

Community Partners Meeting: Initial Regional Engagement

*With the Air Quality Monitoring Workgroup
of Northeast and Mid-Atlantic states & DC*

March 28, 2023

11 am to 12:30 pm

Agenda

- Welcome & overview – 30-40 minutes
 - Welcome
 - Review agenda
 - Discuss meeting goals
 - Introduce workgroup goals and proposed activities

Discussion

- Summary of work across the region – 30-40 minutes
 - Brief overview of past, ongoing and recently-funded projects

Discussion - feedback and updates on related efforts

- Discuss potential next steps – 20 minutes
 - Partnership and engagement opportunities

Proposed Meeting Objectives

- 1. For meeting participants** to learn more about the workgroup and have opportunities to help steer the direction of our efforts
- 2. For agency officials** to learn how participants would like states to help make future community-based air quality monitoring projects more purpose-driven, designed to inform policy actions that improve air quality in communities.
- 3. Explore partnership opportunities:** how would you like to participate?
 - Would you like regular updates?
 - Would you like to offer additional/ ongoing feedback on proposed workgroup activities?
 - Would you like to be involved with future workgroup activities?

Priorities for meeting: what we heard from you

1. Public awareness & bad air quality alerts
2. Informing policy action
3. Health & equity
4. Improving communications & public engagement
5. Funding for projects
6. Technical challenges

In the chat: Do you have other priorities for this call?

Participating jurisdictions:	Points of Contact
Connecticut	Pete Babich: pete.babich@ct.gov
Delaware	Valerie Gray: valerie.gray@delaware.gov
District of Columbia	Kane Samuel: kane.samuel@dc.gov
Maine	Andrew Johnson: andy.johnson@maine.gov
Maryland	Megan Ulrich: megan.ulrich@maryland.gov
Massachusetts	Christine Kirby: christine.kirby@mass.gov ; Sean Dunn: sean.m.dunn@mass.gov
New Jersey	Luis Lim: luis.lim@dep.nj.gov
New York	Marilyn Wurth: marilyn.wurth@dec.ny.gov
Pennsylvania	Cole Gessner: cogessner@pa.gov
Rhode Island	Laurie Grandchamp: laurie.grandchamp@dem.ri.gov
Vermont	Ellen Parr Doering: ellen.parrdoering@vermont.gov

Workgroup Resources & Support

Organization	Staff
TD Environmental	Tim Dye, Story Schwantes
Metropolitan Group	Vernice Miller-Travis, Sarah Malpass
Georgetown Climate Center	James Bradbury, Emma Cross

Goals / Objectives

- Build a new “community of practice” for state agencies on the topic of community-based air quality monitoring and policy decisions/ actions that can be taken to support and act upon local air quality data
 - Support participating states and community partners in establishing hyperlocal air quality monitoring projects, including by leveraging federal funding
 - Use data from air monitoring projects in ways that inform state & local policy actions to reduce emissions
- Establish, build and strengthen relationships with groups in communities overburdened by air pollution

In the chat: Do you have any questions or reactions to these goals?

Proposed workgroup activities

1. Take advantage of federal funding opportunities to expand community-based air quality monitoring
2. Build capacity for state agencies and communities
3. Expand and improve outreach and engagement with overburdened communities
4. Conduct meetings, webinars, workshops and other dialogue with stakeholders and communities to collect public input, share case studies, and discuss examples and lessons
5. Develop an “Action Toolkit” featuring case studies and best practices for informing policy decisions/ action with AQ monitoring

In the chat: How might these proposed activities help to address the challenges and issues you face in your community? Are we missing anything?

Summary of work across the region

Past and Future Community-Based Air Quality Monitoring

- What can we learn from past and ongoing projects?
 - Surveyed states in the workgroup to assess 20 projects
- U.S. EPA funding is accelerating the number of AQM projects
- All AQM projects have
 - Many similarities
 - Some unique differences
- Opportunity for regional cooperation, sharing tools, learning, and more

PAST/ ONGOING: 20 Community-Based Monitoring Projects Surveyed

Partners



State AQ Agency (12)



Community Groups (20)



Other Governments (12)

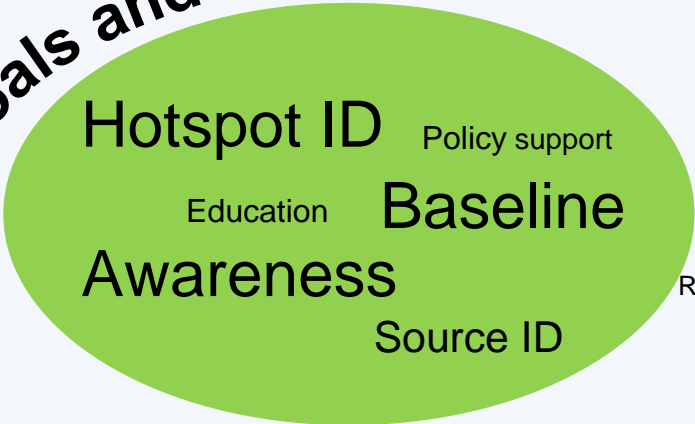


Universities (8)

