Connecticut: During ozone season, April 1 through September 30, the CT Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) will issue daily ground-level ozone forecasts summarizing air quality from the previous day along with forecasts for the following day.

DEP’s anti-idling policy for diesel school buses addresses idling at the school and during morning start-up at the garage. The new policy, which is voluntary, includes turning off buses immediately upon reaching their school destinations and idling no longer than necessary in the morning to bring buses to proper operating temperatures and to defrost windows.

New this year is a pilot program in Norwich Public Schools designed to reduce risk exposure from diesel school bus exhaust through the use of clean fuels, retrofits of school buses, and air monitoring to evaluate emissions and exposure to diesel exhaust within the school bus.

Delaware: Delaware held its annual kick-off event on May 16, 2002 in Dover at 11 AM at the Motor Vehicle Inspections Lanes to announce the new on-board diagnostic (OBD) program. Governor Ruth Ann Minner was the keynote speaker and the host was the American Lung Association of Delaware. The Governor signed a proclamation declaring May 20-24 Ozone Awareness Week. Awards were presented to two local radio stations and DART First State for their promotion of the ozone action program. After the Dover event, a van was available to provide transportation to the Regional event held at Independence Mall in Philadelphia, PA on that day.

District of Columbia: The DC Department of Health Air Quality Division (AQD) partnered with Bolling Air Force Base to promote clean air on April 27 and the Clean Air Partners Ozone Action Days Conference on April 26. AQD participated with EPA on the ozone mapping project for public access. AQD is ordering four compressed natural gas (CNG) vehicles for its inspection staff to use, which will minimize air emissions.

Maine: On May 26, Maine will kick off the ozone awareness season with a public display and announcement at the Portland Sea Dogs baseball game on the Memorial Day weekend. Promotional items will be given away under the theme of “It All Adds Up To Cleaner Air” to remind people of energy efficiency strategies. Handouts will include a TIPS sheet for people, a newspaper with reprinted columns from Maine In Our Backyard newspaper series on ozone related topics, and promotional LED flashlights and sun visors with the theme printed on them.

ME DEP is also sending out a letter by May 23rd to the State’s school superintendents regarding diesel school bus anti-idling guidelines. This will be followed up with a promotional magnet for bus drivers and a TIPS sheet that will be distributed to driver supervisors at a summer conference and again in the fall.

Maryland: Maryland Department of Environment (MDE) is partnering with other organizations to promote Clean Commute Month during May. Kicking off the month was the Bike to Work Day on Friday, May 3, for both Annapolis and Baltimore. Information on Clean Commute Month may be found at www.cleancommute.com.
Tour de Sol festivities began in Baltimore and were held for two days on May 12 and 13. MDE provided sponsorship for the event and a display, including a natural gas vehicle from their fleet. More information may be found at www.nesea.org.

MDE employees will participate in a seminar May 21 on ozone reducing activities for Ozone Action Days, and there will be a ribbon cutting ceremony at the Maryland Port Administration for the compressed natural gas (CNG) refueling site. This CNG facility will be used by MDE and other State agencies and reflects Maryland’s ongoing commitment to bring alternative fueled vehicles into the State’s fleet to aid in its pollution reducing activities. MDE held an Ozone Awareness kick-off conference April 26 to mark the beginning of the ozone season.

**Massachusetts:** Massachusetts staffed an exhibit on ozone at the Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers conference on May 14-16.

**New Hampshire:** New Hampshire will hold a press event to celebrate the official opening of a new and improved air monitoring station in the City of Manchester on May 21. A Governor’s Office representative will present an Ozone Awareness Week Proclamation; health officials from the City and the American Lung Association will speak, and there will be tours of the monitoring station.

The NH Department of Environmental Services (DES) will participate in the annual meeting for statewide health officials on May 22 and have ozone air pollution materials displayed.

There will be numerous displays during ozone awareness week at the DES building and highway welcome centers, and a mailing to all major health care facilities with sample newsletter articles, air pollution health guides, and Ozone Awareness Week flyers.

**New Jersey:** Ozone Action season was kicked off in New Jersey with Governor Jim McGreevey’s proclamation, presented during the Northeast Sustainable Energy Association’s Tour de Sol activities in Trenton on Friday, May 17, 2002. New Jersey Transit announced that it will again offer Ozone Transit Passes at $2 each for bus and rail transportation on days when ozone levels are unhealthy, to encourage the use of mass transit.

**New York:** A Governor’s proclamation will be released for Clean Air Month for the State of New York.

May 25 is “Cease the Day.” The State of New York will host an event on May 25 to encourage commuters to try alternate ways to get to work. The event will encourage carpooling, public transit, biking, etc as an alternative to single-occupancy vehicles. There will also be a number of events to encourage ozone awareness in the New York metropolitan area.

**Pennsylvania:** The PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) officially started forecasting ground-level ozone levels May 1. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has events planned as follows:

- May 15:
  - Governor Mark Schweiker proclaimed Ozone Season in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, April 30-September 30, 2002.
  - Lehigh Valley Ozone Action Partnership hosted a kick-off event. Contact Mark Carmon for more information (570/826-2511).

- May 16: Southeast/Delaware Valley Planning Commission hosted a kick-off event in conjunction with the Tour de Sol in Philadelphia. Contact Lynda Rebarchak (610/832-6219) for more information.
- May 20: Susquehanna Valley Ozone Action Partnership will host a luncheon at the Whitaker Center in Harrisburg.

- May 21: is the Clean Air Expo in York.

- May 31: Hershey Park Green Team will host a kick-off event. This year the team will focus on ozone, water conservation, bio-diversity, and land recycling.

**Other Events in Region:** EPA Region III coordinated its Ozone Action Kick-off Event with the Tour del Sol May 16 in Philadelphia. There was a reception following the end of the race at the Independence Visitor's Center.

EPA Region III will be participating in the Tour this year, whose theme is "Green Technology, Global Climate Change." Region III will be setting up an outreach table at LOVE Park - the venue for the event, and the Air Protection Division staff will present "Going Places, Making Choices" training on commuter options.
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