

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

Mountain Area Compact

For 8-Hour State Implementation Plan

An agreement of Partnership among
United States Environmental Protection Agency Region 4
North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Local Governments in Buncombe, Haywood, Henderson, Madison and Transylvania

June 16, 2003 Milestone Submittal

The local governments of the Mountain Area Compact are pleased to present the following to fulfill the June 16, 2003 reporting requirement that is a part of the Mountain Area Early Action Compact agreement.

The Mountain Area Compact is a diverse region of five Western North Carolina counties comprising more than 2400 square miles. According to 2002 estimates, County populations range from 212,907 in Buncombe to 20,192 in Madison. Henderson (93,033), Haywood (55,299) and Transylvania (29,997) fall within those extremes. Population density, total workforce and infrastructure development exhibit similar county to county variation. Services and retail trade are strong factors in each local economy, this reflects the area's popularity for retirement living and for travel and tourism.

Due to the differences in size and economic base, it was agreed that each county would identify local control measures individually. This process allows greater stakeholder participation and allows each jurisdiction to evaluate local resources and determine if county-specific control measures can reasonably be implemented.

All counties are targeting implementation dates of April, 2005 in order to coincide with the beginning of that year's ozone season. As planning continues, that date may change for some measures.

Local Control Measures being considered for Mountain Area Compact follow.

1. CITY OF ASHEVILLE AND BUNCOMBE COUNTY

Asheville-Buncombe Council Mountain Area Early Action Compact Recommendations to Asheville City Council and Buncombe County Board of Commissioners

Ozone is a molecule found in the atmosphere containing three oxygen atoms (O_3), while the oxygen we breathe has two oxygen atoms (O_2). Ozone occurs naturally in both the lower and upper atmosphere. Stratospheric ozone is a substance that absorbs the sun's harmful ultraviolet rays and protects the environment. Ground level ozone is the main ingredient in smog.

Ground level ozone occurs when nitrogen oxides (NO_x) and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) react together on warm sunny days. Ozone concentrations can increase to unhealthy levels during the warmer months. From April through October, hot weather and high total nitrogen oxide emissions from cars, coal-fired power plants, lawnmowers and other diesel- or gasoline-powered devices can create elevated concentrations of ground level ozone. Morning rush hour traffic is a major source of precursor chemicals to ground-level ozone formation. Ozone levels are normally highest during the hottest part of the afternoon and lowest in the early morning and night. Actions taken in the early hours of the day have a great effect on ozone levels the rest of the day.

The federal 120 parts per billion (ppb) one-hour standard was recently replaced with an 80-ppb eight-hour standard to protect human health. The Bent Creek air quality monitor violated the eight-hour ozone standard for 2000-2002. Thus part or all of Buncombe, Haywood, Henderson, Madison, and Transylvania counties may be designated “nonattainment” or not attaining the Federal Clean Air ozone standard. The Early Action Compact allows local government to delay or avoid “nonattainment” designation by proposing a plan to meet and maintain air quality standards. The following recommendations outline actions the public, businesses, and government agencies can take to reduce unhealthy levels of ozone. The actions will cut the amount of nitrogen oxides in the atmosphere by reducing the amount of fossil fuels burned on warm sunny days.

These are recommended actions for Buncombe County and the City of Asheville and are based on work of the Asheville-Buncombe Council of the Mountain Area Early Action Compact. Our goal was to develop proposed strategies to be included in an initial report to the Environmental Protection Agency and due on June 16, 2003. We will continue the Early Action Compact planning process through March of 2004.

Actions the public can take on an ongoing basis to reduce ozone

PA 1

Keep your car tuned up. A car does not always have visible smoke from its tailpipe when it is producing excessive NO_x. An auto shop can often make minor repairs resulting in better gas mileage and less pollution from your tailpipe.

PA 2

Keep tires properly inflated. Proper tire inflation increases gas mileage and lowers the contribution to pollution.

PA 3

Carpool or vanpool. Join a carpool or vanpool for the trip to and from work. Local businesses, non-profit agencies and government agencies should seek sources of transportation for carpoolers in case of an emergency.

PA 4

Ride your bike. Bike on at least one errand a week. It's great exercise and a stress reliever.

PA 5

Take a walk. Walk to lunch with a friend instead of starting up the car. Walk to the next meeting or on an errand near home.

PA 6

Take the bus. Ride the bus to work or on an errand.

