

Smog Advisories

Smog advisories are occasionally issued between May and September in Greater Sudbury and typically coincide with hot, sunny days. Smog in Northern Ontario is usually a result of migration of air pollution from the United States, but local sources of pollution can also contribute.

If a **smog advisory** is issued, there is a strong likelihood that air quality within the next 24 hours will be poor due to smog. A **smog watch** is issued if there is a 50% chance that elevated smog levels will occur within the next 3 days.

On days when air quality is poor, **reduce personal contributions** to air pollution in the following ways:

- Avoid using gas-powered lawn mowers
- Avoid campfires
- Reduce use of air conditioning
- Carpool or take public transit

What is Smog?

- A complex mixture of air pollutants formed when heat and sunlight react with gases and fine particles in the air.
- Ground-level ozone and particulate matter are the two most common contributors to smog.

Smog Alert Network

To subscribe to this Ministry of Environment service and receive email notification about smog watches and advisories, visit:
www.airqualityontario.com

To protect your health, during a smog advisory:

- Refrain from heavy outdoor exercise and yard work
- Drink plenty of water
- Avoid being outside in high traffic areas and during rush hour
- See your doctor if you experience chest tightness, coughing or wheezing

For more information on smog advisories, visit www.airqualityontario.com.

Street-Level Air Quality

Clean Air Sudbury is participating in a street-level air quality study initiated by the Environmental Commissioner of Ontario. The study involves measuring ground-level ozone and respirable particulate matter (PM_{2.5}), two major components of smog, near major roadways and in public areas in a number of Ontario communities.

Short-term sampling at five major intersections in Greater Sudbury during the summer of 2009 indicated that:

- PM_{2.5} concentrations were, at times, substantially higher than those measured at the regional air quality index monitoring station on Ramsey Lake Road;
- ozone concentrations were similar to concentrations at the regional monitoring station; and
- at all times, the Ministry of Environment criterion for ground-level ozone and the Environment Canada reference level for PM_{2.5} were not exceeded.



The results of this study represent only a “snapshot” in time and are very weather dependent. They suggest that air quality determined from PM_{2.5} measurements near major roadways, at times, may be poorer than indicated by regional monitoring stations. Clean Air Sudbury will participate in a second round of sampling this summer to obtain more data.

Public Members Wanted

We are looking for public members to join our Steering Committee.

If you are interested in air quality issues, enjoy participating in community projects, and are able to attend monthly daytime meetings, we would like to hear from you.

Stuck in Construction Traffic? Turn off your Engine!

Consider these facts:

- 10 minutes of idling wastes 1/4 to 1/2 litre of gas
- 10 minutes of idling emits 600-1200 g of carbon dioxide and a variety of air pollutants
- 10 seconds of idling uses more fuel than it takes to restart the engine
- Turning your engine on and off is not hard on the starter

About Clean Air Sudbury...

Our mission is to compile, summarize and disseminate air quality information; to promote education and awareness of community air quality issues; and to provide opportunities for the public to get involved in air quality improvements.

Your Privacy

Clean Air Sudbury will not sell or trade your e-mail address. To subscribe or unsubscribe to this e-newsletter at any time, contact us at:

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