

Iowa Environmental Council
2010-2011 Air Quality Priorities

Approved by the Board of Directors, December 22, 2010

The initiatives below reflect the development of the Air Quality Program in its second year.

1. Legislative initiatives:

- State burn ban bill: Work with key legislators to pass a statewide burn ban, similar to the one considered by the last legislative session.
- Air quality forecasting: Develop and fund the expertise for 24- to 48-hour forecasts of poor air quality episodes in eastern Iowa, to allow advance action that can minimize or prevent the harmful environmental and health effects of high fine particulate matter and ozone emissions.
- Anti-idling: Work for city ordinances and/or state rules to limit the amount of time that vehicles can idle their engines. Develop contacts with trucking industry representatives to form a demonstration project on diesel emissions reductions at a major Iowa truck stop, with private/public funding.
- Modify the anti-stringency law: Eastern Iowa continues to experience episodes of high levels of fine particle pollution, often exceeding federal standards. Therefore, we will seek modification of state anti-stringency law (IAC 455B.133) to allow tougher rules from the DNR for control of fine particle pollution.

2. Regulatory initiatives:

- Department of Natural Resources: Support rulemaking that provides short-term maintenance of the DNR Air Quality Bureau's Title V (major stationary source) permitting, compliance, and enforcement activities. Support discussion and planning for a restructuring of the Title V fee system that (1) continues the underlying principle that the primary responsibility for emissions reductions and costs are to be borne by polluters, and (2) provides for fee-reduction incentives to those industries that take significant steps to lower their emissions.
- Ground-level ozone: Monitor EPA's ozone standard revisions process.
- Federal & state laws and Iowa Environmental Council's Energy program: Support federal and state laws and agency rulemaking that simultaneously reduce greenhouse gases and air pollutants. These should include major agricultural sources.

3. Non-regulatory initiatives:

- Provide and support educational outreach to agricultural operators and organizations about the contribution of agricultural emissions to poor air quality, in order to encourage more widespread adoption of existing proven control practices for ammonia, hydrogen dioxide, and other pollutants.
- Incentives to reduce emissions: Support non-regulatory incentives for business and industry to take steps toward reduction of fine particulate matter emissions and other pollutants, through grant-seeking, control technology investments, and other means.

- “Farm” or “farm & food policy” bill: Monitor provisions in agriculture-related legislation and regulations that impact air quality from agricultural activities, and provide comment when appropriate.
- Monitor and comment on state-level regulatory responses to forthcoming EPA standards regarding mercury air emissions. Monitor industry emissions plans and budgets for unconsidered opportunities to reduce mercury emissions and ensure safe ground storage of mercury-containing fly ash waste.