



**Goods Movement: Public Health Implications for the Mid Atlantic
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University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA**

Introduction

The business of moving consumer goods via trucks, trains and ships is one with a considerable health and environmental impact. Voluntary and mandatory air quality measures have been implemented at goods movement facilities in some parts of the country. While some goods movement facilities in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic have recently implemented some air pollution mitigation strategies, they still lag far behind their West Coast and European counterparts in terms of implementing cost-effective solutions. Moreover, there is a lack of awareness in this region of what goods movement is and how it impacts health and quality of life.

Background

The Mid-Atlantic region is long overdue for a conference that brings together and helps inform various stakeholders about the impact of goods movement on public health. Nine of the top 50 freight gateways are in New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Maryland and Washington D.C., totaling \$522 billion dollars of commerce a year. Five of the top 25 water ports sit in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic. Interstate highway corridors and rail lines traverse the most densely populated areas of the nation. Furthermore, poor air quality is a critical issue throughout the region. In the Mid-Atlantic States, 55 counties are classified as non-attainment of the national ambient air quality standards for particulate matter, the chief criteria pollutant emitted from diesel engines.

The region has some of the highest asthma rates in the nation. A 2009 American Lung Association report ranked Philadelphia the 16th most polluted U.S. city for ozone and the 20th most polluted U.S. city for particulate pollution. Moreover, the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America reported that 9 of the top 30 most challenging places to live with asthma are metropolitan regions in the Mid-Atlantic and Northeastern states.

Conference Topics

- The latest research on the connection between goods movement and public health.
- Goods movement industry trends in the Northeast and their implication for nearby low-income neighborhoods.
- Collaboration and capacity-building to develop cost-effective solutions to reduce air pollution from goods movement.
- Public policy and its implications for goods movement and public health.





Audience

Goods Movement: Public Health Implications for the Mid-Atlantic that builds on Clean Air Council's ongoing Goods Movement Program. The goal of the conference is to educate public health and environmental advocacy organizations, planners, public health agencies, and elected officials about the public health impacts of goods movement and the role that they can play in addressing these impacts.

The Council has identified public health professionals and health advocates as an under-represented constituency in the effort to better assess and develop programs and policies to reduce pollution generated by moving goods. The conference will bring in new stakeholders, develop the knowledge base of the issue within the public health field, and cultivate long-term participation with a sector whose valuable input is missing from the broader conversation. A more complete understanding of health issues associated with goods movement by the public health sector will allow these leaders to work together in developing and implementing region-specific policies and solutions.

Conference Objectives

- To improve public health professionals' and policy makers' understanding of goods movement's public health and neighborhood impacts.
- To improve familiarity with cost-effective strategies that reduce the public health impact of goods movement through prevention, control, and elimination of hazards.
- To expand collaboration among conference attendees to develop and implement cost-effective strategies to reduce the negative impact of goods movement on public health.
- To have goods movement stakeholders increase their consideration of public health in business practices.
- To encourage research on subjects related to goods movement and public health.
- To develop sound policy recommendations for improvement of the goods movement sector as it relates to public health.

About Clean Air Council

Clean Air Council is a member-supported, non-profit environmental organization dedicated to protecting everyone's right to breathe clean air. The Council works through public education, community advocacy, and government oversight to ensure enforcement of environmental laws. Working with local industry leaders, community-groups, and other stakeholders, Clean Air Council is leading an educational outreach program with the goal of addressing environmental issues in land, air, and water within the Philadelphia freight transport system.

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