



**LRAPA**  
Lane Regional Air Protection Agency

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Spring 2017

# CLEAN AIR FOR HEALTHY LUNGS

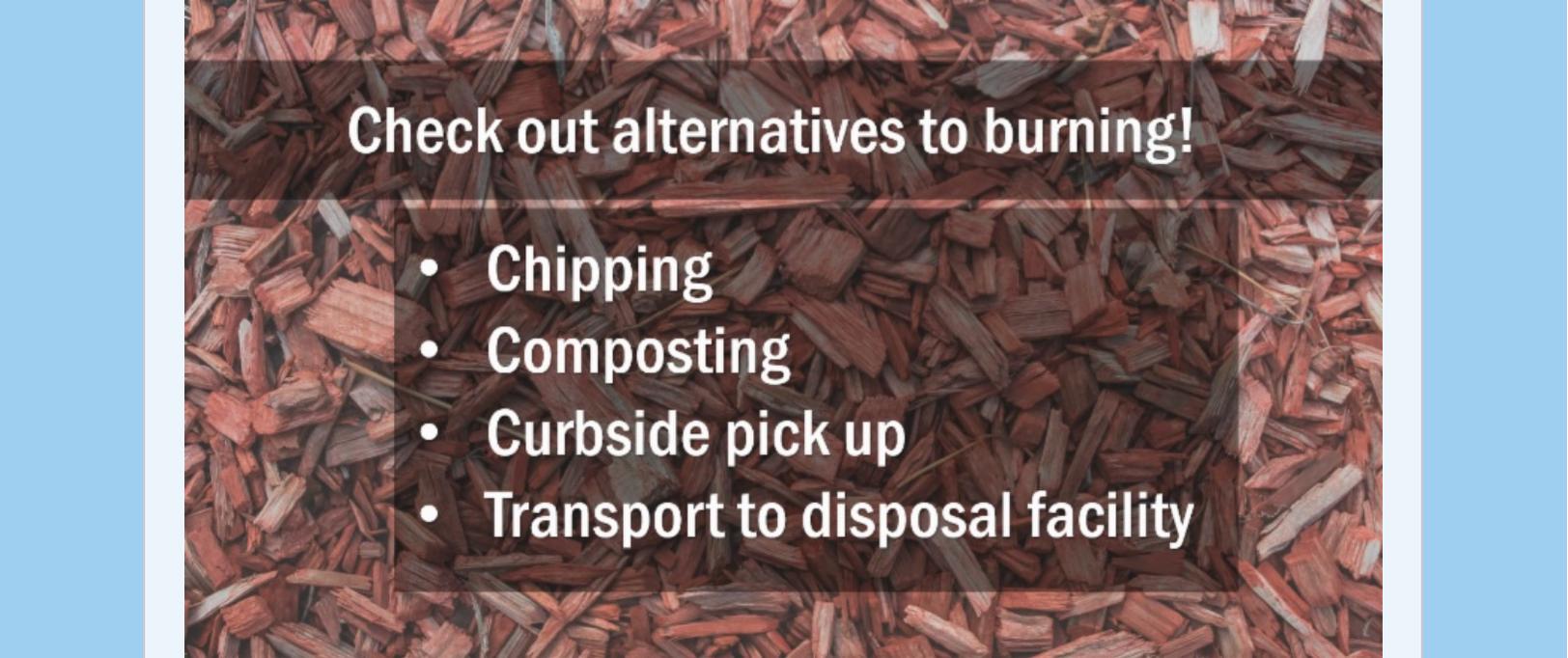
## Greetings!

This spring had been extremely busy for LRAPA. We published our [2016 annual report](#), which showed enormous strides in reduced particulate matter pollution in our non-attainment area. We have been active in the local community as we continue to make efforts to engage with residents of Lane County through fun events.

Air quality has largely been in the "good" portion of the Air Quality Index, and we hope this continues as the summer ozone and wildfire season approaches.

