If You Can’t Breathe, Nothing Else Matters --- *American Lung Association*

It’s warm enough to play outdoors now and school is winding down. May 1 marks the start of SMOG season, which lasts until Oct 1. We want students outdoors but should we be concerned about outdoor air quality? Breathing air pollution can lead to health problems. The elderly, those with compromised respiratory systems and young are most at risk. According to *Mothers and Others for Clean Air and Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta*, children are particularly at risk because their lungs are still developing and they breathe more air in relation to their body weight than an adult. In addition, they are frequently outdoors.

*Did you know you could find out if the air quality is unhealthy?*

**Georgia EPD** publishes the *Air Quality Index (AQI)* daily. EPD ranks the air on a scale from 0 (the cleanest) to 500 (the most polluted). If the AQI is over 100, EPD issues a smog alert. If you live in Atlanta, the alert can be emailed to you by signing up on the *Clean Air Campaign* website at [www.CleanAirCampaign.com](http://www.CleanAirCampaign.com) and if you live near Macon through the Middle Georgia Clean Cities Coalition by contacting Charise.Stephens@macon.ga.us.

You can also call **EPD’s Air Quality Hotline** at 404.362.4909.

*What makes the Air Quality unhealthy?*

**Ground-level ozone** and **fine particles** are the two kinds of outdoor air pollution to worry about in Georgia. Add these together and you get SMOG. If you live near metro areas, ground level ozone may be your biggest problem. In rural areas fine particles (from burning materials) may cause more problems. Wherever you live, remember we need to take steps to educate everyone about Air Quality.
Are you ready for SMOG season
Here are some lessons to get you started:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>All ages: Clean Air Campaign Lessons</th>
</tr>
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</table>

HS: **Ozone: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly**
*What’s the difference between stratospheric and tropospheric ozone? How does each affect us?*

MS: **Make a Model of the Lung**
*Uses plastic bottles and other material easy to find*

ES: **SMOG Soup**
*Easy to do, easy to understand*

My favorite:
**What’s the connection between light bulbs and air pollution?**
*Do you know the connection?*

All of these lessons were made by teachers and are hosted on the Dept of Education website

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**Grants (for more information click on the blue link):**

**Digital Wish Grant**
*Due the 28th of every month  
Grants for digital cameras  
Great for use in the garden*

**Spirit of Green School Awards**
The 2009 Georgia Recycling Coalition is now accepting applications for the 2009 Spirit of Green School Recycling Awards. Three $500 grants will be awarded to the top Elementary, Middle, and High School. The deadline for application submission is May 15, 2009.

**Lowe’s Charitable & Educational Foundation Grants**
*Grants $5,000 to $25,000 focus on K12 public school initiatives*

**Staples Foundation for Learning® $25,000 Grants** — targets programs for disadvantaged youth
*Applications are accepted on a quarterly basis. September 2009 - Proposals must be submitted between June 5 and June 19 by 11:59 pm ET online application*

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**News/upcoming events (click on blue links):**

**Siemens We Can Change the World Challenge**
teams of two to three students in sixth through eighth grade, under the mentorship of a teacher or adult supervisor, were asked to identify an environmental issue in their community, research the issue using scientific investigation, and create a replicable green solution

2009 will include ES as well as MS
2010 will add HS

**Did you know?**

EPD has determined that vehicles contribute 23.6% of the fine particulate matter

The largest contributor of particulates (30.9%) is secondary sulfate, primarily from coal-fired powerplants
Oxford Institute for Environmental Education
June 8-June 19.
Stipend and 6PLU’s

(Event Phone)
(770) 784-8446

Liking Likens
July 12-15
UGA

Sea Turtle Ecology on Ossabaw Island
July 11-14, 2009
OR July 18-21, 2009
Jaymee Herrington
(678) 839-6147
3 PLUs
Cost: $325.00

Location: Ossabaw Island

AQI is determined by both ground level Ozone and Particulate matter (PM2.5) pollution. For more information on these see Information about air pollution.

To check current Ozone and/or PM2.5 levels:
Ozone levels  PM2.5 levels

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AQI</th>
<th>Health Concern</th>
<th>Recommendation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GREEN 0-50</td>
<td>Considered healthy for everyone</td>
<td>Outdoor activities are recommended</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YELLOW 51-100</td>
<td>Unhealthy mainly for very sensitive children and adults</td>
<td>Outdoor activities for those known to respond to air pollution should be monitored</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ORANGE 101-150</td>
<td>Unhealthy for sensitive individuals including all children under the age of 18, the elderly, and those with heart and lung conditions</td>
<td>Outdoor exertion for all sensitive groups, including children and the elderly should be limited. Move activities to times when pollution concern is lowest and decrease duration time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RED 151-200</td>
<td>Unhealthy for everyone</td>
<td>Avoid outdoor activities for children and adults. Depending on the pollutant that is high, certain times (see next page) of the day may be safer for outdoor activity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PURPLE 201-400</td>
<td>Unhealthy or Hazardous for all</td>
<td>Outdoor activities should be avoided completely, day and evening</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Ozone is worst between 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. Move activities to the morning

Particulates usually peak during the morning and evening rush hour but may be high all day. Limit outdoor time

If both Ozone and Particulates are high limit outdoor activity all day

Report on the state of Georgia's Environment, 2009

This report contains up-to-date information on what we know, and don’t know, about the current condition of Georgia's water, land and air resources.

Smogtown: The Lung-Burning History of Pollution in Los Angeles by Chip Jacobs and William J. Kelly

60 years of pollution, both the making and fighting, in Los Angeles. It is a well-documented and highly engaging account of southern California's battle with “the beast,” as the authors refer to smog. Smogtown focuses not only on big corporations and their role but describes how citizens were key contributors to the problem. The story becomes a case history of one city that has implications for many. Written in a muckracking, yellow journalism style, it is sure to entertain.

Ages HS and adult

Contact me with your school environmental activities or questions you may have to unsubscribe, please email cindy@greenandhealthy.org