant to document the odor, so they can effectively trace the odor and address the problem. In some cases, the ECS can come to a cooperative solution with the source (factory, business, residential neighbor) right away. Sometimes, it may take modifications to the process or facility before the situation improves.

The AQMD started the hotline in 1991 in response to a need for 'real time' complaint action. For the first time, agency investigators would respond to air quality complaints any time, day or night. A more consistent, focused approach to complaint investigations



Air Quality 24-Hour Hotline

513-946-7777

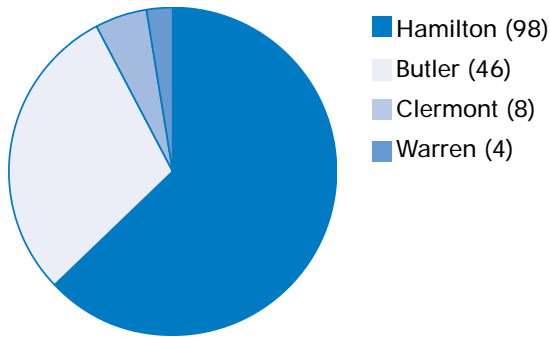
1-800-889-0474

allowed us to zero in on the exact sources of the odors and in many cases, work with the companies or residents to reduce or eliminate odors from their facilities or homes.

In the decade since the hotline started, the number of complaints have fallen by 50 percent. At the AQMD, we consider the people we serve to be one of our best resources. Please call the air quality hotline anytime at 513-946-7777 or toll free at 1-800-889-0474.

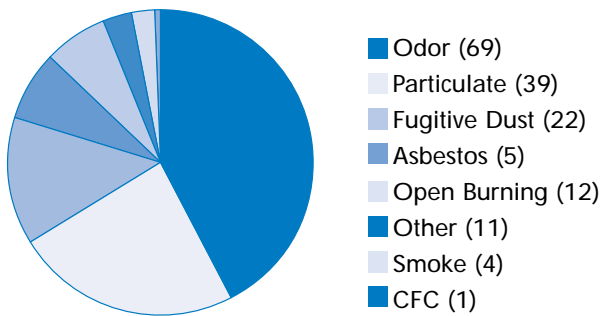
## January - June 30, 2002

### Complaints by County



County	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	Total
Hamilton	.16	.16	.13	.19	.16	.18	.98
Butler	.06	.02	.13	.04	.09	.12	.46
Clermont	.1	.3	.0	.1	.1	.2	.8
Warren	.0	.1	.0	.2	.0	.1	.4

### Complaints by Type



Type	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	Total
Odor	.13	.13	.13	.12	.08	.10	.69
Particulate	.03	.03	.08	.06	.09	.10	.39
Fugitive Dust	.02	.02	.01	.06	.06	.05	.22
Open Burn	.02	.02	.02	.01	.01	.04	.12
Other	.07	.01	.01	.01	.00	.01	.11
Asbestos	.02	.00	.00	.00	.01	.02	.05
Smoke	.01	.00	.01	.00	.01	.01	.04
CFC	.00	.01	.00	.00	.00	.00	.01

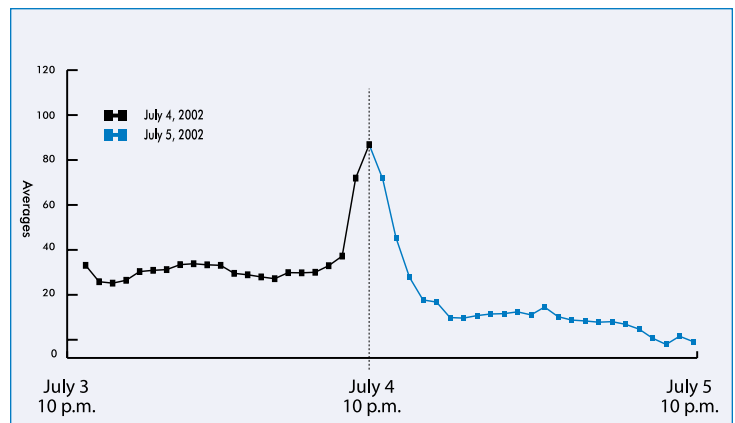
## Air Pollution With A Bang!



On the 4th of July, for the first time, the Air Quality Management Division tracked particulate matter emissions of up to 2.5 microns in diameter (PM2.5) on an hourly basis.

As shown in the graph below, there was a distinct peak in PM2.5 emissions at about 10 p.m., which coincides with the time of many local fireworks displays. In past years, the monitoring equipment could only provide daily averages, masking this extremely high peak.

The particulate levels that were recorded fell in the unhealthy category on the Air Quality Index (AQI). PM2.5 are extremely small and can enter the lungs causing numerous health problems. To learn more about PM2.5 and its health effects, please visit [www.hcdoes.org](http://www.hcdoes.org).



