

5 TONS PER DAY!

Clean Air Counts will result in reducing pollution by five (5) Tons a day.

Clean Air Counts is a northeastern Illinois regional initiative to reduce ozone-causing emissions, thereby improving air quality and enabling economic development.

It is a collaborative effort between the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus, City of Chicago, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5, and Illinois Environmental Protection Agency. This multi-year initiative seeks to achieve specific and significant reductions in targeted smog-forming pollutants and major reductions in energy consumption.

This program will reduce costly health problems caused by air quality and demonstrate a voluntary approach to air quality improvement.

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CBS 2 Features Clean Air Counts Business Leaders and Billboard Campaign

On Monday June 19th, CBS CHICAGO featured Clean Air Counts Business Leaders and Billboard Campaign.

The story begins with a group of grown adults and successful executives made human pyramids at the beach.

CBS 2's Jon Duncanson explains why Chicago executives traded in their business suits for beachwear.

As it turns out, it wasn't just a reward for increasing the bottom line. It was for a job well done that could benefit us all. The group represented corporations that are staking a step toward saving the earth.

For example, Traci Munno, who fell from the top of a human pyramid on Monday, oversaw

an eco-friendly renovation at Lincoln Mall in Matteson. The renovation included improve-



Business Leaders Make Human Pyramid

ments such as swapping incandescent lighting for energy-efficient fluorescent lighting. So far, the change has prevented 197 lbs. of pollutants from going into the air and has also saved the mall some money.

"I think that it's important to have a raised consciousness clean air, efficiencies, and of course, there's a cost factor that is involved," she said. It's a part of Clean Air Counts.

The non-profit group works to get corporations and individuals to use simple strategies to cut air pollution. The Metropolitan Mayors Caucus coordinates the program.

To see the clip and read the full story, please visit http://cbs2chicago.com/business/local_story_170170130.html

The Cost of Joining Clean Air Counts

So you're interested in having your community join the Clean Air Counts Campaign but aren't sure about the time and financial commitments on your staff and resources. Well, here's what some of your colleagues estimate participating in the Campaign costs them in staff time.

Most municipalities estimate 20 to 25 hours to develop a resolution supporting Clean Air Counts, implement a residential outreach campaign, and submit the application for Bronze level designation. Even at the Bronze level, communities are eligible to re-

ceive Clean Air Counts grants.

A gas can replacement program or a lawn care buyback event can take between 25 and 50 hours to plan and host, depending on the size of your community. Analysis shows that it takes approximately one hour of staff time per thousand residents to plan and hold a successful lawn care/gas can event.

Municipalities participating in Clean Air Counts are encouraged to institute ongoing residential notification and information programs. Clean Air Counts provides sample newsletter

articles and press releases municipalities can use on their websites and in their publications. Providing information to residents on air quality issues and ways to save energy takes about 7-10 hours of staff time per year.

Remember, when you apply for a Clean Air Counts grant, the Campaign will cover the labor costs of staff needed to implement the project, whether it's a gas can replacement event or installing a diesel oxidation catalyst on a street sweeper. For more information on Clean Air Counts contact Eve Pytel at 312-201-4506. •

Energy efficient lighting and ENERGY STAR® office equipment provide alternative resources and management systems for light design and controls, light bulbs and office equipment in order to reduce energy usage. Effective programs save money on utility bills and maintenance costs while reducing the levels of fossil fuel emissions at power plants.

Energy efficient buildings and homes ensure optimum utilization of heating and cooling for air and water through improved insulation and other tactics. This results in greater building comfort, lower utility costs and reduced levels of fossil fuel emissions at power plants.

Low VOC paints, cleaning products and building materials are cost competitive, as effective as traditional products, create less eye and respiratory irritation and reduce emissions of smog-forming VOCs into the atmosphere.

Natural landscaping uses native plants, wildflowers and grasses to landscape around large properties. It significantly reduces maintenance costs and virtually eliminates the tons of VOCs emitted into the air by lawn mowers and other maintenance equipment.

Workforce transportation options provide alternative methods to reduce the number of commuters driving alone to work. These strategies improve worker productivity, and, in some cases, offer tax benefits to both employers and employees.

Diesel retrofit programs use retrofit technologies and cleaner fuels or additives to reduce emissions of soot, smog-forming pollutants and other toxic air pollution from diesel-powered vehicles.

