

Workplace Perspectives on Healthy Air



What is our air quality challenge in Dane County?

- Ground-level ozone and fine particles = a risk to our health
- Possible regulation to control air pollutants = a risk to our economy.

What is ground-level ozone?

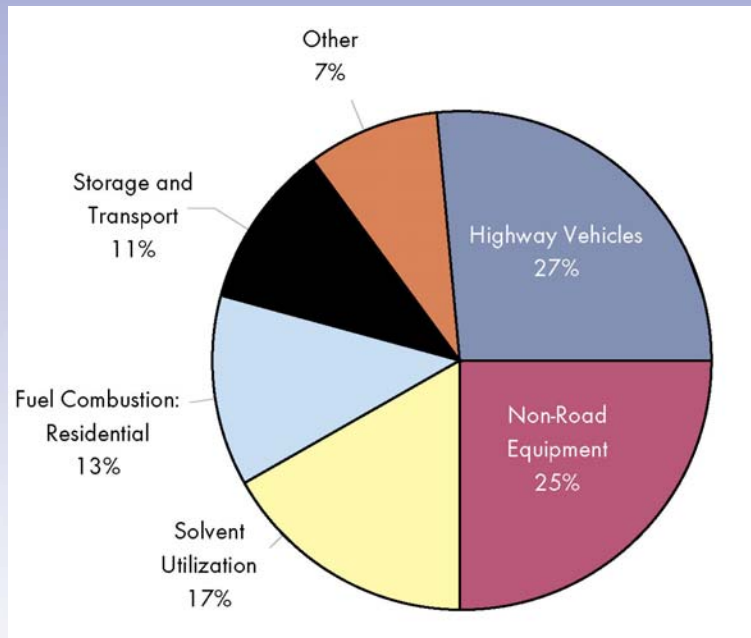
Volatile chemical gases (VOCs)...

...react with sunlight

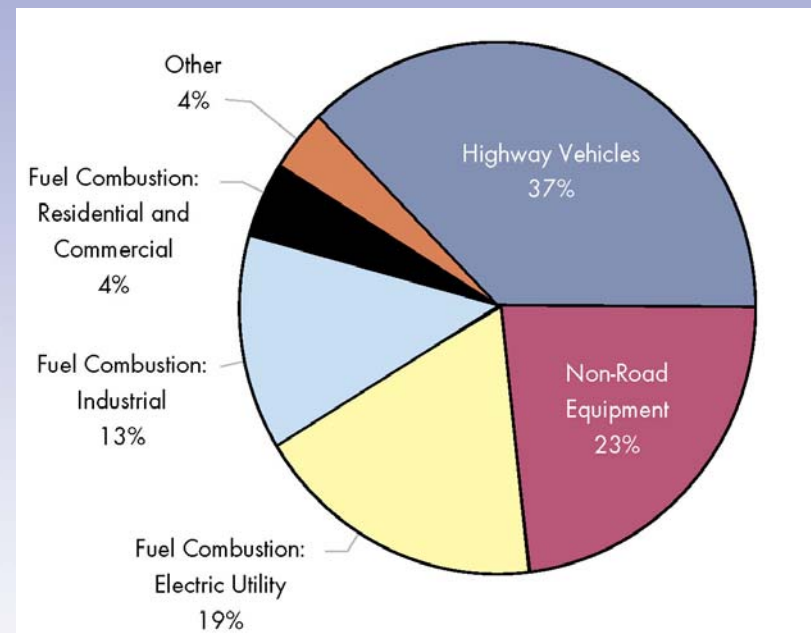
...during hot, still weather

...to create ground-level ozone.

What contributes to ground-level ozone in Dane County?



