

AIR CURRENTS

Wisconsin Partners for Clean Air Newsletter

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WPCA Message from the Chair

Early in the new year is when the Wisconsin Partners for Clean Air calls for annual nominations to recognize the great activities and efforts partner organizations have taken to reduce air emissions and improve the air quality in Wisconsin.

Please consider nominating yourself, someone else or sharing this opportunity with someone you feel would be a good candidate for the awards described below. Event sponsorship opportunity is also requested below.

Dona Wininsky, WPCA Chair

Call For Nominations

Clean Air Recognition Awards

The Wisconsin Partners For Clean Air conducts an annual award recognition to organizations that take voluntary actions to improve air quality during the previous year. The nomination process is easy and the award provides an excellent opportunity to receive positive attention from peers, customers, and the community.

Commuter Champion Award

In addition to the Clean Air Recognition Award, a Commuter Champion Award is also presented. A Commuter Champion is any organization that provides a commuter choice or benefit to their employees. Eligible organizations are not limited to only providing one transportation option. A true champion offers a variety of commuter choices or benefits to their employees.

Clean Air Extravaganza

The Clean Air Recognition and Commuter Champion Awards are both announced at an annual Clean Air Extravaganza event held in late May at a location in southeast Wisconsin. The award nomination process begins in February with a nomination deadline in March. The Recognition Awards are selected by previous award recipients based on several criteria. The Commuter Champion Award is selected by a small committee who utilizes a completed checklist of commuter initiatives along with a brief narrative profile. Nominations for both awards are strongly encouraged to showcase the actions your organization (or an organization you are nominating) is taking to improve Wisconsin's air quality.

Keep eyes posted on our website in early February for nomination material, which will also be mailed directly to WPCA representatives:

www.cleanairwisconsin.org/partnersmad.php.

If you would like to be a **sponsor** to offset event costs or to host the event, please contact Jessica Lawent at

jessica.lawent@wisconsin.gov



EPA Proposes Revised Ozone Standard

On November 25, 2014, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency proposed to strengthen the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for ground level ozone. Ozone is the main component of smog and forms when emissions combine with the sun and is harmful to humans and plants.

EPA is proposing to update the 8-hour standard within a range of 65 to 70 parts per billion (ppb) from the current standard of 75 ppb, but is also taking comment on a range of 60-75 ppb. The Clean Air Act requires that EPA set standards to protect public welfare and to review ambient air quality standards every five years.

Tentative Timeline

Public comment period on the proposed standards ends on March 17, 2015. EPA is expected to make a final decision by October 1, 2015, followed by States and Tribe non-attainment area recommendations in October 2016. If EPA finalizes the proposed ozone rule, non-attainment designations would be made by October 1, 2017, and likely use air quality data from 2014-2016.

For more on EPA's proposal, visit: <http://www.epa.gov/air/ozonepollution/actions.html#nov2014>



Wisconsin Partners for Clean Air

Success Spotlight:

Partner Milestones

Kohl's Department Stores

U.S. EPA 2014 Green Power-Sustained Excellence Leadership Award

Green Power Leadership awards serve to recognize the leading actions of programs, organizations, suppliers and individuals that significantly advance the development of green power sources. Kohl's Department Stores continues to make an impressive commitment to green energy. Since 2009, Kohl's has ranked first on EPA's Green Power Partnership Top Retail list.

For more information about Green Power Leadership, visit:

<http://www.epa.gov/greenpower/index.htm>

SC Johnson & Son, Inc.

U.S. EPA 2014 SmartWay Excellence (Shipper) Award

SmartWay Transport is a program offered to improve efficiency and reduce air pollution in the freight transportation industry. Since 2004, the program has saved 120.7 million barrels of oil (\$16.8 billion in fuel costs), 51.6 million metric tons of carbon dioxide, 738,000 tons of nitrogen oxides, and 37,000 tons of particulate matter.

Roehl Transport, Inc., from Marshfield, WI was also a SmartWay Excellence awardee under the Carrier category.

For more information about SmartWay Excellence Awards, visit:

<http://epa.gov/smartway/about/sw-awards.htm>

For information about SmartWay Transport, visit:

<http://www.epa.gov/smartway/>

Wisconsin Clean Cities

Honored by U.S. Department of Energy

Wisconsin Clean Cities is a nonprofit organization with a mission to reduce the nation's dependence of imported oil and is one of 100 Clean Cities coalitions across the United States. The Wisconsin coalition was honored in December by the U.S. Department of Energy for their 2013 reported displacement of nearly 12 million gallons of petroleum, which averted 55,000 tons of greenhouse gases through the deployment of alternative and renewable fuels, advanced vehicles, and idle reduction. Reported improvements marked an increase of 144% over the prior year. Wisconsin Clean Cities participated in the Wisconsin Clean Transportation Program, which is a four-year initiative aimed to reduce petroleum consumption and emissions in Wisconsin.

For more about Wisconsin Clean Cities, visit:

<http://www.wicleancities.org/>

Want to be featured in the *Air Currents'* Success Spotlight?

Send us your emission and environmental success story.



12th Annual Summit
March 4-6, 2015
at Wisconsin Center, Milwaukee

Sustainability Summit and Exposition Vision

Green enterprise in all of its many aspects, will be a major component of future economic development. Much of the world is now in the early stages of a transition, a transition to economies that are much more conserving, efficient and sustainable. The Sustainability Summit and Exposition recognizes unprecedented opportunities that encourages investment and development in the green sector and will highlight Energy, Water, Business, and the Workforce.

Registration: www.sustainabilitysummit.us

Wisconsin Partners for Clean Air is a coalition committed to improving air quality through voluntary action. Comments, suggestions, and successes, contact: Peter McMullen phone: 414-263-8751 or email: peter.mcmullen@wisconsin.gov