Baxter Healthcare Hosts February Clean Air Counts Breakfast Forum On Energy Policy and Efficiency

On February 4th, 2006 50 businesses, energy experts, and officials joined the Clean Air Counts Lake Cook Partnership to discuss energy policy and energy efficiency at the Baxter Campus. The program, coordinated by John Golec, Clean Air Counts Lake Cook Partnership Project Manager, featured key note speaker Brad Fuels, presentations on implementing energy efficiency strategies by business leaders and a panel discussion moderated by John Novinson, Village Manager of Northbrook.

Brad Fuels is the managing Principal of Progressive Energy Solutions LLC and President of Northern Illinois Energy Users. He discussed Planning for Energy Policy Changes Affecting Businesses at the February business forum.

Mr. Fuels's presentation specifically discussed ways that proposed legislation could impact energy issues that can make or break businesses plans and impacts for energy efficiency, monitoring and management. Businesses that had implemented energy efficiency plans discussed what they had done to save energy and reduce money spent on energy.

Tom Plating of Jones Lang LaSalle/Hewitt Associates, Jim Hall of Baxter Healthcare, and Randy Damrow of Underwriters Laboratories discussed their energy efficiency strategies.



Doug Bushing, Randy Damrow, Tom Plating, Brad Fuels, John Golec and John Novinson

Clean Air Counts was pleased to have the business leaders discuss their strategies because energy efficiency also has the power to greatly improve air quality. In fact, re-

sults from 2005 Clean Air Counts analysis show the greatest air pollution improvements from businesses resulted from greater energy efficiency. •



Kate Agasie, Director of Environmental Initiatives at the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus presented John Novinson, Village Manager of Northbrook with a Clean Air Counts Leadership Award at the forum. John Novinson has been a leader in the Clean Air Counts Campaign by working with businesses and many facets of programming in Northbrook to achieve air quality improvements. Northbrook is one of six cities that participates in Clean Air Counts on the Silver level. Clean Air Counts thanks John Novinson for his dedication in helping to Make a Visible Difference.

DUPAGE COUNTY WELCOMES CLEAN AIR COUNTS AT KICKOFF EVENT AT MCDONALD'S CORPORATION

DuPage County launched their Clean Air Counts Demonstration Corridor with a kick off event at Hamburger University located at the McDonald's Corporation in Oak Brook planned by LEED Council staff.

The event was attended by more than 40 people representing businesses, municipalities, and institutions in DuPage County as well as Clarisol Duque, Chicago Director for Senator Durbin, Mayor Thomas J. Murawski of Midlothian and Mayor Gayle Smolinski of Roselle.

Keynote speaker County Board Chairman Robert J. Schillerstrom said, "Ensuring a safe and clean environment is the greatest gift we can leave future generations. This partnership is an excellent example of both the public and private sector coming together to make a difference in our community and region."

Schillerstrom's speech was followed by Nancy Fishman, Executive Director of the Grand Victoria Foundation, which has donated a million dollars to the Clean Air Counts campaign and is specifically funding the DuPage County Clean Air Counts program.

Kate Agasie, Director of Environmental Initiatives at the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus explained how the campaign improved air quality, benefits of participation and how to get started improving air quality. This was followed by Kyle Schott of the McDonald's Corporation who discussed their use of native landscaping, their employee shuttle, and their commitment to explore creating bio diesel with French fry grease. Kieth Bodger, of Nicor, announced their air pollution reduction of over 300 lbs and plans to expand their Clean Air Counts pro-

gramming.

DuPage County can gain a lot from participating in Clean Air Counts. With a population approaching 1 million people and over 700,000 jobs, DuPage County is the second 2nd most populous county in the state of Illinois and historically one of the fastest growing.

The County's business community is diverse, with major employers consisting of the manufacturing, retail, government, warehousing and distribution, and health care industries. Additionally, the County is home to more than 150 million square feet of industrial space and over 50 million square feet of office space. There are many opportunities for Clean Air Counts to make as visible difference in DuPage County. •



Kyle Schott learns first hand how much more energy is needed to light incandescent light bulbs than compact fluorescent light bulbs. Photo by Lisa Winn



Nancy Fishman, Mike McMahon, David LeBretton, Kate Agasie, Clairisol Duque, Mayor Gayle Smolinski, Mayor Murawski (from left to Right). Photo by Lisa Winn.