Reactive Organic Gases (VOCs)



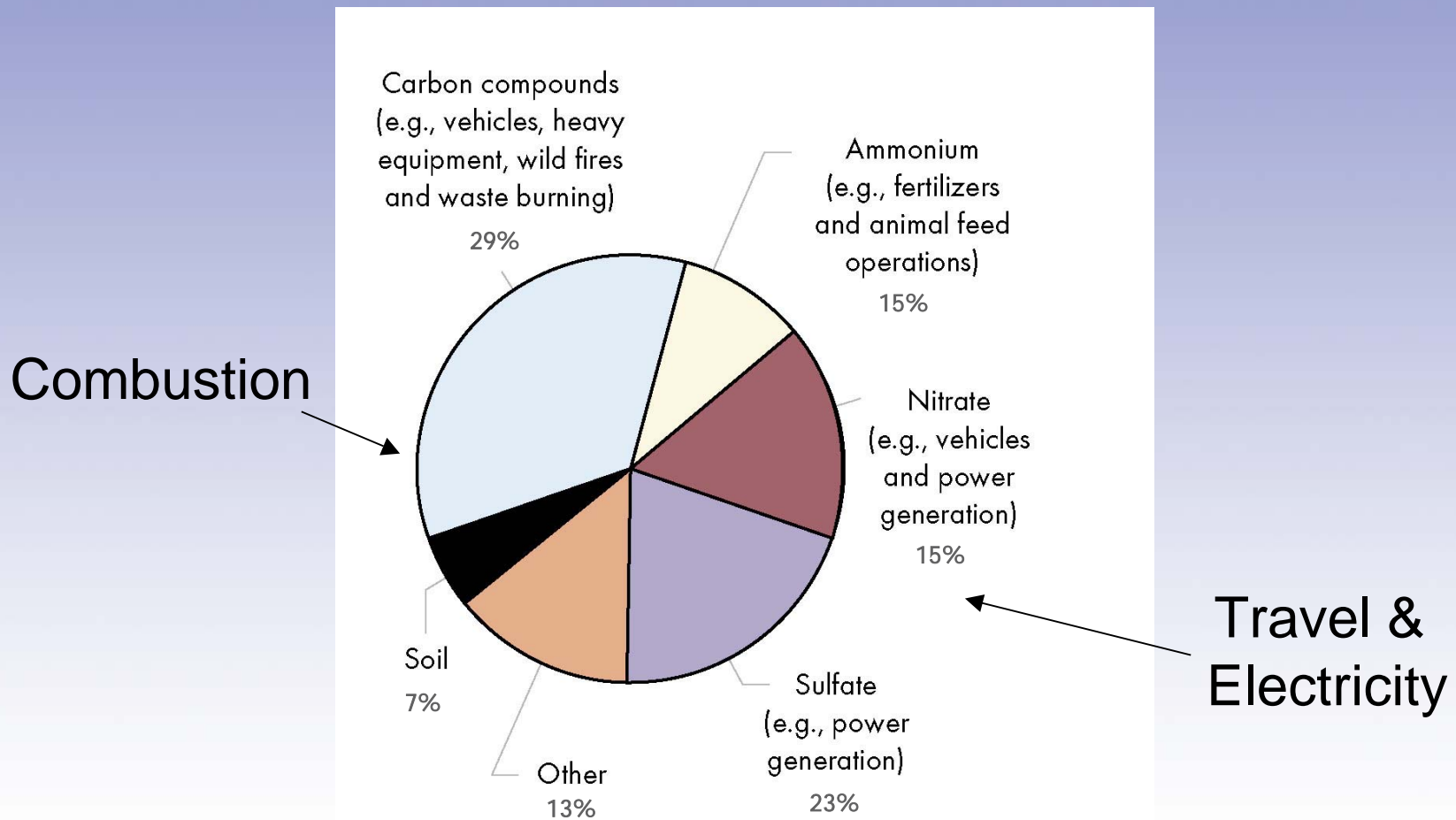
Nitrogen Oxides (Combustion)

What is fine particle pollution?

Soot, dust and chemical aerosols...

...smaller than 2.5 microns (0.0001") in diameter

Where does fine particle pollution come from in Dane County?



Vehicles cause most local ground-level ozone



80% Personal miles



20% work related miles

Who is at risk from air pollution?

