

What Businesses Can Do to Reduce Ground Level Ozone

Businesses can play an important role in helping to reduce the formation of ground level ozone. Here are some ways.

- Initiate a company wide policy on idling durations for fleet vehicles and a no- idling policy for vehicles on company property.
- Use cleaner diesel fuels in fleet vehicles.
- Service fleet vehicles regularly (tune-ups, oil changes and proper tire inflation reduce emissions and save money).
- Convert fleet vehicles to or replace with alternative powered vehicles.
- Scrap old fleet vehicles in Canada's ``Retire Your Ride`` vehicle recycling program.
- Provide a company-wide incentive plan for actions employees take to reduce ozone. Incentives such as free giveaways, e.g. free transit cards or movie theatre tickets are great ways to encourage staff to participate.
- Encourage employees to share rides, carpool or take public transit.
- Sponsor on-site transportation assistance.
- Create preferred parking for car pool, van pool riders.
- Offer staff a pre-tax deduction or other subsidy for the purchase of transit service.
- Offer employees flexible work schedules or compressed work weeks to help reduce traffic.
- Use conference calls to avoid travel.
- Reduce your company's emissions from stacks, compressors, storage tanks etc.
- Chose more environmentally friendly chemicals, paints, solvents, cleaning fluids, pesticides in the operation of your business.
- Provide attractive incentives for staff to find new technological advances to reduce emissions.
- Take a green approach to construction or renovation of your office building (using alternative energy or maximizing energy efficiency, providing for alternative transportation (bicycle racks , showers etc)or using low emitting construction materials and paint.
- Request or require that contractors use pollution-prevention practices, such as
 - low-VOC printing processes, which also result in sharper copy,
 - no-idling practices, which result in reduced fuel costs,
 - low-VOC painting products,
 - recycling, which results in less energy-generation pollution.

What Individuals Can Do to Reduce Ground Level Ozone

There are many ways individuals can play a role in helping to reduce ozone.

- **Conserve energy - at home, at work, everywhere. E.g. Look at ways to make your home more energy efficient; insulate and weather strip your home, put in energy saving windows, high efficiency furnace and water heater etc. Turn off lights, appliances, computers when not in use. Run the dishwasher and wash machine only when fully loaded.**
- **Look for the ENERGY STAR label when buying home or office equipment.**
- **Stop unnecessary idling of your vehicle!**
- **Reduce the number of trips you take in your car. Combine errands in one trip wherever possible.**
- **Carpool, use public transportation, bike, or walk whenever possible.**
- **Follow gasoline refuelling instructions for efficient vapour recovery, being careful not to spill fuel and always tightening your gas cap securely. Don't top up the tank. Replace vehicle gas caps that are damaged or have broken seals.**
- **Consider purchasing portable gasoline containers labelled "spill-proof," where available.**
- **Keep your car, boat, and other engines properly tuned.**
- **Regularly check to ensure your vehicle tires are properly inflated.**
- **Scrap your old vehicle in Canada's "Retire Your Ride" recycling program and receive rewards.**
- **Use environmentally safe paints and cleaning products whenever possible.**
- **Apply paints with rollers and brushes instead of sprays to cut down on fumes and save paint.**
- **Avoid burning leaves, trash, and other materials. Mulch or compost leaves and yard waste.**
- **Consider using gas logs instead of wood.**
- **Reduce or eliminate fireplace and wood stove use.**
- **Avoid using gas-powered lawn and garden equipment.**
- **Participate in your local utilities' load-sharing and energy conservation programs.**
- **Use household and garden chemicals wisely. Be sure to read labels for proper use and disposal.**
- **Spread the word to your friends and family about what they can do to help.**
- **Organize an Ozone Awareness day in your community.**