Visioneering Wichita Environmental Sustainability Alliance
Designing a Sustainable Future
Community Discussion on Air Quality
October 7, 2010

1. **What do you think is the biggest impact on air quality in our region? Why? (Categories: Environment/Social/Economic)**
    - Lack of education about impacts and connections between actions and air quality
    - Our geography and sprawl nature and lack of public transportation which increases vehicle traffic
    - Lack of company reward system to encourage positive air quality improvements
    - Vehicle traffic – emissions from vehicle trips
    - Transport from outside sources
        - Flint Hills burning
    - Affordability
    - Weather
    - Transportation (not only is statistically high, but relatively simple to change)
    - Vehicle emissions
        - Non-synchronized stop lights
        - Idling
    - Tractor trailer transports cheapest way to move goods
    - Environment – health
    - Social – lack of education – apathy
    - Economic – small business
    - Traffic & idling during the day - refueling
    - Activity during the day
    - Flint Hills impact
    - Environment – lack of recycling/chemical use – cleaners, etc.
    - Lack of transportation choices
    - Subdivision regulations on yards/homes – certain grass, plants, paints required
    - Mobile sources are the largest area of negative air quality (continue to time lights to eliminate traffic snarls & congestion & peak travel times)
        - Assuming this is due to I-35 corridor & urban sprawl
        - Also non-point source could be educated on changes they could make that could improve air quality voluntarily
    - Public education communication blitz on “Be Air Aware” & that type of educational materials.
    - Poor choice of fuels for K-135, B-52s, jets
    - Allow golf carts in bicycle paths
    - Weather
    - Vehicles with one
    - Urban sprawl
    - Trucking turnpike fees
    - Transportation
    - Built environment (HVAC & lighting)
    - Manufacturing
    - Emissions from gasoline engines

    - Clearly this effects all elements – environmental, social & economic
    - Lawnmowers could resolve the issue if we could encourage longer grasses and more natural landscaping which need not be moved so often. This could also be used by public and recreation to cut down public mowing
- We all want to get in our own individual cars and drive all over town. We need to learn to walk places. People drive to exercise class – why not just walk?
- Too many large gas guzzling vehicles that also aren't properly maintained
- Chemicals not only used by businesses, but also by individuals
- Climate change – global warming
- Vehicles/transportation – idling, filling with gas
- Weather/climate
- Social in terms of transportation patterns.
- Development patterns and the desires of the general public, along with economics, lead to suburban growth in jobs and population. The sprawl leads to dependence on cars and travel distances required to get to all the places we need to go.
- Environment
    - Air traffic
    - Transportation
        - Insufficient public transportation and carpool/vanpool options
        - Communities not walkable/bikeable
        - Diesel – trucks/fleets
- Social
    - Education
        - Public education is necessary to help people reduce their impact – drive less, use less energy at home, don't mow or fuel up until after 6-7 pm
- Transported pollution – regional transport
- Transport from Oklahoma/Texas
- Auto-Bus-Trucks on road
    - Small bus no point problems
- Air quality problems decrease environment/social life of residence
- Ozone causing health issues – caused by mobile sources
    - Not widely used (or usable) mass transit
    - Lack of bike & walk lanes
    - Spread out development
    - Culture of single use vehicles
- It matters not what the biggest impact is, agricultural burning, automobile exhaust, pollution from other places. All need to be addressed. Focusing on only one issue will not solve the problem. Focusing on only one issue puts a lot of burden on only one pollution or source.
- Biggest cause of low/bad air quality – transportation
- Impact on air quality regs – economic in numerous/all areas of the economy
- Mobile source – cars with only 1 person, cars idling
- Small shops – air regulations
- Social – old cars on the road with lots of emissions

- Weather/climate
- Mobil sources – vehicle
- Area businesses that are not currently regulated
- No energy efficiency plans that impact our area
- Make it economically viable for individual/business to make air clean
- Education on what individual/business can do to improve air quality
- Transportation, ozone (ground level)
- Industry emission
- Public awareness
- Cars, trucks, climate
- Machinery, boilers, heating & ventilation systems
- Climate
- Transportation system issues
    - Vehicle miles traveled
    - Reduce vehicle emissions
    - Improve public transportation
    - Heavy equipment
    - Traffic signal coordination