Young and old who suffer from asthma,
heart and lung disease

All of us when air pollution becomes
severe



Ozone and fine particles exacerbate existing illness

Asthma patients

40,000 Dane County residents (10%)

Patients with heart and lung disease

Hospital admissions increase
on high PM_{2.5} days



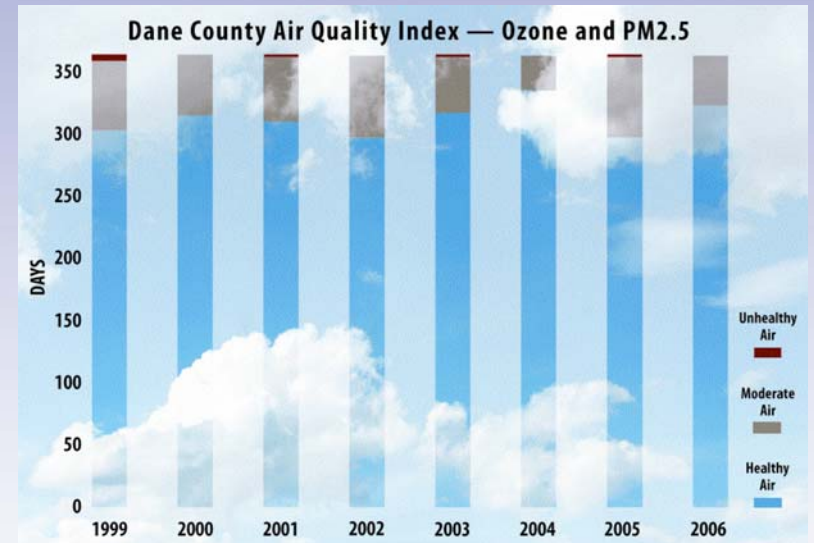
How can we help prevent air pollution locally?

- Participate in Clean Air Action Days
- Inform employers and employees about the Healthy Air Employer's Network

What are “*Clean Air Action Days*” ?

A *Clean Air Action Day* alerts

- people that ground-level ozone or fine particle pollution could reach an unhealthy level
- employers and employees to reduce emissions



The Air Quality Index

Air Quality Index (AQI) Values	Levels of Health Concern	Colors
<i>When the AQI is in this range:</i>	<i>...air quality conditions are:</i>	<i>...as symbolized by this color:</i>
0 to 50	Good	Green
51 to 100	Moderate	Yellow
101 to 150	Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	Orange
151 to 200	Unhealthy	Red
201 to 300	Very Unhealthy	Purple
301 to 500	Hazardous	Maroon

For more information on the air quality index:
<http://airnow.gov/>

What else can we do to protect our healthy air?

- Make changes in our workplace
- Change our personal behavior



Be aware and help others

Sign up for air quality alerts by email
at <http://dnr.wi.gov/air/newsletters>

or, call the DNR Air Quality Hotline:

1-866-324-5924

To share the alert, download and post
where appropriate the Clean Air Action
Day poster from www.healthyairdane.org

“Tomorrow is a *Clean Air Action Day*”

What can employers do?

- Curtail emission-causing activities
- Use better process controls to reduce emissions
- Eliminate emissions through the use of chemical substitution
and more...



“Tomorrow is a *Clean Air Action Day*”

...*More* of what employers can do

- Improve energy efficiency to reduce electrical demand
- Help employees reduce commuting miles
- Join the Healthy Air Employer Network
www.healthyairdane.org/employernetwork

Tomorrow is a “*Clean Air Action Day*”

What can employees do?

- Firstly, protect your health. Individuals “at risk” avoid heavy exertion and exercise.
- Find alternative ways to travel, such as taking the bus, or sharing a ride to work
- *And, more...*



Tomorrow is a “*Clean Air Action Day*”

...*More* of what employees can do

- Limit combustion sources
 - Small Engines
 - Fireplace
 - Outdoor Wood Boiler
 - Open Burning
 - Barbecue
- Use low emission gas cans
- *And, more...*



Tomorrow is a “*Clean Air Action Day*”

...*And more* of what employees can do

- Refuel your vehicle in the evening.
- Conserve energy in your home to reduce electrical demand
- Check out www.healthyairdane.org to find more ideas for home and community action

It all adds up to healthy air



There is synergy in numbers.
Join us to make an impact!



Thank you! To learn more, go to
www.healthyairdane.org

