

POWER TOOLS:

Did you know mowing your lawn impacts Air Quality?

Did you know that power tools can be a threat to air quality? Often when discussing air quality, vehicle emissions are a hot topic – but few think about the impact of a lawn mower, snow blower, leaf blower, or weed trimmer. Tools such as these have small engines that emit high levels of carbon monoxide and pollutants in the air. These pollutants contribute to the formation of ground-level ozone. In fact, traditional lawn mowers are responsible for 5 percent of the nation's air pollution. It may be hard to believe, but Americans burn 800 million gallons of gas each year tending to their yards.

As summer approaches, and heat begins to increase, please keep in mind the air quality on the days you take care of your lawn. Choose a day when there is a forecast of wind to help push the pollutants from the air. Consider trading in your small engine powered equipment for electrical equipment. Although electrical equipment is an alternative to small engine equipment, the source of the electricity can still cause pollution. Another option is to consider manual tools. Mow your lawn with a push mower, and count the calories burned! Additionally, consider decreasing your lawn area with additional trees, shrubs and water wise plants.

If you choose to continue using small engine powered equipment, please follow these suggestions:

- Avoid spilling gasoline
- Maintain your equipment
- Recycle old equipment
- Sign up to receive an update via email on the air quality status and avoid yellow or red days



UPCOMING EVENTS

July 4th Activities:

Sugar House Arts Festival
9:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
On Highland Drive from Wilmington Avenue to 2100 South
Sponsored by the Sugar House Merchants Association

Sugar House Park Fireworks
6:00 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.
Sugar House Park is located between I-80, 2100 South, 1300 East, and 1700 East
Sponsored by the Sugar House Park Authority

Movie in the Park

July 7: *The Wizard of Oz*, Fairmont Park, 961 East 2361 South
Movies begin at dusk

Many other City events will be held throughout the summer. Visit www.slcityevents.com to join the fun!

FIREWORK SAFETY AND AIR QUALITY

Fireworks are a significant part of a celebration! With July 4th and July 24th approaching, it is important to remember that fireworks impact air quality. When firework shows near their end, smoke circulates through the air. This smoke is made largely of particulate matter (PM) emissions. The young, elderly, and those with respiratory conditions are most impacted by the matter in the air.

In addition to directly impacting air quality, fireworks can cause fires. In certain areas of Salt Lake City, fireworks are banned due to the increased risk of wild fires. Areas restricted from any open fires or fireworks are:

All areas east of Wasatch Drive
All areas east of Virginia Street
All areas north of 11th Avenue
Both sides of City Creek Canyon
North of 500 North behind the State Capitol
All areas east of Beck Street
All areas east of Victory Road
All areas north of 1800 North
All areas west of I-215
All City parks

Fires can substantially impact the air quality in nearby areas due to the PM emissions created with the burn. This matter can also be blown by the wind to various parts of the City, suggesting the need for all to be cautious of fireworks and their potential harm.

Please be aware this summer of the possibilities of air quality impact from fireworks and potential fires.

DISTRICT SEVEN WEEKLY EMAIL UPDATES

Stay informed with the District Seven Weekly Email Update!

Updates include information relating to District Seven concerns, development and planning issues, and events to remember. Visit the District Seven website and sign up for the weekly email at

<http://www.sl.gov.com/council/D7>

Salt Lake City Council

District Seven Community Update

June 2009

CLEAN AIR FOR EVERYONE: BE A PART OF THE SOLUTION

BY SØREN SIMONSEN, SALT LAKE CITY COUNCIL - DISTRICT SEVEN

There are lots of things in life that most of us take for granted. Can you think of any? Does BREATHING come to mind? Most of those who are healthy and active don't worry much about breathing, even on days when our air quality is not healthy. But for a growing number of individuals, air quality is becoming a chronic health problem, and for many is even life-threatening. There are days, particularly in the summer and winter, when even the healthiest of individuals can't go outdoors for a walk or a bike ride in our valley without coughing, shortness of breath, or other noticeable signs that something is terribly wrong with our air.

Salt Lake City has escalated to one of the worst air quality environments in the United States. This not only affects our health, but also our quality of life. Recent reports by advocacy groups at the University of Utah Hospital have reported that over 5% of all deaths in the Salt Lake area—more than 1,000 annually—are attributable to poor air quality. That is more than 20 times the number of deaths due to traffic fatalities, and more than 25 times the number of deaths from violent crimes.

There are three primary sources of pollution in the air: factories and other industrial sources, vehicle emissions, and building emissions. Fortunately, federal regulations have greatly reduced industrial sources of pollution in recent decades, and many of the worst polluting sources that have existed historically in the Salt Lake Valley have been replaced with cleaner industries and new technology. However, as our population grows rapidly, the other two sources are becoming larger threats.

As quickly as our population is growing, the number of trips we take and the distances we drive each day is increasing even more rapidly. Vehicle-Miles Traveled (VMT), which measures the average distance driven by a person or household each day, are increasing at 4 times the rate of population growth. As Salt Lake City considers expansion in to the Northwest Quadrant, and Salt Lake County is planning for new growth on the West Bench, how on earth will we survive the impact to our air quality?

