

Transportation & Small Sources of Air Pollution:

Challenges & Opportunities to Achieve Healthier Air Quality in New Jersey



New Jersey Clean Air Council
Annual Public Hearing

April 11, 2012
9:30 a.m.

N.J. Dept. of Environmental Protection
401 E. State Street, Trenton, NJ

Clean Air Council 2012 Hearing

The Clean Air Council of New Jersey invites you to participate in its annual public hearing on Wednesday, April 11, 2012 at 9:30 a.m. in the Public Hearing Room at the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection in Trenton.

Based on testimony offered during the hearing, the Council will be making recommendations to the NJDEP regarding mobile and small area sources of air pollution.

The Challenge

New Jersey has made great strides toward achieving clean air standards beginning with the passage of the federal Clean Air Act of 1970 and its subsequent Amendments, and through its own high standards for healthier air quality. Major sources of manufacturing and other industries, including power plants, have reduced their emissions substantially to meet state and federal regulatory standards. Mandated by state and federal regulations, newer, lower-emission vehicles and improved fuels have also contributed to improved air quality in New Jersey.

However, our state is still faced with achieving newer, health-based national air quality standards while maintaining the progress made in reducing air pollution. One of the major challenges to further improvement in air quality is the numerous, largely unregulated, small local sources that adversely impact the health and welfare of its residents. In addition to making substantial contributions to statewide air pollution levels, the large number of mobile sources and small area sources can directly impact neighborhoods due to their close proximity to residents. The small sources as a group are referred to as area sources for air pollution control planning purposes.

The aim of this year's public hearing is to address these air pollution and public health concerns. The many questions the Council will seek answers to are the following:

- ❶ What are the important area sources of air pollution?
 - a. Is wood smoke an air quality problem?
How should it be reduced?
 - b. Which consumer products contain cumulatively large amounts of organic solvents, and are there low solvent content replacements available?
 - c. How clean are new small engines and non-road construction engines?
Should New Jersey require old engines to be retrofitted with emission controls or replaced with newer cleaner engines?

- ❷ Does the NJDEP have enough information to identify small area sources and inventory their emissions?
- ❸ How will the NJDEP devise a strategy to create a state-wide emission reduction program when local sources are so diverse?
- ❹ How can state and local health agencies and community groups play a role in improving air quality?
- ❺ For the NJDEP to realize improvements in air quality from mobile and small area sources, how will its proposed control strategies balance potential environmental impacts, inconveniences and personal limitations that may result?
- ❻ What authorities and responsibilities does the NJDEP have to take action on air pollution emissions from both mobile and area sources?
- ❼ What transportation-related strategies can New Jersey consider and what obstacles currently exist that limit their ability to reduce air pollution?
- ❽ How can New Jersey create incentives that result in fewer miles driven by its residents and by the trucking community?
- ❾ What should be the role of electric and natural gas powered vehicles, and what infrastructure is needed to enable widespread use?

Hearing Procedures

The Clean Air Council has invited guest speakers who will address many of these issues. A list of the confirmed speakers will be posted on the Clean Air Council website (noted below) prior to the hearing. Interested residents of New Jersey also are invited and encouraged to participate in the hearing.

Those who wish to testify should contact Willa Williams at (609) 292-6722, via email at cac@dep.state.nj.us, or via fax at (609) 777-1343 by March 30, 2012. Presenters will be allowed 10 minutes and are asked to bring 25 printed copies of their remarks, including a summary of key information and recommendations.

Written testimony also may be submitted until May 11, 2012 to the following address:

New Jersey Clean Air Council
Mailcode 401-07H
401 E. State Street, 7th Floor
P.O. Box 420 – Mailcode 401-07H
Trenton, NJ 08625-0420

The Clean Air Council

First convened in 1968, the Clean Air Council was created by the Legislature to make recommendations to the State of New Jersey on matters and programs pertaining to air pollution control.

For more information on the Clean Air Council, visit www.nj.gov/dep/cleanair.

Map to DEP

