

Gas Prices Got You Down? Turn Off Your Car.

By Nan McKenna, Public Affairs Specialist



The lazy days of summer have come and gone. School's back in ses-

sion, vacations are over and the relative calm of the season has turned into fall's constant stream of meetings, events and errands. Combine that with the high price of gas, and summer's leisurely pace begins to look better and better.

During these busy times, not idling your car is an environmentally friendly, easy and gas-saving habit to develop. Idling means leaving your car's engine running when it is parked or not in use. Idling often occurs without much thought – waiting to pick someone up, stopping by a store to purchase a few items or turning on the car to run the air conditioner.

HCDOES Receives \$100,000 From Cinergy To Help Clean Up School Buses

By Sarah Dowers, Public Affairs Coordinator

Cinergy recently awarded HCDOES a \$100,000 grant to retrofit 135 school buses with diesel oxidation catalysts. The oxidation catalysts will reduce approximately 10,800 pounds per year of diesel exhaust emissions in the Greater Cincinnati area.

The key goal of the project is to reduce school children's exposure to diesel exhaust emissions, whether riding on a school bus or waiting in areas where buses are idling. Recent studies have confirmed that children riding in school buses are exposed to six times more diesel exhaust emissions than

These little stops add up. 30 seconds of idling uses more gas than restarting your car. An idling car gets 0 miles per gallon. An hour of idling burns approximately 1/5 of a gallon of gas and releases about 4 pounds of carbon dioxide into the air. If your car will be idling for more than 30 seconds (except in traffic), turn it off.

People often idle cars for "warm up" purposes, especially during the winter. Modern cars actually need only thirty seconds for their engines to warm completely. Idling can cause fuel residue to build up on a car's cylinders and spark plugs. The excess condensation formed from an idling engine can corrode the car's exhaust system. All of this damage leads to costly repairs - repairs that could have been avoided simply by turning the key.

Hydrocarbons, nitrogen oxides and carbon monoxide, three major pollutants in car

outside the bus. Diesel particulate exhaust exacerbates existing respiratory conditions in children, including asthma.

"HCDOES is very pleased to team up with Cinergy to help make school buses healthier for our children," said Ken Edgell, environmental administrative coordinator at HCDOES. "The Cinergy grant will allow us to extend the successful school bus retrofit program begun in the 2004-2005 school year with an initial grant from the EPA."

Cinergy (cont'd on page 2)

More Inside

- Permits & Enforcement: [Pg. 2](#)
- Air Quality Calendar: [Pg. 3](#)
- Air Quality Statistics: [Pg. 5](#)
- Monitoring & Analysis: [Pg. 5](#)

emissions, aggravate the conditions of people with asthma and heart disease. These pollutants' effects on children are magnified because children breathe faster and inhale more air than adults. Turning off your car can result in improved health for you and those around you.

Save money, save the environment and save your health. Idling

Idling (cont'd on page 3)

Gas Saving Tips

- Slow down – driving 70 mph in a 55 mph zone can cost up to 17% in fuel economy.
- Inflate your tires – proper tire inflation can improve gas mileage by 3%.
- Carpool – solo drivers spend about 55 cents per mile. Sharing your car cuts your fuel and maintenance costs in half (or more).

Acronym Guide

OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Administration
ROC	Regional Ozone Coalition
OAC	Ohio Administrative Code
HCDOES	Hamilton County Department of Environmental Services
AQMD	Air Quality Management Division
TSCFN	Tri-State Clean Fuels Network
Ohio EPA	Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

Permits & Enforcement

Styrene Leak in Cincinnati

By Nan McKenna, Public Affairs Specialist

The leak of the chemical styrene from a parked rail tanker in eastern Cincinnati worried many residents and local officials in late August. The Hamilton County Department of Environmental Services (HCDOES) responds to odor complaints, but does not have regulatory authority over mobile sources of emissions, including rail cars. However, AQMD did receive a high number of complaint calls regarding the smell of styrene in the air during this incident. The concerned callers were referred to agencies and organizations that could address each individual's question.

In situations similar to the styrene leak, the Ohio EPA Southwest District

Emergency Response Personnel and the local health department were responsible for the immediate monitoring of air quality and keeping the public informed of any health risks.

The tanker leaked styrene from the evening of Sunday, August 26, to the early morning of Wednesday, August 31. According to the company that owns the tanker, the rail car has since been moved to Lake Charles, La. The U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) states that short-term exposure to styrene can result in "irritation of the skin, eyes, and the upper respiratory tract."