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*Field Museum
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Teachers, Ms. Gnatt and Ms. Gresham, plan to do further projects to calculate energy and money savings of upgrading lighting and appliances in the school and in students' homes, and will encourage the school administration and the students' parents to make some of these positive changes.

CAC staff look forward to participating in more educational opportunities; by getting children involved, we hope to instill these positive attitudes that they will carry through their lives. Additionally, our hope is that when these students go home, they tell their parents all that they've learned about ways they can reduce their indoor and outdoor air pollution, and encourage them to take some actions in their home. •

Clean Air Counts Adopter Spotlight/Prime Group Realty Trust

Prime Group Realty Trust has taken a leadership role in promoting green building practices to their tenants, visitors and colleagues at the 77 West Wacker location in downtown Chicago.

Since their implementation of a green cleaning program in 2004 in partnership with Clean Air Counts, Prime Group has made great strides in communicating the importance of a healthy building and a healthy environment. While reducing their own environmental footprint, they've also seen reduced costs for cleaning products and waste management expenses.

Last month, Clean Air Counts joined Prime Group for their environmental awareness week. Together, Clean Air Counts and Prime Group talked

Wheel of Counts (seen here), participants received Clean Air Counts prizes such as energy efficient light bulbs, reusable microfiber cloths, native plant seed packets and informational paint supplies.

On Earth Day, 77 West Wacker was named the winner of Mayor Daley's "Clean Your Files Week" recycling competition. They accepted the award in Daley Plaza as part of Chicago's



Elise Zelechowski and Kevin Dick celebrate Earth Month with Prime Group Realty Trust. Tenants of 77 W Wacker Drive Chicago spun the Clean Air Counts Wheel of Counts to win prizes that improve air quality.

with tenants and visitors about the importance of a healthy environment and good air quality in our region. Using our

Earth Day festivities. •

5TH/3RD BANK REDUCES POLLUTION BY 694.87 LBS

In 2004, 5th/3rd Bank joined the Clean Air Counts Campaign prior to their major expansion in Chicagoland. The Clean Air Count Campaign produced low VOC paint specs for the business for use in two of their new Chicago locations to pilot the use of low VOC paints. VOC stands for volatile organic compound.

Volatile organic chemicals (VOCs) are emitted as gases from certain solids or liquids. VOCs include a variety of chemicals, some of which may have short- and long-term adverse health effects.

Concentrations of many VOCs are consistently higher indoors (up to ten times higher) than outdoors.

VOCs are emitted by a wide array of products numbering in the thousands. Examples include: paints and lacquers, paint strippers, cleaning supplies, pesticides, building materials and furnishings, office equipment such as copiers and printers, correction fluids and carbonless copy paper, graphics and craft materials including glues and adhesives, permanent markers, and photographic

solutions.

Fortunately, there are many low VOC and no VOC alternatives that the Clean Air Counts Campaign can help you use, just like 5th/3rd Bank. In two locations 5th/3rd Bank used Sherwin Williams Promar 200 latex egg-shell paint. The low VOC non-flat paint has VOC ratio of 144 grams per liter. For more information log on to www.cleanaircounts.org or contact Clean Air Counts. •

Nicor Gas wins 2006 Environmental Excellence Stewardship Award

Clean Air Counts is pleased to announce that Clean Air Counts member Nicor Gas will receive the Southern Gas Environmental Excellence Award for Stewardship at the Opening Session of the SGA Environmental, Safety & Training Conference June 28, 2006, at the Renaissance Worthington Hotel in Fort Worth, Texas. The project was installed by Clean Air Counts Member Pizzo & Associates, Inc.

Nicor Gas is receiving the award for their 2005 prairie restoration at their Elgin report-

ing facility, a small industrial park setting on a major road surrounded by single family homes and adjacent to a commuter train station.

This project is an approximate seven-acre prairie restoration from regular turf-grass to native landscape. The prairie restoration reduces air pollution by 150 pounds and encourages biodiversity. The native landscape attracts insects (from butterflies to bees), many of which evolved as part of the tallgrass prairie ecosystem, and the insects will attract spiders

and birds. The seeds and insects will attract small ground animals and will provide shelter for larger mammals (rabbits and foxes). This may lead to larger birds of prey visiting the site.

