

Progress Report Documentation

For

Tri-Cities Area

Press Release

Announcement

Workshop on the
Early Action Compact to Improve Air Quality for Tri-Cities MSA

The Ozone Action Partnership for Northeast Tennessee and Southwest Virginia in cooperation with the Tennessee Air Pollution Control Division announces an opportunity for interested parties to learn about and have input to the development of an Air Quality Improvement Plan for the Tri-Cities Metropolitan Statistical Area.

When: March 5, 2003, as a part of the Regional Environmental Conference sponsored by East Tennessee State University

Overview of Early Action Compacts at 10:30 AM

Workshops for the Tri-Cities Compact 1:00 to 2:45 PM

Where: General Morgan Inn, Greeneville, TN

Presenters: Barry Stephens, Technical Secretary, TDAPC
Quincy Styke, Deputy Director, TDAPC
Other TDAPC Staff

What you will learn:

- What is the Early Action Compact (EAC) program offered by EPA?
- What are the goals of the EAC?
- The EAC schedule and milestones
- Specifics on the ozone air quality status in the Tri-Cities.
- Status of TDAPC efforts to develop air quality improvement options

In a workshop setting, the OAP and TDAPC would also like to give interested parties the opportunity to provide ideas and input for the development of the Air Quality Improvement Plan required by the EAC.

How do I sign up?

FILLED IN BY ETSU

Cost?

FILLED IN BY ETSU



Regional Environmental Conference

March 5 & 6

**General Morgan Inn
Greeneville, Tennessee**

Working Together to Preserve Our Region's Resources



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JOHNSON CITY, TN 37614**

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Ozone Action Partnership

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Tri-State Analytical Lab

10:30 a.m. Second Sessions

1. "Ozone Action Partnership" by Steve Gossett, Air Quality Control board member and Eastman Chemical Engineer, and Tony Delucia, chair of the American Lung Association and ETSU Quillen College of Medicine.
2. "Environmental Metrics and Their Relationship with Pollution Prevention Activities" by Mike Fontinell with the Environment Department of DENSO Manufacturing Tennessee, Inc. Learn how DENSO measures the environmental impacts (air pollution, landfill, utilities, etc.), develops its pollution prevention activities, and some success stories.
3. "Kingsport Greenbelt, a Model for Environmental and Conservation Ideas" by Kitty Frazier, City of Kingsport Parks and Recreation Manager.

11:30 a.m. Lunch - Ozzie Awards (Ozone Action)

12:15 p.m. Keynote Speaker - Dr. Anthony Delucia, Chair of American Lung Association

1:00 p.m. Third Sessions

1. "Ozone Early Action Compacts in Tennessee" by Barry Stephens, TDEC director of Air Pollution Control and Quincy Styke, TDEC Deputy Director APC.
2. "Introduction to the Tennessee Pollution Prevention Partnership" by Shari Maghreblian, manager of Environmental Affairs for Saturn Corporation (the first Performer industry) and Ron Graham, director of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation Division of Community Assistance.
3. "Recycling and the Materials Exchange Service" by Bill Hicks with UT Center for Industrial Services.

2:00 p.m. Fourth Sessions

1. "Ten Most Common Hazardous Waste Violations" by Fred Willingham, manager of TDEC-Johnson City Solid Waste Management Division. Learn some of the most common violations TDEC personnel observe during routine inspections. "Twenty-five Most Commonly Cited TOSHA Violations" by Randall Chase, TOSHA. Learn the most common violations as observed by the Tennessee Occupational Safety and Health Association.
2. "Laboratory Testing and Results" by Ken Young, owner of Tri-State Analytical Laboratory. Learn about environmental laboratory procedures and data interpolation.
3. "Solid Waste Solutions" by Rex Darnell with Five Rivers.

2:45 p.m. Visit Business & Sponsor Booths

March 6, 2003

8:30 a.m. Registration & Coffee

9:00 a.m. Opening Remarks

9:30 a.m. First Sessions

1. "An Overview of Sediment Control, Stormwater Management, and Better Site Design to Reduce Stormwater Runoff" by Todd Mason, Project Manager, Anderson & Associates, Inc. Overview of sediment control practices using photographs to learn what they are and why they are important problems to watch for with the different devices. Sediment control is more than silt fence.
2. "Fundamentals of Environmental Justice I" by Deborah Carter with EPA Region 4. Learn what environmental justice means and EPA's goals. This class requires two parts.
3. "TDEC and New Regulations Overview" by Mark Penland, TDEC-Knoxville EAC Coordinator. Learn about the divisions that comprise the Department of Environment and Conservation and some of their responsibilities. Also, learn about some of the new regulations to be implemented.

10:30 a.m. Second Sessions

1. "Fundamentals of Environmental Justice Part II" by Deborah Carter with EPA Region 4. Learn what environmental justice means and EPA's goals.
2. "Environmental Health and Safety" by Bill Hicks with UT Center for Industrial Services.
3. "Waste Reduction - New Hazardous Waste Incinerators" by Janet Evans with Eastman Chemical.