## Alternative Vehicles

(Continued from Front Page)

Many alternatively fueled vehicles are cheaper in regards to fuel use. For example, gasoline-electric hybrids, such as the Toyota Prius, can get about 50 miles to the gallon. Compare this to about 25 miles to the gallon for an equivalent gasoline vehicle. Also, factor in the tax incentives. Many AFVs are eligible for a Clean-Fuel vehicle tax deduction of up to \$2,000, which rapidly cuts down the extra cost of an AFV. For more information about tax incentives, please go to [www.fueleconomy.gov/feg/tax\\_afv.shtml](http://www.fueleconomy.gov/feg/tax_afv.shtml).

What are you waiting for? Take a green vehicle out for a test drive. You will not only enjoy the ride, but enjoy the environmental benefits as well! For more information about AFVs, please visit our website at [www.hcdoes.org](http://www.hcdoes.org).

Have a suggestion for The Breeze?  
Contact Lynn White at 513-946-7754 or  
visit [www.hcdoes.org](http://www.hcdoes.org).

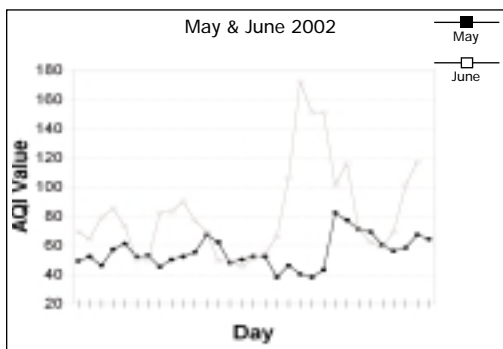
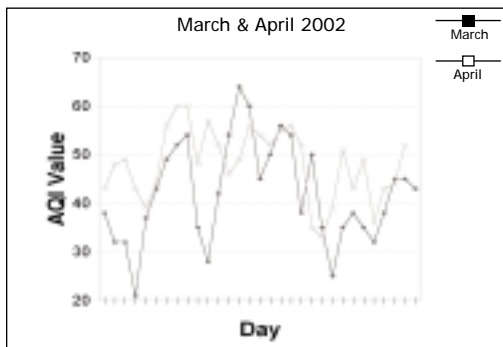
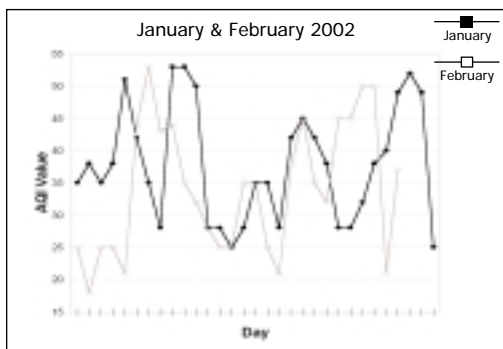
## Stack Test Data

<b>First Quarter</b> 14	<b>Second Quarter</b> 21
<b>Third Quarter</b> 0	<b>Fourth Quarter</b> 0

**Total\*:** 35

\*The Monitoring and Analysis staff have conducted 35 stack test observations during the first two quarters of 2002.

## Air Quality Index



# Monitoring and Analysis

## Tracking Our Air

By: Dawn Mays Monitoring and Analysis Technician

Ever wonder who is responsible for monitoring the air you breathe? The Monitoring and Analysis (M&A) Section of the Air Quality Management Division (AQMD) at the Hamilton County Department of Environmental Services has that responsibility.

There are two separate groups within the M&A Section: Ambient Monitoring and Stack Testing Observation. The Ambient Monitoring Group is responsible for maintaining the 42 continuous and intermittent monitors measuring pollutants throughout Butler, Clermont, Hamilton, and Warren counties.

Data from these monitors determine the Air Quality Index (AQI) that is released twice daily to local media

and posted on the Department's website. As a special public service, the Ambient Monitoring Group also performs pollen and mold counts throughout the months of February through October. The ambient monitoring group also works with local meteorologists to determine when to issue a smog alert encouraging everyone to *Do Your Share for Cleaner Air!*

The Stack Test Observation Group is responsible for the observation and validation of all stack (source) testing that occurs in the four county area. The stack tests determine the rate air pollutants are emitted from a stack at a facility. Results of the tests they observe determine the compliance of sources with their existing air permits or define the emission limits that will become part of an air permit for a new or existing source.

## Cincinnati's Citizen Ozone Monitoring Network

By: Harry St. Clair, Monitoring and Analysis Supervisor

The Citizen Ozone Monitoring network, funded by Environmental Defense, seeks to identify any smog "hotspots" in the area and build awareness about the need to reduce the pollution that causes smog. The program started in the summer of 2000 in Cleveland, Ohio. Citizens in six neighborhoods took daily readings for four weeks in August and September. The network has expanded to include six other cities, including Cincinnati and Dayton.

A Zikua, meaning "visualizing the invisible" in KiSwahili, is the personal, handheld monitoring device used to measure the ozone levels in this monitoring network. A chemically treated badge is exposed to the outside air for an hour at the same time each day. The badge is then inserted into the Zikua, which reads ozone in

parts per billion. About 10 local volunteers operate and report ozone levels to the Environmental Defense, who quality checks the data and posts it on their website at [www.edf.org](http://www.edf.org).

