

# The Breeze



## Cincinnati Selected by EPA for Air Quality Forecasting Pilot Project

**Hamilton County** - Cincinnati was chosen as a pilot city for a new forecasting tool being developed by the U.S. EPA. This pilot project will eventually assist air quality agencies in setting up daily forecasting for fine particulate matter.

Fine particulate matter, known as PM 2.5, are particles less than 2.5 microns in size. The overall goal is to build local forecasting capacity to produce PM 2.5 forecasts, in combination with currently produced ozone forecasts, so that year-round Air Quality Index (AQI) forecasts can be generated starting in the Fall of 2003.

The AQMD will be working with Sonoma Technology Inc., the EPA's prime contractor operating this project. The AQMD will provide a historical database containing information

about particulate matter, and provide results from their own forecasting to compare these to the results from the model and real-life conditions.

The AQMD is looking forward to helping develop this tool that will eventually be used by cities across the U.S. to forecast air quality.



Come and join us at the 3rd annual Clean Air A-Thon, a 5K run/walk and family fun-fest, Saturday, June 14, 2003.

## EPA Announces Smartway Transport Program

**Washington** - The U.S. EPA, along with partners from leading multinational corporations, announced a new voluntary transportation effort called *SmartWay Transport*.

SmartWay aims to develop performance measures or goals to improve air quality, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, save fuel, and protect public health. To meet these goals, SmartWay emphasizes idling reduction, improved aerodynamics, and improved freight logistics.

SmartWay partners are demonstrating that environmentally conscious efforts can make good business sense by saving money.

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### 2003 Clean Air A-Thon Do Your Share for Cleaner Air!

Join us at the 3rd annual Clean Air A-Thon, a 5K run/walk and family fun-fest on Saturday, June 14, 2003, at Sawyer Point.

The run/walk starts at 9 a.m. and will go over the newly pedestrianized L&N Bridge to Kentucky and back over the Taylor Southgate Bridge into Cincinnati.

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### Acronym Guide

EPA - Environmental Protection Agency  
AQMD - Air Quality Management Division  
HCDOES - Hamilton County Department of Environmental Service



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# Permits and Enforcement

## New Facility Inspection Form Utilized by The County

By Kurt Smith, Environmental Compliance Specialist

**Hamilton County** - Recently, HCDOES began to utilize a new form for recording a facility's compliance status with air pollution regulations during on-site inspections. Ohio EPA developed the new form primarily to comply with U.S. EPA's Compliance Monitoring Strategy (CMS).

The form will act as a comprehensive tool for tracking inspections, compliance status, enforcement proceedings, air quality complaints, and the applicability of federal regulations. This will allow the inspector to more thoroughly document his or her findings during the inspection.

HCDOES will maintain the information collected during the inspection in a computer database which will allow the information to be easily uploaded to U.S. EPA's Aerometric Information Retrieval System (AIRS) through the new Compliance and Enforcement Tracking Application (CETA). The information entered into CETA will eliminate the requirement for HCDOES, and all local air agencies, to submit a quarterly report to Ohio EPA.



## air Facts

- Just 25,000 acres of forest can offset the equivalent emissions of 10 billion automobile miles (American Forests).
- A mature tree absorbs between 120-240 pounds per year of small particles and gases, like carbon-dioxide, which are released into the air by automobiles and industrial facilities (The Center for Urban Horticulture).
- A canopy of trees in an urban environment can slash smog levels up to six percent (The Center for Urban Horticulture).
- One gallon of gas = 12 trees! Burning 1 gallon of gas produces over 20 pounds of carbon dioxide, and it takes about 12 trees to absorb this pollution (University of Victoria, Canada).
- Trees properly placed around buildings can reduce air conditioning needs by 30 percent and can save 20 - 50 percent in energy used for heating (USDA Forest Service)

## HCDOES Announces New Permits and Enforcement Area Supervisor



Alberta Mellon, Permits and Enforcement (P&E) Area Supervisor

**Hamilton County** - Congratulations to Alberta Mellon on her new position as the Permits and Enforcement (P&E) Area Supervisor. Alberta started at HCDOES in 1993 as an Environmental Scientist 1. She then became an Environmental Compliance Specialist I, then II, prior to this latest promotion. Alberta's name may be familiar, as she has produced several of the articles for *The Breeze*. You may also have met her at various community events, such as the Clean Air A-Thon, or perhaps she has worked with your company. Please join us in congratulating her on this new position.

