



Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

SUPPORT CLEAN AIR

Position Statement

Adopted January 12, 2012

Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. is committed to ensuring that we all can live in a healthy environment.

Few things are as important as the quality of the air we breathe. The two factors that influence our ambient air quality are: (1) the amount of pollutants emitted into the atmosphere; and (2) the weather conditions affecting what happens to those pollutants.

While Florida generally has good air quality, even relatively low concentrations of air pollutants have been linked to a range of adverse health consequences. Primary pollutants commonly emitted in Florida include sulfur dioxide produced by coal-fired power plants and by the phosphate industry through its production of sulfuric acid; nitrogen oxides from diesel exhaust, thermal power plants and pulp mills; carbon monoxide produced by incomplete combustion in automobiles, trucks, ships, trains and construction and agricultural equipment; particular matter or soot, dust and pollen from fuel combustion and power generation, forest and grassland fires, living vegetation and sea spray; and mercury from municipal waste incinerators. Ground-level ozone (smog) is our most pervasive air pollutant. It is formed when hydrocarbons combine with nitrogen oxides and chemically react in sunlight. Unhealthy concentrations of ozone pollution can occur when the weather is hot and sunny and there is relatively little wind. Florida also has lakes and woodlands which are potentially sensitive to acidification by rainfall (acid rain) which occurs when emissions of sulfur dioxide and nitrogen react in the atmosphere with water, oxygen and oxidants.

Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. recognizes that while our air quality has improved in the last three decades since the enactment of the Clean Air Act, air pollution continues to pose a grave threat to our health. To protect and improve our air quality, Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. supports the following goals:

To Improve Ambient Air Quality

- Reduce point source pollution emissions (pollutants from electric power plants, phosphate processing plants, pulp and paper mills and municipal waste combustors)
- Reduce line source pollution emissions (pollutants from aircraft, vehicles, vessels, locomotives, construction and agricultural equipment)
- Reduce area source pollution emissions (pollutants from forest fires and dust storms)

To Improve Our Effectiveness

- Substantially strengthen and fully implement the Clean Air Act to ensure attainment and maintenance of National Ambient Air Quality Standards
- Strengthen, accelerate, and finalize the proposal to cap smog- and soot-forming pollutants from power plants in the eastern U.S. to adequately protect public health and comply with the law
- Update air quality standards to include mercury, lead, aluminum, arsenic, acid gases and aerosol toxins emission limits
- Support state legislative and regulatory initiatives which provide federally designated nonattainment areas and near nonattainment areas with state incentives and local option tools to achieve compliance with federal air quality standards
- Implement state-of-the-art air quality research modeling tools, analytical methodologies and monitoring practices to provide data on the distribution of concentrations of air pollutants
- Increase scientific understanding about the health risks associated with exposure to air pollutants
- Continuously evaluate how public policies and programs affect air pollution levels and public health demographics
- Promote awareness, understanding and appreciation of the health impacts of air pollution with outreach programs to educate the broader community

Charter Member of National Garden Clubs, Inc.

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