NIRPC's Air Quality Education and Outreach Program

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Northwestern Indiana Air Quality

The Region:

- Industrial Manufacturing
- Agriculture
- Commuters
- Diesel vehicles

According to a 2016 EPA Report:

- Indiana ranked 1st out of 56 states/territories for the highest number of toxic releases to air, water and land
- Lake County ranked 9th, Porter 101st, and LaPorte 459th out of 2,423 counties
Individuals DO make a difference

- Transportation is now the leading source of emissions
- Individual choices regarding how we use our cars add up to impact air quality
The Team

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Team Objectives

• Identify & compile human activities that impact air quality

• Prepare a presentation detailing how changes can add up to improve air quality

• Compose a written supplement for presentation to be shared with the NIRPC Environmental Management Policy Committee
South Shore Clean Cities

Initiatives include:

• reducing the nation’s dependence on imported oil
• improving air quality
• supporting local jobs
• driving economic development
• promoting improved quality of life
Recommended Plan of Action

- Increase community education
- Improve air quality, human health, the economy and the environment
- Highlight the benefits of informed decision-making
- Encourage new development in the area
Deliverables & Target Audience

• Webinar and video

• Data to be used for marketing materials for digital and potentially print platforms

• A written supplement for the NIRPC Environmental Management Policy Committee

• Two-fold Audience:
  • The NIRPC EMPC on February 7
  • Public education campaign for the citizens of Lake, Porter & LaPorte counties
Progress & Checkpoints

Meetings
- 1 in-person meeting in October 2018
- Monthly/Bi-monthly conference calls with South Shore & NIRPC

Research
- Finding air quality data & actions to improve it
- Sifting through data for webinar & outreach

Developing Outreach Material
- Webinar & Video to be presented at the EMPC meeting & shared with public
- Written supplement for EMPC and for future marketing by NIRPC
Health Concerns

Ozone, particulate matter, and other pollutants can...

- Irritate the respiratory system
- Inflame lungs and reduce their function
- Make lungs susceptible to infection
- Aggravate asthma, emphysema, and bronchitis
Areas for Action

- Carpool
- Consolidate Trips
- Don’t Idle
- Walk or Bike Short Distances
- Buy Local
Carpool

One person carpooling once a week for a year

- Saves 0.824 metric tons of CO₂
- Saves $216.98 in gas

If 25% of Region workers carpool for one year

68,671 metric tons of CO₂ are saved
(or 14,928 cars off the road)
Consolidate Trips

- Consolidating a typical errand run can save about 0.8 gallons of gas per vehicle
- Doing this every week would remove 0.37 metric tons of CO2 annually from the atmosphere
Don’t Idle

Idling in a drive-through every day in a work week equals
- 18.75 hours spent idling a year
- 5.625 gallons used
- Costs $13.16

Not idling and going inside saves
- About 50 kg CO$_2$ removed from the air
- Which equals 0.01 of a car off the road

If everyone in the Region went inside instead of idling
- 38,204 metric tons CO2 removed from the air
- Which equals 8,301 cars off the road annually
Walk or Bike Short Distances

For distances 5 miles or less

If one person biked/walked instead of driving once a week

- Save up to $27.65 in a year
- 0.105 metric tons of CO₂ less into atmosphere annually
- If everyone in the Region did this, 80,228 metric tons of CO₂ less into the atmosphere (equivalent to 17,440 cars off the road)
Buy Local

- Ingredients for a meal travelled an average of 1,550 miles
- If these ingredients were bought from local sources, they would’ve traveled an average of 45 miles

*to scale
Other Tips

Follow gasoline refueling instructions for efficient vapor recovery
  - Be careful not to spill when refueling and always tighten your gas cap
  - A yellow gas cap means your car can use ethanol, supporting IN corn farmers and the local economy

Be sure your tires are properly inflated
  - Driving on underinflated tires costs about 0.2 percent in efficiency for each one pound of pressure they are under the recommendation
  - Properly inflating your tires can save you as much as 11 cents per gallon on fuel
  - Doing so can save one driver up to $53 each year

Use public transportation when possible and available
On Air Quality Action Days

How you can help...

- Avoid excessive idling of your automobile
- Reduce the number of trips you take in your vehicle
- Work from home to reduce vehicle emissions, if your employer provides the option
Get Notified

Link to sign up for Air Quality Action Day notifications

• https://www.in.gov/idem/airquality/pages/smogwatch/index.htm

For locations in the rest of the US:

• https://www.airnow.gov/index.cfm?action=airnow.main
Conclusion

Through collective action, we can...

- Reduce the overall air pollution in NW Indiana
- Help individuals save money on energy and health bills
- Decrease Indiana’s contribution to climate change
Video
Video
Questions?