## AQ is Keeping Up With Technology

By Irene Hart, Environmental Permit Technician

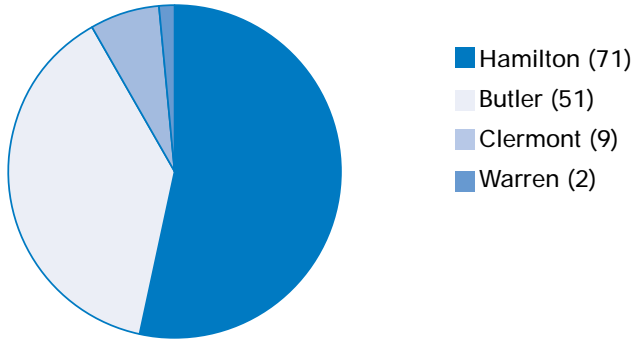
**Hamilton County** - The HCDOES purchased a new scanning system to turn paper documents into electronic documents which can be viewed via your computer screen.

Scanning of the old paperwork will free up some space currently used for storage and will eliminate stor-

age fees for our off-site facility. Permits and Enforcement intern, Jill Sallade, has been making headway scanning all Administration and Permits and Enforcement files. Thank you Jill!

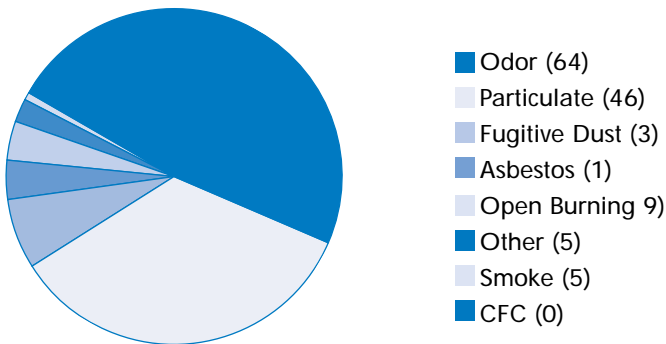
*Need to be removed from the mailing list? See back panel for instructions.*

## Complaints by County



County	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	1Qtr.	2Qtr.	3 Qtr.	4Qtr.	Total
Hamilton	30	15	26	45	543	71	115	284
Butler	28	13	10	21	25	51	110	207
Clermont	6	2	1	4	4	9	22	39
Warren	1	1	0	1	3	2	9	15

## Complaints by Type



Type	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	1 Qtr.	2 Qtr.	3 Qtr.	4 Qtr.	Total
Odor	29	10	25	39	30	64	79	212
Particulate	23	15	8	14	25	46	99	84
Fugitive Dust	2	0	1	5	17	3	48	73
Open Burn	4	2	3	6	6	9	15	36
Other	3	2	0	9	2	5	3	19
Asbestos	0	1	0	2	3	1	8	14
Smoke	4	1	0	2	2	5	8	17
CFC	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1

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

## Clean Air A-Thon (cont'd from front)

The race is followed by a children's fun-run, scavenger hunt, educational booths, an alternatively fueled vehicle display, and many kids games and activities.

The event, held as a kick-off to smog season, is to raise awareness of air quality issues, and is also a fund-raiser for local air quality organizations. Proceeds from the race will benefit the American Lung Association of Northern Kentucky's children's asthma camp and the Tri-State Alternative Fuels Coalition.



2002 Master of Ceremonies, Rich Apuzzo, Chief Meteorologist, Fox 19 poses with a young 2002 Clean Air A-Thon winner.

Any participants that suffer from, or know someone who suffers from, respiratory illness will be recognized by the Regional Ozone Coalition.

Make a statement for respiratory health at the 2003 Clean Air A-Thon run/walk and family fun-fest! To find out more, visit [www.hcdoes.org](http://www.hcdoes.org) or call Sarah Dowers at (513) 946-7748 or register online at [www.signmeup.com/18495](http://www.signmeup.com/18495).

## Smartway Transportation (cont'd from front)

Participating companies will earn SmartWay labels that will distinguish them as having made significant commitments to reducing emissions. This voluntary partnership was developed and modeled after EPA's highly successful Energy Star Program.

