



CLEAN AIR QUARTERLY

Winter 2009

Volume 5, Issue 1

CAPs of Middle TN and Williamson County Launch Lunch and Learn



The Clean Air Partnership of Middle Tennessee and the Clean Air Partnership of Williamson County are proud to launch a new lunch and learn series focused on air quality related issues and other green living topics including recycling, reducing energy consumption

and motivating your employees to get involved in your green initiatives.

The event is open to our partners, their employees and the general public. There is no cost to attend, but space is limited so registration is required.

“In an effort to expand the partnership and improve its educational outreach in 2009, we will kick off the new year by hosting our first brown bag “Lunch & Learn” workshop in March,” said Becky Taylor, CAP program administrator. “These workshops, hosted quarterly, will include guest speakers, round table discussion, and networking opportunities for employers and their staff. It is our hope that individuals will gain a better understanding of the simple things they can do in their own lives to make a difference in our air quality.”

The topic for the first workshop is “Air, Asthma and Your Health” featuring Gail Bost from the American Lung Association. It will be held Tuesday, March 31, 2009 from Noon to 1:00 p.m. in Meeting Room A at the Brentwood Public Library, 8109 Concord Road, Brentwood, TN 37027.

For more information or to reserve your spot e-mail Becky Taylor, CAP program administrator, at becky@cleanairpartnership.info.

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

March 31—Air, Asthma, and Your Health

June 23—Motivating Your Employees to Go Green

September 15—Recycling Facts & Options

December 8—Reducing Energy Consumption

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CAP Increases Web Presence

A major goal of the Clean Air Partnership of Middle Tennessee for 2009 is to increase its web presence. In an effort to meet this goal, CAP has joined Facebook and we would love to have you join us. Just go to the "Groups" section and search for us by name. It's a great way to stay updated on what we are doing and to have a dialogue with others in our area who are working to improve air quality.

CAP has also started a new blog that is quickly filling up with information about changes in EPA regulations, meetings about making Nashville a more bikeable and walkable city, and much more. Check out the latest news at <http://cleanairmiddletn.wordpress.com>.



Appeals Court Remands Fine Particle Standards to EPA for Reconsideration

On Feb. 24, 2009, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit remanded the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for fine particulate matter (PM2.5) to the EPA for reconsideration of the annual and secondary standards.

The court held that the EPA "failed to adequately explain why, in view of the risks posed by short-term exposures and the evidence of morbidity resulting from long-term exposures, its annual standard is sufficient 'to protect the public health [with] an adequate margin of safety,' 42 U.S.C. § 7409(b)(1)."

For the secondary standards, which EPA set identical to the primary standards, the court held that EPA "unreasonably concluded that the NAAQS are adequate to protect the public welfare from adverse effects on visibility."

The current standards remain in effect while EPA responds to the remand. This ruling may or may not result in revisions to the PM2.5 NAAQS. Stay tuned to the CAP blog for updates.

CAP Welcomes Two New Employer Partners

The Clean Air Partnership is pleased to welcome two new employer partners, the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy (NASBA) and the Nashville Metropolitan Government.



NASBA is headquartered in Nashville, Tenn., and serves as the forum for 55 boards of accountancy across the country. The organization has over 200 employees and has signed on as a Bronze Level partner.

The Nashville Metropolitan Government has approximately 10,000 employees in Middle Tennessee and has signed on as a Community Partner.



Both Bronze and Community partners are required

to send air quality alert messages to their Middle Tennessee employees and to provide information about commuting options.

"We are thrilled to add both NASBA and Metro Government to our growing list of partners," said Melissa Stevens, CAP communications director. "It is our sincere hope that other area employers will follow the example of these organizations and seek out ways to be good corporate stewards."

To learn how your organization can become a CAP Employer or Community Partner, please visit www.cleanairpartnership.info and click on the Get Involved link or send an e-mail to employerpartners@cleanairpartnership.info.

REAL PEOPLE CHRONICLES

Dedicated to sharing successes of average people trying to make a difference.

Take a moment to read the tale of an accidental environmentalist. When Eric Hamiter was looking for ways to save money, he ended up saving the earth in the process.

4 Kids. 2 Parents. 1 Car. No Problem.

by Eric Hamiter

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I am not an activist. I don't go to rallies, stand in picket lines, or write letters to members of Congress. I recently drove a big SUV to work every day, driving 32 miles round trip. I walk when there's no escalator, elevator, moving sidewalk or mule handy, and I park as close as possible to my destinations.

