

Over 100 People Attend First Ozone Stakeholder Meeting

The Regional Air Quality Council (RAQC) and its partners, the State's Air Pollution Control Division (APCD) and the North Front Range Metropolitan Planning Organization (NFRMPO), held the first ozone stakeholder meeting on October 3 as part of the official Ozone Stakeholder Involvement process. The stakeholder involvement process was convened after a high ozone pollution reading at the Rocky Flats monitor put the Front Range out of compliance with the federal standard this summer. The meeting was led by committee chair and RAQC board member, Joan Ringel. Participants came from all over the Front Range Region as the meeting attracted over 100 representatives from federal, state and local government, businesses, industry, citizens, nonprofit organizations and educational institutions. The meetings that follow will continue to be a forum to discuss strategies for reducing ozone pollution including both voluntary and regulatory options.

The first meeting focused on an overview of the issues including background information on ozone and an outlook for coming years. Stakeholders heard presentations from APCD and RAQC staff on issues such as ozone meteorology, photochemical modeling, the ozone stakeholder process and past, present and future strategies to be considered by stakeholders. The presentations were followed by an interactive discussion where stakeholders engaged in dialogue about additional strategy ideas.

Most future meetings will be topic specific to accommodate the wishes of stakeholders. A community meeting was held on October 23 and a modeling meeting was held on October 25. A meeting on November 7 allowed stakeholders to focus on strategies from mobile sources and fuels. The RAQC worked with its partners to host a North Front Range community meeting on November 12. Visit the web site at OzoneAware.org for upcoming meeting times and locations. ■

RAQC's Diesel Programs Expand

The Regional Air Quality Council (RAQC) is working to expand its diesel emission reduction efforts by joining over 25 separate partners to

increase the reach of the program.

The \$3.4 million project will bring together educational, local government and private industry partners that will work to install various types of retrofit equipment on diesel vehicles. Each of the partners will install advanced technologies on the vehicles including diesel oxidation catalysts, closed crankcase filtration devices, engine pre-heaters and auxiliary power units (APUs). Each organization will use different equipment and vehicles such as school buses, municipal fleet vehicles, and semi-trucks to achieve maximum effectiveness.

The RAQC has been working to reduce diesel emissions through retrofit equipment since 2003 and continues to seek out new technologies to utilize. The newest technology for the 2007 program is an APU that will be installed on semi-trucks. An APU helps to reduce idling in over-the-road semi-trucks by providing the cab with power to run heat, air conditioning and electronics, thereby eliminating the need to idle. It attaches to the cab of the truck and uses the fuel line for power. An APU can provide significant fuel savings for truck owner/operators and significantly reduces emissions. As newer and more advanced emission reduction technologies become available, the RAQC will continue to seek partners and funding for diesel projects as well as provide experience to other organizations trying to implement similar programs.

As newer equipment becomes available, the RAQC plans to utilize approved technologies such as hybrid buses and multi-stage filters that will provide an even greater emissions benefit in future projects. For more information on diesel programs, please contact Steve McCannon at (303) 629-5450 or smccannon@raqc.org. ■

AQCC and RAQC Receive Information on California Clean Car Standards

On September 20, the RAQC Board and staff viewed presentations from a panel of representatives from the State of California, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) and the Northeast States for Coordinated Air Use Management (NESCAUM). The panel presented information about California's Clean Car standards, and made a similar presenta-

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT HIGHLIGHT

The City of Arvada recently completed an air quality audit to analyze the City's operations that may contribute to ground-level ozone formation.

The project was part of the Regional Air Quality Council's (RAQC) local government sub-grant program that granted funds to municipalities to initiate ozone reduction projects. The City's report was finalized in August and included information about operations that could be changed to help reduce ozone pollution. Some of the most common findings were related to the storage and use of fuels, natural-gas fired

water heaters and mowing operations. The contractor hired to conduct the audit made several operational recommendations that the City can implement to help curb their impact on ozone pollution. Some of these changes include replacing gas-powered golf-carts with electric golf carts, reducing idling in City vehicles and verifying the use of vapor recovery systems on fuel suppliers' storage tanks and trucks.

The RAQC is excited that Arvada had such success in conducting the audit and hopes to use the results to design a similar program in the future. ■

ARVADA COMPLETES OZONE AUDIT

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tions to the AQCC. The visitors offered valuable information about what the standards are and how other states have moved to adopt them as an air quality improvement strategy.

The ozone stakeholder group likely will be discussing California Car Standards in the coming months as part of the official stakeholder process.

For more information on upcoming meetings, visit OzoneAware.org. ■

Changes Set for "Repair Your Air"

The Repair Your Air Campaign (RYAC) is moving ahead with some new and exciting changes for the upcoming year. RYAC is managed by the Regional Air Quality Council (RAQC) in partnership with the Colorado Department of Health and Environment (CDPHE), the Colorado Department of Revenue (CDOR) and Envirotest Systems, Inc. RYAC uses roadside remote sensing equipment to identify high-emitting vehicles in the metro-Denver region and offers qualifying motorists free repairs for their vehicle. The program, which started in 2003, has laid the framework for a similar program mandated by the State during last year's legislative session. The new legislation requires repairs on any vehicle identified as a high-emitter by roadside testing

equipment. The RAQC is working with the State of Colorado to ensure a seamless transition from RYAC to a pilot mandatory program. The RYAC has repaired over 500 vehicles in its four-year existence and the data collected have been invaluable to the process of developing a mandatory program designed to further reduce emissions in the metro-Denver region.

Also included in the new pilot program will be a smaller "salvage" program to help motorists scrap a very old or non-repairable vehicle in exchange for a financial award that they may use towards the purchase of a new vehicle. The addition of the salvage program will help the fleet turnover to newer, less polluting vehicles that will assist in keeping the air cleaner into the future. The RAQC is working with its partners to address the new directions for the program which will launch sometime in early 2008. For questions, please contact Steve McCannon at 303) 629-5450 or smccannon@raqc.org. ■

Valuable RAQC Staff Members Move On

After nearly three years, Regional Air Quality Council (RAQC) program coordinator, Sarah Sullivan and communications coordinator, Sarah Anderson, are moving on. Sullivan is graduating from the University of Colorado at Denver with a master's degree in public administration in December and is planning to study abroad for several months shortly afterwards.

Anderson is leaving at the end of November to be the new director of the Automotive Service Association of Colorado. That means, however, that the RAQC will continue to work with her on the Car Care Fairs and other mobile source-related projects and programs.

Both staff members have been valuable contributors to the organization. They will be greatly missed. Please help us in congratulating both of them on their new endeavors. ■

Upcoming Events:

December 6
RAQC Meeting

December 20
AQCC Meeting

December Ozone Stakeholder Meetings
>Dec. 11: Transportation Programs

>Dec. 14: VOC Point Sources / Oil & Gas

>Dec. 18: NOx Forum

Visit OzoneAware.org for details

Helpful Contacts:

RAQC:
(303) 629-5450

State's Air Pollution Control Division:
(303) 692-3100

Air Quality Hotline:
(303) 758-4848

Reminders:

High Pollution Season runs from October 31 to March 31.

When a RED Air Pollution Advisory is issued:

- follow mandatory residential burning restrictions

- limit driving by combining errands

- carpool or take public transportation

- visit the web site at: <http://apccd.state.co.us>

www.raqc.org