PA 7

Use an electric powered mower or a push mower. A two-stroke gas-powered lawnmower pollutes the equivalent of 40 late-model cars in just an hour. Use a rake on your leaves instead of a leaf blower. Reduce the need to mow by installing water-wise landscaping.

PA 8

Conserve energy and reduce pollution at home. Much of the region's electricity still comes from coal-fired generators. Turn off lights when not in use and reduce the use of the air conditioning with ceiling fans, good insulation, and a programmable thermostat. Replace paints and cleaning products with more environmentally friendly alternatives. Choose a gas fireplace and barbeque grill over wood or charcoal.

PA 9

Practice appropriate vehicle operating tips, such as shutting off the engine when parked. Avoid excessive idling at drive-throughs by parking and walking in. Operate the vehicle only on an as-needed basis to reduce emissions. Avoid travel through known congested areas whenever possible.

PA 10

Purchase products that meet the EPA Energy Star Program. Learn how much energy is used by the products you purchase.

<p style="text-align: center;">Ozone Action Days (Air Quality Index is predicted to be orange, red, or purple) for the public and businesses</p>

OAD 1

Tell your friends! Spread the word about Ozone Action Days and air quality issues. There are about eight to ten Ozone Action Days each year in our area. They can occur from late spring to early fall. These are days when our individual actions can make the most difference in comfort and health for everyone, especially those with asthma and chronic respiratory disorders.

The NC Division of Air Quality issues ozone forecasts during ozone season at 3pm each day for the following day. Forecasts for Buncombe and surrounding counties are available from WLOS TV and The Asheville Citizen-Times. Ozone forecasts are also available at 1-888-RU4NCAIR. The Division of Air Quality will e-mail or fax the forecast to you. Those features can be accessed at <http://daq.state.nc.us/airaware/ozone>.

OAD 2

Delay errands until late in the day. Cars driven in the morning hours produce NO_x and VOCs that become ground-level ozone in the heat of the afternoon. The more one can avoid driving, the better for air quality.

OAD 3

Don't mow your lawn until late in the day. Small engines like lawnmowers, weed whackers and leaf blowers lack pollution controls. The average lawnmower produces as much pollution in one hour as 40 late-model cars!

OAD 4

Bring your lunch or walk to lunch. Reduce your contribution to air pollution by not starting up your car at lunchtime.

OAD 5

Bus, Bike or Walk. If you find you're not affected by ozone on Ozone Action Days, take the bus, walk, or bike to work, to lunch, or on an errand.

OAD 6

Practice appropriate vehicle operating tips. Shut off the engine when parked. Operate the vehicle only on an as-needed basis to reduce emissions. Idling for 30 seconds to 1 minute emits more pollution than restarting your vehicle.

OAD 7

Do not use drive-through services. Avoid excessive idling at bank or fast food drive-throughs. Instead, park your vehicle and walk into the business. Businesses could voluntarily close their drive-through services until 11:00 a.m.

OAD 8

Telecommute. Businesses could allow employees with appropriate jobs to work at home when it is possible. Telecommunication from the home will reduce the number of vehicles emitting nitrogen oxides.

OAD 9

Participate in OAD program. Large and medium sized businesses are encouraged to participate in the NC Division of Air Quality Ozone Action Day (OAD) program.

<p style="text-align: center;">Ozone Action Days (Air Quality Index is predicted to be orange, red, or purple) for local, state and federal government</p>

G 1

Local government will seek participation of state and federal agencies in the following measures:

G 2

Limit morning meetings. Minimize scheduling of morning meetings involving auto travel between the hours of 8:00AM and 9:00AM when possible. Because OADs are declared with only one-day notice, the practice of delaying all meetings requiring auto travel should be encouraged during ozone season.

G 3

Practice appropriate vehicle operating tips. Shut off the engine when parked. Avoid excessive idling such as sitting at drive-throughs instead of walking in. Operate the vehicle only on an as-needed basis to reduce emissions. Avoid travel through known congested areas whenever possible.

G 4

Work schedules. Limit vehicle/equipment use. Encourage multiple crew transports using higher occupancy vehicles.

G 5

Nonessential operations. Reschedule operations under direct control of the city or county such as driving, lawn maintenance, tree trimming, and use of power saws, generators and similar gasoline or diesel-powered equipment. Bid similar contracted work with an alternate to halt operations on ozone action days.

