

SEMCOG inspects clean air proposal

A \$600,000 air quality work plan to bring the region's polluted air up to federal standards has been unveiled before the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG).

SEMCOG officials will propose a comprehensive air quality planning process covering all sources of pollution and involving state and local agencies, local elected officials, business and citizens.

The proposed air quality work plan is expected to get under way within the next few months after last week's approval by the Executive Committee (composed of elected officials representing the seven-county southeast Michigan region) and the federal government.

THE PROPOSED air quality plan would involve planning activities ranging from a search for less-polluting fuels and the expansion of ride-sharing programs to better air quality sampling programs and a coordinated regional effort by local elected officials, industry and the public to search for alternative solutions to industrial pollution.

Elected officials in the region have recently expressed fears that state-proposed solutions to industrial pollution would mean a loss of jobs and popula-

tion for Southeast Michigan.

Under the federal Clean Air Act Amendments of 1977, all regions in the nation must meet certain clean air standards by 1982, and more by 1987.

SEMCOG has been designated by Gov. Milliken as the lead air quality planning agency for southeast Michigan and is earmarked for \$600,000 from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to carry out its initial air quality planning responsibilities.

However, SEMCOG officials and other agencies in Southeast Michigan have recently expressed some unhappiness and concern over the manner in which the federally mandated program is being run.

DAVID H. SHEPHERD, chairperson of SEMCOG, recently opposed a State Implementation Plan (SIP) for Air Quality at a public hearing before the State Air Pollution Control Commission.

He and other SEMCOG officials charged that the state plan "fragments the planning process" and is "unworkable" as long as SEMCOG is left out of stationary source planning (primarily industrial facilities) and is confined to mobile source planning (primarily cars, buses, trucks).

WSU students are moderate

The typical Wayne State University freshman is a political moderate who ranked in the top quarter of his high school class.

The survey was part of a nationwide poll of more than a quarter-million first-time freshmen at 565 institutions of higher learning, coordinated by the American Council on Education and the University at Los Angeles.

Six of every 10 respondents to the WSU questionnaire said they were middle-of-the-road politically. Another 30 percent termed themselves liberal. Nationwide percentages for those two responses were 54 and 27, respectively. Just 9.7 percent of the Wayne State freshmen called themselves conservative, compared with 17.4 percent in the nationwide poll.

However, on some issues, Wayne State freshmen as a group were strikingly more conservative than the respondents comprising the national norm.

Only 24.5 percent at WSU said they would violate laws in opposition to their own views (31.1 percent nationally); 48 percent at WSU said abortion should be legalized (61.6 percent nationally); 33.6 percent at WSU said it's all right to live together before marriage (46 percent nationally); 35 percent at WSU said sex is permissible

if people like each other (51 percent nationally); and 44.6 percent said marijuana should be legalized (52.4 percent nationally).

In the WSU group 68 percent ranked academically in the top quarter of their high school class, one percent above the nationwide norm. More than 95 percent were in the top half, compared with 92 percent of freshmen nationwide.

Nearly 59 percent of Wayne State freshmen reported estimated parental income between \$15,000 and \$35,000, compared with 52 percent of all students answering that question.

But 25 percent of all institutions reported parental income of \$35,000 and up while only 10.5 percent of the WSU freshmen came from families at that income level. At the other end of the scale, 31 percent of WSU's freshmen reported parental income of less than \$15,000, compared with 23 percent nationally.

Percentage variations may be explained partly by the fact that 35 percent of all students polled had a father whose occupation was "businessman" while just 20 percent of the WSU group gave that response. Conversely, 19 percent of the WSU respondents reported their fathers were "skilled workers," compared with eight percent nationally.

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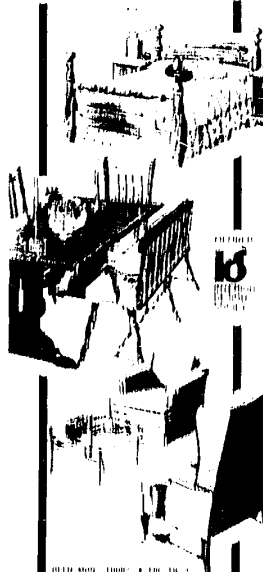


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