2. What are you doing to improve air quality in our region?

- Assisting with public education
- Following air quality tips personally
- Fueling car after 6pm.
- Not using drive through
- Fuel after 6.
- Don't top off tank
- I have facilitated formation of an Electric Vehicle Plug in readiness task force sponsored by the Cosmosphere Space Center according to the Rocky Mountain Institute.
- Driving a hybrid car
- Stop at the "click" when fueling; not topping off
- Public education, i.e. handouts, how to reduce
- Not topping off
- Mow after 6 pm
- Not much – not impacting my wallet yet
- Build a more energy efficient house
- Moving closer to work
- Using car less
- Recycling
- Buying 'green' chemicals-cleaners
- Carpool
- Mow lawn after 6
- Gas admission reductions in filling up can
- Personally – follow the Be Air Aware tips religiously & communicate them frequently
- On the job – educate employees on what <u>they</u> can personally do to impact air quality. Keep upper management informed of measures we can take as a company to improve our environmental footprint.
- Buy electric tools for yard use.
- Work with VESA, with employer, and with individual communication through website, meetings, etc.
- Planting buffalo grass and mowing once each month, only
- Electric car
- Electric lawn mower & edger
- Trying to walk to meetings
- Recycle, hybrid vehicle, battery powered yard equipment
- Using natural chemicals in my yard
- Employee education
- Developing vehicle idle reduction guidelines for our organization/employees
- Purchased no spill gas cans for our departments
- Promoting carpooling among employees – developing a meeting carpool calendar
- Personally – ride bike to work
- Professionally – helping fund bike facilities, transit facilities, and technologies that improve traffic flow

- My company has installed smart air pollution controls and probably residual risk measures as well for VOC reduction & also for HAPs from boiler generators and combustion units.
- Monitoring the air quality
- Carpool when can
- Keep temp at home up in summer down in winter
- Mow lawn/fill car after 6 pm
- Change out light bulbs
- Individual
    - Not topping off tank
    - Some car carpooling
    - Purchase less gas guzzling car
    - No idling
- Work
    - Middle/high school air education through EARTH program
    - ELC, WIRE, Visioneering
- Trying to develop partnerships with other organizations and agencies. Using these partnerships to be more proactive in reducing auto emissions, improve the transportation system, increase modal options, etc.
- For the past 8 years I've driven a hybrid car that averages 41 mpg and thus has lower emissions than majority of vehicles.
- Zero idling at stop lights
- Mow only in evening
- Carpool
- Limit small gas engine use in my yard – landscape planned for this – more beds less lawn
- Increase and decrease thermostat depending upon season
- "lots"
- Trying to educate the public
- Research to id link between air quality & health (asthma, COPD, etc.)
- Partner with ELC re idle reduction
- Have more public transportation
- Get more tax benefits for industries for less emission
- Reduced idling initiatives
- Photo chemical modeling
- Electric trimmer & blower

3. What do you wish you could be doing?

- Riding public transit or biking to work safely
- Seeing more PSAs on TV and education occurring
- Ride bike to work
- Progress to match dialog
- Fuel surcharge of 50 cents a gallon during ozone sensor from 6 am to 6 pm
- I believe EVs are coming faster than we realize. (I know because some "inside" info.) They will help. But we will NOT get them unless & until we provide charge points at minimal expense 5 – 10k 120V 240V. So I want to facilitate or lead a multi-disciplinary task force.
- More public education – need funding sources or partners (radio, TV, print) to give comps
- More public outreach
- Bank drive through windows
- Changing the working hours of the 24 hour day
- Using convenient public transportation
- Participation in process to encourage others to focus on our environment
- Both personally & on the job – budget is an issue. Educational materials & control equipment & process changes are expensive.
- Not idle in front of schools – less cost of gas
- Using Ion VOC gasoline
- Educating the public (will soon)
- More of the same
- Tell people to quit idling their cars
- Afford all the green options that are available.
- Getting more people to buy in to the option of leaving the world better than we found it
- Creating a "culture change" among employees – it's hard to change behavior (ex-idling or carpooling)
- Incentives for doing the right thing – work with power companies to do electricity demand management education. See KCP&L example in KC area.
- More public education & finding new strategies to reduce ozone precursors
- Drive less, use bus service (can't due to poor bus service in metro area)
- More public education – kids, adults, etc.
- Promoting programs with kids, ag producers, adults, etc.
- Working with developers for more accessible pathways for bikes
- Initiating voluntary measures as a proactive measure instead of reaction to becoming in non-attainment
- Drive a zero emission vehicle
- Push mower
- Drive less
- Have money to education the public on this issue
- Move activities in summer to night time
- Partnering with "big business" to educate & fund programs/research/awareness
- Educate people
- Use more energy star products