G 6

Paving. Reschedule nonessential paving activities, including pothole repairs. Bid similar contracted work with an alternate to halt operations on ozone action days.

G 7

Alternative Transportation/ Alternative Fuels. Explore the use of alternative fuels, including diesel and off-road diesel fuels, to reduce NO_x emissions, subject to availability of reliable sources of supply. Consider purchase of commercially available hybrid vehicles for use in non-emergency fleet.

G 8

Cleaner Burning Gasoline, Diesel Fuel and off-road Diesel Fuel. Track statewide initiatives to bring cleaner burning fuels to area retailers during ozone season or year round.

G 9

Smoking Vehicles. Smoking vehicles are heavy polluters. Local law enforcement agencies will be educated on the state statute concerning smoking vehicles and encouraged to increase enforcement. Local government will publicize programs for citizen reporting of smoking vehicles.

G 10

Tree Planting Program. Ozone formation is exacerbated by high temperatures. Because of the urban heat-island effect, temperatures in cities can average up to 15 degrees higher than nearby rural areas. Trees clean and cool the air. They shield from the sun hard surfaces that would otherwise store and radiate heat, and they release cooling moisture. Mature trees increase property values. The City of Asheville, through its proposed 2025 plan, will continue to require tree planting.

G 11

Hybrid-Electric Car Pilot Project. The County of Buncombe is evaluating the cost effectiveness and performance of hybrid-electric technology. The Western North Carolina Regional Air Quality Agency (WNCRAQA) has procured two Toyota Prius Hybrid-Electric vehicles. If this pilot project is successful, the County intends to specify that all new car purchases for non-emergency use be hybrid-electric.

G 12

Retrofit Technology. Purchase of applicable fuel line and electric spark controller retrofit technologies are being explored. Successful devices have proven to reduce Hydrocarbon, Carbon Monoxide, and Nitrogen Oxides, while improving engine performance and fuel consumption. Some retrofits have already occurred to County school busses and Asheville Transit Services vehicles.

G 13

Service Contracts. Departmental requirements specific to OADs will be incorporated into service contracts. Purchase and service contracts will specify energy-efficient equipment and maintenance practices.

G 14

Annual In-House Training. An annual training program to increase awareness of OAD responsibilities of Departments and employees will be developed. OAD orientation packets for new employees will be developed.

G 15

OAD Coordinators. The City and County will appoint one or more Ozone Action Day Coordinators to manage OAD initiatives. Coordinators will participate in the state OAD program.

G 16

Telecommute. Local government could allow employees with appropriate jobs to work at home when it is possible. Telecommuting from the home will reduce the number of vehicles emitting nitrogen oxides.

Ongoing Actions to Reduce Ozone

OA 1

Clean burning fuels. Local government will collaborate with area fuel suppliers to accelerate availability of clean gasoline/diesel fuels.

OA 2

Western North Carolina Regional Air Quality Agency. The City and County have supported this agency and its programs for more than thirty years and will continue to do so.

OA 3

Public Education Campaigns. Develop educational brochures and related materials for children about air quality. Provide for a public relations component within the WNCRAQA to assist in media relations and public education efforts.

OA 4

Outreach. Work with area governmental entities and local media to develop educational outreach programs.

OA 5

Themes. Develop air quality themes for use in advertising on busses and other public venues. Tie themes to air quality summits to provide businesses, institutions and government with information on what each sector can do to improve air quality.

OA 6

Cultural Outreach. A bilingual and multicultural educational outreach program for air quality will be developed that expands current public outreach efforts to all citizens.

OA 7

Community Outreach. Provide air quality tips to neighborhood associations who can pass out the information to individual households.

OA 8

Business Involvement. Local governments will encourage involvement of area businesses in OAD programs.

OA 9

Conserve energy and reduce pollution at work. Much of the region's electricity still comes from coal. Turn off lights when not in use. Reduce the use of air conditioning with good insulation and window blinds. Use programmable thermostats to reduce energy use for heating and cooling. Replace paints and cleaning products with more environmentally friendly alternatives.

OA 10

Land Use. Mixed-use neighborhoods in which residents can access both commercial and residential destinations using a variety of transportation modes are conducive to less driving by residents. In accordance with the proposed 2025 Plan, the City is working to adopt measures to encourage construction on vacant or underused land in the City and to increase density along designated transit corridors. City officials will continue to support such planning.

