

# About Clean Air Action Days

## Clean Air Action Day

- An Action Day is called when the Air Quality Index (AQI) is forecast to reach unhealthy levels.
- On these days, the public is asked to take voluntary actions to reduce emissions and protect their health.
- Sign up for Enviroflash ([www.enviroflash.info](http://www.enviroflash.info)) to receive personalized air quality forecasts.

## Air Quality Index

- The AQI is an easy way to know how clean the outside air is.
- It provides a color-coded picture of current air pollution levels and health effects.
- Ground-level ozone or particulate matter are the most likely pollutants to reach unhealthy levels.



## Ozone

- In the upper atmosphere, it protects us from the sun's harmful rays.
- At ground level, ozone is a powerful gas that can irritate and even damage our lungs.
- In the summer, sunlight and heat "bake" pollutants emitted by motor vehicles, power plants, industry, and other sources to form high levels of ground-level ozone, commonly known as smog.

## Particulate Matter

- This pollutant includes small drops of liquid or bits of dust, metals, or other materials in the air.
- It can come from a variety of sources, including incinerators, industry, motor vehicles and even forest fires and construction sites.
- Its levels are usually highest in the summer and winter, making it a year-round problem.

# Take **Clean Air Actions** while saving time, money, and gas!

## ***In the Car...***

**Share a Ride:** Carpool or ride the bus.

**Telecommute:** Work from home.

**Trip Chain:** Combine errands and avoid cold starts.

**Turn it Off:** Shut off the engine if stopping for a minute or more to reduce emissions from idling.

**Maintenance:** Keep vehicle tuned up and tires properly inflated to reduce emissions and improve gas mileage.

## ***At the Pump...***

**Refuel after 6:00 p.m.:** Ozone levels are at their highest in the mid to late afternoon.

**Don't Top Off The Tank:** This prevents the release of gas fumes into the air.

## ***At Home...***

**Postpone Mowing:** Mow the lawn late in the afternoon (after 6:00 p.m.) or use an electric or push mower.

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

**Refrain from Burning Trash or Yard Waste:** Recycle or compost instead.

**Conserve Energy:** Unplug unused appliances to reduce pollution from power plants.

For more information and forecasts go to [wmcac.org](http://wmcac.org) or [michigan.gov/deqair](http://michigan.gov/deqair) or call 1-800-656-0663.



**WEST MICHIGAN  
CLEAN AIR  
ACTION!**

*Brought to you by the West Michigan Clean Air Coalition, a partnership of business, education, government, and non-profit groups working to achieve cleaner air in the region through the education and promotion of voluntary emission reduction activities.*