

**AIR QUALITY ACTION DAY PROCEDURES  
FOR PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT**

**2005**



PREPARED BY THE AIR QUALITY WORKING GROUP  
Department of Environmental Resources  
Department of Health  
Department of Public Works and Transportation  
Fire/EMS Department  
Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission  
Office of Central Services  
Office of Emergency Management  
Office of Public Safety Communications

# Air Quality Action Plan Standard Operating Procedures

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## PROCEDURE #1

- SUBJECT:** Air Quality Action Days County Notification Procedures
- PURPOSE:** To notify County employees that an Air Quality Action Day has been declared by the County.
- RESPONSIBILITY:** Several Offices, including
- \* Information Technology & Communications
  - \* Office of Public Safety Communications
  - \* Office of Emergency Management
  - \* Office of Central Services
  - \* Department of Environmental Resources
  - \* Department of Public Works and Transportation

### PROCEDURE:

1. The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) will declare an Air Quality Action Day if they have determined that a multi-day episode will occur where air quality is either unhealthy for sensitive groups (Code Orange), unhealthy (Code Red), or very unhealthy (Code Purple).
2. Once declared, COG will fax an appropriate notice to the following **fax numbers**:
  - Information Technology & Communications, **301-952-3030**;
  - Office of Public Safety Communications, **301-499-8034**;
  - Office of Emergency Management, **301-583-1986**;
  - Office of Central Services, **301-817-4398**;
  - Environmental Services Division, Dept. of Environmental Resources, **301-883-9218**;
  - Waste Management Division, Department of Environmental Resources, **301-952-7611**;
  - Transit Division, Dept. of Public Works and Transportation, **301-499-8577**;
  - Office of Highway Maintenance, Dept. of Public Works and Transportation, **301-499-8525**; and
  - Fleet Administrator, Dept. of Public Works and Transportation, **301-808-1732**
3. **The Office of Public Safety Communications** will send the appropriate message, marked "Code Orange," "Code Red," or "Code Purple" to all fire halls and buildings. (Language contained in Procedure # 2) Fire personnel will then undertake procedures outlined in Procedure # 4.

Contact: Charlynn F. Flaherty, 301-499-8090

4. **The Office of Emergency Management** will add the appropriate message, marked "Code Orange," "Code Red," or "Code Purple" to the County's Weatherline (snow line), 301-952-4810, and will put the same message on Channel 29B, the public safety cable station. (Language contained in Procedure #2)

Contact: Calvin Hawkins, 301-583-1899  
Reggie A. Parks, 301- 583-1995

5. **The Office of Central Services** will display flags at select County office buildings (See Procedure #3) and implement Episodic Bans on painting (See Procedure #8) and vehicle refueling (See Procedure #10).

Contact: Frank W. Hall and/or Mary Beth McGee, 301-817-4383  
Bob McGhee, 301-808-1715

6. **The Department of Environmental Resources** will send the appropriate message, marked "Code Orange," "Code Red," or "Code Purple" via e-mail to all County employees on the e-mail system. (Language contained in Procedure #2)

Contact: Didian Tsongwain, 301-883-5983

7. **The Waste Management Division, Department of Environmental Resources,** will curtail landfill and pollution-causing activities at the County's landfill (See Procedure #6).

Contact: Darryl Flick, 301-952-7607

8. **The Department of Public Works and Transportation, Transit Division,** will notify County mass transit to initiate free bus rides on *TheBus*, Call-a-Bus and Metrobus (within Maryland) (See Procedures #7). **The Office of Highway Maintenance** will implement an Episodic Ban on mowing and use of gas-powered lawn and garden equipment (See Procedures #9). **Traffic Operations** will implement an Episodic Ban on traffic-marking activities (See Procedures #11).

Contact: Willie Epps, 301-499-8603  
Dennis Ho, 301-499-8523  
Michael Rohlf, 301-499-8592  
Aaron Overman, 301-883-5656

These notifications will set into effect a number of other County policies and other measures included in the official plan.