OA 11

Conversion to Alternative Fuels. The City and County, through Land-of-Sky Regional Council, will seek DOE Clean Cities designation in order to promote greater availability of clean gasoline, diesel and alternative fuels. Clean Cities designation will also facilitate the creation of infrastructure necessary for the utilization of these fuels.

OA 12

Low sulfur fuels. Develop community support in order to encourage the petroleum industries to make low sulfur gas and diesel fuels available in the Compact area by April 2005.

OA 13

Ride the bus. In order to encourage bus ridership, the Asheville Transit System will explore options such as business sponsorships to provide free bus service and promote bus ridership on OADs.

OA 14

Energy Star. Purchase products that meet the EPA Energy Star Program. Government agencies should consider the energy efficiency of the products they buy.

OA 15

AQ Group. Buncombe County and the City of Asheville should collaborate to form a permanent advisory group to address air quality and other environmental issues.

2. HAYWOOD COUNTY

HAYWOOD COUNTY EARLY ACTION COMPACT STAKEHOLDERS

- A. Primary organization responsible for EAC activities: Haywood County
- B. Lead Contact: Richard Honeycutt
- C. Organization Chart- Attached list of Stakeholders
- D. Meetings Held
1. Haywood County Council of Governments met on December 11, 2002 to approve initiating Early Action Compact.
 2. The Board of Commissioners approved for Haywood County to be a part of the Early Action Compact on December 16, 2002.
 3. Meetings of the Stakeholders were held on March 19, 2003, April 2, 2003 and April 30, 2003 with good participation. Meetings were held in the Commissioners' Board Room and the Agricultural Services Center.
- E. Proposed Local Control Measures
1. Local Government will encourage the following public actions for normal days:
 - ☐ **Keep your car tuned up.** A car does not always have visible smoke from its tailpipe when it is producing excessive NO_x. An auto shop can often make minor repairs resulting in better gas mileage and less pollution from your tailpipe. Keep tires properly inflated and maintain regular tune-ups to lower the contribution to pollution.
 - ☐ **Carpool or vanpool.** Join a carpool or vanpool for the trip to and from work.
 - ☐ **Ride your bike.** Bike on at least one errand a week. It's great exercise and a stress reliever.
 - ☐ **Take a walk.** Walk to lunch with a friend instead of starting up the car. Walk to the next meeting or on an errand near home.
 - ☐ **Take the shuttle when possible.**
 - ☐ **Purchase energy efficient appliances.**
 - ☐ **Build energy efficient houses or improve energy efficiency in existing houses.**
 - ☐ **Use an electric powered mower or a push mower.** A two-stroke gas-powered lawnmower pollutes the equivalent of 40 late-model cars. Use a

rake on your leaves instead of a leaf blower. Reduce your need for mowing by installing water-wise landscaping.

- ☐ **Conserve energy and reduce pollution at home.** Much of the region's electricity still comes from coal. Turn off lights when not in use and reduce the use of the air conditioner with ceiling fans, good insulation, and a programmable thermostat. Replace paints and cleaning products with more environmentally-friendly alternatives. Choose a gas fireplace and barbecue grill over wood or charcoal.

2. Ozone Action Days for Public. The County Government Access Channel may be used to deliver information on Ozone Action Days.

- ☐ **Delay errands until late in the day.** Cars driven in the morning hours produce NO_x and VOCs that become ground-level ozone in the heat of the afternoon. The more one can avoid driving, the better for air quality.
- ☐ **Don't mow your lawn until late in the day.** Small engines like lawnmowers, weed whackers and leaf blowers lack pollution controls.
- ☐ **Bring your lunch or walk to lunch.** Reduce your contribution to air pollution by not starting up your car at lunchtime.
- ☐ **Take the shuttle.** Take the shuttle to work, to lunch, or on an errand.
- ☐ **Take a walk.** If you have an errand to run that's a short distance away, try walking instead of driving.
- ☐ **Ride your bike.** Ride your bike on morning errands. If you find that you're not affected by ozone on Ozone Action Days, try biking to work or school.
- ☐ **Tell your friends!** Spread the word about Ozone Action Days and air quality issues.

