

THINGS YOU CAN DO TO SPARE THE AIR IN GREENVILLE COUNTY

- Consolidate trips by combining multiple errands and avoid unnecessary driving.
- Carpool or rideshare to work, school, or meetings, especially during ground level O₃ alert days.
- Use alternative modes of transportation such as public transportation, bicycles, walk.
- Refuel when it's cool and don't top off the gas tank.
- Use alternate fuels, if available and if your car is properly equipped.
- Properly maintain fleet or personal vehicles to reduce emissions and enhance performance.
- Telecommute to work, if possible.
- Use energy efficient appliances and fluorescent light bulbs to conserve energy.
- Make sure the lids on chemical products are tightly closed, especially janitorial products, paints, solvents, etc., to eliminate evaporation.
- Consider using manual (reel) or electric-powered lawn and garden maintenance equipment.
- Mow lawns when it's cool: early in the morning or late in the afternoon.
- Consider creating flower or plant beds to reduce lawn-mowing areas.
- Thinking about buying a car? Consider purchasing hybrid, fuel efficient, alternate fuel, or lean burn vehicles. The State of South Carolina provides tax incentives for individuals who purchase these vehicles. The State's income tax credit equals to 20% of certain new hybrid, fuel cell, alternative fuel, or lean burn technology motor vehicle and tax credits are allowed against a taxpayer's federal income tax liability.
- Observe speed limit - use cruise control on highways.
- Consider implementing alternate work schedules.
- Provide in-house video or on-line training sessions, Web meetings, or teleconferences at work.

- Drive to a central location and park, then, walk between your destinations.
- Avoid:
 - Idling in long lines for drive-up windows.
 - Driving from store to store looking for just one item—call ahead to find out if the item is in stock.
 - Unnecessary trips during rush hours.
 - Driving with unnecessary items in the trunk to reduce car load.
- Spread the word! Tell your friends, family and co-workers what you are doing and why. Education and small changes in personal habits will do wonders to maintain the air cleaner.

HOW TO PREVENT EXPOSURE

- Avoid strenuous outdoor activities: substitute for an activity requiring less exertion (e.g., walk instead of jogging).
- Avoid long exposure to outdoor activities: reduce activity time or plan activities during days of lower air pollution levels.
- Don't exercise near busy roads: air pollution levels are higher in these areas.

NEED MORE INFORMATION

- USEPA:
 - <http://airnow.gov> provides local and national air quality forecast.
 - <https://enviroflash.epa.gov/airnow/subscriber> provides a free subscription service to daily automated air quality forecast.
- SCDHEC:
 - <http://www.scdhec.gov/eqc/baq> provides information on air quality.
 - Call 1-866-238-4973 for air quality forecast during a ground level O₃ season.
- Greenville County:
 - "www.greenvillecounty.org" under "County Highlights: Air Quality."
 - Cable TV public access channel.

AIR QUALITY INDEX (AQI) FOR OZONE		
Levels of Health Concern	Index Values	Cautionary Statements
Good	0-50	None
Moderate	51-100	Unusually sensitive people should consider reducing prolonged or heavy exertion outdoors.
Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	101-150	Active children and adults, and people with lung disease, such as asthma, should reduce prolonged or heavy exertion outdoors.
Unhealthy	151-200	Active children and adults, and people with lung disease, such as asthma, should avoid prolonged or heavy exertion outdoors. Everyone else, especially children, should reduce prolonged or heavy exertion outdoors.
Very Unhealthy	201-300	Active children and adults, and people with lung disease, such as asthma, should avoid all outdoor exertion. Everyone else, especially children, should avoid prolonged or heavy exertion outdoors.
Hazardous	301	Everyone should avoid all physical activity outdoors.

AIR QUALITY INDEX (AQI) FOR PARTICLE POLLUTION		
Levels of Health Concern	Index Values	Cautionary Statements
Good	0-50	None
Moderate	51-100	Unusually sensitive people should consider reducing prolonged or heavy exertion.
Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	101-150	People with heart & lung disease, older adults, and children should reduce prolonged or heavy exertion.
Unhealthy	151-200	People with heart & lung disease, older adults, and children should avoid prolonged or heavy exertion. Everyone else should reduce prolonged or heavy exertion.
Very Unhealthy	201-300	People with heart & lung disease, older adults, and children should avoid all physical activity outdoors. Everyone else should avoid prolonged or heavy exertion.
Hazardous	301-500	People with heart & lung disease, older adults, and children should remain indoors and keep activity levels low. Everyone else should avoid all physical activity outdoors.

Source: USEPA (<http://www.epa.gov>)

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A PATH TO CLEAN AIR FOREVER....



IMPROVING AIR QUALITY IN GREENVILLE COUNTY



GREENVILLE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA

301 University Ridge
 Greenville, SC 29601
 Phone (864) 467-7105
 Fax (864) 467-7151
www.greenvillecounty.org
countyadministrator@greenvillecounty.org

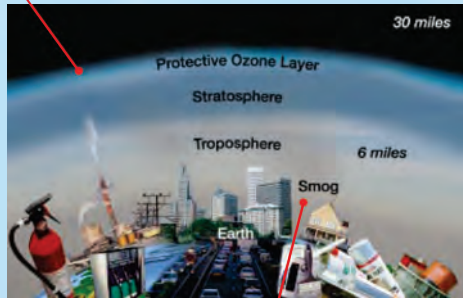
OZONE (O₃): GOOD UP HIGH, BAD NEARBY

Good O₃ occurs in the atmosphere's upper level (stratosphere) and protects us from sun's harmful UV rays.

