



**Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee  
December 17, 2014**

**1. Community and Business Outreach**

- **Local Events** - Clean Air Partners participated in the following local events:
  - DC Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs Annual Green Building Symposium and Expo – September 26
  - DATA's Reston Town Center Block Party – October 1

**2. Marketing and Public Relations**

- **Wood-Burning Outreach and "Guide to Heating Your Home"** – In November, Clean Air Partners began a wood-burning focused media outreach initiative. This initiative continues to position Clean Air Partners as a year-round source for air quality information in the region. We are providing easy ways for residents to stay warm with proper wood burning, while protecting their health and reducing their contribution to air pollution. As part of the initiative, we developed a "Guide to Heating Your Home," that provides visuals for wood-burning and energy efficiency tips. We were able to secure an interview on WBAL-TV in Baltimore and had articles run on EcoNews Network, The Natural Handy Man, and Climate Mama blogs.
- **"Green Guide to the Holidays"** – As part of a winter outreach initiative, Clean Air Partners created a new infographic, "Green Guide to the Holidays." Along the lines of our other guides (Guide to Keeping Your Lungs Happy and Guide to Heating Your Home), the "Green Guide to the Holidays" provides visual tips for staying warm, enjoying the holidays, and protecting health and the environment during the holiday season. Beginning on December 1, we used the infographic to engage social media audiences and pitch local media, encouraging them to post it on their social media pages and place it on their news websites.
- **Spanish Materials** – Clean Air Partners now has materials in Spanish. Materials include the Guide to Keeping Your Lungs Happy, Air Quality Action Guide, and Magnet. Materials are available on the website at [www.cleanairpartners.net/publications.cfm](http://www.cleanairpartners.net/publications.cfm).

**3. Curriculum and Outreach**

- **Infographics Challenge** – Clean Air Partners will sponsor its 3<sup>rd</sup> Infographics Challenge. The competition engages high school students to work as teams to develop thought provoking infographics using standard data and guidelines.
- **Slogan Contest** – Clean Air Partners held its 4<sup>th</sup> annual slogan contest for local middle and elementary students. Students in grades 4-8 were asked to submit a creative slogan that brings to light solutions to air pollution and climate change and inspire people to take actions to improve our region's air quality. We received over 200 contest submissions. Winners will be posted on the Clean Air Partners website.

**4. Meetings**

- **Annual Celebration/Awards** – The Clean Air Partners Annual Awards will be held in May in the metropolitan Washington region. The Awards Planning Committee is in the process of selecting a venue.

We are seeking nominations for the 2015 Annual Awards. The nomination form can be found on the Clean Air Partners website ([www.cleanairpartners.net](http://www.cleanairpartners.net)). Deadline is January 30. Awards include:

- Clean Air Partners' Champion - individual in recognition of a significant contribution with lasting impact on the region's air quality through community outreach, implementing hands-on environmental awareness activities, and demonstrating true leadership initiative.
- Clean Air Partners' Most Valuable Partner - one organization that has made significant efforts in promoting simple actions to reduce air pollution and the impacts they have on climate change and their efforts to encourage and increase the awareness of local air quality issues.

The "Guides" are available at [www.cleanairpartners.net/publications.cfm](http://www.cleanairpartners.net/publications.cfm).

**CLEAN AIR PARTNERS' GUIDE TO Heating Your Home**

**It's getting colder!**  
Here are some easy ways to keep your house warm while keeping those lungs healthy!

<b>Get Ready</b> <p>Start the fall season by choosing an EPA-approved wood-burning stove or fireplace insert feature. Cleaner wood-burning stoves can reduce your fuel bill in addition to exposing you to less harmful toxins.</p>	<b>Choose Wood Wisely</b> <p>Burn only dry, well-seasoned wood that has been split properly. Season wood outdoors through the summer for at least 6 months before burning it. Store wood outdoors stacked neatly off the ground with the top covered.</p>	<b>Do Your Housekeeping</b> <p>Replace your air/furnace filter every month during the heating season to maintain the safe and efficient operation of your heating equipment.</p>
<b>Avoid Wax and Sawdust</b> <p>Do not use logs made from wax and sawdust in your wood stove or fireplace. If you use manufactured logs, choose those made from 100% compressed sawdust.</p>	<b>Start it Right</b> <p>Start fires with newspaper, dry kindling, and all natural or organic fire starters. Never start a fire with gasoline, kerosene, or charcoal starter.</p>	<p>Use the Low or Warm settings on your water heater. This will improve efficiency and prevent scalding accidents.</p>
<b>Get it Hot</b> <p>Build hot fires; they eat up carbon monoxide and other pollutants.</p>	<b>Maintain Proper Airflow and Remove Ashes</b> <p>Remove ashes from your appliance and leave the doors of your fireplace closed. Harmful chemicals, like carbon monoxide, can be released into your home.</p>	<p>Caulk, weather-strip, and insulate openings such as doors, attic, windows, plumbing penetrations, and electrical outlets.</p>
<b>Know What Not to Burn</b> <p>Never burn: garbage, leaves, cardboard, plastics, magazines, bones, wrappers, driftwood, plywood, particle board, wood with glue, or wet, rotted, diseased, moldy, or coated, painted, or pressure-treated wood.</p>	<b>Keep the House Safe</b> <p>Keep all flammable household items—drapes, furniture, newspapers, and books far away from the appliance.</p>	<b>Stay Informed</b> <p>Do not use fire pits on poor air quality days. Remember to check the air quality forecast before you burn at <a href="http://www.cleanairpartners.net">www.cleanairpartners.net</a>.</p>

