



# Fact Sheet

South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control • [www.scdhec.gov](http://www.scdhec.gov)

## Actions You Can Take for Cleaner Air

### Drive Less.

In South Carolina, about half of the air pollution we create comes from mobile sources such as cars, trucks and off-road vehicles. Fewer trips means less air pollution. Here are some ways to cut back on driving:

1. Carpool.
2. Walk or ride a bike.
3. Shop by mail, phone or the Internet.
4. Ride public transit where available.
5. Telecommute.

### Drive Smart.

How we operate our vehicles can help reduce pollution. Here are some ideas:

6. Accelerate gradually.
7. Use cruise control on the highway.
8. Combine errands into one trip, or "trip-chain."
9. Obey the speed limit.
10. Keep vehicles properly tuned.
11. Don't top off the gas tank.
12. Replace your car's air filter.
13. Keep tires properly inflated.
14. When shopping for that next car, consider more efficient, less-polluting models.
15. Avoid unnecessary idling

### Choose Air-Friendly Products.

Many products in our homes, yards or offices are made of chemicals that escape into the air when used. To reduce this type of pollution:

16. Select water-based solvents or those with low volatile organic compound (VOC) content.
17. Use water-based paints or those labeled zero VOC.
18. Paint with a brush instead of a sprayer.
19. Store solvents like paint thinners in airtight containers.
20. Use a reel or electric mower and other non-gas-powered equipment such as edgers.

### Save Energy.

There are simple, easy steps we can take to save energy. Here are just a few:

21. Turn off the lights when leaving a room.
22. Use a fan instead of air conditioning.
23. Microwave small meals.
24. Properly insulate your home.
25. Insulate hot water heaters.
26. Check with your utility for energy conservation tips.

For more information, visit: <http://www.scdhec.gov/YouHoldtheKeySC>

DHEC's Bureau of Air Quality, Innovations Section provides information on environmental topics. Readers are encouraged to reproduce this material. For more information about air quality issues, please call (803) 898-4123 or visit our website at [www.scdhec.gov/baq](http://www.scdhec.gov/baq). Please send written correspondence to: DHEC's Bureau of Air Quality, Innovations Section, 2600 Bull Street, Columbia, SC 29201.

