



Role Card Examples

Based on an actual Clean Air Forum in West Michigan

EPA Representative

- Regional cooperation will be needed to solve the problem.
- Ozone in west Michigan comes from across Lake Michigan.
- EPA does not want to reconsider or change the Clean Air Act.
- If the Act were changed, there would be major problems with other parts of the country that also want to blame ozone on someone else even though they should not.
- EPA hopes to give flexibility to some Michigan counties as to how they will attain the standard.
- Other counties will just have to do exactly what the Clean Air Act Amendments regulations require.

MDEQ Representative

- We have the ozone standard to protect human health and the state will do what is needed under the Clean Air Act.
- The MDEQ is in charge of working on a plan to reduce ozone levels.
- Our plan will go to the EPA by 2007, but some counties are supposed to solve the problem before we even have a plan.
- We will be doing an inventory of air emissions from all sources to find out what is causing the problem.
- We do not agree with where the EPA set the boundaries for the nonattainment counties and with the way some counties are classified.

Federal Congressperson

- I have asthma and I know how it feels.
- The Clean Air Act Amendments are very tightly written and do not take into account the problems in different geographic areas.
- The science of setting the standard is outdated and needs to become current.
- For west Michigan, the unique location next to the lake should be taken into account.
- Addressing nonattainment on a county-by-county basis does not make sense.
- In the latest energy bill, there was a two-year delay for Michigan's nonattainment designations.

State Senator

- No one supports dirty air, but we do not think the nonattainment classifications are fair.
- The Michigan Senate will question the ozone standard and why transport of ozone from other areas is not taken into account.
- The Michigan Senate will fight the EPA on the nonattainment designations.
- It is not fair to the economy.
- If Michigan industries totally shut down, 70% of the ozone would still be coming from somewhere else.
- Why do others who are sending us ozone have more time to clean up?
- By the way, my family has allergies.



Environmental Group

- People in Michigan should be able to breathe clean air.
- We are glad to have the Clean Air Act.
- There is a lot of focus on economics and regulations, but ozone is also a health, political, and behavioral problem.
- About 400,000 emergency room visits in SE Michigan could be related to air quality.
- We have been taking voluntary actions for 10 years, but have ignored some significant problems.
- Power generation in coal-burning plants and vehicle emissions are the two big air quality issues.
- The whole problem is tied to energy.
- We need more research to change our energy generation and maybe a 5% tax on gasoline to fund the research.
- The energy problem is common to all Americans, not just Michigan. It needs national and international attention.

Power Company

- Prior to April 2004, Michigan was the largest industrial state meeting air quality standards, but the EPA changed the rules of the game.
- Because of the NO_x reductions in the State Implementation Plan and the Acid Rain Program, power plants have decreased their NO_x emissions by 85%.
- Tens of millions of dollars have been spent on controls on power plants.
- Wisconsin has not made its reductions yet.
- The latest controls were put in this spring.
- We need to work with area sources such as paint shops, bakeries, and gas stations so that they make some reductions, too.
- There is a lot to decide:
What new controls should now be mandatory?
What are cost-effective choices?
What are politically correct choices?
What choices would the EPA approve?
What will survive a court challenge?

Medical Doctor

- Your respiratory system is designed to filter out gases and particles.
- The lung is like a sponge.
- Ozone is very reactive.
- Effects of air pollution are correlated with heart attacks, asthma attacks, deaths from lung disease, and incidents of lung cancer.
- Ozone Action Days = Medical Attention Days
- My two kids have asthma. They are entitled to clean air.
- We can do better.
- Ozone is not the only problem. What about particle pollution?
- We need to ban public smoking; second-hand smoke aggravates health problems.
- Most of the time, unhealthy lungs are due to tobacco smoke with 20% of the time due to particle pollution.

Chamber of Commerce

- The 1970 Clean Air Act was 70 pages long and the 1990 Amendments were over 700 pages long.
- Congress embedded rules in the Act that sometimes do not make sense.
- Initial models for the Act were based on Los Angeles, not Michigan.
- We may not be able to get into attainment by just controlling our sources.
- Industry has done a good job in Michigan in reducing emissions.
- Are we doing the right thing if regional transport of pollution is the issue?
- Economic growth will be hindered and industry will not want to come here.
- What about the 5-10% of cars that contribute most of the pollution?
- We all want clean air—but at what cost?
- Should we reopen the Clean Air Act?



Regional Planning Agency

- Our mission is to bring a wide spectrum of viewpoints together to solve problems.
- We represent every person in the metropolitan area.
- The Regional Planning Agency has taken a leadership role in ozone issues for over a decade.
- We work on regional transportation issues, especially congestion from traffic.
- Moving traffic more quickly reduces idling by vehicles and results in less emissions.
- “Smart” traffic lights are needed to move traffic along.
- We coordinate the Ozone Action program.
- Behavior changes that we take today will make it easier on our lungs.
- There needs to be common sense and common ground.
- We cannot destroy health for the economy, but we cannot sink the economy for our health.
- There may be a need to “pay” for clean air.

Concerned Citizen

- The way I see it, the Clean Air Act has created some problems for Michigan.
- What are we supposed to do in West Michigan when so much pollution is coming from another area?
- Why do the areas with more serious violations have a longer time to clean up their act?
- I am willing to do my part on Ozone Action Days, but I think that inspecting my 2003 hybrid car will not solve the problem.
- It will be difficult and too expensive to fix old cars that are polluting. So what do we do?
- It would be great if people could car pool or take buses or trains.
- I am glad to hear that industry is doing its part. Can they do more?
- It is going take us all working together to solve this problem.
- We all need to think about reducing our energy use and look for alternative energy sources.