



EPA to Reconsider National Ozone Standards

The EPA recently announced they would reconsider the 2008 national smog standards to ensure they are scientifically sound and protective of human health. Smog, which is also known as ground-level ozone, has been linked to asthma and other respiratory illnesses.

“This is one of the most important protection measures we can take to safeguard our health and our environment. Smog in the air we breathe can cause difficulty breathing and aggravate asthma, especially in children,” said EPA Administrator Lisa P. Jackson. “Reconsidering these standards and ensuring acceptable levels of ground-level ozone could cut health care costs and make our cities healthier, safer places to live, work and play.”

The reconsideration covers both the primary and secondary ozone standards. EPA sets primary air quality standards to protect public health, including the health of sensitive groups, such as children and people with asthma. The secondary standard is set to protect public welfare and the environment, including protection against visibility impairment, damage to animals, crops, vegetation, and buildings. The Agency will propose any revisions to the ozone standards by December 2009 and will issue a final decision by August 2010.

EPA will conduct a thorough review of the science that guided the 2008 decision, including more than 1,700 scientific studies and any public comments from that rule-making process.

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MTA Introduces Bus Rapid Transit on Gallatin Road

Traveling down Gallatin Road on a Nashville MTA bus just got faster with fewer stops.

Beginning Sept. 27, MTA implemented the first phase of its new Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) service on the Gallatin Road corridor. Covering 12 miles, this new BRT service operates from Music City Central to the edge of Sumner County just north of RiverGate Mall.

Passengers will experience fewer stops, more frequent buses and a greener attitude as they travel on all new 60-foot, articulated, fuel-efficient hybrid buses. BRT creates a more convenient commute between downtown and northeast Nashville.

“We wanted to begin this service on our busiest corridor, monitor it closely, and use it as a model before rolling it out to other major corridors”, MTA CEO Paul J. Ballard said. “Once fully-implemented, these BRT routes will be the best candidates to convert to light rail in the future.”

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CAP Transitions to New Facebook Page



We've moved! Virtually, that is!

We've dumped the old fashioned "groups" page for a new, more interactive "page"! Don't be left in the dark on all things CAP! Become a fan today so you can stay up to date on what we're doing. And remember to share it with your friends!

The new **CAP Facebook Page** is the place to share and interact with us! Become a fan today. Don't forget, you can also follow us on Twitter and on the CAP Blog.

Ozone Standards continued

The Agency will also review the findings of EPA's independent Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee, which previously recommended stronger ozone standards.

EPA will move quickly to implement any new standards that might result from the reconsideration and plans to work with states and local governments to ensure that air quality is protected during that time.

Don't Miss the Walk/Bike Nashville Annual Meeting

All Walk/Bike Nashville members and friends and are invited to the Walk/Bike Nashville Annual Members Meeting Friday, October 9 at 6:45 p.m. at the Nashville Farmer's Market.

This year there will be a guided Germantown walking tour before the meeting. The one-mile tour will leave at 6:00 p.m. from the parking area at the intersection of Madison St and 5th Ave North and end at the Farmer's Market.

For those who park at nearby restaurants for the walk, the return walk from the Farmer's Market is less than 10 minutes and a shuttle will be available immediately following the meeting upon request.

Bus Rapid Transit Continued



During the second phase of BRT in spring 2010, more customer amenities will be added. For example, the intersections along Gallatin Road will have Green Light Extenders installed that allow the traffic signals to stay green longer as a bus approaches. This will help buses travel even more quickly down Gallatin Road.

All of the BRT operations will be monitored from a central location by a dispatcher using a Global Positioning System (GPS) and adjusting the service schedule as necessary to accommodate any traffic delays or other problems. In addition, each station stop will feature new enhanced passenger shelters and digital displays indicating the arrival time of the next bus.

To learn more about BRT stops, schedules and ticketing, go to www.nashvillemta.org.

REAL PEOPLE CHRONICLES

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

Take a few minutes to read the story of one woman's journey to live a greener life. Maybe you'll find some inspiration to make some simple changes in your life as well.

My New Potential BFF

By Luanne Davidson

When it comes to living the green lifestyle, both the small steps and the big steps really matter. So, whether you're recycling paper, reusing bags at the grocery store, or setting up a composter, it all makes a difference - especially if you want to really cozy up to Mother Nature.

