



NEWS

For Immediate Release

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Louisville Metro Air Pollution Maps Now Available on the Web

Louisville, KY (January 31, 2005) – Louisville Metro Air Pollution Control District and the U.S. EPA today uploaded another public health tool for the Louisville Metro region. Citizens across the region can now view live, real-time air quality forecasts and mapping around the clock.

The new air pollution mapping service is the result of the Air Pollution Control District's (APCD) ongoing partnership with the U.S. EPA. Louisville joins 28 other metropolitan areas offering citizens easy to understand, local, and color web animation ("movies") of ground-level ozone (Ozone season officially begins March 1 and closes October 31) and fine particle (PM_{2.5}) levels. Louisville's forecast and mapping for fine particles (PM_{2.5}) are now available year round.

According to Louisville Mayor Jerry Abramson, "Louisville continues to be recognized nationally for its ability to use new information technologies and this service puts important information into the hands of people who need it most. Improving our hometown's air quality means improving everyone's quality of life." In Kentucky, some 70,000 children and 130,000 adults suffer from asthma and could benefit from the air pollution forecasts and maps.

Louisville Metro's AIRNow maps will supplement the District's existing telephone air quality hotline (574-3319). Louisville's maps are the newest additions to EPA's nationwide efforts to keep citizens current on local air quality conditions.

APCD has long been a part of EPA's AIRNow nationwide efforts to use cutting-edge information technologies and partnerships with print, TV, and weather related media to inform the public by sending real-time hourly air monitoring and daily air quality forecast data to EPA's AIRNow. "The District is proud to be a leader in providing the public with user-friendly, current air quality to protect public health. It is becoming as easy to check the quality of the air we all breathe as it is to check the weather," said APCD Director Art Williams.

EPA's AIRNow website (www.airnow.gov) offers nationwide real-time, forecast air quality information for cities and states of interest. The forecast information is especially important for sensitive populations, which include: young children, adults who are active outdoors, and persons with respiratory diseases, such as asthma. AIRNow also contains facts about the health and environmental

Ground-Level Ozone:

An odorless, colorless gas formed in the lower atmosphere when pollutants emitted by cars, power plants, industrial boilers, refineries, chemical plants, and other sources react chemically in the presence of sunlight. It is a harmful air pollutant.

Fine Particles_(2.5):

Inhalable microscopic dust so small that it can lodge deep into lungs, potentially causing serious health problems. For example –2.5 micrometers is approximately 1/30 the width of a single human hair. Sources include all types of combustion, including motor vehicles and power plants.



www.airnow.gov

effects of air pollution. It also offers simple ways individuals can protect their health and actions to reduce air pollution.

AIRNow mapping resources for Louisville Metro covers both Kentucky and Southern Indiana. In Kentucky, the map includes the counties of Jefferson, Oldham, and Bullitt, plus parts of eight other surrounding counties. In Indiana, the map includes the counties of Floyd, Clark and Harrison, plus five other partial surrounding counties.

Louisville is one of 47 areas in 225 counties (191 full counties and 34 partial) that fail to meet the national standard for fine particles (PM_{2.5}). Louisville is also one of 500 counties failing to meet national ozone standards (8-hour Standard).

Additional information is available at the Louisville Metro Air Pollution Control District's website: www.apcd.org and EPA's AIRNow website at: www.airnow.gov

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