11:30 a.m. Lunch -

12:15 p.m. Keynote Speaker

1:00 p.m. Third Sessions

Special Legislative Session:

Planning Committee

Darla Dye - ETSU, Office of Professional Development

Jan Bowers - Environmental Coordinator, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation

Mark Penland - Environmental Coordinator, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation

Candy Adams - Director, Keep Greene Beautiful

Judy Hagan - Director, Keep Kingsport Beautiful

Gennette Patton - Director, Keep Bristol Beautiful

Heather Clever - Director, Keep Washington Beautiful

Local hotels offering special rates for the Regional Environmental Conference attendees are:

General Morgan Inn
\$92.28 + tax per night
(423) 787-1000

Hampton Inn
\$60.00 + tax per night
(423) 638-3735

Jameson Inn
\$ 59.00 + tax per night includes breakfast
(423) 638-7511

Conference Schedule

REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONFERENCE

March 5, 2003

8:30 a.m. Registration & Coffee

9:00 a.m. Opening Remarks

9:30 a.m. First Sessions

1. "Ten Most Common Hazardous Waste Violations" by Fred Willingham, manager of TDEC-Johnson City Solid Waste Management Division. Learn some of the most common violations TDEC personnel observe during routine inspections.

"Twenty-five Most Commonly Cited TOSHA Violations" by Randall Chase, TOSHA. Learn the most common violations as observed by the Tennessee Occupational Safety and Health Association.

2. "Green Power" by Gary Harris, TVA Nashville

3. "Radon Resistant New Construction" by TDEC- Nashville. Learn how to design buildings to be not only radon resistant but to have improved indoor air quality including moisture resistance.

"Legislative Session" (for elected officials) by Ron Graham, TDEC-Division of Community Assistance Director, and Jan Bowers, TDEC-Johnson City EAC Coordinator.

1. "Environmental Stewards" by ETSU Environmental Health and Steele Creek Park. ETSU's "Water Quality in East Tennessee Problems, Needs and Solutions" by Dr. Phillip Scheuerman and Douglas Delaney will teach the threats to water quality and the role of education and research in solving the existing problems and preventing future problems. Steele Creek Park's presentation is "Stream Bank Stabilization and Monitoring of Rare Fish Species" by Kevin Hamed.

2. "Overview of Sediment Control, Stormwater Management, and Better Site Design to Reduce Stormwater Runoff" by Todd Mason, Project Manager, Anderson & Associates, Inc.
An overview of stormwater management devices using photographs and graphics.

3. "Homeland Security" by Tennessee office of Homeland Security in Nashville. The goals of the State of Tennessee for securing our state and ways to secure your businesses and homes.

2:00 p.m. Fourth Sessions

1. Economic/Community/Tourism Development

2. "ISO 14001" by Jeff Winters with DTR

3. "USTfields Project, Partnering for a Common Goal" by Mark Braswell, TDEC, Manager of Johnson City EAC.
Kingsport/Sullivan County was awarded an EPA grant to cleanup three sites containing regulated UST. Learn about the project and how in-kind contributors helped extend the funds for greater success.

2:45 p.m. Door Prize Give-Away (Must be present to win)

Evaluations-Visit Business & Sponsor Booths

Thank you for attending the
Regional
Environmental Conference

Registration Form

Sign up for:

_____ March 5, 2003 - Wednesday \$ 50.00

_____ March 6, 2003 - Thursday \$50.00

_____ March 5 & 6 Complete Conference \$75.00

_____ Lunch per day \$25.00

_____ Student with I.D. per day \$25.00

Sub-total _____

Total _____

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ETSU-Office of Professional Development
Attn: Darla Dye, Program Coordinator
Box 70559
Johnson City, TN 37614
Fax 423-439-8267

ETSU OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Persons with disabilities who require special assistance or seating at this event are requested to call ETSU's Office of Professional Development at (423) 439-8083 for accommodations. Persons who require a sign language interpreter should contact the same office seven days prior to the event in order to solicit qualified interpreters.

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Date Published: January 20, 2003**Kingsport BMA set to vote on clean air compact**

KINGSPORT - City leaders will vote Tuesday night to enter into a compact that would work to improve air quality and prevent regulatory action from the Environmental Protection Agency.

Along with Bristol and Sullivan County, Kingsport would enter into an Early Action Compact that was created by the EPA and would give the county three additional years to comply with stricter air quality standards set to go into effect in 2004.

"We have had three good years of attainment ... but that's under the old rule," said Alderman Gary Mayes at a Kingsport Board of Mayor and Aldermen work session Monday night.

Mayes is also a member of the local Ozone Action Partnership.

"One of the most important things we could do is protect Kingsport and Sullivan County from unfunded mandates. We need to be proactive and work in a way that makes sense," he said.

Currently, a community's ground-level ozone is measured by a one-hour standard based on 124 parts per billion over a one-hour period. If a community exceeds the standard three times in a three-year period, it is designated as being in "non-attainment" and is subject to more stringent measures by the EPA and the state Air Pollution Control Division.

The new eight-hour standard that will go into effect in 2004 is a tougher measurement based on 84 parts per billion over an eight-hour period.

