

City of Dallas Ozone Plan Update May 1, 2012



Photo: Miguel Casanova





Environmental Policy

The City of Dallas is committed to a clean, safe, and healthy environment. As such, we will exercise environmental stewardship in our dealings with employees, other governments, citizens, City contractors, business and others in the community for our world today as well as for future generations. Caring for the environment is one of our core values, and this is demonstrated by ensuring our activities are in harmony with the natural world around us.

This commitment is embodied by the following actions:

- **Implementation of programs and procedures with an intent to meet or exceed all applicable environmental laws and regulations.**
- **Continual improvement of our environmental performance through proactive environmental management and self-assessments and/or third-party assessments.**
- **Prevention of pollution at its source through implementation of best management practices and resource conservation measures to reuse, reclaim, and recycle materials we generate.**
- **Utilization of Environmental Management Systems, as appropriate for our operations, to provide a framework for systematically reviewing and reducing our environmental footprint.**
- **Employees will abide by all environmental regulations and demonstrate environmental compliance in their daily work practices.**
- **Educate City employees on Dallas' environmental policies and motivate and encourage employees to practice environmental stewardship by raising awareness and sensitivity to environmental issues through City policies, regulations, training, and interactive dialogue.**
- **Outreach to the citizens and businesses of our community by communication of this Policy and education on the importance of environmental stewardship for clean air and water and sustainable development for the City of Dallas.**

**Approved by Dallas City Council
January 26, 2005**

**City of Dallas
Ozone Plan Update
May 1, 2012**

BACKGROUND: On May 23, 2007 the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality adopted revisions to the DALLAS-FORT WORTH EIGHT-HOUR OZONE NONATTAINMENT AREA ATTAINMENT DEMONSTRATION State Implementation Plan (SIP) for the Control of Ozone Air Pollution. The Plan states that “based on photochemical modeling and an evaluation of corroborative evidence, ozone measurements in D-FW will be compliant with the national ambient air quality standard (NAAQS) by June 15, 2010”. Unfortunately, the D-FW region continues to be in non-attainment. The region did not meet the standard in 2010, and the 3-year average was 90 ppb for the 2009-2011 seasons. This is an increase compared to the last six years. The D-FW Plan can be viewed by going to the following website:

http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/assets/public/implementation/air/sip/D-FW/D-FW_ad_sip_2007/Complete_DFW_SIP_for_Webpage_052407.pdf

At this time, the D-FW region will be reclassified as a **serious** non-attainment area for the 1997 8-hour ozone standard and the new attainment date will be set.

On March 12, 2008, EPA significantly strengthened its national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS) for ground-level ozone, the primary component of smog, to a level of 0.075 parts per million (ppm). EPA has also strengthened the secondary 8-hour ozone standard to the level of 0.075 ppm.

On March 10, 2009 the State made its recommendations for designation of areas in Texas to be in attainment, non-attainment, and unclassifiable. This recommendation included the addition of Hood and Wise County to the D-FW non-attainment region.

In addition, EPA has changed the Air Quality Index (AQI) to reflect the new primary standard. The AQI is EPA’s color-coded tool designed for use by state and local authorities to inform the public about daily air pollution levels in their communities.

Category	AQI Value	1997 Standard (85 ppb)	2008 Standard (75 ppb)
Good (green)	0-50	0-64	0-59
Moderate (yellow)	51-100	65-84	60-75
Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups (orange)	101-150	85-104	76-95
Unhealthy for All (red)	151-200	105-124	96-115
Very Unhealthy (purple)	201-300	125-374	116-374
Hazardous (maroon)	301-500	No change	No change

2012 City Ozone Plan

Base Plan: City of Dallas Ozone Action Plan, June 8, 1994

There have been significant changes made to the 2011 plan. This 2012 plan includes year round activities, activities for ozone season, and activities for ozone watch days. The term Ozone Coordinator has been replaced with GreenRide Coordinator.

Three Tiers of the Ozone Plan were developed and every Department should commit to Tier I for implementation throughout the year, Tiers I and II during Ozone Season, and Tiers I, II and III on Ozone Watch Days. This list is a set of guidelines, and departments may choose to do more. The three tiers are outlined below:

2012 City of Dallas Ozone Plan TIER I – For Implementation year Round

TASK	BENEFIT
Department Director's Distribute Ozone Plan to Employees	Educate employees on the Ozone issue in Dallas and the City's efforts to reduce its contribution or request OEQ staff to hold a seminar.
Department Director's Assign One Contact Person (GreenRide Coordinator) for Ozone Plan	Ensure Ozone Plan is implemented within the department and a single contact person for reporting and notifications.
Report tracking of alternative commutes through GreenRide	Allows City to estimate vehicle emissions reduced
Change hours of operation in all departments, as feasible, to reduce Employee Miles Traveled (EMT) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8/80 schedule • 9/80 schedule • Flextime • 10-7 schedule • Other 	Reduces amount of vehicle emissions during the week and during peak commute times. Reduction of ozone precursors before 10:00 a.m. has been shown to reduce the potential for ozone build-up in the afternoon. It is preferred to implement at least one option.
Prohibit idling City vehicles	Reduces vehicle emissions, fuel waste. saves money
Refuel gasoline vehicles later in the afternoon; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After 3:00PM when possible • Do not top off tanks 	Reduces emissions generated from fueling activities
Utilize Teleconferencing for meetings when possible	Reduces amount of vehicle emissions while commuting to meetings
Car pool to meetings	Reduces amount of vehicle emissions
Cancel all non-essential vehicle trips	Reduces amount of vehicle emissions

2012 City of Dallas Ozone Plan
TIER II – Mandatory for City Departments during Ozone Season
(April-Oct*)

TASK	BENEFIT
OEQ Department GreenRide Coordinator will “announce” Ozone Watch/Warning Days through the City’s email service.	Ensures that department GreenRide Coordinators and other interested parties are consistently notified when the level of Ozone is predicted to be unhealthy, and when ozone reaches an unsafe level during the day.
Department GreenRide Coordinator notifies department personnel on Watch and Warning Days	Consistently notifies department employees when ozone generation is reaching unhealthy levels.
Schedule meetings after 10:00AM	Reduces amount of vehicle emissions during commute times
Encourage the use of alternative commutes for lunch	Reduces Amount of Vehicle Emissions
Allow employees to park fleet vehicles at home	Reduces vehicle miles traveled, fuel consumption, and emissions
Complete mowing by 7:30 or postpone start until after 10 am	Reduces emissions during peak commute hours
Minimize the frequency of office supply orders	Reduces vehicle miles traveled, fuel consumption, emissions

* Tier II may need to be implemented earlier in the year if the D-FW region experiences high ozone levels before April.

2012 City of Dallas Ozone Plan
TIER III –Ozone Watch Days

TASK	BENEFIT
Allow designated employees to telework	Reduces Amount of Vehicle Emissions during Commute Times
Prohibit mowing and reschedule for another date	Reduces emissions
Schedule construction outside of peak commute times	Prevents traffic, reduces emissions to the atmosphere during peak commute times
Restrict vehicle repair that requires idling engines until after 10 am	Reduces NOx and VOCs emitted
Restrict the use of diesel equipment or items containing VOCs until after 10 am	Reduces NOX and VOCs emitted
Reduce or Eliminate other Activities that create Vehicle and/or Other VOC/NOx Emissions	Allow Department Flexibility and Creativity to Reduce NOx and VOC Emissions

For questions or comments about the Ozone Action Plan, please contact the Office of Environmental Quality at 214-670-1200