



LINN COUNTY REGIONAL
PLANNING COMMISSION

FORUM ON AIR QUALITY ISSUES FOR LINN COUNTY

Please join us in a discussion of local and nationwide air quality issues with two guest speakers on Wednesday, March 14 at 1:30 at the Linn County Administration Building.

James D. Hodina, QEP
Linn County Public Health Department

James Hodina joined Linn County Public Health in 2006 as the supervisor of the Air Quality Division. Jim has 16 years of professional environmental experience in air quality, water quality, and remediation, working in industry and consulting. He is a graduate of Civil Engineering from Iowa State University and received his M.S. in Environmental Management from the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago. Jim has served on the Board of Examiners for both the Iowa Recognition for Performance Excellence and the Malcom Baldrige National Quality Award, and currently serves on the Board of Directors for the National Association of Clean Air Agencies (NACAA). After growing up in Cedar Rapids, Jim returned in 1999 with his wife Shawn and two children, who are now ages 8 and 11.

Jim will discuss outdoor air quality trends in Linn County including comparisons to other cities in Iowa and to the National Ambient Air Quality Standards. Since Linn County is encroaching upon these standards, Jim will briefly discuss the regulatory and economic impacts associated with exceeding these standards, and conclude by highlighting some key environmental information that may be useful input to local decision-makers and staff, for future planning and development.

In addition, Jim will provide information on State of Iowa activities and highlight some key activities occurring at the local level to actively engage in addressing the issue of global warming.

Alan Banwart, Environmental Protection Specialist
EPA Region 7 Office

Alan Banwart grew up on a crop/livestock farm in Northwest Iowa near the town of West Bend. He attended Wartburg College in Waverly, Iowa where he received his Bachelor of Arts degrees in Biology and Political Science, as well as a minor in Environmental Studies. Directly after graduation, he began his employment with the EPA and has been there for three and one-half years. He works in the Air Division in the Air Planning and Development Branch where his primary focus is on agriculture and mobile source issues.

Alan is the non-road sector lead in the Blue Skyways Collaborative, a voluntary program that focuses on getting diesel emission reductions from mobile sources and other emission reductions from energy efficiency and alternative energy use. He is also a co-leader on the Region 7 Ag Team and a member of the Ethanol Team.

LINN COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

The Linn County Regional Planning Commission is an organization of governments in the Cedar Rapids metro area. The group's mission is to find solutions to common problems facing the metro area.

Phone: 319-286-5041

Fax: 319.286.5141

E-mail: d.wheatley@cedar-rapids.org

There are many opportunities to be proactive in addressing our local air quality issues. Our speakers will highlight two examples, The Blue Skyways Coalition and the Community Action for a Renewed Environment (CARE) Program, both sponsored by EPA through development and allocation of resources and funding. The Blue Skyways Collaborative promotes voluntary air emissions reduction in North America's heartland through "active and meaningful participation in planning or implementation of projects that use innovations in diesel engines, alternative fuels and renewable energy technologies." CARE is a competitive grant program that offers an innovative way for communities to take action to reduce toxic pollution. Linn County Public Health is working to form a CARE coalition and compete for one of these grants.