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TxDOT's WorkWise Program Focuses on Trip Reduction

[The Texas Department of Transportation](#) (TxDOT) in January will launch its new WorkWise program, aiming to reduce the number of employee work trips and reduce vehicle emissions one car at a time.

WorkWise has grown out of a pilot telework program that TxDOT started a year ago. That pilot was a solid success, paving the way for an expanded effort that will include carpool/vanpool users, transit riders, cyclists, pedestrians, and employees with compressed work week or flexible schedules.

WorkWise will first be implemented for eligible employees throughout the

Austin region, and agency leaders expect a statewide expansion of the program to follow.

Throughout the pilot phase, reports from both employees and their supervisors were consistently positive, and it's apparent that WorkWise provides benefits on a number of levels:

- WorkWise supports TxDOT's mission to address traffic congestion because it takes cars off the road.
- The program is good for business because provides for a healthier, more satisfied, and more productive workforce.
- The program contributes to cleaner air by removing cars that pollute the

air and waste fuel in backed-up traffic.

As the state's lead transportation agency, TxDOT is uniquely positioned to advance all viable efforts to reduce congestion and improve mobility. Rush-hour trip reduction by itself won't solve roadway congestion problems, nor will the efforts of a single agency. That is why TxDOT leaders say they intend for WorkWise to serve as a proof-of-concept that other organizations can follow.

Featured Partner: Lone Star Clean Fuels Alliance

Clean Cities is a federal Department of Energy initiative that seeks to advance the nation's economic, environmental, and energy security by supporting local actions to reduce petroleum consumption in transportation. A national network of nearly 100 Clean Cities coalitions brings together stakeholders in the public and private sectors to deploy alternative and renewable fuels, idle-reduction measures, fuel economy improvements, and emerging transportation technologies.

As your local Clean Cities coalition, [LSCFA](#) strives to clean the air through reducing transportation-related

petroleum consumption. They have helped migrate public and private fleet vehicles to alternative fuels, convert much of the booming Texas landscaping industry to propane mowers, incentivize Austin Energy customers to ride electric bikes and scooters, and much more.

LSCFA members help move our fossil fuel reduction efforts forward and increase our national security through the use of homegrown alternative fuels. Their membership includes: Texas Gas Service, Protec Fuel, Pinnacle Propane, SuperShuttle, Nissan of North America, Superior Transportation Solutions, Texas Renewable Energy Industries, CNG 4

America, Dept. of Health and Human Services, and DIVERSENERGY.

LSCFA is your best local link to alternative fuel technology expertise, government policy developments, and project facilitation assistance. They also assist with tapping into state and local funding streams for a variety of alt fuel vehicle and alt fuel infrastructure development projects. Contact LSCFA to see how they can help your fleet achieve your emissions and fossil fuel reduction goals.





2014 Reporting Results

Congratulations Partners! In 2014 you reduced 92,856 pounds of ozone forming emissions (NOx and VOCs). That makes a total of nearly 2.6 million pounds in the last five years. As a whole the average emissions per employee reduced by 4.05% and the average Partner reduction was 2.91%.

EPA's New Ozone Standard Announcement

After much anticipation, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced on October 1st that it will strengthen the standard for ground-level ozone.

The new National Ambient Air Quality Standard reduces the maximum amount of acceptable ground-level ozone to 70 parts per billion (ppb), down from 75 ppb set in 2008. The EPA will begin making attainment designations based on the new standard by late 2017, using 2014-2016

air quality data.

The design value is based on a three-year average of the fourth highest daily maximum of the eight-hour ozone average.

The EPA also adjusted the ranges on the Air Quality Index scale and extended the ozone monitoring season to include March and November.

The next review will be October 2020.



Media and Meteorologists Lunch + Learn with the City of Austin

This Ozone Season the CLEAN AIR Force along with Clean Air Partner, the [City of Austin](#), offered a lunch + learn for Central Texas media and meteorologists. The event was held on July 22nd at Maggiano's in the Domain.

The purpose was to raise awareness for the media on the importance of our air quality and what they can do to inform their viewers, listeners and readers

about ground-level ozone.

The speakers for the event were CAF Board member, Senator Kirk Watson and CAF Board member and Clean Air Partner, Dr. Elena Craft with [Environmental Defense Fund](#) (EDF).

Thank you to the City of Austin and Clean Air Partners that attended the lunch + learn.



Ozone Season Update

We only had one Ozone Action Day again this year.

**How to Determine the 3-Year Ozone Average for the 5-County Region
Bastrop, Caldwell, Hays, Travis and Williamson:**

Ozone Season Update
11/01/2015

- 8/28/2015
85
- 8/29/2015
83
- 8/27/2015
82
- 8/13/2015
73

The 2015 Ozone Season design value is the 3-year average of the 4th highest reading at the prevailing monitor (Austin Northwest).

$$\frac{2013 \quad 2014}{69 \quad + \quad 62 \quad + \quad 73}{3} = 68^*$$

Current 2013-2015 Design Value

**Number rounded DOWN to nearest 2 significant digits.*

High School PSA Air Quality Contest

The CLEAN AIR Force in partnership with Clean Air Partner, [Time Warner Cable](#) will be conducting the 8th Annual High School Public Service Announcement Air Quality Contest.

The contest runs through January 31st and is open to all high school students in the 5-county region.

The 1st and 2nd place winners will receive Samsung Galaxy Tabs courtesy of Clean Air Partner, [Samsung Austin Semiconductor](#). The winning PSA may also be aired on Time Warner Cable.

This contest was made possible with an in-kind grant from Time Warner Cable and Connect A Million Minds. If you know of an area high school student or teacher, please let them know of this great opportunity.

Information can be found on the CLEAN AIR Force [website](#).



CLEAN AIR Force Fundraiser Event

On October 29th the CLEAN AIR Force hosted a fundraiser event at the High Road featuring music by the Guy Forsyth Blues Band. Time Warner Cable was recognized for their environmental and air quality improvement efforts.

Thank you to all the supporters, and Clean Air Partners that attended.



TERP Grant Funding Available



Financial incentives are again available through the Texas Emission Reduction Plan (TERP) Emissions Reduction Incentive Grants (ERIG) Program to help reduce emissions from older polluting vehicles and equipment.

Projects eligible for funding under this program are intended to reduce NOx emissions through the purchase or lease of new equipment, replacement or repowering of existing vehicles, or retrofit or add-on of emission-reduction technology.

Applications are being accepted through February 2nd. Visit their website for more information: <http://www.tceq.texas.gov/airquality/terp>.

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