## PROCEDURE #2

**SUBJECT:** Language to be Used in Notifying Employees and the Public about Air Quality Action Days -- "Declared" and "Cancelled"

**PURPOSE:** Language used to notify County employees that:

- 1) The County, through e-mail, the public safety channel or County Weatherline has declared an Air Quality Action Day (Code Orange, Code Red or Code Purple).
- 2) A change in the forecast has been made and the Air Quality Action Day is cancelled.  
(To be used in conjunction with Procedures #1 and #5)

**RESPONSIBILITY:**

- Office of Public Safety Communications
- Office of Emergency Management
- Environmental Services Division, Department of Environmental Resources
- Information Technology & Communications

**PROCEDURE:**

1. The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) will declare an Air Quality Action Day if it has determined that a multi-day episode will occur where air quality is forecast to be either unhealthy for sensitive people (Code Orange), unhealthy (Code Red), or very unhealthy (Code Purple).

2. In communicating the message for **Code Purple** Days, use the following statement:

"URGENT: The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) has issued a **"CODE PURPLE"** Air Quality forecast for (date here). Air quality is expected to reach **very unhealthy levels** in the Washington and Baltimore metropolitan areas.

When air quality reaches very unhealthy levels:

- People with respiratory or heart ailments, children, and older adults should avoid outdoor physical activities; and
- Everyone else should avoid prolonged or heavy exertion outdoors.

On "**CODE PURPLE**" Air Quality Action Days, employees must follow the following procedures and practices:

- No refueling of County vehicles (except emergency or exempt vehicles) at County gasoline pumping stations;
- No interior or exterior painting will be permitted;
- No traffic marking will be permitted;
- No pesticide/herbicide applications will be permitted;

- No mowing or use of other gas-powered lawn and garden equipment will be permitted;
- Employees are urged to become an Air Quality Action Rider through Commuter Connections, to share a ride, or use **TheBus**, Metro, or Ride-on to get to work;
- Employees are urged to reduce their travel or consolidate their trips or inspections;
- If you have to drive alone, use only your newest, best-maintained vehicle;
- Use teleconferencing in place of "drive-to" meetings;
- At home, avoid mowing lawns with gasoline-powered mowers; and
- At home, delay painting until air quality improves, or at least until after dusk."

Call the County's Weatherline at 301-952-4810 or the COG Air Quality Hotline at 202-962-3299 for more information and weather updates.

3. In communicating the message for **Code Red** Days, use the following statement:

"URGENT: The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) has issued a "**CODE RED**" Air Quality forecast for (date here). Air quality is expected to reach **unhealthy levels** in the Washington and Baltimore metropolitan areas.

When air quality reaches unhealthy levels:

- Children and elderly individuals should reduce outdoor activities;
- Healthy individuals should limit strenuous outdoor work and exercise; and
- Individuals with heart and respiratory ailments, emphysema, asthma, or chronic bronchitis should limit their outdoor activities. **If breathing becomes difficult, move indoors.**

On "**CODE RED**" Air Quality Action Days, employees must follow the following procedures and practices:

- No refueling of County vehicles (except emergency or exempt vehicles) at County gasoline pumping stations;
- No interior or exterior painting will be permitted;
- No traffic marking will be permitted;
- No pesticide/herbicide applications will be permitted;
- No mowing or use of other gas-powered lawn and garden equipment will be permitted;
- Employees are urged to become an Air Quality Action Rider through Commuter Connections, to share a ride, or use **TheBus**, Metro, or Ride-on to get to work;
- Employees are urged to reduce their travel or consolidate their trips or inspections;
- If you have to drive alone, use only your newest, best-maintained vehicle;
- Use teleconferencing in place of "drive-to" meetings;
- At home, avoid mowing lawns with gasoline-powered mowers; and
- At home, delay painting until air quality improves, or at least until after dusk.

Call the County's Weatherline at 301-952-4810 or the COG Air Quality Hotline at 202-962-3299 for more information and weather updates.

4. For **Code Orange** days, use:

"URGENT: The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) has issued a "**CODE ORANGE**" Air Quality forecast for (date here). Air quality is expected to be **unhealthy for sensitive groups** in the Washington and Baltimore metropolitan areas.

Children and adults who experience difficulty breathing should limit prolonged or strenuous outdoor activities.

County employees are urged to take these actions to reduce the emissions that lead to ozone:

- Refuel County vehicles (except emergency vehicles) or personal cars after dusk whenever possible;
- Reduce your travel or consolidate your trips or inspections;
- If you have to drive alone, use only your newest, best-maintained vehicle;
- Use teleconferencing in place of "drive-to" meetings;
- At home, avoid mowing lawns with gasoline-powered mowers; and
- Delay painting until after dusk.

