

MWAQC 2010 Annual Report

Del Pepper Elected Chair for 2011

On December 8, Hon. Redella (Del) Pepper was elected MWAQC Chair, and Hon. Phil Mendelson, Hon. John Britton, and Hon. Jay Fissette were elected MWAQC Vice Chairs for 2011.

Pepper, a Councilwoman for the City of Alexandria, has been a member of MWAQC since 1996. She has also served as President of the Metropolitan Washington

Council of Governments (COG).

Ms. Pepper was first elected to the Alexandria City Council in 1985 and most recently served as Vice Mayor from 2007-2009. Hon. Leta Mach, MWAQC Chair and Council Member, City of Greenbelt, presented the Nominating Committee's recommended slate at the last MWAQC meeting of the year held at

the Grand Hyatt Washington.



Accomplishments:

- *Commented to EPA on reconsidered ozone standard.*
- *MOVES task force completed local inputs on new mobile model.*
- *Commented on regional transport rule.*
- *EPA approved reasonable further progress mobile budget in 1997b SIP.*
- *ACPAC changed name to reflect new mission.*

The New Ground-Level Ozone Standard

In January 2010, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed to strengthen the national ambient air quality standards for ground-level ozone. Ground-level ozone is a primary component of smog. EPA proposed to strengthen the 8-hour "primary" ozone standard, designed to protect public health, to a level within the range of 0.060-0.070 parts per million (ppm). The proposed revisions result from a reconsideration of the identical primary and secondary ozone standards set at 0.075 ppm in 2008.

EPA is reconsidering the ozone standards to ensure

that two of the nation's most important air quality standards are clearly grounded in science, protect public health with an adequate margin of safety, and protect the environment. The ozone standards set in 2008 were not as protective as recommended by EPA's panel of science advisors, the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC). The proposed standards are consistent with CASAC's recommendations.

EPA had been anticipated to finalize the new standard by December 2010. However, as part of EPA's extensive review of the science, Administrator Lisa Jackson has

asked the CASAC for further interpretation of the epidemiological and clinical studies they used to make their recommendation. To ensure EPA's decision is grounded in the best science, EPA will review the input CASAC provides before the new standard is selected. Given this ongoing scientific review, EPA intends to set a final standard in the range recommended by the CASAC by the end of July 2011.

More information can be found at: <http://www.epa.gov/glo/actions.html>



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January 2011

There were 3 Code Red days and 31 Code Orange days during the 2010 season.

MAY

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
						1 74
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
37	31	63	75	75	60	55
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
50	55	52	46	42	50	61
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
57	44	43	35	67	76	50
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
34	39	41	70	87	49	55
30	31					
67	57					

JUNE

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
		55	80	70	77	53
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
43	47	56	50	63	75	82
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
56	59	50	44	62	83	74
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
65	82	87	76	64	80	76
27	28	29	30			
65	54	69	58			

JULY

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
				53	57	82
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
86	82	90	100	93	70	47
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
65	59	58	56	78	70	71
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
58	54	60	54	67	75	62
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
54	65	72	77	55	60	73

AUGUST

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
55	56	50	68	65	66	77
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
68	79	92	97	67	35	43
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
30	66	89	52	88	81	75
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
53	61	30	46	62	65	76
29	30	31				
81	98	88				

SEPTEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
			86	83	83	42
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
53	61	69	60	47	38	49
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
39	53	54	64	60	52	50
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
71	44	54	73	80	73	67
26	27	28	29	30		
35	22	43	28	35		

The Great Maryland Lawn Mower Event

We all know that driving our cars less and conserving energy at home will improve the environment and save money. But, we can also make a big difference when it comes to caring for our lawns. Did you know according to the EPA, gas-powered lawn and garden equipment produce up to five percent of the nation's air pollution. One traditional gas powered mower produces as much air pollution as 43 new cars.

In response to this problem affecting our region's air quality, Clean Air Partners and the Maryland Department of the

Environment held The Great Maryland Lawn Mower Event on August 14, 2010 at Camden Yards in Baltimore. The one day event encouraged Maryland residents to turn in their old gas-guzzling lawn mowers for deep discounts, 66% off the retail price, on Neuton battery-powered mowers.

The event was a great success! A total of 757 gas-powered mowers were decommissioned and replaced with electric battery-powered lawn mow-

ers—totaling 51,498 pounds of recycled materials collected by Baltimore Scrap. This also represents a reduction of 28.4 tons (56,797lbs) of Carbon Dioxide, 0.1 tons (177.9lbs) of Nitrogen Oxide, and 2.1 tons (4,239 lbs) of Volatile Organic Compounds.



