Winter 2008-09

COMPLIANCE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
SPOKANE REGIONAL CLEAN AIR AGENCY
UPDATE
An Informative Newsletter Helping Businesses Reduce Air Pollution in Spokane County

Spokane Clean Air Turns 40!

2009 marks the 40th year that the Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency has been working with you for clean air.

Our agency was fully activated on January 1, 1969, as the Spokane County Air Pollution Control Authority, per the 1967 Washington Clean Air Act. In 2007, we changed our name to Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency.

During the early years, our tasks were to figure out what was in the air and where it was coming from. This was done mainly through chemistry and visual observations as air quality monitoring equipment was expensive and difficult to maintain. Two obvious sources of air pollution were the black smokestacks of industry and the rampant outdoor burning of residential and commercial garbage.

In reviewing archived photos and articles from the late 1960s, it is remarkable just how far we've come in cleaning up the air, as you'll see and read inside on pages three and four. Soot covered buildings are a thing of the past, as industry installed sophisticated air pollution control technologies. Technology has also made our cars much cleaner and our wood stoves less polluting and more efficient. Most of our well-traveled dirt roads have been paved and burning natural vegetation has been phased-out in our cities, towns and urban growth areas. Businesses are supporting commute trip reduction programs by encouraging employees to find new ways to get to work. The community is working together to secure funding to make our great city more bicycle- and pedestrian-friendly.

This isn't to say our work is done. A new, more stringent federal standard for $PM_{2.5}$ — fine particles like soot and smoke — was established in late 2006 and more recently, the acceptable limits for ground-level ozone (smog) were reduced to be more protective of public health. As our area grows and more people, cars and businesses are added to our airshed, we'll continue to face challenges to keep our air quality within federal, health-based standards.

To continue our progress and maintain healthful air quality for the next 40 years, we will need the continued involvement of our residents and business owners. The daily choices we each make have a collective impact on the quality of the air we share.

William O. Dameworth

Bill Dameworth, Director

40 Years
1969~2009
WORKING WITH YOU FOR CLEAN AIR

Regulation & Program Update

Public records of violation histories to be available online.

At its December 4, 2008 Board of Directors Meeting, the Spokane Clean Air Board agreed unanimously to post public records of violation histories to the agency's website for easier public access.

Once the Notice of Violation (NOV) and associated penalty is resolved, information will be posted, including, but not limited to, NOV number, date of issuance, name of person(s)/business(es) the civil penalty was issued to, location where violation(s) occurred, regulation(s) and/or law(s) cited, and other information.

Currently, this information is available to anyone making a public records request. By posting the information online, in a query-based format, it will make it easier for citizens to access this information. It is estimated that this will be available online in Spring 2009.

Inside . . .

Energy Efficiency & the Bottom Line 2
Looking Back: 1969-2009 40 years "clearing the air" 3, 4
Business Spotlight: American Way Collision Center 5
Air Quality Calendar back page

Energy Efficiency & Your Bottom Line

Editor's Note: This is the fourth and final article in a series featuring ways in which businesses can go "beyond compliance" by implementing voluntary measures. For more information, call Margee Chambers, P2 Specialist, at 477-4727, ext. # 114.

Compared with other parts of the country, the Pacific Northwest has cleaner forms of energy. Most electricity is generated from hydro-power or natural gas turbines. But creating and using energy is not pollution-free. It may not seem like much, but a closer look at how much energy your business uses can be an eye-opening experience. Here are a few ways to conserve energy, save money and reduce air pollution:

Lighting Tips:

♦ Replace incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescent lamps. They last ten times longer and use up to 75% less energy.

♦ Replace your 40-watt fluorescent lamps to 34-watt compact fluorescent lamps. They produce as much light without using as much electricity.

♦ When fluorescent T-12 lamps burn out, consider retrofitting fixtures with T-8 or T-5 lamps and changing from magnetic ballast to electronic.

♦ Install occupancy sensors. These inexpensive devices reduce lighting costs by up to 40% by turning lights off in unoccupied areas. This works best in areas that are not used often.

♦ Reduce lighting where possible and take advantage of natural daylight. Turn lights off or dim during the day for lower energy costs. Also, remove excess lighting and turn off signs and other lights not necessary for security and safety.

