

Environmental News Brief

Presented by the Baltimore Metropolitan Council for the Baltimore Regional Transportation Board

November 30, 2006

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The following news "briefs" highlight recent news regarding transportation-related environmental issues, primarily air quality, affecting the Baltimore region. Please note that this brief is not all inclusive of the variety and magnitude of activities in the region. It is intended for informational purposes only; refer to the source, guidance, or program for additional information.

2006 Maryland Ozone Season



As 2006 is wrapping up, let's look back on how Maryland fared during this year's ozone season. Despite the hot temperatures this summer, ozone levels remained below levels of previous seasons with comparable temperatures. Maryland experienced twenty ozone exceedance days during the 2006 ozone season.

[Click for the referenced article.](#)

Experts Recommend Tighter Ozone Standards

In an October 24 letter to EPA Administrator Stephen Johnson, the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee recommended stricter standards for ground-level ozone. They state that "there is no scientific justification for retaining the current primary 8-hr NAAQS of 0.08 parts per million (ppm)." Additionally, "the primary 8-hr NAAQS needs to be substantially reduced to protect human health, particularly in sensitive subpopulations." They believe the primary standard should range between 0.060 and 0.070 ppm.



[Click to view the letter.](#)

FHWA and FTA approve Conformity Determination for the 2007-2011 TIP and 2004 Plan

On November 8, 2006, the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration approved the Baltimore region's conformity determination of the FY 2007-2011 TIP and 2004 Plan. The conformity analysis covered three standards: 8-hour ozone, fine particulate matter, and carbon monoxide.

[Click to view the conformity determination.](#)

New Loan Program for Idle Reduction and Energy Savings



U.S. EPA, in partnership with the U.S. Small Business Administration, is initiating a new loan program to help small trucking companies purchase SmartWay upgrade kits. These kits include both fuel saving and emission reduction technologies that can be installed on trucks.

[Click to find more information on the loan program.](#)

How Does Your Car Rate?

	2007 Ford Fusion	2007 Toyota Yaris
Use Your Gas Prices & Annual Miles		
Switch to Metric units		Compare side-by-side 
EPA Fuel Economy		
Fuel Type	Regular	Regular
MPG (city)	23	34
MPG (hwy)	31	39
MPG (combined)	26	36

The new fuel economy estimates for 2007 model year vehicles are out! You can compare the fuel economy of your car with the new 2007 models, using the U.S. Department of Energy's fuel economy web site. You can also print the new fuel economy guide. Included in this guide are tips for improving your car's fuel economy such as replacing clogged air filters and making sure your tires are properly inflated.

[Click to access the web site.](#)

Landfill Gas Purchase Agreement

According to an October 3 article on the Anne Arundel County web site, "Anne Arundel County Executive Janet S. Owens and Fort George G. Meade Installation Commander Colonel Kenneth O. McCreedy together announce(d) a Memorandum of Understanding, to negotiate a contract for the sale of all methane gas generated at the Millersville Landfill to Fort Meade." Fort Meade can use the methane gas from the landfill as a source of power.

[Click to access the referenced article.](#)

"Bridging the Gaps, Naturally"

The 2007 International Conference on Ecology & Transportation, "Bridging the Gaps, Naturally" will take place in Little Rock, Arkansas on May 20–25, 2007.

[Click for more information.](#)

email: stomlinson@baltometro.org
phone: 410-732-0500 Ext. 1035
web: <http://www.baltometro.org>