Air Quality Trends Remain Positive Even After Record Breaking Summer Heat

Despite 2010 being the hottest summer in its history, the metropolitan Washington region's air quality continues to improve. Much of that improvement can be attributed to two primary factors – the passage of the Clean Air Act in 1970 (and its subsequent Amendments in 1990) and the decision by local governments in the region to work together to improve the region's air quality.

2010 marked the 40th anniversary since the Clean Air Act was enacted. Leta Mach, MWAQC Chair and City of Greenbelt Councilmember remarked on legislation's

achievements. "The country and the region have made tremendous progress reducing air pollution and saving lives," Mach said. "Forty years after the enactment of the Clean Air Act and twenty years after MWAQC was formed, we are reaping the benefits of these actions."

From May to mid-September 2010, there were 54 days when temperatures were above 90 degrees. Ten years ago, that would have meant 54 days of bad air. However, reduced emissions thanks to the Clean Air Act and the region's air quality plans, there were only 3 days where air

quality was unhealthy for all area residents (Code Red), while there were 31 days where the air was unhealthy for sensitive groups, such as children or the elderly (Code Orange). "The 2010 numbers are up from last year's low figures, but the overall trajectory of the region's air quality remains positive," Mach noted.



Reducing Emissions from Diesel Equipment

COG has successfully partnered with the U.S. EPA's Clean Diesel Program to reduce emissions from nonroad diesel equipment operating in the Metropolitan Washington region. COG's Department of Environmental Programs has received 2 grants from EPA Region III to retrofit nonroad diesel equipment. Equipment owners benefit by receiving no-cost or matching funds to install diesel particulate filters on exhaust systems, upgrade engines to new lower emitting standards, or to install new cleaner engines.

New cleaner diesel engines

and exhaust controls will substantially reduce emissions of Nitrogen Oxides (NOx), an important air pollutant that leads to the formation of smog, as well as fine particles which pose health risks to residents in the region.

Environmental benefits of the engine and exhaust retrofits will involve emission reductions for NOx of more than 23,000 pounds/year, equivalent to removing 10 large heavy duty diesel trucks or more than 400 small trucks from our region's roadways.

Equipment owners include

several highway construction companies in Maryland, a large quarry operation in Virginia, a marine passenger vessel operator in Alexandria, Virginia, and a County landfill operation. To date, COG has funded the retrofit of 12 pieces of equipment. A total of more than \$400,000 of federal funds and \$215,000 in private matching funds have been expended to reduce emissions from diesel engines operating in the region.

The source of funding is the Diesel Emission Reduction Act (DERA). Congress reauthorized DERA in December.



Soil excavator owned by Reliable Contracting received an engine upgrade reducing emissions by nearly 1 ton per year of NOx.

COG intends to submit a proposal to EPA to obtain additional funding for further diesel retrofit projects in early 2011.

Turn Your Engine Off

The trucking and motor coach industries have an important impact on our economy, environment and culture. With more than 500,000 motor carriers nationwide, the trucking industry is a driving force in the U.S. economy, delivering food, products, commodities, and other vital resources.

In collaboration with the District Department of the Environment (DDOE), the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) and the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), COG developed a diesel idle reduction campaign to:

- Increase idle reduction awareness and control diesel emissions.

- Promote idle-reduction as a positive behavior that helps bus and truck drivers to avoid fines, save money, and cut fuel costs.
- Improve public health, protect the environment and enhance the quality of life for residents and visitors to our Nation's Capital and the Baltimore region.

Supported by the bus and trucking sectors, the diesel idle reduction campaign kicked off on July 13, 2010 and continued throughout the summer in the Metropolitan Washington-Baltimore regions. The effort aimed at decreasing diesel emissions and improving air quality for everyone.



As part of the campaign, a Driver Recognition Program was created to recognize diesel motorcoach and truck drivers who exemplify "Idling Reduction Ambassador" behavior. Bus and truck drivers who are observed practicing legal and responsible idle reduction behavior may be nominated for formal recognition and eligible for multiple rewards. Awards are announced monthly.

Visit turnyourengineoff.org for more information.



Front end loader owned by Reliable Contracting received diesel particulate filters which reduce fine particle emissions by approximately 90%.