♦ Install timers or photocells to ensure that interior and exterior lights are turned off at the appropriate time.

♦ Replace incandescent lights in exit signs with LED fixtures, which can reduce costs by 95%.

Heating & Cooling:

♦ Adjust the thermostat down in the winter (68°F or colder) and up in the summer (78°F or warmer). Even a few degrees significantly reduces heating and air conditioning costs.

♦ Install programmable thermostats to automatically control temperature settings on heating/air conditioning equipment. This keeps the room at a comfortable temperature when in use, and saves energy when not in use.

♦ On hot days, close doors and shades to keep the sun out. During the heating season, open shades to let sun in, but close them at night to retain heat.

♦ Establish a preventative maintenance program for heating, venting and air conditioning equipment.

1. Change or clean all air filters, preferably monthly.
2. Clean all heat exchanger surfaces, water and refrigerant coils, condensers and evaporators.
3. Repair leaks in piping, air ducts, coils, fittings.

♦ Weatherize. Check for air leaks around windows, doors and places where plumbing or ductwork penetrates the building. Seal-off unused areas to reduce or eliminate heating or cooling in these spaces.

♦ Install variable speed drives on large motors to reduce energy use.

Water Heating:

♦ Lower the thermostat on your water heater. 120°F is sufficient for many common uses. A 10°F reduction can save up to 5% on water heating costs.

♦ Install water flow restrictors and aerators, especially in sink faucets. In addition to saving on water-heating costs, these measure can save money by reducing water usage.

♦ Insulate tanks and pipes. This will reduce standby heat loss.

♦ Install timers on electric water heaters to turn off at night and on in the morning. This reduces energy loss when hot water is not required.

Equipment:

♦ Turn off or set office equipment to power down when not in use. Turning off one computer and monitor nightly and on weekends can save up to $80 per year. And setting PCs, monitors and copiers to use sleep mode when not in use can help cut energy costs by up to 50%.

♦ Invest in energy-efficient equipment. When upgrading or adding new equipment, look for the ENERGY STAR symbol, which indicates the equipment meets federal standards for energy efficiency. Energy saving of 50% or more is possible.

♦ Look at using laptop computers instead of a desk-top system. It can save 80-90% in electrical costs (according to E-Source.)

♦ Specifying ENERGY STAR when purchasing or negotiating a contract for new vending machines can save 30-50% over older equipment.

Process Heating:

♦ Inspect boilers for scale deposits, accumulation of sediment on water-side surfaces.

♦ Pre-heat feed water with a flue gas heat exchanger.

Energy Efficiency...continued

♦ Inspect stacks to ensure visible emissions are below opacity limits. If not, adjustments may be needed.

♦ Check boiler stack temperature. If it is too high (more than 150°F above steam or water temperature), clean tubs and adjust fuel burner.

♦ Clean mineral/corrosion build-up on gas burners.

♦ Check that burners are operating at an optimum ratio of air-to-fuel.

Employee Involvement:

Educate and encourage employees to be energy-conscious and to offer ideas about how energy can be saved. Employee buy-in/involvement can make or break your company's efforts to conserve energy.

Perform an Energy Audit:

♦ Conduct an audit of facility(s) to identify the most cost-effective opportunities for saving energy.

♦ Devise a plan and define the targets, objectives and goals based on the careful review or research gathered.

♦ Implement programs, operations, conversion and efficiency.

♦ Monitor and measure the results, evaluate regularly and make needed adjustments.

If you're already implementing some of these conservation measures, congratulations! If not, take on a few at a time and before long you should see a difference! ■

Tips courtesy of Puget Sound Energy, San Diego Gas & Electric, ENERGY STAR, Flex Your Power, and SRP. For industrial case studies: www.fypower.org/ind/bpg/

A Look Back on 40 Years of "Cle

Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency marks its fortieth year of working with you for clean air. We'd like to share some "then & now" highlights with you from the last four decades, including some archived photos.

THEN & NOW

When the Agency first began its work, "there was a disagreeable brown haze covering the city," according to Fred Shiosaki, the Agency's first director. The air contained pollutants from many sources, contributing to breathing problems and poor visibility.

