



# Ozone Early Action Plan

## Northern Shenandoah Valley

An Information Publication of the  
Northern Shenandoah Valley Air Quality Improvement Task Force

### ISSUE

In January 2001, EPA identified Winchester and Frederick County in non-attainment for the new 8-hour ozone emission standard. This new designation places restrictions and requirements on the entire community, governments, businesses and citizens. In November 2002, EPA created guidance for the Ozone Early Action Plan, which is a local drive voluntary air quality improvement alternative for localities facing non-attainment for the new standard. Winchester and Frederick County entered into this alternative in December of 2002. If successful, this plan would cease related federal requirements in 2007, instead of 2031 during traditional non-attainment.

### MILESTONES

December 31, 2002	EAC Signed
June 16, 2003	List of Candidate Local Control Measures
June 30, 2003	Progress Report
January 31, 2004	Prelim. EAP Submitted & Local Emission Reduction Strategies Selected
March 31, 2004	Final Revisions to Local Emission Reduction Strategies Completed Submission of Final EAP
December 31, 2004	EAP adopted

### POTENTIAL LOCAL CONTROL MEASURES

Local, State and regional sources contribute to the issue of ozone, as such control measures from all levels will be required to make the Early Action Plan a success. One of the first milestones in this process includes compiling a preliminary list of candidate local control measures. Throughout the process, volunteer controls related to Ozone reductions have been stressed as perhaps playing the most significant role in the success of our EAP. Therefore, significant public relations activities are a must. Some measures under consideration by the Task Force include:

**Implement an Ozone Action Day Program** which would be implemented on days when ozone levels are predicted to approach violation levels. Typically, the programs consist of public outreach through media, Internet and other public service vehicles to encourage a variety of emissions reduction strategies.

**Impose Engine Idling Restrictions** on heavy duty diesel engines since they are large emitters of NOX (nitrogen oxides) a key component of ozone. Reduction of heavy vehicle NOX emissions will largely be accomplished through national engine and fuel technological improvements.

**Promoting Retrofitting Diesel Engines** in both public and business vehicles.

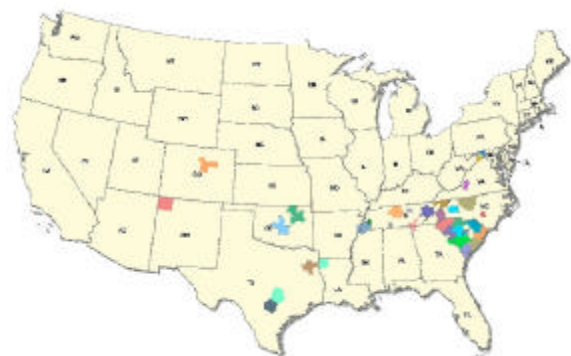
**Create Land Use Programs** which promote transit oriented development and walkable communities.

**Promote Bicycling and Walking** understanding this activity results in minimum significant reduction.

**Encourage Voluntary Measures** like no open-field burning, refueling vehicles & mowing lawns at night.

### OTHER EARLY ACTION PLANS

Over 35 Early Action Plans have been initiated. Locally, Berkeley & Jefferson Counties, West Virginia, Roanoke MSA, Virginia and Washington County, Maryland all are progressing with the locally driven voluntary Early Action Plan process.





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## OUR STRATEGIC VISION

### **Our Mission**

The mission of the Northern Shenandoah Valley Air Quality Improvement Task Force (Task Force) is seeking to accelerate the improvement of our community's and region's air quality for long-term vitality and prosperity for the entire community, governments, businesses and citizens alike.

The Task Force will proactively research, write and submit for approval an Early Action Plan, (EAP), for the Winchester-Frederick County community.

### **Additionally:**

The Task Force will solicit the participation and cooperation of surrounding communities in the formulation of the EAP and a broader overall air quality initiative.

The Task Force will be civil in its discussions, remain open to differing views, and strive to balance environmental, business, and civic (i.e. public health) concerns.

The Task Force will actively pursue any and all federal and state programs and grants to help defray the costs to participating communities.

### **By doing so:**

A true regional ozone air quality compact might be realized and future regional air quality initiatives can be explored.

A method of accurate air quality monitoring and continuous air quality improvement can be maintained.

Our community's and the region's character, public health, quality of life, natural environment, economic vitality, and future prosperity can be assured.

## TASK FORCE

The Task Force of the Northern Shenandoah Valley Region is a collection of diverse group of stakeholders, including government, business and environment interest.

- Winchester City Common Council
- Frederick County Board of Supervisors
- Winc.-Fred. County Economic Development Commission
- Virginia Dept. of Environmental Quality
- US Environmental Protection Agency
- Winc.-Fred. Chamber of Commerce
- Northern Shenandoah Valley Petroleum Council
- National Stone, Sand and Gravel Association
- Sierra Club - Virginia Chapter
- National Park Service
- Lord Fairfax Environmental Health District
- At-Large Physician
- Virginia Initiative to Save & Improve our Communities
- Clarke County (*Regional Participant*)
- Shenandoah County (*Regional Participant*)
- Berkeley County (*Regional Participant*)
- Winchester City Department of Planning
- Frederick County Planning & Development
- Northern Shenandoah Valley Regional Comm.
- Virginia Dept. of Transportation
- Winchester City Econ. Redevelopment
- Shenandoah Valley Manufacturers Association
- Regional Printing Institute
- Potomac Conservancy
- Piedmont Environmental Council
- Shenandoah National Park
- American Lung Association of Virginia
- Valley Health Systems
- Community Consensus Coalition
- Warren County (*Regional Participant*)
- Jefferson County, WV (*Regional Participant*)