

Insights learned from providing training courses and workshops to governments and communities

Tim Dye and Story Schwantes

Background - Two Drivers

Major demographic changes to “Air Quality Ecosystem”

1. Retirements and hiring (a changing workforce)

- State, Local, Tribal agencies
- Federal (EPA and others)



2. Increased Federal and State funding

- Major federal funds
- State funds
- Groups working in air quality for the first time
 - Community based organizations
 - Universities
 - Research institutions
 - NGOs
 - Private Sector Companies



Lots of Interest In Air Quality Education!

K-12 Schools & Youth Ed



Community Groups



Government Agencies



Youth Education



What Information are K12 Audiences Interested In?

Most diverse set of interests/needs

Audances: formal (schools) and informal (community orgs)

Formal interests

Understanding the:

- Science
- Technology
- Data
- Health impacts

Easy-to-use curriculum

Handheld air monitoring (can be a logistical challenge)

Informal interests

Understanding similar things to formal interests

Youth-run air monitoring programs

Youth-run data analysis



Air Quality Monitoring Project
Duwamish Valley Sustainability Association
(DVSA)

Community Education



What Information are Community Audiences Interested In?

Fewer formal education spaces

Often smaller -scale (hour to multi -day events, tabling, community discussions)

What do community members want to know?

- How to protect themselves and community
- How to take action (personal, family, community)
- Who controls a source
- How to talk to and work with government agencies
- Understanding the science, technology, and data

What are they doing with that info?

Huge emphasis on **ACTION**: what do we do with this information? With this data?

- Can be challenging to answer
- Often involves substantial time and resources

Some trends:

- Lessening interest in air sensors, more in BC, VOCs, metals
- Skipping monitoring and looking instead for pollutant reduction strategies
- Interested in long-term, systemic change (directly address the source)



All About Air Quality Bootcamp
Coalition for Clean Air (CARB)

Government Agency Education



What Information are Government Audiences Interested In?

One-on-one interactions *and*

Need for wider community education (both training and information sheets)

Interest in learning how to:

- Communicate with environmental justice communities
- Offer meaningful support and express limitations
- Navigate difficult or challenging conversations
- Best support and work alongside communities

What else? What are your challenges?

Who Controls and Regulates Emissions?

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

- Carry out enforcement of the Clean Air Act: limits certain pollutants
- Work with state agencies to ensure compliance with federal laws
- Develop & update new federal pollutant standards



State Air Agency

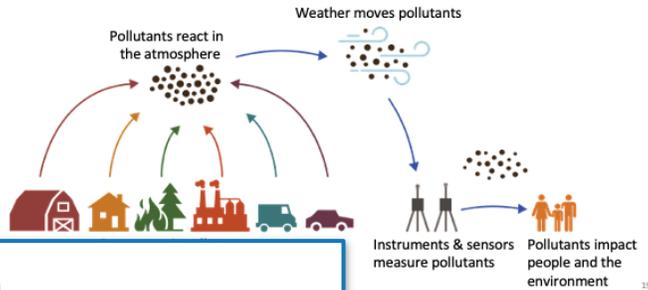
- Monitor & report pollution data
- Develops & updates pollution regulations
- Enforce EPA & state adopted regulations

City Air Quality/Environmental Department

- Monitor & report pollution data
- Enforce local compliance with city and state laws
- Work with communities on local air quality issues

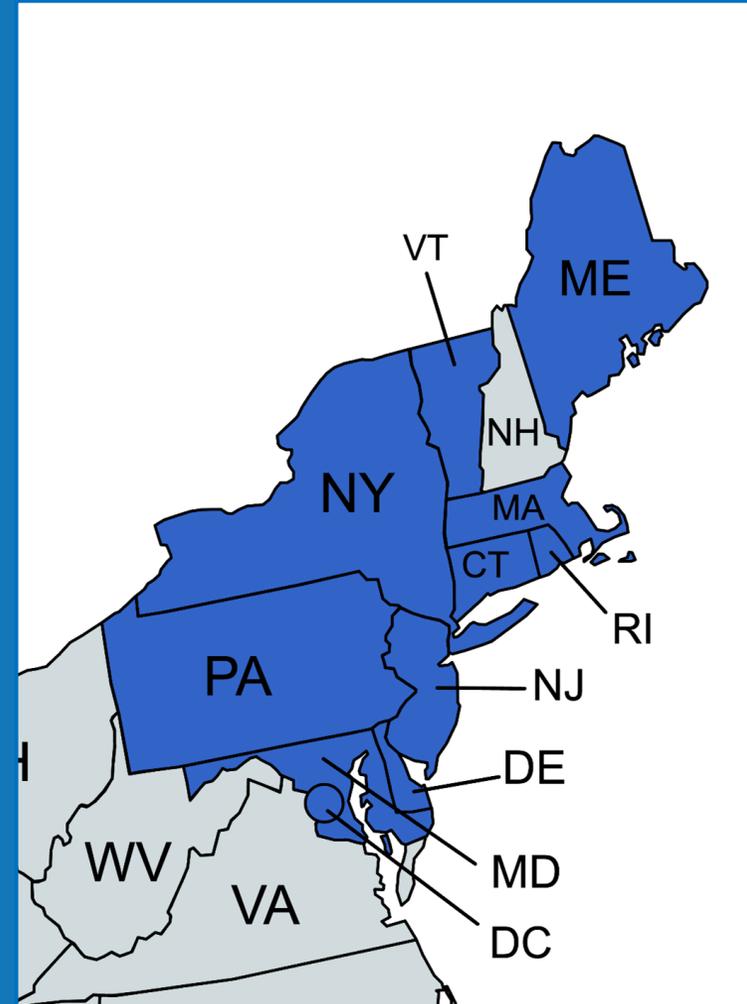
Lifecycle of Pollution - Sources to Impacts

How pollution affects people



Understanding Pollution

Pollution: a harmful substance that has been introduced into an environment





Latinos United for a New America
Bay Air Center (BAAQMD)

How can Governments meet these Needs?

How governments can meet these needs?

Some ideas:

- Ensure you are
 - transparent
 - listen more
 - show up and take your time
 - make “deposits” into the community
- Leverage and share existing resources
- Putting the right people in the room
- Create communities of practice
- Connecting community organizations
- Create responsive & accessible “Resource Centers”

Thanks

Funders:

- Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD)
- Georgetown Climate Center (State AQ agencies in CT, DE, DC, ME, MD, MA, NJ, NY, PA, RI VT)
- California Air Resources Board (CARB)
- Collier Heights Assoc for Revitalization, Resilience, and Sustainability (CHARRS)
- International Council on Clean Transportation (ICCT)
- Duwamish Valley Sustainability Association (DVSA)
- Cities of Denver, Anchorage, and Fort Collins
- Tri Chapter region of the Navajo Nation
- National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS)
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- Medtronic



Contacts:

Tim Dye

Tim@TDEnviro.com

707-310-5541

Story Schwantes

Story.Schwantes@TDEnviro.com

651-491-7226

Reach out to us