Hello Hoosier Environmental!

Welcome to the July edition of the Improving Kids' Environment newsletter, a resource on healthy environments for children in Indiana.

Summer brings air quality alerts and construction season, which both have implications for our children, so this month we are featuring ozone action days and lead-safe work practices, including steps all of us can take to keep children safe.

Don't forget to scroll down for upcoming events and trainings.

Thank you for all you do to help Hoosier children!

Summer Air Quality Alerts

In recent months, Indiana has had air quality alerts because of wildfire smoke; however, air quality alerts also occur from increased ground-level ozone. Ozone Action Days (Knozone alerts if you live in Indianapolis) occur when there is a significant increase in ground-level ozone, which happens on hot, sunny, dry days with stagnant air.

Ground-level ozone goes through a daily cycle. During the morning commute, vehicle emissions build up and interact with sunlight and heat causing the amount of ozone to rise and peak between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.. The ozone decreases
as the sun goes down. Ozone Action Days are of significant concern because that is when the ozone reaches unhealthy levels.

Ozone can cause stinging eyes, shortness of breath, chest pains, wheezing, and coughing. It is especially serious for people with respiratory problems like asthma. You can receive information regarding Ozone Action Days on your weather app or using the AirNow mobile app.

**Suggestions for people with asthma:**

- Refer to your asthma action plan
- Do not be afraid to ask for help by contacting a friend, family member, or neighbor
- Stay aware of air quality alerts
- Stay hydrated
- Keep your rescue inhaler nearby
- Stay inside and reschedule outdoor activities for the evening as the sun sets

**Steps we can all take** on Ozone Action Days:

- Refuel motorized vehicles after 7p.m.
- Delay using lawn equipment
- Don’t let vehicles idle
- Reduce the use of household cleaners, and garden chemicals until the air has returned to healthy levels
- Use public transportation, walk or bike

**Air quality tips for local governments:**

- Enact a [clean air zone](#) to address diesel and petroleum vehicle pollution
- Support public transportation and walking and biking infrastructure
- Encourage the development of EV charging stations to shift vehicles towards zero-emission
- Work to decarbonize the electricity grid.

---

**EPA’s RRP Rule**

Having a home is important. It’s where you can go to recover after work, make memories with family, and sleep at the end of the day. For many families, making their house a safe and healthy environment is just as important as having a place to call home. That’s why homeowners and renters alike jump at the opportunity to remodel and renovate their living space.

**Tread Carefully**

While we all want a safe place to call home, renovations and repairs have the potential for danger – electric shocks, gas leaks, and water damage can all happen if you or a licensed professional aren’t careful and follow codes put in place to protect you. If you live in a home built before 1978, one such danger could be the unwitting spread of toxic lead dust throughout your living space. Drilling holes, replacing windows, or removing carpet all have the potential to spread lead dust in the home. Fortunately, the EPA created the “RRP Rule” to protect families.

**What is RRP?**

RRP stands for Renovation, Repair, and Lead-Based Paint. The rule was established by the EPA to prevent the spread of toxic lead in the environment when working in older homes. In brief, the rule ensures lead isn’t spread throughout the home by minimizing and containing lead dust AND thoroughly cleaning up the job site. Any contractor working in a home built before 1978 should be RRP certified. However, you don’t have to be a contractor to get certified. Homeowners and DIYers can take a class to learn the basics of lead safe work practices

**Hoosiers and the RRP Rule**

Only a [handful of states](#) have adopted some version of the RRP model. Other states prefer to have the
rule enforced at the federal level. Indiana has yet to adopt the rule but that doesn't mean contractors can't get in trouble. Last year, the EPA fined the company behind HGTV's Indianapolis renovation show "Good Bones" $40,000 for violating the RRP Rule.

If you live or work in homes built before 1978 it's important to follow lead safe work practices outlined in the RRP Rule. To identify an RRP training in your area visit the EPA's website to learn more.

Events and Engagement

Air Quality & Asthma Related Events:

- 8/2/23 - Health Benefits vs Disbenefits from Indoor Air Cleaners - Online
- 8/22/23 - EPA Clean School Bus Grant - Online
- 8/23/23 - Drive Clean Indiana Annual Conference & Expo - Michigan City
- 8/24/23 - INJAC Asthma Huddle - Online
- Available until 8/31/23 - Asthma Education for the Community Health Worker - Online

Lead Related Events:

- 07/24/23 - Certified Lead Renovator initial (RRP) - Ivy Tech
- 08/16/23 - Certified Lead Renovator initial (RRP) - Ivy Tech

Hoosier Environmental Council Events:

- 07/25/23 - Save Money. Take Action. Confront Climate Change - Zoom

See more Indiana environmental events at HEC's Event Calendar

The Hoosier Environmental Council also offers a newsletter that discusses a broad range of environmental issues specific to Indiana. To sign-up, click here.

Hoosier Environmental Council | 317-685-8800 | comments@hecweb.org | www.hecweb.org

STAY CONNECTED

Hoosier Environmental Council | 3951 N. Meridian Street, Suite 100, Indianapolis, IN 46208