County employees are also urged to sign up today to join Commuter Connections, a region-wide effort to match potential carpool or vanpool riders. By sharing a ride on Air Quality Action Days, you will become an Air Quality Action Rider and help reduce pollution. Commuter Connections can also help you find the nearest transit locations for your home-to-work trip. Call 1-800-745-RIDE.

On CODE RED and CODE PURPLE days, catch a free ride on **TheBus** and Metrobus (within Maryland). For more details, call 301-THE-BUSS (324-2877) or 202-637-7000.

Call the County's Weatherline at 301-952-4810 or the COG Air Quality Hotline at 202-962-3299 for more information.

5. When a change in the weather has occurred and pollution is reduced, an "**All-Clear**" must be called. Language to indicate this change is:

"The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) has determined that the forecasted weather patterns no longer pose an air pollution risk. Please resume all normal activities."

### PROCEDURE # 3

**SUBJECT:** Air Quality Action Day -- Flags Procedure at County Buildings

**PURPOSE:** To display flags at various County facilities indicating the County has declared an Air Quality Action Day.

**RESPONSIBILITY:** Office of Central Services

**PROCEDURE:**

1. The Office of Central Services (OCS) will ensure that whenever an Air Quality Action Day is forecasted for Code Red or Code Purple by the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG), the Air Quality/Ozone Action Day flag (also known as the Ozone Action Day flag) is raised by 8 a.m. at the following County facilities:

- Prince George's County Courthouse  
14735 Main Street  
Upper Marlboro, Maryland
- Largo Government Center  
9201 Basil Court  
Largo, Maryland
- Inglewood Centre 3  
9400 Peppercorn Place  
Largo, Maryland
- County Administration Building Garage  
14741 Governor Oden Bowie Drive  
Upper Marlboro, Maryland
- RMS Building  
1400 McCormick Drive  
Largo, Maryland
- Transit Operations and Equipment Maintenance Center  
8401 D'Arcy Road  
Forestville, Maryland

If notification is received by 3:15 p.m. on the day the event is called, every attempt to raise the flags will be made, and the flags will remain flying until the event is concluded.

2. OCS will be informed that an Air Quality Action Day--Code Red or Code Purple--has been called directly by FAX from COG at 301-817-4398.

3. OCS building engineers will raise the flags at the above-mentioned sites by 8 a.m. on forecasted Air Quality Action Days and will lower the flags once the emergency has been lifted. If notification is received by 3:15 p.m. on the day the event is called, every attempt to raise the flags will be made, and the flags will remain flying until the event is concluded.

4. The Department of Environmental Resources will provide the flags to OCS.



5. OCS will store these flags when not in use.
6. The Air Quality Action Day flag is flown when a Code Red or Code Purple Day is called.

**CONTACT:** Frank W. Hall and/or Mary Beth McGhee, 301-817-4383

## **PROCEDURE #4**

**SUBJECT:** Air Quality Action Day -- Flags Procedure at Fire Stations

**PURPOSE:** To display flags at Fire Stations indicating the County has declared an Air Quality Action Day.

**RESPONSIBILITY:** Fire /EMS Department

**PROCEDURE:**

1. The Fire/EMS Department will ensure that whenever an Air Quality Action Day is forecasted for Code Red or Code Purple by the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG), the Air Quality/Ozone Action Day flag is raised as soon as possible at all County Fire Stations.
2. The Department of Environmental Resources will provide the flags to the Fire/ EMS Department.
3. Fire/EMS Department personnel will raise the flags at the above-mentioned sites upon notification by the Public Safety Communications Unit that an Air Quality Action Day-- Code Red or Code Purple--has been called. COG will fax the Office of Public Safety Communications at 301-499-8034. The flags will be lowered once an All Clear is declared.
4. The flags will be raised on the flagpole containing the County or State flag. The flag should never be flown on the same pole as the United States flag.
5. The Fire Stations will store these flags when not in use.
6. All Fire Stations will prominently display an Air Quality Action Day Air Quality Forecast and Action Guide for reference by Fire and Emergency Medical Services personnel, and the general public.