Visit [CleanAirPartners.net](http://CleanAirPartners.net) to get daily AirAlerts and discover additional steps you can take to protect your health and improve our region's air quality this fall and winter season.

CLEAN AIR PARTNERS DC-MD-VA

**CLEAN AIR PARTNERS' Green Guide to the Holidays**

Protect your air quality and stay off the naughty list this year by incorporating these heating and holiday best practices into your seasonal routine!

<b>Staying Warm:</b> Install a programmable thermostat, and set your thermostat 8 degrees lower while asleep or away. You can save up to 12 percent in seasonal heating costs.	<b>Light Up the House:</b> Decorating is fun for the whole family - but switch to ENERGY STAR-certified decorative LED Light Strings. They consume 65 percent less energy, last longer, and reduce the risk of fire.
<b>Burning Tips:</b> Build an awesome, environmentally-friendly fire safely and efficiently. Choose an EPA-approved wood burning stove or fireplace insert feature. Smoke from fireplaces can be a significant source of air pollution during the winter. Cleaner wood-burning stoves can reduce your fuel bill in addition to protecting your health.	<b>Gift Ideas:</b> If you plan on purchasing new electronics as gifts, look for ENERGY STAR-certified products. You'll use less energy and save money.
<b>Recycle that Wrapping Paper!</b> Recycle wrapping paper, greeting cards, and other household waste. According to the EPA, Americans throw away 25 million more tons of trash between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day than during other times of the year.	<b>Recycle Your Christmas Tree Too!</b> An estimated 10% of Christmas trees in the U.S. end up in landfills. Look into a curbside pickup or tree drop-off program near you.
<b>Take Transit or Carpool:</b> Plan your holiday shopping trips with a friend or family member, and take the bus whenever possible.	<b>Never burn:</b> garbage, leaves, cardboard, plastics, magazines, bones, wrappers, driftwood, plywood, particle board, wood with glue, or wet, rotted, diseased or moldy wood.
<b>Start fires with newspaper and dry kindling.</b>	<b>Build hot fires.</b> A smoldering fire is not a safe or efficient fire.
<b>Do not use fire pits on poor air quality days.</b>	

Visit [CleanAirPartners.net](http://CleanAirPartners.net) to get daily AirAlerts and discover additional steps you can take each day to improve our region's air quality, protect your health, and improve the environment.

CLEAN AIR PARTNERS DC-MD-VA



## Clean Air Partners 2015 Annual Awards Nomination Form

Please submit your nomination form to Jen Desimone ([jdesimone@mwkog.org](mailto:jdesimone@mwkog.org)) by **COB, Friday, January 30, 2015**.

Clean Air Partners will recognize local organizations/businesses/individuals that have made outstanding efforts to improve the region's air quality and support the overall mission of the Clean Air Partners program.

### **Clean Air Partners' Champion**

The award goes to one individual in recognition of a significant contribution with lasting impact on the region's air quality through community outreach, implementing hands-on environmental awareness activities, and demonstrating true leadership initiative.

Individual's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominated By: \_\_\_\_\_

Provide a brief description, *no more than 1 page*, as to why this individual should be considered for the award. (Attach as a separate sheet)

### **Clean Air Partners' Most Valuable Partner (MVP):**

Clean Air Partners will recognize one organization that has made significant efforts in promoting simple actions to reduce air pollution and the impacts they have on climate change and their efforts to encourage and increase the awareness of local air quality issues.

Organization's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominated By: \_\_\_\_\_

Provide a brief description, *no more than 1 page*, as to why this organization should be considered for the award. (Attach as a separate sheet)