Cinergy (cont'd from page 1)

Eleven school districts who own their own buses in Southwest Ohio were selected to participate in the 2005-2006 Cinergy/HCDOES project, including:

- Bethel-Tate Local School District
- Finneytown Schools
- Forest Hills School District
- Indian Hill Exempted Village Schools
- Loveland Public Schools
- New Richmond Exempted Village Schools
- Northwest Local Schools
- Princeton City Schools
- Ross Local Schools
- Three Rivers Local Schools
- Winton Woods City Schools

Cinergy is the parent company of The Cincinnati Gas & Electric Company, Union Light Heat & Power and PSI Energy, serving approximately 1.5 million electric customers and approximately 500,000 gas customers in Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana.

For more information about the Cinergy grant or about any of HCDOES' school bus retrofit projects, please call Ken Edgell at (513) 946-7751 or visits www.hcdoes.org.

Changing Winds Increase Complaints

By Tom Wittekind, Environmental Compliance Specialist

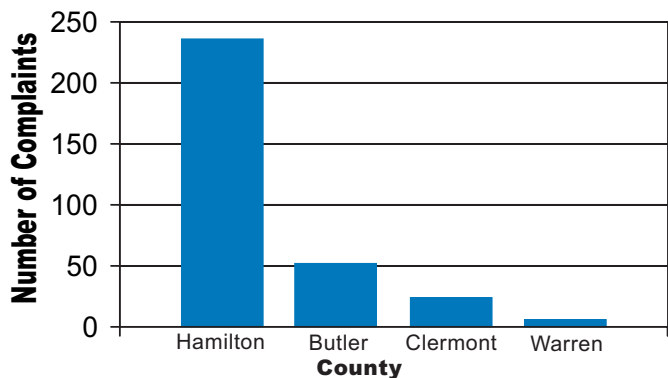
The transition to fall means the changing of leaves, temperatures and the wind's direction. The winds have shifted and now come to us from the north. These northerly winds have brought a much welcomed relief from the heat of summer, but to some, they potentially bring the not so welcome odors of industry into their neighborhoods.

The shifting winds, combined with people opening the windows in their homes and enjoying various outdoor activities before winter sets in, make this one of the busiest times of year for the

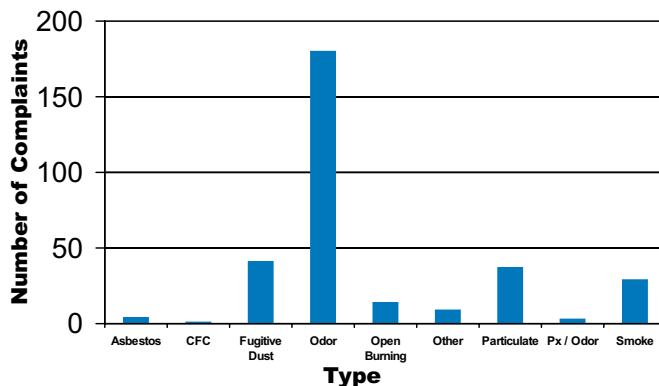
Hamilton County Department of Environmental Services' Air Quality Complaint Program. Because air conditioners filter many odors out of the air, people may detect odors in the outdoor air they haven't smelled since they closed their windows in the early summer.

To report an odor, smoke, dust or other air quality complaint, please call the Air Quality 24-Hour Complaint Hotline at (513) 946-7777 or visit www.hcdoes.org for more information on the complaint reporting process.

January - June 2005 Complaints by County



January - June 2005 Complaints by Type



Hybrid Trucks Roll Into the Tri-State



Excitement will fill the air as heavy-duty, four-wheel-drive pick-ups drive into the Clermont County Fairgrounds on Tuesday, November 1, 2005. From a distance, this fleet of flexible fuel and hybrid electric GMC Sierras and Chevy Tahoes, Avalanches and Silverados looks like all other models, yet under the hood, the parts are noticeably different.

Sponsored by General Motors, the "Life Cycle of Biofuels" meeting will include a truck demonstration and drive with a fleet of vehicles fueled by renewable sources such as ethanol, biodiesel and regenerative electric.

The meeting is open to individuals interested in learning from those speaking

on behalf of the Ohio Soybean Council and Corn Growers Association, local fuel producers and policy makers leading the clean fuels campaign. The meeting, to be held in the 4-H Hall at the Clermont County Fairgrounds, will begin at 8:30 a.m. with breakfast, followed by informative presentations featuring each stage of the biofuels' life cycle and concluding at noon with a GM ride and test drive.

