



## **EPA Tightens Ozone Standards Revises Air Quality Index**

In March, the EPA announced the revision of the standards for ground-level ozone. This was the first change in the standard since 1997. The agency based the changes on the most recent scientific evidence about the effects of the pollutant, which is the primary component of smog.

The new primary 8-hour standard is 0.075 parts per million (ppm) and the new secondary standard is set at a form and level identical to the primary standard. The previous primary and secondary standards were identical 8-hour standards, set at 0.08 ppm. Many health professionals recommended that the standard be reduced to 0.06 ppm.

***While Middle Tennessee was recently designated as meeting the old standard, it is not currently in compliance with the new standard. People will likely see more air alert days this year.***

“We will no longer be able to meet our key result measure as far as ozone is concerned due to the significant reduction in the standard,” said Rob Raney, Metro Health Department. “This has always been pointed out as a potential barrier to meeting our key result measure of having air quality in the good or moderate range 97% of the time.”

The levels for the final standards were selected after reviewing more than 1,700 peer-reviewed scientific studies about the effects of ozone on public health and welfare, and after considering advice from the agency’s external scientific advisors and staff, along with public comment.

*continued on page 2*

## **CAP Seeks to Add Members to Board of Directors**

The Clean Air Partnership is seeking members of the Middle Tennessee community with a passion for improving air quality to join it’s board of directors.

Specifically needed are members of the private business sector and people who are experienced with working with non-profits.

In addition to new board members, CAP is also looking for individuals who are interested in being nominated for the positions of board chair or secretary.

“As we move forward with the process of becoming a formal non-profit organization, it is becoming increasingly important for us to reach out to the business community as well as those with non-profit experience,” said Laura Artates, current board chair.

For more information or a position description, please contact Joan Barnfield, board nominating committee chair, at [joan.barnfield@state.tn.us](mailto:joan.barnfield@state.tn.us) or Melissa Stevens, CAP communications director at [melissa@cleanairpartnership.info](mailto:melissa@cleanairpartnership.info).

### **Inside This Edition**

Ozone Standards cont.	Page 2
Mobility Study	Page 2
Air Alert Action Plan	Page 3
Earth Day	Page 3
Tour de Nash	Page 4
Upcoming Events	Page 4

## Revised Ozone Standards Continued

The EPA estimates that the final standards will yield health benefits valued between \$2 billion and \$19 billion. Those benefits include preventing cases of bronchitis, aggravated asthma, hospital and emergency room visits, nonfatal heart attacks and premature death, among others.

EPA's Regulatory Impact analysis shows that benefits are likely greater than the cost of implementing the standards. Cost estimates range from \$7.6 billion to \$8.5 billion.

Ground-level ozone levels across the country have dropped 21 percent since 1980. EPA expects improvement to continue, as a result of landmark regulations such as the Clean Air Interstate Rule, which targets reductions in power plant emissions in the East, and the Clean Diesel Program, which targets reductions in emissions from highway, nonroad and stationary diesel engines nationwide.

The EPA also updated the breaking points for the measurements of ozone shown in the Air Quality Index.

Category	AQI Value	1997 8-hour (ppm)	2008 8-hour (ppm)
Good	0-50	0.000-0.064	0.000-0.059
Moderate	51-100	0.065-0.084	0.060-0.075
Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	101-150	0.085-0.104	0.076-0.095
Unhealthy	151-200	0.105-0.124	0.096-0.115
Very Unhealthy	201-300	0.125-0.374	0.116-0.374
Hazardous	301-400	No Change	No Change
	401-500	No Change	No Change

*The Air Quality Index (AQI), the color-coded chart for communicating daily air quality to the public, has also been updated. The public will not notice a difference in the chart because only the breaking points for the measurement of ozone have been changed and not the values associated with each color.*

## Mobility Study Provides Hope for Northeast Corridor Commuters





The Nashville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) has begun a comprehensive planning effort in the region's Northeast Corridor to develop transportation investment strategies that support the priorities of communities between downtown Nashville and Gallatin, Tenn.

The 18-month study will examine the economic growth potential of various land use and urban design scenarios en route to evaluating potential transportation projects like passenger rail, bus rapid transit and roadway improvements.

