

Hamilton County Measures its Footprint with Greenhouse Gas Inventory Project

by Katherine Wilson, Public Affairs Intern

This June, the Hamilton County Department of Environmental Services (HCDOES) released its findings from a six-month project to measure both the amount of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions that Hamilton County produces and to calculate the amount of GHG the county government is responsible for releasing into the atmosphere.

The data was collected as part of Hamilton County's "Cool Counties" initiative to improve climate stabilization to fight global warming. Adopted and signed by the Hamilton County Commissioners in April 2008, the initiative aims to unite local, state, and federal governments and other leaders to reduce county GHG emissions to 80 percent below current levels by 2050. Several county organizations, along with Duke Energy, OKI and Rumpke, contributed data to the study.

According to HCDOES findings, Hamilton County produced the greenhouse gas equivalent of 17.7 million metric tons of carbon dioxide (CO2) in 2006. The majority of

CO2 came from businesses and residences, both of which use high amounts of electricity and natural

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gas. Transportation also played a large role, making up 24 percent of Hamilton County's CO2 emissions.

HCDOES also measured individual emissions from the Hamilton County government. Hamilton County Operations (HCO) was responsible for 1.1 percent of the county's total emissions, or 0.2 of the 17.7 million metric tons of CO2 produced overall. Most of the emissions were from electricity use in government buildings.

Because the Hamilton County GHG emissions inventory will help ensure that proposed reduction measures are effectively targeting the community, government sectors and energy sources that have the most impact on GHG emissions, many believe that the inventory is an important step toward county-wide environmental responsibility.

"Current environmental programs and policies have done a great job of addressing pollutants that have been regulated by the EPA under the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for many, many years. Now we are looking at different pollutants, particularly CO2, that have not necessarily been subject to

GHG continued on pg. 3

Table of Contents

- Permits & Enforcement: Pg. 2
- Air Quality Calendar: Pg. 3
- Monitoring & Analysis: Pg. 4
- Smog Articles: Pg. 5
- Solid Waste Information: Pg. 6

Acronym Guide

GHG	greenhouse gas
DAPC	Ohio EPA Division of Air Pollution Control
PTIO	Permit-to-Install and Operate
PER	Permit Evaluation Report

Permits & Enforcement

STARS2 Program is Launched

by Bonnie Pray, Environmental Compliance Specialist III

HCDOES is learning a new regulatory software and database program called STARS2 that will interface with the online eBusiness Air Services program recently launched for the regulated community by the Ohio EPA.

STARS2 is a consolidation of multiple state databases and software programs that were previously used to track and process air permit-related activities in Ohio. Launching a web-based program with all of the information in one location is expected to have many benefits and significantly reduce paperwork.

With the new STARS2 program, HCDOES is immediately informed of submittals and changes as the regulated community electronically uploads permit applications, air emission reports, company information, and pays fees via the Air Services website. HCDOES will use STARS2 to review, process, and approve the information submitted, and also to, develop permit documents for issuance.

Another significant change with STARS2 is the switch from WordPerfect to Microsoft Word as the standard file format for permit

documents in Ohio. This change will facilitate file sharing with the regulated community and the general public. HCDOES staff has been receiving hands-on training, tutorials, and guidance on the new software from Ohio EPA.

For more information, visit the eBusiness Air Services website at <http://www.epa.state.oh.us/dapc/airservices/>.

Industry Insights

by Bonnie Pray, Environmental Compliance Specialist III

The Ohio EPA Division of Air Pollution Control (DAPC) has implemented the new Permit-to-Install and Operate (PTIO) program in Ohio. The PTIO replaces the need to obtain separate Permit-to-Install and Permit-to-Operate applications for non-Title V sources by combining the requirements of both types of permits into one application and permit document. The PTIO program simplifies permitting obligations, reduces paperwork, and reduces confusion for regulated facilities by consolidating monitoring and reporting requirements into a single document.

Also under the new PTIO program, renewal periods have been extended from 5 years to 10 years. The PTIO will have a new annual reporting requirement, called a Permit Evaluation Report (PER), which must include information regarding emission exceedances, monitoring deviations, shutdowns, installations, and ownership changes.

For PTIO applications and more information about the new PTIO program, visit the Ohio EPA DAPC website at <http://www.epa.state.oh.us/dapc/permits/ptio.html>.

