Ozone pollution, in our lower atmosphere where we breath, is made when air pollutants such as smoke, dust, dirt, nitrogen oxides and VOCs have sunlight and high heat. The ozone is created by chemical reactions when these pollutants combine. In the summer, we have a special problem with ozone pollution caused by higher temperatures and more sunlight. Ozone pollution can be very harmful to our health and can make it difficult for people to breathe, can affect plant and animal life, and can make a brown haze in the sky. Ozone pollution affects everyone, not just people who are sick or have asthma. See Tripper the cat, and Bear the hamster's list below and learn how you can help make our air cleaner.

"Every little bit helps!"

1 Reduce use of Volatile Chemicals
Reduce using spray-can products and oil-based paints. Tightly seal containers of paints, cleaners, fuels, and other chemicals to prevent evaporation into the air.

2 Reduce, Eliminate or Reschedule Driving
Combine errands and reduce trips. Reduce travel during congested peak rush hour traffic. Carpool to school and for other group activities.

3 Conserve Electricity and Other Energy
Conserve energy—at home, at school, everywhere. The less energy used, the less pollution released by the power plants. Some ways you can conserve are:

- Set your air conditioner at a higher temperature or turn it off altogether, especially when no one is home
- Set your heater at a lower setting—a few degrees can save a lot of energy (wear a sweater!)
- Use a clothesline instead of a dryer
- Turn off lights when you leave a room
- Turn off electrical appliances, such as computers, televisions and stereos when you are not using them
- Use energy saving light bulbs instead of traditional lights

"We all contribute to pollution, Tripper, and there are a lot of pollutants that can harm us."

4 Reduce Mowing, Barbecuing and Engine Use
Two-cycle engines, often found in lawn mowers, chain saws, outboard motors, all-terrain vehicles and off-road motorcycles, are especially bad air polluters. Reduce charcoal lighter use and barbequing.

5 Choose a Cleaner Commute
Use public transportation, bicycle or walk when possible.

6 Tell Your Parents to Drive Wisely
To save gas and reduce pollution, don't carry un-needed items in your vehicle, and reduce drag by carrying cargo inside rather than on your roof racks. Drive with your pickup tailgate open or removed when possible. If your vehicle has overdrive, shift into overdrive whenever your speed is high enough.

7 Don't Spill the Fuel
Avoid topping off your gas tank. Be careful to avoid spills and overfills at the gas station, since gasoline fumes are an ingredient for ozone. Apply the same precautions against sloppy refueling when filling lawnmowers, outboard motors, etc.

8 Have Your Parents Refuel Their Cars in the Evening
Refuel your car late in the day, when it's cooler.

"Bear, a lot of our air pollution is made from burning fuels, like driving cars, heating our homes, and making electricity."