3. Ozone Action Days for Local Government

- ☐ **Restrict all movement in vehicles to an absolute minimum.** Use of fleet vehicles will be restricted to essential use only. Meetings requiring traveling by fleet vehicles are to be canceled when possible, or implement the use of e-mail and conference calls.
- ☐ **Minimize scheduling of morning meetings between the hours of 8:00AM and 9:00AM when possible or teleconference.** Because OADs are declared with only one-day notice, the practice of delaying meetings should be encouraged year-round.
- ☐ **Practice appropriate vehicle operating tips,** such as shutting off the engine when parked, avoiding excessive idling such as sitting at drive-throes, and leaving the vehicle running while parked. Operate the vehicle only on an as-needed basis to reduce emissions. Avoid travel through known congested areas whenever possible.

- ☐ **Work schedules** should reflect limited vehicle/equipment use and should encourage multiple crew transports using higher occupancy rate vehicles.
- ☐ **Reschedule nonessential operations** such as lawn maintenance, tree trimming, and use of power saws, generators, etc., which include other gasoline-powered equipment.

4. Long-term Local Government actions to reduce ozone

- ☐ **Investigate the supply of alternative fuels to the County.**
- ☐ **Develop network of coordinators throughout the County for ozone notifications and other information.**
- ☐ **Commute Solutions:** Encourage ride sharing for regional trips.
- ☐ **Land Use:** Encourage the continued development of greenways, and mixed-use neighborhoods in which residents can access both commercial and residential destinations using a variety of transportation modes. Encourage smart growth by utilizing vacant or underused land. Town officials are actively supporting increased housing in the downtown area.
- ☐ **Downtown Guide:** The towns are encouraging walkable communities. Some have developed a walking guide to the Town.
- ☐ **Smoking Vehicles:** It is estimated that 10% of vehicles produce 90% of vehicular pollution. Encourage citizens to report smoking vehicles on form to the State of North Carolina. (Form available on web site daq.state.nc.us/smoking.shtml).
- ☐ **Tree Planting Program:** Ozone formation is exacerbated by high temperatures. Because of the urban heat-island effect, temperatures in cities can average up to 15 degrees higher than nearby rural areas. Trees clean and cool the air. They shield from the sun hard surfaces that would otherwise store and radiate heat, and they release cooling moisture. Mature trees increase property values. Encourage tree-planting programs with agencies.
- ☐ **Hybrid-Electric Car Pilot Program:** Local Government will evaluate the cost effectiveness and performance of hybrid-electric technology.
- ☐ **Retrofit Technology:** Purchasing of applicable fuel line and electric spark controllers retrofit technologies are being explored. Successful devices have proven to reduce Hydrocarbon, Carbon Monoxide, and Nitrogen Oxides, while improving engine performance and fuel consumption. Seek grants for retrofitting diesel engines.
- ☐ **Service Contracts:** Department specific OAD requirements will be incorporated into purchase and service contracts.
- ☐ **In-House Training:** Development of an annual training program to increase awareness of OAD responsibilities of Departments and employees. Placement of the OAD into orientation packets for new employees.

5. Department Specific Plans for Ozone Action Days. On OADs, the following practices will be implemented:

- ☐ **Reschedule nonessential operations** using gasoline-powered equipment, such as lawnmowers, edgers, blowers, power saws, tree trimmers, and generators.
- ☐ **Reschedule nonessential construction, when possible.**
- ☐ **Operation of construction and heavy equipment will be restricted to essential use, when possible.**
- ☐ **Personnel shall be encouraged to limit travel on ozone action days.**
- ☐ **Reschedule controlled burning permits.**
- ☐ **Reschedule nonessential inspections on commercial establishments.**

6. Public Education

- ☐ **Obtain and distribute flyers and information on air quality.**
- ☐ **Use the County Government Access Channel** to show video and other information on air quality.
- ☐ **Provide a speakers bureau on air quality** for civic club meetings and other resources.
- ☐ **Use the County Information line and County Web site to disseminate information.**
- ☐ **Participate in training programs and invite business and industry to participate.**

3. HENDERSON COUNTY

Early Action Compact Draft Plan Elements for Henderson County

Public Education	Transportation	Other Projects
Actively participate/support in Land-of-Sky's Clean Air Campaign	Suggest idea of car-pool program to be sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce	Encourage residents not to burn leaves
Endorse Clean Air Car Fair	Evaluate funding for increasing the ridership in the local bus system (support alternative transportation)	Consider the installation of an ozone monitor for Henderson County
Develop web page to address air quality issues	Ask the State to do a trial run of the "Smog Dog" testing for cars and trucks in Henderson County	Support clean air legislation