Education and Outreach News

Summer Updates

HCDOES welcomes you to the summer edition of The Breeze and also welcomes Kristy Kim, the newest member of the Public Affairs staff. Kristy is the Public Affairs Specialist and will provide resources, information, and presentations for air quality issues affecting Butler, Clermont, Hamilton and Warren counties. Previously, Kristy worked with youth programs for the Northern Kentucky Area Development District and, most recently, as a Membership/Outreach Specialist for Girl Scouts of Western Ohio. Feel free to contact Kristy at 946-7754 or kristy.kim@hamilton-co.org with questions or for more information about air quality education and outreach. She looks forward to promoting healthy air quality throughout the Greater Cincinnati area!

2007 Progress and Data Reports Now Available

HCDOES' 2007 Progress Report and 2007 Air Quality Data Report are now available! Download a copy at www.hcdoes.org or contact Sarah Dowers at sarah.dowers@hamilton-co.org or at 513-946-7748 to request copies.

HCDOES Youth Council Update

HCDOES has invited 23 local students, in grades 8 through 12, to participate in the Youth Council. The HCDOES Youth Council will meet bi-monthly, beginning in September, to discuss environmental issues facing our community, develop ideas on how to reach their peers with environmental information, tour local facilities and learn more about air quality and recycling. For more information about the Youth Council, please contact Kristy Kim at 513-946-7754 or at kristy.kim@hamilton-co.org.

FREE Presentations and Materials Available

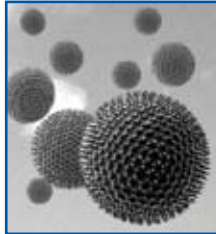
Looking for a speaker or exhibitor for your next meeting or event? Would you like free materials to distribute to your co-workers, staff or committee members? Contact Kristy Kim to request a free air quality presentation or to request copies of our publications. Presentations can be tailored to meet your time and content interests. For a list of available publications, please visit www.hcdoes.org.

Time To Get Out Your Tissues... Ragweed is Ready To Bloom

Are you one of the 35 million Americans who suffer from allergies? The most allergenic plant in North America is ragweed and it's getting ready to bloom! Time to get out your tissues and start keeping your eye on the daily pollen and mold counts provided by the Hamilton County Department of Environmental Services (HCDOES).

Ragweed blooms from August to the first week in October. The ragweed plant has fine, coarse hairs and a slight odor and is typically found along riverbanks, in abandoned lots and in unattended fields. Ragweed

plants are dominant in the Midwest and produce billions of pollen grains which are easily caught by the wind and spread throughout the region. Few plants are as efficient in dispersing pollen as ragweed.



Pollen Spores (enlarged)

To keep track of daily pollen and mold counts, call Hamilton County's pollen and mold hotline at 513-946-7753 or visit www.hcdoes.org.

Pollen and Mold Chart

	Pollen (grains per cubic meter)	Mold (spores per cubic meter)
Low	0-20	0-500
Moderate	21-100	501-1500
High	101-1000	1501-5000
Very High	>1000	>5000

GHG *continued from pg. 1*

regulation, coupled with life-style choices and growing consumption of electricity and fossil fuels that are purportedly having a negative impact on global environmental conditions," states Bonnie Pray, an Environmental Compliance Specialist with HCDOES.

As a demonstration of the County's commitment in the ongoing partnership initiative between Hamilton County, the City of Cincinnati and other civic, business and community leaders on the issue of climate change, HCDOES and other officials hope that the county's initiative will encourage businesses to follow suit with their own green policies.

For more information about the Greenhouse Gas Inventory Project or the Cool Counties initiative, contact HCDOES at 513-946-7777.



PTIO Program: The PTIO Program replaces the need to obtain a separate Permit-to-Install and Permit-to-Operate for non-Title V sources by combining the requirements of both types of permits into one application and permit document.

Air Quality Events & Meetings

Public Events

**GREATER CINCINNATI
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATORS (GCEE)
ULTIMATE EDUCATOR EXPO :**
"IT'S GETTING EASY GOING GREEN"
HOSTED BY THE CINCINNATI ZOO

Date: September 9, 2008
Time: 3:00 p.m.

**UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI
WELLNESS FAIR**

Date: October 1, 2008
Time: 10:30 a.m.

ANNUAL WYOMING FALL FESTIVAL

Date: October 4, 2008

For the most up-to-date event and meeting listings, visit our online calendar at www.hcdoes.org.

Upcoming Meetings

**HAMILTON COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL
ACTION COMMISSION (HCEAC)**

Date: August 7, 2008
September 4, 2008
October 2, 2008
November 6, 2008

Time: 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Location: Hamilton County
Department of
Environmental Services
250 William Howard Taft Rd.
First Floor Conference
Rooms A, B and C
Cincinnati, Ohio 45219

**HAMILTON COUNTY AIR QUALITY
POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (AQPAC)**

Date: July 29, 2008
September 30, 2008

Time: 10:30 a.m. - Noon

Location: Hamilton County
Department of
Environmental Services
250 William Howard Taft Rd.
First Floor Conference
Rooms A, B and C
Cincinnati, Ohio 45219

PLEASE NOTE: HCDOES will be closed Monday, September 1 for Labor Day. The office will re-open on Tuesday, September 2.

Monitoring & Analysis

Smog Season Update

by Sarah Dowers, Public Affairs Coordinator

Although a good amount of wet weather kept smog levels down in May and June, summertime air pollution returned in July and brought with it the need for Smog Alerts. The first Smog Alert of the summer was issued on July 11th and lasted one day. The second Alert was issued on July 16th and was in effect for the next four days.

Weather plays a large role in the development of smog, but there are many things we can do to help reduce the amount of air pollution in our region. Do your share for cleaner air by following these simple tips on Smog Alerts days:

- Maintain your vehicle
- Conserve electricity
- Do not idle your vehicle
- Do not use gas-powered lawn equipment
- Refuel after 8:00 p.m.
- Combine trips and eliminate unnecessary trips
- Carpool or rideshare (call 513-241-RIDE)
- Take the bus (call Metro or SORTA at 513-621-4455 or TANK at 859-331-TANK)

For more information about Smog Alerts or what you can do to help reduce air pollution, please visit hcdoes.org or call Sarah Dowers at 513-946-7748.

Year	Number of Smog Alerts Issued	Number of Days Smog Alert in Effect	Number of 8-Hour Exceedances in Ohio Counties	Number of PM2.5 Readings over 40 µg/m ³ in Ohio Counties* (24-hour average)
2000	1	2	25	-
2001	4	9	24	-
2002	6	18	109	17
2003	1	2	36	22
2004	0	0	5	13
2005	3	8	40	38
2006	0	0	10	35
2007	6	24	38	32
2008	2	5	32	0

*PM2.5 data collected from continuous monitors only. (Chart last updated on 07/30/08)

Environmental Working Group Formed To Focus On Lower Price Hill

by John Barlage, Environmental Compliance Specialist II

Cincinnati City Council Member Roxanne Qualls formed a workgroup with representatives from businesses, Cincinnati Public Schools, government agencies, local organizations and concerned citizens that have a special interest in Lower Price Hill.

In February 2008, a working group was formed to identify the concerns of the neighborhood, isolate the issues, and develop strategies to address the issues.

Several areas of concern were identified, for example:

- Concerns that students entering Oyler school, a Cincinnati public school located in Lower Price Hill, are at a disadvantage compared to other children entering other Cincinnati schools. The group wants to determine whether the environment would be a factor.

Working Group continued on pg. 5

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.

Working Group *continued from pg. 4*

- Air pollution from industrial sources and lead paint in residential properties in the area were also a concern, as well as the demolition and reconstruction of the Waldvogel Viaduct and demolition and construction at the Metro West project. These projects will significantly change traffic patterns, and the demolition and increased traffic in the area will cause an increase in air pollution in the area, and group members are concerned about the health risks of the projects.

It was decided that the group would meet periodically over the next six months. Subgroups were formed to address the concerns identified, and to develop practical action plans to address the issues.