- Additional education
- Landscaping modifications
- Making the use of buffalo grass and prairie grasses “fashionable” and legal under city ordinance

4. **What *can* we all be doing – by working together in new ways – to improve air quality in our region?**
    - Education
    - Partner with media
    - Create incentives for individuals and business to improve
    - Promote no idling campaigns at area businesses
    - Agricultural/business smoke management plan
    - ¼ cent sales tax to finance a local environmental improvement initiative
    - Communication, Communication, Education among ourselves and the public
    - New ideas like lowering turnpike fees at night so trucks would more likely use it
    - Partnerships (unique ones)
    - Carpool & be more educated
    - Take the bus, ride your bike
    - Federal grants for alternate fuel research or reward for
    - Carpooling
    - Provide incentives
    - Education/awareness – get to youth
    - Carpool
    - Provide educational programs
    - Get media involved more in our county
    - Encourage green programs (Green Biz)
    - Community Actions – include ozone forecast in the local TV weather forecasts
    - Compressed natural gas stations
    - High school level education on resources & costs air-water-land-food
    - GreenBiz
    - Education
    - Incentives
    - Be aware & be educated
    - Public awareness
    - Make being “green” fashionable
    - Make non-attainment something shameful to allow to happen
    - Come to multi-county/regional consensus that improvement is mandated and is a regional issue
    - Get kids together to push to stop idling
    - Energy audits at no charge for citizens
    - Incentives matter
    - Put the air quality report on with the weather
    - Have competitions
    - Incentives to buy more “green” products
    - Charge more to fill up between 6am-6pm
    - Incentives for ride share to work
    - Bike law on all major streets to encourage biking
    - Focus stronger on education
    - Share information/policies
    - Executives & politicians need to know this is important

- Think about travel demand – alternate work schedules, shower facilities at jobs, expanded transit, more biking options or education on rules of the road, education on combining trips, ride share
- Looking at building/development codes, manage sprawl, build walkable/bikeable communities
- Stop idling
- Energy efficiency!!!
- Energy star, utilities assisting with peak load management and programmable thermostats
- Partner with drinking & waste facilities to find efficiencies! This could be big
- Education of public
- Education of elected officials to take air quality serious & improve local government practice.
- No idling programs
- Energy audits on our businesses & agencies
- Establishing partnerships, advanced planning
- Educate – primarily young people – make it “cool” to conserve, cool to drive a small/fuel efficient (>45 mpg) cars
- Government incentives, federal, local
- Public education
- Policies
- Building codes
- Awareness
- Coordinate & concentrate efforts – business, individual
- Establish media partnership

5. **How will you measure progress toward air quality improvement?**
    - Ultimately we will measure decreases in all pollutant levels – that is what EPA measures us by
    - # of businesses participating in no idling
    - NAAQ Standards and our compliance with them
    - As we are
    - Increase in activities that have positive impact on air quality
    - Less consumption of toxic materials/more consumption of low VOC materials
    - Incentives to area businesses
    - Monitors
    - Gallons of all fuels sold, kwh, water (gallons)
    - Clearly effect on air quality is the bottom line – is what we do working on the rolling average
    - KDHE will do it for us
    - Staying in air quality attainment
    - Lowered monitor readings for ozone
    - How many people have changed their behaviors
    - Data from the air quality monitors
    - Conformity analysis (transportation)
    - Vehicle miles travelled
    - Fewer ozone alert days
    - Look at annual emissions inventories noting trends
    - Lower ozone
    - More carpooling
    - Fewer cars on the road
    - Monitoring
    - Decrease in the levels of pollutants in the region and nationally
    - Air quality monitors will show our progress
    - Ozone down
    - Incidents of lung health issues on bad ozone day down
    - Waste reduction
    - Compliance with standards
    - Develop transportation improvement measurement system