



Canned Air Quick Facts

It's not really "air"

Despite the name "canned air," the cans actually contain gases that are much easier to compress into liquids, such as difluoroethane, trifluoroethane, or tetrafluoroethane.

It's not good for your health

The gases in canned air are toxins that need to be used in a properly ventilated area. The liquid propellant in canned air is known to cause frostbite when skin is exposed for a long period of time.

It's not good for the environment

In addition to health risks, these chemicals pose a large threat to the environment. The liquids in the container are potent green house gases. Pound for pound, they are more potent than carbon dioxide (CO₂). For example, tetrafluoroethane is much more damaging to the climate with a global warming potential* (GWP) of 1,300 (CO₂'s GWP is 1.0). This gas stays in the atmosphere for about 14 years.

A little adds up to a lot

In FY 2011-12, the City purchased 1,066 cans of canned air, spending \$4,093.95. The amount of climate-changing gases emitted by this amount of canned air is equivalent to burning over 5,700 gallons of gasoline.

Make an immediate difference by what you choose to use

Consider replacing canned air with alternatives such as:

- Electric dusters: DataVac® ED500 Electric Duster®.
- Cordless options: Giotto's Rocket Air; Hurricane Canless Air System.

These electric and cordless dusters are far less expensive, more effective, and a lot safer for the environment. They are both available through the City's office supply contract with Office Depot.

Questions?

For more information on green products and bureaus' experience using canned air alternatives, please contact:

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***Global Warming Potential (GWP)** represents how much a particular substance contributes to global warming over a period of time compared to a similar amount of carbon dioxide (CO₂). The GWP of CO₂ equals one.