Mayes said ozone monitoring stations set up at Ketron Middle School and Indian Springs Elementary recorded 13 instances last year when the eight-hour standard was exceeded.

"Kingsport is not unique. It is a nationwide concern," Mayes said.

Industrial groups have challenged the eight-hour standard in court, claiming the measurement is too strict and would limit growth.

But the U.S. Supreme Court and a federal Court of Appeals rejected industry arguments, clearing the way earlier this year for the new standard to be imposed.

If Kingsport becomes a member of the Early Action Partnership, local leaders can develop their own plan for reducing ozone levels, said Steve Gossett, a member of the Tennessee Air Pollution Control Board who

works for Eastman as an environmental associate.

Early Action measures must be in place by 2005. In June, local leaders should submit a list of likely local control measures. If the plan fails by 2007, then the county will be considered in "non-attainment" which could hurt chances of recruiting additional industry or present industry expanding.

If an area falls into the non-attainment category, the state or federal government can mandate reductions, and the Metropolitan Planning Organization could lose funding for new road projects since vehicle emissions also affect ozone levels.

Under the Early Action Compact, non-attainment will be delayed as long as localities are showing signs of progress.

"Local entities can do what they want, but they have to prove it can work," Gossett said.

Other things coming down the pipe will go a long way to improve air quality, Gossett said. As examples, Gossett cited mandated reductions in emissions at companies like Eastman and at power plants and low-sulfur gasoline.

"The question is, will it be enough, soon enough?" he said.

In other business, the BMA discussed establishing guidelines for downtown food vendors.

Vendors must apply for a permit from the city manager and must get permission from the merchant the cart is set up in front of, among other things.

Some aldermen expressed concern regarding multi-tenant businesses, roving vendors and any potential cost to the city.

"The devil is in the details. There's the potential for something to go wrong and ruin the whole concept," said Alderman Dave Clark, adding that he supported the idea.

Alderman Nathan Vaughn said the city should consider levying an application fee to ensure vendors were legitimate or consider requesting a portion of the receipts earned by downtown vendors to pay for extra street cleaning, if that is needed.

"Conceivably and technically, there could be additional cost to the city," he said.

Kingsport will see some additional revenue in the form of business license fees and sales taxes.

City Manager A. Ray Griffin Jr. said the city didn't want the process to get "over bureaucratic or burdensome," and that the policies of other cities that allow vendors in their downtown districts would be examined.

"I think it's a very good first start. As we gain experience firsthand and from other communities, we may need to come back and tweak this a little," he said.

Jim Nisbet, executive director of the Downtown Kingsport Association, said businesses that were completely opposed to the idea had changed their opinion after a hot dog vendor was allowed to set up downtown on Dec. 26.

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Date Published: January 25, 2003**Kingsport takes action to improve air quality**

Kingsport leaders made a wise vote last week in agreeing to a compact that would work to improve air quality and prevent regulatory action from the Environmental Protection Agency.

The Early Action Compact, created by EPA, would give the region three additional years to comply with stricter air quality standards set to go into effect in 2004. Although the Tri-Cities area has had three good years of air quality attainment, that success occurred under a standard which has since become a great deal more stringent.

A community's ground-level ozone is measured by a one-hour standard based on 124 parts per billion over a one-hour period. If a community exceeds the standard three times in a three-year period, it receives a "non-attainment" status and is subject to more stringent measures by EPA and the state Air Pollution Control Division.

The new eight-hour standard that will go into effect in 2004 is a far tougher measurement based on 84 parts per billion over an eight-hour period. Indeed, ozone monitoring stations set up at Ketrion Middle School and Indian Springs Elementary recorded 13 instances last year when the eight-hour standard was exceeded.

The rationale for a more stringent air quality standard has traditionally involved claims that doing so would reduce respiratory problems, particularly among the very young and the elderly. But the incidence of asthma has skyrocketed - rates are up 200 percent - despite massive reductions in emissions under the Clean Air Act.

While EPA has admitted the new standard does not have any particular scientific validity, the U.S. Supreme Court has upheld it, which means Kingsport - like all communities - must obey the law or face the consequences.

That's where the Early Action Partnership comes in. Under that compact, local leaders can develop a plan for reducing ozone levels that is tailored to this specific region.

Those early action measures must be in place by 2005. In June, local leaders should submit a list of likely local control measures. Under the Early Action Compact, non-attainment would be delayed as long as a locality is showing signs of progress.

No matter how low the permissible ozone levels are set, there will always be some who will claim to be affected or discomforted. While some environmental extremists would probably only be satisfied with perfection, the Early Action Compact is a common-sense response that merits public support.

The air we breathe today in Tennessee is already cleaner than it has been in decades. That doesn't mean that more progress can't be made. Thanks to the Early Action Compact, that progress can continue without the heavy hand of the EPA micro-managing our daily lives. And that should let everyone in the region breathe a little easier.

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The new eight
 per billion over
 Indian Springs

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 reduce respiratory problems, particularly among
 asthma and sickle cell anemia - rates are up 500 percent
 Clean Air Act.

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 Court has upheld it, which means Kingsport - like

