



BRANCHES

Carlisle Area Health & Wellness Foundation Spring 2007

Carlisle Air Quality Report Released

On February 23, 2007, Carlisle Area Health & Wellness Foundation (CAHWF) released the *Carlisle Area Air Quality Assessment Report*. The report confirmed our area's high pollutant levels and enumerated the associated health risks, especially for our community's children, the elderly, and those with pre-existing respiratory or heart disease.

Last year the Foundation approved a grant which commissioned the Clean Air Council, a state-wide organization well known and respected for its work on both outdoor and indoor air and based in Philadelphia with a Harrisburg office, to do this study. The data collected by the Clean Air Council reflects that our region does have a significant air quality issue. Cumberland County ranked in the 96th percentile nationally of most polluted areas. While the statistics are startling and industry sources are the leading contributors of fine particulates, diesel emissions create an extra challenge in our transportation saturated area. Our air contains harmful chemicals that are proven health hazards which potentially can cause significant health issues far beyond normal ranges.

The CAHWF report suggests the cooperation of multiple partners and offers clear, concise solutions to improve air quality both in the short and long term. Every facet of the community from the transportation industry to individual residents to schools is able to modify their behavior in some way to improve the situation. "As with any complex issue, the solutions are multiple. To have any impact varied strategies need to be employed in many ways at the same time. We all need to care about the air we breathe." stated **Bets Clever, CAHWF Executive Director.**

The Foundation will continue to work with local partners such as Carlisle's faith-based Clean Air Board (CAB) to identify and implement solutions. To support these efforts, Carlisle Area Health & Wellness Foundation has issued a Clean Air policy paper that is available, along with all CAHWF publications, by contacting the office or at www.cahwf.org.

Carlisle Area Air Quality Assessment Report

COMMISSIONED BY
CARLISLE AREA HEALTH & WELLNESS FOUNDATION

Produced by
Clean Air Council

"The goal for all, is to have a healthy community; we are fortunate to have the commitment of many people to make that happen." **Jane Burke,**
Chairperson of the Board
in response to the recent release of
Carlisle Area Air Quality Assessment Report.

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