Citizens Air Complaint Program

**Program Name:** Air, Environmental Justice

**Summary:** The New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) developed an online system which citizens anywhere in the city can use to report automobiles violating local anti-idling laws. Citizens who observe a vehicle idling for more than three minutes — or one minute while adjacent to a school — can call 311 or use this online reporting system to file a complaint (which can be anonymous if the person so chooses). Citizens who report violations receive a portion of the money paid to law enforcement in the form of a fine. By incorporating community participation, this program has successfully increased enforcement of this local law and reduced a major source of urban air pollution.

**Participants:**
- Leader: New York City Department of Environmental Protection

**Website/Sources:**

**Contact Info:**
- New York, Active
- Regulation and enforcement
- Geralda Kelton cuesianscom@dep, nyc.gov, call 111

**External References:**
- CSS
- [https://www.uploadsenumi.org/2022/03/15/images/cary-gov-idling-citizen-4x3.png](https://www.uploadsenumi.org/2022/03/15/images/cary-gov-idling-citizen-4x3.png)

**Imperial County Community Air Monitoring Project**

**Program Name:** Air, Environmental Justice

**Summary:** In 2019, Mecklenburg County Air Quality (MCAQ) installed a Community Science Air Quality (CSAQ) system to better understand and reduce air pollution in the county. MCAQ now maintains a community air monitoring network (CAMN) to monitor air quality levels from a CAMN could identify “hot spot” areas in Imperial County and improve public health outcomes. Readings from air monitors can be seen on the project’s IVAN website, and many monitors are maintained by youth advocates and placed in schools. The real-time air monitoring data are being used to better understand and reduce exposures to air pollution.

**Participants:**
- Leader: Louisiana Bucket Brigade

**Website/Sources:**
- [https://louisianabucketbrigade.org](https://louisianabucketbrigade.org)

**Contact Info:**
- Louisiana, Active
- Information, Agency management
- Louisiana Bucket Brigade: (504) 484-1453 info@louisianabucketbrigade.org

**External References:**
- CSS
  - [https://www.nationalgeographic.org/organization/louisiana-bucket-brigade/](https://www.nationalgeographic.org/organization/louisiana-bucket-brigade/)

**Louisville Data Commons**

**Program Name:** Air

**Summary:** In 2019, Mecklenburg County Air Quality (MCAQ) installed a Community Science Air Quality (CSAQ) system to better understand and reduce air pollution in the county. MCAQ now maintains a community air monitoring network (CAMN) to monitor air quality levels from a CAMN could identify “hot spot” areas in Imperial County and improve public health outcomes. Readings from air monitors can be seen on the project’s IVAN website, and many monitors are maintained by youth advocates and placed in schools. The real-time air monitoring data are being used to better understand and reduce exposures to air pollution.

**Participants:**
- Leader: University of Louisville

**Website/Sources:**
- [https://louisvilledatasearch.com](https://louisvilledatasearch.com)

**Contact Info:**
- Kentucky, Active
- Information
- emirateslouisville.edu

**External References:**
- CSS
  - [https://repository.up.rochester.edu/2019/07/14/paper/388184](https://repository.up.rochester.edu/2019/07/14/paper/388184)

**Mecklenburg County Community Science Nation**

**Program Name:** Air

**Summary:** Activities from the Dire (Navajo) community use infrared cameras on Navajo Nation land to track environmental harms from methane released by the oil and gas industry. On this location, methane emissions are 60% higher than the national average due to oil and gas production. More broadly, the federal government partially relies upon activists to using infrared cameras improve public understanding of the scope of air pollution near fossil fuel sites all around the country to help better regulate the industry and improve quality of life for people near these sites.

**Participants:**
- Leader: Members of the Navajo Nation

**Website/Sources:**

**Contact Info:**
- Navajo Nation (Arizona, New Mexico), Active
- Information, Regulation and enforcement
New York State Community Air Screen Program

**Air**

This community-based program is led by the New York Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and works with local conservation groups or interested citizens to test communities for toxic air pollutants. Groups or individuals from across the state are permitted to apply for the CAS program, and selected communities receive the training and equipment necessary to collect air samples. The DEC then analyzes the air samples and provides an explanation of the results. The goal of the Community Air Screen program is to provide citizens with the means to investigate their own community’s air conditions. Identifying these pollution hotspots allows community advocacy groups to work with DEC and the community on a localized level to figure out how to best address the issue. However, the information collected by these sensors are not used for regulatory and enforcement purposes.

**Leader:** New York Department of Environmental Conservation

**Agency:** DEC

**City:** New York

**State:** New York

**Status:** Active

**Contact:** Office Contact: (518) 402-4000

**Website:** [https://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/40240.html](https://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/40240.html)

**Additional Resources:**
- Informational slides: [https://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/40332.html](https://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/40332.html)
- Citizen Science Coordinator: Patricia Sheridan: sheridan.patricia@epa.gov; Office Contact: (510) 257-5640

Owning Our Air: The West Oakland Community Action Plan

**Air, Environmental Justice**

In 2018, West Oakland was selected as the first Bay Area community to develop a community air plan under AB1677 — legislation which encourages utilizing community engagement efforts to resolve local air pollution issues. The West Oakland Environmental Indicator Project co-led these efforts and produced a community action plan called “Owning Our Air,” drafted with input from resident steering committees and Bay Area Air Quality Management District. The plan emphasizes participatory research being a factor in future decision-making, and it includes a long list of actions to be taken by many different agencies and other actors to improve air quality.

