

Public Health Madison and Dane County Environmental Health At-A-Glance Summary

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Summary

This report is an at-a-glance summary of the significant environmental indicators from the 2008 edition of the Public Health Madison and Dane County Environmental Health Report Card. For additional information of any of the topics presented in this report please review the full version and/or the executive summary of the Environmental Health Report Card at

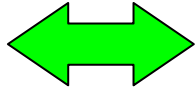
<http://www.publichealthmdc.com/publications/documents/2008RptCardExecSumm.pdf> and
<http://www.publichealthmdc.com/publications/documents/2008RptCard.pdf>

The grading system used in this report is composed of color coded arrow symbols. A green arrow indicates that we are successful in meeting expectations for that particular environmental indicator; yellow indicates a marginal condition and some improvement is needed; and red indicates that the condition is not acceptable and significant improvement is needed. The direction of the arrow indicates the direction Dane County is headed since the publication of the last version of the report card in 2006: an upward arrow indicates improvement from the last report card, a side-to-side arrow indicates no change and a downward arrow indicates that we are declining.



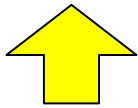
Acceptable and Improving Environmental Indicators

- ❖ **Smoke-free air:**
 - The smoking ban for unincorporated areas of Dane County was passed in 2008 and took effect in August of 2009.
 - A statewide smoking ban passed in 2009 will take effect in July of 2010.
- ❖ **Household Hazardous Waste:** The number of participants and the amount of hazardous materials collected by Clean Sweep for proper disposal continues to increase.
- ❖ **Tobacco control:** Only 7% of tobacco vendors sold tobacco to minors in 2008, a decrease of 62% from 2006.



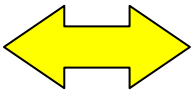
Acceptable and Stable Environmental Indicators

- ❖ **Municipal drinking water:**
 - Water utilities in Dane County continue to produce high quality drinking water for their customers.
 - However, the amount of nitrate in municipal wells in Dane County appears to be increasing.
 - Manganese problems in Madison's tap water have decreased since 2006.
- ❖ **Food safety:** Total number of suspected food borne outbreaks remains small and the number of outbreaks due to ill food handlers decreased.



Marginal but Improving Environmental Indicators

- ❖ **Solid Waste:** The amount of waste delivered to the Dane County landfill has decreased since 2006 and the amount of materials recycled continues to increase.



Marginal Environmental Indicators Needing Greater Improvement

- ❖ **Air quality:**
 - Levels of fine particulate matter and ozone have not changed significantly since 2006; but new air quality standards are lower and we continue to have too many days of poor air quality.
 - Asthma rates and emissions of toxic chemicals have improved but not enough to outweigh our ongoing air quality concerns.
- ❖ **Private drinking water:**
 - The percentage of private well water samples reported in 2007 and 2008 with elevated (2 – 9 ppm) or high (10 ppm) nitrate increased since 2006.
 - Nitrate levels for most private wells in Dane County continue to be unknown.
- ❖ **Lead poisoning:**
 - Less than 1% of Dane County children were found to be lead poisoned in 2007 and 2008.
 - The number of children screened in Dane County for blood lead levels (BLLs) continued to increase in 2007 and 2008.
 - However, only half of the estimated 35 to 50% of Dane County children considered at risk have been tested.



Unacceptable and Declining Environmental Indicators

❖ Surface water quality:

- Phosphorus levels in Madison area lakes is a continued source of concern due to its support of algae blooms.
- These blooms and flooding events since 2006 have combined to increase the number of days that Dane County beaches were closed.
- Ongoing increases in chloride from road salt also threaten to harm the ecosystems of our lakes and rivers.