The event is made possible by the following sponsors: GM, Ohio Soybean Council, Ohio Corn Growers Association, the Ohio State University Extension Office and Tri-State Clean Fuels Network (TSCFN).

To reserve your seat behind the wheel of a hybrid truck contact:

Kim Lahman, TSCFN Coordinator
 kim.lahman@hamilton-co.org
 Phone: (513) 946-7772

One Billion Gallons of Oil Diverted

Over the last decade, Clean Cities Coalitions have reported activities that have displaced more than a billion gallons of petroleum in transportation. By implementing projects that make use of alternative fuels, hybrid vehicles, truck idle reduction, fuel blends and fuel economy improvements, coalitions have helped build local and regional markets for non-petroleum solutions to our energy challenges.

On October 14, 2005, Tri-State Clean Fuels Network (TSCFN) celebrated this important contribution to our nation's energy security at Ault Park. Local car dealers and government agencies displayed several models of alternative fuel vehicles and maintenance equipment.

Coalitions' examples of petroleum displacement included:

- Pumping an alternative fuel into a vehicle
- Pumping gasoline into a hybrid vehicle
- Connecting a truck to a truck stop idle reduction facility
- Pumping a fuel blend into a vehicle
- Shopping for a high fuel-economy vehicle

Congratulations to TSCFN and all other Clean Cities Coalitions across the U.S. for reaching the billion gallon milestone!

New Public Affairs Specialist



Nan McKenna

Nan McKenna has joined the HCDOES staff as the public affairs specialist for the Air Quality Management Division. A graduate of the University of Dayton, Nan previously worked in development for The Athenaeum of Ohio. Before moving to Cincinnati last year, Nan worked in international trade at the Indiana Department of Commerce.

If you would like to schedule an air quality presentation or have any questions or comments about "The Breeze", please contact Nan at (513) 946-7754 or at nan.mckenna@hamilton-co.org.

- Ethanol is proven to reduce greenhouse emissions by at least 30 percent.
- Biodiesel, recycled cooking oil or animal fat, can be blended with petroleum in any percentage and reduces net carbon dioxide emissions by 75 percent compared to diesel.
- The gasoline/electric hybrid is 10 percent more fuel efficient than the standard gasoline version, resulting in reduced toxic emissions.

Seasonal Tips

- A well-maintained furnace uses less energy, which improves air quality. Check your furnace filter often to improve your indoor air quality and increase the furnace's efficiency.
- Improper venting of a gas furnace can lead to carbon monoxide build-up in your house. Call a local heating professional for an inspection.
- Check the batteries in your carbon monoxide and smoke detectors. Press the test button, and if you don't hear the alarm, change the battery.

Monitoring & Analysis

Ragweed Season in Full Swing

By Steven Damaska, Laboratory Analyst

Ragweed is one of the more common inhaled allergens. Prevalent in the Midwest, this plant is a very hearty weed often found along riverbanks, in abandoned lots and in unattended fields. It produces billions of pollen grains which the wind picks up and spreads throughout the region. Ragweed blooms from August through the first week in October, with September being the peak month of its season.

If you end every summer and begin every fall with some combination of runny nose, watery eyes, congestion, frequent sneezing, a cough or itchy eyes, nose and throat, you probably suffer from an allergy to ragweed pollen. According to the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology (AAAAAI), during a process called sensitization, your immune system mistakenly identifies the allergen as an invader, and produces an antibody against it called immunoglobulin E, or IgE. When you're exposed to the allergen, your immune system launches an allergic reaction.

If you are one of the 35 million Americans suffering from allergies, follow these steps

to minimize your symptoms by reducing your exposure to allergens:

- Close doors and windows during pollen season.
- Avoid going outdoors between 5 a.m. and 10 a.m. – the time when pollen counts are highest.
- Use air conditioning in your house and car.
- Stay indoors on hot, dry and windy days. Pollen counts are higher during these times.
- Wear a filter mask when mowing the lawn or raking leaves.
- Shower and change clothing after being outdoors, as pollen can adhere to clothing, skin and hair.

Knowing which allergens are present in the air can help you avoid them. Visit www.hcdoes.org to view daily pollen and mold counts for the Greater Cincinnati area or to request the "Living With Allergies" brochure. Call the Pollen and Mold Hotline at (513) 946-7753 for pollen and mold counts, as well as the Air Quality Index, which is updated twice daily.