I'm hoping to have a new best friend. Her name is Mother Nature. I am trying to win her favor by becoming a little greener, but it's a slow process.

I recycle plastic, cardboard, and paper. I'm working on not drinking from plastic water bottles, which is easier since I've learned that if you macrobiotically chew your food 50-100 times each bite, you get a whole lot of water through your food. I reuse paper printed on one side and reuse scraps of paper, which almost led to my being buried by reusable paper until I had an intervention with myself and recycled some of the paper.

I try to remember to take my own bags when I shop, although I forget more times than not. I try to remember to refuse a grocery bag when I've forgotten my own bags and don't really need a grocery bag. When I do need grocery bags from the store, I save them for recycling.

I've dabbled in conserving water when showering and washing dishes, but that's still a huge work in progress. I am aware of the water going down the drain. I did water my plants with water leftover from cooking, until the plants starting stinking and I got mad at them and put them all out in the sun-room. I think I missed a step there.

Today I took a few more steps forward. I installed two programmable thermostats (even though I still have some cosmetic wall work to do). Both are have some kind of energy star thing, which means it has a preset program and temperature. Which means we may be wearing layers to bed. Unless the wiring is haywire and I burn the house down. The good news is that the real A/C people are coming Monday for our annual winter tune-up, so they will check everything out.

Today I also found a spot for my outside composter. I realize right now everything I put in it will probably freeze, but that's probably a good thing since it gives me time to figure out what the heck a composter is supposed to be. My main concerns are stinkiness and a free dinner party for the local rabbits and squirrels. Then of course, there's the question of what to do with the compost once it becomes compost. But at least I now have a place to empty my countertop composter which will keep my kitchen smelling a little better.

Anyhow, as you can see, I am making efforts to make Mother Nature my bestest friend. Maybe that way, she'll do a few favors for me - I have a few wrinkles she could reciprocate by working on!

Luanne Davidson is the proud mother of three adult children and wonders what might have been if she had done a thing or two differently. Her first book is now available. This post originally appeared on her blog and on CoolPeopleCare.org.

Walk Nashville Week Is Here

Make your plans now to participate in the 11th annual Walk Nashville Week, October 3 - 9. The events celebrate and promote the benefits and fun of walking. The Nashville Community Health and Wellness Team's new web site, www.nashvillechwt.org, provides detailed information about Walk Nashville activities, a booklet that includes maps for neighborhood-based walks, and opportunities for individuals and organizations to get involved. The web site also offers educational information about healthy eating and physical activity in the built-environment.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Saturday Oct. 3-4: Walk to Worship Day

Congregations are encouraged to walk to worship activities and to develop walking programs that will continue throughout the year.

Monday, Oct. 5: Walk Your Neighborhood Day

Learn more about your city and neighborhood as you walk.

Tuesday, Oct. 6: Walk to Work Day

The Community Health and Wellness Team will provide a free breakfast to walkers at various locations throughout Nashville.

Wednesday, Oct. 7: Walk to School Day

The Nashville Walk to School Day has been nationally recognized for its large participation numbers and health promotion aspects.

Thursday, Oct. 8: Walk for Active Aging

This day encourages members of senior centers around Nashville to start walking to enjoy its health benefits.

Friday, Oct. 9: Nashville on the Move Day

Area businesses are encouraged to promote lunchtime walking groups on this day and throughout the year.

Raise Money for CAP with Christmas Shopping Online

GoodSearch & GoodShop



Now you can raise money to help the Clean Air Partnership continue its programs to educate Middle Tennesseans about air quality just by doing a bit of Christmas shopping online!

CAP will receive a donation when you shop online

using **GoodShop.com**, an online shopping mall which donates up to 37 percent of each purchase to your favorite cause -- us! Just be sure to enter Clean Air Partnership as the charity you want to support.

You can also help the CAP cause just by doing some simple searches. **GoodSearch.com**, a Yahoo-powered search engine, donates half its advertising revenue, about a penny per search, to the charities its users designate. Use it just as you would any search engine.

Upcoming Events

Breathe Easy Fall Festival: Oct. 3 @ Riverside Village

Walk Nashville Week: Oct. 3-9 (full schedule above)

CAP Board of Directors Meeting: Nov. 18 @ Lentz Public Health Center

CAP Lunch & Learn - Reducing Energy Consumption: Dec. 8 @ Franklin Cool Springs Marriott