The MPO will hold several public workshops in order to gain ideas from commuters in Madison, Gallatin, Goodlettsville and Hendersonville. Locations and dates are listed on page four of this newsletter.

"The MPO is currently looking to citizens and businesses throughout the area to help shape the future of transportation in the corridor," said Michael Skipper, MPO Executive Director.

A few of the critical issues being discussed are:

-  What is the vision of residents, employees and businesses for future growth?
-  What mix of transportation investments will most effectively meet the demands of the preferred growth scenario?
-  What is the most appropriate mix of future land uses that encourage increased transportation options like bus rapid transit or passenger rail?
-  What are the economic opportunities provided by the integration of real estate development with various transportation-related initiatives such as joint development, transit-oriented development and transit-adjacent development?

For more information about the study, please visit [www.nashvillempo.org/northeast](http://www.nashvillempo.org/northeast).

## Ozone Season Is Here

### *Is your Air Alert Action Plan Ready?*

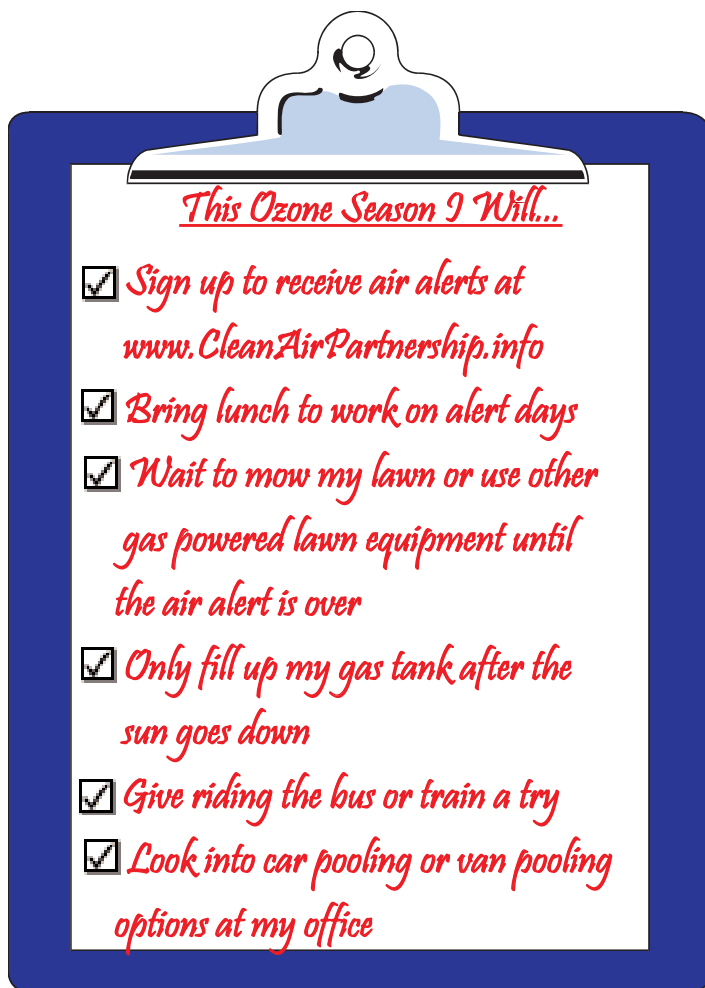
As temperatures in Middle Tennessee begin to warm and we wave good bye to Old Man Winter, it's time to start thinking about the upcoming ozone season.

The Clean Air Partnership encourages you to get ready by formulating an Air Alert Action Plan so you'll know what to do when an air quality alert is issued.

Preparing an action plan is easy. The step in any air alert action plan is signing up to receive air quality alerts via e-mail or text message at the Clean Air Partnership's web site [www.cleanairpartnership.info](http://www.cleanairpartnership.info).

You can also include things as simple as remembering to bring your lunch to work on alert days and only refueling your vehicle after sun down.

Of course, you can also try a few more advanced options like riding the bus or train and looking into the car pool and van pool options at your office.