**CONTACT:** Captain Dennis Woods 301-583-1933

## PROCEDURE #5

**SUBJECT:** Department of Environmental Resources E-Mail Notification Procedures for Air Quality Action Days

**PURPOSE:** To notify, via e-mail, County employees that an Air Quality Action Day has been declared by the County.

**RESPONSIBILITY:** Environmental Services Division, Department of Environmental Resources  
Information Technology & Communications

### PROCEDURE:

1. The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) will declare an Air Quality Action Day if they have determined that a multi-day episode will occur where air quality is either approaching unhealthy (Code Orange), unhealthy (Code Red) or very unhealthy (Code Purple).
2. Once declared, COG will fax an appropriate notice to the following:
  - Environmental Services Division, Department of Environmental Resources (DER), 301-883-9218; and
  - Information Technology & Communications (ITC), 301-952-3030.
3. Didian Tsongwain, Beverly Warfield or a designee in Environmental Services Division (ESD), Department of Environmental Resources, will send the appropriate message, marked "Code Orange," "Code Red" or "Code Purple" via e-mail, to all County employees on the e-mail system and concurrent notification of such action will be made to ITC. (Language contained in Procedure #2.) Contact: Didian Tsongwain, 301-883-5983; or Beverly Warfield, 301-883-5838.
4. Once COG has called off the Air Quality Action Day (usually through the next day's forecast issued at 3:15 p.m. daily), DER staff will send the appropriate message, marked "All Clear", via e-mail to all County employees on the e-mail system). (Language contained in Procedure #2.)
5. For the purposes of this procedure, this includes all Prince George's County employees with the e-mail extension of "@co.pg.md.us"

**CONTACT:** Didian Tsongwain, 301-883-5983

## PROCEDURE #6

**SUBJECT:** Air Quality Action Day -- Curtailment of Landfill Activities

**PURPOSE:** To curtail ozone-causing activities at the County's Brown Station Road Landfill.

**RESPONSIBILITY:** Waste Management Division, Department of Environmental Resources

**PROCEDURE:** On Air Quality Action Days:

1. The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) will declare an Air Quality Action Day if they have determined that a multi-day episode will occur where air quality is either unhealthy for sensitive groups (Code Orange), unhealthy (Code Red) or very unhealthy (Code Purple).
2. COG will fax this information to Darryl Flick, Waste Management Division (WMD), Department of Environmental Resources, 301-952-7611, who will initiate the following procedures:
  - a. Vehicle movement will be minimized and lawn mowing will be curtailed;
  - b. To the extent possible, essential heavy equipment use will be scheduled during the afternoon rather than the morning hours; and
  - c. During the summer months, soil will be stockpiled near the working face on Code Green days so that less vehicle movement is required on Air Quality Action Days.

**CONTACT:** Darryl Flick, 301-952-7607  
Shirley Poe, 301-952-7625

## PROCEDURE #7

**SUBJECT:** Air Quality Action Day -- County Public Transit Access

**PURPOSE:** To curtail ozone-causing activities by helping reduce the number of automobiles on public roads.

**RESPONSIBILITY:** Transit Division, Department of Public Works and Transportation

**PROCEDURE:** On Air Quality Action Days:

1. The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) will declare an Air Quality Action Day if they have determined that a multi-day episode will occur where air quality is either unhealthy for sensitive groups (Code Orange), unhealthy (Code Red) or very unhealthy (Code Purple).
2. COG will fax this information to Willie Epps, Transit Division, Department of Public Works and Transportation, 301-499-8577, who will initiate the following procedures:
  - Contact **TheBus** and Call-a-Bus in Prince George's County to allow riders free access on Code Red and Code Purple Days; and
  - Whenever possible, the County will provide rider counts on selected routes to ascertain whether ridership is affected by this procedure.