New Technology at HCDOES

By Seth Cloran, Environmental Technician and Ron Henderson, Environmental Technician

HCDOES has purchased three new air quality monitoring instruments for use in industrial inspections, complaint investigations and ozone monitoring. The PPB RAE Plus monitor is a handheld Photo Ionization Detector (PID) used to detect total various volatile organic compounds. This monitor is being used jointly by the Monitoring and Analysis (M&A) and Permits and Enforcement (P&E) sections of HCDOES. The P&E section will use the monitor for site inspections and odor complaints.

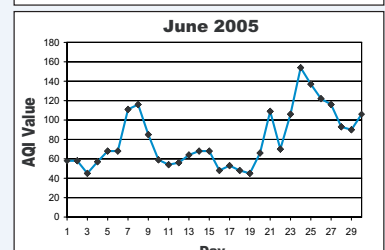
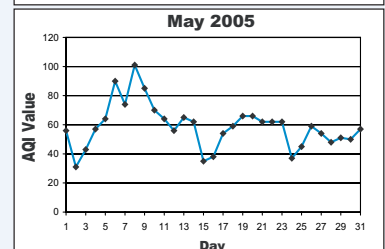
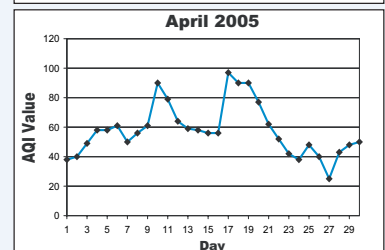
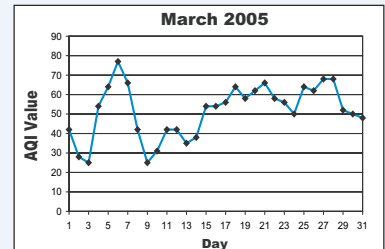
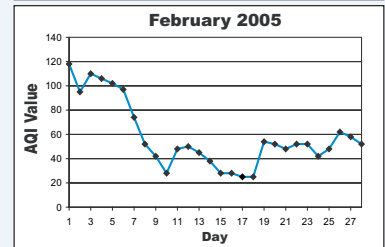
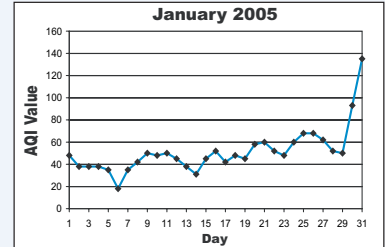
The RAE Guard, the second new piece of equipment, is designed for fixed site installa-

tions. This monitor can survey the air quality around various communities, and its initial installation site is in the Addyston area.

The third new piece of equipment, the Teledyne API (T-API) model 400E Photometric O₃ Analyzer, samples ambient air for ozone. The Analyzer's single pass, single path UV absorption adaptive signal filter allows for immediate ozone readings and can transfer information directly to HCDOES' office through its data ports.

Air Quality Index

The AQI uses numbers from 0 to 500. A higher AQI number corresponds with more air pollution in the air. 0-50 is good, 51-100 is moderate and a number of 101-150 is classified as unhealthy for sensitive groups such as children or the elderly. See www.hcdoes.org for more details.



Programs & Resources Available

The AQMD has free air quality programs and resources available for all ages and groups. Be sure to remind your community groups, schools and libraries that they can request free resources or schedule presentations by calling (513) 946-7754. More information is always available on our website! Visit www.hcdoes.org for resources available online.

Stack Test Data

January:	3
February:	12
March:	2
April:	12
May:	11
June:	13
Current Total for 2005:	53

Idling (cont'd from page 1)

may seem convenient, but its costs are huge considering the damage it can do to your car, your well-being, your wallet and your air quality. The smallest actions can add up to cleaner air. Just remember HCDOES's anti-idling motto: Turn the key, be idle free.

For more information on idling, please visit www.hcdoes.org.

AQMD Staff Changes

Retirement:

- **Lee Gruber** retired from HCDOES after thirty years of service. Lee worked as the Testing & Evaluation Coordinator for the Monitoring and Analysis Division. Many thanks to Lee for his years of hard work and dedication to HCDOES. Good luck, Lee!

Promotions:

- **Dawn Mays** will succeed Lee Gruber as Testing & Evaluation Coordinator. Dawn has worked for HCDOES for over ten years and was promoted from the Environmental Technician position. Congratulations, Dawn!
- **Mike Kramer** is the new Assistant Permits & Enforcement Section

Supervisor. Mike has worked for HCDOES for thirteen years and was promoted from the Permits & Enforcement Area Supervisor position. Congratulations, Mike!