Thank you to all the community members that came by our booths at our events and support us continually. We could not achieve our mission to protect public health, quality of life, and the environment without you!

**Backyard Burning**



## Check out alternatives to burning!

- Chipping
- Composting
- Curbside pick up
- Transport to disposal facility

### Backyard Burning Rules

#### Backyard burning season to end in June

Thursday, June 15th, marks the last day for backyard burning in Lane County until October. Backyard burning season closes every summer due to the elevated fire risk in the hot months. Residents can expect burning to reopen October 1st. However, the Lane County Fire Defense Board has the option to move up the closure of the burn season or delay the opening if the fire risk is too high.

During the closed season, Lane County residents are encouraged to dispose of yard debris in alternative ways. Yard debris can be dropped off at one of the several local collection or recycling centers. Composting and chipping are always recommended and many residents in Eugene and Springfield also have option to use curbside yard debris pick up.

Residents who burn during the closed season are subject to fines up to several thousand dollars.

## Wildfire Season

#### Wildfire season is almost upon us

As the weather begins to get hotter and we enter wildfire season, it's crucial that residents of Lane County practice extreme caution when starting any fires. Every year, millions of acres of land across the United States are burned due to accidental fires. Make sure you check to see if your fire is legal and be vigilant of your fire. Always have a way to fully extinguish it when you're done!

It's important to remember that wildfire smoke can travel hundreds of miles. If you notice that your area is particularly smokey, check the [Oregon Smoke Blog](#) for updates on current wildfires or call LRAPA at (541)736-1056 for more information.



## BRING Earth Day Birthday

### Celebrating Earth Day with our friends at BRING Recycling

This Earth Day, LRAPA participated in one of our favorite annual events: Earth Day Birthday at BRING Recycling! Armed with a booth full of fun prizes and a remote control electric car course for kids, our staff had a great day talking to the community about electric vehicles, pollution prevention, and how the residents of Lane County can improve air quality. We partnered with EWEB to showcase EVs and our electric vehicle show-and-tell was a big hit. Dozens of people learned about the different types of electric vehicles and had the opportunity to look through a few variations of different vehicles.