Marilyn Crompton of Growing Well Cincinnati, Marcheta Gillam of the Legal Aid Society, and Kerri Castlen and John Barlage of the Hamilton County Department of Environmental Services (HCDOES) are focusing on air pollution issues and concerns in the Lower Price Hill community. Several strategies are being investigated or have been implemented, including:

- Increased monitoring of the Metro West and Viaduct demolition project to observe and address any compliance issues concerning dust.
- Identifying pollution sources in the area and alleviating misconceptions concerning pollutants from specific industrial sources.
- Bringing the HCDOES Anti-Idling campaign to Oyler school.
- Implementating the school bus retrofit program for Oyler school buses.
- Distributing Hamilton County Air Quality Hotline information in the area.

Lead abatement, land use and green space concerns are being addressed by other subgroups. There are six committee meetings scheduled. The plan is to implement strategies that will continue after the committee has disbanded.

For more information, please contact Kerri Castlen of HCDOES at 513-946-7738 or by email at kerri.castlen@hamilton-co.org.

Staff Updates

NEWLY HIRED:

May

In May, two Pollution Prevention Interns joined the staff of the Hamilton County Solid Waste Management District. Ryan Erickson and Laura Hughes are both students at Cincinnati State Technical and Community College majoring in Environmental Engineering Technology. Ryan is working on projects related to reducing electric energy consumption, wastewater treatment system operation and solid waste elimination and recycling at the General Mills plant in Sharonville, Ohio. Laura is assigned to the Siemens Energy & Automation plant in Norwood, Ohio and is working with the company to achieve ISO 14001 certification, among other tasks. Congratulations to Ryan and Laura, and to General Mills and Siemens Energy & Automation, on this unique and important opportunity.

Also in May, Branson Fields was promoted from the Monitoring & Analysis Intern for the Hamilton County Air Quality Management Division, to an Environmental Technician I. Branson received a Bachelors of Science from the University of Cincinnati in December 2007 and hopes to attend graduate school in either Environmental Science or Biological Sciences in the near future.

June

Joining the HCDOES staff in June was Kaydee Wilson as the new Public Affairs Intern. Kaydee currently attends the University of Cincinnati, majoring in English. Though she will be graduating next spring, Kaydee is excited at the current opportunity to share HCDOES air quality and solid waste information with the community.

July

Kristy Kim was hired in July as the new Public Affairs Specialist. Kristy is responsible for providing air quality outreach and education to the four-county region. She graduated from London Metropolitan University with a MA in International Relations and Northern Kentucky University with a BA in Radio/Television. Although Kristy came from a background in social services and youth programs, she eagerly looks forward to community outreach and education for air quality and environmental topics.

Aaron Morgan was also hired in July as an

Staff Updates *continued from pg. 5*

Environmental Specialist I. Aaron is a graduate from Western Washington University with a degree in Political Science and Environmental Policy. He previously worked as an intern at HCDOES from 2006-2007 and was employed as a Water Quality Technician with Hamilton County Public Health.

PROMOTIONS:

Anna Kelley celebrated 20 years of service with HCDOES in June 2008 and traded her position of Quality Assurance and Monitoring Coordinator for a promotion to the position of Monitoring and Analysis Supervisor in the same month.

Anna has witnessed many changes in her field of work, specifically lower ground-level ozone standards. When Anna began,

the ozone standard was .12 parts per million for a 1 hour interval. This is in stark contrast to today's standard of .075 parts per million averaged over an 8 hour period.

A graduate of Miami University, Anna has spent a substantial portion of her career in the lab, ranging from water quality to precursor gas. Dedicated to air quality, Anna also serves on the Monitoring Steering Committee for the National Association of Clean Air Agencies (NACAA). The NACAA represents air pollution control agencies in 53 states and territories with the mission to advance discussion and information exchange regarding air pollution on federal, state and local levels, as well as maintaining effective management of air quality resources.

Anna brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the Monitoring and Analysis Division and we congratulate her on her new role at HCDOES!

RETIREMENTS:

Helen Gaynor retired from HCDOES in June after serving as Systems Administrator for 12 years. We wish Helen the best of luck in her retirement and thank her for her years and service to the County.

The Breeze is published quarterly. Subscriptions are available at no charge. To subscribe, please forward name and address to: Hamilton County Department of Environmental Services, 250 William Howard Taft Road, Cincinnati, Ohio 45219-2660. For more information, contact Kristy Kim at: e-mail kristy.kim@hamilton-co.org; phone 513-946-7754; or fax 513-946-7779.

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