



Hands on Earth Day 2008

Top 10 Things You Can Do to Reduce Global Warming

Burning fossil fuels such as natural gas, coal, oil and gasoline raises the level of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, and carbon dioxide is a major contributor to the greenhouse effect and global warming. You can help reduce the demand for fossil fuels, which in turn reduces global warming, by using energy more wisely. Here are 10 simple actions you can take this Earth Day to help reduce global warming.

1. Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

Do your part to reduce waste by choosing reusable products instead of disposables. Buying products with minimal packaging will help to reduce waste. And whenever you can, recycle paper, plastic, newspaper, glass and aluminum cans. By recycling half of your household waste, you can save 2,400 pounds of carbon dioxide annually.

2. Use Less Heat and Air Conditioning

Adding insulation to your walls and attic, and installing weather stripping or caulking around doors and windows can lower your heating costs more than 25 percent, by reducing the amount of energy you need to heat and cool your home. Turn down the heat while you're sleeping at night or away during the day, and keep temperatures moderate at all times. Setting your thermostat just 2 degrees lower in the winter and higher in the summer could save about 2,000 pounds of carbon dioxide each year.

3. Change a Light Bulb

Wherever practical, replace regular light bulbs with compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulbs. Replacing just one 60-watt incandescent bulb with a CFL will save you \$30 over the life of the bulb. CFLs also last 10 times longer than incandescent bulbs, use two-thirds less energy, and give off 70 percent less heat. If every U.S. family replaced one regular light bulb with a CFL, it would eliminate 90 billion pounds of greenhouse gases, the same as taking 7.5 million cars off the road.

4. Drive Less and Drive Smart

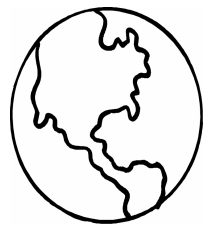
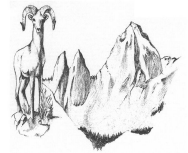
Less driving means less emissions. Besides saving gasoline, walking and biking are great forms of exercise. When you drive, make sure your car is running efficiently. Every gallon of gas you save not helps your budget, it also keeps 20 pounds of carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere.

5. Buy Energy-Efficient Products

When it's time to buy a new car, choose one that offers good gas mileage. Home appliances now come in a range of energy-efficient models. Avoid products that come with excess packaging, especially molded plastic and other packaging that can't be recycled. If you reduce your household garbage by 10 percent, you can save 1,200 pounds of carbon dioxide annually.

6. Use Less Hot Water

Set your hot water heater at 120 degrees to save energy, and wrap it with an insulating blanket if it is more than five years old. Buy low-flow showerheads to save hot water and about 350 pounds of carbon dioxide yearly. Wash your clothes in warm or cold water to reduce your use of hot water and the energy required to produce it. That alone can save at least 500 pounds of carbon dioxide annually in most households. (continued on page 2)



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Environmental Department News

Wilfred J. Nabahe, Environmental Coordinator • Janice McRoberts, Environmental Assistant

Household Hazardous Waste-Put It in its Place

Many products found in your home are potentially hazardous substances. Because of their chemical nature, they can poison, corrode, explode or ignite easily when handled improperly. When discarded, they are considered household hazardous waste. Since they may threaten human health or the environment when improperly disposed of, household hazardous waste collection days are held at the Inyo County Landfill throughout the year. The next collection day is scheduled for June 7, 2008.

It is illegal to dispose of household hazardous waste in the trash, down storm drains or onto the ground. Many common household products are considered household hazardous waste when they are discarded. The following are examples of these products: Adhesives·Latex and oil-based paints·Paint thinners and strippers·Grease and rust solvents·Wood and metal cleaners·Nail polish and removers·Cosmetics·Household polishes and cleaners·Oven cleaners·Drain openers·Lighter fluids·Fungicides and wood preservatives·Insecticides, herbicides and rat poisons·Used oil and oil filters·Fuel Injection and carburetor cleaners·Antifreeze·Batteries. These household hazardous wastes are considered hazardous because they are A) Toxic when ingested, touched or inhaled-even in small quantities B) Flammable C) Corrosive by eating away materials and living tissue by chemical reaction D) Reactive by creating an explosion or producing deadly vapors (e.g. bleach mixed with ammonia-based cleaners).

