



What is the Clean Air Partnership?

The Clean Air Partnership of Middle Tennessee is a nonprofit regional air quality outreach program whose steering committee is made up of representatives from the Metro Public Health Department, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, Regional Transit Authority, Metro Transit Authority, American Lung Association, Vanderbilt University, Tennessee Valley Authority, Tennessee Department of Transportation, the Metro Planning Organization, and others. Our goal is to improve air quality by ultimately changing transportation habits and other behaviors that adversely affect our air quality.

In April 2004, the EPA designated all or part of 18 counties in Tennessee as non-attainment for ozone. This means that these areas exceed federal air quality guidelines for ozone. Five of the 18 counties are here in Middle Tennessee: Davidson, Rutherford, Sumner, Williamson, and Wilson. Because officials of these five counties, plus Cheatham, Dickson, and Robertson counties, agreed to work together on an Ozone Early Action Compact, the EPA was willing to defer the effective date of the non-attainment designation. The deferment will remain in effect as long as the eight counties continue to meet the milestones in the Compact and achieve compliance with the ozone standard by the end of 2007. Failing to meet the EAC milestones will result in EPA rescinding the deferment and designating Middle TN as non-attainment.

What comes with the designation of “non-attainment”? Once the EPA designates a county as “non-attainment,” it is subject to transportation conformity and more stringent non-attainment new source review requirements. This means that transportation funds could not be spent on projects that would negatively impact air quality, and that new and modified major industrial air pollution sources would have to meet Lowest Achievable Emission Rate standards and create offsets for increased emissions. So in essence, if Middle Tennessee fails to meet the EAC milestones and reduce ozone levels, we will face serious restrictions on how highway funds are spent and face a negative impact on economic growth in the area.

Health effects from air pollutants are a real threat to respiratory, cardiac, and immune systems for all Tennesseans. You can help your community and your county. We can help you.

For information regarding the Clean Air Partnership of Middle Tennessee, please contact Laura Artates, board chair, at laura@cleanairpartnership.info or Melissa Stevens, communications specialist, at melissa@cleanairpartnership.info. You may also visit our Web site at www.CleanAirPartnership.info, which provides detailed information on transportation options in Middle Tennessee and the small steps you can take to make a difference in our air quality.

Thank you.