Publish ozone reports in local media (paid service announcement (psa) or paid ad)	Encourage sidewalks and bikeways in all road projects	Encourage City Councils and Board of Commissioners to encourage local police and sheriff departments to actively enforce the North Carolina smoking vehicle statute and require repairs (see attached NCGS 20-128.1)
Consider conducting a Clean Air Fair	Explore modifications to County Fleet	

What Individuals Can Do

Keep your engines tuned
Have emissions equipment checked
Keep tires properly inflated
Repair air conditioning leaks immediately
Car-pool, use mass transit
Avoid driving in rush hour
Avoid refueling until after 7 PM
Stay within the speed limit
Avoid use of gasoline powered equipment such as lawnmowers, leaf blowers, grass trimmers during high ozone days
Use natural cleaners
Plant a tree
Barbecue with gas
Use "greenlights" or energy efficient lighting
Install ceiling fans
Insulate your home
Consider solar power
Ride a bicycle or walk
Combine errands into one trip

Timeframe for deadlines

County Manager updates BOC after meeting with Asheville	March 3, 03
County EAC drafts list of future projects for local plan	March 19, 03
State to make recommendation to EPA on designation	April 03
EPA designates non-attainment areas	April 03
Local plan submitted to Planning Agency	May 03
Local governments submit control measures for adoption	July 03
Attainment status reached	December 2007

4. MADISON COUNTY

Madison County Air Quality Council

Recommendations to the

Madison County Board of Commissioners

Regarding the

Mountain Area Early Action Compact

Madison is part of a five county area that may be designated by state and federal officials as not attaining the Federal Clean Air Standards for Ozone. In December of 2003, County Boards of Commissioners in all five of those counties voted to form the Mountain Area Early Action Compact as a vehicle to work jointly to improve air quality in the region.

The Compact is a contract among local county governments, the NC Division of Air Quality and the US Environmental Protection Agency. Local governments have agreed to seek methods to accelerate compliance with air quality standards. In return, regulatory agencies agree to defer non-attainment status so long as certain dated milestones are met.

Non-attainment of standards poses several risks to Madison County and to the region. Acute respiratory disorders are exacerbated by ozone and cumulative exposure can negatively affect general public health. Transportation improvements throughout the region may be delayed. Restrictions on some types of industrial recruitment and expansion will be imposed. Businesses dependent on travel and tourism may experience a downturn. The commercial and residential real estate market may be depressed.

In order to protect the physical health and economic well being of county residents and the citizens of our region, the Madison County Board of Commissioners joined the Mountain Area Early Action Compact and appointed a County Air Quality Council. The purpose of the Council is to advise the Board of Commissioners of emissions reduction strategies that will aid achievement of health and economic goals. The Council will also participate in subsequent planning and public involvement initiatives. The initial task of the council was to develop a recommended list of emissions reduction measures being considered for Madison County and to present those recommendations to the Board in time to meet the required reporting milestone of June 16, 2003.

The Council offers the following proposed emissions reduction strategies to fulfil that first task. It should be noted that this is a first draft of strategies, the County is free at this time to add, delete or modify proposed strategies. By March of 2004, a final plan must be developed and submitted to the NC Division of Air Quality and to the US Environmental Protection Agency. The plan will be a result of county staff work, Council involvement and public participation by the citizens of Madison County.

On approval by the Madison County Board of Commissioners, this document will be submitted to the Buncombe County Planning Department. That agency is acting as agent to combine emissions reduction strategies and subsequent documents from the five counties into one comprehensive plan for the region.

Recommended Emissions Reduction Strategies for Madison County

1.

The Madison County Board of Commissioners should initiate an ongoing public education campaign to inform residents specifically about non-attainment of Federal Clean Air Act Ozone Standards and generally about the risks of air pollution. Education should help citizens to understand the negative effects of air pollution on public health and economic progress. Education should also equip the public with tools to make informed decisions regarding behaviors and choices that are consistent with improving air quality.

The county should explore opportunities to collaborate with state and local governments in educating the public. This will assure regional uniformity of message and may result in a better product at less expense than a singular effort.

The County should seek cooperation of local schools, businesses, news media and non-profit organizations to deliver educational messages to the citizens of Madison County.

2.

The Madison County Board of Commissioners should encourage carpooling and work to establish the infrastructure necessary to facilitate communication among potential car-poolers. This should be done as a cooperative effort including nearby businesses and institutions, especially those that employ large workforces. Principles to guide the recommendation include:

A.