The Hamilton County Department of Environmental Services, Monitoring and Analysis Section (M&A) is participating in this study. Test strips are being placed outdoors for one hour each afternoon during periods of expected high ozone levels. Comparisons between the test strips and the Department's continuous ozone monitor are made. Results will be published at the end of this year's ozone season, in November.

To learn more about the citizen ozone monitoring project, please call Karen Arnett at (513) 761-6140. For more information on ozone monitoring in Southwest Ohio, please visit [www.hcdoes.org](http://www.hcdoes.org).

*Need to be removed from the mailing list?  
See back panel for instructions.*

## Air Quality Outreach Programming Available for Communities and Schools

At the Hamilton County Department of Environmental Services, we are proud to provide improved education and outreach services to the residents, schools, and businesses of Butler, Clermont, Hamilton, and Warren counties.

We provide free presentations to community groups, classrooms, teachers, and other organizations, on a wide variety of air-related topics, including: alternatively fueled vehicles, local air quality, and the impact of air quality on our health. In addition to these presentations, we have a variety of free materi-

als, including brochures about living with allergies, booklets on transportation and air quality, and even materials for children, such as coloring books and activity sheets.

Our website, [www.hcdoes.org](http://www.hcdoes.org), has a new educational section, which is already bursting with information. If you would like more information, or would like to schedule a presentation, please call Lynn White at (513) 946-7754 or email her at [lynn.white@hamilton-co.org](mailto:lynn.white@hamilton-co.org).

### Indoor Air Quality Tips

By the Hamilton County General Health District

- Keep your home well ventilated
- Use dehumidifiers to extract excess moisture from the air that can allow mold to grow.
- Be aware of possible off-gas in your home, produced by new carpeting or other type of flooring, cabinets or any type of pressboard, or new paint. Ventilate well.
- Maintain your furnace and water heater to prevent carbon monoxide leakage
- When building a new home, do not allow the construction to get wet. Mold can grow.
- Make sure you keep some water in your drain trap at all times to prevent gaseous smells from coming up through the drain.



## Calendar of Events

### Hamilton County Environmental Action Commission

**Meeting Date:** 1st Thursday each month, 1:30-3 p.m.  
DOES Conference Rooms

### Regional Ozone Coalition (ROC)

**Meeting Date:** September 24 & November 27, 2002, 10 a.m.,  
DOES Conference Rooms

### Air Quality Policy Advisory Committee (AQPAC)

**Meeting Date:** November 20, 2002, 1:30-3 p.m., DOES Conference Rooms

### Zimmer Station Permit To Install (PTI)

**Public Hearing:** September 12, 2002, 7 p.m., Old Moscow H.S., 30 Well St, Village of Moscow

### Permit to Install Training

October 8, 2002, 2 p.m.  
TechSolve, 1111 Edison Dr, Cincinnati, 45216

### Energy Efficiency Collaborative

**Meeting Date:** October 14, 2002, 1 p.m., TechSolve, 1111 Edison Dr, Cincinnati, 45216

### Clean Water Act Celebration

**Meeting Date:** October 19-20, 2002  
Various Locations including Cincinnati Museum Center and Newport Aquarium

Visit our website at [www.hcdoes.org](http://www.hcdoes.org).

# Kelley Is Employee of the Year

By: Elisa Alonso, Public Affairs Intern



Anna Kelley

Anna Kelley, Quality Assurance and Monitoring Coordinator for the Hamilton County Department of Environmental Services, was named a Hamilton

County 2002 Employee Of The Year. Anna was recognized for her hard work and dedication to her job, family and the community.

Anna began her career with the Department in 1988 as a Chemist, and was then promoted to her current position in 1993. Anna is known for working numerous extra hours, espe-

cially during the busy summer months of "smog season," and is dedicated to the accuracy and quality of work produced by the Air Quality Monitoring and Analysis (M&A) staff. Anna is also involved in numerous state and national air quality organizations including the STAPPA/ALAPCO (State and Territorial Air Pollution Program Administrators/Association of Local Air Pollution Control Officials) and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA).

Outside of the office, Anna shares her love of science with the community by serving annually as a local and regional science fair judge. Anna also volunteers her time at the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Gardens and at Cincinnati State Technical and Community College. She even finds time in her busy schedule to sing in her church choir.



**Air Quality Index (AQI):** An index showing daily air quality as it relates to health. The AQI is broken down by color to represent the level of quality. It reports the most prevalent of the six criteria air pollutants, and provides a description of the effects. For more information, please visit [www.hcdoes.org](http://www.hcdoes.org).

**Air Quality Management Division (AQMD):** Local agency charged with controlling air quality and maintaining air standards. Hamilton County AQMD serves Butler, Clermont, Hamilton, and Warren counties.

## HAMILTON COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

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Cincinnati, Ohio 45219-2660  
[www.hcdoes.org](http://www.hcdoes.org)



The Breeze is published quarterly. Subscriptions are available at no charge. Please forward name and address to Hamilton County Department of Environmental Services. Contact [lynn.white@hamilton-co.org](mailto:lynn.white@hamilton-co.org) for more information or call: (513) 946-7754, fax (513) 946-7779.