

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: John Paul – RAPCA, 937.225.5948
Brian Huxtable – RAPCA, 937.225.5931

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Earth Day

As we celebrate the 40th anniversary of Earth Day, the Regional Air Pollution Control Agency (RAPCA) would like to take this opportunity to “look back” and recognize the air quality improvements the Miami Valley has experienced.

Since RAPCA began monitoring air quality in late 1960’s, the agency has witnessed dramatic improvements in air quality. Based on current air quality monitoring methods that date back to the mid 1980’s, the Miami Valley has experienced over 60 percent reduction for some pollutants. Sulfur dioxide for example has declined by 63 percent and carbon monoxide by as much as 60 percent.

While we’ve made tremendous progress in reducing air pollution, we still face air quality challenges in the future. The Miami Valley currently meets all health based air quality standards, except fine particulate matter. In the future we anticipate challenges in meeting the new ozone standard that is in the process of being lowered, or strengthened, to protect sensitive populations. This is due to the continuing improvements in health effects analysis, which are able to detect adverse health effects from exposure to lower and lower concentrations of air pollution.

Regardless of these challenges, this is the cleanest air the Miami Valley has experienced since RAPCA began monitoring air quality. We are thankful for the clean air we have now and RAPCA will continue to work hard to protect the quality of our air in the future.

RAPCA continues to encourage Miami Valley citizens to incorporate earth friendly activities into their everyday lives to help make a difference in our community.

For a complete air quality analysis, please visit www.rapca.org.

Note:

RAPCA began in the late 1950's as a City of Dayton program; transferred to the Montgomery County Health Department in the late 1960's; and expanded to the six counties of Preble, Darke, Miami, Montgomery, Clarke, and Greene in the early 1970's. Currently RAPCA contracts with Ohio EPA and receive a grant from USEPA to enforce state and local air pollution control regulations in the six-county region. RAPCA is part of the Public Health – Dayton and Montgomery County.

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