

Ozone Action...Good Habits Every Day

(Member Community) can help keep the air cleaner in Southeast Michigan! Ozone Action season begins on May 1 (and runs through September 30).

SEMCOG, the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments, the Ozone Action program administrators, say that ground-level ozone forms when pollutants react with sunlight during the warm days of spring and summer. Many of these pollutants are caused everyday activities. Everyone can prevent pollution by making slight changes in driving, refueling, and household maintenance activities, and can greatly reduce ozone-forming pollution significantly.

Now more than ever, we need to remember that our actions — good habits every day — are very important. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has raised the bar for air quality standards and Southeast Michigan is currently out of compliance. As we work to meet the new standards (a bill was recently signed by Governor Granholm to require a cleaner fuel beginning next summer), we can help by applying the things we do on Ozone Action days to everyday during the summer.

Here are some good habits you can take every day to improve air quality.

- Refuel in the evening and avoid spilling gasoline and topping off the tank.
- Limit long periods of idling. Turn off the engine when you expect a long wait.
- Keep tires properly aligned and inflated.
- Get regular tune-ups to increase engine efficiency and follow the maintenance schedule in your owner's manual.
- Avoid using oil-based paint and household solvents.
- Consider natural gas, propane, or electric grills for barbecuing.
- Try transit or carpooling to work.

Ozone Action days are announced through the media. SEMCOG can notify individuals when an Ozone Action day is called. Please e-mail ozoneaction@semcog.org and let them know that you'd like to be added to the e-mail notification list.

For more easy Ozone Action tips, visit www.semcog.org. Remember to **make Ozone Action tips everyday habits**. Good habits can keep tons of harmful pollutants out of the air we breathe and make our region a better place to live.