

Jim Martin Takes Reins at CDPHE

Jim Martin was appointed executive director of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) by Gov. Bill Ritter at the beginning of 2007.

As the new executive director, Jim is responsible for broad-based health and environmental protection programs. The department's environmental responsibilities span a full array of activities, including air and water quality protection and improvement, hazardous waste, solid waste management, radiation services, pollution prevention, consumer protection, and environmental leadership. He manages a staff of 1,100 with a budget of over \$280 million.

Jim has a long history of involvement in air quality issues in Colorado. He served on the Colorado Air Quality Control Commission from February 2003 to January 2007 and served as a member of the Regional Air Quality Council from 1997 to 1999.

Prior to joining the department, Mr. Martin was the executive director of Western Resource Advocates, a Boulder-based environmental law and policy organization. Prior to that, he was director of the Natural Resources Law Center at the University of Colorado School of Law.

He was also senior attorney and director of the energy program for Environmental Defense, and from 1986 to 1992 he worked for a former U.S. representative and U.S. Sen. Tim Wirth, including four years as state director and counsel. ■

RAQC to Host Ozone Workshop

On April 25, the Regional Air Quality Council (RAQC) is hosting a summer ozone workshop entitled "Ozone Matters: Prepare to Care About Our Summer Air."

The main focus of "Ozone Matters" is what stakeholders can do to reduce ozone-forming emissions this summer. This summer is crucial in maintaining the federal standard and keeping the region in official attainment status with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Other topics will include a discussion of how ozone is formed and the meteorology surrounding

it, as well as how Ozone Action Alerts are forecasted by the State's Air Pollution Control Division. A highlight of the workshop will be a guest appearance by 9News meteorologist Marty Coniglio, who will discuss ozone and the media including effective communication strategies. In addition, the current air quality standards and status, regulatory measures, and voluntary efforts for ozone will be included topics at the workshop. Another important part of the workshop will be a presentation on the health effects of ozone given by Dr. Ned Calonge, the State's Chief Medical Officer.

The goal is to get stakeholders invested in the issue and promote a greater understanding of this complicated topic. Anyone living or working in the Denver metropolitan area is encouraged to attend the workshop including citizens, nonprofit and government employees, businesses, legislators, and media. For more information, log on to OzoneAware.org. Space is limited, so register before April 20 by sending an email to OzoneMatters@raqc.org. ■

Cherry Creek North Designated a Summer "Chill Zone"

As part of the Regional Air Quality Council's (RAQC) summer ozone "chill" campaign for 2007, participating businesses in the Cherry Creek North (CCN) area are becoming "chill zones" this summer. Citizens will be encouraged to chill in CCN throughout the pedestrian friendly shopping, dining, and entertainment district as a way to reduce ozone pollution in the Denver region. The CCN area is home to more than 320 businesses and sees over 20,000 visitors each day during the summer months. Recent research shows that nearly 50 percent of Denver's residents live within walking or biking distance to CCN although most people choose to drive.

The RAQC plans to work with Transportation Solutions and area merchants to increase pedestrian and bike traffic to the area over the summer by providing incentives to citizens who choose to chill in CCN such as coupons for food,

Published by:

Regional Air Quality Council
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LOCAL GOVERNMENT HIGHLIGHT

The City of Aurora is taking charge again this year as they prepare for a busy ozone season. Jim Schrack in the City's environmental planning division has many activities planned for 2007, including events and outreach.

During the ozone season, information about ozone will be posted on the City's web site and distributed to staff through their employee newsletter. The information will include important tips about what ozone pollution is and solutions on how to prevent it. In addition, they will hand out ozone brochures and pledge

cards at City-sponsored events throughout the summer. The City also has plans to insert an informational piece into the water bills of Aurora residents which will include tips and educational information about ozone.

The City is also hosting its own household chemical round-up event on September 15. The event will encourage residents to properly dispose of chemicals, which will help to cut down on emissions from various products. For more information contact Jim Schrack at jschrack@auroragov.org. ■

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drinks, or services. The chill campaign was started in 2006 as part of the RAQC's "Let's Take Care of Our Summer Air" ozone outreach program to encourage citizens to avoid behaviors that contribute to ozone pollution. The RAQC looks forward to working with our partners in Cherry Creek North this summer in a partnership to raise awareness of ozone pollution in the CCN area. For more information, contact Sara O'Keefe at sokeefe@raqc.org or visit OzoneAware.org. ■

Mow Down Pollution Event Goes Virtual

The Regional Air Quality Council (RAQC) is gearing up to host the "Mow Down Pollution" event which is taking on a whole new approach this year. Citizens will be encouraged to trade in a piece of old gasoline-powered lawn equipment in exchange for deep discounts on new earth-friendly lawn mowers, trimmers, and services.

The RAQC is also offering an additional rebate of up to \$50 on products and services made possible by the StEPP Foundation, who is helping sponsor the event. The new twist is that the event will take place completely online, or "virtually." Also new this year is a larger variety of manufacturers. In past years, the RAQC has partnered with one manufacturer and offered

discounts on products from that manufacturer only. This year, there will be several manufacturers to choose from. The ozone web site will serve as a clearinghouse of information for consumers to pick and choose which option is best for them.

The event kicks off on April 20 to coincide with Earth Day. Citizens can simply log on to OzoneAware.org and follow links to research the available equipment and manufacturers. After purchasing the new equipment it is requested that citizens also recycle their gasoline-powered equipment at the appropriate recycling center. A list of recycling centers and events that will accept lawn equipment and/or used fuels and oil is listed on OzoneAware.org. The RAQC looks forward to assisting

more citizens with purchasing earth-friendly lawn equipment.

Please contact Sara O'Keefe at sokeefe@raqc.org for more information. ■

Clean Air Fleets in Second Phase

The Regional Air Quality Council (RAQC) is working to implement a second phase of Clean Air Fleets (CAF). The new phase includes several new components and builds upon past successful diesel retrofit programs. The programs for phase two fall under the larger CAF program umbrella and include Clean Yellow Fleets for Blue Skies (CYFBS), a school bus retrofit program and the Colorado Retrofit Project (CORP), a municipal fleet retrofit program. Both programs aim to retrofit additional fleet vehicles with emission reduction equipment over the next two years. The diesel vehicles will include school buses and several different models of on-road diesel trucks.

In addition, both of the programs are also adding an outreach and education component to better educate drivers on proper idling behavior. The RAQC hopes to educate and inform drivers, along with installing retrofit equipment, to assist in reducing idling from diesel vehicles. For more information, contact Steve McCannon at smcannon@raqc.org or (303) 629-5450 ext. 230. ■

Upcoming Events

April 20

City and County of Denver's Earth Day Event

April 21 - 28

Denver's 7,000 Trees in 7 Days Event

April 22

Earth Day

April 25

"Ozone Matters" RAQC workshop OzoneAware.org

April 28

Household Chemical Round-up in Parker tchd.org

May 3

RAQC Board Meeting

May 5

Household Chemical Round-Up in Adams County at Waterworldtchd.org

Helpful Contacts:

RAQC:

(303) 629-5450

State's Air Pollution Control Division:

(303) 692-3100

Air Quality Hotlines:

(303) 758-4848

Reminders:

Winter High Pollution Season ended March 31

www.raqc.org