

Our goal? Clean Air Everywhere!

Local Ban on Burning Makes Everyone Healthier

Everyone needs air. It is all around us, and we sometimes take it for granted. But we cannot survive without clean, healthy air to breathe every single day.

In 1991, the Clean Air Act was passed in Washington State. It was put together by people who wanted to make sure that our air stayed clean for us all to breathe. And not just for us humans—animals, plants and most organisms in our world rely on clean, healthy air to survive.

Some people burn things in their yards, such as leaves, grass and branches. This is called outdoor burning. But

burning things creates smoke, which makes our air dirty.

2007 marked the year where all Urban Growth Areas had to stop allowing all outdoor burning. An Urban Growth Area, or UGA, is a place where homes and businesses can be built. Not all places with houses are UGA's, but many are. It depends on the city and county where you live.

In (your city) you are part of a UGA, which means that in your city outdoor burning is not allowed. The good news is that there are lots of different things that you can do with the yard waste

even though you can't burn it. For example, you can chip branches, mulch leaves and compost grass clippings. And your air will be cleaner too!



Outdoor burning is prohibited in Urban Growth Areas

Clean air depends on you!

- Ride your bike or walk
- Turn off the lights
- Recycle and reuse
- Ride the bus
- Chip, mulch or compost your yard debris
- Carpool when you drive/ride
- Choose recycled products

Did you know that:

- Wood smoke can be 12 times more dangerous than cigarette smoke!
- Dirty air can make it more likely that you'll get sick or develop asthma.
- Air pollution can be visible or invisible.
- The average person can only last 3 minutes without air.
- YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!!

Do This Cool Science Experiment to Test the Air in Your Neighborhood!

Make an Air Strip!

1. Using a ruler to measure, cut a strip of cardboard that is 2 inches wide and 10 inches long.
2. Cut 5 holes, each about the size of a quarter, in the strip.
3. Use a hole punch to put a small hole in the top. Tie a string through the hole.
4. Put a long piece of clear tape over one side of the strip. The sticky side will collect pollution from the air.
5. Hang it up! Make sure to write your name and the date, and check it in about a week!

Visit us online at
www.ecy.wa.gov