**Leader:** Bay Area Air Quality Management District and West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project

**Agency:** San Francisco Bay Area Air Quality Management District (Bay Area Air Quality Management District)

**City:** Oakland

**State:** California

**Status:** Inactive

**Contact:** Specialist, Community Engagement, Joshua Abraham (Senior Staff Specialist, Community Engagement and Policy): 415.749.8408

**Website:** [https://abc7news.com/west-oakland-air-proposed-port-gravel-facility/](https://abc7news.com/west-oakland-air-proposed-port-gravel-facility/)

Puget Sound Sensor Map

**Air**

The Puget Sound Sensor Map project combines air quality data collected by the public and regulatory agencies in a single interface and shows health-based and instantaneous particle pollution for the Agency’s four-county region. The Map (http://apps.pscleanair.gov/) automatically pulls in data from every PurpleAir monitor in the group’s jurisdiction, calibrates it relative to the nearest regulatory monitor, then displays the data from both the regulatory and PurpleAir monitors on the same map. The agency has helped to install PurpleAirs in areas of concern or in gaps in our regulatory monitoring network for a number of communities, and also has some of sensors available for rent. These are efforts to develop outreach material to educate communities and the public about these low-cost air monitors.

**Leader:** Puget Sound Clean Air Agency

**Agency:** Puget Sound Clean Air Agency

**City:** Bellevue

**State:** Washington

**Status:** Active

**Contact:** Washington Active Information

**Website:** [https://www2.purpleair.com/pitt-cmu-staff-schooling.pptx](https://www2.purpleair.com/pitt-cmu-staff-schooling.pptx)

**Additional Resources:**
- Video about the project: [https://www.utimes.pitt.edu/news/new-study-helps-people-track-air-pollution/](https://www.utimes.pitt.edu/news/new-study-helps-people-track-air-pollution/)
- Data visualization: [https://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/40240.html](https://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/40240.html)
- Purple Air Sensor Map: [https://www.pscleanair.org/?lat=47.8339&lng=-122.7657&z=4](https://www.pscleanair.org/?lat=47.8339&lng=-122.7657&z=4)
- Informational videos from DEC: [https://youtu.be/Duf3F8aOp1I](https://youtu.be/Duf3F8aOp1I)
- YouTube Video about the project: [https://www.utimes.pitt.edu/news/new-study-helps-people-track-air-pollution/](https://www.utimes.pitt.edu/news/new-study-helps-people-track-air-pollution/)

The Perusias Project: Air Monitoring in Puerto Rico

**Air, Environmental Justice**

The Tallaboa/Encarnación community in Peñuelas, Puerto Rico partnered with the EPA and is using EPA Air Sensor Toolkits for Citizen Scientists to provide the community with the tools to begin an environmental monitoring study of air quality in the area. This study can potentially help improve air quality for residents who are suffering from the impacts of air pollution.

**Leader:** EPA & local community

**Agency:** EPA

**City:** Puerto Rico

**State:** Puerto Rico

**Contact:** Puerto Rico Active Agency Information

**Website:** [https://oaklandside.org/2013/06/26/west-oakland-air-quality-impacts-study/](https://oaklandside.org/2013/06/26/west-oakland-air-quality-impacts-study/)

West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project

**Air, Environmental Justice**

This local citizen-led organization seeks to address air pollution problems occurring in the community, from the port of Oakland and other sources. It seeks to promote environmental justice in the area by building relationships with impacted residents, city officials, and other local stakeholders. The group educates local community members through classes on environmental topics. The group launched the Oakland Shoreline Leadership Academy in 2021 in an effort to give West Oakland residents a voice in shoreline planning. Students in the community help conduct asset mapping, develop a community engagement plan and co-develop improvement projects on the shoreline, and the organization’s work aids residents in understanding how their lives are impacted by political, social, and natural forces.

**Leader:** West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project

**Stakeholder:** Bay Area Air Quality Management District

**Agency:** Bay Area Air Quality Management District

**City:** Oakland

**State:** California

**Status:** Active

**Contact:** Margaret Gordon, (Co-director), Office Contact: (510) 257-5440

**Website:** [https://www.epa.gov/](https://www.epa.gov/)

**Additional Resources:**
- Informational slides from NYSDEC about the equipment used: [https://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/40240.html](https://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/40240.html)
- Map: [https://map.pscleanair.org/?lat=47.8339&lng=-122.7657&z=4](https://map.pscleanair.org/?lat=47.8339&lng=-122.7657&z=4)
- Presentation slides: [https://www.pscleanair.org/files/2017/03/2017-WA-Air-annual-report.pdf](https://www.pscleanair.org/files/2017/03/2017-WA-Air-annual-report.pdf)
- Video about the project: [https://www.utimes.pitt.edu/news/new-study-helps-people-track-air-pollution/](https://www.utimes.pitt.edu/news/new-study-helps-people-track-air-pollution/)