



NEWS

For Immediate Release

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APCD Website Now Offers Real-time Louisville Air Quality Data (Metro AIR NET)

Louisville, KY (September 24, 2004) – Louisville Metro Air Pollution Control District (APCD) now offers current air quality monitoring data online from 13 monitoring sites throughout the metropolitan area. **Metro Air quality Information Reporting NETwork** (Metro AIR NET) is now available anytime online at www.apcd.org.

APCD has the capacity to provide near real-time (hourly) air quality data to the public. Funded by grants from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in conjunction with ozone and particulate matter mapping (<http://www.epa.gov/airnow>), APCD's instrumentation and software technologies will enable Louisville's neighborhoods and surrounding region to view the latest ambient air pollution data.

Current levels of ground-level ozone, particulate matter, carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, oxides of nitrogen, or wind speed and direction can now be found with a click of the mouse for Jefferson, Bullitt and Oldham counties in Kentucky, and Clark and Floyd Counties in Indiana.

A map on the web page shows the locations in the community where different pollutants are monitored. Once the user chooses a monitoring location, the web page will show a list of pollutants monitored at that location. Instrument readings from January 1, 2001 to the present are available. Additionally, visitors to the web page can view live images from TRIMARC traffic cameras located near the Metro Air NET monitoring sites.

Local air quality affects how everyone lives and breathes. Exposure to high levels of air pollution can pose serious health risks, especially to active children and adults who spend time playing or working outdoors. APCD launched the new project to better protect public health by providing timely and accurate data to help individuals, parents and health care providers make healthy choices year round.

High concentrations of ground-level ozone can trigger asthma attacks, inflammation and irritation in the lungs, particularly during heavy physical activity. Unlike ground-level ozone pollution, which is generally highest during the summer months, particle pollution levels vary throughout the year. The health risk of these microscopic particles, especially for older adults and persons with heart disease, is the chemicals' impact deep in the lungs, which also can affect the heart.

More information for the public and media may be found at www.apcd.org

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