Improper handling or disposal of products containing hazardous ingredients can result in serious accidents to people and animals, who can be seriously harmed by drinking, eating, touching, or breathing household hazardous wastes. The Environment can also be seriously damaged when groundwater used for drinking or irrigation is contaminated with these waste products that have been poured onto or have seeped into the ground. When possible, buy products with less harmful ingredients (read the label). When using a product, read and follow the label directions, never mix it with other products and use it up entirely. Do not remove product labels, and do not remove products from their original containers.

To properly manage household wastes remember: Reduce by purchasing only the amount you need. Reuse the products by donating unused portions to friends or community organizations. Recycle leftover household hazardous products that are recyclable and dispose of all others by participating in the county waste collection program!

“A Safe House is a Happy House”

(Reducing Global Warming continued from front page)

7. Use the “Off” Switch

Save electricity and reduce global warming by turning off lights when you leave a room, and using only as much light as you need. And remember to turn off your television, video player, stereo and computer when you're not using them. It's also a good idea to turn off the water when you're not using it. While brushing your teeth or washing your car, turn off the water until you actually need it for rinsing. You'll reduce your water bill and help to conserve a vital resource.

8. Plant a Tree

If you have the means to plant a tree, start digging! During photosynthesis, trees and other plants absorb carbon dioxide and give off oxygen. They are an integral part of the natural atmospheric exchange cycle here on Mother Earth, but there are too few to fully counter the increases in carbon dioxide caused by automobile traffic, manufacturing and other human activities. A single tree will absorb approximately one ton of carbon dioxide during its lifetime.

9. Get a Report Card from Your Utility Company

Many utility companies provide free home energy audits to help consumers identify areas in their homes that may not be energy efficient. In addition, many utility companies offer rebate programs to help pay for the cost of energy-efficient upgrades.

10. Encourage Other to Conserve

Share information about recycling and energy conservation with your friends, neighbors and co-workers, and take opportunities to encourage public officials to establish programs and policies that are good for the environment.

These 10 steps will take you a long way toward reducing your energy use and your monthly budget. And less energy use means less dependence on the fossil fuels that create greenhouse gases and contribute to global warming.

Air Quality Department News

Mel O. Joseph, Air Quality Specialist — Justin Raglin, Air Quality Technician

Upcoming Dates to Remember.....

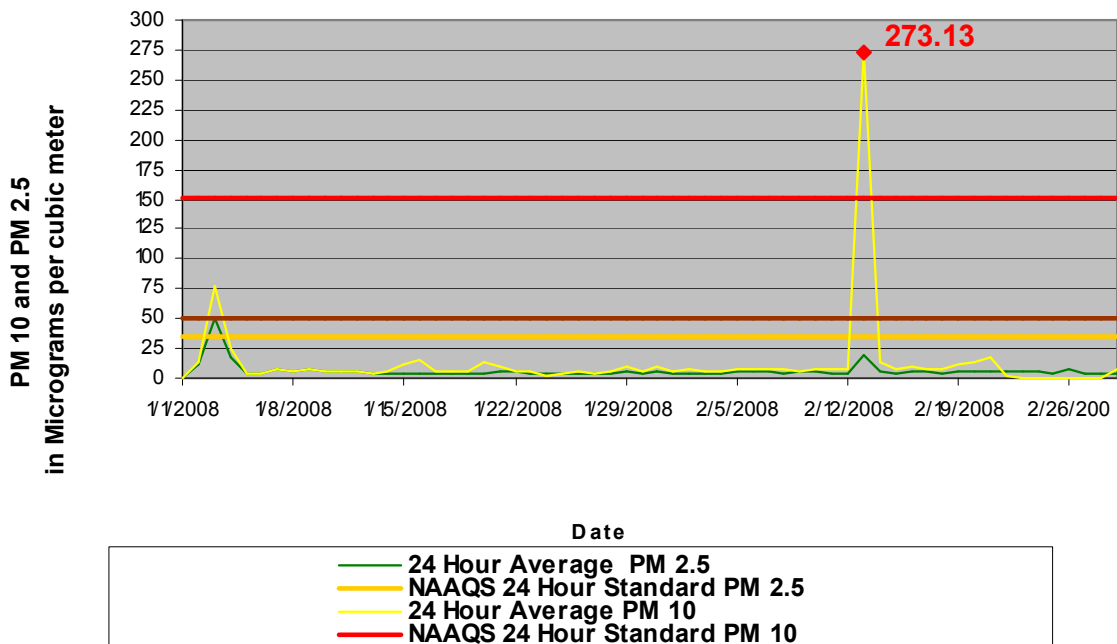
Hazardous Waste collection events at the Lone Pine Landfill:
June 7, 2008
September 20, 2008
December 6, 2008