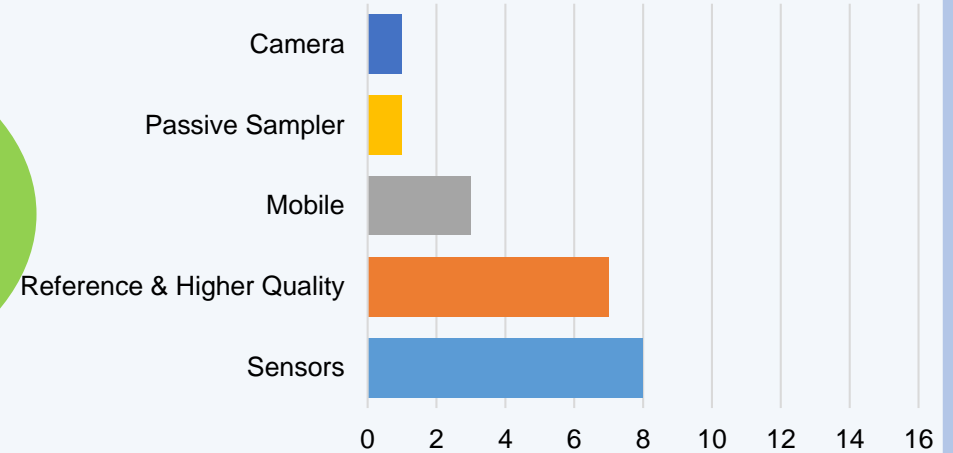


K-12 Schools (3)

Goals and Actions



Measurement Devices



FUTURE: 32 Community-Based Projects beginning this Fall

Lead Orgs



State AQ Agency (5)



City Governments (5)



Community Groups (18)

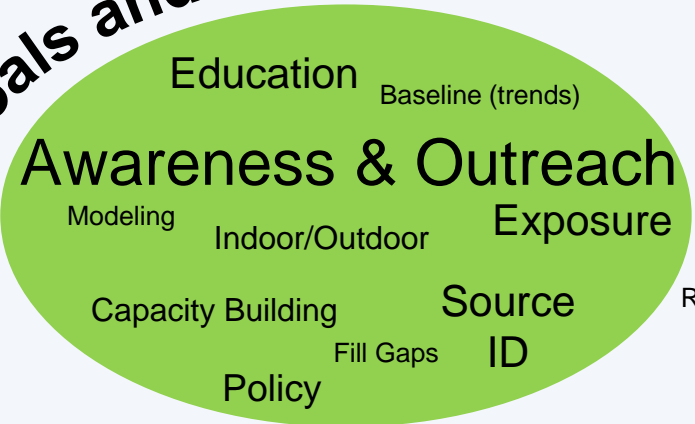


Universities (3)

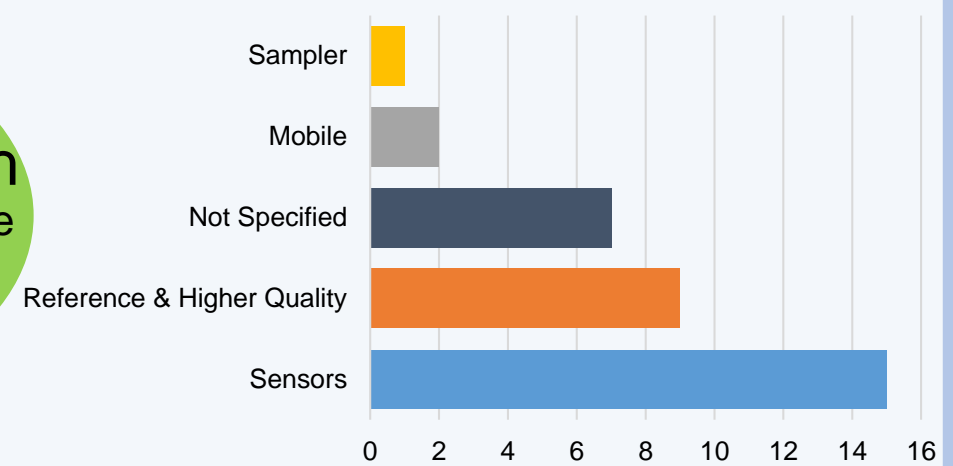


Tribe (1)

Goals and Actions



Measurement Devices



Summary information based on high-level descriptions of ARP projects on the U.S. EPA website [\[link\]](#)

Discussion Topics

- For those of you involved with existing air quality monitoring projects, what challenges are you facing, what are your needs?
- For those interested in – or initiating – new air quality monitoring projects, what challenges are you facing, what are your needs?
- What additional input on workgroup activities & priorities do you have?
- Any other ideas or input?

Next Steps - Invitation for Engagement & Participation

How would you like to participate in the future?

- *If interested in local-level activities, state specific contacts are listed on the next slide*
- For involvement at the regional level, with this workgroup, options could include:
 - Offer additional/ ongoing feedback on proposed activities
 - Influence priorities
 - Identify new/ additional areas of work
 - Periodic (quarterly?) updates on
 - Workgroup activities
 - State-specific projects
 - Be involved with future activities
 - Meetings on federal programs, details and timing for funding opportunities
 - Technical trainings - design community-based air quality monitoring project to achieve community goals

In the chat: How would you like to be involved with workgroup activities?

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Vermont	Ellen Parr Doering: ellen.parrdoering@vermont.gov

Appendix

What we have heard from you

(in the order received through the registration form: “Priorities for meeting”)

- Impactful uses of AQM data
- Diurnal air inversion effects
- Answering those tough questions from communities which typically are "How are you going to address my concerns?"
- Communicating realistic and reasonable expectations about what community-based air monitoring can accomplish
- Democratizing air quality data and measurement
- Connecting community-based air quality monitoring to both hyper-local alert systems, and existing systems for reporting(WARNDEP)
- EJ and Health Equity
- Equity
- Truck Traffic Diesel
- Sharing air quality data and information with the public.
- Air quality and asthma morbidity
- Who is eligible [for federal \$]? how do we gather interest from the community, benefits to the community?
- How to best communicate results to community members
- Air pollution (UFP) and noise at local scale all the way up to Climate Pollutants at global scale
- What do regulatory agencies do with the monitoring results?
- communicating AQ actionable information to people
- Pollutants of concern in addition to PM
- Preserving our natural environment

(As of March 24)