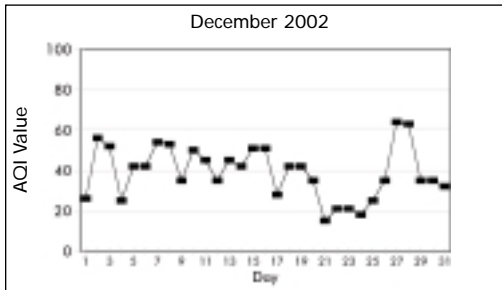
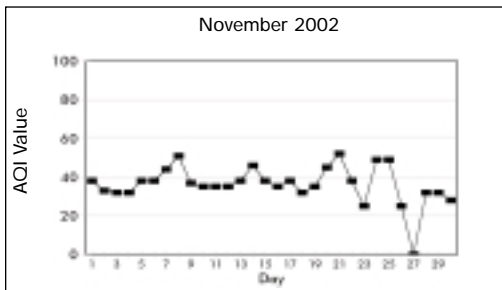
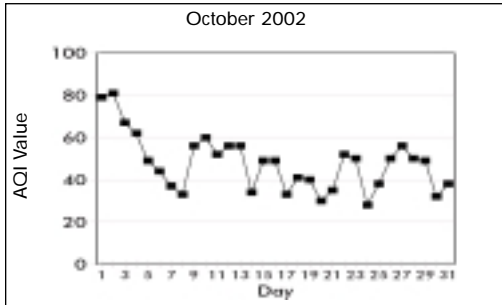
Energy Star focuses on reducing pollution from consumer products and labeling energy efficient buildings, whereas SmartWay Transport will help to reduce pollution from the vehicles that move these products to their destination. Additional information about SmartWay can be found at [www.epa.gov/otaq/smartway](http://www.epa.gov/otaq/smartway).

## Stack Test Data

<b>First Quarter</b> 14	<b>Second Quarter</b> 21
<b>Third Quarter</b> 15	<b>Fourth Quarter</b> 30

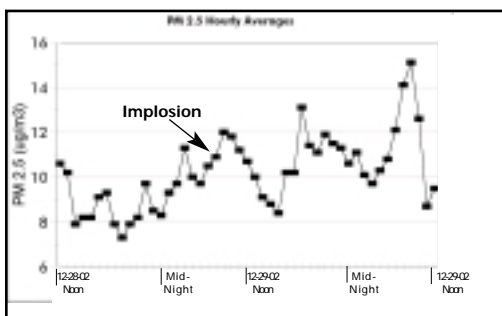
**Total: 80**

## Air Quality Index



## Cinergy Implosion

The December 29, 2002 implosion of Cinergy Field created an enormous dust cloud. HCDOES was interested in the dust and smoke, known as particulate matter (PM) because of its impact on people's health. The Corryville Office continuous PM monitor showed the dust cloud did not travel far enough to have a clear impact on the hourly average readings.



# Monitoring and Analysis

## It's Pollen and Mold Time Again!

It's that time of year again, when many of us experience watering eyes and stuffy noses due to seasonal allergies often caused by pollen and mold. The advent of Spring is also the start of allergy season for many of the 35 million Americans which suffer from allergies.

During the business week, the Monitoring and Analysis (M&A) section of the AQMD measures the daily levels of naturally occurring airborne pollutants, pollens and molds. This information is distributed to the local media. The M&A staff are not the only ones with extra work in the Spring, the Permits and Enforcement (P&E) staff are also kept busy. P&E find themselves answering many complaints about cars and other property which appears to be covered in particulate matter, or sprayed by paint. Residents are surprised to learn this coating is usually a layer of pollen.

To keep track of pollen and mold counts visit [www.hcdoes.org](http://www.hcdoes.org), or call the Air Quality Pollen and Mold Hotline at 513-946-7753. Updates occur at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. (counts from previous day). Also, check local media such as the television or newspapers. To receive a copy of the *Living with Allergies* brochure call 513-946-7777.

### Tips for Allergy Sufferers

The American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology recommends the following steps toward reducing allergic reactions:

- Keep windows closed at night to keep pollens or molds from drifting into the home.
- Use an air conditioner and dehumidifier to keep air clean, cool, and dry.
- Keep car windows closed when traveling.
- Reduce your contact lens use in prime pollen seasons.
- Minimize outdoor activity on days when the pollen count or humidity is high or on windy days.
- Alcohol and cigarettes can further irritate your body during allergy season.

## Smoke Reader School Certifies Employees

By Dawn Mays, Monitoring and Analysis Technician

On March 19 and 20, 2003, you will find the Owl Shelter of Winton Woods overrun with grumbling people, bundled as warm and dry as possible. These individuals will sit in their lawn chairs ("...rain or shine, sleet or hail...") and attempt to become certified "smoke readers." A smoke reader is someone who can accurately assess the opacity (read: density or thickness) of smoke being emitted from an air pollution source. Certification verifies that a smoke reader can read the opacity of the smoke within 15% of the true opacity of the smoke.

Why are certified smoke readers necessary? Many facilities have opacity limits as part of their Permit-To-Operate (PTO), and smoke readers are the official means of determining if a source has exceeded their opacity limit. The forms completed by a certified smoke reader are legal documents and can be used as evidence in court. Although there are now certified opacity monitors that continuously determine the opacity of smoke coming from a stack, having a certified visible emission reader record smoke readings is still the reference method.

