

# TENNESSEE Air Quality Flag Program

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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## Announcements & Updates

Welcome to the new quarterly newsletter provided by the Tennessee Air Flags Committee! This newsletter will provide

- latest announcements and update;
- share how other participating sites are incorporating the flag program;
- offer various tools and ideas to implement the program at your site.

### New Website!

We have a new and improved Air Quality Flag Program website with information on how to get started with the program, materials and resources available for participating sites in Tennessee. Bookmark it today at:

[www.lung.org/TN-Air-Quality-Flags](http://www.lung.org/TN-Air-Quality-Flags)

### Have Pictures or Success Stories?

We are working to collect pictures and highlights from all of the participating Flag Program sites in Tennessee. If you have any pictures or fun things to share, please send them to us! Send them to Christine at [Christine.Hart@Lung.org](mailto:Christine.Hart@Lung.org).

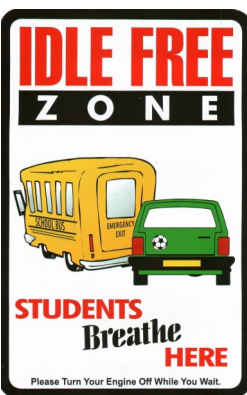
Don't forget  
social media!



Here's a status your site could post:

"The green flag out front means the air quality is good today! Enjoy some time outside – our students will be during recess!"

## Tennessee School Spotlight: Anti-Idling Policies



Last fall, the Tennessee Air Flags Committee recognized nearly 40 Tennessee schools and districts that implemented an Anti-Idling Policy on school premises to reduce vehicle emissions, which are dangerous to students' health.

Not only do emissions from idling vehicles pollute the outdoor air, emissions and pollution can also enter school buildings through air intakes, doors, and open windows. Because the lungs generally are not fully developed until around age 12, children are particularly susceptible to air pollution, which can harm their developing lungs and result in coughing, wheezing, and even asthma attacks. These illnesses can lead to missed school days and chronic absenteeism.

Anti-idling policies help students breathe cleaner air. With this policy, school buses and vehicles in student pick-up lanes reduce their vehicle emissions by not idling their vehicle while waiting in line.

"Vehicle pollution has an enormous impact on our health. Anti-idling policies are an easy, effective way to limit these emissions. Congratulations to these schools for being a leader in Tennessee and taking this important step to protect their school community's health," said Christine Hart from the American Lung Association and member of the Tennessee Air Flags Committee.

Interested in adopting an  
Anti-Idling Policy at your  
school? Learn more at:

[CLICK HERE](#)

## Updated Tennessee Air Monitors

The State of Tennessee's ambient air monitoring network recently underwent significant technology and restoration upgrades. As part of the upgrade, the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation's (TDEC) Division of Air Pollution Control replaced older, obsolete air monitoring equipment with state-of-the-art equipment.



Staff working inside the unit

Additionally, new and improved shelters for the equipment were purchased to meet tighter regulatory monitoring requirements. A total of 23 monitoring sites were upgraded across Tennessee. These upgrades enable TDEC to better manage local air quality by improving the integrity and recovery of air pollution data used for regulatory applications.



New versus old air monitor

## Air Quality Flag Program in the News!

The Hands On Science Center in Tullahoma, Tennessee was recently featured in their local paper, *The News*, about their involvement with the Flag Program and what they have been doing to educate kids about air pollution.



[CLICK HERE](#)  
to read the article!

Check out your toolkit for a draft press release template to create your own!

## In the Classroom

### COCO IS BACK!

The National Service Center for Environmental Publications' 5th printing of the children's picture book, *Why is Coco Orange?* is now available. The updated 2019 Coco books are free! You can order your books at <https://www.epa.gov/nscep#searchApp>, and search on "456K19001." Find online and downloadable copies, as well as a Coco flyer and coloring page at [https://www.airnow.gov/index.cfm?action=picture\\_book.index](https://www.airnow.gov/index.cfm?action=picture_book.index)

### FREE BOOKMARKS

"Looking for a bright handout for your students, or to bring to your next conference or meeting?" Check out the AQFP bookmarks! You can order them FREE at <https://www.epa.gov/nscep#searchApp>. Type EPA number "456F17005" in the search box.



## WE ARE HERE TO SUPPORT YOU!

Questions? Contact Christine Hart at [Christine.Hart@Lung.org](mailto:Christine.Hart@Lung.org) or 423-661-7593  
[www.lung.org/TN-Air-Quality-Flags](http://www.lung.org/TN-Air-Quality-Flags)