*This Ozone Season I Will...*

- Sign up to receive air alerts at [www.CleanAirPartnership.info](http://www.CleanAirPartnership.info)*
- Bring lunch to work on alert days*
- Wait to mow my lawn or use other gas powered lawn equipment until the air alert is over*
- Only fill up my gas tank after the sun goes down*
- Give riding the bus or train a try*
- Look into car pooling or van pooling options at my office*

## Mark Your Calendars for 2008 Earth Day Festival



*The 2008 Nashville Earth Day Festival will focus on global warming and climate change issues. This year's theme is "Local Living for Global Change - It All Starts with Me."*

over 100 exhibitors  
Partnership.

Mark your calendars for Saturday, April 19 - the 2008 Nashville Earth Day Festival, a free city-wide event that brings the community together to celebrate and advocate environmental and social sustainability in Nashville and Middle Tennessee.

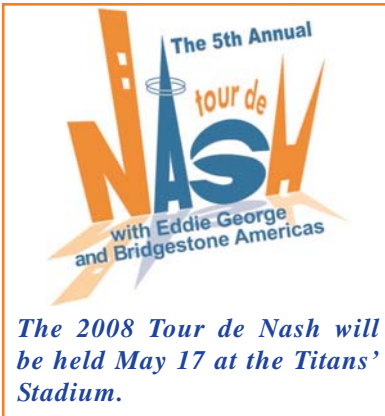
Attendees will be treated to great music/entertainment, inspiring speakers, and opportunities to learn more about all aspects of environmental responsibility from including the Clean Air

The focus of this annual event is to raise awareness about actions that individuals, groups, organizations and businesses can take to mitigate global warming/climate change. This focus is reflected in the festival's theme: "Local Living for Global Change - It All Starts With ME."

Volunteers make the Nashville Earth Day Festival possible each year. If you can volunteer a few hours the day of the event, please e-mail [charles.job@state.tn.us](mailto:charles.job@state.tn.us) with your name and time slot(s) that you are available to work. Volunteers are needed throughout the day, starting around 7-8 a.m. to help with setup, until at least 7-8 p.m. to help with cleanup, and everything in between.

Visit [www.nashvilleearthday.org](http://www.nashvilleearthday.org) for updates about the event.

## Tour de Nash Brings Bikers and Walkers Together for Fitness



*The 2008 Tour de Nash will be held May 17 at the Titans' Stadium.*

The Tour de Nash is quickly becoming a tradition for walkers and bikers in Middle Tennessee.

The annual event, put on by Walk/Bike Nashville and Music City Moves, promotes walking and biking as alternatives to driving,

and encourages people to get moving to improve physical fitness.

Last year the event drew 1,300 participants, a 44 percent increase from 2006. Nearly 75 percent of last year's participants were first timers and almost half were walkers, according to Shannon Hornsby, Walk/Bike Nashville executive director.

The event kicks off at the East Bank Greenway on the river at Titans' Stadium. There are several cours-

es to choose from including a free six- or 12-mile family bike ride in East Nashville and Shelby Bottoms Greenway.

More experienced riders can select a 27- or 50-mile course with options up to 67 miles. These routes highlight areas such as the East Bank Greenway, Bicentennial Mall, MetroCenter Greenway, Richland Creek Greenway, Belle Meade, Percy Warner Park, Radnor Lake, Lipscomb and Belmont Universities and Music Row. Registration fees for the longer rides apply.

A two or four-mile walking tour of the East Bank Greenway and Downtown are also available. There is no charge for the walking tour.

Don't forget to visit the on-site Tour de Nash Health Fair from 7:00 a.m. to Noon, sponsored by The Community Health & Wellness Team.

For more information regarding registration fees and course maps, visit [www.tourdenash.org](http://www.tourdenash.org).

### **Upcoming Events**

**Northeast Corridor Mobility Study Public Meeting:** April 1 @ Goodlettsville City Hall

**Northeast Corridor Mobility Study Public Meeting:** April 3 @ Hendersonville High School

**Northeast Corridor Mobility Study Public Meeting:** April 3 @ Nashville Downtown Partnership

**Public Health Week:** April 7-11 @ Lentz Public Health Center

**Nashville Earth Day Festival:** April 19 @ Centennial Park

**Asthma Walk:** May 3 @ Nashville Zoo at Grassmere

**Green Market Day:** May 3 @ Nashville Farmer's Market

**World Asthma Day:** May 6 @TBA

**Tour de Nash:** May 17 @ Titans' Stadium

**CAP Board of Directors Meeting:** May 21 @ TBA