



Clean Air Coalition Begins 22nd Year

On Friday, April 29th, the West Michigan Clean Air Coalition celebrated the start of the 22nd ozone forecasting season by hosting our annual Clean Air Action Luncheon.

Forty-three guests including meteorologists from WZZM, WOOD, FOX 17, a reporter from MLIVE, and many others from the West Michigan Clean Air Coalition, MDOT, and the MDEQ, came to listen to several informative presentations about the Clean Air Action program and how the new ozone standard could impact the number of Action Days this summer.

Betsy Hernandez, environmental engineer for Steelcase, began the program by welcoming everyone, thanking them for attending the

luncheon, and introducing the first speaker, Andrea Faber, transportation planner for GVMC, who provided a brief overview of the Clean Air Action program.

Andrea was followed by Jim Haywood, senior meteorologist for the MDEQ, who presented a summary of 2015 air quality data and discussed how this year's new, lower ozone standard will likely result in an increase in the number of Action Days this summer. The final and keynote speaker, Matt Hall, Senior Engineer in the Environmental Policy and Strategy Section at Consumers Energy, gave a presentation entitled, "Now What? Next Steps in the Ozone Nonattainment Process." He discussed the timeline for nonattainment designations for ozone in West Michigan, including what that

might mean for the general public as well as industry.

GVMC has been involved in the Clean Air Action program since its inception in 1995. GVMC currently provides staff to run the program in our MPO area and works closely with staff from the MACC and WMSRDC, as well as the entire West Michigan Clean Air Coalition, to educate the general public, businesses, local government, and academic institutions across West Michigan about the program.

This includes spreading our message about the importance of making choices that positively impact air quality not just on Action Days, but every day, as well as protecting one's health on Action Days.

As we head into summer, please remember to be on the lookout for Action Days, which are broadcast on the radio, announced during weather forecasts on the news, and posted on message signs on the highways. On these Days, please remember to wait until 6:00 pm to mow the lawn or refuel your car, reduce idling (skip the drive through), carpool, or take the bus for free (applies to fixed-routes only).

For more information about the Clean Air Action program, including ways you can help reduce emissions, please visit www.wmcac.org.



Andrea Faber from GVMC Speaks to the Clean Air Coalition