

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / City of Cottage Grove / 1.24.12

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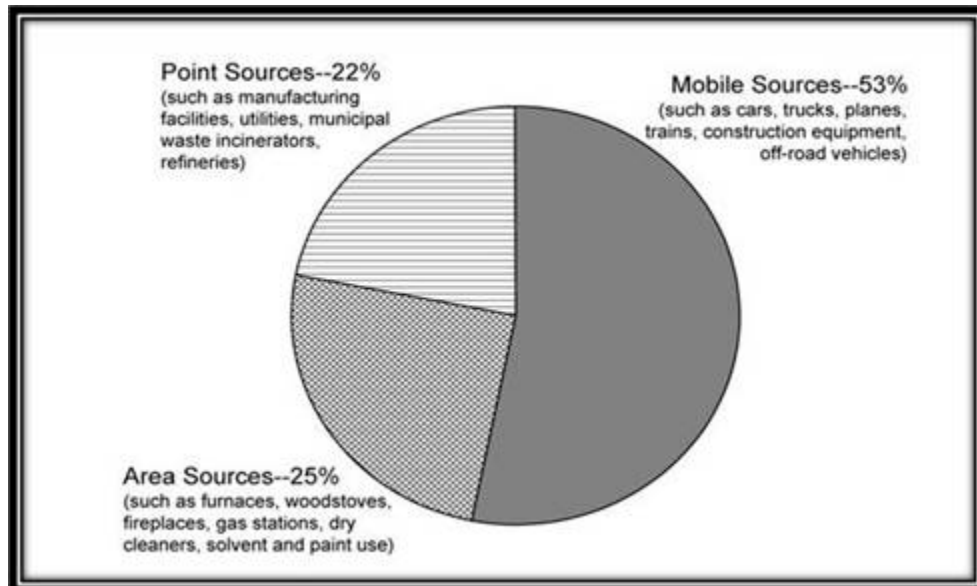
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### Cottage Grove Air Monitoring Program Shows Positive Results

After a year of study air monitoring data shows positive results for the City of Cottage Grove. The City voluntarily began monitoring air quality in Cottage Grove to assure the public the air they breathe meets established standards. The City hired an environmental consultant with Short Elliot Hendrickson, Inc. and retained an independent lab to process air monitoring data to run the air monitoring program. The City of Cottage Grove in partnership with 3M conducted air monitoring tests for one year from October 2010 to September 2011 at the 3M Cottage Grove facility. The air monitoring establishes a baseline for air quality related to metals and volatile organic compounds (VOC's) prior to any potential permit changes at the 3M Cottage Grove corporate incinerator facility. One of the potential permit changes is to allow 3M to accept non-3M generated wastes.

The City worked closely with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (PCA) in setting up the monitoring stations. The key benefit of collaboration with the PCA is to ensure that the data collected can be compared to data collected from PCA air monitoring stations in the Metro area and throughout the State.

According to the PCA, 53% of airborne particulates come from unregulated sources such as cars, planes and construction equipment, while 25% come from such things as furnaces, fireplaces and dry cleaners, and 22% come from regulated sources like manufacturing plants, utilities and municipal waste incinerators.



Source: MPCA Fact Sheet "Health Effects of Motor Vehicle Pollution" Air/2-14

The PCA assisted in helping place the monitoring stations, and Cottage Grove's environmental consultant sent test samples to the PCA lab and to the City's independent lab to ensure the accuracy of the findings. The City periodically changed the sampling schedule throughout the test period.

The test results from the Cottage Grove monitoring shows that all metals and VOC's tested are well within all State Health Benchmarks. In total, 54 different VOCs were monitored, 29 of which were not detected at any time during the study period. Many of the VOC's detected were similar to the background concentrations across the Metro.

Another positive finding was in regards to particulate matter. Particulate matter is a complex mixture of extremely small particles and liquid droplets. Cottage Grove was found to have lower particulate matter than the average PCA findings across the State and much lower than the Ambient Air Quality Standard.

"I am encouraged with the results we have received from the first year of testing at the air monitoring site," stated Cottage Grove Mayor Myron Bailey, "Citizens should feel good that the air we breathe in Cottage Grove is clean and that levels of particulates are lower here than other parts of the metro area. These results will serve as a good baseline for any possible changes that may occur with the incinerator on the 3M site."

The baseline has been established through the one year program. The monitoring will start again if 3M receives a modified PCA air permit allowing for non-3M generated wastes to be accepted reducing their use of natural gas. In conclusion, air at the 3M Cottage Grove plant site is similar to the rest of the Twin Cities metro area when it comes to air quality.

Please click here <http://vimeo.com/35591377> to view a video of the air testing process and learn how the City, 3M and the PCA partnered to establish an air monitoring program.