



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**NASHVILLE AREA MEETS FEDERAL AIR QUALITY STANDARDS
AHEAD OF SCHEDULE**

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – Local environmental officials are pleased to announce that the Environmental Protection Agency will soon designate the Nashville area as having met federal air quality guidelines for ozone standards ahead of schedule.

Nashville is one of 13 areas to meet ground-level pollution standards under the Early Action Compact at least two years ahead of the date required by the Clean Air Act. In its announcement, the EPA praised the 13 Early Action Compact communities for reducing pollution ahead of schedule and fostering a better, healthier environment for their residents.

Laura Artates, chair of the Clean Air Partnership of Middle Tennessee, emphasized the significance of reducing ground-level pollution ahead of schedule. “By attaining the national ozone standard, we are one of a few areas in the country leading the way for others to take on the challenge of improving their communities,” Artates said. “Residents and community leaders should be very proud of this achievement, and use it to continue the momentum toward cleaner air in Middle Tennessee.”

Leaders from the state and local government, civic organizations and businesses in the Nashville area all worked together to develop and implement air pollution control strategies, account for emissions growth and achieve and maintain the national ozone standard. The Early Action Compact program promotes incentives for local communities to develop new strategies aimed at reducing ground-level ozone pollution, or smog.

The Clean Air Partnership was launched in 2003 to implement the Air Quality alert program and increase public awareness about how our transportation habits contribute to air pollution. They provide a central point of contact for – and promote the use of – alternative transportation resources in Middle Tennessee.

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The Nashville area has been meeting ozone standards since 2005, and a November 2006 preliminary study reported the city was ahead of schedule to reduce ground-level ozone.

“Area employers such as Vanderbilt University, Belmont University, the State of Tennessee and many others have played an important role in helping the area achieve early attainment by offering incentives to employees for riding the bus, carpooling, and riding their bikes to work,” Artates said.

The Clean Air Partnership of Middle Tennessee is a nonprofit organization focused on air quality in the eight-county area that falls under the Nashville-area Early Action Compact agreement (Cheatham, Davidson, Dickson, Robertson, Rutherford, Sumner, Williamson, and Wilson counties). CAP works to encourage lifestyle changes by promoting concepts like carpooling, mass transit, and regular car maintenance. From air alert notices to finding rideshare partners, CAP is a one-stop information source connecting people with the resources they need to make smart transportation choices. Visit the Clean Air Partnership at www.cleanairpartnership.info.

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