While there is no "One Thing" that will transform and restore our air quality to healthier levels, it is clear that this transformation is one that will involve all of us! So what can you do? Here are a few ideas to get started:

1. Reduce your daily vehicle trips by walking, riding a bike, using transit, or carpooling. Many of the places we visit frequently—schools, parks, shopping centers, churches—are within a half-mile walk or a two-mile bike ride, which is less than five minutes. And longer trips to the office and special events can be taken by transit more often than not. The City is working to add more transit, bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure each day, including additional bike lanes and sidewalk improvements as well as major projects such as the Parley's Trail and the Sugar House Streetcar. Participating in the "Clear the Air Challenge" in June is a fun and motivational way to take the leap or increase your positive impact.
2. Consider a low polluting, high mileage vehicle for your next automobile purchase. Low polluting vehicles include hybrids, clean diesel and electric vehicles. The City Council recently initiated a legislative action to begin development of infrastructure for plug-in vehicles, which are expected to hit the mass production market in the U.S. over the next 12-24 months.
3. Look for ways to reduce your energy use—both electricity and natural gas—at home, office and school. Not only will you save money on your energy bills, but you will be helping to reduce building emissions as well. Both Rocky Mountain Power and Questar have energy conservation rebates and other programs to help you get started. And there are several programs targeted by federal stimulus funding, such as adding insulation to your home. Some of the programs for residences are highlighted in this newsletter. There are programs for businesses too.
4. Make informed choices when purchasing household electronics. Energy consumption data is often located on packaging material, but also easily accessible on a growing number of consumer report websites and publications. The "Energy Star" label is a good indicator.

If you are already doing these things, you're a community leader. Now, become a community organizer by reaching out to family, friends and neighbors to show them how. And keep pushing yourself to do more. This newsletter is filled with ideas, information and resources on how to reduce our air quality impact. Feel free to contact me by phone (801-535-7600) or email (soren.simonsen@slcgov.com) at the City Council office if you have other ideas, or want to share your experiences.

Together we can make a difference. And we'll all be breathing a whole lot easier as we do.



Council Member Søren Simonsen

Photo by Laurie Bray, Photography by Laurie

SALT LAKE CITY SUSTAINABILITY
BY VICKI BENNETT, OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY

Salt Lake City has a long history of caring for its environment since the days of its settlement by Mormon pioneers in 1847. Early settlers were asked by their leaders to plant trees “to make the desert bloom,” feed the populous, and build a strong city. Soon thereafter, water quality and conservation rules were enacted to allow for domestic and agricultural uses. The year 2009 brings new environmental, economic, and societal challenges and the city is committed to taking a hard look at its relationship to the land and environment it occupies and how it impacts the overall quality of life of our residents and visitors.

Salt Lake City has undertaken a ground-breaking Sustainability Community Code Revision Project to incorporate sustainability provisions into its zoning and subdivision ordinances. Appropriate zoning and subdivision regulations can contribute much to making Salt Lake City one of the most sustainable communities in the country. This can be accomplished, for example, by:

- Creating incentives for compact, mixed-use development patterns that reduce the need to drive to work thereby shrinking greenhouse gas emissions;
- Removing barriers to solar and other alternative energy sources that decrease our reliance on foreign oil and also help cut greenhouse gas emissions;
- Promoting alternative means of transportation like bicycling and walking that can improve community health while helping reduce air pollution;
- Protecting trees that absorb greenhouse gases and reduce storm water runoff and pollutants, and

- Encouraging water-conserving landscaping and protecting water resources.

There are three phases to the project:

Phase 1: Identify and summarize current City sustainability goals, policies, and initiatives in key areas such as alternative energy, transportation/mobility, food supply, and community health.

Phase 2: Compare the City’s sustainability goals and policies with the current zoning and subdivision ordinances to identify gaps, weaknesses, and opportunities.

Phase 3: Draft targeted zoning and subdivision ordinance revisions to insert sustainability concepts and provisions.

The first two phases of the project have been completed. The Office of Sustainability will be working on the third phase of the project throughout the next year.

In 2008, the Mayor and City Council passed a joint resolution, committing to reduce the City’s carbon emissions by 20% below 2005 levels by the year 2020. The City also committed to achieving a 50% reduction by 2030, and an 80% reduction in CO2 emissions by 2050. Subsequently, each City department began preparing department-specific Climate Action Plan to address how the department will reduce its emissions by 20% by 2020.