By removing the lawn, grub-eating animals, such as skunks and raccoons, may no longer find their meals at this location. To foster an appreciation for prairies and birds, Nicor Gas may involve children on this project by having them construct and install birdhouses throughout the prairie. By constructing houses of certain sizes

and shapes, specific species will be drawn to the area. This site will be considered as a community outreach program in 2006 and beyond. •



Keith Bodger of Nicor Gas discusses Clean Air Counts with business leaders at the DuPage County Event

Clean Air Counts for Children at the Field Museum

The Field Museum's commitment to educating kids about science extends far beyond the physical walls of the Museum. Their conservation programs in Calumet, coupled with their "Earthforce" partnerships with several South Chicago schools, allow them to work directly with communities to address environmental issues. So, when the Field Museum joined Clean Air Counts (CAC) this March, they were interested in much more than greening the Museum campus.

CAC staff from the Center for Neighborhood Technology (CNT) have been partnering with the Field Museum on some of these educational opportunities. CAC taught three half-hour classes to seventh and eighth grade students from Taylor and Jane Addams Schools at Calumet Stewardship Day on Wednesday, May 10, at William Powers State Park (Wolf Lake).

During these classes, the students learned about the chemical components of smog, their

sources, and the health effects related to smog.

Heavy industry, a major economic engine in the region, sits

links between turning off lights and appliances in their house when not in use, and making a visible difference by reducing pollution.



Students make low VOC window cleaner

across lake Michigan, visible from where the class was being held,—this juxtaposition of heavy pollution next to a pristine park provided an apt setting for learning about the role air pollution plays in your daily life. Indeed, students in Calumet are accustomed to such views, and quickly grasped the

In addition to learning about smog outside, the students also participated in a hands-on activity, making their own low-VOC window cleaner by combining vinegar, a splash of dish soap, and water together in a reusable spray bottle. Nontoxic, inexpensive and reusable, using these window cleaners instead of typi-

cal brands can help these kids improve indoor air quality at home and at school.

CAC has also developed a relationship with Mireles School in South Chicago. Here, CAC taught two classes two-hour lessons on air pollution and positive actions students can take at home and at school to reduce their contribution.

Like the students at Calumet Stewardship Day, the Mireles students made their own low-VOC window cleaner, and plan to make more of for janitors at their school to use. In addition, the students learned how to calculate the money saved over the lifetime of a compact fluorescent bulb, as opposed to using incandescent bulbs. Several of the students had heard of CFLs and even had a couple in their homes, but were not aware of just how much money and energy they were saving!

(Continued on page 4)

Clean Air Counts Bio Diesel Trolley Tour of Chicago LEED Platinum Certified Buildings

On Thursday May 25, the Center for Neighborhood (CNT) and the Delta Institute hosted a tour of LEED platinum certified buildings in Chicago.

The tour was attended by environmental professionals, developers, realtors, facilities managers and contractors.

The tour began at CNT where Lisa Bennet discussed what



The Rain Garden at CNT. All Photos by Lisa Winn

CNT did to become a LEED certified building. She focused on

paints, building materials, compost, facilitating bicycling and taking transit to work, energy efficiency and the rain garden.



On the Trolley

After touring CNT, the group then took a Bio Diesel trolley to the Center for Green Technology.

En route, Elise Zelechowski discussed the LEED rating system and Clean Air Counts. She then lead the group on a tour of the Center for Green

Technology featuring Clean Air



Looking at the Green Roof Exhibit

Counts strategies like Energy Efficiency, Native and Natural Landscaping, Low VOC paints and building materials, and encouraging bicycling and transit usage in addition to green roofs and solar panels.

After touring the Center For Green Technology, Greenmaker Supply Store hosted a reception.

Greenmaker is a one-stop shop for energy intelligent, environmentally sensitive and healthy

building materials. It is a wholesale and retail supplier serving homeowners and the building and design community. •



At Greenmaker Supply Store

Relevant Links:

www.cleanaircounts.org
www.epa.gov
www.ci.chi.il.us/Environment/GreenTech/
www.cnt.org
www.greenmakersupply.com

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