The purchase of property for parking is, in our judgement, not feasible given current budget restraints.

B.

A considerable amount of informal carpooling already exists among residents who work out-of-county. These individuals should be encouraged to participate in planning.

C.

County evaluation of transportation projects should include advocacy of public parking facilities similar to the existing facility on US 19-23 near Mars Hill.

D.

The primary county responsibility should be to facilitate communication. The Council believes this can be accomplished substantially by use of existing resources. For example, the Mountain Area Information Network may be able to host a website to disseminate information on carpooling.

E.

As carpooling grows, a secondary county responsibility should be to negotiate the use of private parking properties for daytime commuters. Liability will be an important issue in those negotiations.

F.

As resources permit, the county should explore guaranteed-ride-home programs and emergency transportation for carpoolers.

3.

Madison County should appoint an Ozone Action Day Coordinator by adding that duty to a current staff member. The main duties would include:

A.

Informing citizens by web, recording and otherwise of Ozone Action Days. The state issues each day at 3PM during ozone season a forecast for the next day's ozone status. When ozone reaches elevated levels, an Ozone Action Day is declared to advise citizens of increased risk. There are about eight to ten Ozone Action Days annually.

B.

The OAD Coordinator should serve as a point of contact for citizens requesting information regarding ozone and other air pollution concerns.

C.

The OAD Coordinator should participate in state sponsored activities to learn about ozone and to coordinate local programs with statewide activities.

4.

Madison County should seek cooperation in emissions reduction and air pollution education from state and federal offices located in the county. Local business should also be encouraged to join.

5.

Madison County should enact an ordinance banning open burning on Ozone Action Days. The Council realizes that burning bans can be controversial; however, this proposal would only apply for about eight to ten days each year. The days on which burning would be banned are those on which sensitive persons are most at risk. We believe that citizens will cooperate with a burning ban on days when it can have such a great effect on their neighbors.

5. TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY

PROPOSED AIR QUALITY IMPROVEMENT STRATEGIES FOR TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY

Local Government

Based on availability of funds, local government will continue to develop and refine strategies to reduce energy use and NO_x emissions. Review the Focus 2020 recommendations and implement when practical. Examples as follows below:

- Continue to refine the energy efficiency program for county building. When possible, update to programmable thermostats and T-8 fluorescent lighting.

- Turn off computers, printers and other office equipment when not in use.
- When applicable purchase energy efficient equipment.
- Make all county vehicle operators aware of energy efficient vehicle operations.
- Consider purchasing low emission or alternatively fueled vehicles when replacing county vehicles (utilize grants when applicable).
- Increase the availability of web-based services and continue efforts to co-locate related services for 'one-stop' availability for citizens.
- Develop local AQ monitoring.
- Continue to develop traffic flow strategies (signal timing, traffic calming, roundabouts, etc.) resulting in travel efficiency, reduced energy consumption and emission reductions.
- Investigate controls on open burning during periods of elevated ozone.
- Retrofit or replace old diesel school busses as funding allows (EPA grant?)
- Investigate the use of 'cleaner' fuels such as RG and low sulfur diesel fuel. Consider the development of bulk purchasing agreements with other EAC counties.
- Work with other EAC counties to secure grants to implement listed strategies.
- When possible create or improve sidewalks, paths and bike lanes.
- Assign a County Ozone Coordinator.

Public Education

Based on the availability of resources, the following educational strategies are proposed:

- Make ozone forecasts available to the local media (Transylvania Times and Cable TV), also on the county government web site.
- Develop press releases and fact sheets telling residents strategies they can adopt to reduce AQ impacts.
- Encourage local gas stations to participate in 'stop at the click' campaigns and other promotions to encourage gas fill-ups later in the day.
- Encourage BRCC's plan to develop a small engine maintenance and repair curriculum.
- Develop school based outreach and education programs (existing programs: Cradle of Forestry Educator Workshops, Brevard College PFI)
- Work with the 'Healthy Carolinians' program to encourage walking and cycling.

- Hold car care clinics.

Other

- Support and promote regional efforts (i.e. LOSRC and EAC)
- Support and promote the enforcement of existing AQ regulations.
- Collaborate with other EAC counties to secure grants (private, EPA, or NCCATF) to implement proposed strategies.