



# PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY AIR QUALITY OUTREACH PLAN

## **PROGRESS UPDATE**

07/23/08







- Increase County employees awareness and participation in air quality improvements
- Promote municipalities awareness & participation
- Improve public awareness & participation in air quality improvements
- Increase business community awareness of and participation
- Increase Awareness in County schools



Goal 1: Increase Employee Awareness & Participation



### Tasks:

- Determine a baseline on which to measure future progress (online Survey/Focus group)
- Develop customized messaging (Focus group)
- Develop County employee Participation programs
- Implement programs (\$\$\$\$)





## Methodology

### Online Survey:

- Approx 6,000 employees were invited to participate in online survey
- Paper version of the survey also available
- 1,565 employees for a response rate of 26%

#### Focus Groups:

 5 focus group meetings held with key agencies





### <u>Objectives of The Survey & Focus</u> Group

Gather input from employees regarding:

- Attitudes toward air quality
- Air Quality Action Day procedures
- Barriers and motivators for following Air Quality Action Day procedures
- Communication preferences for receiving air quality forecasts
- Preferences for air quality messages

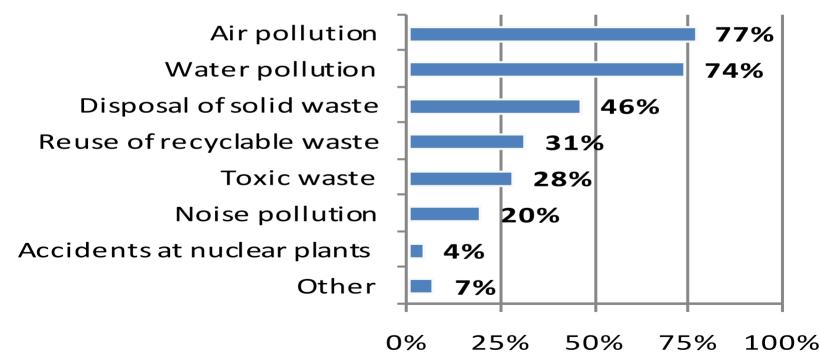




## Key Findings

#### Perception of Air Quality Issues

#### Top 3 Issues of *Most* Concern to Prince George's County Area (n=1558)



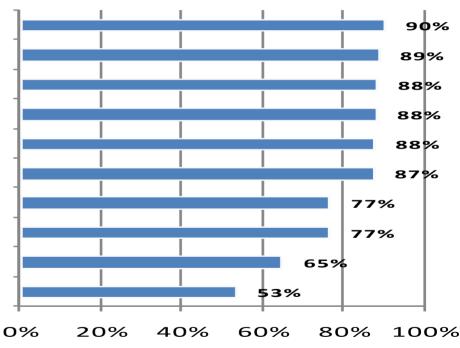




### Key Findings

### Willingness To Change Behavior

#### Those *Somewhat* & *Very Willing* to Take Actions to Reduce Air Pollution.



Regular maintenance on cars (1527)

- Limit pesticide use (n=1520)
- Refuel car after dusk (n=1528)
- Limit use of oil paints, etc (1522)
- Limit use of aerosol products (n=1524)
- Seek environ safe HH products (n=1520)

Telecommute (n=1505)

Drive car less (1530)

- Use electric lawn equipment (n=1505)
  - Carpool, vanpool, transit (n=1519)

 Lack of support systems prevents employees from taking actions during air quality action days



**Key Findings** 



### Motivators for Change :

 Providing Information on the Health Benefits of Improving Air Quality

#### **Preferred messages**

- short, direct, positive, and realistic.
- Emphasize the health benefits to individuals, their families and future generations





## Next Steps

Prepare employee outreach plan
short and long term goals, strategies and tactics