THEN & NOW

Industrial Emissions - Belching smokestacks were common and downtown buildings were often discolored from pollution. Industrial and commercial sources of air pollution were a key focus for clean-up. This was a large undertaking for most industries, as air pollution control equipment had to be designed for each process, ordered, shipped, and installed. Over the years, new equipment and improved operations have dramatically reduced air pollution from the commercial sector, which now accounts for less than 20% of air pollution sources.

THEN & NOW

Air Quality Monitoring - To find out what was in the air and where it was coming from, the agency initially relied on time-consuming wet chemistry methods and visual observations. "Fallout buckets" and "sticky tape jars" were placed on property downwind from industrial polluters to show that emissions were impacting neighboring property. Today, sophisticated air quality monitoring stations are located throughout Spokane County, providing real-time data on pollution levels.

earing the Air," 1969-2009

Outdoor Burning - Smoke, soot and odors from outdoor burning were the source of many citizen complaints. Backyard burning was common as was burning piles of construction debris.

Residents burned trash outdoors until 1969, when this practice was banned and garbage collection services were expanded. When commercial businesses were no longer allowed to burn, dumpsters were purchased and businesses began recycling cardboard. Today, outdoor burning for disposal is limited to natural vegetation and only in outlying areas of the county on designated days. Natural vegetation is picked up at curbside in many areas and accepted at area recycling/transfer stations.

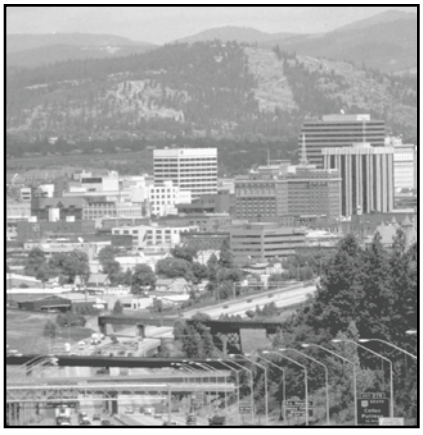
THEN & NOW

Transportation - Vehicles continue to be the largest contributor to air pollution. In the mid 1970s, unleaded gasoline became available and catalytic converters were installed on vehicles.

THEN & NOW

In the mid 1980s, the state initiated its vehicle emissions testing program to reduce carbon monoxide pollution. The area continued to see wintertime carbon monoxide problems at levels which exceeded federal, health-based standards, therefore, in the early 1990s, an oxygenated fuel program was introduced, which required a oxygenate additive in gasoline during the winter months. The program was a success and after five years, the program was discontinued as new automobile technology was able to do the job.

NOW

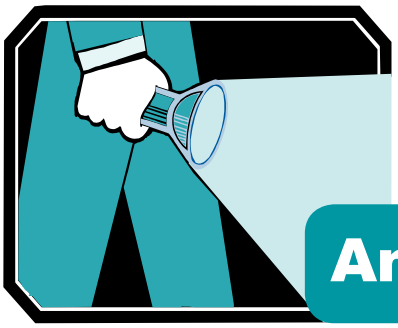


Spokane is officially in attainment of all National Ambient Air Quality Standards. In 2005, we were removed from "nonattainment" status (for carbon monoxide and fine particulate matter) by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Since then, we have remained in attainment of all federal clean air standards.

State and federal efforts are partially responsible for this improvement. Gas-powered cars and trucks run much cleaner than they used to, and most school buses have been replaced or retrofitted with pollution control devices to reduce toxic diesel exhaust. Cleaner technology has also improved the performance of wood stoves and fireplace inserts.

Innovative local initiatives have also made a difference. Paving roads and using better traction sanding techniques and products have helped keep dust particles out of the air. Grass seed field burning dropped from 27,000 acres in 1997, to zero acres in 2003.

Air quality challenges remain. Pollution from vehicles, fireplaces and wood stoves, and outdoor burning continues to be a concern. As the area grows, additional vehicles added to the airshed could hamper efforts to keep ground-level ozone (smog) within federal health-based standards. Each of us has the ability to improve air quality. Learn how you can help us work on the challenges ahead by visiting our webpage at www.spokanecleanair.org. We also have a free Pollution Prevention Consultation Program for interested businesses. For details, call 477-4727, ext. # 114.