Bad O₃ or ground level O₃ occurs in the atmosphere's lower level (troposphere) during hot-dry summer days. It's the main ingredient of smog. It's bad for our respiratory system, especially for children, elderly, people with respiratory illnesses, and people who are active outdoors. Ground level O₃ is seasonal, April to October.

During hot, dry summer days, Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) react with Nitrogen Oxides (NOx) to form O₃. VOCs come from sources such as cars, pine trees and industrial and commercial processes. Sources such as vehicles and industrial, commercial, and residential fuel combustion produce NOx.

Too little there... Many popular consumer products like air conditioners involve CFCs or halons during either manufacture or use. Over time, these chemicals damage the earth's protective ozone layer.



Too much here... Cars, trucks, power plants and factories all emit air pollution that forms ground-level ozone, a primary component of smog.

Source: www.epa.gov/oar/oaqps/gooduphigh/good.html

PARTICLE MATTER (PM)

Known also as particle pollution or particulate matter, PM is a complex mixture of extremely small particles and liquid droplets made up of acids (such as nitrates and sulfates), organic chemicals, metals, and soil or dust particles. PM comes in many sizes and shapes and it's a year-round concern.

Sources of primary particles include construction sites, unpaved roads, fields, smokestacks, or fires.

Sources of secondary particles include complicated reactions of chemicals in the atmosphere such as sulfur dioxides and nitrogen oxides. Emissions from power plants, industries and automobiles make up most of the fine particle pollution.

Coarse PM may be found near roads and dusty industries and range in size from 2.5 to 10 micrometers (µm) in diameter (the average human hair is about 70 µm in diameter). Fine PM_{2.5} particles may be found in smoke and haze, are smaller than 2.5 µm, and can be directly emitted from forest fires, gases emitted from power plants, industries, and automobiles.

HOW O₃ AND PM_{2.5} MAY AFFECT YOUR HEALTH

High levels of ground level O₃ and PM_{2.5} affect children, elderly people, people with respiratory illnesses, and people who are active outdoors. The health effects of high levels of ground level O₃ and PM_{2.5} include:

- Irritation to the respiratory system;
- Coughing, throat irritation, and congestion;
- Reduction of lung function making it difficult to breathe and taking more rapid and shallow breaths than normal;
- Inflammation of and damage to cells that line lungs;
- Aggravation of chronic lung diseases (asthma, bronchitis, and emphysema). O₃ makes people more sensitive to allergens, which are the most common triggers of asthma attacks;
- Long term exposure to PM_{2.5} has been linked to the development of chronic bronchitis and premature death;
- Short term exposure to PM_{2.5} may increase vulnerability to respiratory infections and has been linked to heart attacks and arrhythmias;
- Cause permanent lung damage.

LEARN BEFORE YOU BURN

[South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control \(SCDHEC\)](#)

State law regulates and limits outdoor or open burning of materials. It is against State law to burn paints, cardboards, tires, household chemicals, construction and demolition debris, dead animals, asphalt and asphalt materials, plastics, metals, treated wood, paper, and petroleum products. The S.C. Air Pollution Regulation 61-62.2 regulates outdoor burning and provides exemptions to the statewide ban on open burning. Regulation 61-62.2 may be found at "<http://www.scdhec.gov/eqc/baq/html/index.html>" under "Publications." For additional information on what you can and cannot burn in an open fire, contact the SCDHEC office in Greenville at 864-241-1090.

[South Carolina Forestry Commission](#)

Outdoor Burning: Information, Regulations, and Assistance

State law requires that you notify the Forestry Commission prior to burning outdoors. In most cases, the law applies to burning leaves, limbs and branches that you clean up from your yard. The notification law does not apply within town or city limits. The law also requires that you clear a firebreak around the burning site and have the right equipment available to keep the fire under control. You must also stay with the fire until it is completely safe. To notify the Forestry Commission about burning your yard debris, call 1-800-986-5299 and follow the recorded instructions.

Forestry, Wildlife, and Agricultural Burning Information

State law requires that you notify the Forestry Commission prior to burning for forestry, wildlife management, or agricultural purposes. This includes burning for wildfire hazard reduction, brush control, endangered species management, wildlife habitat improvement, plant disease control, crop residue removal, and preparation of land for planting trees or agricultural crops. The law also requires that you take

precautions to prevent your fire from escaping. You must have an adequate firebreak around the area to be burned, and you must have enough personnel, tools, and equipment on hand to keep the fire under control at all times. All burning for forestry, wildlife, and agriculture must comply with Smoke Management Guidelines, which may be found at <http://www.state.sc.us/forest/smg05.pdf>.

Land Clearing, Construction, and Other Burning Information

If adjacent to woods, brush, or grassland, State law requires you notify the Forestry Commission before burning construction debris, trade waste, vegetative materials from land clearing or right-of-way maintenance, or any outdoor burning conducted for training purposes. The State notification law does not apply within town or city limits, but certain city ordinances may regulate the burning. All burning of this type must comply with DHEC Regulation 61-62.2.

You need to contact the SC Forestry Commission before you burn at 1-800-777-3473 or 1-800-986-5299 or visit the Commission's website at <http://www.state.sc.us/forest/fireburn.htm>.

[Greenville County Ordinance No. 3201](#)

Ordinance No. 3201 regulates outdoor burning in Greenville County within all platted residential subdivisions or all zoned areas with the exception of the R-S, residential suburban district, or within 200 feet of a platted residential subdivision or applicable zoned area in the County. To obtain a faxed copy of this ordinance call the County Council Office at 864-467-7115. You may also find a copy of this ordinance at <http://www.greenvillecounty.org>, under "County Highlights: Air Quality", click on "Greenville County Outdoor Burning Ordinance." If you have any question, you may also contact your local fire department.

