

Tips for Reducing Ozone Formation

- **Be informed on local air quality and the air pollution reduction services available in your area:**
 - Subscribe to EnviroFlash at <http://www.enviroflash.info/signup.cfm> to receive information on your local air quality. These forecasts will help your community to take the necessary precautions when ozone is predicted to be unhealthy (e.g., high ozone days).
 - Post the air quality forecasts to your website and provide a link to EnviroFlash so your staff, residents and organizations can get their own air quality forecast.
 - Coordinate with your applicable Transportation Management Associations (TMAs). To find out which TMA your area is affiliated with, go to <http://www.state.nj.us/transportation/commuter/rideshare/tma.shtm>.
- **Turn off that engine!**
 - Minimize idling of your vehicles and equipment, which wastes fuel. Ten seconds of idling uses more fuel than turning a vehicle's engine off and on.
- **Maintain a top-rate, energy efficient fleet.**
 - Keep vehicle tires properly inflated to increase your gas mileage, thereby reducing the amount of smog-forming pollutants emitted from your engine.
 - Keep vehicles and heavy equipment properly tuned to increase engine efficiency, thereby reducing emissions of smog-forming pollutants.
 - Make sure to get vehicles inspected on schedule.
- **Be smart at the fuel pump.**
 - When refueling vehicles, stop at the click (when the nozzle clicks off) and don't overfill or drip fuel.
 - Tighten gas caps securely.
 - Refuel vehicles and equipment in the late afternoon or after dark to reduce evaporative ozone-forming pollutants.
- **Develop good driving habits.**
 - Combine errands and trips in the vehicle to reduce "cold starts".
 - Maintain the speed limit.
 - Choose a cleaner commute — car pool, use public transportation, bike or walk when possible.
- **Raise your thermostat.**
 - Keep the thermostat at a reasonable temperature in the summer¹, and use timed thermostats that increase the temperature even further when cooling isn't needed. This reduces the load on power plants to keep up with demand, thereby reducing the amount of ozone-forming pollutants they emit.
- **Reschedule grounds keeping and maintenance activities:**
 - Minimize grounds keeping work that involves power equipment (mowing, edging, mulching, trimming) on high ozone days, or reschedule that work to take place on good air quality days.
 - Check labels on paints and cleaning products and buy no- or low- VOC products when possible.
 - Use water-based paints and cleaning products instead of solvent-based ones where possible. If you have to use solvent-based products, limit their use to after dark.
 - If you periodically test emergency generators, do the testing on good air quality days or during off-peak hours to the extent possible (i.e., early evening).

¹ The US Department of Energy recommends lowering the thermostat setting to 78°F (26°C) only when you need cooling. See <http://energy.gov/energysaver/articles/thermostats> for more information.