

How to Reduce Ground Level Ozone

BUSINESSES

Businesses can play an important role in reducing the formation of ground level ozone. Several of the suggested actions below are simple and easy to implement.

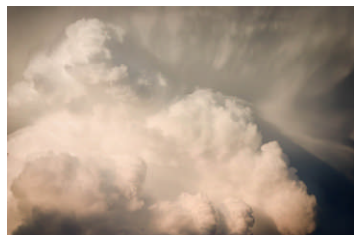


Photo Credit: Tasha Barnett – Sundre

Corporate Operations

- Take a green approach to construction or renovation of your office building (using alternative energy or maximizing energy efficiency) or using low emitting construction materials and paint.
- Chose more environmentally friendly chemicals, paints, varnishes, solvents, cleaning fluids, pesticides in the operation of your business (e.g., drycleaning, vehicle body repair, landscaping and pest control businesses).
- Reduce your company's emissions from stacks, compressors, storage tanks, etc.
- Request or require that contractors use pollution-prevention practices, such as
 - low-volatile organic compounds (VOC) printing processes, which also result in sharper copy
 - no-idling practices which result in reduced fuel costs
 - low VOC painting products
 - recycling, which results in less energy-generation pollution

Corporate Vehicles and Transportation

- Use cleaner diesel fuels in fleet vehicles.
- Service fleet vehicles regularly (tune-ups, oil changes and proper tire inflation reduce emissions and save money).
- Convert fleet vehicles to or replace with alternative powered vehicles.
- Scrap old fleet vehicles in Canada's "Retire Your Ride" vehicle recycling program. (ending March 31, 2011)
- Initiate a company wide policy on idling durations for fleet vehicles and a no-idling policy for vehicles on company property.
- Encourage employees to share rides, carpool or take public transit.
- Sponsor on-site transportation assistance.
- Create preferred parking for car pool, van pool riders.
- Offer staff a pre-tax deduction or other subsidy for the purchase of transit services.
- Offer employees flexible work schedules or compressed work weeks to help reduce traffic.
- Use conference calls to avoid travel.

Corporate Culture

- Educate employees about ozone formation and the importance of reducing emissions.
- Provide a company-wide incentive plan for actions employees take to reduce ozone; incentives such as giveaways, e.g. free transit cards or movie theatre tickets are great ways to encourage staff to participate.
- Provide attractive incentives for staff to find new technological advances to reduce emissions.

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INDIVIDUALS

There are many simple actions individuals can take to reduce the formation of ozone.

Your Home

- Insulate and weather strip your home.
- Put in energy saving windows, high efficiency furnace and water heater.
- Turn off lights, appliances, computers when not in use.
- Run the dishwasher and wash machine only when fully loaded.
- Look for the ENERGY STAR label when buying home or office equipment.
- Use environmentally safe paints, cleaning products and pesticides whenever possible.
- Avoid burning leaves, trash and other materials.
- Consider using gas logs instead of wood.
- Reduce or eliminate fireplace and wood stove use.
- Avoid using gas-powered lawn and garden equipment.
- Landscape with native plants.
- Read labels for proper use and disposal of household and garden chemicals.



Food for Thought

If drivers in Canada avoided unnecessary idling for three minutes a day, we would save over \$630 million per year (assuming a fuel cost of \$1/litre) and also prevent 1.4 tonnes of CO₂ from entering the atmosphere. This would be equivalent to taking 320,000 cars off the road for an entire year.

Your Vehicles

- Stop unnecessary idling of your vehicle.
- Scrap your old vehicle in Canada's "Retire Your Ride" recycling program and receive rewards. (ending March 31, 2011)
- Replace your old car with a hybrid fuel efficient car.
- Reduce trips by combining errands in one trip wherever possible.
- Car pool.
- Use public transportation, bike or walk whenever possible.
- Take advantage of alternative work arrangements such as telecommuting, flex time, compressed work weeks.
- Don't top up the gas tank.
- Keep your car, boat and other engines properly tuned.

Your Community

- Learn more about ground level ozone.
- Spread the word to your friends and family about what they can do to help.
- Organize an Ozone Awareness Day in your community.