**CONTACT:** Willie Epps, 301-499-8603  
Frank Bell, 301-883-5656

## PROCEDURE #8

**SUBJECT:** Ban on Certain Types of Painting on Air Quality Action Days and Use of No and Low-VOC Paints At All Other Times

**PURPOSE:** To curtail paint emissions caused by any County painting

**RESPONSIBILITY:** Office of Central Services (OCS) – Facilities, Operations and Management Division

**PROCEDURE:** On Air Quality Action Days:

1. OCS will ban all exterior painting by County employees or contractors on Code Red or Code Purple Air Quality Action Days and will be responsible for notifying these employees/contractors when those Days are called by COG.
2. OCS will ban all use of low-VOC paint for interior work by County employees or contractors on Code Red or Code Purple Air Quality Action Days and will be responsible for notifying these employees/contractors when those Days are called by COG. OCS will allow interior painting with no-VOC paint on Code Red or Code Purple Air Quality Action Days.
3. OCS will issue a departmental procedure requiring, at all times, only the use of paints with low-Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) on interior spaces within County offices and exterior surfaces on County buildings (i.e., Duron, Ultra Deluxe Interior Flat, product number 44-10311 for interior painting).
4. OCS will include language in all contracts effective May 1, 2005 involving exterior and interior painting for County buildings and grounds to require contractors to use only no-VOC or ultra-low VOC paints as determined by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

**CONTACT:** Frank Hall, OCS, 301-817-4361  
Jack Sloan, 301-883-6461

## PROCEDURE #9

**SUBJECT:** Air Quality Action Day Episodic Ban on Use of Lawn, Garden and other Diesel-Powered Equipment

**PURPOSE:** To curtail ozone-causing activities by County employees and contractor-conducted mowing and other activities using fossil-fueled machinery

**RESPONSIBILITY:** Department of Public Works and Transportation

**PROCEDURE:** On Air Quality Action Days:

1. The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) will declare an Air Quality Action Day if they have determined that a multi-day episode will occur where air quality is either unhealthy for sensitive groups (Code Orange), unhealthy (Code Red), or very unhealthy (Code Purple).
2. COG will fax this information to Dennis Ho, Associate Director, Office of Highway Maintenance, at 301-499-8525, who will initiate the following procedures:
  - a. Vehicle movement will be minimized and lawn mowing will be curtailed; and
  - b. To the extent possible, essential heavy equipment use will be scheduled during the late afternoon rather than the morning hours.

**CONTACT:** Dennis Ho, 301-499-8523

## PROCEDURE #10

**SUBJECT:** Air Quality Action Day -- Curtailment of Refueling Activities for all but Emergency/Public Safety Vehicles

**PURPOSE:** To curtail pollution-causing emissions at the County's Refueling sites

**RESPONSIBILITY:** Fleet Management Division, Office of Central Services

**PROCEDURE:** On Air Quality Action Days:

1. The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) will declare an Air Quality Action Day if they have determined that a multi-day episode will occur where air quality is either unhealthy for sensitive groups (Code Orange), unhealthy (Code Red), or very unhealthy (Code Purple).
2. COG will fax this information to Robert McGhee, Office of Central Services, Fleet Management Division, 301-808-1732, who will initiate the following procedures:
  - a. Initiate lock out software at all County refueling stations with the following exceptions:
    - 1) Police Department;
    - 2) Fire Department;
    - 3) Sheriff's Office;
    - 4) Corrections;
    - 5) M-NCPPC Public Safety Vehicles; and
    - 6) Vehicles Pre-Identified by Agency
  - b. All County employees will be advised, through e-mail messages distributed by DER, that they would not be able to refuel their vehicles until an "All Clear" is issued for the morning following the Air Quality Action Day.
  - c. Document amount of fuel used on Air Quality Action Days and report annually along with "normal" daily averages to determine overall emission reductions.

**CONTACT:** Robert McGhee, 301-808-1715



## PROCEDURE #11

**SUBJECT:** Air Quality Action Day -- Curtailment of All Traffic-Marking Activities

**PURPOSE:** To curtail ozone-causing activities caused by the use of equipment and paint and coatings for traffic marking on County-owned and maintained roadways

**RESPONSIBILITY:** Department of Public Works and Transportation

**PROCEDURE:** On Air Quality Action Days:

1. The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) will declare an Air Quality Action Day if they have determined that a multi-day episode will occur where air quality is either unhealthy for sensitive groups (Code Orange), unhealthy (Code Red), or very unhealthy (Code Purple).
2. COG will fax this information to 301-499-8545, Michael Rohlf, Chief, Traffic Operations, who will initiate the following procedures:
  - a. Vehicle movement will be minimized and lane striping will be curtailed; and
  - b. Contractors will be advised that no longitudinal or transverse markings will be permitted until the Action Day is lifted.