Business Spotlight

American Way Collision Center

American Way Collision Center is leading the way in auto body pollution prevention in Spokane County.

Established in 1998, American Way Collision Center, located at 1320 W. Francis Avenue, became the first auto body shop in Spokane County to switch from solvent-based to water-based paint products.

"In an effort to stay on the leading edge of the auto body industry, we've made changes in products we use," said Bob Wallace, Vice President of American Way Collision. "This helps us with our commitment to the environment and continued focus on being as green as we can," he added. American Way Collision's volatile organic compound (VOC) emissions will go from an estimated 4.3 tons per year to an estimated 1.1 tons per year, a 75% reduction in emissions.

The emission reductions also makes it a safer workplace. VOCs are a precursor to ground-level ozone, a harmful air pollutant. Even at low concentrations, ozone causes respiratory problems and aggravates asthma. Any reduction in VOCs helps reduce ozone pollution.

Painters working at American Way Collision are also pleased with the many benefits the new Envirobase High Performance Color System provides, including colors are a closer match; coverage is better resulting in painters using less product per paint job; less hazardous waste is generated, reducing their hazardous waste removal costs; and volatile organic compounds (VOC) emissions are lower, reducing impact on air quality as well as regulatory fees.

Changing paint products required additional investment in changes to equipment, cleaning and storage needs. Upgrades included new blowers for their paint room to help improve air circulation to decrease drying time; new high volume low pressure (HVLP) paint guns that have a stainless steel paint passage to prevent corrosion; and a new, fully-enclosed gun cleaner, one side for solvent-based and the other for water-based cleaning. Enclosed gun cleaning systems for solvent-based are more efficient and have less solvent waste and evaporation. The water-based side can be more labor intensive, since the paints are "sticky" and take a bit more work to clean out.

American Way continues to use a still to recycle their solvent waste. They had hoped to use the still to remove paint particles from water waste, but it didn't work effectively. They created a water-based waste bin for recycling and hired Safety Kleen to handle any recycled non-useable waste as well as the solvent waste.

They had to make room in their heated and vented paint mixing room to store the water-based paints. Although water-based paints don't need to be store in a vented room as solvent-based products do, they cannot get cold.

American Way Collision would like to switch 100% of their paint products to water-based in the future. Currently the primer and primer thinners are solvent-based and those emissions will not decrease. There are no compatible water-based primers available that will work for American Way Collision, however it is their intent to continue searching for something that will work. The clear coat is solvent-based, but has a much lower VOC content then previous products used.

American Way Collision may always need to handle some solvent-based products, since some manufacturers paint specifications require a solvent-based paint for one out of every 400 cars American Way Collision works on.

Kudos to American Way Collision Center for leading the way!

For information about our free Pollution Prevention Consultation program visit www.spokanecleanair.org, or call 477-4727, ext. #114. ■

UPDATE *is published by the Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency (Spokane Clean Air) as part of its Compliance Assistance Program. Comments, suggestions and article ideas may be directed to* Update *Editor Lisa Woodard.*

Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency

1101 West College, Suite 403
Spokane, WA 99201-2028
PHONE: (509) 477-4727
FAX: (509) 477-6828
Web Address:
www.spokanecleanair.org

To view this newsletter online, go to Spokane Clean Air's web site, and click the "Business Info" button on left navigation bar.

To add or remove names to the **UPDATE** *mailing list, call 477-4727.*

Air . Quality . Calendar

Feb. 5 Board of Directors meeting. 9 a.m., lower level hearing room, Spokane County Public Works Bldg, 1026 W. Broadway Ave. The meeting agenda is available at www.spokanecleanair.org or call 477-4727.

Mar. 5 Board meeting: time/location above, unless otherwise publicized.

MOVING UPDATE: We should be relocating to our new building, at 3104 E. Augusta (northwest corner of Mission and Greene) by early February. Therefore, our March Board of Directors meeting could be in our new location. Check our web site for updates!

Preserve, enhance and protect the quality of Spokane County's air resources for the benefit of current and future generations.

Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency's Mission

UPDATE
Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency
1101 W. College Ave., Suite 403
Spokane, WA 99201-2028

Pre-sort STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Spokane, WA
Permit No. 28

40 Years
1969~2009
WORKING WITH YOU FOR CLEAN AIR