



Winter 2006

Clean Air News

"To preserve and enhance air quality in southwest Washington"

Ultra Low Sulfur Diesel Fuel Now Available

Ultra low sulfur diesel (ULSD) fuel, hailed as the most far-reaching environmental and public health achievement since lead was removed from gasoline, is now available at the pump. The cleaner fuel contains 97 percent less sulfur than traditional on-road diesel and will yield enormous public health benefits. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, full implementation of ULSD fuel will reduce annual emissions of nitrogen oxides by 2.6 million tons and particulate matter by 110,000 tons.

The cleaner ULSD fuel enables the use of advanced air pollution-control technologies on new engines, such as new 2007 model year heavy-duty diesel engines, and on older retrofitted engines.

Under typical operating conditions, there should be no noticeable impact on overall power using ULSD fuel. Engine and vehicle manufacturers expect ULSD fuel to be fully compatible with the existing fleet, including 2006 and earlier model year vehicles. Diesel-powered highway engines and vehicles for 2007 and later model years are designed to operate only with ULSD fuel.

In addition to the recent fuel standard change for highway diesel, EPA fuel standards for non-road diesel engines and equipment – such as farm and construction equipment, locomotive and marine engines – will also take effect over the next several years.

- In 2007, diesel fuel intended for locomotive, marine and non-road diesel engines must meet the low sulfur diesel fuel maximum specification of 500 ppm.
- By June 2010, the ULSD fuel standard of 15 ppm sulfur will apply to diesel fuel used by non-road engines, such as construction and agricultural equipment.
- Beginning in 2012, locomotive and marine diesel engines must use ULSD fuel of 15 ppm.

For more information, visit www.clean-diesel.org.

Outdoor Burning Changes for 2007

As of January 1, 2007 all of the smaller urban growth areas in the state of Washington become permanent no burn areas. This will be the latest phase in a series of legislative mandates in the Washington Clean Air Act to progressively restrict outdoor burning. This affects southwest Washington as follows:

Lewis County: Napavine, Pe Ell, Winlock, Toledo, Vader, Mossyrock and Morton urban growth areas become no burn areas. The existing Centralia/Chehalis No Burn Area was established by earlier phases of the same legislation and will expand with any expansion of the urban growth areas of Centralia and Chehalis.

Cowlitz County: Castle Rock and Woodland urban growth areas become no burn areas. The existing Longview/Kelso No Burn Area is not changing at this time.

Clark County: Ridgefield, La Center and Yacolt urban growth areas become no burn areas. The southern Clark County No Burn Area and the Battle Ground No Burn Area may also expand in some places if the respective urban growth areas expand.

After January 1, 2007 only small recreational campfires will be allowed in these no burn areas. The Southwest Clean Air Agency (SWCAA) is encouraging residents to explore their alternatives to outdoor burning, such as arranging for yard debris pick-up service, composting, chipping or recycling yard debris.



"Composting is a good alternative to outdoor burning and creates a resource instead of air pollution," says Bob Elliott, executive director of the Southwest Clean Air Agency. "It is an easy and inexpensive way to turn yard and garden refuse into a usable and valuable product. Compost turns organic matter like leaves, grass, weeds and wood chips into a rich soil conditioner."

The legislative mandate to establish a program implementing the limited burning policy is specified by RCW 70.94.743 through 70.94.765 of the Washington Clean Air Act. State law also prohibits the use of burn barrels and garbage burning throughout the state of Washington. Penalties can be imposed for violating these state laws. SWCAA Regulation 425 and the Washington Administrative Code (WAC 173-425) implement this law.

"Smoke generated from outdoor burning is a health hazard and a public nuisance," says Elliott. Particularly at risk to the effects of smoke are the elderly, children and those with asthma, heart disease or other respiratory ailments.

For maps of affected areas or more information about these changes, visit our website at swcleanair.org, call us at 360-574-3058 or contact your local planning department.

PRSRRT-SDT
US POSTAGE
PAID
ADDRESS MEDIA

Southwest Clean Air Agency
SWCAA
Clark
Columbia
Franklin
Lewis
Mason
Multnomah
Washington
11815 NE 99th Street, Suite 1294
Vancouver, WA 98682

Driving smarter means better gas mileage and cleaner air

Are high gas prices getting you down? Even if you still need your car to get around, there are some things you can do to get better gas mileage. In addition to the savings in your pocketbook, less fuel burned means fewer polluting tailpipe emissions as well as fewer greenhouse gases released into the atmosphere.

The U.S. Department of Energy (www.fueleconomy.gov) points out that fixing a serious maintenance problem, such as a faulty oxygen sensor, can improve your mileage by as much as 40 percent. And a poorly maintained or malfunctioning vehicle can release as much as 10 times the emissions of a well-maintained one, according to the National Safety Council.

So what can you do?

- Reduce idling because idling wastes gasoline. Idling for longer than 30 seconds actually burns more fuel than turning off and restarting your engine.
- Maintain a steady speed. Accelerate and decelerate smoothly. Use cruise control on highways. Avoid revving the engine. Stay within the legal speed limit.
- Clear out the trunk. For every 100 pounds of junk you lug around, you lose about two percent of your fuel efficiency.
- Remove the rooftop cargo carrier when you don't need it, to decrease drag and improve fuel consumption.
- Maintain your vehicle. Regular vehicle maintenance reduces fuel usage.
- Keep tires properly inflated to decrease drag and fuel consumption.
- When refueling your vehicle, stop pumping when you hear the handle on the gas nozzle "click" off. Topping off releases gas fumes into the air that contribute to ozone pollution and cancels the benefit of the pump's anti-pollution devices.
- Refuel when it's cool during summer heat waves. Refueling your vehicle in cooler evening hours reduces the opportunity for volatile organic compounds, or VOCs, released by gasoline to turn into ozone and contribute to the formation of smog.
- Replace a lost gas cap to reduce pollution by preventing fuel evaporation.
- Choose a more fuel efficient vehicle. When you are shopping for a new car, choose the most fuel-efficient one that meets your needs.

Southwest Clean Air Agency

SOUTHWEST CLEAN AIR AGENCY

Bob Elliott, Executive Director
11815 NE 99th Street, Suite 1294
Vancouver, WA 98682
Phone: 360-574-3058
Fax: 360-576-0925
www.swcleanair.org

BOARD MEETINGS

When: First Thursday of every month
Where: SWCAA offices
Contact: 360-574-3058

CLARK COUNTY OUTDOOR BURN INFO

Contact: 360-574-3058, ext. 6

BURN INFORMATION - OTHER COUNTIES

Contact: 1-800-633-0709

NEWSLETTER

Kathy Finkle, Editor
For questions or comments regarding this newsletter, call 360-574-3058, ext. 39 or e-mail kathy@swcleanair.org



Printed on recycled paper

Welcome Traci!

Traci Arnold joined the Southwest Clean Air Agency in September 2006, filling the Office Administrator position previously held by LuAnne Daily. She brings nine years of governmental accounting experience from her five years working at a local utility district, three years working with multiple agencies in several states providing software support, and most recently

a small city in Washington. Traci graduated with honors from Clark College in 2002 with a degree in business administration. When not at work she and her husband enjoy traveling and working on the house. They recently returned from Egypt which will give Traci an opportunity to create an extensive scrapbook which is her favorite hobby.