In short, I was the stereotypical lazy, over-indulging and over-spending American.

I no longer do any of these things. Why? To save the planet? To ease environmental burdens? To reduce excessive waste and create a healthier lifestyle?

Er...SURE. Sort of. I view the positive results from these changes as happy coincidences, but I would be lying if I didn't say that my number one motivator was cost.

Gas is and will continue to be expensive. I'm not talking \$5 a gallon expensive, but even when it's pegged at "reasonable" prices it still costs a considerable amount of money to fuel a large vehicle that burns it almost before it's finished filling up.

Driving my car to and from work every day costs me roughly \$120 in gas each month. Parking downtown is no free ride either; my work graciously throws in a \$55 stipend, but even with that discount, a nearby parking garage requires an additional \$65 a month for the privilege of securing shelter.

After some careful research, I saw that besides offering parking garage options, my work would also put that same \$55 toward public transportation. The bus, which I had always seen yet never stepped foot on, suddenly seemed extremely appealing. An unlimited pass that allows me access to bus service cost \$78 per month, which, after my

company's contribution, only comes to \$11.50 per paycheck for me.

I could cut out my gasoline consumption almost completely by taking it to work, and since the bus stop is only a mile and a half from my house, I could dust off my bicycle and actually get a bit of daily exercise.

Now in the mornings, I have a brisk bike ride, followed by a leisurely 30 minutes of reading a book, or listening to an audio book or new album, while angry, tensed-up motorists converge and merge around my public transport.

We decided to sell our gas-guzzling SUV, because we simply didn't need it any longer. We still have our primary family truckster to cart the kids around, and for taking vacations, and running errands. But my daily commuter became obsolete, and after an initial panic, I must admit that it is a welcome riddance.

We've lowered our car insurance premiums and maintenance prices by half, and used the sale of the car to pay down personal debt.

Have I helped reduce our carbon footprint? Absolutely. Do I believe that biking and busing are eco-friendlier ways to commute as compared to driving? Undoubtedly. Would I have done it if it meant that I wouldn't be saving nearly \$4,000 annually? Well...PERHAPS. It certainly doesn't hurt to be paid to be green.

Eric Hamiter is an avid web technologist who spends his scant free time exploring and tinkering with various Internet tools and applications. In previous lives he has been a Navy linguist and background investigator. He lives in Nashville, Tenn., with his wife, Amy, and four children: Noah, Ella, Asa and Silas.

Join Us for Earth Hour Nashville



On March 28, tens of millions of people around the world in 77 countries and 680 cities will come together once again to make a bold statement about climate change by doing something quite simple — turning off their lights for just one hour.

Nashville is one of only seven American cities selected by the World Wildlife Fund as a flagship Earth Hour city, and joins a group of prominent cities participating this year including: Chicago, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Miami, Atlanta and San Francisco. We need your help to spread the word!

How can you make a difference?



Sign up at www.mpf.com/EarthHour to receive e-mail updates and volunteer to turn off your lights on March 28



Contact family, friends and co-workers and encourage them to participate.



“Friend” or “fan” Earth Hour Nashville on Facebook and/or follow Earth Hour Nashville on Twitter.



Conduct a DIY home energy audit. Visit www.nespower.com to learn how to give your home a green makeover.



If you’re a blogger, take a few minutes to blog about Earth Hour 2009.



Chill out! Turn off gadgets and take one hour to just relax and reflect on how you can reduce your carbon footprint.



Flip your switches! Turn off unnecessary lights, appliances and devices.



Host a “green” block party and brainstorm ways your community can work to conserve energy.

Earth Hour 2009 will be an important moment for Nashville one that we can all be proud of – a moment that will make people around the country take notice of our city. Please join us in making this a special night for Nashville!

Upcoming Events

Earth Hour Nashville: March 28 @ Worldwide

CAP Lunch & Learn: March 31 @ Brentwood Library

American Lung Association Asthma Walk: April 2 @ Nashville Zoo

Green Business and Living Summit and Expo: April 2-4 @ David Lipscomb University

Nashville Earth Day Festival: April 18 @ Centennial Park

Great American Clean Up: May 14 @ Bicentennial Mall

CAP Board of Directors Meeting: May 20 @ Lentz Public Health Center

CAP Lunch & Learn: June 23 @ TBA