Interested in the process of becoming a certified smoke reader? Please visit [www.eta-is-opacity.com](http://www.eta-is-opacity.com) for more information.

# Calendar of Events

## Regional Ozone Coalition

(ROC) March 26, 2003, 10-11:30 a.m.,  
N. KY Chamber of Commerce and May  
28, 2003, 10-11:30 a.m., HCDOES  
Conference Rooms

## Air Quality Policy Advisory Committee

May 21, 2003, 1:30-3:00 p.m. HCDOES  
Conference Rooms

## Hamilton County Environmental Action Commission

1st Thursday of every month, 1:30-4:00  
p.m., HCDOES Conference Rooms

## Earth Day

April 19, 2003, Sawyer Point  
1 p.m. until dusk.

## Clean Air A-Thon

June 14, Race Starts at 9 a.m. followed  
by family fun-fest, Sawyer Point

## Computer Recycling Event

Open to N. KY, and Butler, Clermont,  
and Hamilton county residents and busi-  
nesses. Call 946-7732 for details.

## Household Hazardous Materials Collection Events (open 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.)

Bayer Corporation  
Saturday, April 26, 2003

Ethicon Endo-Surgery  
Saturday, May 3, 2003

Winton Woods H. S.  
Saturday, Oct. 18, 2003

Coney Island  
Saturday, Oct. 25, 2003

Visit [www.hcdoes.org](http://www.hcdoes.org) or call  
(513) 946-7777 for any updates!

## Education and Outreach Update

Our Air Quality Education and Outreach section is making great strides to educate the community about air quality issues. We are now reaching local libraries to provide programs for adults and children on a variety of air issues.

In collaboration with a number of other agencies and Funkes Greenhouse, the AQMD will be providing free trees to schools in the "planting trees for cleaner air" program. This program will provide up to 25 free trees to each participating school in Butler, Clermont, Hamilton, and Warren counties for planting on their school grounds. A curriculum focusing on the many benefits of trees will help incorporate the new saplings into the classroom. See [www.hcdoes.org](http://www.hcdoes.org) for more details.

This Spring, the AQMD will be developing a new project to help curb emissions from idling vehicles outside schools. The fumes from idling buses and cars can cause serious health effects to our youth, and this new program plans to raise awareness of this issue.

To schedule a speaker or to learn more about outreach efforts, please contact Lynn White at (513) 946-7754 or at [lynn.white@hamilton-co.org](mailto:lynn.white@hamilton-co.org).

### FREE AIR QUALITY PRESENTATION

Schedule a presentation for your community group, parish, school, business, or other organization, by calling Lynn White at (513) 946-7754.

## The Smog Hog says...

...help reduce your  
dependence on oil,  
ride a bike or  
rollerblade.



# Regional Ozone Coalition

*A voluntary association committed to reducing smog and promoting air quality awareness*

**Hamilton County** - Established in 1994, the Regional Ozone Coalition (ROC) is a voluntary association committed to reducing smog and promoting air quality awareness. ROC works with local governments, organizations, businesses, and residents throughout Boone, Butler, Campbell, Clermont, Hamilton, Kenton, and Warren counties.

ROC meets this primary goal by educating the general public, businesses and the media about smog, their contribu-

tions to it and the voluntary measures they can take to help reduce smog formation.

Throughout the year, especially during the summer months or "smog season", ROC promotes awareness and education through events such as the Clean Air A-Thon, an annual 5K run/walk and family-fun fest. (See front page article).

We would like to invite you to join the ROC! Meetings take place on the fourth Wednesday of every other month at 10:00 a.m. (starting with January). To learn more about the Regional Ozone Coalition and meeting locations, please contact Sarah Woller at (513) 621-6300, or visit [www.hcdoes.org/sw/Calendar.htm](http://www.hcdoes.org/sw/Calendar.htm) or [www.doyourshare.org](http://www.doyourshare.org).

## HCDOES Says Good Bye to Several Long-Time Employees.

*We wish the best to both Frank and Tom and are sad to see them leave.*

**Hamilton County** - HCDOES would like to say goodbye to two of our long-time employees, Frank Stoy and Tom Wittekind.

On December 31, 2002, Frank Stoy, a Permits and Enforcement Area Supervisor, retired after working at the agency since 1972. Frank worked with the AQMD when it was known as the Southwestern Ohio Air Pollution Control Agency.

Tom Wittekind left HCDOES on February 20, 2003, to move with his family to Norris Lake, TN. Tom started with the AQMD as an intern in February, 1997, and has worked his way up to an Environmental Compliance Specialist II.

You have seen some of Tom's hard work in past editions of *The Breeze*, and his ideas and enthusiasm will be sorely missed.

### **HAMILTON COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**

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*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.*