New Hires:

- **Prabbhat Lamichhane** is the new part-time Environmental Compliance Specialist I. Prabbhat recently completed his master's degree in environmental engineering with a focus on air quality from the University of Cincinnati. Welcome, Prabbhat!
- **Nan McKenna** is the new Public Affairs Specialist responsible for air quality outreach and education – see the Public Affairs feature on page 4.

New Education and Outreach Focus

Beginning this fall, HCDOES' public affairs division will offer two ways to schedule education and outreach programs.

For educators:

HCDOES has partnered with the Regional Ozone Coalition to present grade-wide and school-wide lessons on air quality topics. We have switched to this broader approach in order to serve the schools in Butler, Clermont, Hamilton and Warren counties more effectively. All information adheres to Ohio education standards and can be modified for age and subject matter. Michelle White of Crystal Clear Science will present lessons similar to those previously offered on a classroom-by-classroom basis. Please contact Michelle at (513) 553-2252 to schedule a presentation.

For community organizations:

Nan McKenna, public affairs specialist, will provide presentations on HCDOES and air quality issues that pertain to a community or group's interests. Please contact Nan at (513) 946-7754 or nan.mckenna@hamilton-co.org to schedule any presentations.



Carbon Monoxide (CO): One of the six criteria pollutants, carbon monoxide is a poisonous, odorless and colorless gas found in automobile emissions and can build up in buildings' indoor air. When inhaled, CO slows the delivery of blood to the body's major organs and tissues.

Diesel Oxidation Catalyst (DOC): A device that reduces a diesel engine's emissions of hydrocarbons and carbon monoxide. HCDOES is in its second year of installing DOCs on school buses in the four county area.

Ethanol: A renewable fuel produced from crops such as corn. A fuel blend of 15% ethanol and 85% unleaded gas called E85 can be used in flexible fuel vehicles.

Air Quality Events & Meetings

Public Meetings

Visit www.hcdoes.org for the web calendar or call (513) 946-7777.

Meetings

Air Quality Policy Advisory Committee (AQPAC)
November 16th,
1:30-3:30 p.m. HCDOES
Conference Rooms

Regional Ozone Coalition (ROC) December 14th, 10:00-11:30 a.m. Location to be announced, contact Sarah Woller at (513) 621-6300

Metropolitan Sewer District Policy Advisory Committee
December 16th,
2:00-3:30 p.m. 1600 Gest
Street Cincinnati, OH 45204

Hamilton County Environmental Action Commission

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

Events

"Life Cycle of Biofuels"
Sponsored by GM, OSU
Extension Office and the
Tri-State Clean Fuels Network
November 1st,
8:30-10:30 a.m. Clermont
County Fairgrounds

Web Updates

Please visit our website at www.hcdoes.org or call (513) 946-7777 for updates!

Open Burning

By Nan McKenna, Public Affairs Specialist

Like the temperature, the leaves are falling. While many enjoy the changing colors of foliage in the fall, they detest the clean up and disposal of leaves. Some choose to get rid of their leaves by burning them. Open burning is not only harmful to people's health and the air quality, it is illegal in Ohio.

Leaves and plant materials send millions of spores into the air when burned, aggravating the allergies of people in the area. Open burning releases hydrocarbons, carbon dioxide and particulates into the air. Exposure to these pollutants can lead to breathing difficulties and increased asthma attacks. Dioxin and furans, some of the most toxic compounds known, are also released during open burning. The increased presence of these pollutants makes the attainment of healthy air quality standards difficult.

The Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) defines open burning as any outdoor fire. The OAC allows the following burning exceptions: cooking for human consumption (e.g. barbecues), heating tar, welding torches, smudge pots and heating for warmth for outdoor workers. Rubber, grease, car parts, garbage and dead animals may not be burned anywhere in Ohio.

The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency allows certain exceptions to open burning restrictions with prior written consent. To apply for an open burning permit or for more information, please call Mike Fair, environmental compliance special-

ist, at (513) 946-7711 or visit www.hcdoes.org. As a courtesy, please notify your local fire department before doing any open burning.

Many local solid waste agencies offer their residents disposal options for leaves and yard waste.

Please call your county of residence.

Butler County Department of Environmental Services – (513) 887-3066

Clermont County Office of Environmental Quality – (513) 732-7745

Hamilton County Solid Waste Management District – (513) 946-7755

Warren County Solid Waste Management District – (513) 695-1209

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 nan.mckenna@hamilton-co.org for more information or call: (513) 946-7754, fax (513) 946-7779.