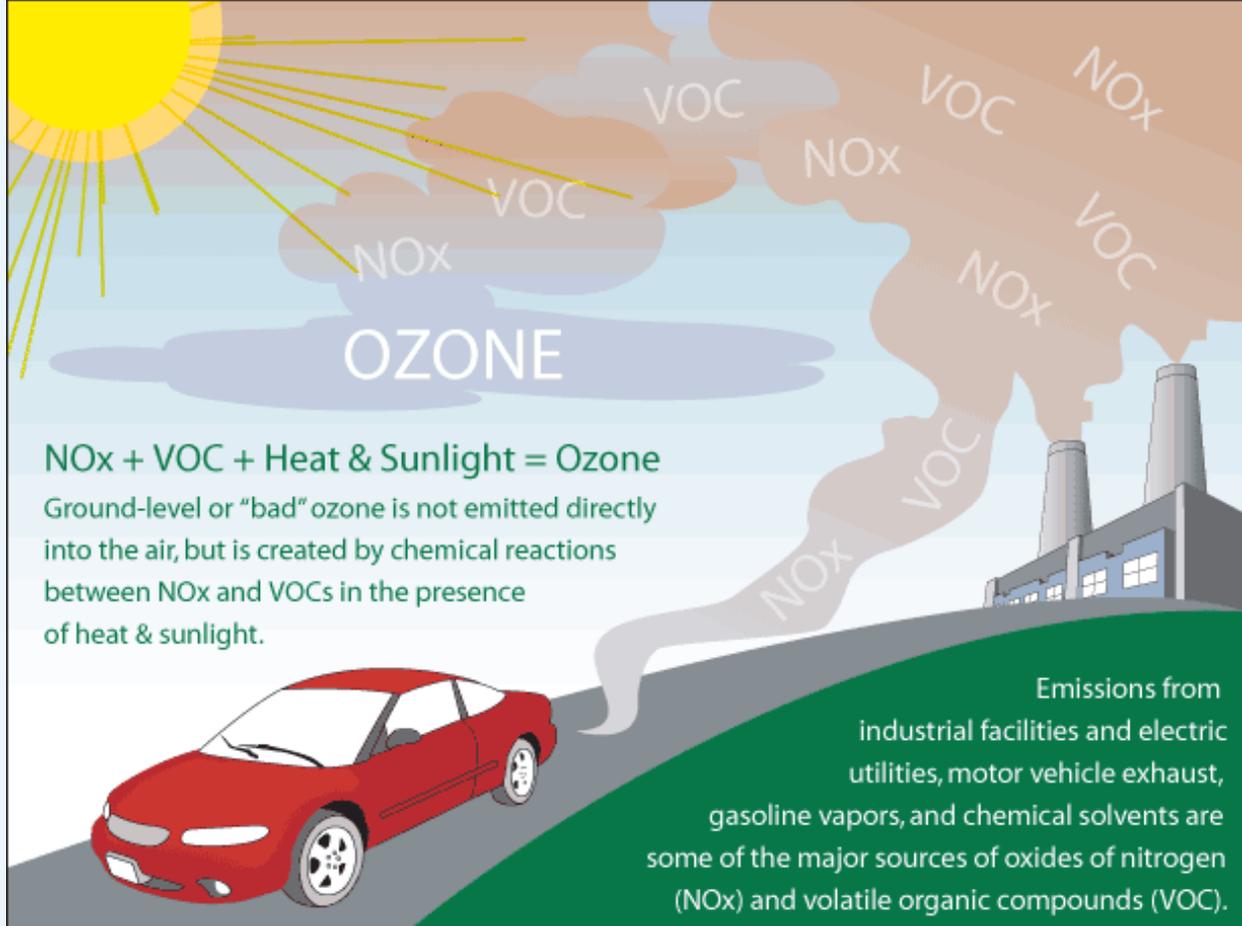
## Oakridge Outdoor School

**When the weather is this nice, who doesn't want to go outside?**

LRAPA participated in the annual Outdoor School program at the Fish Hatchery in Oakridge. We taught 6th grade students from Lowell and Oakridge about chemistry, air pollution, and pollution prevention. Through fun experiments and activities, students learned about the environmental and health effects of air pollution and what they can do to improve their environment. We love being able to teach enthusiastic students!



## Ozone Pollution



Source\_ EPA

### We want the ozone layer, but we don't want ozone pollution

Summertime is right around the corner, which means that ozone pollution is coming to Lane county. Ozone can be good or bad, depending on where it is. Ozone is good when it's high up in the stratosphere; the ozone layer protects the Earth from the sun's damaging UV rays. However, ground-level ozone is harmful to humans, plants, and animals. Ground level ozone is a colorless gas that occurs when two pollutants (VOCs and NOx) react in sunlight, making ozone most problematic in summer.

Ozone can cause coughing, difficulty breathing, and in severe cases, lung damage.

How do you protect yourself? Check the [air quality index \(AQI\) on LRAPA's website](#) and if you notice that the air quality is unhealthy, take steps to protect you and your family:

- Reschedule activities to early or late morning, when ozone levels are generally lower
- Move daily activities inside if possible
- Take frequent breaks during outdoor activities and contact your healthcare provider if you experience difficult breathing

## Our Director: Merlyn Hough

### Congratulations to our director, Merlyn Hough!

We'd like to congratulate our very dedicated director, Merlyn Hough, for being awarded the

2017 Stanley E. Kappe Award by the American Academy of Environmental Engineers and Scientists. This award recognizes individuals who have performed extraordinary contributions for the betterment of the environment and the advancement of public awareness.

Merlyn has dedicated his career to improving air quality in Lane County in order to protect public health, community well-being, and the environment.



LRAPA Board Chair, Jeannine Parisi, presents Director Merlyn Hough with his award

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