Some of the specific accomplishments by City departments with the greatest impact so far are included in the table below:

Improvement	Year Implemented	Energy Saved Annually	CO2 emissions avoided annually	Dollars Saved Annually
City & County Building Lighting -System Up-grades	2002-2008	0.6 million kwh	278 tons	\$48,000
Traffic Signals-switched to LEDs	2001-2008	1.7 million kwh	789 tons	\$144,500
Blue Sky purchases and PAX Natura offsets			\$1,511 tons (offsets)	(-\$31,100) offset cost
Installation of Co-Generation at Waste Water Treatment Plant	2005	5.8 million kwh	1,346 tons	\$153,400



TAKE THE CHALLENGE AND HELP CLEAR THE AIR
JUNE 1ST TO JULY 10TH

- Goals**
- Eliminate 300,000 vehicle trips
 - Save 1 million miles
 - Reduce 1.8 million lbs. of emissions

ClearTheAirChallenge.org
A Salt Lake Solutions Project

CARPPOOL TO EVENTS | USE MASS TRANSIT | BIKETO THE STORE | TELEWORK

QUESTAR GAS:
REACHING OUT TO IMPROVE EFFICIENCY

Questar Gas is actively reaching out to home owners and residents of Salt Lake City to provide opportunities to increase energy efficiency. Questar provides various rebates including appliance and weatherization rebates. The first step is to complete a Home Energy Audit. There are two options available to complete the audit. (1) In-Home Energy Audit by a Questar Gas technician. For the cost of \$25, a technician will visit your home, conduct the audit, and provide you a report on how to make your home more energy efficient. If your audit recommends certain adjustments to your home, including water-heater blanket, pipe insulation, low-flow shower head and/or faucet aerators, you will be provided these items. Once you have completed the installation of the recommendations, the \$25 audit fee will be credited to your gas account. Or (2), you may conduct a Free Mail-In Audit. The form suggests allotting 30-45 minutes to complete and provides a list of helpful tools to complete the audit efficiently. Once completed, a detailed report will be provided with the items noted above provided, if recommended.

Maintaining your home energy efficiency is one of the many tools home owners and residents can use to promote healthy air quality. As you regulate the temperature in your home, you’re eliminating the increase of pollutants into the air and the creation of harmful ground-level ozone.

To participate in the Questar Audit please visit www.thermwise.com or call 1-800-323-5517.



ROCKY MOUNTAIN POWER:
ENERGY SAVINGS & POWERFORWARD

Rocky Mountain Power provides Home Energy Savings for you to help lower your electricity bills from year to year. You can become eligible to get cash back when you purchase a qualifying clothes washer, refrigerator, dishwasher,

water heater, or lighting. Did you know that after heating and cooling, water heating is the biggest energy user in your home? If your water heater is currently leaking or is more than seven years old, consider replacing it. You can also qualify for a \$50 cash incentive when purchasing a new water heater.

Rocky Mountain Power is also a participant in the PowerForward campaign. The PowerForward mission is to “promote an ethic of energy conservation and efficient use of electricity in Utah homes, businesses, and state-owned buildings.” PowerForward is a public-private partnership sponsored by the Utah Department of Environmental Quality and Utah’s electric utilities. The tool utilized by the PowerForward campaign is a color-coded alert system. Individuals who have signed up to receive alerts are informed of GREEN, YELLOW, OR RED power days.

On Green PowerForward days, normal conservation measures are recommended, such as turning off lights, appliances, and electrical equipment when not in use. On Yellow PowerForward days, extra conservation measures are urged. Individuals are encouraged to reduce electricity as much as possible during peak hours (Noon – 8:00 p.m.). Examples include, using fans instead of air conditioning, cooking in a microwave oven, and running your dishwasher and laundry equipment after 8 p.m. On Red PowerForward days, conservation is critical. It is suggested that all electrical items be left unused except for emergencies, and prepare foods requiring no electricity to prepare.

To learn more about the PowerForward program, and to sign up to receive the alerts, please visit www.powerforward.utah.gov.

Also, visit www.rockymountainpower.net to view incentives and savings related to your monthly Rocky Mountain Power bill.

SEASONAL AIR QUALITY

During the winter months, many people are keenly aware of the possible inversions affecting the City. However, there is a need to be just as aware of pollutants during the summer – in fact, an increased awareness is encouraged.

During the summer, the length of the day is prolonged with more sunlight, heat, and increased time for activity, resulting in potential increases in vehicle pollution, factory emissions, and more physical/outdoor activity. Additionally, there is the possibility of reduced wind activity. Summer is an important time to be aware of the ground-level ozone impact on our breathing.

Ground-level ozone is the area near the earth’s surface (0-10 miles high) and is a harmful pollutant. The ground-layer of ozone is an area we can help control! As members of society, we can take the lead to make a difference. We can choose to decrease vehicle activity, encourage LEED building performance, and become informed of air quality standards in our community.

The ground-level ozone can impair lung function, inhibit plant growth, and contribute to smog. Groups particularly sensitive to the ozone include children who spend time outdoors but may not have fully developed airways; adults exercising outdoors due to the increased breathing efforts; and individuals with respiratory disease – including Asthma. To become informed on daily ground-level ozone levels visit www.airquality.utah.gov and sign up to be notified when the air along the Wasatch Front is approaching unhealthy levels.