**CONTACT:** Michael Rohlf, 301-499-8592

## PROCEDURE #12

**SUBJECT:** Use of Pesticides Reduction Program

**PURPOSE:** To continue to use an Integrated Pest Management Program which reduces emissions

**RESPONSIBILITY:** Office of Central Services – Facilities, Operations & Management Division

**PROCEDURE:** On an annual basis:

1. OCS's contracts with vendors require them to use Integrated Pest Control Management for pest and rodent control services for various County facilities.
2. Contractors will use only non-toxic pest elimination devices, glue boards and mechanical traps whenever possible to minimize exposure of residual pesticides.

**CONTACT:** Frank Hall, 301-817-4361

## PROCEDURE #13

**SUBJECT:** Other Ongoing Activities

In addition to the activities listed in the prior Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), a number of other projects are either under consideration or development. Below is a brief description of those activities and their status:

- 1) **Telework:** The Office of Human Resources Management (OHRM) has developed a telecommuting/telework procedure for Prince George's County Government employees. As part of the County's Charter for Change under the Livable Communities Initiative, OHRM has established policy and guidelines for full-time and part-time classified and exempt-service employees for using teleworking as an alternative to commuting to the office on specific and approved days and to improve productivity of employees.

This procedure will set forth the eligibility criteria, acceptable alternative worksites, liability, coordination with Air Quality Action Days, and leave use as it relates to teleworking.

**Contact:** Valerie Farrar, 301-883-6344  
**Time frame for completion:** 2005

- 2) **Wind Power Purchase:** Prince George's County has purchased five (5) percent of its total electrical demand in the form of wind power (green energy). The County will purchase 4,270,280-kilowatt hours at an additional cost of \$63,970 per year for two years above the cost for conventional electricity. The County purchased wind power from Washington Gas Energy Services, along with approximately 20 other jurisdictions including the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) and Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC).

**Contact:** Brian Ashford, 301-817-4390  
**Time frame for completion:** Complete/Ongoing

- 3) **County Gas Can Purchase:** The Department of Environmental Resources is working with M-NCPPC, the Department of Public Works and Transportation and other County agencies to identify appropriate Occupational Safety & Health Administration and California Air Resources Board (CARB)-approved gas cans, quantity needed and procurement vehicle.

**Contact:** Didian Tsongwain, 301-883-5983  
**Time frame for completion:** Ongoing

- 5) **Clean Air Partners:** The County is a member of the Clean Air Partners, the public-private partnership to inform the public about air pollution problems, their health effects and efforts that can be taken to reduce pollution. Didiain Tsongwain represents the County on the Board of Directors. In 2003 and 2004, the County helped to fund radio ads, theater slides and other promotional materials though a \$10,000 contribution to Clean Air Partners. In return, radio ads sponsored by Clean Air Partners announced

that Prince George's County was sponsoring efforts to promote cleaner air. For the \$10,000 contribution, the County received \$22,852 in additional radio promotions, for a total of \$32,852 in radio ads. Clean Air Partners determined that more than 12 million "impressions" were achieved—that is the amount of times the ads were aired by the number of listeners. The ads were aired on WASH-FM, WBIG-FM, WMMJ-FM, WRQX-FM, and WTOP-AM. In 2005, the County will make another \$10,000 contribution to the radio ad, theater slide and other promotional campaigns.

**Contact:** Didian Tsongwain, 301-883-5983

**Time frame:** Ongoing

- 6) **Lawn Mower Exchange:** Gas mowers are one of the highest sources of air pollution. Currently, staff from the Environmental Services Division, Department of Environmental Resources is researching costs of electric versus gas-powered lawn mowers, and the feasibility of providing an even exchange. Contact will be made with Lowe's and Home Depot to work out details and possible subsidies.

**Contact:** Carole Barth, 301-883-5902

**Implementation:** May-June 2006

- 7.) **Alternative-Fueled Vehicle Purchase:** Prince George's County currently owns a total of seven hybrid vehicles: three, 2003 Toyota Prius sedans, two 2003 Honda Civic Sedans, and two 2004 Honda Civic Sedans. The County has two additional 2004 Toyota Prius sedans on order, which have been backordered due to high consumer demand. Based on the County's usage of these vehicles, we are currently obtaining an average of 52mpg with the Prius sedans and an average of 38 mpg with the Civics.

**Contact:** Robert B. McGhee, Jr., 301-808-1715

**Time Frame:** Ongoing

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