

KNOW ABOUT CLEAN AIR!



CLEAN AIR ACTION DAY

- An Action Day is called when the Air Quality Index (AQI) is forecast to reach unhealthy levels.
- On these days, people are asked to take voluntary actions to reduce emissions in order to protect human health.
- The AQI is a tool for reporting daily air quality. It shows how clean or polluted the air is and what the associated health concerns are.
- Ground-level ozone or particulate matter are the most likely pollutants to reach unhealthy levels in West Michigan.

OZONE IS GOOD AND BAD

- In the upper atmosphere, ozone protects us from the sun's harmful rays.
 - At ground level, ozone is a powerful gas that can irritate and even damage our lungs. People with asthma should especially pay close attention to high ozone days.
 - In the warmer months, sunlight and heat "bake" pollutants emitted by motor vehicles, power plants, industry, and other sources to form ground-level ozone, which is the main ingredient in smog.
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PARTICULATE MATTER (PM)

- It is a mixture of solid particles and liquid droplets in the air and is sometimes known as particle pollution or soot.
 - PM includes a mixture of pollutants, such as acids, organic chemicals, metals, and soil or dust particles.
 - A variety of sources, including incinerators, industry, motor vehicles, construction sites, and even forest fires can create PM.
 - PM is usually highest in the summer and winter, making it a year-round problem.
 - Smaller particles pose the greatest health risk since they can travel deep into lungs and may impair lung function over time.
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TAKE CLEAN AIR ACTIONS!



ON THE ROAD:

Drive Less: Carpool, ride the bus, bike, or walk when possible.

Trip Chain: Combine errands.

Avoid Idling: Shut off the engine if stopping for a minute or more.

Maintenance: Keep vehicle well tuned and tires properly inflated.

AT THE PUMP:

Refuel after 6:00 p.m.: During the spring and summer, ozone levels are at their highest in the mid to late afternoon.

Stop at the Click: It prevents the release of gas fumes.

Gas Cap: Always tighten fully and replace if it's worn.



AT HOME:

Postpone Mowing: Mow the lawn after 6:00 p.m. or use an electric or push mower.

Use Woodstoves/Fireplaces Springly: Burn only untreated wood in a well-maintained stove or fireplace.

Recycle & Compost: It's better than burning trash/yard waste.

Conserve Energy: Unplug unused appliances.

Telecommute: Work from home if you can.



STAY INFORMED:

Text Message or Email: Sign up to receive notifications at www.enviroflash.info.

By Phone: Call the Clean Air Action hotline (1-800-656-0663).

Be Aware: Keep an eye on highway electronic signs.

Listen, Watch, and Read: Tune in to local radio, TV, and follow the West Michigan Clean Air Coalition on social media.