You can drop off your household hazardous waste between 9:00AM—12:00 Noon.

Lone Pine Landfill Tire Amnesty Day coming in April, stay tuned for more information.

Earth Day Community Road-side clean-up Sunday April 20, 2008 10:00AM—12:00 Noon.

Lone Pine Paiute-Shoshone Reservation Air Quality Data January and February 2008



What is OZONE?

Ozone is found in two regions of the Earth's atmosphere—at ground level and in the upper regions of the atmosphere. Both types of ozone have the same chemical composition (O_3). While upper atmospheric ozone forms a protective layer from the sun's harmful rays, ground level ozone is the primary component of smog. Ground-level ozone is not emitted directly into the air, but forms through a reaction of nitrogen oxides (NO_x) and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in the presence of sunlight. Emissions from industrial facilities and electric utilities, motor vehicle exhaust, gasoline vapors, and chemical solvents are the major man-made sources of NO_x and VOCs. Because sunlight and hot weather accelerate its formation, ozone is mainly a summertime air pollutant. Both urban and rural areas can have high ozone levels, often due to transport of ozone or its precursors (NO_x and VOCs) from hundreds of miles away.

OZONE AND PUBLIC HEALTH—Health effects associated with exposure to ground-level ozone include: Reduced lung function, making it more difficult for people to breathe as deeply and vigorously; Irritated airways, causing coughing, sore scratchy throat, pain when taking a deep breath and shortness of breath; Increased frequency of asthma attacks; Inflammation of and damage to the lining of the lung; Increased susceptibility to respiratory infection; and aggravation of chronic lung diseases such as asthma, emphysema and bronchitis.

OZONE AND THE ENVIRONMENT—Ground-level ozone can have harmful effects on various plants and ecosystems. When sufficient ozone enters the leaves of a plant it can: Interfere with the ability of sensitive plants to produce and store food, making them more susceptible to certain diseases, insects, other pollutants, competition and harsh weather; Visible damage the leaves of trees and other plants, harming the appearance of urban vegetation, national parks and recreation areas; and reduce forest growth and crop yields.

On March 12, 2008, EPA significantly strengthened its national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS) for ground-level ozone. These changes will improve both public health protection and the protection of sensitive trees and plants. The Clean Air Act requires EPA to review the standards once every five years to determine whether revisions to the standards are appropriate. EPA last updated the ozone standards in 1997.

For more information, see EPA's Web site at: <http://www.epa.gov/groundlevelozone>

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*"The Earth is a
spiritual presence that
must be honored, not
mastered"*

-Native American belief



Lone Pine Paiute-Shoshone Reservation

INVITES YOU TO CELEBRATE

EARTH DAY 2008

By Participating in a Community Road-Side Clean-Up Event

WHEN: Sunday April 20th

TIME: 10:00AM - 12:00 Noon

**LOCATION: Meet at the Community Center
(975 Teya Road)**

BBQ Lunch will follow for all participants

Please bring a hat, sunscreen, water bottle and gloves

For more information and to sign-up call the

Environmental Department at 876-4690

MAKE EARTH DAY EVERY DAY !

