

Hiawatha CARE Project: Fact Sheet

Issue: Mobile Source Air Emissions



Why are Mobile Source Air Emissions Important?

Mobile source air emissions contribute 42% of key air pollutants in the state of Minnesota.¹ Mobile sources include airplanes, automobiles, construction vehicles, trains, trucks, and lawnmowers. Emissions are formed through combustion of gasoline and diesel fuels and include carbon monoxide (CO), fine particulate matter, ground-level ozone (smog), and sulfur dioxide (SO₂). These pollutants can be reduced by burning less fuel (e.g. purchasing more fuel-efficient vehicles), burning fuel cleaner (e.g. keeping vehicle well maintained), or using cleaner or alternative fuels.

How Do Mobile Source Air Emissions Affect Us Locally?

According to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, on-road vehicles release 64% of the carbon monoxide and 31% of the toxic air emissions in the state. Transportation is associated with 25% of greenhouse gas emissions.²

Ozone and fine particle matter are the two major statewide concerns. Smog occurs mainly during the warm weather months, while fine particles are monitored year-round. The Environmental Protection Agency is currently finalizing new ambient air quality standards, and Minnesota may exceed some of these standards.

Health Impacts

- Ozone irritates the eyes, nose, throat, and lungs, and can worsen asthma symptoms.
- Elevated levels of sulfur dioxide can impair breathing and, at very high levels, aggravate heart disease.
- Fine particulates can worsen asthma symptoms and are associated with increased hospitalizations and deaths due to respiratory and heart disease.
- Carbon monoxide can impair alertness, cause fatigue and headaches, and can, in large amounts, be fatal.
- Air toxics are suspected to cause cancers, birth defects, and other serious health problems.

Environmental Impacts

- Ozone can damage plants, including crops and trees.
- Sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides contribute to acid rain – which can damage soil, plants, and lakes – and to algal blooms and fish kills.
- Fine particles are major contributors to haze.
- Some air toxics deposit into soil or water, where they can be taken up by plants and animals.

Financial Impacts

- Health-related costs from respiratory issues and asthma related to breathing polluted air.
- Fines from the EPA for nonattainment of air quality standards.

Hiawatha CARE Project Partners

Alexander's Import Auto Repair	Hennepin County	Minnesota Department of Health
American Lung Association of Minnesota	Hennepin - University Partnership	Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
Blue Construction	Little Earth of United Tribes	Mississippi Watershed Management Org.
City of Minneapolis	Longfellow Business Association	Preventing Harm Minnesota
East Phillips Improvement Coalition	Longfellow Community Council	St. James African Methodist Episcopal Church
Environmental Justice Advocates of Minnesota	Minnehaha Communion Lutheran Church & Longfellow Lutheran parishes	US Environmental Protection Agency
Gardening Matters	Minnehaha Creek Watershed District	Women's Environmental Institute

Hiawatha CARE Project - A project of Minnehaha-Hiawatha Community Works

What Can Individuals Do?

- Walk, bicycle, carpool, use transit, or telecommute to work or other destinations.
- Inflate automobile tires properly, routinely maintain the vehicle, and drive posted speed limits.
- Fuel automobiles in the early morning or after dusk.
- Combine daily activities and errands to reduce the number of trips.
- Purchase low-emission vehicles, alternative-fueled vehicles, or vehicles with high gas-mileage ratings.

What Can the Community Do?

- Support development which enhances biking, walking, and transit use.
- Maintain efficient transportation fleets, including, electric, hybrid, alternative fuel, and high-mileage vehicles for local units of government, school districts, large corporations, and organizations.
- Implement an incentive program for minimizing car emissions.
- Educate community on existing idling policies.
- Develop and support buy local efforts to encourage citizens to reduce travel distances.

What Can the City, County, and State Do?

- Adopt emission control policies on tailpipe emissions.
- Implement land use policies that support a mixture of uses and transit oriented development.
- Develop travel demand management plans and programs to support use of non-motorized transportation.
- Purchase efficient fleet vehicles, including, electric, hybrid, alternative fuel, and high-mileage vehicles.
- Develop and enforce idling ordinances.

For More Information

City of Minneapolis,
www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/airquality/

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency,
aqi.pca.state.mn.us/hourly/#healtheffects

US Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Transportation and Air Quality.
www.epa.gov/otaq

1. Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, **Air Quality in Minnesota: 2011 Report to the Legislature**. January 2012.

2. Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, **Annual Pollution Report to the Legislature**. April 2011.
[http://www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/view-](http://www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/view-document.html?gid=15711)

[document.html?gid=15711](http://www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/view-document.html?gid=15711)

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What is the CARE Project?

The Hiawatha CARE Project is a new effort to address environmental toxins in western Longfellow and East Phillips. The project brings together two dozen business, community, government, and non-profit agencies in a community-

driven effort to identify, prioritize, and address environmental risks in the area.

The project was initiated in December 2010 when Hennepin County received a \$100,000 Community Action for a Renewed Environment (CARE) award from the

US Environmental Protection Agency. The CARE program supports local collaborations to reduce toxins in the local community.

More Information:

www.minnehaha-hiawatha.com/care
612.348.9344.